

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2005

2005 – A New Beginning



*Lois Joiner Harvick
Administrative Assistant for
MADD Eugene Affilaite Office*

In March, National MADD hired **Lois Joiner Harvick** with a new title of *Administrative Assistant for MADD Eugene Affiliate Office*. (Long title, but describes job.)

Lois was born and raised in Eugene and has keen insight regarding Lane County communities and the key people within. She has a college-age daughter and a 14-year-old son. Her past work experience has been teaching in Montessori schools, Birth to Three parent and volunteer support education, coordinating “Read for Joy Program” for Eugene Public Library, training child advocates for CASA of Lane County, and a group fitness

instructor for the YMCA.

Lois is also the Coordinator for the Lane County DUII Victim Impact Panel. She works part-time for MADD and part-time for the VIP – a perfect fit. Lane County could not ask for a person more suited for and dedicated to the cause.

New MADD Office

March 30th, we closed our office on Bailey Hill Road, stored most of the contents, then opened a smaller office at 1310 Coburg Road, SU #10. It adjoins the Lane County VIP office, creating an efficient working relationship for both organizations, for Lois and for volunteers.

Volunteer

This new beginning is a perfect time to become a volunteer member or to re-commit yourself to join with us in Lane County MADD. Why not phone? Lois would be delighted to visit with you about possibilities. Our phone number is the same: 541-343-8115.

Introducing...

There is not a MADD organization in the nation more fortunate than ours. Two well-known men have accepted volunteer services to us as Co-Chair of the MADD Board of Directors for the Eugene Affiliate Office – Jim Torrey and Randal Whipple.



*Jim Torrey
Co-Chair, MADD
Board of Directors*

Jim Torrey just completed two terms as mayor of Eugene, has served on boards and committees too numerous to list, is very concerned about youth and education throughout the state, and is currently the Director of Emerald Kidsports.




*Randal Whipple
Co-Chair, MADD
Board of Directors*

Randal Whipple until a few years ago was a familiar face to Oregonians as a KVAL Television evening news anchorman. He has covered stories of crashes and victims of drunk driving. Since leaving TV, he and his wife, Cindy, have become the #1 real estate team in the Eugene/Springfield area.

Welcome all to MADD's New Beginning.

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**NEW NATIONAL
VICTIM SERVICES HELP-LINE**

Now all a DUII victim has to do is dial 1-877-MADD-HELP for 24-hour live nationwide victim assistance. We also have two trained Victim Advocates in our Lane County Office. Call 343-8115.

2005 – A New Beginning

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The New National Structure will change the administrative approach of the MADD organization in every state in the nation. Regions have been carved which are made up of either a state or group of states. We are included in the Pacific Northwest Region and have an Executive Director and staff based in the regional office in Seattle – much closer and more accessible to Oregon than Texas. Great! Seattle is now gearing up and will be sending you MADD Newsletters and communications. Watch for them and for news of our local newly titled *Eugene MADD Affiliate Office*. They also will be assisting us with our fund-raising and marketing of projects.

The United States has been divided up into three groups of regions, the first one to be phased in on July 1, 2005, one in July 2006, and the last regions in 2007. Our Pacific NW was chosen to be in the first phase, leaving it up to volunteers and staff to improve and tweak, paving the way for phases 2 and 3. (We're good at paving.)



Judy Eakin
*Pacific NW Regional
Executive Director*

Introducing...

Susanne Guinn, MSW, is our new Pacific NW Regional Director of Victim Services. She has lived in the United States 12 years, originally from Germany. Susanne began as part-time victim advocate in 2001 prior to being hired as full-time in 2005. MADD has decided to again put victim assistance high on the new agenda.

Introducing...

New Pacific NW Regional Executive Director, **Judy Eakin**, because of her long history of non-profit management, was hired by MADD National 18 months ago. She has a 28-year-old daughter named Britain and has lived in Seattle 9 years.

Judy has traveled to Eugene three times to brief and consult with Eugene MADD leaders. Most future networking will be with Judy's Regional office in Seattle and with the MADD Affiliate Office in Portland.



