



**To:** High School, College and University Counselors and Administration  
**Subject:** Drunk Driving Prevention Presentation  
**Date:** September 2009

The Tawny Martin Memorial Foundation is pleased to offer again this year our Drunk Driving Prevention presentation to area schools and colleges.

The Foundation's in-school Drunk Driving Prevention presentations are offered as stand-alone presentations and have also been successfully incorporated into a school's "Shattered Dreams" program. The presentation's ultimate goal is to create a measurable decrease in the instances of drunken driving in youth and young adults in our communities. To do this, we present information to ensure that our kids understand the consequences of drinking, of driving drunk and, most importantly, offer strategies to avoid both.

The presentations are structured as very dynamic, interactive and yet thought-provoking events. Delivered in 90 minutes, the Foundation presenters engage the audience in the story of the tragic events that lead to the death of Tawny Martin and JJ Jackson, work through the background of what alcohol does to their bodies and evolves into an interactive session where the kids themselves offer strategies to avoid and also deal with situations involving alcohol. Although the presentations are clear in our position that kids should absolutely NOT be drinking alcohol, we also deal with the aspect of what to do if they're involved in situations where alcohol becomes a factor.

**Audience:** The presentations are appropriate for audiences from middle school through college and adult. We are investigating the creation of a program appropriate for elementary aged kids, however don't yet have that program available.

**Donation:** In order to cover a portion of the cost of our presentation and program, the Foundation is asking that schools agree to donate a minimum of \$300 to the TMMF. No members or volunteers of the foundation receive any salary or compensation and these funds are used directly to offset the material costs of the presentations. If any school is unable to afford this donation, please contact us. ***We will find a way to offer the presentation at your school regardless of ability to donate to the Foundation.***

**Time commitment:** The presentations require 90 minutes to deliver. We've attempted to offer them in less time, however the format simply won't allow it. Please allow the full 90 minutes for the presentation, plus any time required to seat and dismiss the audience.

The Tawny Martin Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.  
For more information: [www.tawnymartin.org](http://www.tawnymartin.org) or (254) 717-8161.

*In support of the Physical, Spiritual and Emotional well-being of today's youth.*



**Audience size:** Audience size isn't really an issue - we've offered the presentations to groups of 50 as well as groups of 500.

**Wrecked car exhibit:** In conjunction with the presentations, we are able to park at your school, for the entire day, a vehicle trailer which contains the remains of Tawny's Toyota Corolla. The car is much in the condition it was the morning she was killed. The trailer also contains "video ports" in which we loop a TV presentation with information about the accident and the two kids involved. We combine our in-person presentations with the viewing of the car for three reasons.

- First, the viewing of the vehicle drives home our message in a visual way – it makes our message more real and powerful than words ever will.
- Second, the trailer is available to students who weren't able to attend the presentation. Due to class sizes, we're often not able to present to an entire school audience, and so allowing those NOT attending our presentations to view the car allows them to participate in individual class discussions which inevitably evolve out of our program visits.
- Finally, we display Tawny's Corolla so that as parents and community members drop off or pick up students, it offers them the chance to ask their kids what the trailer is all about. It offers them a non-threatening forum to discuss alcohol and drunken driving.

**Contact us:** To ask questions or schedule a presentation and/or trailer viewing at your school, please send e-mail to [info@tawnymartin.org](mailto:info@tawnymartin.org) or contact Roy Martin at (254) 717-8161.

Due to the small size of our Foundation's staff, we are only able to offer a limited number of presentations each year. Please schedule early.

Thank you,

Roy Martin  
President  
Tawny Martin Memorial Foundation



***Student and Counselor Perspectives of the  
Tawny Martin Foundation's  
Drunk Driving Prevention Presentations***

*The following is from Sean Yepes, a "Communities in School" counselor at Belton High School in Belton, TX.*

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Sean A. Yepez and I am currently employed with Communities In Schools at Belton High School in Belton Independent School District. The main purpose of my job is to work with "at risk" students by reducing the dropout rate among high school age students, and connect them and their families with resources in our community.

