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The Orange County edition of *Prevention File* is published in cooperation with the County of Orange Health Care Agency, Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT). Please address all comments to ADEPT, Santa Ana Transit Tower, 405 W. Fifth St., Suite 211, Santa Ana, CA 92701; or call ADEPT at 714/834-4058; or e-mail GAgahi@ochca.com.

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RED RIBBON WEEK ALL YEAR LONG

 EVERY OCTOBER, THE RED RIBBONS APPEAR. We see them everywhere—on backpacks, clothing, bicycles, cars and doorposts. The ribbons, visible symbols of an alcohol- and drug-free lifestyle, are part of one of the oldest and largest prevention efforts in America. Called the Red Ribbon Project, this campaign began almost 20 years ago.

It was 1985 when drug traffickers in Mexico kidnapped and murdered Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena. The incident shocked the American public, and a year after the murder, a southern California grass roots project commemorated Camarena's death with the first red ribbon week. The program went national in 1987. In 1989, it expanded from a weeklong event in which the primary activity was the wearing of red ribbons to a year-round multi-pronged program called the Red Ribbon Celebration. The idea is to promote an alcohol- and drug-free lifestyle for young people on an ongoing basis.

In Orange County, this year-round celebration is thriving. Under a contract with the County of Orange Health Care Agency's

Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT), the nonprofit Community Alliance Network (CAN) runs several red ribbon activities. In fact, the organization, which is dedicated to reducing the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, has played a significant role in expanding red ribbon programs throughout the county.

The 2005 Red Ribbon Celebration began on the first Saturday in October when CAN invited high school and middle school students to attend a half-day red ribbon training. The trainings, which have been held at different schools for the past four years, are designed to help students prepare for their own red ribbon activities.

Huntington Beach High School hosted this year's event. Approximately 100 students and their advisors from nine high schools and three middle

schools participated, a marked increase from the 30 students who attended the previous year. The training consisted of workshops on such topics as social and commercial availability of alcohol, media literacy, and action planning for advocacy. Community-based organizations or the students themselves pre-

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sented the workshops. Then, armed with the information from the workshops, the students formulate action plans for red ribbon week and throughout the year. CAN assists with the implementation, monitors the program and tracks its progress. For some student groups, the training sessions will be the beginning of self-sustaining red ribbon activities that are conducted year after year.

Carol McCormack, the red ribbon coordinator for CAN, points to two schools that have hosted past training sessions, namely Esperanza High School in Anaheim and Valencia High School in Placentia, as examples of such self-sustaining red ribbon programs.

What kinds of year-round activities do students pursue at their schools?

One popular student project is called Hands Off Holidays. For this project, students talk to merchants about upcoming school events, such as dances, football games or graduation, where students may be inclined to drink alcohol. They remind the merchants about the laws regarding alcohol sales to minors and urge the merchants to be especially vigilant

during the dates that surround the scheduled activities. Student-made flyers thank the merchants for “not selling alcohol to minors and making our community a safe and healthier place to live.” The flyers also note that free responsible alcohol policy and prevention services, as well as promotional items, are available from CAN. Students ask the merchants to post the flyers in their stores.

Another year-round project, this one centered on school dances, is a program called Sober Homecoming, Sober Winter Formal, Sober Prom, and so on. Students who purchase invitations to these dances also receive a card, which might say:

“Thinking about drinking some alcohol before or after the dance??? Think again!”

Then, the card lists the potential consequences—suspension from school, parent contact, school transfer, police action, district expulsion and the like—for such behavior.

A third ongoing red ribbon project is a media literacy campaign. Thanks to the red ribbon training sessions, students learn how the media manipulates them with positive messages about alcohol and tobacco use. Once the students understand how the media works, they are more likely to be skeptical of

the messages that glamorize drinking and smoking. For the media literacy campaign, the students teach others at their schools what they have learned.

Perhaps the highlight of the Red Ribbon Celebration in Orange County is an event called Rock for Red Ribbon. For the past six years, this event has “rocked” an Orange County mall on a Saturday evening in October. The Block at Orange hosted the festival in 2005. Organized by CAN, Rock for Red Ribbon features local bands in a free outdoor concert. The bands, winners of local battle of the bands competitions, create positive messages about a lifestyle free from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. In addition, community-based organizations set up booths and distribute free information about prevention. Local merchants contribute gifts cards, which students can win in a raffle. Thousands of people “come through” on a Saturday night, according to McCormack.

