



## Motivational Madness E-Newsletter

### One Victory at a Time



Paul, Simera, Jodi, Theresa, & Angie

"Paul Vitale's message was right on the mark for all the law enforcement officers present."

Nebraska's Mother's Against Drunk Driving presented twenty one awards during their sixth annual "Outstanding Law Enforcement" Awards Ceremony in Lincoln during early May. Paul's keynote, *Saving Lives - One Victory at a Time* followed remarks given by Nebraska's Attorney General, Jon Bruning.

"This was the first time we had a professional speaker at the Awards Ceremony to thank deserving individuals and agencies for their dedication to saving lives," Simera Reynolds, MADD Nebraska Executive Director said.

MADD started the awards as a way to thank law enforcement for their work, said Barbara Clinch, Hall County MADD spokeswoman. The organization was started in Hall County in 1992 and the state office was founded in 1994.

In 2004, there was a 23% reduction in alcohol-related fatalities in Nebraska. Much of the credit goes to those officers who make it a priority to be on the lookout for drunk drivers. During his presentation, Paul paid tribute to the families who stand firmly behind those in law enforcement who risk their lives daily. "It was nice to see all the officers in the crowd laughing throughout my presentation," Paul said after he concluded his remarks. "These men and women have serious jobs that affect the well-being of so many."

In a continuing effort to assist victims and their families, MADD now offers a program to help people who survive drunk-driving crashes, she said. The program fits the spirit of MADD, which was established in 1980 in California.

Each year, MADD Nebraska contacts about 500 people impacted by alcohol-related crashes. In 2004, the group helped 76 families through the court process and 112 people with information after being impacted by a drunk driver.

Paul was thrilled to have the honor of speaking at the Ceremony and hopes to have the chance to work with MADD Nebraska again in the future.



#### Vital Information

##### Did You Know?

90% of Americans are worried about underage drinking

60.3% of 12th-graders and 19.9% of eighth-graders reported having been drunk at least once in their lives

Every day, three teens die from drinking and driving

Nearly 14 million Americans need treatment for alcohol/drug addiction

Alcohol and drug problems drain nearly \$185 billion from America's economy each year

1400 college students die annually in alcohol-related accidents

*Never hesitate to hold out your hand, never hesitate to accept the outstretched hand of another.*

Pope John XXII