

**T**hey hail from the beaches of California to the orange groves of Florida to the suburbs of Washington, D.C. They speak with Southern charm and Northern wit. And although they are sometimes soft-spoken, they are always commanding. They are dynamic, smart, funny and magnetic. They are MADD's national presidents—those who have served as the organization's national spokesperson.

The role of president as the national spokesperson began with MADD's charismatic founder, Candy Lightner. From 1980 to 1985, she crisscrossed the country sharing her tragic story, and the stories of other drunk driving victims, with the media, government leaders and the public to raise awareness,

educate and establish tougher anti-drunk driving laws. In doing so, she put a face on the tragic statistics and established MADD as a grassroots powerhouse in the fight against drunk driving. Though she left the organization in 1985, the role of national president continues today.

The elite group of MADD national presidents have experienced the challenges, humility and responsibility that come with being the voice for thousands. On their journeys of grief, healing and hope, each has achieved amazing accomplishments at every level of MADD. And each has sacrificed his or her life for a brief time to selflessly speak on behalf of victims everywhere.



**MICKY SADOFF**

Micky Sadoff and her husband, Ron, were hit and injured by a 24-year-old drunk driver on Jan. 16, 1982. While coping with her own injuries, Micky cared for her husband, who suffered severe head trauma, and reassured her two young sons that their family would survive. That

same year, Micky founded a MADD chapter in Milwaukee, Wis., operating out of a bedroom closet with a phone in her den.

Driven by the "desire to get it right," Micky embraced her presidency by adopting a personal touch that included daily phone calls and handwritten notes of encouragement to MADD volunteers. Micky was the first national president to highlight the plight of injured victims and to set the record straight for anyone who called a drunk driving crash an "accident."

By the end of her presidency, drunk driving fatalities had dropped by almost 20 percent. Micky, however, stayed true to her mantra by challenging MADD to do even more to further reduce the number of fatalities and injuries caused by drunk driving.

1988-1991

# Legacy of Leadership

1991-1993



1985-1988

**NORMA PHILLIPS THORWORTH**

Norma Phillips became involved with MADD shortly after the death of her son, Dean, and his girlfriend, Tish Crothswaite, who were killed by a drunk driver on Thanksgiving Day, 1981. Less than a year after that tragic crash, Norma organized the MADD San Diego chapter, which quickly grew to more than 1,500 members.

With tireless energy and spunk, Norma eagerly picked up the mantle of MADD's

national spokesperson, taking great pride in following in Candy's footsteps. Norma was committed to nurturing local chapters and, during her presidency, many states began hosting leadership conferences, creating other chapters nationwide.

Under Norma's leadership, MADD made the transition from a novelty to a well-respected, powerful organization known for its relentless pursuit to stop the crime of drunk driving.

**MILO KIRK**

On Easter weekend 1981, Milo Kirk's family vacation turned to tragedy. Her 9-year-old son, Kevin, and family friends were coming back from dinner and a movie when their car was hit by a 19-year-old drunk driver with three prior DUI convictions. Kevin suffered severe head injuries



and other injuries, including the loss of vision in one eye. His best friend and an adult were killed in the crash.

Within the year, Milo and one of the

women injured in the crash formed a MADD chapter in Dallas. Milo began legislative work at the state level, going on to advocate for policy changes at the national level. In fact, she initiated the development of a Legislative Committee on MADD's national board, a decision that helped ensure that the organization's pursuit of proven policy goals would continue.

Known for her poise and grace under fire, Milo served as president during a financially difficult time for MADD and one that had a change in leadership. Milo took pride in the fact that she was part of what she considered to be the most influential public interest group in the country.

These are the leaders, the voices and the faces who have selflessly served as the organization's national spokesperson and on behalf of the victims of drunk driving.

**REBECCA "BECKIE" BROWN**

Beckie Brown and her husband, Charlie, were driving home from a party on Dec. 8, 1979, when police cars raced past them. As they came upon the scene of the crash, they were saddened to find that someone had been killed. An instant later they were devastated to discover that the victim was their 18-year-old son, Marcus. He was killed by a 19-year-old drunk driver.

