

Pledges and Comments
September / October 2008



will kilmer
10/31/2008

Russ Schwandt
10/31/2008

I hereby accept Mariah's Challenge and fully support the others that take the challenge especially our youth. As a Realtor and finding homes for families etc., this means a lot to me. And as being a National All Star Cheer & Dance Judge plus High School Judge this challenge means so very much to me. I applaud everyone that has taken this challenge.

Hailey
10/30/2008

i have already signed up once for Mariah's Challenge but was looking through and i didnt see myself in there so i figured i should probably sign up again. Hope all is well..... and that everything is going good!!!!

Julie Brandon
10/30/2008

Will Brandon
10/30/2008

Lexi Brandon
10/30/2008

Aarika Hoot
10/30/2008

Courtney Platko
10/30/2008

Gabrielle Staats
10/29/2008

Kelsie Oxnam
10/29/2008

I am 8yrs. old and I would like to accept Mariah's Challenge! I promise never to drink and drive! I will try to set a good example for my friends. Thanks for your inspiration.Love: Kelsie

Bailee Oxnam
10/29/2008

I am 10yrs. old and i promise to except Mariah's Challenge!! I will never drink or drink ond drive!! I am sorry about your daughter!! Thank you for helping us!! LOVE:Bailee

Laura
10/29/2008
accepted.

Nicole McLean
10/29/2008

Mariah's challenge i think is about not being afraid to say no to alchol. I think its having the courage to say no!!! I encourage everyone to sign up for the challenge. I am a sophmore at BHS and have also signed up (as a freshmen)

Nicole McLean
10/29/2008

I have heard and seen the great things that have come out of mariah's challenge amd think its one of the best things anyone could have done for her. I fully accept Mariah's Challenge! and encourage everyone to join the challenge

Teresa Keeler
10/29/2008

Sue Hansen
10/29/2008

I am the public health nurse in Beaverhead County and we are justing getting the kick off going for Mariah's Challenge in November. I really hope we can make an impact on the college age crowd. They are the kids that I really fear the drinking and driving because they are away from home and turning 21. They may be legal to drink but forget that doesn't mean you can drive when drinking.

Tessie Oxnam
10/29/2008

We need this challenge in Anaconda. The whole state of Montana needs to hear from you and hear your message and take the challenge. My daughter wants to take the challenge. Thank you so much for taking a tragedy in your life and helping to save other peoples children. Your daughter would be very proud of you.

Kaysha Young
10/28/2008

Kristi L. Rydeen
10/28/2008

Carla
10/28/2008
ACCEPTED IT!

makayla
10/28/2008
i accept Mariah's challenge

Angela

10/28/2008

Dear Mariah's Family,

I just turned fifteen, and I'm overly inspired by Mariah's Challenge. I would like to tell you that I am so sorry for the loss of your daughter. Sadly enough, my father died five years ago by drinking and driving. I know how it feels to lose something you love so much when you didn't even expect it. My life goal is to NEVER drink. After my school in Iowa put on the assembly about Mariah yesterday, it inspired me even more to never give up that goal of mine. Again, I'm so sorry.

Brittney Brown

10/28/2008

i miss u mariah so much u were the sweetest girl ever and u will be missed by so many. I PROUDLY ACCEPT MARIAHS CHALLENGE

Tristin

10/28/2008

I accept Mariah's challenge:]

Quinn

10/28/2008

sisco

0/28/2008

mariahs challenge the rool is to not dreck and drib

Ryann Ehman

10/28/2008

Hi, i accept MARIAH'S CHALLENGE !!!!!!!

Jack

10/28/2008

Aricka Aries

10/27/2008

Hey i just wanted to say thanks to all of you for what your doing and all that is to come in the future. Im very sorry for your loss but for what you lost you have also gained.

Sean Giza

10/27/2008

Hi, I am a news reporter from Creston, IA, and put together a quick story about Mariah's Challenge after some local students brought the challenge to Creston High School. First and foremost, I believe it is admirable what the challenge has done and stands for and cannot imagine the loss the McCarthy family has experienced.

