

Carly Meholic, Greater Latrobe Senior High School
Presentation for Scholarship Application

“Friends Don’t Let Friends Drink and Drive”

I am a Senior at Greater Latrobe High School. My school has a club called SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). This year I am President of SADD and last year I was Vice-President. SADD covers underage drinking, drug use and impaired driving. I feel very strongly about what the SADD club stands for. This is why I have helped the club organize several activities, described below, to make our school a healthier and safer place.

The 2011 SADD Officers attended the Pennsylvania SADD Regional Conference held at Seven Springs Resort in November 2010. The program was opened by Cara Filler, an inspiring woman who lost her twin sister in a violent car crash several years ago. Now Ms. Filler spends her life traveling around the continent speaking about impaired driving and its consequences. Because her story was so meaningful, we obtained permission to have her speak at Greater Latrobe Senior and Junior High Schools this coming May. I am hoping that the student body is touched by her story as much as we were.

At the SADD Regional Conference our SADD Club won “Activity of the Year” award for our “Drive Safe Fair”. The “Drive Safe Fair” was held for Grades 7-12 in May 2010 (the week of Prom). The students sign the “Prom Promise”, not to drink and drive on the night of prom. In addition, the State Police were present to talk to students about making smart decisions. A Wii was also set up so that students could try to text and drive at the

same time. This activity showed everyone that texting and driving is dangerous. We will again do the “Drive Safe Fair” for this year’s prom in May 2011.

For Red Ribbon Week (a week designated on preventing drug use), I organized an assembly for Baggaley Elementary School in the Greater Latrobe School District. I opened the assembly by showing students different ways to say “no”. Members of the SADD Club then performed skits with volunteers. Our message was very well received by the students, and the teachers appreciated us taking our time to inform kids that they can stand up for themselves.

During December, SADD Club performed the “Lights On for Life” activity. At the end of a school day we stood at the exits of the school parking lots, encouraging students and faculty to turn their headlights on. We recited a message to each driver informing them that turning on their lights would represent those who lost their lives in car crashes. We also reminded them that many of these crashes are caused by impaired driving, including under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The SADD Club carried out the “Seat Belt Challenge” this year. Members of the club checked each exiting car in the school parking lots to survey the number of students wearing their seatbelts. We recorded the number of people in a car and how many wearing seatbelts. Results showed that 70% wore seatbelts. We are in the process of making posters and commercials for our morning news about the importance of wearing a seatbelt.

In conclusion, I am very involved with my SADD Club at Greater Latrobe Senior High School. I am very much against drinking and driving and also underage drinking. Through all of these efforts, I hope to have made a difference and a positive impact on my fellow classmates.