

On November 7, 2014 my 17 year old son, Brian Widhalm, a Senior at Pine Forest High School passed away from injuries he sustained as a result of a car accident. Brian was smart, funny, had a huge heart and was planning on graduating high school in June and attending college. That all changed when he was traveling 65 mph on a 55 mph back road that quickly turned to 45 mph. In a matter of seconds, Brian took the curve too fast, overcorrected and lost control of his vehicle. Brian crashed into a ditch and tree and lost his life. Many teenagers believe that they are invincible. That something like this cannot happen to them. I am here to tell you that it can. Although being distracted by your radio, cell phone, or having others in the car with you can cause fatal accidents to occur so can speeding. I think many forget that due to the other distractions out there but going over the speed limit can have a lasting impact on your family and friends lives. As the school year comes to a close and you begin your summer break please be cautious. Please remember that what happened to Brian can happen to you. You are not indestructible. I drive the same road each morning to work where Brian had his accident and I witness many teenagers and adults speeding down that road. You know better. Brian knew better. Each day Brian left the house with his car keys in hand I would say "Be Safe, Be Smart, I love you". Brian's reply was always "I know, I Will and I love you too". Brian was safe and smart but that November afternoon, he was not. A small lapse in judgment changed my families lives. I believe he thought he was fine. That he did not realize his speed of 65 was too "fast" on that road. That he could control it. A little distraction was fine. He was wrong. He could not control the car. He was going too fast that afternoon. Please remember Brian and remember what he lost that day. His life. Brian was blessed with a family who loves him, amazing teachers and fantastic friends. We all miss him terribly. I do not want your family, teachers and friends to miss you. Drive safe and smart this summer.

Lisa Heath