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*What you are about to see is true.*

*Every year in Texas more than 1,000 people are killed in  
alcohol-related traffic crashes.*

*But not everyone who gets hit by a drunk driver dies.*



**Save a Life™**  
Texas Department of Transportation

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# *“Jacqui’s Story”*

*An amazing journey of courage, determination and devotion*

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In 1999, 20 year old Jacqueline Saburido left her family and friends in Venezuela to come to Austin, Texas.

She traded flamenco dancing and jet skiing for an adventure in a new country and the chance to learn English.

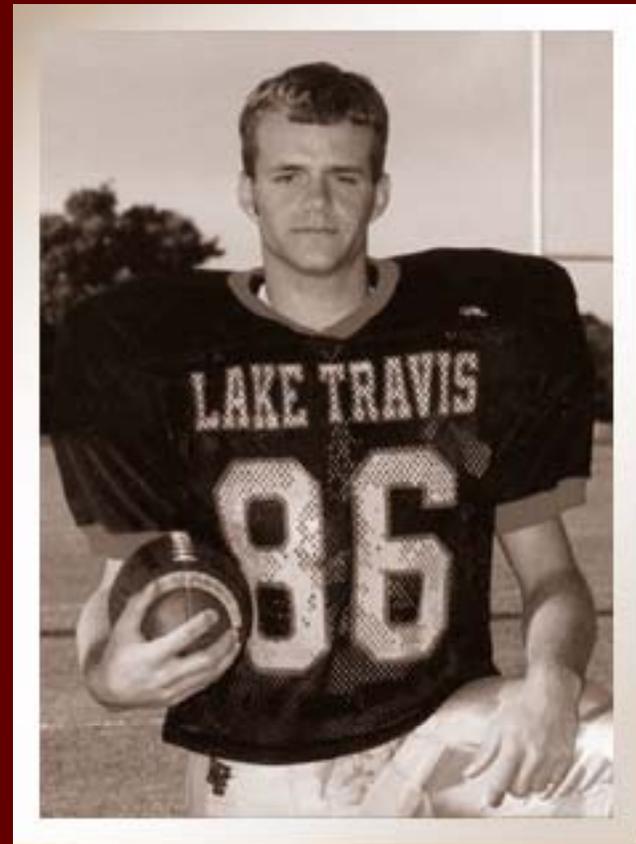
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Reggie Stephey was a senior at  
Lake Travis High School near Austin.  
He played baseball and football.

College was in his future.



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One of his prized possessions was  
the SUV he had customized.



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Early one Sunday morning  
in the fall of 1999,  
Jacqui's and Reggie's paths crossed.

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*Continue >>>*



Austin Police Department

In a split second,  
their lives would be changed forever.

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Just a few hours earlier,  
Jacqui had been at a birthday  
party with some of her new friends.

It was late when they left the birthday party.  
Neither she nor the driver had been drinking.

