

Established in 1982



INFORMATION BOOKLET

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“Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children” —Charles Swindoll

Welcome

Message From the Director

Since 1982, AAIM has provided various programs to bring awareness to the consequences of impaired driving and the dangers of underage drinking. AAIM was the first grassroots citizen group incorporated in Illinois to fight impaired driving. We are the only organization to provide financial assistance directly to crash victims suffering financial hardship. Our efforts also include: supporting crash victims during court proceedings, advocating for strict legislative initiatives, challenging judges and prosecutors to ensure consequences for the guilty, educating adults and children, and encouraging law enforcement.

Over the years, staff and volunteers for AAIM have worked hard to create an environment of hope, change, and guidance in the lives of countless crash victims. As a result, we have overcome many hurdles while navigating life-changing moments. We updated our Mission to include support for victims of not only alcohol-impaired and drug-impaired driving crashes but also those affected by the ever-growing crisis of distracted operators. We also recognized the need for assistance for those affected by impaired operators on Illinois waterways.

Many members of the AAIM family are victims, carrying the heartache of their own loss while supporting and encouraging others to carry on. AAIM is there in the darkest days of our victims' lives- helping ease their fears and burdens through the aftermath and striving to ensure justice is served. Yet, amid these tragedies, our families can be sure of- unequivocally, AAIM cares for them, and we will continue to work towards zero impaired driving crashes in Illinois.

We are proud of the education we provide, the lives it saves, and the support we offer that gives courage and strength to our families. We are steadfast in pursuing strict laws and a justice system that supports them. But the toll of impaired and reckless driving is still high, and the devastation it leaves behind is still tragic. So, we will continue with our Mission. We hope you will join us in our efforts.

I thank you on behalf of AAIM's Board, members, and staff.

Sincerely,

Rita Kreslin
Executive Director

Facts About AAIM

AAIM is an Illinois-based, statewide citizen's action group which in over 40 years, has gained a high degree of credibility in Illinois political, law enforcement, civic and business circles. Two Illinois citizens, Carol Golin and Glenn Kalin, both of whom lost family members because of drunk drivers, founded AAIM in 1982 . Others quickly joined and today the organization has more than 5,000 members and contributors throughout Illinois.

AAIM's rational approach has helped to reduce the drunk driving upheaval present on Illinois highways. AAIM's services include: Counseling to victims, financial aid to victims, working on legislation, challenging judges and prosecutors to do a better job, educating adults and children and assisting law enforcement. AAIM was the first grassroots citizen's group incorporated in Illinois to fight drunk and drugged driving. Its strategy is to work in Illinois, with Illinois political and civic leaders to make Illinois a positive example to the rest of the country.

AAIM'S Mission Statement

The Mission of the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) is to prevent deaths and injuries caused by chemically impaired or distracted operators of any motor vehicle or watercraft and to assist victims of these crashes in Illinois.

To Achieve Our Purpose

AAIM heightens awareness and educates the public about the devastation caused by the impaired or distracted operation of any vehicle. This includes underage drinking, the improper use of intoxicating substances before driving and distracted driving, particularly the use of handheld electronic devices while operating a vehicle, and other dangerous behaviors that impair the ability to operate a vehicle safely on both roadways and waterways.

AAIM supports impaired and distracted driving crash victims and their families emotionally, legally and financially.

AAIM encourages community involvement in its programs to make Illinois roadways and waterways safer.

AAIM supports strict enforcement of impaired operation laws and the development and enactment of appropriate legislation to ensure safe, sober and responsible driving on Illinois roadways and waterways.

AAIM'S Philosophy

We believe that deaths and injuries caused by impaired and distracted driving are not accidents. They are tragic results of willful conduct. The label of “accident” obscures the causative factors of alcohol/substance use/abuse, distraction and other dangerous behaviors resulting in the failure to recognize these actions as intentional and criminal.

We believe that being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or being distracted, does not absolve one of accountability for one's actions. Rather, the lack of accountability develops a climate of irresponsibility, leading to an increase in tragic outcomes.

