



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Nation First Lady Vikki Shirley's office to sponsor Valentine's Day MADD fundraiser at Navajo Museum

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation First Lady Vikki Shirley's office will sponsor a Valentine's Day Bazaar MADD fundraiser on Thursday to benefit victim and advocacy services on Navajoland.

"The fundraiser is to get money to pay for services for those impacted by drunk driving," said Angela Barney-Nez, a staff assistant in the First Lady's office.

The First Lady's office is selling vendor tables for \$25 for the bazaar which begins at 9 a.m. on Feb. 12 at the Navajo Nation Museum. Vendors are then invited to donate a portion or all of their sales proceeds to Navajo Nation Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Both First Lady Vikki Shirley and New Mexico MADD Director LoraLee Ortiz will speak during opening ceremonies.

Ms. Barney-Nez said the money pays for specially-trained counselors who work with victims on the Navajo Nation.

"Drunk driving affects the whole family," she said. "Unfortunately, it is so rampant in our communities. We have a high level of drunk driving and we must do all we

can to help those innocent people who suffer the result of it."

MADD is the largest crime victims' assistance organization in the world. It has more than 3 million members and supporters. The organization has shown that social attitudes can be radically changed about the acceptability of drinking and driving. Since MADD's inception, alcohol-related traffic fatalities have declined 43 percent.

Due in large part to MADD's efforts, more than an estimated 138,000 people are alive today and an untold number have received comfort, support and assistance in dealing with the aftermath of a drunk driving crash.

Navajo Nation MADD and MADD New Mexico needs volunteers. Volunteers are the heart and soul of MADD. It is their compassion and determination that drives the organization and it is their tireless efforts that have accomplished so much.

For information, call Navajo Nation First Lady's Office at 928-871-7008 or Angela Barney-Nez at 928-637-3001.

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