Rhode Island Department of Corrections
Office of the Director
40 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

The ZERO FATALITIES Project

"We are a small state, but we have a huge problem when it comes to this issue. As parents, as professionals involved in criminal justice and law enforcement, and as human beings, we can't help but be alarmed and energized to take action. We are also united in our desire to do something to address the devastation these crashes cause - for victims and their loved ones, for offenders and their families, and for the hundreds of lives which come to a screeching halt every time there is a reckless driving or driving under the influence-related crash in our state."

- Corrections Director Ashbel T. Wall II
  Director, Rhode Island Department of Corrections

A SMALL STATE WITH A BIG PROBLEM

The Rhode Island Department of Corrections (RIDOC) has seen a 48% increase over the last five years of overall DUI-related offenses among its sentenced population. Today, there are approximately 100 men and women doing time for crimes related to driving recklessly or under the influence. Some will participate in panels for this project and the hope is that by telling their stories to young drivers, they will make an impact. It is one small way they can contribute to something positive out of the terrible results of their actions.

PARTNER AGENCIES

The Zero Fatalities Project is a collaborative effort involving many agencies with an interest in this critical statewide issue. They include:

- Rhode Island Department of Corrections
- Rhode Island Attorney General's Office
- MADD-RI
- Rhode Island Family Court
- Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association
- Rhode Island State Police
- Rhode Island Department of Transportation
- Rhode Island Office of the State Medical Examiners

Funding for this brochure was provided by the **Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation.**

Photo courtesy of Richard Kanan

Cathy Andreozzi, whose daughter Tori Lynn, was severely injured by a drunk driver while walking home from school at the age of 12, speaks about the pain her family has experienced as the result of someone's poor decision to drink and drive.

Patrick, who killed three of his closest friends in his crash and received a 15-year sentence, is one of the inmate panelists who speaks to audiences about the events and behaviors that led up to his crash, encouraging them to make better choices than he did.

Photo courtesy of Richard Kanan

The ZERO FATALITIES Project

Dan Converse stands before a slide of his son, Jon, taken just months before Jon's death in a DUI crash in November of 2007. Dan speaks to students about the impact Jon's death has had on the hundreds of people who knew and loved him.

"Despite the public service campaigns depicting the carnage of alcohol-related accidents, beefed-up patrols and enhanced penalties, and the pleas by concerned parents, teachers, and loved ones, young people continue to drive recklessly and/or under the influence of alcohol and drugs. This risky behavior jeopardizes their own safety as well as the lives of their passengers and everyone else on the road. The *Zero Fatalities Program* forces young, inexperienced drivers to face firsthand the realities of driving recklessly and under the influence."
Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin

COMMENTS FROM ATTENDEES

"When Mr. Converse started talking, I started crying. You don't realize how your actions affect others. I thought it was the best part of the presentation because finally someone was yelling at us and getting through."
Portsmouth HS 12th grader

"Definitely changed my life and opinions. Powerful and emotional."
Johnston HS 11th grader

"My students were moved to tears by the speakers and made a suitable connection to the program and the Senior Prom the very next day. It is with deep appreciation that I write this letter of thanks for providing me and my students with a life-changing opportunity. ***The Zero Fatalities Project*** *was well planned and professionally delivered."*
Coventry HS teacher

"I found this presentation to be extremely eye opening. It personally touched me and allowed me to fully understand the consequences of drunk driving."
East Providence HS 11th grader

"The inmates were very open and their stories got through to me. The whole atmosphere made it more meaningful."
Scituate HS 10th grader

"I cried a lot for both the inmates and the families."
East Providence HS 11th grader

"Unbelievable. I am so glad that we had the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful program. It not only was so thought provoking for the students, but also for myself and the other adults who were with us. Each speaker had a remarkable story, one that is a learning lesson for all. I hope that other students around the state appreciate what you have put together."
Coventry HS teacher

"As the parent of a teen, I just wanted you to know how powerful the program is. My daughter came home and filled us in on all of the details. It really made an impact on her thoughts about driving. I felt like I had attended the meeting after she explained to me what had occurred. I can tell that she really took everything in and now even more so realizes what a responsibility it is to be a good driver and to make good choices when driving. The words of the inmates who spoke were very informative and meaningful. We would like to thank you for the opportunity she had to attend this meeting."
Parent of Ponaganset HS teen

COMMENTS FROM SPEAKERS

"No words can capture the pain that was in that court room, but you could feel it. This is a burden none of you ever wants to carry around for the rest of your life."
Michael, former offender panelist, age 39, sentenced to 15-years, DUI Death Resulting

