

The MADDvisor

September 2008

Volume 2

Labor Day Checkpoints Successful

Over Labor Day weekend, MADD Nebraska volunteers participated in three checkpoints with the Crete Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Department, and with Greater Omaha involving six agencies. The Greater Omaha checkpoint processed more than 700 vehicles over the weekend, resulting in seven drivers arrested for suspicion of DUI. Of the seven arrested, two had previous DUIs and one, who tested more than twice the legal limit, had a 10 year-old child with him. A handful of other tickets were written including one for fictitious license plates. La Vista Police say an upside down six renewal sticker that looked like a nine did not fool officers.



Lancaster County Sheriff's Sobriety Checkpoint Provides Results

SUPPORT 21

Advocacy efforts by more than 100 university presidents to decrease the [21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age](#) (MLDA) to 18 has produced much national debate over this lifesaving law. MADD strongly advocates for increased enforcement of the 21 MLDA, limiting social and retail access to alcohol by those under 21, and reaching out to youth as early as 4th grade, before peer pressure begins. Since the law (MLDA) was enacted in 1984, an estimated **25,000 lives have been saved**. MADD Nebraska applauds UNL for taking steps like banning beer kegs and offering housing where alcohol is banned. Check out a great [news editorial](#) published recently in the New York times about colleges and binge drinking. For more information on the science behind the MLDA, underage drinking facts, and statistics visit the [MADD National website](#) and the [Why 21? website](#).

MADD SOC Members and Volunteers Attend National Conference



Eric Mercier, Crete PD, Russ Zeeb, Sarpy County Sheriff's Dept., and Kurt Muhle, Valley PD and Victim Advocate at the MADD National Conference in Dallas, TX.

Nebraska Happenings



NET documentary on underage drinking, September 18 at 7:00 pm

Victim Impact Panel, September 23, Douglas County, Metropolitan Community College

Community Action Sites: September 24 (Lincoln) and October 7 (Greater Omaha)-see article on the back page for more information.

Coffee Talks: September 27 (Greater Omaha) and October 11 (Lincoln)-see the article on the back page for more information.

Lancaster County Substance Abuse Action Coalition, Lincoln, NE, October 8-9

MADD Nebraska, 145 N 46th Street, Lincoln, NE 68503 | Phone: 402.434.5330 |

Toll-Free: 800.444.6233 | Crisis: 877-MADDHELP | www.maddnebraska.org

New Community Action Site in Lincoln

On September 24, a newly created, Community Action Site (CAS) in the Lincoln and Surrounding Area will hold its first meeting at the Loren Corey Eiseley Library, 1530 Superior Street. MADD Nebraska currently has a CAS in the Greater Omaha Area. A CAS consists of like-minded individuals who are dedicated to supporting MADD Nebraska's mission to stop drunk driving, support victims of this

violent crime, and to prevent underage drinking. CAS volunteers participate in a variety of MADD events, such as Sobriety Checkpoints and Victim Impact Panels. The next CAS meeting in the Greater Omaha area will be held on October 7 at the Baright Public Library, 5555 South 77th Street, Ralston from 6:00-7:00 pm. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer member with the Greater

Omaha or Lincoln CAS, please contact the State Office by email at staff@maddnebraska.org or by phone at 402-434-5330 or 1-800-444-6233. For more information and upcoming meeting dates, please visit our website at www.maddnebraska.org.



Need a Coffee Break?



MADD Nebraska has started monthly *Coffee Talk* sessions in the Greater Omaha and Lincoln and Surrounding Areas. The *Coffee Talks* are a way for anyone impacted by an alcohol related crash to share their story, provide support to others, or just sit and listen. They are a great

opportunity to support each other, share information, and guide one another to our local resources. The next *Coffee Talk* in Lincoln is scheduled for October 11 at Scooters Coffee House, 1033 'O' Street from 9:00-10:30 am. In the Greater Omaha Area, the next *Coffee Talk* is scheduled for September 27 at the Baright

Public Library, 5555 South 77th Street, Ralston from 10:00-11:30 am. For more information on additional support groups in the area and upcoming *Coffee Talk* dates, please visit the MADD Nebraska website at www.maddnebraska.org.

From the Executive Director. . .

Growing MADD Nebraska, Building Capacity to Meet our Mission

At the MADD National Conference, I was asked to serve on a panel to discuss the MADD Strategic Plan for 2009 - 2012. The new plan focuses on five prongs: drunk driving, victim services, underage drinking, revenue generation and capacity building. My role was to discuss the last prong, capacity building. MADD Nebraska has been most successful in our re-organization efforts, re-establishing our community action sites, and building a State Operations Council (SOC) with a wide breadth of volunteers. We have 28 members at the table on our SOC. Additionally, this year the First Lady, Sally Ganem, is the MADD SOC State Chair. Sally is very active in addressing underage drinking and extremely supportive of our efforts to build capacity across the state to meet our mission. Last, the new website has served us well as a tool to reach volunteers, members, and recognize supporters. We have members, victims, and interested citizens contacting us through our website. Last month we had over 340 visits to our web site. MADD Nebraska, through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Roads, has been able to stay in the 21st century! I encourage each of you to invite one neighbor, friend or family member to *join MADD today as we grow our base to meet our mission*, <http://www.maddnebraska.org/programs>. *Simera Reynolds*

