

Dear Community Partner:

Impaired driving has been an ongoing devastating problem in our state and across the nation for generations. For decades the number of fatalities attributed to impaired driving hovered between 30-35% of all fatal crashes. In 2021 Oregon saw a catastrophic leap in impaired fatalities with over 64% of all fatal crashes involving alcohol and/or drugs! We are experiencing a crisis around our state that is taking lives, destroying families, and shattering communities. In 2021, 387 lives were taken and 2,675 people suffered injuries, many left with life altering results. Statewide there were 10,227 DUI cases filed in 2022. These are just the people who were caught, but we know statistically this reflects a small portion of those who are driving impaired at any given time.



These numbers are terrifying and unacceptable! These are not simply numbers, these are people. Our mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. These numbers include lives lost such as the life of seventeen-year-old AJ Clough. AJ had his whole life ahead of him. He was looking forward to his Senior year in high school, had just passed his driver's license test four days before being killed in an impaired driving crash. He left behind a devastated mother, two sisters, friends, and his community. We can and must do better!

MADD believes in a world where everyone is safe to live, work, and play. We are a movement of caring individuals with a shared purpose to end the dangers of impaired driving, a health and safety issue that affects every

community. We work diligently to educate our youth and communities, support law enforcement efforts, promote safer laws through legislation, serve victims and their families, and honor the lives of those who have been injured or killed by this 100% preventable tragic crime. At MADD, our voices and experiences are our strength, and our compassion is our fuel. We invite everyone to join our movement of advocates and changemakers. Together, we will not stop until we create a safer future for all and a world in which impairment puts no lives at risk.

On September 30, 2023, MADD Oregon will be hosting a community event called Walk Like MADD at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro, Oregon. On October 14, 2023, we will hold another Walk Like MADD event at Alpenglow Park in Bend, Oregon. These events help raise community awareness, provide education about the dangers and consequences of driving impaired, honors those whose lives have been taken or those who have suffered life altering injuries. The money raised from these events help to fund our programs and services right here in Oregon. How can you get involved in this critical effort? Create a team and sign up to participate in the Walk, donate, become a sponsor, or join us as a volunteer for the event. Here are the links to our event pages:

<https://www.walklikemadd.org/event/portland>

<https://www.walklikemadd.org/event/oregon>.

For those unable to participate in person, there is an option to participate virtually.

Together, we can make a difference. We can save lives! Join us today. For additional information or questions, please contact Cate Duke, MADD Oregon Programs Manager, at [cate.duke@madd.org](mailto:cate.duke@madd.org), or call 541-521-6476 (c) or 541-343-8115 (o).