This year’s ongoing Red Ribbon Celebration features several new projects. Beginning in January 2006, a campaign at Huntington Beach High School will focus on preventing the use of methamphetamine. Spurred by two recent deaths from this drug locally and by the increased emphasis on the drug by the federal drug agencies, the school has identified methamphetamine as a problem that it wishes to address. Its newly formed Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Board (see *Prevention File*, Vol. 20, No.3, Summer 2005), composed of school administrators and teachers, representatives of the police department and city government, and members of a variety of health and education agencies, will partner with the Orange County

USING DATA TO ADDRESS DRINKING DRIVING

Methamphetamine Task Force to educate the community about this illegal drug. The group will invite parents, students and community members to an informational forum. The media coverage of the event will raise awareness in the community. To heighten this awareness, parents will receive a mailing and survey. CAN will measure the outcomes.

Another new program for the red ribbon campaign this year will target underage drinking at Dana Hills High School. McCormack will work with school officials to prevent youth access to alcohol. The program will focus on siblings, parents and others who buy alcohol for young people at alcohol outlets.

For McCormack, the purpose of the year-round red ribbon celebration is to change the social and physical environments that allow substance abuse in Orange County. This is accomplished by involving students and the community in fun and meaningful red ribbon activities not only during the last week in October when we see those ever-present red ribbons, but also throughout the year. For McCormack, the most committed and effective change agents often are the young people themselves.

"They can start the prevention in their neighborhoods and with their families," she says. "They can show their fellow students and also their parents how to live healthy lives. We hope for long-term change." □

For more information on Red ribbon in Orange County visit www.redribbonoc.org.



ORANGE COUNTY HAS INITIATED

A MULTI-PRONG APPROACH to

reducing DUI (driving under the influence) incidents in several regions in the county. The environmental interventions involve community awareness, responsible beverage service training, preventing underage alcohol access, law enforcement and community mobilization through a network of collaboration with local colleges, profit and non-profit community agencies and law enforcement. The two most recent DUI campaigns are in Costa Mesa and West Orange County. The first is aimed at bringing together law enforcement, businesses, educators and preventionists to address the DUI problem in the city of Costa Mesa; the second targets repeat DUI offenders in the legal system in West Orange County.

The two new efforts follow a study by the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Education Prevention Team (ADEPT)

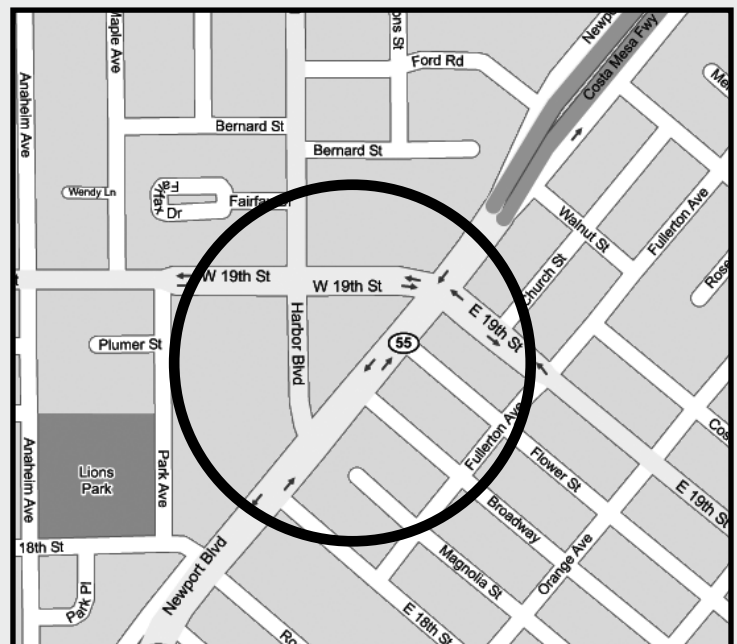
that determined which areas of Orange County have the highest risk for DUI. ADEPT's 2002 Orange County Drinking Driver Program Survey showed that the city of Costa Mesa had the highest rate of DUI arrests, followed by Laguna Beach and Newport Beach. The most commonly reported city of last drink was Newport Beach, followed by Laguna Beach and

Costa Mesa.

An ADEPT report following the study noted that communities with the greatest availability of alcohol are often the communities in which people are most likely to drink prior to a DUI arrest. The report also noted that research-based, community prevention efforts and public information campaigns were often most effective in increasing awareness about the risks of drinking and driving and in changing social norms regarding drinking and driving.