I've been looking for a way to reach someone on this site and this is the only outlet I have found. I am curious as to how many people have pledged to take the challenge and wanted to get some facts straight about when Leo's comments on the front page were made. Thank you so much for your time!

Susan Caudill

10/27/2008

Erika Kitto

10/26/2008

When I heard Leo tell the story it just made me sick to my stomach. It is not fair for that to happen to anyone. I want to accept Maraih's Challenge to make a differnce. I want to show others we can have fun without being drunk. I will not drink or get an MIP. I also will never drink and drive.

Cheyenne Crooker

10/26/2008

I accept Mariah's Challenge! I have accepted it since the second i knew about it, but i haven't gotten on line in so long to actually accept in final! Thank you!

Shaye Clark

10/26/2008

On this one year anniversary I will say I Accept Mariahs Challenge I miss her a lot.

Courtney Foreman

10/25/2008

i miss her

Bobbie Osterman

10/25/2008

Lindsey

10/23/2008

Kirsten Abderhalden

10/22/2008

As one of 16 Alcohol Enforcement Team Coordinators in South Carolina, I work hard every day to help reduce underage drinking in our communities and to keep our young people safe. But I am also a mother of 2 teenagers, and so I worry every day about my own children's health and safety. I was truly inspired by your story, Mr. McCarthy, and admire you for speaking to us in Nashville at the National Leadership Conference. The path chosen for you is not an easy one, but you walk it bravely. You have encouraged me to reach farther and speak louder and to treasure every moment with my children.

I would love to introduce Mariah's Challenge to Upstate South Carolina. For now, I am just talking about the challenge to my law enforcement team and coalition members. However, if you could send me more information, I would be very grateful. When I talked with you earlier I asked about a curriculum. Please let me know when you have something developed that I can help promote it in our schools.

Thank you again, and I wish you strength and peace during this difficult time.

Nicolette Venzke

10/20/2008

Officer Sean Goings
10/20/2008

I saw your presentation in Tennessee and am interested in having you come and speak to our students. If someone could contact me via e-mail and let me know if this is a possibility I would appreciate it. Thank you for putting your story out there and being so creative in your approach to underage drinking.

Ron & Shelly Davis
10/20/2008

Doreen Ward
10/20/2008

I pledge my support. We are looking at extending the challenge in Woodland Park, Colorado.

Jerry Combo
10/17/2008

I proudly accept mariahs challenge and hope everyone does! its a good thing that u have started

Gabe McClafferty
10/17/2008

Amanda Lindgren
10/15/2008

Desy
10/15/2008

i accept the challenge and i think it's a great idea!

sandi fisher
10/15/2008
I accept the challenge!

Brittany
10/14/2008

Lynette Ferguson
10/13/2008

Thank you for presenting your information and program at the Region 1 Principal's meeting. Mariah's story touches everyone and is a story that needs to be heard. Thank you for having the courage to bring it to our communities.

Courtney Jennings
10/12/2008

Natale R. Adorni
10/09/2008

I attended the DUI Task Force Mtg. in Helena, MT on October 2, 2008. I was very touched and moved by Dan Haffey's presentation. I am employed as a Program Officer with the Montana Community Change Project in Wibaux County. Our project addresses lifespan binge drinking with an emphasis on underage binge drinking and lifespan drinking and driving by all age groups with an emphasis on underage drinking and driving. I am also a mother of three young adults, one daughter who will turn 18 in November. My husband is a Trooper with the Montana Highway Patrol. I have two questions. How can I purchase wrist bands for my project through my grant monies and are you

willing to come to Wibaux to speak at our Town Hall Meeting in the spring of '09?

Stacy Watters
10/08/2008

I think this is a great program that will make great strides in preventing alcohol related deaths.

