

Sadie Vidrine

Explain how you will promote safe driving in your community

I attend a high school that has seen more than its fair share of teenage tragedy on our East Texas roads. The primary cause of these accidents has been impaired driving in the form of distraction or alcohol. Many times the person who is impacted the most is not the one who causes the accident. My school's head football coach, Tim Russell, had to grieve through the pain of losing his own daughter to a drunk driver. Innocent people in our area, like Bailee Russell, have had to suffer the consequences of other people's decisions to drive while intoxicated. Families are being left sick and empty because of an impaired individual who foolishly took the choice to get behind the wheel. Many permanent wounds exist in our society due to the poor decisions of these drivers. Coach Russell's heart wrenching story about the innocence and unjust nature of his daughter as the victim, was the driving force behind becoming involved myself. I had the opportunity to meet and to speak with Kathy Davidson, who works with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). MADD is a non-profit organization that is currently attempting to fight the drunk driving problem our society faces today in communities like mine. Davidson says that in America, they have saved over 400,000 lives, served nearly 1 million victims, and reduced drunk driving fatalities by over 50%. Clearly, Mothers Against Drunk Driving has drastically impacted their cause nationwide. However, they cannot do it alone. MADD needs the help of individuals like myself because many Americans still need to be informed about this issue and recognize the need for a change of behavior. Therefore, more education on the dangers and consequences of impaired driving should be taught to the youth of East Texas. As a younger member of my community, I can do so by making an effort to enlighten my peers on these hazards. Informing the upcoming generations of how serious this matter is will hopefully prevent future casualties. Therefore, I desire to promote safer driving and

roads in my community by making this stand for change. I will fight for the young adults around me to see this matter the same way I do. When I get to college, I would love to create and run a chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving. There is no chapter in Texas, so this would be a great opportunity for me to promote positive decisions on the roads all over the state. America, along with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, will hopefully will continue to see a decline in fatalities regarding impaired driving when citizens like me acknowledge the problem and choose to combat it.