

# MADD TIMES

A MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021



## WHAT'S NEW

Welcome to the MADD Connecticut monthly newsletter. During these difficult times we want to remain connected with our community.

If you wish to no longer receive the monthly newsletter please contact Jennifer at [jennifer.rossi@madd.org](mailto:jennifer.rossi@madd.org) and she will be happy to remove your name.

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## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

On behalf of MADD Connecticut I welcome you to our new MADD Connecticut Monthly E-newsletter .

We hope that everyone reading this column, their friends, and loved ones, are well and safe during this unprecedented time.

To end 2020, we have some big news! Effective December 28, 2020, Mothers Against Drunk Driving regionalized its states' programs across the country. MADD Connecticut will now work closely with active MADD Programs in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. As Executive Director of the New England states, I will work to build the programs in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Only together can we end the violent crime of drunk/drugged driving. A cohesive MADD New England Region is paramount to our sustainability and ultimately, a successful mission. To keep you updated on happenings around the entire New England region, we will also be doing a Quarterly MADD New England E-newsletter.

Moving forward our most important asset is the well qualified and passionate staff we have on hand. They empower survivors and are always there for victims. Our Victim Services staff deliver the highest quality service and resources. The Program Department continues to provide our youth and parents with the answers to questions regarding underage drinking, while empowering both parents and children in making the appropriate decisions when confronted with drinking and driving.

We value staying connected with you all and I hope this is just another means for you to keep in touch with the latest MADD News.

-Bob Garguilo



## VICTIM SERVICES SPOTLIGHT: ERIN & LARRY HERMANN

On July 31, 2018, at approximately 5pm in the afternoon, 23 year old Kyle was killed by a wrong way impaired driver. He was on his way to pick up dinner when he was hit head on at a high rate of speed. She never applied the brake. When first responders arrived on the scene, Kyle was still breathing. The Jeep that he was driving caught fire, and the first responders were not able to get him out of the vehicle. Kyle's entire body was burned, and the autopsy revealed that he had aviation foam in his lungs (which was used to put out the fire). The tragic loss of Kyle's life that occurred that evening was completely preventable. Because of one person's choice to get behind the wheel impaired, Kyle's family will be spending the rest of their lives without him.

The phone call that Kyle's parents, Erin and Larry, received the night their son was killed, the dental records Kyle's sister had to obtain to identify his body, the Jeep that was mangled and burned and now considered evidence, the casket that had to be chosen, the funeral that had to be planned- all of these moments in time are never the memories a family wants to have of their loved one, especially a parent. These moments are just a few that Erin and Larry share at our Victim Impact Panels. As speakers, they have dedicated their time to keeping Kyle's memory alive and preventing other families from having to go through the unbearable heartbreak of losing a loved one in this tragic and preventable way. While Erin and Larry relive the loss of their son every time they speak at a Victim Impact Panel, they also allow the participants to have a glimpse of Kyle as the kind and caring person that he was and always will be. Kyle loved his family and baseball, and he was loved by all who came to know him.

[Click here to watch Erin & Larry share their story at the Victim Impact Panel](#)



Volunteer Tina Sirico honored with the Community Service Award at the 2020 Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony for her dedication in speaking at the Victim Impact Panel and participation with the Walk Like MADD program.

## MADD PROGRAMS

Please click the appropriate link below to view current program schedule.



[Victim Impact Panel](#)



[SMART \(Start Making A Right Turn\)](#)





## YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Since COVID-19 hit in the spring, our youth department has been busy making all their parent and school programs virtual. They even created a new presentation on how to cope with the stresses of COVID in drug and alcohol free ways! We are proud to say we have reached more than 3,100 Connecticut students through taped and live virtual presentations this year. If you are interested in viewing one of the below programs or getting it for your school please reach out to Brooke at [Brooke.Maxfield@madd.org](mailto:Brooke.Maxfield@madd.org) or Nicole at [Nicole.Wichowski@madd.org](mailto:Nicole.Wichowski@madd.org)



**POWER of YOU(TH)**  
**madd** AVAILABLE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



- **VIRTUAL POWER OF YOU(TH)- 15 MINS** A virtual presentation to youth on the dangers of underage drinking, with more information on the impact to the body. Added information on positive alcohol and drug free ways to cope with stress.
- **VIRTUAL POWER OF YOU(TH)- 30 MINS** A virtual presentation to youth on the dangers of underage drinking, with more information on the impact to the body. Added information on positive alcohol and drug free ways to cope with stress.
- **VIRTUAL POWER OF YOU(TH)- 45 MINS** A virtual presentation to youth on the dangers of underage drinking. More in detail on specific planning of coping strategies to handle stress and anxiety, with an emphasis on outside pressures and impact to the body.
- **VIRTUAL POWER OF PARENTS- 15 MINS** A virtual presentation to parents, caregivers, or community members on the dangers of underage drinking and tips and tools to talk to teens about those dangers.
- **VIRTUAL POWER OF PARENTS- 30 MINS** A virtual presentation to parents, caregivers, or community members on the dangers of underage drinking and tips and tools to talk to teens about those dangers. More in depth on the research behind the information given.
- **VIRTUAL COPING WITH COVID- 20 MINS** A virtual presentation surrounding the importance of specifically creating positive alcohol and drug free ways to deal with COVID-19 and other stressors in the life of a teen.
- **VICTIM SPEAKER- 15 MINS** A 15-minute presentation from one of our victims on their story and how impaired driving has impacted their lives.

**POWER of PARENTS**

**madd**

[www.madd.org/ct](http://www.madd.org/ct)





## MADD EVENTS

We were saddened not to be able to hold many in-person events in 2020 due to COVID. While all of our walks and our road race went virtual in 2020, we were able to host our Annual Golfers Gone MADD Tournament and Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony in person with safety measures in place. MADD CT was honored to show our appreciation to the men and women of Law Enforcement who are dedicated to keeping our community safe. We hope to host more in person events this year. Looking forward to the future, we are in the process of revamping our Walk Like MADD program to bring you a new and exciting experience. Our annual Golfers Gone MADD tournament will be nothing less than spectacular again this year. We are also in the process of coming up with new events, both in person and virtual to keep us connected to our MADD CT community. Thank you for your support in 2020, and continued support into the new year.

*Thank you!*

