



# MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

August 2008

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA**  
**Affiliate Newsletter**  
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## Are You Ready to *Walk like MADD?*

It's almost time for Northern Virginia to *Walk Like MADD!* Join us on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston for our first annual *Walk Like MADD*—a community celebration for everyone. We are excited to announce that Cynné Simpson, an award-winning journalist who anchors the ABC-7/WJLA-TV Weekend Evening news, will serve as master of ceremonies.



In addition to Cynné Simpson, event highlights include:

- **5k non-competitive walk** along the beautiful trails of Lake Fairfax Park,
- **Great prizes** for top walkers and top walk teams,
- **Health & Safety Fair** which includes a demo car installed with an ignition interlock, and representatives from alcohol safety programs, shock/trauma centers, health clubs and wellness centers, public safety and more,
- **Victim Tributes** where participants can view tributes to the countless victims of drunk driving crashes, and help create a victim tribute art project on-site at the walk,
- **Kids' Zone**, with fun activities and games for toddlers, children and teens including face painting, arts and crafts, games and more. There will be something for every youth age group, and
- **Pooch Parlor** – our walk is dog-friendly and we'll have fun activities and pet specialists on-hand

Interested walkers can register online at [www.WalkLikeMadd.org](http://www.WalkLikeMadd.org) (select "Fairfax, VA"). Walker registration is free and easy, and there are plenty of ways to participate:

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- Sign up as an Individual Walker
- Form a Team
- Join a Team
- Become a Virtual Walker (our "walkers in spirit" who want to participate, but can't attend the event)

Community participation will help make *Walk Like MADD* a great event. We have plenty of event sponsorship opportunities with great benefits, as well as vendor space for our health and safety fair, kids' zone and pooch parlor. Sponsorships and vendor space are great ways for businesses to enhance their visibility in the community.

We also have a variety of event-day volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. If you would like to learn more about sponsorships, vendor opportunities or volunteering, please contact Karen Horowitz at 703.379.1135 or [karen.horowitz@madd.org](mailto:karen.horowitz@madd.org). We look forward to seeing you on November 1<sup>st</sup>!

## **The Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving, Ignition Interlocks and the Judiciary**

According to Glenn Birch, past MADD National President, ignition interlocks are among “the most effective tools in place to deter and stop drunk driving.” Ignition interlock devices can save lives and prevent injuries. An alcohol ignition interlock is a breath test device linked to a vehicle’s ignition system. When a driver wishes to start his or her vehicle, he or she must first blow into the device. The vehicle will not start unless the driver’s alcohol level is below a pre-set blood alcohol content (BAC).

MADD’s new brochure outlining the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving and the use of interlocks has been distributed to Judges and Commonwealth Attorneys in the Northern Virginia area. MADD hopes that ignition interlocks will be used as sanctions when sentencing impaired drivers.

### **Top 10 reasons for judges to order interlocks \***

- 1) Interlocks protect the public and reduce recidivism among DWI offenders by 65% while they are installed on the vehicle.
- 2) The interlock reduces the possibility of socially undesirable behavior (drinking and driving) yet still permits socially acceptable behavior (continuation of work and participation in family life).
- 3) Interlocks are an inconvenience and impose a cost on the offender, serving as a constant reminder of the problem behavior that needs correction.
- 4) An interlock costs only \$3.00/day -- less than the costs of incarceration or electronic monitoring, and less than offenders would spend on alcohol. Moreover, the interlock is more effective than other traditional sanctions in reducing recidivism.
- 5) Surveys of DWI offenders show they agree ignition interlocks are a fair sanction and are effective in reducing recidivism.
- 6) BAC readings from the data logger of an interlock can be used to predict the likelihood of future offending and estimate the threat an offender poses on the road.
- 7) Up to 75% of repeat offenders are diagnosed as alcohol abuse or alcohol dependent, making treatment a critical need. Interlocks can provide a ‘window of opportunity’ to encourage offenders to participate in treatment.
- 8) Interlocks are a cost-effective way for judges and probation to monitor and enforce abstinence. Breath tests at specified times (even if the offender is not driving) can be ordered as a condition of probation and results will be recorded by the data logger.
- 9) Interlocks ensure offenders remain in the driver licensing system and under control of authorities. Failure to reinstate a revoked driver’s license and remain in the driver licensing system is a chronic problem that renders the tracking of offenders challenging. A California study reported only 16% of eligible drivers reinstated within a year of their eligibility.
- 10) High-BAC drivers have a substantially higher crash-risk and these offenders should be retained in interlock programs. If they demonstrate repeated non-compliance in the form of elevated BAC tests it is essential they stay on the interlock.

