

# The MADDvisor

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## Victims' Rights Week: April 26 – May 2, 2009 “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives”

Annually in April, The Office for Victims of Crime has helped lead communities throughout the country in their observances of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities are held each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. The theme for this year's Victims' Rights Week is “25 Years of Rebuilding Lives”.

This week protects the goal of thousands of victims and victim advocates by helping them achieve understanding and fairness in the criminal justice system. Victims' Rights Week, a nation wide effort, is an opportunity to help crime victims and survivors rebuild their lives in the aftermath of crime. To honor Victims/Survivors, MADD Nebraska is inviting you to decorate a bell that can be used for viewing and for sharing memories of your loved ones impacted by drunk driving. There is no wrong or right way to decorate a bell. The size or the color does not matter. Here at MADD we know that the name and date helps to humanize the impact of drunk driving. MADD will proudly display the bells at the State Capital Building for this special week and at the State Fair in August of 2009. If you would like to sound off a bell to honor someone you know who has been impacted by an alcohol related crash, please contact the MADD Nebraska State Victim Advocate, Cyndee McCarthy, at 1-800-444-6233 or by email at [cmccarthy@maddnebraska.org](mailto:cmccarthy@maddnebraska.org).



## MADD Nebraska Website Redesign

We are currently in the process of redesigning the MADD Nebraska website. The website was redesigned to offer our visitors easier navigation, instant access to our new blog, “Between the Lines,” to promote greater action by visitors to help MADD's mission grow, and to provide a more personal experience. Check back soon at [www.maddnebraska.com](http://www.maddnebraska.com), to view the new and improved MADD Nebraska website!



## Nebraska Happenings



- April 7, Greater Omaha Community Action Site meeting, Baright Public Library, Ralston
- April 7, Victim Impact Panel, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Lincoln
- April 21, Victim Impact Panel, Ramada Inn, Kearney
- April 26-May 2, Victims' Rights Week
- April 27-May 1, MADD bell display at the Capitol for Victims' Rights Week



## The Prom Pledge



The 2009 prom season is just around the corner and can be a tempting time for underage youth to consume alcohol and drive drunk when surrounded by pre and post prom parties and activities. MADD asks students to pledge to be alcohol and drug free during prom and all year round. Alcohol kills more youth each year than any other drug. It is paramount that parents talk to their teens about the dangers of consuming alcohol and driving under the influence of alcohol. Parents should set clear rules and outline the consequences of underage drinking and pay careful attention to their child's activities. If parents know their children are riding in a limo, they should arrange an agreement or contract with the company and/or driver that the parents will be contacted if alcohol consumption is suspected. They should emphasize the importance of not getting into a car with someone who has been driving and call them or a cab for a safe ride home. Under the social host law, parents should know that they can be liable for providing alcohol to underage youth. For more information about the social host laws, visit [www.madd.org/socialhost](http://www.madd.org/socialhost). MADD wishes everyone an exciting and fun 2009 prom season where everyone gets home safe and sober.



## MADD Releases Court Monitoring Report



MADD Nebraska is pleased to announce the findings from a three year project of DUI case data collection in four counties. The MADD Court Monitoring Program (CMP) tracked cases from arrest through adjudication in Gage, Lancaster, Saline and Saunders counties. This program is funded by a grant from the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety. A few of the highlights and observations revealed by the MADD CMP include:

- Misdemeanor DUI cases were adjudicated on average within 151 days.
- Decrease in the proportion of DUI cases amended to reckless driving in three of four counties.
- Conviction rates in all four counties were higher than the state conviction rate.

MADD Nebraska has expanded its CMP to include four additional counties: Hall, Adams, Sarpy and Otoe. In these counties, the MADD CMP observes trends, patterns and behaviors throughout the criminal court case.

## *From the Executive Director . . .*

MADD Nebraska and the Leadership Committee traveled to Lifesavers Conference this year to continue our learning and bring back relevant information for our peers and highway safety advocates. One item worth noting is that Officer Eric Mercier, Chair for the committee, was also a presenter at the conference! Creating Impaired Driving General Deterrence on a Limited Budget: <http://lifesaversconference.org/handouts2009/Mercier.pdf> It was great to include staff, probation, county sheriff and city police as our stakeholders in this training opportunity. I know we were all sharing ideas on how to accomplish more on limited funds and low manpower. I have to say this is one of the best run conferences with a wide array of topics. I even found out more about social marketing by going to a workshop "Talk to the Experts". <http://lifesaversconference.org/handouts2009/Jacobs.pdf>. I came home and started our twitter account! Yep, check it out at: <http://twitter.com/maddnebraska>. You can twitter too!