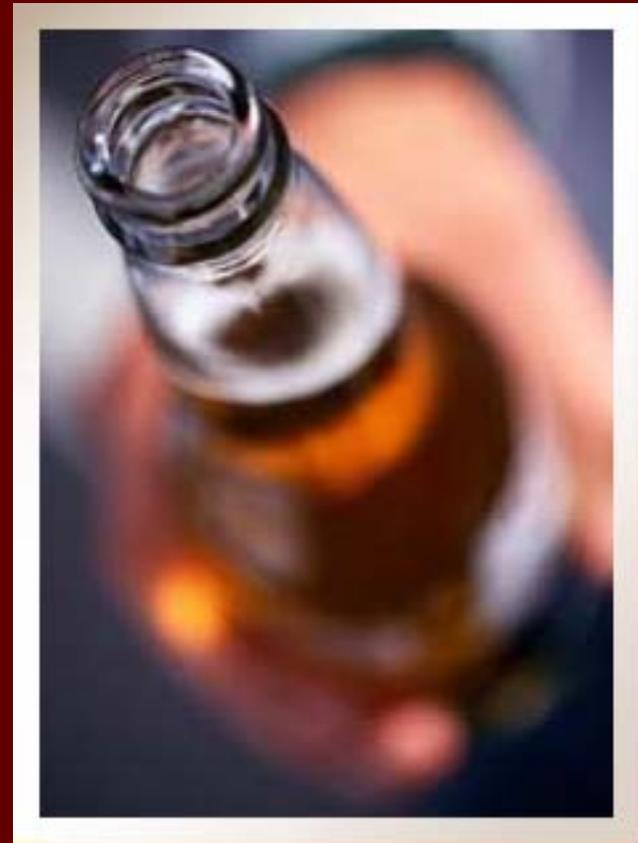
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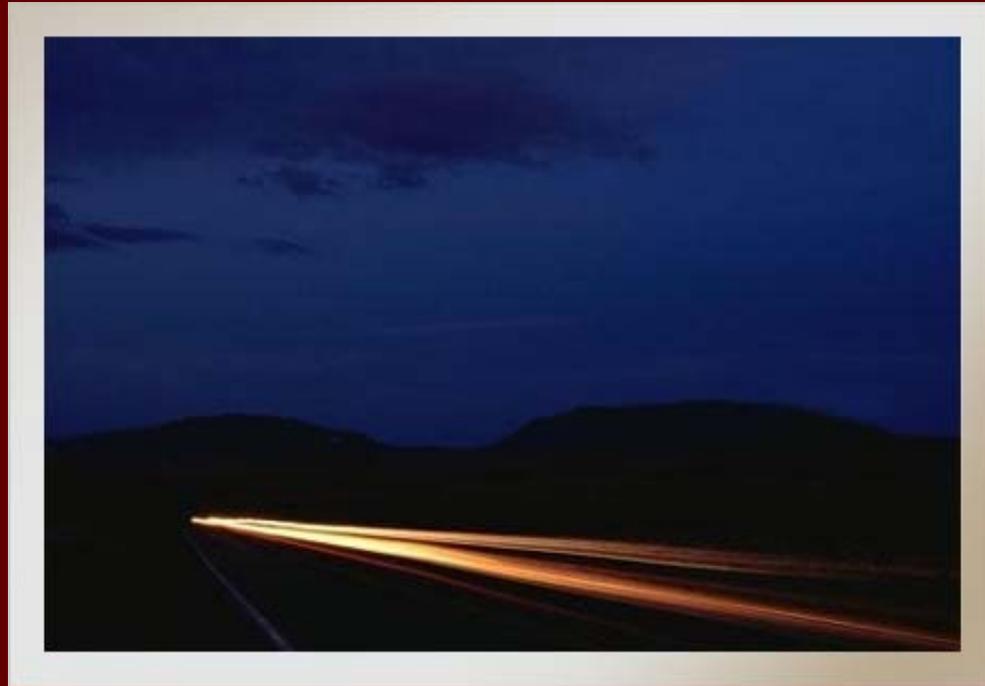
That same Saturday, Reggie met some friends after work and had a few beers.

Later, he went to a party and drank some more, even though it is illegal for anyone under 21 to buy or possess alcohol in Texas.



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At the same time Jacqui was on her way home, Reggie was driving home, too.  
But he was drunk.

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*Continue >>>*



Austin Police Department

On a four-lane road just outside of Austin, Reggie's SUV crossed the centerline and hit the car Jacqui was riding in, head-on.

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*Continue >>>*



Austin Police Department

Two of Jacqui's friends died instantly. Jacqui's legs were pinned under the dashboard. Trapped, Jacqui begged for help, but rescuers could not get her out.

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Austin Police Department

A fire started in the engine and spread  
to the inside of the car.

Engulfed in flames, she screamed for 45 seconds.