\*Robertson, R. D., Vanlaar, W. G., & Simpson, H. M. (2006) Ignition Interlocks, from Research to Practice: A Primer for Judges. Traffic Injury Research Foundation, p. 13.

### **Marti Family Thank You**

Lindsay Marti, her family, her friends and her brother Nathan’s friends celebrated Nathan’s young life on Tuesday, July 15th, 2008 at the Dogfish Head Alehouse in Falls Church. The restaurant generously donated 15 % of their revenue that day to the Nathan B. Marti Memorial Scholarship Fund at Radford University. Lindsay and two of Nathan’s friends formed the Scholarship after Nathan was killed by a drunk driver in June 2007. The Marti family extends their thanks to those who participated in this fundraiser.

## MADD National has a New President

As of July 1, 2008, Laura Dean-Mooney assumed the



responsibilities of MADD's new National President taking over from Glynn Birch, who served as National President for three years. Dean-Mooney aims to make sure the public has the freedom to drive on roadways without the fear of drunk drivers sharing those roads.

In November 1991, Mike Dean – Laura's husband and father to her then 8-month-old-daughter – died behind the wheel of his car on a Dallas-Fort Worth highway in a drunk driving crash. The offender, who died at the scene, had a blood alcohol concentration of .34, more than four times the illegal drunk driving level.

"This was the saddest day of my life. My husband was killed for no reason and my daughter was fatherless," said Dean-Mooney. "There wasn't Thanksgiving that year. My daughter's life, my life, and that of all the families involved changed forever. Fortunately, I decided to do something about this horrific event by trying to prevent others from suffering the same kind of pain. MADD makes the roads safer and I wanted to be part of that." Dean-Mooney has volunteered for MADD since 1993 and knows that her willingness to take action and to donate her time and dollars to MADD has made a tremendous impact in her family's life.

"I've seen .08 BAC pass because of the fearless leaders before me. I've seen underage drinking become a part of MADD's mission formally and I've seen a *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving* spur a nation to no longer view drunk driving crashes as an accepted part of life in the United States. A major change from complacency to mandating ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers' vehicles," she added.

Dean-Mooney's primary focus during her Presidency will be the *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving*, which calls for alcohol-ignition interlock devices in all offenders' vehicles. Ignition interlock

devices are proven an average of 64 percent effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses. Another major piece of MADD's Campaign is high-visibility enforcement, such as sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols. The CDC reports these efforts reduce alcohol-related traffic fatalities and crashes by up to 24 percent. This August, Dean-Mooney will join national leaders to kick off a nationwide enforcement wave that will remind motorists that if they drive drunk, they will be arrested and there will be serious consequences.

Since the *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving* was launched in 2006, eight states have mandated interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers and six states (including Virginia) mandated for those at .15 blood alcohol concentration or higher. Thirty three of the 36 remaining states have discretionary laws, which are proven ineffective because they are rarely used. The other three have no interlock law – a big problem in those states.

Dean-Mooney adds that, "in these economic times, I will also be more focused than ever before in helping to secure much-needed funding for MADD's Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving – the gateway to a nation without drunk driving and a future with no more victims/survivors."

### Victim Assistance Academy Training

Noreen Dinndorf, a MADD Victim Advocate from Northern Virginia, was among 30 victim service providers from across the Commonwealth selected for the very first Virginia Victim Assistance Academy. The Academy, held July 27 through August 1, 2008 at the University of Richmond, provided a 45-hour comprehensive, academic, interdisciplinary and interactive training.



Presentations included: the Scope of Crime and its Impact on Victims; Understanding Trauma; Crisis Intervention and Trauma Assessment; Bereavement and Grief; the Criminal Justice System; Communication Skills with Victims; and Ethics in Victim Services. Noreen made many important contacts and is even better prepared now to effectively help drunk driving victims and their families.

# MADD hosts Diversity Workshop

MADD representatives from Virginia State, Northern Virginia and the Chesapeake Region partnered with MADD's National Diversity Initiative Coordinator, Pete Almanza, to offer a Diversity Workshop on Thursday, July 24, 2008 in Falls Church, VA. Leaders throughout the community were invited to discuss how drunk driving and underage drinking impact the Hispanic community and to share ideas for improving awareness and education to Hispanics.

Drinking and driving, underage drinking and alcohol dependence are significant issues for Hispanics. Almanza shared some statistics:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for Hispanics ages 1-44, and the third leading cause of death for Hispanics of all ages, surpassed only by heart disease and cancer.
- The Hispanic population constitutes an increasing proportion of crash injuries and fatalities in the U.S. Almost a quarter of all Hispanic men are arrested for DUI during their lifetime.
- At highest risk are Hispanic children ages 5-12, who are 72 percent more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than non-Hispanic children.
- In a recent survey, Hispanic students (36.4 percent) were significantly more likely than Caucasian students (28.5 percent) to have ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.

