



KFADD Newsletter

Kiwanis Family Against Drunk Driving
News from around the Barbourpole

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Thank You!

I want to extend my personal congratulations to Gov. Sylvester Neal for establishing this KFADD program. Without a doubt it has been a great success.

I also want to thank Gov. Dick Mayer for continuing this program for the upcoming year. I pray that this will become an ongoing program.

Thank you, Sylvester, for giving me the opportunity to assist you by putting out the monthly newsletter. I'm praying for your success in becoming an International Trustee.

CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE AGAIN

Alice, age 5, and Teresa, age 3, were looking forward to the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday.

They loved the large cooked turkey in the middle of the table with mounds of mashed potatoes beside it. And, who could resist the smell of pumpkin and apple pie still steaming on the buffet.

Then, Christmas will be shortly after that with Dad building a large doll house for the girls and Mom sewing clothes for new dolls.

But, this was August and Tom's company just had to have a company picnic with kegs of beer all over the place. So what if Tom has 5 or 6 beers--with all the food it will be absorbed anyway. But just in case, Tom had to have one more for the road.

Now, Teresa sits in her wheelchair, paralyzed from the neck down and Alice tries her best to help with her broken arm. The tears just don't seem to stop. Their mother, Mary, lived just long enough to describe the horrifying experience that Alice and Teresa will live with through the rest of their lives without either mother or father.

Not only did Tom have to have one for the road, but he needed one while he was driving. Mary screamed at Tom to slow down as they went around curves in excess of 80 miles per hour. There ahead was a large outcropping of rocks that would not move.

Mary's mother and father could not believe this account as she took her last breath. They thought they were through raising their family. Now they would have to care for a crippled granddaughter for the rest of their lives. This was not what they wanted for their retirement years.

You can't pickup the newspaper in any city in the USA and not see similar stories of people making dumb decisions.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are a time to celebrate, not mourn.

MADD does everything they can to get the word out during this season to make sure people think before they drive. Unfortunately there are not any MADD chapters in many of our towns and cities where we have Kiwanis Clubs.

PLEASE - PLEASE - PLEASE

Kiwanis Family Against Drunk Driving should have an active member in every club in the PNW District. If only to help get the Red Ribbons on all of our club members cars and all of their family and friends cars. You may be the person who makes another Alice and Teresa have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Get your Key Clubs and Builders Clubs to help pass out red ribbons to all their friends and families. Think of creative ways to get people involved this holiday season.

Remember, the life you save could be your child or grandchild. -- **GET INVOLVED!!**

Roger Barbour

RECKLESS DRIVING CAUSES FATALITIES

September 6, 2004 - A day that changed many lives in Oregon. Labor Day and a trip to the Oregon coast for two Grant High School Seniors ended tragically when their vehicle collided with a delivery truck on Highway 26 outside of Seaside, Oregon. The force of the crash literally folded their 1992 Volvo in half.

For Trooper Jim Pierce and Lt. John Wood of the Oregon State Police it looked like another high speed crash until they got closer to the vehicle and saw deflated balloons extending from what appeared to be the rear of the car. They knew in their hearts that this one involved young people.

Although alcohol was not involved in the crash, youthful exuberance and high speed were. The estimated speed upon impact was in excess of 100 miles per hour. The choice to put the pedal to the metal proved to be a fatal decision for these young ladies. Even trained race drivers often can't handle high speed. But the special roll bar equipped cars, helmets and special safety harnesses protect them from impacts.

In just a few seconds, the lives of more than the two girls were shattered. The drivers of the other vehicles will forever remember the horrifying sounds of crumpling metal and breaking glass. Then the reality that there was nothing that could be done to save the lives of the two girls. For the parents of those girls, it is a different reality. No one ever expects to get a knock on the door in the middle of the afternoon and see a law enforcement person at their front door. As parents we always look forward to the days of graduation, college, weddings, grandchildren, careers and endless joy for our children. But in one instant, that all changes.

We don't ever anticipate having to identify the remains of our children, plan a funeral and begin to pick up the remaining pieces of our lives. And then there are the friends and teachers of the girls. No longer will they be able to share laughter and conversation with best friends. For a teacher, the empty chair in a classroom is a reminder that another child is gone.

This was a preventable loss of life. Parents, we need to teach by example if we are to make positive changes. Our teens are by nature risk takers. But the examples we set as drivers can do a lot to stem their need to make unsafe choices. As our teens are learning to drive, do we really follow the laws concerning supervised driving as required by the graduated licensing requirements in our states? Or do we just sign off on their license application stating that they have driven the required number of hours. Are we glad that we no longer have to chauffeur them everywhere?

Concerning our own behaviors as drivers, how many of us can multi-task by changing the stereo, eat food, talk on the cell phone and still be paying proper attention to the skill of driving a car? Next time you get in your car, be aware of everything you need to do as you drive. Check your mirrors, watch the cars ahead of you, the cars approaching you, your speedometer, headlights, wipers, etc. Be aware of how the car handles if you have to take one hand off the wheel to change the radio station. Now add to that a cell phone, and you have a driver with divided attention. Remember, your kids watch what you are doing. Do you swear at other drivers who do improper driving skills? Do you follow the posted speeds on the highways?

Now imagine that you are an inexperienced teen driver. Is it any wonder that they drive like they do. We have not set a very good example. Teens tend to be more distracted when they drive. Watch a teen driver some time. Before they know it, the speedometer creeps up over the limit. A slight steering correction and they hit gravel spinning out of control. Could you control your vehicle as an experienced driver?

As a parent, I remember the beginning driving experiences of my own son who received his first citation within two weeks of getting his license. He forgot he had put the car on cruise control and turned on to a residential street. Another time he was driving down a hill and not paying attention to the speedometer. Gravity does some interesting things to a car going down a hill. The flashing lights behind him got his attention as well as a hefty fine for being twenty miles over the posted speed. Those two citations stayed on his record for three years and made a major impression on him when he purchased car insurance. All the talking and teaching about driving and monitoring still did not make the necessary impression. I would do things very differently now. For one thing, no other friends in the car. No night time driving without a parent in the car. Just a few things. They would make things inconvenient for me, but I could feel much safer for him.

Yes, they will be kids, but we do want them to be with us for a long and healthy life. Take a stand as a parent. Driving is a privilege, not a right. And privileges can be taken away. If you know your child is making poor choices while driving, you can make a trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles and take your signature off their license until they are the legal age of eighteen.

Don't be a parent who receives that knock on the door.

Lynn Chiotti - President

MADD Columbia County Chapter

St. Helens, Oregon

Member of Daybreakers Kiwanis Club

TO ALL KFADD COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALL MADD CHAPTERS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat. Oct. 30, 2004:

Columbia County MADD will be participating in St. Helens Daybreaker Kiwanis Childrens Fair.

The fair is in its 13th year and will serve over 4000 children plus adults. Thousands of Red Ribbons as well a book marks, stickers and other handouts will be distributed.

(Please advise any upcoming events you have scheduled for the next couple of months, and I will list them here in the next newsletter).

NEWS ITEMS:

I need your help to put out an informative and interesting news letter. Please send me stories or news flashes that can be reproduced in the news letter. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

e-mail to: barbourpole@ados.com

Thank you,
Roger Barbour
Co-chair
KFADD PNW Division