

## **The Tanessha Gates Story**

December 4, 2015

A twenty-three-year-old girl's life has been changed forever, a girl who had dream's and children to provide for. What I mean is... she will never be the same because of the crash. I am her sister and I was her caregiver from the start of all this, I have seen her struggle with everything in life, even the simple things.

The brain injury she sustained, from a drunk driver traveling the wrong way on a bridge, has changed her. She is mad and has anger issues from the brain injury, she is always on the run now, lost and very confused.

Tanessha was very independent and focused. Before the crash, she was attending college. She was a single parent, working hard every day and trying to reach the goals she set for herself. She has four beautiful children who looked up to her, but now they will never know or see her the way she was. This crash didn't just change her life, but it changed her entire family's life as well.

As her caregiver, I gave up my life and goals because family is important. We were taught if your family need you, you help them. She is my baby sister who I love very much. I wanted to make sure she got the best care she could after her injury.

Innocent people's lives were taken on that day. Alex Banks, her friend who was with her that night will never see his family and children again. He is dead.

Tanessha was hanging on for dear life, the doctors didn't think she would pull through. She spent about two weeks in a coma with a severe bleed in her brain. She had a Traumatic Brain Injury, two broken legs and feet. After about two weeks in a coma she was awake but didn't recognize anyone. She had to learn everything all over again.

She is alive but will never to be the same person she was before. Every day is hard for her. She struggles with her brain injury every day. The defendant received ten years for killing Alex and five years for injuring Tanessha (concurrent)- hardly enough in our eyes. Please don't drink and drive.

Written by her loving sister,  
Latricia Gates