

# **Catholic Mutual... "CARES"**

## **SCHOOL SAFETY *TV CARTS***

On October 15, 1984, Laura Dieringer, a third grade student at Warstler Elementary School in Plain Township, Ohio, was killed when a 25" television set and cart overturned on her.

According to her father, Laura had recently been picked by her teacher to bring the video equipment cart to the classroom.

Similar circumstances reportedly led to fatal injuries in Illinois and West Virginia and serious injury in Washington State.

We are not dealing with a freak accident – it could happen to you! The following are steps all schools can take to make certain the tragedy which befell Laura and her family isn't reenacted in one of your classrooms:

1. Don't allow children the "privilege" of moving TV carts.
2. Make sure the TV is securely attached to the cart. (Note: This alone will not eliminate the danger – the set that struck Laura was bolted to the cart, which tipped over.)
3. Be sure the wheels/casters turn freely before moving the cart.
4. Push only in the direction of the long base dimension. That is, edgewise, not flatwise.
5. Report any problems with the cart to your school principal/administrator, just as you would problems with the video equipment.

(Revised 12/2018)