



The MADDvisor

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Growing Through Support Groups

One of the most healing opportunities a Victim Advocate can give victims/survivors is the gift of Support Group. This was the message I read in our Victim Service Newsletter. I can tell you first hand that that statement is absolutely true. I was fortunate enough last year to hold a support group with a handful of victim and survivors. The sharing of experiences with others who have suffered similar trauma can give victims and survivors the realization that they are not alone. Having an opportunity to speak freely and openly about tragedy is most important in the healing process. Many victims, too many, do not feel like they have this opportunity among their family and friends.

I know those that participate in the Support Group found it rewarding to just sit with like people and share experiences. I want to provide this warm and open forum again. If you or someone you know wants to participate in our Support Group, please contact me at the State Office at cyndee.mccarthy@madd.org or by phone at 402-434-5330. Everyone is welcome.

“Long after the crash survivors still feel the impact.”

We Help Survivors Survive.

Cyndee McCarthy, MADD Nebraska State Victim Advocate

Seatbelts Save Lives



MADD Nebraska strongly supports LB 106, introduced by Senator Harms. Often at Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) we state, “Your seat belt is your best defense against drunk driving”. The fact is sometimes it is your only defense. In Nebraska, there were a total of 82 persons killed as passenger vehicle occupants in alcohol-related crashes in 2007. **Of the 82 persons killed 72 (88%) were not using safety belts at the time of the crash.** Only 10 (12%) of the persons killed were using safety belts. As policy makers and as highway safety advocates, it is essential that we strive to curtail the deaths and injuries caused because seat belts were not in use. **MADD and our members across the state strongly supports the legislation introduced by Senator Harms.** This legislation cost little to nothing to implement and has the potential to save lives, lives of friends, family and members in our community. **By passing this legislation it is estimated that there will be at least a 10% increase in the compliance rate (NHTSA).** Again, the translation is lives saved and injuries prevented. The mix in sanctions is crucial to reaching a greater compliance rate and ensuring those traveling our Nebraska roads arrive safely to their destination. Plus, Nebraska will be in line to receive approximately 7.5 million dollars in federal funding. That’s nothing to sneeze at during these economic times.



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MADD Nebraska Announces New Blog!

MADD is pleased to announce their new blog: *Between the Lines*. In addition to drunk driving related topics, other topics related to community health and safety on Nebraska roadways will be discussed. The current topic for discussion is seat belt legislation, LB 106. MADD strongly supports this legislation that has the potential to save lives, lives of friends, family and members in our community. We encourage you to voice your thoughts on this legislation and other upcoming topics! To access our new blog, please go to

<http://betweenthelinesblog.wordpress.com/>.

Lancaster County Memorialized on New York City's Garden of Awareness

A brick memorializing Lancaster County, Nebraska victims impacted by drunk driving has been placed in New York City's *Garden of Awareness*. This memorial includes paths, statues, and two memorial benches. A total of 268 names have been inscribed on the wall. A special thank you goes out to the **MADD New York Long Island Chapter** for their hard work and dedication to the creation of the *Garden of Awareness*.



Nebraska Happenings



- March 10, Victim Impact Panel, Midland Lutheran College, Fremont
- March 12-14, High Visibility Checkpoints enforced by the Nebraska State Patrol
- March 26, Victim Impact Panel, Holiday Inn Express, Beatrice
- March 29-April 1, Lifesavers Conference, Nashville, TN

From the State Operations Council . . .



The 2009 Outstanding Law Enforcement Awards ceremony will be held at Chez Hay in Lincoln in late May/early June (date to be determined). Each year, MADD Nebraska recognizes law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and probation officers who have gone above and beyond to support our mission to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking. If there is a law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or probation officer in your community that you would like to see recognized, please contact your local law enforcement agency or judicial official and encourage them to send in a nomination. Supervisors wishing to nominate a fellow law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or probation officer can access the nomination applications online at www.maddnebraska.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 3. We look forward to receiving and reviewing your applications and thank you for recognizing the worthy law enforcement officer/agency, prosecutor, and probation officer in your community!

