

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2010

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Memorial Video and Presentation of Stark County Victims of Traffic Crashes being produced by Stark County Safe Communities

Stark County, Ohio:

Stark County Safe Communities is in the process of producing a memorial video of our traffic crash victims and is requesting any family member who would like their loved one to be included in this project to contact Sharon George at 330 430-3835. The video will be used at events throughout the county and its purpose is to remind people that the fatalities were not just a number in a group of statistics, but a real person who was important to many people. It will include a photo, name, age, and date of death. They may also include any information that they feel is important to help personalize the project. It does not need to be a recent crash to be included in the memorial video.

We are also hosting a community wide event for the Over the Limit Under Arrest Campaign that will focus on remembering the Stark County residents who have died during the past ten years in an alcohol related traffic crash. If anyone is interested in having their loved one included in this program or would like more information on either project, please contact Sharon George at (330) 430-3835.

According to research by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Safety Administration, 37,261 people were killed and another 2,346,000 were injured on our highways in 2008. Every 45 minutes and 32 times a day, someone in the United States dies in an alcohol impaired driving crash.

Stark County's impaired driving statistics are even more alarming. In 2009, 68 percent of our traffic fatalities were alcohol related. Even though it is illegal to drive in Ohio, or any other state, with a BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) of .08, the average BAC in Stark County's traffic fatalities last year was double the legal limit, some even more than triple the legal limit.

"Too many people still fail to understand that alcohol and driving don't mix. Impaired driving is no accident—nor is it a victimless crime. It's vitally important that we bring this tragic situation to an end," said Sharon George, Coordinator of Stark County Safe Communities. The simple act of choosing and using a designated driver if you are going to drink can stop these senseless tragedies from happening to you, your family or the family of an innocent victim. Now is the time to take a stand and put an end to impaired driving in Stark County.

Stark County Safe Communities and its partners are committed to removing the danger of impaired driving from our roadways and saving lives in Stark County. The coalition has partnered with court systems, law enforcement, traffic safety groups, businesses and hospitals, just to name a few organizations, to promote safe and responsible driving. Education in the community, schools and colleges, speakers, free TIPS training for businesses who sell/serve alcohol (alcohol server training) and programming are just a few of the ways the coalition members are working together to save lives. If you would like more information or would like to join in our efforts, please contact Safe Communities at (330) 430-3835.

For more information, contact Stark County Safe Communities (330) 430-3835 or 207@starksheriff.org.