



# The MADDvisor

October 2008

Volume 1

Halloween is one of the year's most dangerous holidays on the road. The CDC found that the number of deaths among 5-14 year olds is four times higher on Halloween evening than any other evening of the year. Halloween is also a "scary" holiday due to alcohol-related crashes caused by those who drink and drive after parties and festivities. Two-thirds of all highway fatalities on Halloween are alcohol-related. Don't even think about getting behind the wheel if you're impaired! Law enforcement agencies will be out in full force on Halloween conducting several sobriety checkpoints to help ensure that roadways are safe. To help everyone bring home treats – not tragedies – follow these tips for a safe Halloween:



- Don't use a cell phone while driving through neighborhoods. A single distraction could lead to a tragedy.
- Drive well below the posted speed limit.
- Pay attention to what's happening on sidewalks and roads. Watch for children running across streets and between parked cars.
- Be extra alert when pulling in and out of driveways.
- Do not assume children can see you or are paying attention. You need to take that responsibility.
- Check that all lights on your car work.
- Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the road. They could be dropping off children.
- Put your hazard lights on to alert other motorists if you're driving a group of children and stopped along a curb.
- Put your mask on after you park your car if you're driving to a Halloween party.

**Don't be the real monster this Halloween!**

**MADD Nebraska wishes you all a safe, sober, and Happy Halloween!**

*Nebraska  
Happenings*



Victim Impact Panel: October 30, Gage County, Holiday Inn Express

Halloween Checkpoints

MADD Volunteer Training Sessions, November 15

## Spotlight on SOC

Each month, MADD Nebraska will be spotlighting a volunteer from our State Operations Council who has donated his or her time to help support MADD's mission. This month, MADD highlights volunteer **Trent Fellers**. Trent is currently serving in his second year as the Chair of the Public Policy Committee on the MADD State Operations Council. He attended the MADD Public Policy Training held last November in California regarding the importance of advancing ignition interlock for all first-time offenders. In addition to his volunteer work with MADD, Trent is the Director of the Long-Term Care Savings Plan, a division of the Nebraska State Treasurer's office. He is a graduate of Doane College with a degree in Public Administration. Previously, he was the Court Monitoring Coordinator for MADD Nebraska, and served as a Corporal in the Marine Reserves. MADD would also like to welcome a new addition to the Fellers family. On September 21, Trent and his wife Jill, welcomed a baby boy. Congratulations to the Fellers family!



## MADD Nebraska Victim Impact Panels

A Victim Impact Panel (VIP) is a group of two or three individuals who speak about an impaired driving crash in which they were injured or in which a loved one was killed or injured, and how the crash has impacted their lives. They do not judge or blame those who listen. The audience is often made up of offenders who have been convicted of MIP or DUI and their guests. The purpose of a VIP is to individualize and humanize the consequences of impaired driving, to change attitudes and behaviors, and to deter impaired driving recidivism. Panels also give victims a healing opportunity to share their stories in a meaningful way. VIPs are currently held

*From the Executive Director. . .* Through our volunteer speakers MADD has been able to reach almost 3,000 offenders in 2008, and let them know that our friends and family who are victimized by drunk driving are not just statistics. At MADD we often have to introduce the term "new normal" to those we assist. For many who are impacted, life will never again be the same and that is why it is so important to continue to support the voice of the victim through our MADD Victim Impact Panels. Just this week, I had to realize that my parent's life is still hanging in balance from an impact my mother sustained when a first time offender hit her head on in December of 2006. I will be spending Halloween in Denver, Colorado in mediation court with my parents, supporting them through this process. For me, in my memories, Halloween was a time to carve pumpkins with my mom, drink hot cider and reminisce over the many costumes we conjured up throughout the years. This Halloween will be the first one I have missed with my husband and daughter since I was married and she was born 20 years ago. Drunk drivers' actions are often far reaching and impact us with the smallest of events. At MADD we often state to the victim, "long after the crash there is the impact" I can attest, with a heavy heart, it is true. *Simera Reynolds*

## MADD Staff Attend Law Enforcement Conference

In October, MADD Nebraska staff had the opportunity to meet over 200 Nebraska law enforcement officers at the Nebraska Sheriffs' Association/Police Officers Association of Nebraska Conference in Kearney. We were able to visit with many individuals about our Victim Services, Court Monitoring Program, and the annual Tie One On for Safety Campaign. Several agencies were also interested in high visibility check point information. We would like to thank the ignition interlock company who provided a demonstration device. There were many interested conference participants who practiced on the device. There was also excellent discussion on the interlock ignition law, which will take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. We are looking forward to the implementation of this law. If you have questions regarding the interlock ignition law please contact the State Office at 402-434-5330. MADD would also like to congratulate Chief Erick Nick of the Tekamah Police Department who won a coffee gift card and MADD t-shirt!

in Adams, Buffalo, Dodge, Douglas, Gage, Lancaster, Madison, Seward, and Scottsbluff counties. In 2007, the top ten counties with the highest VIP attendance were Lancaster (n=817), Douglas (n=261), Buffalo (n=224), Sarpy (n=209), Dodge (n=131), Hall (n=99), Gage (n=78), Phelps (n=75), Adams (n=62), and Madison (n=62). Males comprised about three-quarters of attendees at VIPs and half of the attendees were between 21-35 years of age. If you would like to know more about MADD VIPs, please view the VIP brochure on the MADD Nebraska website at: <http://www.maddnebraska.org>.