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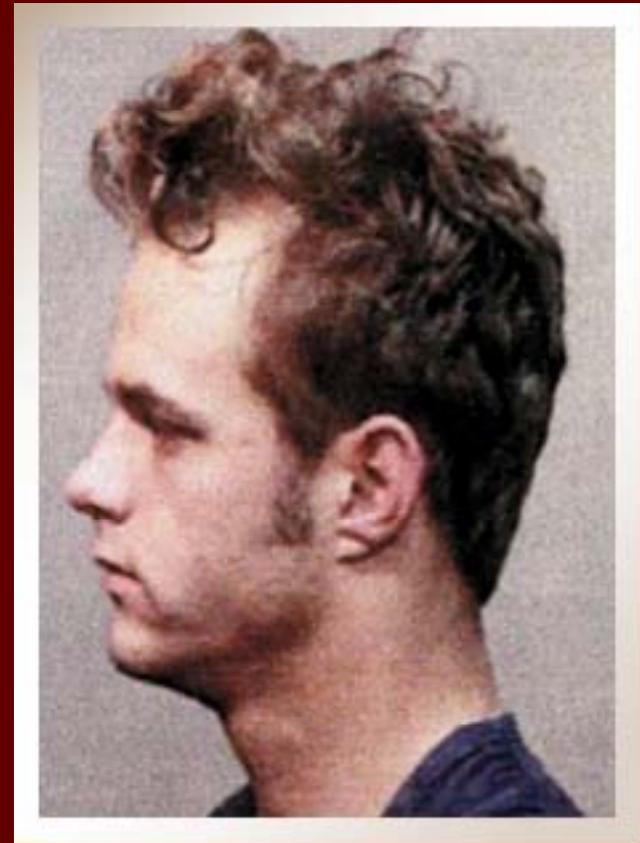
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Then there was silence.

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Other than a few bruises,  
Reggie was OK except for one thing.

A blood test showed he had been drinking.  
Police officers arrested Reggie and  
took him to jail.



Austin Police Department

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*Continue >>>*



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Jacqui was barely alive when she arrived at the hospital. She was burned over most of her body.

Her hair was gone.

So were her nose and her ears.

Her eyes were scorched.

She was almost completely blind.

Fingers on both of her hands had to be amputated.

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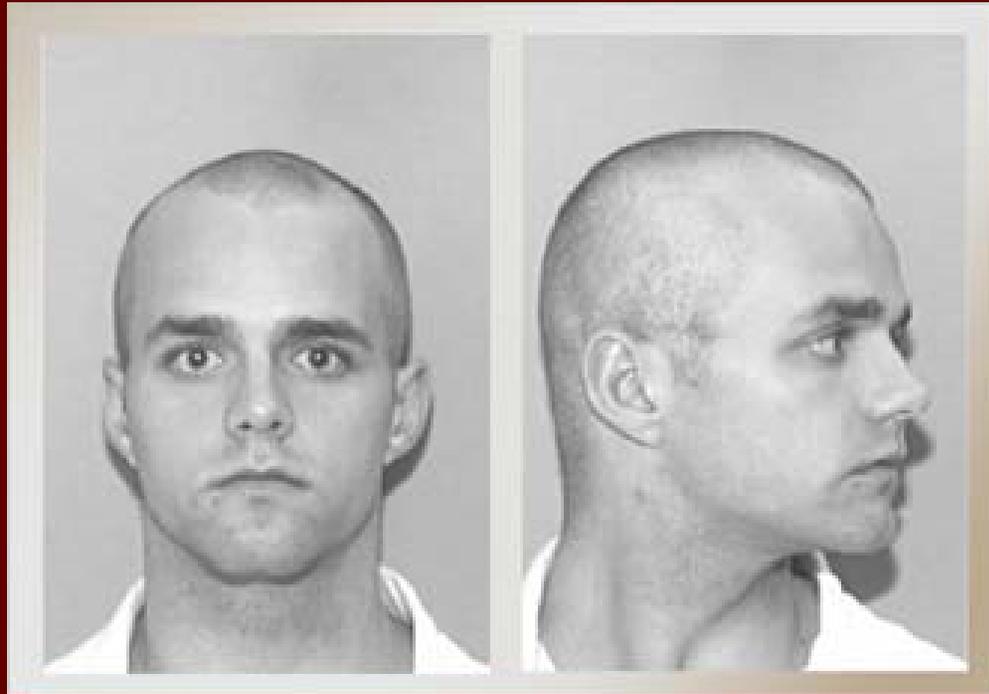
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The pain was indescribable and constant.  
Jacqui spent months in the hospital.

