



"Have a heart for highway safety"

Sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Issue 01  
Winter 2008

# Families of Highway Fatalities

Support...Fellowship...Safety Education

**Our Mission:** Our goal is to provide Peer Support for grieving families; facilitate forums and opportunities for grieving families to meet; prevent further highway fatalities through public education and information; and to diligently work alongside law enforcement, first responders, and other government officials as advocates for highway safety.

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FHF Members at Sesquicentennial Park in Columbia.

## FHF Inc. helping provide grief services

The SCDPS Families of Highway Fatalities is now supported by a nonprofit, which was established in 2008, to assist with the financial side of providing bereavement services and programs.

FHF member, Terri Wise, was named as board president. Wise says most of 2008 was spent establishing the nonprofit and setting up the board of directors.

In 2009, the goal of the nonprofit will be to meet regularly with the board and create a strategic plan for assisting families in 2009. One goal will be to establish annual fund-raisers.

Families of Highway Fatalities is housed under the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. The federal grant funding for the organization only provides for a coordinator to manage the group and oversee activities.

The grant does not provide funding for counseling and bereavement services for members. That's where FHF Inc., the nonprofit arm, comes into play.

In 2008, funds were used to support a "Coping With the Holidays" bereavement workshop as well as multiple support functions.

The nonprofit is also in the process of creating a web site for people to learn more about its role in helping families..

Wise says FHF Inc. encourages family members to consider contributing to the nonprofit on special occasions such as the anniversary of their family member's death or birthday.

"This is a wonderful way to remember your loved one and give back to programs that help others heal."

FHF 2008 —  
By the Numbers:

Presentations = 77

Media Stories = 49

New Members = 27

Support Functions = 5

Trainings = 2

Grief Workshops = 1



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# Speakers' Bureau

Support...Fellowship...Safety Education

FHF members assisted Highway Patrol Community Relations' Officers by speaking at 77 safety events around the state this year.

The Highway Patrol has a team of troopers who speak to groups each day, educating them about highway safety issues.

"FHF is an integral part of our safety efforts," said Sgt. R.K. Hughes. "The families' stories have so much impact on our audiences. They are a sobering reminder of the importance of every decision made behind the wheel."

Some of this year's speaking venues included high schools, military bases, Pre-Trial Intervention classes, businesses, churches and civic organizations.

## Bidding Farewell...

Many of you have had the pleasure of getting to know FHF Volunteer, Darlene Schweitzer. Darlene was instrumental in helping get FHF up and running in its early days. She and her husband are relocating to Chicago. We wish to thank her for countless hours of volunteer work with our group.

Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Schweitzer gave a generous gift to the nonprofit. This will be used to

## Get involved...

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety will have a number of opportunities available this Spring for those wishing to speak about their loss. **Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI):** These classes are held in Richland County. You speak to a small group of young people who are required to participate. Twice a month.



**Highway Patrol Community Relations' Officers: L to R—Cpl. McDougald, Sgt. Hughes, Rev. Colley, Cpl. Brouters, Major McDonald, L/Cpls.' Collins, Beres, Robinson, Edgeworth, Gaskin, Hiles, Clinton and Capt. Gamble.**

All FHF speakers' bureau members must participate in a one-day required training through the Highway Patrol.

"Being able to share my story with others reminds me that some good is coming from the

tragedies our members have experienced," said Joy Batchelor, who lost her three sons in 2002.

If you are interested in joining the speakers' bureau, please contact Faith Turner.

purchase grief books that will be given to new FHF families.

The following is a letter from Mrs. Schweitzer:

*Words can never express the feelings I have for the wonderful group of people I have volunteered with over the past four years. SCDPS and the Families of Highway Fatalities have meant a great deal to me.*

*Volunteering with the amazing people at SCDPS, who have shown their love and compassion for those who have lost family members on the roads of South Carolina, has been*



*gratifying to me. I will always treasure the long lasting friendships I have made with this unique group of people who will continue to heal and reach out to the community to educate them on important safety issues that can help save lives. May you continue to support each other through the very difficult process of losing someone you love and know that what you are doing is making a difference and helping save lives.*

*Sincerely, Darlene*

**February: New DUI law takes effect.** Need families whose loved one was killed in DUI collision to be available for media interviews.