Soon after starting a MADD chapter in her hometown, Beckie realized that legislative work was her passion. Known for continually asking "What can MADD do to save more lives?" Beckie became the catalyst behind the

development of a series of Impaired Driving Workshops, which continue today. In her pursuit of solutions, Beckie served in a key role in the development of *National Sobriety Checkpoint Week* and spearheaded MADD's *Rating the States* program, which rates individual state's efforts in the fight to prevent drunk driving.

Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was laying the foundation for MADD's "20 X 2000," a five-point plan to reduce alcohol-related deaths by an additional 20 percent by the year 2000—a goal that was accomplished three years ahead of schedule.



1998-1999

**KAROLYN NUNNALLEE**

On May 14, 1998, the nation experienced its worst drunk driving crash. A drunk driver traveling the wrong direction on a Kentucky interstate hit a church bus full of children returning from an amusement park. Of the 27 people killed, Patty, Karolyn Nunnallee's 10-year-old daughter, was the youngest to die.

When Karolyn started as a volunteer for MADD, she was armed with a box of red ribbons and the determination to make a difference for Patty's sake. A charismatic speaker with an infectious passion for underage drinking prevention, Karolyn soon learned how to use her quick wit to "work a room," whether the crowd was composed of legislators, offenders or teens.

As president, Karolyn most enjoyed traveling from state to state attending official ceremonies where legislation was signed into law. She savored the moments of pride when local volunteers, who had often worked tirelessly for years to get the job done, were able to celebrate the fruits of their labors.

Two significant milestones were celebrated under Karolyn's term: MADD established a presence in all 50 states and the nation experienced its lowest number of drunk driving fatalities in history.



1993-1995

1995-1997

**KATHERINE PRESCOTT**

On June 28, 1981, Katherine Prescott's 16-year-old son, Jay, was having car trouble and was pushing his vehicle to the side of the road when he was struck and killed by a 21-year-old repeat offender. During the ensuing court case, Katherine quickly realized that the voice of the victim was not a part of the judicial process. Not one to be silenced, she began her journey with MADD.

Though known for her no-nonsense approach, Katherine struck a tender balance with her compassionate empathy for each victim she encountered. And at every level of her MADD work, she never forgot the importance of including victims in the judicial process.

As a strong supporter of the Constitutional Amendment for Victim Rights, Katherine committed herself to a day when no victim would ever be told to remain silent and when the courts would be able to issue fair and appropriate judgments once the whole story was told.

Katherine also provided vital testimony that upheld the 21 Minimum Drinking Age Law and, during her term, a bill was passed requiring all states to adopt Zero Tolerance Laws for those under 21.



**MILLIE WEBB**

On a country road in Franklin, Tenn., a drunk driver with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 percent rear-ended the family car carrying Millie; her husband, Roy; their 4-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Lori; and their 19-month-old nephew, Mitchell Prewitt, Jr. Millie, who was seven months pregnant at the time, suffered a broken neck and burns on nearly 73 percent of her body. Mitchell lived for six hours, while Lori suffered for two weeks before dying. Born prematurely, Millie's baby, Kara, was left legally blind as a result of the crash.

The embodiment of Southern charm, Millie used her presidency to embrace MADD's volunteers, always seeking to recognize the talents of each individual volunteer in the organization. Known for turning her physical and emotional scars into stars, Millie helped light the path for others suffering the same pain she had once endured.

After nearly 29 years and 23 surgeries as a result of the crash, Millie's presidency culminated with the adoption of a national standard for drunk driving of .08 BAC—the same deadly level of impairment that once shattered Millie and her family's lives. They were all in attendance when President Clinton signed the bill into law on Oct. 23, 2000.

2000-2002



Face of MADD Voice of Victims

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

PUBLIC SPEAKER

Cultivating Relationships

