

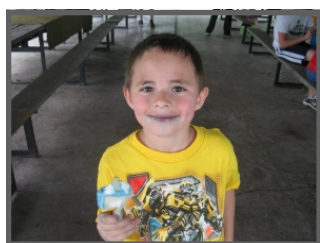
The MADDvisor

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MADD Honors Victims with Summer Picnic

Summertime is all about hot days, fried chicken, cool watermelon and remembering those we love. That is what we did last Saturday and it was a great time for all. I think everyone of us was able to be a kid again just for a few hours. I am continually amazed how much MADD is my family and reminded daily how fortunate I am to work for MADD, support others who have been impacted by drunk driving and blessed to be surrounded by so many fantastic & optimistic community folks. At our picnic we “*Celebrated Life*” with a balloon release and message to our loved ones who have been injured or killed. Babe Ruth once stated, “*It is hard to beat a person who never gives up*”. He said it right – we are all in this for the long haul and we are here together so we might as well play hard along the way, never giving up and always striving for the best.



The kids at the picnic were such a treat and it gave me a sense of renewed commitment to ensure everyone, everyday has the opportunity to get home alive and healthy. Each of us make a choice and I am asking each of you to make the right choice – don’t drink and drive – remember the kids they need us and we need them. My personal thanks to all of the CAS members for lifting my spirits and reinforcing, for me once again, why I love my job. Special thanks to our state victim advocate, Cyndee McCarthy, and our trained volunteer victim advocate, Kurt Muhle, for their efforts to make our picnic truly great!

–Simera Reynolds

Happenings



July 14, Victim Impact Panel, St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, Lincoln

July 28, Victim Impact Panel, Howard Johnson Riverside Inn, Hastings

August 4, Greater Omaha Community Action Site Meeting, Baright Public Library, Ralston, 6:00-7:00 pm

August 4, State Operations Council meeting, Hy-Vee Club Room (O-Street), Lincoln, 5:30-7:30 pm

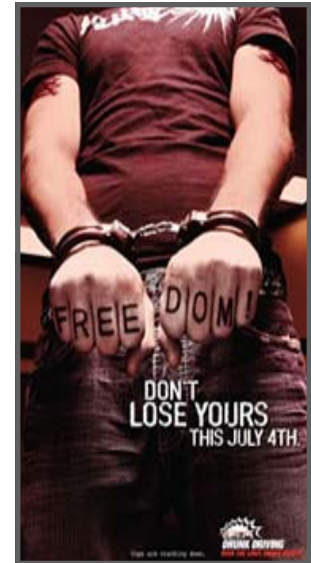
Celebrate Safely this Fourth of July

Alcohol is a major contributor to fatal crashes during the Fourth of July holiday. In 2007 there were 200 traffic fatalities during the July 4th holiday (6:00 PM Tuesday July 3 to 5:59 AM Thursday, July 5).

Forty-four percent of those fatalities involved a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. This summer, don't let your Fourth of July end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Follow the tips below so you can assure a safe way home:

- Plan a safe way home **before** the festivities begin.
- Designate a sober driver before drinking and give that person your keys.
- Call a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation if you are impaired so you are sure to get home safely.

If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, dial “*55” from your cell phone to contact the nearest law enforcement dispatch center.



MADD wishes you all a safe and sober Fourth of July!

Source: www.stopimpaireddriving.org

Keep Your Kids Safe this Fourth of July

Here at MADD we often get calls from concerned parents, family members and neighbors about witnessing a child riding with a drinking driver. With the 4th of July fast approaching and the numerous families on the road traveling to festivities and events, we feel it is critical to emphasize again the important of designating a sober driver. In May 2000, JAMA reported that “66% of the children 14 years of age and younger that died in an alcohol-related crash died while riding with a parent, caregiver or guardian”. MADD feels that is unacceptable. We can do better and MADD is working hard to educate everyone that “*Every Child Deserves a Designated Driver*”. If you are a parent or caregiver, a Community Coalition, and or a concerned citizen wanting more information on how to keep children safe during this upcoming holiday and year round, please contact the State Office at 1-800-444-6233. We have helpful literature that will provide tips on how to keep your child from becoming a victim of drunk driving. As summer fast approaches, make your plans and stick to them for the child's sake!



—Simera Reynolds