The workshop was highlighted by a panel with local law enforcement. Panelists Captain Reyes, City of Alexandria Police Department, Sergeant Tom Woodward, Maryland State Police, and Chief Kim Dine, Frederick City Police, addressed the importance of strengthening communication links between the police department and the community. Suggestions were made to improve law enforcement officers' knowledge of the diverse communities they serve and to educate the Hispanic community about state alcohol and drunk driving laws and local police practices.

Leaders from the Hispanic community were also invited to discuss prevention strategies. Representatives from the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, and the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry agreed that drunk driving and underage drinking are more than just a problem - they have become epidemics that are devastating the Latino community.

Participants discussed the social reasons why so many Hispanic men drink and shared the commonly held misconception that "it takes 7 beers before it's unsafe to drive." They also noted that Hispanics are more likely to drink at home with their family and friends rather than at bars or clubs.

The ultimate goal of the workshop is to collaborate and create partnerships to reach out to the Hispanic community and help save lives. Through education, and with support from TV and Radio media, behavior can be changed. MADD plans to work with the Hispanic community to make inroads addressing and conquering the problem of drunk driving and underage drinking.

## *Volunteer Profile:*

### *Linda Allen*

When MADD volunteers move from one part of the county to the other, they continue to support MADD's mission to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this crime and prevent underage drinking.



One of our volunteers, Linda Allen, moved to the D.C. area from San Diego where she was very involved with MADD. She served on the board of directors, and was a MADD speaker at Victim Impact Panels and at military bases. Linda was also involved with the MADD walk in San Diego. Linda recently relocated to Virginia and now speaks at our Victim Impact Panels and is helping us organize our first *Walk Like MADD* event.

Linda became involved with MADD after the death of her son Brad in September 1998. Brad was a Junior at the University of Central Florida. He had been living, partying and drinking in an "Animal House" type environment. Linda and her family finally convinced Brad to move into a non-party house where he could focus on his school work. Brad was excited about being at UCF and his new apartment.

On September 11th Brad told his mom that he planned to go to UCF's Homecoming Football game that weekend. Since he was 21 he was going to have some beers but his new roommate who did not drink was the designated driver.

Unfortunately Brad met up with an old party house roommate who had been tail gating and was drunk. The party friend convinced Brad to drive with him to another party. Brad's friend failed to negotiate a curve leaving an interstate. They crashed. The driver survived, but Brad bled to death at the scene.

Brad had gotten the message not to drink and drive, but his judgment was impaired and he got into a car with a drunk driver. Had Brad been sober he never would have gotten into the car with his impaired buddy.

## VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP

All survivors and bereaved family and friends are welcome. This is a safe outlet for sharing with other victims/survivors who have suffered a loss due to drunk driving.

The group meets twice a month on Saturday mornings at 10:30AM. The second Saturday of each month we meet at the Centreville Library and the fourth Saturday of each month we meet at the MADD office in Falls Church.

**The September Victim Support Groups are scheduled for Saturday, September 13 at the Centreville Regional Library and Saturday, September 27 at the MADD Office.** Please call Noreen Dinndorf (703) 379-1135 or email [advocate@maddnova.org](mailto:advocate@maddnova.org) for more information.



We help survivors survive.



## **MADD teams with Northern Virginia Brain Injury Association**

The Northern Virginia Brain Injury Association (NVBIA) is a local nonprofit organization that brings together people with brain injury, their families, friends and concerned professionals to improve the quality of life that people experience after brain injury.

Twenty percent of all traumatic brain injuries are caused by motor vehicle crashes. A good many of these are alcohol related. MADD is working with NVBIA to help promote public awareness about brain injuries and providing information and resources to the injured and their families.

MADD families with brain injured victims are encouraged to contact the NVBIA. Their help line is (703) 569-1855. The website is <http://www.nvbial.org>.

MADD Northern Virginia Affiliate  
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Support  
**ignition interlocks**  
 for **ALL** convicted  
 DUI offenders

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**MADD - Northern Virginia Affiliate**  
**Membership Application & Renewal**  
 Membership in MADD is **FREE** and is as easy as standing  
 up and being counted. Please sign up below.

This is a \_\_New or a \_\_Renewal Application

**Tax-deductible Donation** Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to: **MADD**

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**MADD NoVA Directors & Staff**

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**Victim Advocates:**

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Sherry Beach              | Noreen Dinndorf  |
| Jennifer Cipolla Hamilton | Michele Luis     |
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