We believe that driving is not a right, but a privilege granted by society to those members who comply with rules established for the good of all; that any benefits an individual derives from driving are secondary to the safety of others; and that the economic impact associated with the loss of driving privileges is the concern only of the individual driver, and should not outweigh the safety of others. Life, not livelihood, is the issue and should be the foremost consideration when sentencing persons guilty of impaired or distracted operation.

We believe that law enforcement agencies and the judicial system must continue to be sensitive to the trauma of the victims of impaired or distracted driving to avoid causing further emotional injury and to guard against inequity in the disposition of these prosecutions.

We know that impaired or distracted driving is a complex social problem and no simple solution exists. Rather, a multifaceted approach must include elements of education to heighten public awareness, formal education in primary and secondary schools, deterrence through law enforcement, and rehabilitation. Such an approach will require the coordination of public agencies and private organizations.

AAIM's Story — *Out of Tragedy Can Come Positive Action*

The imagined sounds continually rise to the surface of my consciousness -tires squealing on the pavement, the reverberating clash of metal on metal, the screams. Then silence. From a window, someone has heard and called for help. Sirens pierce the nights, headlights fall upon the bodies of three crumpled teenagers tossed helter-skelter across the intersection. One girl is dead; another is dying. The boy can't move' he has a broken neck. From a second car, another nineteen-year-old boy emerges, holding his broken arm. He has run a red light at a high speed, broadsiding a Toyota, sending its occupants flying from their vehicle. Now he is swearing, incoherent, and terribly, terribly drunk.

The dead girl is my daughter, Amy Brierly, three weeks past her eighteenth birthday, one week past her high school graduation. My oldest child – bright, funny, a talented artist and musician – enrolled at the University of Wisconsin on an art scholarship just two days before the crash.

In June 1981, Ann and her friend Lilich Shazar, a foreign student, and only child, died in Antioch, Illinois. The typical reaction during the 1980's was, "Oh, how awful, but those things happen." Such things were happening in Illinois all right, with astounding frequency. In "Blood Border", straddling the Illinois and Wisconsin state lines, there were over 65 drunk driving deaths that occurred in less than three years. Death usually resulting because Wisconsin's legal drinking age was 18; in Illinois it was 21. Under-age drinkers flocked to Wisconsin bars, then tried to drive home, sometimes with devastating consequences.

It wasn't just in "Blood Border" that drunks were killing and maiming hundreds of people every year. Half the driving deaths in Illinois were alcohol-related and the state's record on dealing with drunk drivers was one of the worst in the nation. The wide media attention given this case brought a phone call from Lake Forest school teacher Glenn Kalin, grieving over the death of his brother, Rob, who was killed by a drunk driver. "Let's do something about this," Glenn said, and so we did.

In April 1982, we called a meeting at Glenn's school and invited people that were concerned about the drunk driving problem. People that lost loved ones, paramedics, police officers and coroners that were tired of picking up the dead and injured off the highways, then watching drunk drivers walk away in court with little to no repercussions. These were the people that built AAIM.

We shared a painful bond as drunk driving victims. But we share something else, a determination to stop the killing. During the first few meetings, our mission, philosophy and priorities became clear. We needed to create greater awareness among Illinoisans that drunk driving is a crime and that there are no drunk driving "accidents". More importantly, we needed to tighten the laws, build in stiffer penalties and assure that courts would prosecute that those penalties would be imposed upon conviction. We needed to work with Wisconsin to achieve an age 21 legal drinking age in that state. And, we needed to provide emotional, legal and sometimes financial support to victims.

