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'For Pete's Sake' shows drugs can kill anybody

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The message Marci Davies tries to impart is simple: Her brother, Pete Rinner, was a real good person and is proof that drugs can kill anybody.

It's a message she's given as many as four times at the same school, ever since she began talking about her brother in 2001. Davies speaks to school children, church youth groups and adults. She has named her speech "For Pete's Sake," which she plans to turn into a non-profit organization.

"They can do everything right, but as soon as they decide to mess with drugs and alcohol they could be throwing all their good decisions away," the Norwalk resident said.

She will return to several local schools this year, including Norwalk Middle School for the fourth year, New London Local Schools for the third year and Edison High School for the second year.

"It's very difficult to do the talk," Davies said. "It's a very emotional story that I tell them."

Davies shares pictures of Rinner throughout different stages of his life and tries to paint a picture of his personality. She also provides background on her family and the details about the morning of March 1, 1999, when police found Rinner dead.

Davies said to prepare for each speaking engagement, she reviews the emotions she experienced after learning of her brother's death.

The speech has an effect on kids, Davies said. "They're more aware that this could happen to anybody."

Davies has received letters from students who said after hearing her speak, they look out for their siblings more. Students also ask Davies questions after her speeches. She said she's asked frequently what she'd do differently had she known Rinner was taking heroin and what his interests were.

She recalled one boy who asked if Rinner told her he loved her before he died.

Unfortunately, he never had that chance.

