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Young mother's death drives school to act

Fundraisers begin for Hannah's future

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Four-month-old Hannah Bogue was buckled in her car seat.

Mother Danielle Bogue wasn't wearing her seat belt.

A tire blew. The SUV flipped eight times.

Baby survived. Mother didn't.

Students at Richard Milburn Academy in Fort Myers hope to turn the tragedy of an alumna into a lesson — seat belts and infant car seats can save lives.

"You never really think about wearing it until something happens to someone you know," said senior Jamie Stigliano, 18, a former non-belted driver who vows to change her ways.

On April 13, Bogue, 22, was driving from a doctor appointment in Fort Lauderdale back to her family's home in San Carlos Park. When her left tire blew, Bogue lost control and was ejected from the vehicle as it flipped. Sister Disa Bogue and friend Dustin Sealy also were jostled inside the car. When the dust settled, however, baby Hannah was still buckled into her Graco infant car seat, awakened from her nap but quiet as can be.

"She didn't make a peep," Disa Bogue, 18, said Thursday at a memorial for her big sister.

After graduating from Richard Milburn in 2004, Danielle Bogue stopped by her alma mater looking for employment.

"She must have come by the school five or six times looking for a job," Principal Patricia Lightner said. "We teach our students to be persistent."

Finally, a clerical position opened, and Bogue jumped in. She also coordinated senior class activities, the lunch program and whatever else needed to be done around the Fort Myers campus. Just a week ago, Lightner promoted the single mother to her administrative assistant.

Being younger than most staff members, Bogue connected with students on their level. The alternative charter school serves at-risk students, former dropouts and those who don't quite fit into a traditional school. Bogue chose Milburn for its flexible schedule that allowed her to work while still completing a high school diploma, said her mother, Dana Grey.



Kinfay Moroti/news-press.com

Corey Johnson, 20, holds his 4-month-old daughter, Hannah Bogue, during a memorial service Thursday for Hannah's mother, Danielle Lee Bogue, at the Araba Shriners in Fort Myers. Bogue was killed recently in an automobile accident. Hannah, a passenger in a baby seat, was unhurt. "Danielle was my heart. And, I am going to make sure Hannah knows how special her mother was," said Johnson.

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HANNAH'S TRUST FUND

People can donate to Hannah's trust fund by stopping by any Bank of America location, directing their contribution to the Sanibel branch under the name "Dana L. Grey in trust for Hannah R. Bogue."

INFANT CAR SEAT SAFETY

- Car seat must be rear-facing until child reaches first year and weighs 20 pounds.
 - Car seat should be reclined at 45-degree angle.
 - Harness straps should be snug and located just over the shoulders.
 - Follow manuals for the car seat and vehicle for proper installation.
- *The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration offers tips and resources on the Web at nhtsa.dot.gov*

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When Bogue gave birth over winter break, she took off just two weeks before coming back to Milburn for a few hours a day while the school was short-staffed. Along came Hannah, of course, who was unofficially adopted as the school's baby.

That's why students responded Monday by starting a string of fundraisers: T-shirts, pins, car washes and a new feature on Wednesdays at school — Hot Dogs for Hannah.

"This has hit us real hard," said junior Bree Lank, 18. "Instead of crying, we wanted to help Hannah."

So far, students have raised \$900, but hope to pump more money into Hannah's trust fund.

Grey and her husband, Derrick, are caring for their grandchild.

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