



Young Diversion Initiative – Driving Angels

Officer Patrick Quinn

Skip Phelps

Learning Objectives

- Understand the impact of distracted driving on teenage drivers.
- Recognize the value of collaborating with young people.
- Learn about school-led proactive engagement and education.
- Apply practical tools and strategies to influence young drivers.



Speakers



Officer Patrick Quinn
Program Administrator
Driving Angels Inc.



Skip Phelps
Business Administrator
Driving Angels Inc.

Our Motivation

- Fatal crashes have been the leading cause of death for teenagers for many decades.
- In 2007, our community lost two young ladies in a car crash; the driver was speeding between 71 and 81 mph in a 35 mph zone.
- In 2009, we lost another young lady; the lack of a seat belt likely caused her to be ejected from the vehicle.
- All three ladies attended school in our Northwest Local School District and played on the same select soccer team.
- The impact of these losses continues to affect those who were close to them.



Program Progression



- Students created Driving Angels, a Teen driving Committee, in 2007 after the first accident
- First Teen Driving Safety Week held during prom week, Spring 2008..
- Launched a Saturday diversion program in Fall 2009 with Colerain Township Police, Colerain Township Fire Dept, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department, & UC Trauma nurses.
 - Northwest High School students trained and participated in 4-hour presentations.
 - Program offered 6 times per year
- 2013: 500th student completed the program & UC Trauma Nurses do a study on the program and have proved it is effective.
- 2015: 1000th student completed the program; hosted Young Driver and Passenger Safety Week.
- 2016: Driver Safety Awareness Week ended with a "mock" crash involving UC Air Care and UC Trauma Center.
- 2018: Driving Angels became an official non-profit organization.
- 2024: 87th class in November, 2,755 students have completed program.

Court Diversion Program

- 4-hour class approved by Hamilton County Juvenile Court
 - Referred for minor offenses; students must pay for the class.
 - Successful completion eliminates the ticket.
 - Non-Offenders are welcome to attend at no cost.
- Class Presenters
 - Father of victim: Impact on family & community.
 - Fire Chief: Accidents they get called to, rescue equipment needed.
 - Trauma Center Nurses: Injuries from accidents, lifelong impacts.
 - Sister of fallen officer: Accident in inclement weather.
 - Deputy Sheriff: Science of speed, distance, impact, distracted & impaired driving



Court Diversion Program

- Current Statistics
 - 93 Classes Held
 - 2,861 Students In Attendance
- Participating Agencies
 - Colerain Township Police
 - Delhi Police
 - Hamilton County Sheriff's Office
 - Harrison Police
 - Springfield Township Police
 - Sharonville Police(2026)



Vision for Curriculum

- 2018: Vision developed for a curriculum to replicate the Driving Angels Program.
- May 2020: First draft of the curriculum completed; delayed by COVID-19
- May 2024: Final draft completed and first 100 copies printed.
- Early stages of distribution, offering both printed and digital versions.
- Tracking distribution to measure effectiveness.
- Mailed to 150 High Schools, no response....it will take meetings with administration to get it in the schools.
- First active program is being structured right now by a victim's mother at Tampico High School, Tampico, IL.



Practical Key Takeaways

- Preventable car crashes are a leading cause of teenage deaths; action is needed in every community.
- All high schools need a safe driving program.
- Replicate our program in your community.
- Our curriculum is available to any high school willing to start a program.





Thank you

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