There were no other drunk driving organizations in Illinois in 1982. AAIM was the first citizen's group to take on the drunk driving issue and found a strong legislative champion in Governor Jim Edgar and Secretary of State George Ryan. Governor Edgar created a citizens' task force to develop and integrate an approach to the problem

Now, over 40 years later, AAIM continues to work to keep impaired drivers off the roads and bring awareness to the dangers of underage drinking. AAIM has led the way and set the standard for citizen action and organizational leadership in Illinois. Those standards are difficult for a volunteer organization to maintain, but maintain them we will – with your help. The tragic toll of intoxicated and irresponsible driving is still much too high. For this is a job that isn't, and may never, be finished. We do it gladly in remembrance of those we lost, and in the fervent hope, that neither you nor anyone you will love will ever be a victim of an impaired driving crash.

—Carol Brierly Golin

AAIM's Programs



Victim Advocate Services

AAIM's Victim Advocates are available to crash victims and their families. Victims can receive emotional support, informal legal guidance, information regarding counseling, and financial help. AAIM's Victim Advocates regularly accompany victims to court, track case dispositions, and help ensure that justice is done. They act on behalf of the victims to ensure that victims' rights are respected and acknowledged throughout the criminal process. If needed, additional assistance is also given to victims in preparing their Victim Impact Statements for the final court disposition. Victim Services are offered free of charge.

Financial help to victims comes by way of AAIM's Victim Assistance Fund, established in 1991, to aid those families that face financial devastation due to death or serious injury caused by an impaired or reckless driver. AAIM's annual fall benefit raises money to support this fund. This fund also receives donations from organized walks, golf outings, a motorcycle ride and other events. AAIM is the only organization in the state of Illinois to provide financial assistance directly to crash victims suffering financial hardship.

"My goal as Secretary of State is to make the roads of Illinois as safe as possible. Working together, we have initiated tough laws and cutting edge programs that have made Illinois a national leader in the fight against drunk driving. I commend AAIM for their ongoing efforts to rid the road of drunk drivers. By encouraging citizens to report impaired driving incidents to law enforcement, DrunkBusters has helped greatly in the fight to remove drunk drivers from our roadways."

— Secretary of State, Jesse White



Drunkbusters

To encourage drivers with cellular phones to report erratic driving to police, AAIM initiated the Drunkbusters program in 1990. AAIM gives \$100 to tipsters whose calls lead to DUI arrests. More than \$800,000 has been paid to over 8,500 tipsters. This program is funded entirely through court fines paid by DUI offenders. This life-saving program has been recognized with first place awards from the National Safety Council, Ameritech and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. This program runs year-round in Kane, DuPage, Lake, McHenry and Will counties, and statewide at holiday times.

AAIM's Prevention & Education Program



Speaker's Bureau

AAIM speakers are well received at every level of the school system, at community events, and within law enforcement. By sharing in AAIM's mission, our speakers spread awareness, illuminate the consequences of impaired and distracted driving, and encourage prevention. AAIM also conducts Victim Impact Panels (VIP) for courts with victims and defendants telling their stories to DUI offenders who have been ordered to attend as part of their sentence. Currently, AAIM presents panels in several counties around the state. Victims are offered the opportunity to speak and share their stories at AAIM's Victim Impact Panels. Those who choose to speak may find it healing to inspire change by sharing how an impaired driver devastated their life.

"AAIM's victim assistance program plays a critically important role in helping people when they are dealing with one of the worst problems we can experience in life. They do extraordinary work!"

— Secretary of State, Jesse White



Who We Are

AAIM Prevention and Education Specialists service the Chicagoland Communities, increasing public awareness, and knowledge about the dangers of impaired driving, underage drinking, alcohol and drug misuse, distracted driving, speeding, and other risky driving behaviors.

What We Do

AAIM provides programs to reduce excessive alcohol/drug misuse and work to prevent impaired driving and impaired driving crashes for all ages. We promote alcohol and drug free events throughout the year, particularly in high schools and local community events, with appropriate emphasis on high-risk events, such as homecoming, spring break, prom, graduation, and various community festivals. In addition, AAIM provides public awareness events and activities to promote our services that are essential to reaching people in the community, including underserved groups. AAIM community engagement events help promote positive change in neighborhoods throughout the Chicago Metropolitan Area. These include various interactive safe driving events with law enforcement, traffic safety enthusiasts, and like-minded organizations for the public of all ages.

