



S.H.A.R.K. NEWS

S.H.A.R.K.-Stop Hit And Run Killers

November/December

Welcome

Welcome to our second edition of SHARK News. This newsletter is comprised of and for people who have been affected by a hit and run incident. We welcome all victims, family members, good Samaritans, and communities to join us in our fight against this violent crime.

Our group of hit and run victims and family members started off small, but is rapidly growing. Although it is nice to know that we are not alone out there, it is extremely disheartening to see our group grow larger every day, because this means that the number of people affected by a hit and run is steadily increasing. When we see a new member has joined our organization, we always say the same thing: "Welcome to our group, may you find comfort, but we are sorry you have a reason to be here."

This newsletter edition contains victim tributes, a song that is special to family and friends, a case study on the state of Florida's pedestrian safety, an article that talks about how one of our members copes with the loss of her son, and more. Please contact us with any thoughts, comments or questions, and as always, help us spread the word against Hit and Runs.

Thank you!

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Scary Headlines...

These are some of the headlines that took place throughout a 5 day time span:

"Cop Charged in Hit-Run that killed 15 year old"
October 21st, 2005

"Toddler 'serious' in Hit and Run"
October 21st, 2005

"Hit-Run injures woman in her own driveway"
October 22nd, 2005

"Woman Killed in Hit-and-Run Crash"
October 24th, 2005

"Police search for car tied to fatal hit-run accident"
October 24th, 2005

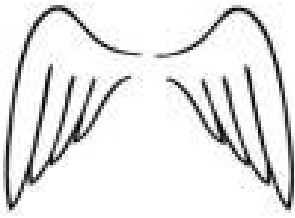
"Hunt on for Girl's Hit and Run Killer"
October 24th, 2005

"Mom and baby die in Hit-and-Run"
October 24th, 2005

"Teen on Bike Died in Hit-and-Run"
October 25th, 2005

Please help us spread awareness to all drivers...stop and help!

Memorial Tributes



A special memorial goes out to the following hit and run victims as we remember them on the dates they were born and the dates they received their angel wings:

Chalama Vern Peters
Born: October 29th
Angel Wings: October 4th, 2002

Peter C Roberto, Jr.
Born: February 16th, 1992
Angel Wings: November 25th, 2004

Shaylyn Renee Nobles
Born: November 27th, 1988
Angel Wings: September 18th, 2004

Christopher Scott Bascom
Born: December 1, 1986
Angel Wings: November 12, 2003
Organ Donor

Sean William Pearce
Born: December 3rd, 1975
Angel Wings: July 15th, 2005

James Curry
Born: April 27th, 1988
Angel Wings: September 22nd, 2003

Lawrence R. Skinner, Sr.
Born: May 9th, 1941
Angel Wings: November 14th, 2003

Michael James Schulz
Born: February 17th, 1977
Angel Wings: September 11th, 2005

Nickolas J. Marvel "Nikk"
Born: December 26th, 1985
Angel Wings: November 16th, 2004
Organ Donor

The list of victims continues to mount. Until we can spread the message about the dangers of pedestrian hit and runs, statistics show that 4 more victims today will die from injuries incurred by a hit and run driver.

Survivors' Voices

Who'd You Be Today? Lyrics by Kenny Chesney

Sunny days seem to hurt the most.
I wear the pain like a heavy coat.
I feel you everywhere I go.
I see your smile, I see your face,
I hear you laughin' in the rain.
I still can't believe you're gone.

It ain't fair: you died too young, Like the story that had just begun,
But death tore the pages all away. God knows how I miss you,
All the hell I've been through, Just knowin' no-one could take your place.
An' sometimes I wonder

Would you see the world? Would you chase your dreams?
Settle down with a family,
I wonder what would you name your babies?
Some days the sky's so blue,
I feel like I can talk to you,

An' I know it might sound crazy.

It ain't fair: you died too young, Like the story that had just begun,
But death tore the pages all away. God knows how I miss you,
All the hell I've been through, Just knowin' no-one could take your place.
An' sometimes I wonder, Who you'd be today?

Today, today, today. Today, today, today.

Sunny days seem to hurt the most.
I wear the pain like a heavy coat.
The only thing that gives me hope,
Is I know I'll see you again some day.

Some day, some day, some day.

State Case Study: Florida by Melissa Lafollette

Florida cities are the most dangerous cities in the nation for pedestrians, many of them being children. In the United States, out of all U.S. cities, Orlando ranked #1, followed by #2 Tampa, #3 West Palm Beach, #4 Miami, & #8 Jacksonville as the most dangerous cities to walk in. No other state had boasted such high rankings. No other state had 2 cities in the top ten. Florida had 5 of the top ten.

