



**Stark County Safe Communities
A Safe Communities Grantee of the Ohio Department of Public Safety**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Stark County Safe Communities Program Creating a Traffic Crash Victim Memorial Wall for
2011 Over the Limit Under Arrest Campaign**

The Stark County Safe Communities Coalition is joining with numerous other county agencies in support of this year's Over the Limit, Under Arrest Campaign between August 19th and September 6th. The coalition will be attempting to create a portable Memorial Wall made up of the photos of victims of alcohol and/or drug related traffic crashes in our county. The Memorial Wall will be used at the Over the Limit Under Arrest Media Event and throughout the county at other locations in an effort to put a face with the tragedy that an impaired driving crash causes. Family members who would like their loved one included in the Memorial Wall can contact Sharon George at (330) 430-3835 or 207@starksheriff.org for more information.

Unfortunately, Stark County is one of the leading counties in Ohio for impaired driving crashes, injuries and fatalities. In recent years, our impaired driving crashes have represented between 50 and 68 percent of our traffic fatalities. These crashes are easily preventable and we can change these statistics. By making the important decision to simply "drive sober", we can stop these tragedies from occurring, save lives and stop the senseless agony families are left to deal with.

If you have lost a loved one in an impaired driving crash, please consider being a part of this effort. We need to let everyone know these victims are more than a number on a chart or graph. They were an important part of a family and people's lives and are missed every day.

The "Safe Communities" program was developed through the Ohio Department of Public Safety to establish and/or expand community partnerships to create safer, healthier communities throughout Ohio. The coalition partners conduct and participate in programs in traffic safety throughout the community on a regular basis. If you would like more information or are interested in being a Safe Communities volunteer, please contact 330 430-3835.

Sharon George

Sharon George, Coordinator
Stark County Safe Communities