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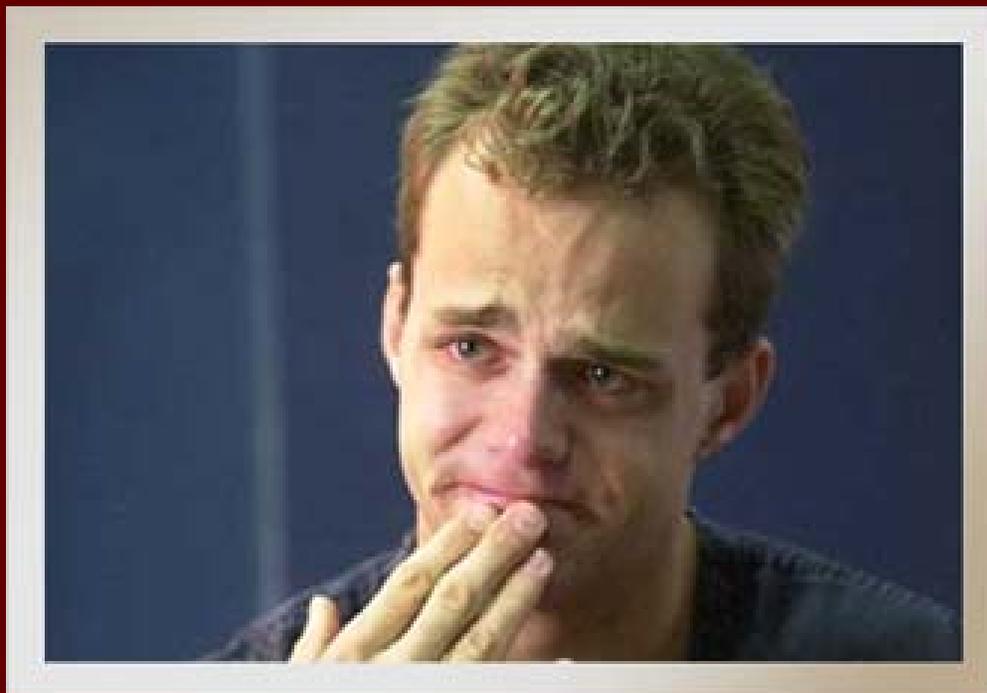


Texas Department of Corrections

Reggie Stephey was tried and convicted for causing the deaths of two people while he was driving drunk. He is now in the state penitentiary, serving two concurrent 7-year sentences for intoxication manslaughter.

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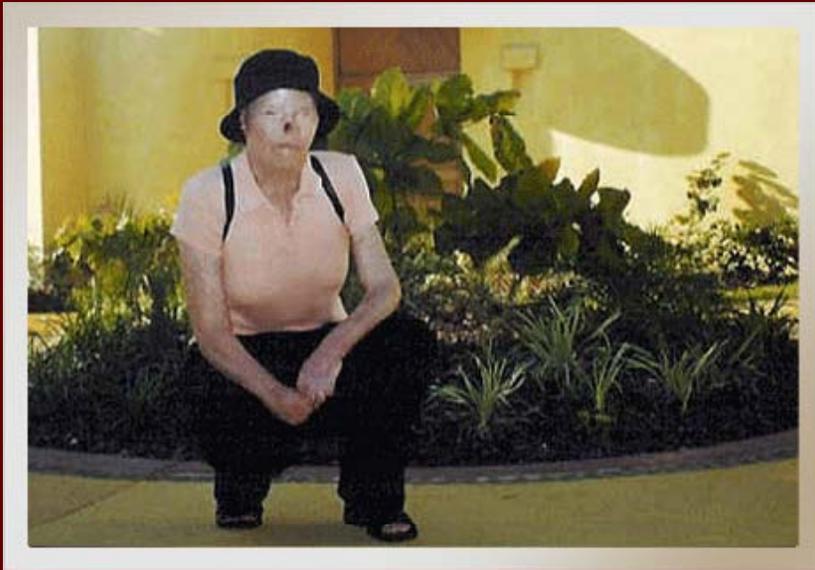


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Reggie never thought this could happen to him.  
He will be 28 years old when he is released from prison.  
The damage he did, he says, is “a pain that will never go away.”