The Impaired Driving Task Force began meeting in Costa Mesa in November. Its 15 members include representatives from the Costa Mesa Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, ADEPT, Orange Coast Community College, the County Board of Education, the District Attorney's office, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and several local businesses.

"This is a good thing because it is a broad-based effort. We are getting input from people





from many different paradigms," said Sgt. Richard

Allum, the representative for the Costa Mesa Police Department. "I can talk about DUI from the law enforcement perspective, but I don't run a bar, so I can't tell you how my bartenders should be educated."

Allum said that Costa Mesa has the highest ranking in terms of DUI arrests because it is not only home to a number of alcohol establishments, it also serves as a route home for people who go to the beach area to drink.

"The two busiest roads in the county, Harbor Boulevard and Newport Boulevard, intersect right here (in Costa Mesa), and there are nine bars within a stone's throw of that intersection," Allum said. "With this group, we have another avenue to educate people not to get into their cars and drive when they are impaired. We want to do everything we can to keep those people off the road."

Kathy Kendrick, a health educator who serves as ADEPT's representative on the task force, said that the group has spent its initial meetings sharing information and considering ideas on how they can best grapple with the DUI problem.

Among the topics that have been discussed are server training for those who serve alcohol and a media campaign targeting Costa Mesa residents and patrons of local on-site outlets.

Kendrick said that many alcohol establishments are enthusiastic about server training, but are challenged by high staff turnover. Trained em-

ployees are quickly replaced by new, untrained employees, and it proves difficult to keep training current.

As for better publicizing the consequences of a DUI arrest, Kendrick said those consequences, which include steep fines and other penalties, are not widely known. Those who choose to drink and drive might think twice if they knew it could cost them thousands of dollars, jail or probation time, and the suspension or revocation of their driver's license.

"The task force needs to first consider what we can do about the DUI problem," Kendrick said. "Then we can put together a campaign of action."

A second action campaign is in the works within the Orange County District Attorney's Office. In 2005 the DA received a \$691,631 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to target repeat DUI offenders in the county's West Justice Center.

Lori Stevens, grants coordinator for the DA's office, said that the West Justice Center was chosen because a study of 2002-2004 DUI data showed the center to be handling a high volume of misdemeanor DUI cases. The sheer volume of cases added to the fact that there were a significant number of repeat DUI offenders led the DA to focus resources on repeat DUI prosecution.

"These cases present a unique challenge," Stevens said. "There was a real need for someone who would specialize in this area and coordinate these cases."

The grant allows for the hiring of a new attorney as well as conducting community outreach.

Stevens said the new staff position would enable the DA's office to use "vertical prosecution" in these cases. That's when one attorney handles a case from beginning to end. In the past, such cases may have been rotated from one attorney to another over time.

The new attorney will not be able to handle all of the cases alone, but will be able to coordinate all of the cases and assist the attorneys who do handle them. The new attorney will also be able to coordinate communications

between law enforcement and the DA's office regarding these cases. Stevens said this would reduce the risk of important information slipping through the cracks.

"There will be more monitoring and more accountability," she said. "We believe this will improve the quality of the cases."

At the time the grant was received, District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, spoke about the importance of this new effort. "This money will help us focus on DUI repeat offenders, those who have not learned their lesson," he said. "These individuals must be dealt with in a strong manner to keep our roads safe."

A second component of the grant allows for the DA's office to conduct community education regarding DUI and its consequences.

Tram Tran, Community Outreach Coordinator for the District Attorney's office, said a tri-fold pamphlet is being created that will include information about DUI laws and consequences. The pamphlet will also feature a removable resource card with phone numbers for local services. Because Orange County is an ethnically diverse area, the pamphlet will be printed in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean.

Furthermore, the District Attorney's office has also been working with local schools in the Santa Ana region, educating bilingual and monolingual audiences about DUI laws and their consequences.

The District Attorney's office also took part in the Korean American festival in Orange County last October and will participate in the upcoming Vietnamese Tet Festival and Cinco de Mayo activities. At these events, the District Attorney's office provides information regarding DUIs to attendees.

"We want to make sure that the work we do is reflective of our local community," Tram said. "We want to make sure that we outreach to various groups."

