



MEDIA RELEASE

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

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LINCOLN COUNTY VICTIMS' IMPACT PANEL VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR DEDICATION AND SERVICE

On Monday, August 3rd, Presiding Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Charles P. Littlehales and Lincoln County District Attorney Rob Bovett presented certificates of appreciation to seven Lincoln County Victims' Impact Panel volunteers for their years of excellent and dedicated volunteer service. The seven have a combined total of over 50 years of volunteer service on the panel.

A DUII Victims' Impact Panel is a forum that allows persons who have driven while under the influence of intoxicants (DUII) to come face-to-face with those who have been injured or lost loved ones due to DUII. The panel consists of victims who speak about an impaired driving crash in which they were injured, or a loved one killed, and how it has impacted their lives.

The purpose of the panel is to individualize and humanize the consequences of driving under the influence, to change attitudes and behavior, and to deter repetitive driving while under the influence. Studies have shown that victims' impact panels reduce repeat offenses. The Lincoln County Victims' Impact Panel does not use fear or scare tactics, just honest and powerful facts told from personal experiences.

The speakers at a victims impact panel have tremendous courage to come and tell such painful, personal stories to a room full of strangers. Research also shows that victims' impact panels can aid in victim recovery. Victims' impact panels provide victims a forum to tell their story and affect a positive change in others. By telling their stories, victims can both heal and help prevent further tragedies.

If you know of someone who has been a victim of DUII, or who has been convicted of DUII, and is willing to speak, please contact Pam Johnson, Coordinator, Lincoln County Victims' Impact Panel, at 541-867-6047.

Panels are held every other month on the third Tuesday at the Lincoln County Courthouse located at 225 West Olive Street in Newport, Oregon.

Attached Photo: Impact Panel Volunteers (left to right – front row) Joaquin Varo, Nancy Porter, Megan Heistuman, Ursula Marinelli, Terry Heistuman, Pam Johnson, and Robert Shawver. Others (left to right - second row): Judge Thomas O. Branford, Judge Paulette Sanders, Judge Sheryl Bachart, Trial Court Administrator Nancy Lamvik, Judge Charles P. Littlehales, and District Attorney Rob Bovett.

The next Victims Impact Panel will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

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