



MADD
 Activism | Victim Services | Education

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
 Chapter Newsletter
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May 2007

MADD PREPARES FOR PROM AND GRADUATION SEASON



“The choices students make today impact their lives tomorrow,” says Glynn Birch, MADD National President. “We are asking teens to leave alcohol out of (these events), never ride with someone who’s been drinking and to buckle up.” MADD wants students to remember every detail of these happy celebrations. We want teens to think about making the right choices and to party safe and sober during prom, and throughout the rest of the year. Last fall MADD National and Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company launched a THINK year-round, alcohol-use prevention program that empowers students to be alcohol and drug free all year long. Visit www.think.madd.org for more information..

Statistics show that traffic deaths among teens during this time of year are higher than any other time of year. During a typical prom weekend in 2005, 290 young people ages 15 to 20 were killed in alcohol-related crashes—of those, 198 deaths involved a 15 to 20-year-old impaired driver. Alcohol is the number one drug problem among youth killing more young people than all other illicit drugs combined. More than 6,000 young people die each year due to underage-drinking-related causes. In 2005, 2,035 15 to 20-year-olds were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes—an average of six deaths per day. Of those deaths, 1,387 youth aged 15 to 20 died in crashes involving a 15 to 20-year-old alcohol-impaired driver.

MADD Northern Virginia is asking high school students to pledge to be alcohol and drug free during prom and graduation season. MADD victim speakers have been busy making presentations at local high schools. Our Crash Car Trailer has visited over a dozen high schools in Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Our chapter has awarded prom/grad grants to every high school whose completed request met the deadline. We’ve also distributed red ribbons, brochures and other materials to other schools. MADD Northern Virginia has partnered again this year with Mr. Wash Car Wash to encourage alcohol-free proms. (See page 4).

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2nd Annual MADD Advocate Training Institute Educates Future MADD Leaders

The MADD Advocate Training Institute (MATI) was held in Dallas last month, April 25-29, 2007. This annual Institute trains MADD volunteers to speak persuasively and work effectively with a variety of groups at the local, state and regional level. The training includes large and small group sessions, panel discussions, mentor and tutoring time and real-life “ripped from the headlines” experience and training.

Debbie Sausville, a MADD Northern Virginia volunteer received a scholarship from the U.S. Department of Justice to attend this training. A total of 90 participants from 29 different states participated.

The training kicked off with a welcome from Glynn Birch who gave participants an overview of MADD history. MADD National staff made a number of presentations on different topics including the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving. Each of MADD’s core programs were discussed as well as the research supporting those efforts. Participants received media training and participated in mock interviews, learning how to quickly and clearly express MADD’s mission and message.

Debbie Sausville had the opportunity to meet and be inspired by fellow victims and survivors from across the country. Now Debbie is reinvigorated and rededicated to MADD and will be an even more invaluable asset to the Northern Virginia Chapter.

What is Strides for Change?



It's MADD's new signature event — a fun, community-driven 5K walk that raises funds and saves lives! Every step taken and pledge made will help raise funds and awareness for MADD's programs and services that will serve to make our communities safer.

MADD Northern Virginia is planning our first Strides for Change Walk in the Spring of 2008. The funds we raise will help people in our community by providing free victim survivor support, by teaching kids to be smart, safe passengers and by reminding people to designate a sober driver.

We are in the early planning stages and we need your help. In fact we can't do it without you! This event will provide many volunteer opportunities. In order to create a successful walk, many details must be managed, from pre-events to post-events.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to be on the planning committee please contact Jennifer Cipolla Hamilton at 703-379-1135. Help make a difference in your community!

16th ANNUAL MADD/ASAP AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

This month, May 2007, Law Enforcement Officers from 19 local jurisdictions will be recognized for their outstanding work in the fight against Drunk Driving. Many of these officers are repeat award winners, making record numbers of DUI arrests, or receiving the award for their department years in a row.

Fairfax ASAP & INOVA Fairfax Hospital S.A.F.E. Program will also be recognized for their contribution. Master of Ceremony is Gail Pennybacker of ABC 7 News. The Guest Speaker is John W. Marshall, Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety. Also present will be Gerald Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors & Debra Gardner, Executive Director, VASAP

This annual event is sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter of MADD and the Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program.

WHAT'S ASAP?

The 24 local Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Programs are self-supporting through the collection of a client fee authorized by the Virginia General Assembly. Their five target areas to achieve the goal of improving highway safety are:

1) Enforcement

ASAP enhances law enforcement efforts to reduce alcohol and drug-related crashes by acquiring state of the art equipment and providing training to law enforcement to detect and apprehend DUI offenders.

2) Adjudication

ASAP, the prosecutors and the courts cooperate to ensure the efficient processing of those convicted of DUI and referred to ASAP for probation. ASAP also works with the courts to develop appropriate probation revocation procedures in the event the offender does not follow probation requirements.

3) Case Management & Offender Intervention

Each offender's case is supervised by a case manager who classifies the offender to determine the appropriate education and/or treatment services needed and ensures that probation requirements are fulfilled.

4) Public Information

ASAP works hard to inform the public about the dangers and costs of drinking and driving. It undertakes extensive prevention activities yearly.

5) Evaluation and Certification

Since 86% of all crimes can be somehow related to alcohol or other drugs, Virginia has continually increased its support for preventing offenses such as drinking and driving. Local ASAPs have been given the responsibility of doing everything they can to lower the number of drunk drivers on our streets. Studies have found that the ASAP program is extremely cost effective as well as extremely successful. ASAPs receive their money entirely from user fees and grants. ASAPs get their money from drunk drivers, not taxpayers

Currently we have MADD representatives on the ASAP boards in Fairfax and Prince William County, Laura Dawson and Dotty Vazzana, respectively.