Susanne Guinn, MSW
*Pacific NW Regional
Director of Victim Services*

Board Members

Jim Torrey, Co-Chair	Randal Whipple, Co-Chair
Marie Armstrong, Victim Advocate	Bill Bromley
Barbara Kousky	Anne Pratt
	Barbara Stoeffler

2005 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

The public is warmly invited to attend the Lane County MADD Candlelight Vigil, a short ceremony to honor victims injured or killed in a drunk driving crash.

We have held the vigil every year since 1982 – it brings together victims, friends and families. After a short presentation, a candle is lighted by those attending in memory of lives affected by drunk driving.

If you desire a picture of your loved one in the slide tribute, please e-mail to victimimpact@castleisp.com, or mail to 1310 Coburg Rd., Ste. 10, Eugene 97401.

Please come:

When: December 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Campbell Senior Center
155 High Street



Vigil

Headlights

Even after a year it is bizarre to see my name printed in the sheriff's report describing the accident that changed my life. The date on that report is October 2, 2004. That night I found myself uncomfortably strapped to a stretcher trying to make sense of the noises, odors, pangs, and sights from just moments before. I spent hours in the emergency room thanking God for my life, which is something most twenty-three year olds take for granted. I consider myself blessed.

It was a Saturday night. My younger sister had been house sitting on a dark and windy road outside Central Point, Oregon. We had been hanging out as usual. Watched a movie, ate brownies and laughed over inside jokes. Just before eleven o'clock we finished our movie and I decided to drive home.

After making my way down the long, gravel driveway I eased onto the road. I had hardly reached thirty miles per hour when I saw the glow of approaching headlights over the small hill ahead. The very moment the oncoming car crested the hill I realized it was speeding directly toward me. With only one hundred thirty feet between us I had mere seconds before the collision.

When my car came to rest after spinning backward twenty-four feet I timidly opened my eyes to find my remaining headlight shining through the weeds. I recall thinking, "I can't believe what just happened." There was fine powder and a bitter scent in the air from the deployed airbags and I could hear young boys screaming from the overturned car in the



Jessica Trimmer

opposite ditch.

Just seconds prior I had been on the phone with a friend. Our conversation ended abruptly after I screamed and the phone smashed into the windshield as both shattered. Concerned, he called my sister urging her to find me. She then dialed 911. Much to my relief, help came quickly. After I pulled myself from my mangled car, my sister propped up my injured leg with horse blankets from her trunk and sat with me until the ambulance arrived.

Miraculously I survived with minor injuries; whip lash, a deep laceration to my right knee and a severely sprained ankle. I spent three days in the hospital and seven weeks in physical therapy. After only a couple months I was able to relocate to Eugene and continue college. The still pink scar on my right knee reminds me I'm lucky to have legs at all.

After the events of the evening had been reconstructed I learned that the driver of the other car, Mr. Chaves, and his four juvenile passengers had been at a motocross race on the other side of the valley where there had

been a beer garden. The exact amount Mr. Chaves had consumed was indeterminable, but when the time came to return home he was chosen to transport the boys because "he was less drunk than their father was." Further testimony revealed that Mr. Chaves had told the boys he was giving them "the ride of their lives" and that they'd have nightmares after the thrill. What ended up transpiring was more than the impressionable experience any of them had bargained for.

Tragically I was not the only victim in this assault. When Mr. Chaves chose to drive recklessly while intoxicated he disrupted the lives of a whole community: his four passengers, our family members and our close friends. His irresponsibility has cost us irreplaceable time and health. There is no compensation for this kind of pain and suffering. The boys are now terrified of him. They feel remorse for having felt powerless and for not asking him to slow down. Despite my unsettling, deep-seated anger, I rest easier knowing Mr. Chaves is serving time in prison for his negligence. And above all, I have many things to be thankful for; my life and good health, the ability to attain a valuable college education, and the most supportive and loving family and friends a girl could hope for.