**High Schools/Proms:** CROs are already scheduling dates to speak in high schools about Spring Break, the Prom and End of School driving.

**Fatality Memorial Service, April 25:** Honoring 2008 victims: FHF will assist in several roles. Contact Faith for more information.



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# 2008 Event Gallery



Three generations of the Crosland family at the Sesquicentennial Social event in Columbia on July 20.



Angie Haynes and Barbara Weston providing peer support to each other at a grief workshop.



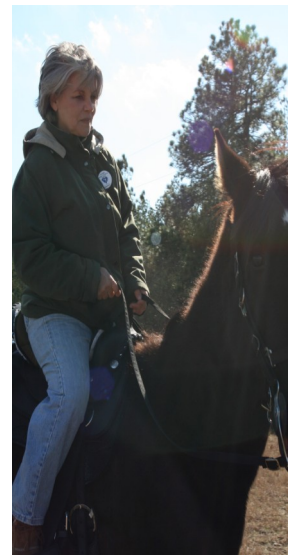
Elizabeth Steed speaks during the Labor Day Sober or Slammer Campaign kick-off in Charleston on August 15.



Terri Wise, FHF Inc. President, and Darlene Schweitzer at the American Red Cross Blood Drive in Columbia in honor of Sandra Jones.



FHF members (31 adults and 7 children) attend a "Coping 'With Grief During the Holidays'" workshop held in November at Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia.



Treasa Crosland at the 1st Annual Trail Ride in Williston, SC, in March.



Lisa Radvansky speaks at the Labor Day Sober or Slammer News Conference in Florence on August 15.



Cupcake and FHF member Elizabeth Steed (Flutter) at the SCDPS Childrens' Health and Safety Fair on June 20 in Blythewood.



Martina Mingo and her father, Earl, attend the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Village Bistro in Columbia on December 12.



Austin Haynes remembers his father, SC Trooper, James Haynes, who was killed in the line of duty in a motor vehicle crash in February.



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# FAMILIES OF HIGHWAY FATALITIES

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**Join Us:** FHF includes families who have lost loved ones on the highways, motor vehicle collision survivors, safety professionals, counselors, and clergy.

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For inquiries regarding the non-profit, FHF Inc., please contact Ms. Terri Wise at Post Office Box 916, Blythewood, SC, 29016, or [FHFINCI100@yahoo.com](mailto:FHFINCI100@yahoo.com)



Have you posted a memorial to your loved one on our web site yet? If not, please log on to [www.schp.org/inmemoryof](http://www.schp.org/inmemoryof) to share with others about the very special family member you lost on South Carolina highways.

## Winter Social Event- Please Join Us:

**Chili and Crafts...** We hope you will join us for our first 2009 peer support social on **January 17** at North Trenholm Baptist Church in Columbia from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. This will be a time for you to share arts and crafts or other memorials that you and your family have created to remember your loved one. We will also create keepsakes that day. Many of you have some wonderful ideas from quilts to handmade crosses. Please bring any examples you want to share.

If you are not the arts and crafts' type, there will be a game room with air hockey, a pool table, and foosball. We also will have movies to keep the children entertained while you enjoy getting to talk with other family members. For more information, contact Faith.

## 2008: New Members:

- Judy Beasley, Bishopville
- Connie Bell, Edgefield
- Hester Benitez, York
- Latasha Bosier, Sumter
- Keli Crosland, Lexington
- Leah Floyd, Aiken
- Stella Foyster, Richland
- Barbara Harris, Anderson
- Lisa Hendricks, Seneca
- Donald, Julie & Mack Hudson, Lexington
- Russell Lake, Georgia
- Sheri Liberty, Lexington
- Tammy Moore, Pickens
- Charlie Shipman, Greenville
- Cindy & Mike Sease, York
- Sandra Raymond, Summerville
- Victoria Payne, Spartanburg
- Connie & Ralph Pinnock Sr., Texas
- Glen Tilling, Lexington
- Denise Wilson, Aiken
- Lenora Whitaker, Lexington



**New member, Julia Jones of Lexington, with her children, Breana and Stan Jr., at a July blood drive in honor of her husband Standra Jones. Mr. Jones was an SCDOT worker who was struck and killed while working in Lexington County.**

Families of Highway Fatalities (FHF) Newsletter is a monthly publication of the SC Department of Public Safety.

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