KFADD Newsletter

Kiwanis Family Against Drunk Driving

News from around the Barbourpole

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EXPANDED SEAT BELT SAFETY

Congratulations to Marti Greeson and her MADD Alaska group on a tremendous effort to greater seat belt reform.

I know Oregon and Washington have seat belt laws, however, they could be stronger to allow officers more control on issuing citations.

Roger Barbour, KFADD Co-Chair
Sylvester Neal, KFADD Chair

Below is a copy of the 2004-05 Alpha seat belt resolution:

A Resolution recommending that the Alaska legislature approve a Primary Seatbelt law

Whereas a primary enforcement allows a law enforcement officer to stop a vehicle and issue a citation when the officer observes an unbelted driver or passenger,

Recalling that it has been 13 years since a (secondary) seatbelt law has been introduced where enforcement can only be written after the officer stops the vehicle or cites the offender for another infraction;

Whereas 21 states and DC (July, 2004) have passed a primary seatbelt law; (National Highway Safety Association, 2004);

Recognizing that motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury death to people between the ages of 10-34 years of age ;(Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2002);

Whereas 84% of people who wear seatbelts are more likely to walk away uninjured compared with only 60% of the unbelted occupants (DOT Alaska Accident Report, 2001);

Whereas $12 million, 71 major injuries prevented, and 6 lives saved in Alaska per year if a primary seatbelt was passed (BELTUSE software program, NHSTA):

Whereas studies show that patients who were not buckled up at the time of a motor vehicle crash were almost twice as likely to sustain a serious head injury and over one and half times more likely to be discharged with a permanent disability ;(Alaska Trauma Registry, 1991-2000 10 year data report);

Whereas 50% of the medical costs for people unrestrained at the time of the crash was paid by public funds, (“Alaska Seatbelt Analysis”, Sept. 2003, Alaska Injury Prevention Center);

Whereas a primary seatbelt law would increase seatbelt use by 11points, from 71%-92%; NHSTA, spring, 2004);

Whereas a recent study reported that a primary law does not lead to an increase of police harassment; (Accident Analysis & Prevention, 36 (2004) 819-828;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the _FILL IN BLANK_____

urge the Alaska Legislature and Governor Murkowski to introduce and pass legislation that amends the secondary seatbelt enforcement to a primary enforcement law.

TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY

MADD has always been committed to safety, and part of that commitment includes our annual 'Tie One On For Safety' campaign, which encourages holiday drivers to tie a red MADD ribbon to a visible location on their vehicles. The ribbon is a symbol of the motorist's pledge to drive safe, sober and buckled up and it reminds others to do the same. The 2004 'Tie One On For Safety' message calls for a public commitment because drunk driving is still the most frequently committed violent crime in America and seat belts are our best defense in a crash.

The holidays remain a particularly dangerous time for travel. To help make the roadways safer, MADD is grateful for the support of Takata, the world's largest seat belt manufacturer and national presenting sponsor, as well as Mazda, the national automotive sponsor, for helping bring 'Tie One On For Safety' to communities nationwide. In 2003, 1,579 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes between Thanksgiving and New Years -- an increase from 1,561 alcohol-related fatalities in 2002. While nearly 80% of Americans wear seat belts, those who do not put themselves at a much greater risk, accounting for over half of all passenger vehicle fatalities during the holidays.

(excerpt for MADD newsletter of 11/18/04)

I PROMISE PROGRAM INC

From: Gary Direnfeld <garydi@sympatico.ca>
To: Kiwanis <ecschroeder@juno.com>

Date: Fri, 12 Nov 2004 13:18:13 -0500
Subject: Service club - Quick update...
Message-ID: <20041112181935.DBKA25979.tomts25-srv.bellnexxia.net@gary>

As you may know, the I Promise Program - teen safe driving initiative, is now available at no cost.
Please check out the website for details and inform your membership:

www.ipromiseprogram.com

In addition to my work on safe driving, you may be familiar with the fact that I am a social worker first and write articles related to parenting and family life, and separation and divorce issues.

My articles can all be accessed as a free resource from my social work website:

www.yoursocialworker.com

The articles are posted in in 3 file formats for ease of use. You may print, post or link from your website, copy, place in a newsletter and distribute however you wish.

Some titles of interest include:

Finding Joy In Your Children
Developmental Milestones
Catch a Kid Doing Good
Parenting Plan Worksheet
Helping Separated Parents Communicate...

These websites and activities are my way of being of service to the community. Please feel free to use to the fullest.

Best,

Gary
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Gary Direnfeld is a social worker and expert on matters of family life. He is in private practice (Interaction Consultants), writes and provides workshops and is the developer of the "I Promise Program" - teen safe driving initiative. Courts in Ontario, Canada, consider Gary an expert on child development, parent-child relations, marital and family therapy, custody and access recommendations, social work and an expert for the purpose of giving a critique on a Section 112 (social work) report. His opinion helps resolve child custody and access matters.

Gary's services include counselling, mediation, assessments, assessment critiques and workshops. Search his name on GOOGLE.COM to view his many articles or go directly to his website: www.yoursocialworker.com where you can view his CV, read his many article and view video clips of his many television appearances.

(Editor's note: Thanks to Sylvester Neal for forwarding this to me. I have included this in the Newsletter because I feel that any additional information we can obtain to help save a life is worth including.)

CRIME VICTIM ADVOCATES APPLAUD ENACTMENT OF "GROUND-BREAKING" FEDERAL VICTIM RIGHTS LAW

WASHINGTON (Nov. 1, 2004) - The most far-reaching victims' rights bill ever considered by the U.S. Congress was signed into law on Oct. 30, breaking new ground in two significant ways, according to leaders of the nation's crime victims' movement.

First, it establishes the most powerful enforcement mechanisms ever found in a Federal victim's bill of rights. Second, it authorizes funding to help implement the law - including support of free legal clinics for victims.

"The rights listed in the statute reflect the core principles of victim justice," said Steve Twist, chief counsel of National Victims Constitutional Amendment Passage (NVCAP), the coalition of victim rights groups that helped craft the bill.

These rights include the right to be reasonably protected, notified, present and heard during proceedings; the rights to confer with the prosecutor, to restitution, and to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and the right to be treated with fairness and respect.

The enactment of such a major reform in the treatment of victims was done under conditions of rare consensus. It was first adopted by unanimous consent without debate by both houses. Then, President Bush signed it without fanfare during the last stages of his reelection campaign. These were not acts of

indifference but of near-unanimous support across both parties and branches of government.

(Editor's note: These are only a few highlites of the news release. Go to MADD on-line and view the entire National Press Release:
http://support.madd.org/site/Ri=kVxU_uJJ6TPthFVSgKRaQg..)

TO ALL KFADD COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALL MADD CHAPTERS

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Many clubs in the district will be having "Tie one on for Safety" ribbon distributions during the holidays. Make sure you take advantage of one of these events near you.

(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