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# PALMETTO LEAF

Camden High School

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# STOP

## Before driving, remember to

*One time. All it takes is one time. Not wearing your seat belt one time could be the difference between life and death.*

BY OLIVIA SHEHEEN

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wearing a seat belt while driving or in the front seat can reduce the risk of death by 45%, yet some teenagers still do not wear their seat belts.

The CDC says on their website that motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers and of the teens that died in crashes in 2012, approximately 55% of them were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

wear it because they are not going far, and 11% do not wear it because it is uncomfortable.

However, the students that do wear their seat belts wear them out of respect for their life.

"I wear my seat belt because I don't want to die," sophomore Mackenzie Pendleton said.

"I take wearing my seat belt seriously because my stepdad works for Kershaw Health so he sees what car crashes do to people," Anna Patterson said.

Many people especially driver's ed. teachers are for seat belt use.

"I am a very big advocate of putting on seat belts. When we went out driving for our training, we never moved the car until everybody in the car was buckled up," former

## Tragedy saves lives through organ donation choice

BY KAYLEIGH GATES

Not all superheroes wear capes.

They don't all have special powers, or save the world single-handedly. Any selfless person with a huge heart can be a superhero. The most incredible superheroes in our real world are ordinary people who have made an extraordinary decision: organ donation.

On August 6, 2015, rising Camden High School senior Robert Edmund "Drew" David IV, tragically passed away in a car accident. The many people of the Camden community who knew Drew all remember him as a funny, kind, fearless, and incredibly friendly person. But one decision Drew made in life- the decision to become an organ donor- would bring hope and peace to his family and friends. Even strangers that Drew never met were given hope for an improved quality of life. For this, Drew is a true superhero.

"His choice to become an organ donor will leave everyone knowing how much of a wholehearted and selfless person he was. No matter the situation Drew always made sure his friends, family, or anybody was happy before he was. When I found out he was an organ donor, I was not surprised at all. That was definitely his best decision," Junior and longtime friend of Drew's, Natalie Horton said.

Selflessness, a quality of a true superhero, was a shining quality of Drew's. Through the donation of his organs, six lives were saved. Six lives were given a fighting chance at a healthy life. Six families were blessed with the gift of life for their loved ones.

The gift of life is perhaps the silver lining in this immense tragedy. Saving the life of another is a decision that any selfless person, like Drew, can make. Every day, organ donors are saving lives across the globe. And the need for superheroes is growing every day.

According to the Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network, there are currently more than 123,000 men, women, and children currently needing lifesaving organ transplants. Every 10 minutes,

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# BUCKLE UP

However, this is the case for the United States as a whole. In some areas teenagers are better about wearing their seat belts.

The results of a survey taken at Camden High School show that out of 242 students only 9% of students do not wear their seat belt while in the front-seat, while a larger percentage, 24%, do not wear their seat belt while riding in the back seat.

The real question is "what is the reason for students to wear or not to wear their seat belts?"

The Safe Kids organization says that 34% percent of teens say that they do not wear their seat belt because they forget or it is not a habit, 16% do not

drivers ed. teacher Dennis Beckley said.

In drivers ed. stressing the importance of seat belt usage is very important and doing that can be hard, but it is important that students learn that a seat belt is necessary.

"Before we could go out and drive, we had about three weeks of teaching in the classroom. In the classroom portion of the course, I would show videos and would use statistics too prove the importance of wearing seat belts," Beckley said.

Wearing a seat belt is an important issue that should be stressed by everybody not just adults. Learning this lesson could be the difference between life and death.

**45** Wearing a seat belt will reduce the risk of death by this percent