A children's coloring book that discusses safety and drinking and driving is in the planning stages. In addition, the District Attorney's office is working on television and radio public service announcements, which will be translated in several different languages. □

KEEPING THE FAITH

I FEEL LIKE I HIT A GOLD MINE," says Joanne Lambert, director of youth ministry at Santiago de Compostela Catholic Church in Lake Forest. "It's changed my thinking as a youth minister."

Lambert is speaking of Project Faith in Youth, Orange County's groundbreaking new program dedicated to building the capacity of faith-based organizations to create alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention services in their congregations. The program, which uses key components of the federal government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Strategic Prevention Framework, is run by Community Service Programs, a nonprofit agency with a 30-year history of working to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drugs problems in Orange County. It is funded by a two-year grant from the County of Orange Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Team (ADEPT), and targets youth, ages 12 to 17.

Lourdes Gutierrez, health educator for Project Faith in Youth, calls the program unique.

"In the past, we were working with teachers, police and health care agencies," she says. "This is the first project that links to the faith community. We want the faith community to do more. We want them to act intentionally. We want them to elevate substance abuse prevention in their services."

To this end, the project began with a kickoff event called Faith vs. ATOD in October. Hosted by Santiago de

Compostela, it provided a forum for about 50 youth ministers, teenagers, parish nurses and parents from eight faith communities. The participants discussed their ideas about teens and drugs, and shared their concerns about how the faith community does not deal with the prevention aspect of substance abuse. The results were revealing.

Teenagers said that they are aware that some individuals in their faith communities experiment with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. They also asserted that all of these are available in their communities: at their homes, at their friends' homes, at schools and at business establishments. Yet despite their availability and the problems related to their use, the young people said that their congregations pay very little attention to ATOD issues.

A 1998 National Congregational Survey confirms this anecdotal evidence from the forum. The study found that of 1,236 congregations surveyed, only 2 percent have participated in or supported substance abuse prevention programs. This compares with 33 percent that participate or support hunger-related programs, 18 percent for housing, and 11 percent for clothing.



SAMHSA'S STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

In 2004 SAMHSA initiated a new Strategic Prevention Framework to advance community-based programs to prevent substance abuse and promote mental health. The idea is to use findings from public health research along with evidence-based prevention programs to create healthier communities. The goals are to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance abuse, including childhood and underage drinking; reduce substance abuse-related problems in communities; and strengthen prevention capacity and infrastructure at the state and community levels.

The Strategic Prevention Framework calls for communities to use five steps known to promote youth development, reduce risk-taking behaviors, build assets and resilience, and prevent problem behaviors across the life span. These steps include the following:

- Profile needs and response capacity
- Mobilize and build needed capacity
- Develop a prevention plan
- Implement programs, policies, and strategies based on what is known to be effective
- Evaluate program effectiveness and sustain what has worked well

The success of the Strategic Prevention Framework is measured by specific outcomes, including abstinence from drug use and alcohol abuse, reduction in substance abuse-related crime, attainment of employment or enrollment in school, increased stability in family and living conditions, increased access to services, and increased social connectedness. Communities will monitor and report outcomes to assess effectiveness and determine if the objectives are being attained.

For more information on SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework visit SAMHSA's Website at www.samhsa.gov.

"Like the rest of us, they are in denial," says Linda Kearns, prevention program coordinator for the Orange County Department of Education. "The hardest thing is to get them to understand that there is a problem. The faith community sees it as going against their belief system."

Ann Nguyen, director of the family support center at St. Polycarp Catholic Church in Stanton, agrees.

"So often, we have hidden ourselves," she says. "We say, 'in our community, we don't do that (use ATOD).' We use the faith community as a shield. We tend to shy away."

Counteracting this tendency to "shy away," Project Faith in Youth educates the faith community about prevention. The education, a key capacity-building element of the Strategic Prevention Framework, alters the culture of the faith community's approach to preven-

tion and increases its readiness to undertake prevention activities.

Gutierrez visits individual congregations and talks to youth ministers and pastors one-on-one. She tells them how to access resources and builds on the programs they already have. Acknowledging that many of the congregations run summer camps, retreats and social service programs, she talks to them about integrating substance abuse prevention activities into these existing programs. She suggests that confirmation classes, for example, include information about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. And, she makes herself available to conduct workshops. She is committed to presenting what she calls "doable" strategies.

"Prevention programs are an important complement to religious programs," she says. "But the youth ministers have a lot on their plates. Sometimes if they are equipped with resources and knowledge, they can 'work in' prevention messages."