Shilo
10/07/2008

I love this idea. It is great that teens are willing to take this challenge.

steve opie
10/06/2008

When I was in high school I started drinking and continued for meany years. Then one night I got drunk and drove home. The next morning when I got up I didn't rember how I got or were my truck was. I looked out the window and it was parked on the side walk still running.

Ronnie Krankowski
10/06/2008

This is very worthwhile and I whole heartedly accept Mariahs challenge.

Morgan Braby
10/04/2008

Hello my name is Morgan Braby. I am a sophomore at Big Sky High school in Missoula MT. I have accepted Mariah's challenge, and i would love for the rest of my peers to do the same. Mariah's challenge is not too well known in my town, and I want to change that. After reading her story, and meeting her two other friends I am extremely touched. I read that you visit schools and talk about it, and I would love for you to come visit us at Missoula Big Sky, and start a change here too.

Allison Lundin
10/03/2008

Kelly McGrath
10/03/2008

Georgette
10/03/2008

Leo and Janice, Just wanted you to know your in my thoughts and prayers.

Carl and Gail O'Loughlin
10/03/2008

Our beloved daughter Kelly was killed April 27th while riding in a car being driven by a teenager under the influence. Needless to say, we wholeheartedly support Mariah's challenge.

Dani Paup
10/03/2008

Thank you so much for having this challenge!! Our group enjoyed you at the Nashville conference. We hope that we can change lives in Creston for what you've done for us! Thanks and God Bless!

Trace Forkan
10/02/2008

To many students in the world today are hurt by the effects of drinking and driving. By working together to prevent this, I can only hope that one day this will no longer be a problem in the world. I am Trace Forkan of Anaconda, and I accept Mirah's Challenge. To many people, especially students, are hurt in the world today due to drinking and driving. I hope that one day this will no longer be a problem.

rebecca mattila
10/02/2008

i think that what you are doing is a good thing because you are informing people about the dangers of underage drinking that they were to stupid to see before

Cyndy Richards
10/02/2008

May Mariah's rest in the arms of the angels become a little more peaceful today. May we all have hope and courage to accept her message, her challenge and become better people in her memory. You are eternally in our thoughts and prayers. The Richards Family-Toby, Cyndy, Jonathan, Ryan & Aaron

TSgt Mudge Tamietti, USAF
10/02/2008

To The McCarthy family,
I have been following this through the Standard and other websites since your daughter's tragic passing. I admire you for working so diligently to turn this tragedy into a very positive thing so others won't have to suffer the same fate. You have my full support. If you could get added to such organizations such as Combined Fedral Campaign or United way, I can encourage memebers of the Military Community to donate to your most worthy cause. If I can help please let me know. As I read the standard today, I am glad that Mr Petersen has owned up to his crime, and I hop that it's outcome will make more people aware of Mariah's Challenge. I hope only the best for your family and continuesd success with Mariah's Challenge.

Sgt Cameron Watson
10/01/2008

I have been a police officer for 19 years.I am currently the training officer for my department in September 2007 my chief asked me if i had a little extra time to be the department coordinator for the Alcohol Enforcement Team in department. Each judicial circuit in your state now has an AET team, however I did not take this task as seriously as I could have. I do wear many hats in my department our town population is about 4000 people and we only have 14 officers when we are at full staf which is not often, but strive to to do all we can for our citizens. myslef and another officer that is asigned to AET attended the leadership conference in Nashville in and listened to Leo speak and how quickly everything that the other speakers thru thier presentations out the window and accepted mariah's challenge. Since that day my focus on the alcohol enforcement is now at the top of my list. we strive to push our enforcment goals higher then what

is required of the grant and try our best to make AET work a priority everyday I have recently added another officer to the team and the plan is to train all our officers in alcohol enforcement.

Kimberly Phillips
09/29/2008

I first herd this story right form Mariah's father. He came to my school my senior year and told us this story it touched me then and still touches me now. I am looking in to spreeding this story with my new college in Billings and i hope that more of them will also take Mariah's Challenge. Thank you for sharing your story with us.