AAIM collaborates with the Illinois Secretary of State Driver Education Programs. We take students beyond the basics of driver education and give a deeper understanding of the impact of making good choices, the lifelong consequences of poor decision making, and how to become the best driver possible.

AAIM's Prevention & Education Program Continued

AAIM speakers are well received at high schools, colleges, and middle schools, before civic groups, law enforcement agencies, and victim impact panels to encourage prevention, create awareness and illustrate the consequences of underage drinking, impaired, reckless, and distracted driving.



Beyond Driver Education Presentation

This program targets high school students preparing to drive or have recently received their driver's license. Teens learn about the dangers of impaired, reckless, and distracted driving, the impact underage drinking and drug use can have on their developing brain and body, the effects of substance misuse, the importance of good decision making, and important traffic safety laws and regulations.

This program and topics can be modified to fit each school's class schedule.

Driver inexperience
Driving with Teen passengers
Nighttime driving
Seat belt safety
Distracted driving
Drowsy driving
Reckless driving/Speeding
Alcohol-impaired driving

Drugged Driving

Underage Alcohol and Marijuana misuse

Scott's Law (Move Over Law)

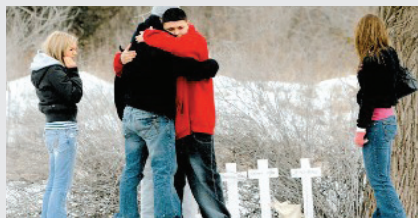
Fraudulent ID's

Impact of marijuana on the developing teenage brain

Interactive activities that demonstrate cognitive impairment

Evidence based information on the preconceived ideas about marijuana use

The physical and cognitive process that are affected by marijuana use



Youth Victim Impact Panel

The AAIM Youth Victim Impact Panel program is designed to help prevent underage drinking, drinking and driving, and other related dangerous decisions resulting from impairment. AAIM's goals are to encourage our youth to have open, honest communication with their parents; reduce alcohol and drug-related incidents; prevent recidivism, choices related to peer pressure, and increase accountability.

This program encourages teens and young adults to make good choices, thus decreasing behaviors that put themselves and others at risk, while being reminded that their arrest or infraction does not have to dictate their future and they can choose to make better choices going forward.

AAIM's Prevention & Education Program Continued

Community Outreach Program

Having a new teen driver can be scary for parents. This program helps educate parents and give them the tools to talk to their teens, set healthy boundaries for safe driving, prevent underage alcohol use, and alert them of warning signs to look for in their teens.

Research shows that parent disapproval is the number one deterrent for underage drinking. Kids that learn from their parents about the dangers of underage drinking, illicit drugs, dangerous driving decisions and other risky behaviors are less likely to make poor choices.

AAIM's Community Outreach Program will provide you with expert advice designed to be used for both middle and high school students.

Newsletter

Each month, AAIM Prevention and Education Specialists publish a traffic safety-themed newsletter. We feature traffic safety tips, prevention messages, legislative updates, statistics, AAIM updates, Illinois traffic safety history, and victim stories. You can subscribe to these e-newsletters directly on AAIM's website and access past issues at bit.ly/aaimpreventioneducation.



Campaigns

Since March 2020, AAIM has hosted the "Are You InTEXTicated?" campaign. This campaign AAIMs to educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving. Distracted driving is more than just phone use and can be shown in the form of visual, manual, or cognitive distraction. A traffic safety award is given to a local high school student or community group whose 30-second PSA video creates the greatest social impact each year. For more information on this campaign, go to bit.ly/aaimintexticated.

"Some people still don't know how dangerous distracted driving is. Others know about the risks of texting and talking while driving, but still choose to do so anyway. They make the mistake of thinking the statistics don't apply to them, that they can defy the odds. But according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving claimed 3,142 lives in 2020."

