

Annabelle Bryant

October, 2002 – May, 2005

May 5, 2005 started as a normal day for the Bryant family in Richmond, Virginia. There was laughter echoing throughout their family's home and the sounds of little feet running on the hardwood floor. The kids ate their breakfast while watching the Wiggles from the kitchen. Rodney Bryant was preparing to leave for work. He gave the children good-bye kisses, told them that he loved them and then headed out the door... not knowing this was the last time he would kiss his baby girl.

That afternoon, Rodney received a phone call from a voice he did not recognize. The lady on the other end of the phone sounded panicked, her words were incomprehensible... he soon recognized the voice, it was his wife. Her words haunt him to this day, "Annabelle was crushed by a car!"

The Bryants had a paint contractor come over to the house that day to give them a quote. He had parked his Dodge pickup truck in their driveway, between their house and their neighbor's house. After the contractor was done, he went next door to the neighbor's house to give them a quote as well.

Meredyth and the kids came outside to play. Annabelle was playing with her stroller and baby doll in the driveway behind the truck while Meredyth stood no less than 10 feet away with her son Drew. Not seeing Annabelle behind his pickup, the contractor got in and immediately backed up. Meredyth screamed for him to stop as she ran towards the truck but he did not hear her. She was only an arm's length away when Annabelle was killed. Annabelle was only 2-years-old.

The Bryant's lives have been forever changed. The Bryants work closely with KidsAndCars.org and have been fearless and wonderful advocates in honor of their beautiful little Annabelle. They know that this will never bring back their baby, but they do it so that no other family must suffer the tragic, preventable loss of a beautiful child.

"Nothing could have prepared us for such a loss. Our first born child was killed. How could this happen? How could it have been prevented? We still search for answers every day... One thing that could have saved her is if the contractor had a rear detection device on his truck. We must continue to push our government and automobile manufacturers to make these devices mandatory!" remarks Rodney Bryant, Annabelle's loving father.

Contact Information:

Meredyth Bryant
Glen Allen, VA
Annabelle's Mother
Cell: [804-467-8499](tel:804-467-8499)
meredythb@yahoo.com