**MADD Eugene
Affiliate Office**
1310 Coburg Road,
Suite #10
Eugene, OR 97401
541-343-8115

NNO and MADD

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Lane County Community Action Site participated in the National Night Out kick-off event held Sunday, July 31st at Island Park in Springfield. National Night Out, *America's Night Out Against Crime*, is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community partnerships.

This year is the first year MADD participated with other local agencies at this family-oriented event. 211 children and their families participated in filling out a "passport" stamped at every participant's information table.

MADD displayed the *Simple Plans* music video, endorsed by MADD National. It is often played on MTV and holds a number 1 spot on its popular show TRL. A strong message of the consequences of drinking and driving and the effects on families is portrayed in the music video.

"Facts to Chew On" coupons containing important fact regarding underage drinking and a piece of gum and other educational give-a ways on preventing underage drinking were also offered to passing children and their families.

MADD Lane County's administrative assistant Lois Joiner Harvick and volunteers Melissa and David Hanson and their two young girls helped at this fun, carnival-like event. David displayed his crashed vehicle and shared his experiences as a drunk driver with many of the 500 visitors who stopped to examine the severely damaged car. David also shares his experience as a volunteer speaker with the Victim Impact Panel, describing his injuries of 22 broken bones, over 200 stitches in his face, financial devastation, the



turmoil he put his parents through, and a long recovery and realistic consequences of being the "boy next door" with a felony charge of DUII, reckless driving and attempted murder of his passenger.

He shares a very humbling story presenting another side to

victimization: himself due to his negligence, his wife and daughters and his parents. Those who heard his story were very impacted and grateful that he survived to warn others of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Visitors and participants enjoyed hotdog meals, a police dog demonstration, live blue grass music, a carnival and silent auction. Springfield Neighborhood Watch raised over \$2000 from the auction, food sales, and donations. MADD was warmly greeted by the other local agencies and is looking forward to participating again next year.

GO DUCKS!?!.....GO HUSKIES!?

Yes, it is a dilemma who to cheer for when you live and serve in MADD's Pacific Northwest Region which includes Oregon and Washington. However there is something Duck and Husky fans could both cheer about when Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Lane County Community Action Site held a thirty-second drum cadence during the pre-game show of the University of Oregon vs. the University of Washington Saturday, October 15th at Autzen Stadium in Eugene, Oregon.

The drum cadence was played by the University of Oregon's drum team in celebration of the nearly 300,000 lives that have been saved since the founding of MADD in 1980.

Drum cadence ceremonies will be taking place during the month of October in commemoration of MADD's 25th anniversary this month. MADD chapters nationwide are encouraged to host celebrations

during high school and university football games utilizing each school's drum team or a community drum circle at a local event. The thirty-second drum cadence is to be uplifting and celebratory in honor of MADD's commitment to saving lives.

Local media were invited to cover this local event. Awareness regarding the importance of making good decisions to not drink and drive were undeniable when the drums signify nearly double the population of Eugene, were played in front of an audience of 60,000 Duck and Husky fans. This reminder to many enthusiastic football spectators is very timely. The local newspaper, *The Register-Guard*, reported Monday, September 12th following the previous Saturday's game against Montana that five drivers were arrested and charged with drunk driving and others were cited for driving with an open container. And the beat goes on...



DUII Victims At Work

Two Lane County MADD members deserve a golden award for their work since 2001 in Oregon's Capitol. Working alongside Crime Victims United of Oregon, they have contributed thousands of hours in Salem endeavoring to strengthen drunk driving and related laws. This past session, they made the round trip 63 times, knocked on doors, listened and testified at hearings and wrote hundreds of e-mails to key legislators. Nothing passed this year, but they held the line, keeping current laws from being weakened. That in itself is an accomplishment.

Their names are Anne and Bruce Pratt. Their motivation? ...the phone call came from St. Charles Medical Center in Bend at 2 a.m. September 18, 1998: "Your son arrived D.O.A. Do you want to donate any organs?" Shattering words. It was Anne's 50th birthday and Brian was supposed to come to the weekend birthday party Bruce had planned. "Killed by a drunk driver," the officer who had been at the scene later told them. Instead of a birthday party, they were now planning a funeral for Brian, a handsome loving son with a contagious smile. He was only 23.