AAIM's Programs Continued

Court Monitoring

Court Monitors are staff who are physically present in the courtroom on a regular basis. They receive training to observe and document what happens during impaired and reckless driving proceedings. Court monitors track results and identify inconsistencies from courthouse to courthouse. The regular presence of monitors reminds all justice system personnel, including judges, attorneys, clerks and administrative personnel, that they are accountable to the public and that the public is interested in what happens in DUI and reckless driving courtroom cases.



Police DUI Survey And Top Cop Awards

AAIM's Annual DUI Survey ranks police departments throughout the state of Illinois, based on DUI arrests. Departments fall into one of four categories – municipalities, counties, state police and the city of Chicago. These statistics serve to improve DUI enforcement and inform those agencies involved of traffic safety issues. Top Cop Awards are presented to those officers with the highest number of DUI arrests within their department. AAIM strongly believes in the recognition of these officers for their exceptional DUI accomplishments. For AAIM DUI Survey statistics visit: www.aaim1.org.



AAIM DUI PIN Award Program

The enforcement of DUI laws is a thankless, time-consuming and unpleasant arrest situation. It is however, one of the most important arrests that you can make on a regular basis. Officers who work hard every day in this area are not always recognized for their efforts as they should be.

The awards program provides a continuing recognition system for those officers that excel in arresting impaired drivers. The program began in 2001 and any officer who has made 10 or more DUI arrests since January 1, 2001 is eligible to receive the award.

The award package consists of a lapel pin; a letter of appreciation, and a certificate of achievement. Awards are given upon the request of the eligible officer's supervisor in the following denominations: 10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 200, 300 etc.

To request DUI Pin Award Visit:
www.aaim1.org.

AAIM Grief Support Group

The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists invites anyone who has experienced loss or injury due to the actions of an impaired or reckless driver to attend our self-help group. Our Grief Support Group meets monthly in person. Since 2020, AAIM has also implemented a virtual Grief Support Group, in addition to a private Facebook Group for AAIM clients. All those who have been affected by, or injured in, an impaired or reckless driving crash are welcome to attend our groups. In 2021, we also started a Grief Support Group exclusively for injured crash victims. For more information or to be a part of our Grief Support Groups, please contact the AAIM office at 847-240-0027.

AAIM's Grief Support Groups are a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Our group is led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help you through the healing process. We cannot change what happened, but we want to learn how to live, love, laugh and have peace in our lives again. Our primary purpose is to live a peaceful life remembering the happy times. We do not want to forget the crash, but we don't want to dwell on the pain. We hope to bond with others who understand our pain and support each other through our grief and recovery.

In these meetings we avoid cross talk, giving advice and private conversations. We share our experiences, strengths and hope to help others and ourselves. We are not professional counselors, nor do we claim to be. We are a self-help group and we only share our stories with one another.

Grief Support Group topics change from month to month. Some of the topics we have covered are: surviving the holidays, how our grieving has affected our loved ones, journaling, coping skills, dealing with our anger, and how do we keep memories of our loved ones alive. At the end of each meeting, time is allowed for individuals or families to share stories with one another. We also host an annual pizza party at a local restaurant and a picnic at a local park. These events are a wonderful opportunity for families to relax, and share stories and fellowship.

AAIM Bequests

Making a Charitable Bequest to AAIM is a simple way to leave a lasting legacy and to continue to support an important cause. Made with cash, securities or property, a charitable bequest is fully deductible for estate tax purposes. To learn more about AAIM Estate Planning contact William Terpinas Jr. of Terpinas Law Group, LLC., phone: 847/910-6456, fax. 888/958-2343, email: Wterpjr@gmail.com or visit our website aaim1.org/estateplanning.

“Although it’s difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, May looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow.” - Author Unknown

Legislative Reform

Since 1982, AAIM has gained a high degree of credibility with Illinois legislators and law enforcement. AAIM works to address deficiencies in existing laws and to enact new laws for the safety of all citizens in Illinois.