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*Continue >>>*



Four years later, Jacqui's recovery continues. She has had more than 50 operations so far and has many more to go. To get the medical care she needs, she must live in the United States—far away from family and friends.

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Once fiercely independent,  
Jacqui has come to rely on her father,  
Amadeo, to take care of her.

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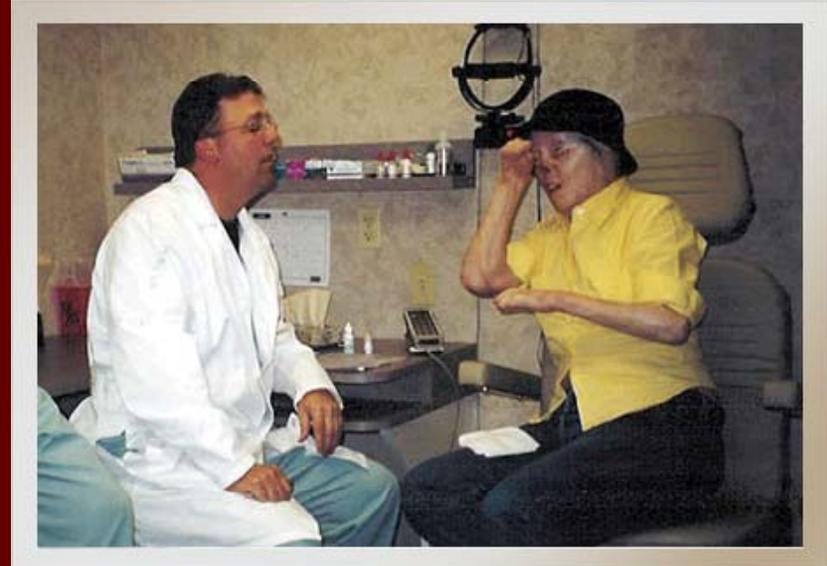
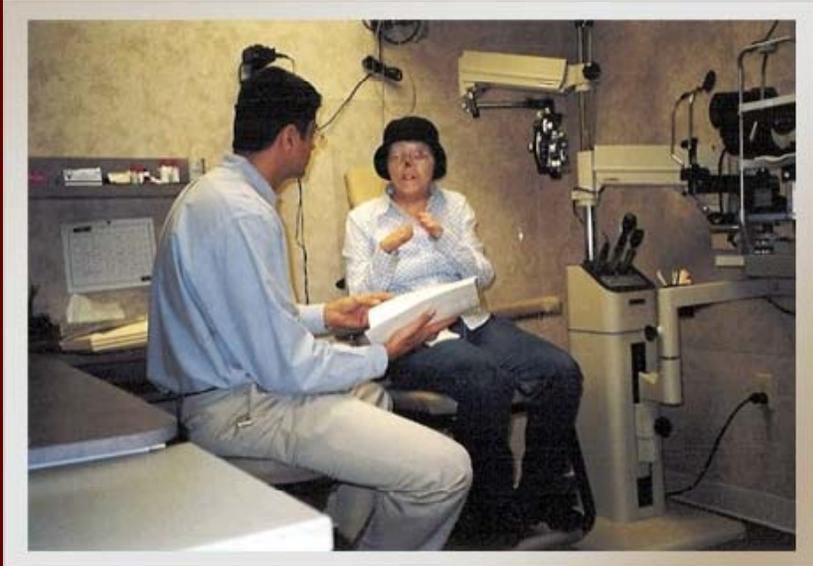
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Amadeo left his business  
in Caracas to take care  
of his only child.  
He has not left her side  
since the crash.

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Jacqui and Amadeo live in Louisville, Kentucky so she can be close to her doctors. She faces years of more surgery and medical treatment.