Anne and Brian Pratt hold a photograph of their son Brian who was killed by a drunk driver in 1998.

Hopeful that other families will not experience the same grief, they have lobbied to pass tougher DUII laws. "Brian's Bill," named in memory of their son, was just part of a package of legislation they helped push through in the 2003 Session. It ratcheted up the prison sentence for criminally negligent homicide involving drunken driving from 16-18 months to 34-36 months.

The other bills in the package require drivers to plead guilty or "no contest" before entering a diversion program; require a life-

time revocation of a driver's license for a third conviction for DUII; toughen the fine if a DUII offender drives with minors in the vehicle, and the last in the 2003 package of DUII bills imposes a fine for drunken driving suspects who refuse to take a breath test.

The Pratts and Crime Victims United deserve our gratitude for endeavoring to close loopholes in Oregon DUII laws.

Anne is a member of the Board of Lane County MADD and also works locally to save lives.



MADD Silver Anniversary Red Ribbon Campaign "The One On For Safety!"

Wow! This is a special year! MADD has reached a milestone – 25 years. It is estimated that we and other safety organizations have helped save 300,000 lives. **That** is worthy of flying ribbons all over town. Our kick-off will be November 17th, the weekend before Thanksgiving.

To commemorate our Silver Anniversary Lane County MADD has ordered silver ribbons with the red MADD logo (we will also have Red Ribbons available). We plan to have them in the usual businesses (BiMart, Les Schwab, etc.). Pick yours up for the Holidays and "Tie One On for Safety!"

If you happened to be tuned to your radio in the Eugene/Springfield area this summer you might have heard announcements on Cumulus Broadcasting stations 95.3 the Moose, Rock 97-9 NRQ, 96.1 KZEL STAR 102.3, 590 KUGN and 1320 the SCORE for a free ride home from downtown every Saturday night through August. Thanks to a grant received from the Lane County District Attorney's office for \$2,500, MADD Lane County was able to partner with Cumulus Broadcasting to provide safe travel home from a designated local nightclub. The ride home provided was not your ordinary mode of transportation but a Big Green double-decker bus, nicknamed the BUS-BUS. The goal was to work together to decrease the amount of under the influence drivers, to keep the streets safe.

Pick-ups were at the top of the hour from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday nights outside the

Take Take The Bus Bus



Jungle nightclub. The ride was one-way with no returning trips back to the nightclub or the downtown area. Initially the bus was to chart a specific course and drop-off route but the gracious bus driver, local radio station personality Dan Nimms, put in late hours and took everyone home to their door, regardless of the route.

Unofficial statistics calculated hundreds of patrons were kept off

the streets and brought home safely during the six-week campaign. Cumulus Media account manager and representative Jennifer Meyer stated, "It definitely had an effect on the streets and we are looking forward to re-visiting the idea again once the school season starts up again."

She also stated that one of the most memorable rides home was a group of twenty or so girls who had attended a bachelorette party where partiers believe they would have jumped into their cars if it weren't for the Bus-Bus.

Plans are in the works for another Bus Bus Campaign during this Holiday Season.



Celebrate nearly 300,000 lives saved since the founding of MADD in 1980

The MADD NW Regional Office in Seattle will be winging the latest MADD news to you via e-mail. If you wish to receive future newsletters and have an e-mail address, please e-mail maddnw@juno.com (that's Lane County) or phone our office at 343-8115. You may also phone our office to request hard copy mailings. If you prefer to be taken off our list, please let us know. Thanks.

COUNTY NEWSLETTER

THIS IS THE LAST MADD LANE

Nov. 17 "Tie One On For Safety 25th Anniversary Silver Ribbon Campaign Kick-Off"
Dec. 6 Candle Light Vigil at Campbell Senior Center.....7:00-8:00 p.m.

Calendar

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
 EUGENE AFFILIATE OFFICE
 P.O. Box 11396
 Eugene, OR 97440-3596

Activism | Victim Services | Education™

