



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 23, 2015

Contact: LaRonda Scott, MADD
919-588-2489, LaRonda.Scott@madd.org

MADD North Carolina Hosts Event as Part of National Day of Remembrance

Victims and survivors of drunk and drugged driving to be honored nationwide on December 3

Charlotte, NC – As part of Mothers Against Drunk Driving’s (MADD’s) National Day of Remembrance, MADD North Carolina will host a local Day of Remembrance event on December 3 to honor those who have been killed or injured in drunk and drugged driving crashes and as a result of underage drinking consequences; as well as those who have been emotionally devastated by these violent and completely preventable crimes.

Since 1980, MADD has fought tirelessly against drunk driving, aiming to save lives and serve people. To culminate the organization’s 35th Anniversary, MADD is hosting a National Day of Remembrance on December 3, with events taking place in cities across the country to commemorate the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by drunk and drugged driving and underage drinking. Over 10,000 people every year are killed and another 290,000 are injured as a result of drunk driving. Countless loved ones are left behind to cope with these tragedies and rebuild their lives.

“Drunk and drugged driving is an epidemic in this country, and one that continues to impact lives every day in every city across the nation,” said MADD National President Colleen Sheehey-Church, whose 18-year-old son Dustin was killed in a drunk and drugged driving crash. “By hosting a National Day of Remembrance, we’re letting victims and survivors know that they are not alone. That their pain and suffering is not forgotten. And that they will always have a place at MADD.”

MADD is committed to supporting drunk and drugged driving victims and survivors through its 24-hour Victim Help Line (1-877-MADD-HELP), online at MADD.org, and in-person at MADD locations across the country. MADD provides support services to victims at no charge, including emotional support, court accompaniment, criminal justice advocacy, educational materials, community referrals, and prevention efforts such as child endangerment and concerned citizen calls.

MADD North Carolina’s Day of Remembrance event is taking place at the Great Aunt Stella Center, located at 926 Elizabeth Avenue in Charlotte, and starts at 6 p.m. The event includes poetry and music by JC the Poet from Touch One Productions, Voices of Eden from UNC Charlotte and the Keys of Harmony from Shelby, NC. The event conclude with a candlelight vigil.

“The holiday season is generally a time of joy and celebration for many, but for victims and survivors of drunk and drugged driving, it’s one of the hardest times of the year,” said LaRonda Scott, MADD North Carolina State Executive Director. “This is a chance for our community to come together and offer support and comfort to those who need it, during the holidays and beyond.”

For more information about MADD Victim Services, or to find out how you can help MADD in your community, please visit MADD.org or MADD.org/nc.

About Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Founded by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) is celebrating its 35th anniversary by creating a future of NO MORE VICTIMS™. MADD is the nation's largest nonprofit working to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these crimes and prevent underage drinking. MADD supports drunk and drugged driving victims and survivors at no charge, serving one person every fifteen minutes through local MADD victim advocates and at 1-877-MADD-HELP. MADD's *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving*® will end drunk driving through increased law enforcement, all offender ignition interlock laws and advanced vehicle technology. PowerTalk 21® is the national day for parents to talk with their teens about alcohol, using Power of Parents®' proven approach to reduce underage drinking. Learn more by visiting MADD's new website at madd.org or calling 1-877-ASK-MADD.

###