This individual approach is necessary because one model does not fit every faith-based organization.

"We want every faith community to feel like it's their own work," says Kearns. "We get them ATOD information and have them wrap it in their own belief system. They know best how to serve it to their constituency."

In addition to working one-on-one with youth ministers and pastors, Project Faith in Youth encourages faith-based organizations to create partnerships to address

the issue of substance abuse. These partnerships are another capacity-building component of the Strategic Prevention Framework. In Orange County, the vehicle for partnership is the FAITH Coalition (Faiths and Institutions Together for Health), a diverse group of faith-based organizations and members of the prevention community that has worked together on prevention for the past five years. At monthly meetings, members share information, learn about available resources and plan collaborative activities.

"Everything is a 'plus' if you collaborate," says Nguyen. "We need to connect to people on the outside and build good relationships. We don't all have the skills that are needed."

Lambert, too, appreciates the opportunity to partner with others.

"Working together to share resources is an incredible asset," she says, adding that the focus of her work has expanded as she has learned from others. She self-consciously shares information about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs with young people and their parents. She believes that often parents don't receive information from any other source.

In January, under the auspices of Project

YOUTH AND TRAFFIC SAFETY: MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Faith in Youth, St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Irvine and Greater Life Missionary Baptist Church in Santa Ana hosted speakers who addressed the issues surrounding the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The faith community was invited to attend.

Another key component of capacity building is financial support. In its first year, Project Faith in Youth is providing that support with \$1,000 mini-grants to ten faith-based organizations. The grants will enable congregations to assess ATOD issues and come up with action plans. Request for proposals were issued in MARCH, and winners will be eligible for one of three future grants of \$5,000 each.

"There is more emphasis and urgency with the money," says Kearns. "The financial backing revs it up into a little higher gear."

When it comes to addressing the problems caused by the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, faith-based organizations can often be effective because they have deep roots in the community.

"I have relationships with families," says Lambert who has served at Santiago de Compostela for 12 years. "I've seen the kids grow up; I've taught them. It makes a huge difference. I can impact families and raise awareness."

Because of these deep roots and because faith-based organizations have earned the trust of their congregants, they often serve as "first responders" according to Kearns.

But in order to be effective, faith communities need to build their capacities to help. They need financial support, effective partnerships, appropriate education and accessible resources. Project Faith in Youth can provide these things. □



IF YOU TALK TO THE TEENAGERS FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)

Partnership's Youth Advisory Council who attended the Youth Traffic Safety Retreat last November, you will find young people who are positively connected to their communities, their peers and their schools. You will find young people who have developed a sense of self-confidence and resiliency. In short, you will find youths who possess the protective factors that prevent them from abusing alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Justin Greear, a 16-year-old student at Cypress High School in Cypress, is one such youth.

"I love being active in my community," he says. "I want to be remembered for doing something remarkable."

Tiffany Bell also attended the retreat.

"I've become a role model," says the 17-year-old senior at Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton. "I really feel good about that."

The weekend retreat, organized by the University of California, Irvine Center for Trauma and Injury Prevention through a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, was an effort to raise the awareness of traffic safety issues among youth and to give them the tools and resources to make changes in their communities. It was held at the University of California, Los Angeles' conference center in Lake Arrowhead. The retreat attracted 64 young people and their advisors from 14 different organizations, 8 of which were from Orange County—primarily from high schools—and 6 of which came from San Bernardino or Riverside Counties. Two years ago, a similar retreat was limited to

youths from Orange County.

"When we talk about traffic safety, people think it's traffic school, but it's not," says Diane Winn, project manager with the Center for Trauma and Injury Prevention Research at the University of California, Irvine, and one of the organizers of the retreat. "It's important that we communicate that traffic safety is a serious public health issue. "The general public doesn't realize the extent of the problem."

The extent of the problem is alarming. According to the Center for Disease Control, vehicle crashes cause nearly two out of five deaths among 16- to 20-year-olds. In an attempt to cut down on the youth behavior

that causes many of these crashes, the traffic safety retreat exposed young people to a variety of traffic safety issues. In interactive workshops and presentations, police officers and medical professionals talked about the dangers of

speeding, street racing and driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. A presentation by the Automobile Club of Southern California teaming with the County of Orange Health Care Agency detailed the ways in which the advertising industry sells cars by glamorizing sex and speed. A student from Students Against Destructive Driving (SADD) talked about leadership and organizational skills in the context of developing a youth traffic safety program. .