Alex Redfern
09/28/2008

Tessa
09/28/2008

I am so glad you are doing this to help kids learn to not drink and drive. I also want to thank Leo for coming to my school last year and talking to my class.

Danielle Loeffler
09/23/2008

I accept Mariah's Challenge!

Sabrina Mattila
09/23/2008

Maria's challenge is a great thing that your family has started in this community because i no people that have stopped drinking because of this.

Katie Hazel
09/22/2008

I accept mariahs challenge. Because i think drinking and driving is wrong.

amanda
09/21/2008
sorry for your loss

Shaye Clark
09/20/2008

You guys did a great job at the health and fitness fair at the mall.

stephanie
09/18/2008

I will never break this promise, and I am excepting this challenge.

Katie Corrigan
09/18/2008

I accept Mariah's Challenge. I got into some alcohol during the summer and my dad has had a problem but also overcame it. So I am happy be away from it and stay away from it. This program will do a lot for me.

Jordan Miotke
09/18/2008

Thank you very much for doing all of this for us. I appreciate it!

Dawne Degel
09/18/2008

Thank you for doing this for us! We appreciate it greatly! :)

Jeanne B.
09/18/2008

i am apart of the twin bridges volleyball team and i am soo excited to be apart of this and support you.

Leah Payne
09/18/2008

I have excepted Maraihs Challenge and will complete the challenge by not drinking alcohol this year and thenext four year untill I am 21.

Jeanne B.
09/18/2008

i think it is soo cool that you are doing this to help other people and i love your presentations. i want to support and help you in any way that i can. i can't wait to be apart of this.

Theresa Wrzesinski
09/18/2008

A few of my family members, I never had the experience of meeting because they were killed in a car accident because of drunk drivers. I believe in Mariah's Challenge and that it can make a huge difference in lives of teens and their families.

Sara Dustin
09/18/2008

I decided to accept Mariah's Challenge and do my best to never ever drink or do drugs. I also think that it is a great program.

amanda leber
09/18/2008

im doing this for the volleyball team launch and for myself.

Alyssa Tilstra
09/18/2008

I decided to do mariahs challenge. I accept mariahs challenge, and I will do my best to full fill it.

amanda
09/18/2008

Courtney Hoffman
09/18/2008

I have choosen to accept the Mariah Challenge because I am a member of the Twin Bridges Falcons volleyball team and we are launching the challenge across Madison County.

kimberly cox
09/18/2008

I have choosen to accept the Mariah's Challenge because I am a team member of the Twin Bridges Falcons volleyball team and we have decided to launch this challange across Madison county.

dani
09/18/2008

Chelsea O'Neil
09/18/2008

I am really sorry for what happened to Marhia... i miss her alot. i hope this challenge helps other teens. ...god bless

Peyton Ferris
09/18/2008

Trisha B.
09/18/2008

I'm so excited to be a part of an organization like this and am so sorry about the loss of your daughter. Drinking has never really been a problem of mine but after seeing your presentation it makes me want to be an example to those who may struggle with it.

~Katie A.~
09/18/2008

I offer my dearest apologies from the bottom of my heart! I never drink anyway, but stories like this make me sick to my stomach. God Bless!

Kyla Fowler
09/17/2008

Corie Tennison
09/17/2008

It's Me again, I want to say that I'm not only accepting this challange for me but for a change, because September 6, 2007 I lost a friend to drunk driving and she shouldn't have died like that. I am ACCEPTING Mariah's Challenge Because I want a stop to drunk driving and selling alcohol to minors.

karl beranek
09/17/2008

i,ve been talking to my friends about accepting the challenge

nikki guizzo
09/16/2008

I accept mariah's challenge!!

Meaghan Peterson
09/15/2008

Kendra Kessler
09/15/2008

I accept Mariah's challenge :)

Bridget
09/14/2008

I accept the challenge

Kaitlin S.
09/14/2008

tiera feller
09/14/2008

I accept Mariah's challenge to not drink until I am of age.

