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Citizen Comment

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MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education™

Gainesville Chapter
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About three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash – almost one person per minute. That’s why we exist.

We’re MADD. Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Our Mothers save lives. We are dads and daughters, sons and uncles, friends and neighbors - and mothers. Since our beginning in 1980, we’ve been working to make our roads and communities safer. We’re all ages and from all walks of life. We speak of love and loss, but also of survival and hope. We are committed to our mission to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking.

We are many colors with one voice.

We work in all communities and offer culturally appropriate victim support. We know drunk drivers don’t discriminate.

We are young. We get it.

Our youth programs empower people to make a difference. We train youth to work with law enforcement on underage drinking laws and to make sure store clerks check for IDs before selling alcohol. Our traveling multi-media assembly shows for elementary, middle- and high-school students encourage good decision-making and leadership skills. Our elementary school curriculum teaches students about keeping their bodies healthy and safe.

We believe fun and safety go hand in hand.

We like to tie one on – for safety, that is. Each year we ask motorists to tie a red MADD ribbon on their vehicles as a pledge to drive sober and to buckle up. We ask people to designate a non-

drinking driver when they plan to drink. We provide resources to help hosts plan safe parties with recipes for non-alcoholic drinks and tips to ensure guests arrive home safely.

We are effective.

Local volunteers have helped MADD become one of the most effective forces in changing public policy to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking. Since MADD was founded, alcohol-related traffic deaths have declined by more than 30 percent. In a little more than two decades, MADD has helped pass about 2,300 laws to make our roadways and communities safer. But there is still much to be done. In addition, studies have shown that DUI offenders who attend a MADD victim impact panel class are less likely to become repeat offenders.

To us, every day is Mother's Day.

MADD has more than 1,400 trained victim advocates on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They provide free literature, guidance through the criminal justice system, information on how to apply for crime victims' compensation funds and a list of referrals and resources.

The Gainesville Chapter of MADD is proud to join the nearly 600 chapters nationwide. We are comprised of victims of drunk driving, and of concerned citizens, working to keep our community and families safe.

Sarah Maurer
Community Action Site Coordinator
Gainesville MADD