



Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support

September 15, 2014 was the worst day of Karrie Schuetz's life. It was also the day that would change the course of her life forever.

She was on her way home from work when she saw a call coming in from her husband. She picked up, expecting him to ask her to grab something on her way back. Instead, he told her that their son Kelly had been in an accident and had been taken to the hospital.

Karrie was hoping that the accident was minor. But something inside her urged her to call the hospital as she was making her way towards it. She soon got the information that every parent fears most, when the doctor told her her son Kelly had died as a result of his injuries.

Karrie later found out that Kelly, who was working for a construction company assembling grain bins on a farm, was electrocuted when a crane moving the metal bins touched a power line. He was only 23.

While Karrie wishes she could go back in time to before this life changing tragedy, she has found a way to channel her grief and the memory of her son into helping to build a future where no family will have to go through what hers did.

That's one of the reasons she decided to join the Threads of Life Speaker's Bureau. She explains, "Talking about my son somehow brings me closer to him. When I talk about Kelly, he doesn't feel so far away."

As a national Canadian charity, Threads of Life counts on the leadership of companies and organizations committed to health and safety and to Canadian families. They assist by:

- spreading the word to people who need support,
- increasing participation in Threads of Life programs and events,
- facilitating volunteerism, and
- growing Threads of Life's funding.

By becoming a Threads of Life speaker and sharing her story, Karrie hopes to prevent future tragedies to other families. As a speaker, she wants to emphasize the importance of safety meetings, and of everyone on a site understanding the safety procedures.

"All it takes is one brief moment," she says. "In the blink of an eye, you could be me."

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You can help families like Karrie's find the support they need. [Learn more about how to get involved](#), or contact Threads of Life Director of Development Lorna Catrambone at 289-651-2988 or lcatrambone@threadsoflife.ca

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