Dorthey Combo
09/14/2008

I just wanted to stop by agin and say that i proudly accept mariahs challenge and if there is anything that i can do to help just let me no.

melissa
09/13/2008
i accept :]

Kacee Cashell
09/13/2008

sadie
09/12/2008
i will always miss u and the strike sissters

Erin Mcgeehan
09/12/2008
Hi Mccarthy Family-
So we are thinking of you and your family.Hope you arae all doing well and me and Kaylee have some thing for your family.

Shelby
09/07/2008
Mariah's Challenge is such a good thing to accept. All teens should do this. We have the rest of our lives to drink alcohol; so we shouldn't waste our time doing it before we are twenty-one. I am happy to accept Mariah's Challenge.

Andrea Holland
09/06/2008

Susan Kaluza
09/04/2008
Sorry I didn't get to this sooner. Although I'm not a drinker, and I don't drink and drive, I think it's important to pledge support for Mariah. I am continually broken over this, and can only imagine how you, as Mariah's parents must feel every day to not have her. I am pledging because I think-- although perhaps it sounds like a cliché by now--it's a shame that Butte invites underage drinking simply by emphasizing events like Evel Days and St. Pat's Day. It disgusts me how long (literally years) it took to get one simple skatepark for our kids in this town, and the support for drunk fests like Evel Days took off like a rocket. I'd like to see more events like the Folk Festival and add more activities for high school kids as well as for our younger kids. There is literally nothing for kids in Butte unless they are involved in Sports. There is a whole culture of kids out there between those who drink and take drugs and those who would prefer to act straight but do not excel at sports who are slipping through the cracks here. I see this all the time in the class room. We are telling our kids to straighten up and fly right but we are showing them something completely different by the events we are encouraging and supporting on a city wide basis.
I do think of you everyday and pray for you. And that alone would keep me from drinking and driving.

Lynette Saucedo
09/04/2008
I attended the OJJDP Conference in Nashville and was very moved and impressed by what you have done to honor your daughter. I also took 4 youth with me and they have worn their bracelets every day and share your message with anyone that will listen. GOD BLESS!

tom & jen norman
09/03/2008

Kristen S
09/03/2008
I attended the OJJDP conference and was touched by the emotional speech that Mariah's father gave in front of all those attendees'. Kudo's to you, your family and your community in your effort to fight the underage drinking in your community.

Dennis R. Linn
09/03/2008
Hello, I want to first thank you for your hard work. I heard Leo speak in Nashville Sept.22, 2008 at the Enforcing underage drinking conference. I think everyone there wanted to give him a big hug. I am a parent of three grown daughters and can not imagine loosing one of them. I have taught D.A.R.E. for 16 years and have been battleing community perceptions of "Let them be kids". Red Ribbon Week is coming up and I always try to have school events to impress the kids. Last year we had the Iowa National Guard Helicopter land at all of my three schools and have the piolits give an anti alcohol-drug message. With your permissions I would like to introduce the students to Mariah's Challenge. Thank You Deputy Dennis R. Linn Clay County Sheriff's Office, Spencer, Iowa

Shaye Clark
09/02/2008
I would like to say that this challenge is really changing the community of Butte.

Julie Jackson
09/01/2008
You are doing a wonderful thing that will no doubt save many lives. When I was a teen growing up in Butte (I now live in FL) I had MORE than a few friends die as a result of accidents due to drinking! Thank God Butte is responding to this challange and there WILL be a difference!

Max & Lisa Yates
09/01/2008
Our continued love, respect, encouragement & prayers are extended to the McCarthy, Kilmer & Okrusch families for what they've been through. We are in awe of their strength & courage (out of a horrible tragedy, tears, pain & loss...to strive for something good) to see that true change comes about through the "Mariah's Challenge" efforts, not only in this community but now perhaps in other parts of the country too!! Wow!! We uphold you with the utmost of honor & again our continued prayers. Max & Lisa & Family