

# VIP VICTIMS IMPACT PANEL OF OKLAHOMA, INC.

Drunk driving awareness, prevention and healing.....

## WHAT IS VIP?

The Victim's Impact Panel of Oklahoma Inc. (VIP) is a powerful program aimed at combating drunk driving. This program offers a unique perspective to the drinking driver, presenting in a very personal way, the far-reaching effects of the choice to drink and drive.

Through panel presentations, the audience experiences the impact of drunk driving through the eyes of:

- **A victim:** "The good news was that our daughter was killed instantly".
- **A rescue professional:** "It's the faces of the children killed by drunk drivers that you never forget".
- **And an offender:** "Not a day goes by that I don't think about the lady I killed. And it was all because I chose to drive after drinking".

## WHY VIP?

Drinking and driving is taking innocent lives and leaving behind loved ones who must forever grieve their losses. This is happening in epidemic proportions, statewide and nationwide. It is the number one killer of our young people. But unlike other fatal epidemics, drinking and driving has a cure. We don't need research to find the answer. The answer is found in those who are forever changed because of someone's decision to drive after drinking.

## WHO ATTENDS VIP?

### DUI Offenders

Under order of the courts, the DUI offender is presented with the direct results of his/her choice to drink and drive. At the time of sentencing, the offender is assigned to a local program. They are expected to attend on that date and will only be allowed to reschedule in case of an emergency. VIP is statewide so every court has access to a program.

### Reaching our Youth

The Victim's Impact Panel of Oklahoma, Inc. is proud to boast that it has been presenting programs in Oklahoma schools since 1989. Many schools have the program every year for their students, and some ask them back every other year.

Some schools have all-school assemblies, and some choose certain grades to participate. A typical program is presented for 8-12 graders in an assembly setting. Programs have been presented to groups as small as 30 and as large as 2,200 without a problem.

VIP feels the young people are the most important audience to reach. The influence this program can have on young people, at a time in their lives when they are still impressionable, can have a significant effect on the incidence of drunk driving, thereby saving lives.

### **Civic Group Presentations**

VIP is happy to make presentations to civic groups at no charge. The program can be a brief presentation or a full panel. Simply contact the main office to schedule.

### **DOES VIP WORK?**

Data was provided to the OSCN (Oklahoma State Courts Network) and research done which concluded that in major counties in Oklahoma where VIP is offered, there was an 84% success rate since the year 2000. This means that 84% of the offenders who attended a VIP have not been re-arrested for DUI.

### **Ask the DUI offenders.....**

*"The moving stories of the people on the panel have caused me to re-evaluate my own behavior and to realize that receiving the DUI was a far luckier event than I thought."*

*"I felt compassion for the panelists. They gripped my heart and made me think about the alternatives I have to drinking and driving. I was sad for all of the painful energy that was flowing around only 3 people."*

*"I felt very sorry for the panel members and at the same time, thankful that they had the courage to share their experiences in order to make a difference in someone else's life. I believe they helped me."*

### **Ask the Schools.....**

*"Thanks for relating so well with us. I'm sure all of these loved ones you've lost are very proud. Thanks again, and never give up. You've just touched a lot of lives... and who knows, maybe just saved one." - A student*

*"I got wonderful comments from students and teachers. This is the most effective program I have found." - High School Administrator*

*"This was the greatest program on kids drinking and driving I have seen in 16 years of education." - High School Administrator*

## WHAT CAN I DO?

Offender programs are available to all counties. That means there is one close to you. Call for more information on how you can volunteer to help. If you do not have a program in your immediate community, ask how you can help start one.

Help sponsor a program for your local school. Brining VIP to your students will save lives.

If drinking and driving has affected your life in a tragic way, no one can take away the pain completely. But VIP speakers find a unique healing experience in helping others. They are able, perhaps for the first time, to make something good come out of their tragedy and in the process, form strong support groups with others who understand.

## VIP

The Victim's Impact Panel of Oklahoma, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, under the direction of a board of directors.

The corporate offices are located at:

247 C N. Broadway  
Edmond, OK 73034

To get involved today, call (405) 216-9556 or visit the website at

[www.vipofok.com](http://www.vipofok.com)

You CAN make a difference!