Among other disturbing facts, not one Florida city ranked in the cities with the greatest improvements in pedestrian safety. Salt Lake City, Utah began a safety campaign, making pedestrian safety a highest priority. It was voted #1 for pro-

moting pedestrian safety with pedestrian fatalities declining more than 44 percent. Orlando scored the worst in the nation for the greatest decline in pedestrian safety, followed by West Palm beach at #9 and Tampa at #10.

These statistics are appalling and should bring shame to our leaders. It is time for Florida to stand up for the safety of our children without fear of being killed by reckless drivers or unsafe conditions. It is time for Florida to change laws, promote safer streets, & protect our people.

“Roadside Memorial Offers Comfort to Family”

By Michael B. Baker
Published: Monday, October 17, 2005

LINWOOD --When Donnah and Herman Marvel need comfort from the loss of their 18-year-old son, they go to the place where he died.

The grave of their son, Nickolas, is in Upper Township, Cape May County. But it's the spot along Route 9 where the Somers Point teenager was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver that has seen the most frequent visits by the family.

"I haven't missed one day," Donnah Marvel said. "I've come in the rain, the sleet, when it's 100 degrees."

Like many families grieving someone in a roadside death, Herman Marvel first marked the point of the accident with a simple cross. But friends, family and even complete strangers have since transformed it into an evergreen memorial, filling it with a rotating collection of glowing candles, colorful flowers, mementos and symbols of Nikk, as he liked to be called.

There's a small scarecrow, which was Nikk's nickname among his friends. Black roses, a sign of love. Pool goggles, showing his excitement that his family was getting a pool. Memorabilia from the Insane Clown Posse, his favorite musical group. Organ donor information, because

Nikk was able to donate several of his organs, including his eyes, which were used in a successful cornea transplant.

During her twice-daily trips to the site - in the morning to straighten it up, and in the evening to light the candles - Donnah Marvel is used to seeing new items appear. Just last weekend, someone left small, white crosses and imitation hibiscus flowers there.

"It's nice to see that someone else loves and misses him as much as we do," she said.

While their first year without Nikk has been tough, maintaining the memorial has been cathartic, Donnah Marvel said. One night when he couldn't sleep, for example, Herman Marvel went to the site to sit for a while.

"This is actually my therapy," Donnah Marvel said. "And all the kids, all his friends, can feel closer to him as well."

But the Marvels, who also have a 14-year-old daughter, want the memorial to be more than therapy. They also want it to raise awareness of hit-and-run accidents. Four people die daily on average nationwide from hit-and-run accidents, and the drivers in half of those accidents are never caught,
(continued on Page 4)

"Four people die daily on average nationwide from hit-and-run accidents.."

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Reminder Wrist Bands are almost here!

Stay tuned to find out more about the wristbands for purchase. Our idea is not to make money off of these bracelets, but to raise awareness around the nation against hit and runs. The wristbands will be purple, to signify the color of a healing bruise. Thank you for your support!

“Roadside memorial offers comfort to family” continued....

according to Deadly Roads, an advocacy group for hit-and-run victims. Someone has been charged in Nikk's death. Paula Cicchinelli, a 55-year-old Somers Point resident, pleaded not guilty to charges of vehicular homicide and aggravated manslaughter this summer and is awaiting trial. Cicchinelli also is accused of driving while intoxicated, and the Marvels have erected signs promoting designated drivers at the memorial.

Meanwhile, the Marvels have found other ways to keep their son's memory alive. This year, they argued in Trenton for a bill that would impose a mandatory 7 1/2-year prison sentence for individuals who leave the scene of a fatal accident. Should it become law, they want to get another law passed, this one named for their son, that would continue to close up loopholes for hit-and-run drivers.

They've also formed a scholarship in his honor, aimed largely at students who have lost a family members to drunken drivers. This year, they gave one \$500 scholarship, and they hope to give out more in the future, Herman Marvel said.

Sometimes, people leave money in an envelope for the scholarship fund at the memorial, and they never have problems with anyone stealing it, he said. The only act of vandalism they have ever seen there was someone stealing a photograph of Nikk, and Donnah Marvel suspects it was just one of his friends who wanted a photo of him to keep.

At some point, the memorial might become more permanent. Donnah Marvel said she has heard secondhand that the owner of the property behind it is considering including some sort of memorial when the property is developed.

Until then, the Marvels will keep the memorial changing with the seasons. On Sunday, Donnah Marvel pulled out a solar-lighted skull for decoration but decided to wait until closer to Halloween, one of Nikk's favorite holidays, she said. And soon after that, there will be a Christmas tree at the site.

And on Nov. 16, the anniversary of Nikk's death, his friends will gather there for one of their Insane Clown Posse-inspired traditions - a Faygo shower. They'll shake up bottles of Faygo soda and spray one another with them. They did the same on the day of Nikk's funeral and his birthday, his mother said.

"It's a good way to release the anger," she said.