"A ten-year sentence is nothing compared with the pain of knowing I took a mother's only child."
Dawn, offender panelist, age 33, sentenced to 10 years, DUI Death Resulting

"Close your eyes. Envision the person you love more than anyone else in the world standing up here in my shoes, talking about your death. This is as real as it gets."
Dan Converse, father of Jon Converse, killed by a drunk driver (his best friend) in November of 2007

"Prison is like another world, especially for someone young who's never been in trouble before. All it takes is one bad choice."
Brandy, offender panelist, age 24, sentenced to 10 years, DUI Death Resulting

REGISTRATION INFORMATION *The Zero Fatalities Project* presentations, which can accommodate groups of up to 100, can be scheduled on Wednesday mornings beginning at approximately 9 a.m. A limit of two programs per month can be scheduled. Those interested in general information about the program are invited to call or e-mail ***Tracey E. Zeckhausen,*** *Chief of Information and Public Relations at the RIDOC, at* **(401) 462-2609, or tracey.zeckhausen@doc.ri.gov.** The registration form can be cut out and photocopied from this brochure. Directions and the Visitor Dress Code will be emailed upon registration. Sessions must be booked at least two weeks in advance and groups are encouraged to arrive at the facility 15 minutes to a half hour prior to the session's start time to allow for processing at the front desk. Because we are only able to offer two sessions per month, we strongly request that an accurate count of attendees is provided in advance and that cancellations are made no less than two weeks prior to the session date. To book a session, call **Susan Lamkins** in the Director's Office at **(401) 461-2905** or e-mail her at **susan.lamkins@doc.ri.gov**. Students must be middle school age or older, and the full name and date of birth of all adults attending (including students age 18 or over) and an approximate count must be listed on the registration form.

Reimbursement for transportation to and from the ACI for schools requesting it is available through an agreement with the Department of Transportation and corporate and non-profit donations. Those schools requesting reimbursement must submit a bus receipt along with completed evaluations from the session. Parental permission slips for students are the responsibility of the schools.

6/12

The Zero Fatalities Project Reservation Form

School or Group: _____

City/Town: _____

Contact Person's Name/Title: _____

Contact Person's Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Approximate number in group, (*students and adults*): _____

Date/Session Requested: _____

Please note: *We can accommodate up to 100 at each session, and small groups may be combined. Only two sessions per month will be booked. The best way to identify a time slot is to call Susan Lamkins in the Director's Office at* ***(401) 462-2905*** *or via e-mail at* ***susan.lamkins@doc.ri.gov****. The program is offered Wednesday mornings beginning at approximately 9 a.m. throughout the year. Sessions last approximately 2.5 hours.*

Would you need reimbursement for busing if available? _____

Names and DOB's of adults/chaperones and students 18 or older attending:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please note: In the event that press wish to attend the session, the contact person will be notified in advance if possible. Privacy of visitors will be respected. Student permission slips are the responsibility of the school or group.

Please fax this form to: Susan Lamkins at (401) 462-2630
or mail to: Susan Lamkins
Rhode Island Department of Corrections
Office of the Director
40 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
preferably no later than two weeks in advance of the requested date.

Thank you for your interest in *The Zero Fatalities Project.*

WHAT IS *THE ZERO FATALITIES PROJECT?*

The Zero Fatalities Project (*ZFP*) is a public safety initiative aimed at raising awareness of the devastating consequences of underage drinking and other forms of reckless driving. In April of 2008, a letter signed by Rhode Island's Corrections Director A.T. Wall and then Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch went to high school principals in the state inviting their schools' participation in the program during the spring 2008 prom and graduation season.

Since then, close to 50 groups and nearly 6,000 individuals have heard the sobering message of *The Zero Fatalities Project.* The program has been covered extensively by the press, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Due to its success, it has continued to be offered year round. Parent and community groups are invited and encouraged to attend.

The model for the presentation is similar to that of the long-running Special Community Outreach Education (S.C.O.R.E.) Program with some differences. The focus is on DUI - and reckless driving-related offenses. Assistant Attorney General Jay Sullivan or his designee gives an overview presentation, and students have the opportunity to ask questions of all participants.

Students travel from schools across the state to the John J. Moran Medium Security Facility at the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) to attend the *ZFP*, which features panel sessions of preselected inmates doing long sentences for DUI and reckless driving-related offenses. The panelists speak candidly about their crimes, the effects of their poor choices, and their incarceration. Victim family members speak at each session about the tragic effects these crashes have upon those whose loved ones are killed or permanently injured.