

## Marie Tillman, Widow of Late Army Ranger and NFL Star Pat Tillman, to Speak at Center for HOPE Luncheon

**M**arie Tillman knows that life has a tendency to change in an instant. In 2002, she and her husband, Pat, were enjoying life as newlyweds. At the same time, Pat's career as an NFL safety was taking off.

Moved by the events of 9/11, Pat turned down a multi-million dollar contract with the Arizona Cardinals to become an Army Ranger. He served several tours of duty before he was killed during a friendly fire incident in Afghanistan in 2004.



Tillman will discuss how she found the strength to rebuild her life and become an outspoken advocate for veteran affairs at the **2012 Center for HOPE Annual Luncheon**. The event will be held on **Tuesday, May 8 at 11 a.m. at the Country Club of Darien**.

In her forthcoming book, *"The Letter: My Journey Through Love, Loss & Life"*, Tillman recounts how one of Pat's final letters helped her overcome the tremendous grief surrounding his untimely death. In 2004, Tillman established the **Pat Tillman Foundation**, an organization dedicated to assisting veterans and military spouses through education and community.

All proceeds will benefit bereavement and critical illness support services offered through the **Center for HOPE** and **The Den for Grieving Kids**.

For ticket information or sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.familycenters.org](http://www.familycenters.org) or contact Aleksa Lazarewicz at 203-869-4848 or [alazarewicz@familycenters.org](mailto:alazarewicz@familycenters.org).



Hoffman Landscapes' President Mike Hoffman with Brian Cossari, Landscape Architect



Family Centers' President Bob Arnold with Speaker and Honoree Marie Tillman