

# KAREN TORRES

## Distracted Driving Advocate / Speaker



On March 17, 2006, Karen Torres received a phone call that has forever changed her life. Her father, Patrick Mapleson, was struck and killed by a distracted driver while working along the highway. This began her journey as an safety advocate, speaker, and educator for families and organizations across Long Island. Her story will change how you drive and how you view driving.

Karen has been heavily involved with this issue since 2009 and is deeply driven to prevent distracted driving crashes and deaths. Traveling from high school to high school, Karen has shared her father's tragic death with thousands of students and adults during driver's education classes, school assemblies, peer leadership programs, church groups, rotary clubs and corporate organizations. She is single handedly waking up New York on what it means to be a distracted driver.

Karen's advocacy has been featured in various newspapers, magazines and roadway safety campaigns. April 2014, Karen was the recipient of Long Island News 12's "12 Making a Difference". She was featured on WABC news special "Operation 7 – Save a Life", ABC's News Program "Viewpoint Long Island" and on Fios News One "Heroes on Our Island".

In July 2013, Karen was asked by Governor Cuomo to speak along side him at a "No Texting While Driving" press conference. The Governor made special recognition towards Karen's efforts stating "By turning personal tragedy into positive, live-saving action, you have provided lasting inspiration and an indelible example of perseverance to all New Yorkers".

Karen is a speaker for the National Safety Council / New York Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Karen has volunteered for the New York State Department of Transportation by participating in their Public Service Announcement for a state wide roadway safety campaign and appeared as a guest speaker at the DOT's "Kickoff breakfast" for National Work Zone Safety Week. Karen also delivered the Keynote address at the 2013 Dangerous Driving Conference at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood.

Karen's presentation is listed in the Suffolk East End BOCES Arts-In-Education assembly Catalogue (under Texting/Distracted Driving Awareness Program).

If you would like to schedule a speaking engagement, please email her at [kt@all4udad.com](mailto:kt@all4udad.com) or call (631) 807-2178