"The retreat woke me up," says Greear. "I realized what effects driving can have on anybody around me."

FNL Partnership Youth Advisory Council member Carlo Trejo, a 15-year-old student at Arnold O. Beckman High School in Irvine,



The Orange County District Attorney reminds you...

Arrive Alive! Don't drink and drive!

DUI LAWS in California

Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limit in CA is .08%. Drivers will be prosecuted for having an amount of alcohol in their system while driving.

Even if your BAC is less than .08% you may still face DUI charges. Having a BAC of .04-.07% can result in a DUI.

Penalties include:

- jail time
- \$1,000s in fines
- vehicle impound
- license suspension
- probation

Help prevent drunk driving!

- Have a designated driver not a "sober" driver.
- Use public transportation such as a taxi or bus.
- Have someone you can call pick you up.
- If you suspect someone is driving under the influence, call: 1-888-TELL-CHP.
- To get help for substance abuse, call: 1-888-478-2772.

What will a DUI cost you?!

Fines	\$5,000
Penalties	\$289
Vehicle Towing/Storage	\$187
Alcohol Education Class	\$600
Insurance Increase	\$7,300
Restitution Fund	\$600
License Re-issue Fee	\$125
Booking Fee	\$156
Legal Fees	\$2,589
TOTAL COST	\$16,526

Fact Facts:

- In Orange County, there are 4 alcohol-related fatalities a day.
- In Orange County, someone is arrested for a DUI every 32 minutes.
- 2 out of every 3 Americans can be involved in an alcohol-related accident.
- 1 person is injured in an alcohol-related traffic accident every minute.
- 40% of all traffic fatalities is due to alcohol.

believes the information will help him when he begins to drive.

"Some people are dangerous on the road," he says. "You need to know what to do and what not to do."

But for the Orange County FNL members, it was the presentation about distracted driving that hit home and motivated them to make a change in their communities. Distracted driving occurs when drivers answer cell phones, eat, talk to their friends, change the radio station or engage in any activity that takes their attention away from driving. As Greear says about those who answer the phone or put on lipstick while driving, "you mean to tell me you can't pull over or stop to do it?"

And, he adds, "it aggravated us that people could be so irresponsible."

So, when the organizers of the Youth Traffic Safety Retreat asked students to come up with ideas to take back to their schools and communities, the FNL Partnership group chose the subject of distracted driving. Using an action planning guidebook from the National Organization for Youth Safety, the students brainstormed to develop a project. As they

did so, Winn encouraged them to ask themselves what their resources might be and which adults they might enlist as allies.

"It's great that the teens want to save the world," she says, "but they

also should be realistic

about what they can achieve."

The Orange County FNL Partnership project on distracted drivers began with a student-designed survey that was administered at five locations on January 21 to drivers ages 16 to 24. The survey locations—the Block at Orange, Huntington Beach Pier, Birch Street in Fullerton, Tustin Marketplace and the boardwalk at Laguna Beach—ensured geographic diversity. Five hundred young people answered questions about the type and frequency of their distracted driving behavior, and about their perceptions of the danger of such behavior. They also gave their opinions as to whether adult drivers model safe driving behaviors for new drivers. The FNL students will analyze the data and use it to produce a DVD about distracted driving. They will organize the information, write the script and do the acting. A student from the Otis Art and Design School in Los Angeles will provide advice, filming assistance and equipment. The goal is to distribute the DVDs to high school driving teachers, college health teachers and public access television stations across the county. To defray the expense of duplicating the DVDs, the group has applied for a \$500 mini-grant from the University of California Irvine Center for Trauma and Injury Prevention Research.

"I hope to get other people to see that distracted driving is not a good thing," says Bell. "People should pay attention to driving and there wouldn't be a problem."

The distracted driving project will continue for the entire the school year, with follow-up assistance from the organizers of the youth traffic safety retreat. As students work on the project, they will cultivate positive relationships with their peers and with caring adults.

Laura Stephens, student intern for the Orange County Friday Night Live Partnership, has worked closely with the students on the distracted driving project.

"What I really like is that the Friday Night Live Partnership is a youth-led program. Kids get a voice," she says. "This makes them more confident. They have positive relationships with adults because they are viewed as thinking people who can plan something."

As thinking people, the FNL students are committed to making changes in their communities.

"There's nothing better than helping people out," says Greear. In showing people the dangers of distracted driving, the FNL Partnership's DVD promises to do just that. □