

Jack Pauly

September 10, 2009 – April 17, 2011

On April 17th, 2011, the Pauly family's lives changed forever when they lost their beautiful blue eyed little boy, Jack. Jack lived a wonderful 19 months on a farm in DeWitt, Iowa. He enjoyed tractor rides and spending time with his friends and family, especially his big sister. He was loved unconditionally and he knew it.

Jack's mother, Karen, was leaving the house to run errands with her 3 ½ year old daughter, Lily. They said their goodbyes as normal and left the boys in the house, or at least they thought that was the case. Unbeknownst to Karen and his father who was with him inside, Jack wanted to come with his mommy and had somehow discovered for the first time how to open the door by himself.

As Karen backed out of their garage, Lily said "Mom, you hit something". Karen got out of the car, looked down and saw Jack lying there. When she picked him up, he was lifeless. She stood there screaming until her husband came out. Her mother in law who lived next door began CPR as Karen frantically called 911.

The rear assist on Karen's 2008 GMC Acadia did not detect Jack, as he came from the side of her vehicle. Jack was airlifted to the University of Iowa hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Although Karen knows there is nothing she can do to bring her baby back, she feels compelled to help save the lives of other children and has worked closely with KidsAndCars.org to do just that. Karen has made a promise to do whatever it takes to make sure nobody else has to go through what her family has gone through.

"Two years have passed and the events of that day are still very fresh in my mind. There are so many questions... What if I had left two minutes later? What if I just would've taken him with me? I will never know the answers to those questions, except one... What if I had a rear view camera? What if I could've seen him behind my car that day? I will never forget that day, but I will not let it be at the forefront of my mind when I think of my son. I will instead picture him dancing, smearing cupcakes all over his face, and getting kisses from our dog, Henry. I will change the way I live my life in honor of my son because he deserves that." - Jack's Mom

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