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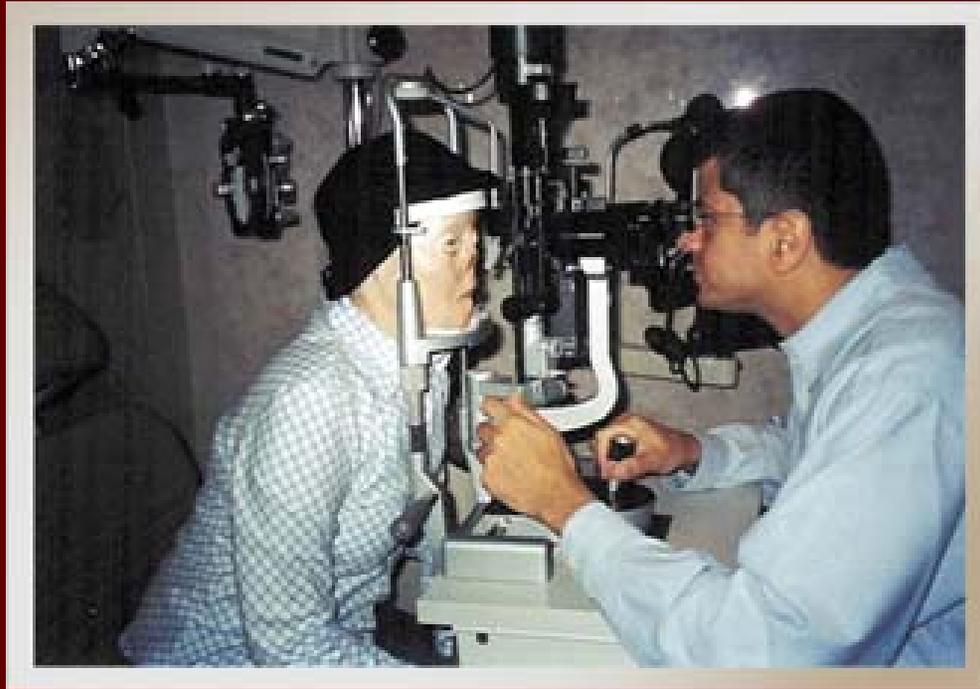
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Determined to do what she came to the United States for in the first place, Jacqui recently completed language classes at the University of Louisville. She is now able to speak and write English.

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In May, 2003, after many, many operations to replace her left eyelid that was completely destroyed in the fire, Jacqui was able to have a cornea transplant. The operation was a success, and some of her vision has now been restored.

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Jacqui doesn't want anyone else to have to endure the suffering that she has experienced.

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In 2002, she appeared in a TV commercial produced by the Texas Department of Transportation to remind people not to drink and drive.

More than 300 million people throughout the world have seen it.

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A poster with her photograph shows high school and college students and others what can happen as a result of drunk driving.

Ads with Jacqui's picture have appeared in newspapers and magazines in the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

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Police departments, schools, organizations and many others have begun using the educational materials in which she is featured.

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When she is physically able, Jacqui speaks out against drunk driving.

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Jacqui's incredible story  
of courage and determination  
has touched millions of people  
throughout the world.  
Thousands of people  
have written her letters  
or sent emails.

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Many people who hear Jacqui's story want to do something.

A fund has been established to help defray the  
staggering costs of her medical treatment.

If you would like to help, you can contact  
Help Jacqui Fund, PO Box 27667, Austin, TX 78755.  
or visit

[www.helpjacqui.com](http://www.helpjacqui.com)

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Educators and law enforcement officers say the  
Texas Department of Transportation's  
“Before and After” drunk driving prevention materials are  
among the most hard-hitting and powerful ever produced.

For information about how to order copies, visit

[www.helpjacqui.com](http://www.helpjacqui.com)

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You can do your part to help stop drunk driving.  
Please feel free to forward this presentation  
to everyone you care about.

And please, don't drink and drive.

Ever.

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*Continue >>>*



# Save a Life™

Texas Department of Transportation

[www.TexasDWI.org](http://www.TexasDWI.org)

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