AAIM has been in the forefront of advocating for changes in the laws. AAIM was a key supporter of legislation to lower the illegal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit from .10 to .08, and spearheaded the bill to increase the prison sentence for reckless homicide causing the death of more than one person, from 14 to 28 years.

AAIM worked to pass a new law mandating that any individual who is convicted of causing great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement as a result of operating a motor vehicle under the influence shall serve at least 85% of their prison sentence.

AAIM worked and supported legislation that requires a person who has been convicted of a second or subsequent offense of driving under the influence is required to use the ignition interlock device for a period not less than five years.

Currently, many of AAIM's legislative efforts are directed toward victim's rights, repeat DUI offenders, DUI prevention and education and traffic safety issues.

AAIM's rational approach to legal reform has helped save thousands of lives. Community support and involvement is essential to our continued progress in making Illinois roadways safer.

Visit www.aaim1.org for more information regarding other legislative initiatives in Illinois.

Resources

Emotional Support

AAIM Grief Support Groups

aaaiml.org/grief-group.html C

all for updated schedules: 847-240-0027

Addiction Help Guide

helpguide.org/home-pages/addictions.htm

Advocate Medical Center

advocatehealth.com

Alcoholics Anonymous

recovery.org/topics/alcoholics-anonymous-12-step

888-988-0053

Grief Support

journeycare.org/grief-support

Victim Services

Marsy's Law - Statement of Crime Victims' Rights

illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/Marsys-20Rights.pdf

VINE Link - Illinois

vinelink.vineapps.com/state/TL

866-566-8439

Statewide and National Organizations

AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

aaafoundation.org/

607 14th Street NW Suite 201

Washington DC 20005

202-638-5944



@AAIMtosavelives



@aaimrita



@aaim_to_save_lives



AAIM Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists



rita-kreslin

Resourceful Websites — THE IMPACT ON LIVES

Illinois Criminal Justice
Information Authority
icjia.state.il.us

Illinois Attorney General Office
illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/index.html

Foundation for Traffic Safety
aaafoundation.org

Marsy's Law
marsyslaw.us/marsys-law-state-efforts/illinois

Illinois Crime Victim Compensation Bureau –
Crime Victim Compensation
cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/court_of_claims/victims.html

Advocate Medical Center
advocatehealth.com

Addition Help Guide
helpguide.org/home-pages/addictions.htm

Grief Support
journeycare.org/grief-support

AAIM Grief Support
aaim1.org/grief-group.html

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
cdc.gov

Excess Speeding
facebook.com/Faces4

The Illinois Dept. of Transportation
idot.illinois.gov

Students Against Destructive Decisions
sadd.org

The Y-not Project
ynotproject.org

National Safe Boating Council
safeboatingcouncil.org

What's Driving You?
whatsdrivingyou.org

Illinois Valley Anti-drug Collation
ivadc.org

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers
madd.org

DuPage County Prevention
Leadership Team
dupageplt.org

Illinois Department of Corrections
www2.illinois.gov/idoc

National Safety Council
nsc.org/home

Lake County Underage Drinking and Drug
Prevention Taskforce
drugfreelakecounty.org

Alcoholics Anonymous
recovery.org/topics/alcoholics-anonymous-12-step

Illinois State Crime Commission/Police Ath-
letic League of Illinois
illinoiscrimecommission.com

Stop Texting
stoptextsstopwrecks.org
nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving

Motor Vehicle Safety
cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving

Texting and Driving Kills
textingthumbbands.com

Apps To Stop Texting While Driving
verizonwireless.com/articles/best-apps-to-block-texting-while-driving

Texting While Driving Simulator
itcanwait simulator.org

Ask Listen Learn
asklistenlearn.org

Illinois Human Performance Project
ilhpp.org

Link Together Coalition
linktogethercoalition.org

National Highway & Traffic
Safety Association
nhtsa.gov

*“Never doubt that a small group
of thoughtful committed citizens
can change the world: Indeed it’s
the only thing that ever has.”*

— Margaret Mead



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