Volunteer Profile: Sue Baldassari

Sue has been a member of MADD since the early 1980's, but it wasn't until the night of February 11, 1998 that the reality of drunk driving and its aftermath became a part of her personal life.



Sue was simply returning a movie to a video store less than 2 miles from her home when a drunk driver lost control and hit her car head-on. The drunk driver was only 100 yards from his home driveway!

After a 30 minute extrication, Sue was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital Trauma Center where she spent 4 days in the Intensive Care Unit, 10 days on the orthopedic floor, and 5 weeks in a rehab hospital. Her injuries included: two broken legs, two crushed ankles, a crushed femur bone, a broken left hand, internal bleeding, a cracked pelvis, a large facial cut above left eye, and massive bruising.

Two months after the crash, she left the hospital in a wheelchair, and spent the next year in physical therapy. Sue faced more than a dozen surgeries followed by more months of physical therapy during the next 5-6 years.

In June 1999 Sue became actively involved in the MADD Northern Virginia Chapter. Since then she's participated in Victim Impact Panels, spoken at schools and served as a MADD representative on the ASAP Policy Board and as the Chapter Treasurer. Sue's husband and children are supportive of her work with MADD and often accompany her at Designated Driver Booths and at the annual Red Ribbon Run.

Sue is a survivor. She lives with daily reminders (screws and plates in her ankles and a titanium rod in her left leg) of the drunk driving crash that almost took her life. We're thankful she survived and for her continuing support of MADD.

Every year nearly half a million people are injured in alcohol-related crashes. You can help change this statistic.



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MADD Northern Virginia has again partnered with Mr. Wash Car Wash to help keep students safe during the 2007 prom season.

As an incentive Mr. Wash is offering free car washes on Thursdays May 31st and June 7th to students who sign a pledge to refrain from using alcohol or other drugs as part of their prom celebration. All that is required is a dirty car, a prom ticket for that weekend and a signature on the prom pledge banner.

These prom promise events will be advertised at select high schools and will be held at two Mr. Wash locations on Thursdays May 31st and June 7th from 3PM-6PM.

Vienna Mr. Wash
540 Maple Avenue
Vienna, VA
(at the corner of Rt. 123 & Nutley St.)

Alexandria Mr. Wash
420 S. Van Dorn Street



TIPS FOR PARENTS

Take a step back in time. There was a day, if you can remember what it was like before mortgages, careers, and children, when other issues were your highest priority. Before you were the mom or the dad, you were just another kid in high school trying to fit in.

If you let yourself, you might just recall a time when your most significant concern was fitting in, blending in or breaking into a group, club or clique of your teenage peers.

For some mysterious reason, it seems that once we've journeyed through some of life's earliest rites of passage, we tend to minimize or forget just how important they really were - at least to our teenage selves.

Parents have an important role - in acknowledging the significance of certain rites of passage and in creating an on-going dialogue about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Talking about these issues shouldn't be just a pre-Prom/pre-Graduation conversation. This should be discussed all year long.

Celebrations just give you an excuse to go over rules and expectations one more time. If you haven't already, start talking about these issues with your teen and establish guidelines that you can both live with. And set clear consequences should rules be broken. It can save their life and your sanity.

Here are just some of the things to consider and discuss:

- Talk with your teen about the actual consequences of underage drinking, both big and small?
- What are the rules in your home regarding alcohol use and what are the consequences? As a parent, are you prepared to enforce these consequences if a rule is broken?
- Schedule a time to sit down and talk about Prom/Graduation plans so you know the who, what, when, and where of your teen's events?
- What is the plan if my teen finds himself/herself in an uncomfortable situation? Sometimes they didn't make a wrong choice but their ride or friend did. How do you handle that?
- What is Prom curfew and when can I meet your date before the big event?

FUN AT PROM WITHOUT ALCOHOL

With a little THINKing, your prom - and your whole prom night - can be stellar. Remember, it's not weird unless you make it that way. So be original. Be yourself. And have your own prom night to remember.

Step out: Go out afterwards to your favorite burger joint and order a milkshake - in full-on prom wear. This one always turns heads. Hey, celebrities do it.

Photo rally: Buy a bunch of single-use cameras, pass them around, and set a goal to use them all before the night is through. As a bonus, make it a photo scavenger hunt with prizes for the team that gets the most pictures from a zany list.

Reveal your inner gamer: This would be a good night to tell him you secretly love video games. Just be prepared for to see him weep when you beat him at air hockey or out groove him on Dance Dance Revolution.

Run the highlight reel: Go to a coffee house with friends and relive the evening play by play. And hope that your story doesn't make the headlines as the funniest moment of the night.

Get "Footloose": Seriously. Kevin Bacon. 1980s. Look into it. Then go to someone's backyard, take off your shoes, turn up the music, and cut loose.

Go into overtime: Hook up with the YMCA and plan an after-prom basketball tournament. You can get your game on and show some muscles.

Dig in: Kick it like Mom and put out the party platter - complete with chips, sodas and other after-party snacks. Then grab some board games for some friendly competition. Who's up for some Scrabble or Twister?

Midnight Movie Marathon: Rent some DVDs. One word: "Footloose."

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**MADD - Northern Virginia Chapter
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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Email Address

Mailing Address

City State Zip

Telephone

Please send volunteer information

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Peggy Bunce - Vice President
Tom Packard - Secretary/Treasurer
Laura Dawson - S.O. Rep. - ASAP Rep./Fairfax
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Victim Advocates:
Nichole Barta
Jennifer Cipolla
Laura Dawson
Noreen Dinndorf

Noreen Dinndorf - Office Administrator
Jennifer Cipolla - Program Manager
Mike Green - Executive Director

A 2000-pound vehicle
in the hands of a drunk driver
is a deadly weapon