

**Speakers tell of the heartaches of drunken driving during Martin community program**  
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STUART —The image of a man's arm wrapped around her front tire still haunts Jessica Leslie eight years later. It was November 2001 when a 20-year old Leslie of Boca Raton was coming back from an evening of partying that she decided to drive home drunk. She told her story to a crowd of about four dozen at a Thursday community program at the Martin County Administrative Center on the dangers of drinking and driving. Leslie never made it home but ran over Patrick McDonough, 41, killing him.

"Sir, did I kill somebody?" Leslie asked the deputy.

"Yes, ma'am you did," he said.

Leslie, now 28 and who had been vice-president of her school's Students Against Drunk Driving, plead guilty to DUI manslaughter, served 18 months in prison, and now spends her time speaking to students and anyone who will listen about the dangers of drinking and driving.

"I wanted to be in the United States Air Force to fight the war on terror," she said. "Now, I'm fighting a different war where about 17,000 kids die a year."

**The program took place a little more than a week after three Stuart teens, Nicholas Coady, 18, Christopher Briglio, 18, and Connor Graver, 16, were killed. The Florida Highway Patrol found several crushed beer cans at the crash scene and toxicology reports are pending.**

**Speaker Justin White, 17, was a friend of the three Stuart teens who died and also three Okeechobee County teens who were killed days earlier in a drunk driving accident in South Florida.**

**"I lost six friends in a matter of days," said Justin, who started Martin County SADD (Student Against Destructive Decisions) on the online social network Facebook to honor his friends.**

**"I want the students to know that we're not invincible. That's why I'm doing this," he said.**

Speaker Beth Stone, whose daughter Sarah Stone 14, was killed in a 2002 crash by Stephen Bromstrup of Stuart who had been drinking and driving, urged those attending to make good choices and for parents to take a more active role in their children's lives.

"It doesn't just hurt the person involved in the crash... The families ache a lifetime and that person can never be replaced," Stone said.