Today, I am writing this letter on behalf of a much valued resource to us – Mr. Roy Martin, his family and the mission they carry on. I believe the valued message and personal tragedy they have suffered can and will have a lasting effect on thousands of children across our state. From year to year students are faced with making very difficult decisions that can have lasting effects on them and their families. Such decisions may be who to take to the prom, how many invitations to order for graduation, or which college to attend. Another tough decision some teenagers are faced with is to party, drink all night, and then get behind the wheel of a car and drive home. These are all decisions that can have lasting effects, some with life ending consequences!

Some of life's most difficult decisions come upon us on a split second notice. It is during this split second that a young person's life can be changed forever! I believe preparation and outreach education is the key to preparing all of our students for some of life's most challenging times. The display of Tawny Martin's wrecked car and firsthand testimony from her parents is a sheer gut wrenching testimony that I wish every young person and their parents could experience! To hear about their pain and struggles really grabs the students and holds onto them for the duration of the program. I can see it in their eyes and in their actions how deep the presentation touches them. As they exit in silence and pass in front of the actual display, I have seen many students leave in tears. It is truly at this point that I see how valued their message is!

It is our duty to educate and prepare young people for what life can throw their way. If we can prepare and equip them with "real life" lessons, it may very well save their lives and the lives of many! The Martin's tragedy has impacted many; my hopes and prayers are that they will continue to reach out and save the lives of thousands by the seeds they plant in the mind and hearts of young people!

Thank you for your time and concern.

Sincerely,  
Sean A. Yepez



*The following is from Micha Wells, Head Baseball Coach at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.*

It has taken me a couple of days to get my head wrapped around your presentation. I was pulled in so many different directions that night. First, I feel like a parent to my players, trying to help them make good decisions when it comes to things that will affect their future. Most of this is centered around their academic and athletic life. We do spend a lot of time dealing with life issues such as drinking and drug abuse. I will tell you that your story, told from your perspective was one of the most powerful stories I have ever heard.

As a parent of two, this had a whole different meaning for me. This will be something that I will never forget, especially as our kids get to the age when they are branching out and doing things on their own.

I have talked with the coaches that were there and some of my players. All of the responses were very similar to mine. We are all very appreciative that you were able to come and spend time with us. You are much stronger than me; I am not sure that I would be able to do what you do. However, I am glad that you do. Thank you again for your time.

*Following are quotes from the many letters we've received from youth who attended one of our presentations.*

The impact of Tawny's accident will be like a voice inside my head every time I get behind the wheel. – Victoria

You impacted me in more ways than one. ... I not only realized that when you drink and drive, you're risking more than just your own life. – Tori

I learned quite a bit from you; the teachers learned a lot; even the whole student body learned something from you. – Adrian

I can tell you the whole school has been impacted by your presentation. It's been the talk of every class all day long. Your sincere presentation made me realize that drinking and driving go together like oil and milk. ... Our school has never given our full, undivided attention to anyone, except you. – Barbara

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I feel that after hearing you speak more teenagers will decide to be different and take a stand against drinking at a party. – Katherine

The drama about your drinking and driving speech will be lasting on me like from where I am, until where I'm an old man. – Chris

Your speech completely changed my life. ... that it could happen to my best friends or classmates. ... I listened to every single word and it sunk into my soul. – Shelby

You opened my eyes; you opened my friends' eyes ... For telling us what you and your wife went through makes me realize that I don't want to put my mom in that front row seat at my own funeral. You made my heart weep with your presentation. Thank you again for talking to us. You may not know it, but you have saved lives. – Mackenzie

I can't imagine how it would feel to talk about such a heart-wrenching subject while keeping on point. ... Even though I haven't walked in your shoes, you've shown me how I should run in mine. – Rich

At first today when people were saying that we were going to a fake funeral, I didn't think it was a big deal. But when you were talking to us, you made it a huge deal. – Megan