

MADD Kern County raises over \$69,000 to combat impaired driving

CONTRIBUTED BY MADD KERN COUNTY

Hundreds of crash victims, family members and friends, law enforcement officers and first responders, community leaders and supporters came together Saturday morning at The Park at River Walk to march, run and call for an end to impaired driving crashes in Kern County.

This year's Walk Like MADD & MADD Dash — presented by Law Office of Chain [Cohn] Clark and Valley Strong Credit Union — raised more than \$69,000 to help victims of DUI crashes, raise awareness in local schools, support DUI checkpoints and provide for MADD Kern County prevention programs. Since the first Bakersfield Walk Like MADD in 2014, community members have helped raise nearly \$700,000 for these local programs.

Kern County ranks among the worst for DUI arrests and injury crashes in California and the United States. In 2023, Kern County experienced 550 alcohol-related crashes in which 789 people were injured and 41 people died, according to Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System.

"Every life lost or forever changed by impaired driving is too many," said Jorge Barrientos, co-chair for the event's planning committee. "We walked and ran today to honor the victims and survivors, but also to remind everyone that we have the power to prevent these tragedies. Together, we can make our roads safer and stop impaired crashes in Kern County."

Walk Like MADD featured an opening ceremony with statements from representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, victims, elected officials, followed by a kid's fun run, a 5K road run, and a march by victims,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADD KERN COUNTY

Hundreds attended the 11th Walk Like MADD and MADD Dash Saturday morning at The Park at River Walk, which raised more than \$69,000 for local DUI prevention efforts and victims services.

and their families and supporters. An awards ceremony included winners of poster contest from students at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kern County (first place went to Ava Leisenfelder).

Medals and trophies were awarded to the fastest runners in their respective age categories and also to top fundraisers.

They were:

■ Top Friends and Family Teams: In Memory of Rae and Raegun Sorenson

■ Top Individual Fundraiser: Lorraine Duran

■ Law Enforcement Challenge Trophy: Bakersfield Police Department

■ Corporate Challenge: Valley Strong Credit Union

■ Top Male Runner: David Aung, 18:21 (Youth Male: Angel Martinez, 17:04)

■ Top Female Runner: Cassidy Stigimoto, 24:06 (Youth Female: Natalie Munoz, 21:15)

■ Kid's Fun Run: Valentina Amezcua

Presented by Law Office



Attorneys Matt Clark and Brandon Stallings hand out awards to sponsors, runners and fundraisers at the 11th Walk Like MADD and MADD Dash Saturday morning at The Park at River Walk.

of Chain Cohn Clark and Valley Strong Credit Union, the event was also sponsored by Bakersfield Police Department Traffic Division, Bakersfield Police Officers Association, Courts & Greens, Eagle Mountain Casino, Kern County Prosecutors Association,

Punjabi Golf Association Bakersfield, Rain for Rent, Salty's BBQ & Catering, Amerivet, Janaway Publishing Inc., Kern Family Healthcare, Mission Bank, Action Sports, Amandeep Basra, Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Sully's.



DUI crash victim Lorraine Duran spoke about her experience at the 11th Walk Like MADD and MADD Dash Saturday morning at The Park at River Walk. Duran's 21-month-old daughter, Lilliana Duran Valencia, died when an impaired driver crashed into their vehicle.



Local elected officials and their representatives spoke to attendees at the 11th Walk Like MADD and MADD Dash Saturday morning at The Park at River Walk, including District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer, left, and Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh, at podium.

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BAKERSFIELD BULKY WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

KERN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Recolección de Artículos de Basura Grande

Saturday, October 5, 2024 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
sábado 5 de octubre de 2024

Meadows Field Int'l Terminal | Kern Medical | Kern County Fairgrounds
1229 Skyway Dr. | Flower St. Parking Lot / Estacionamiento | 1142 South P St.

DRIVE IN AND DROP OFF YOUR UNWANTED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

TRAIGA Y DEJE SUS ARTÍCULOS GRANDES DEL HOGAR

FREE EVENT

EVENTO GRATUITO



ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Home Appliances
- TV's & E-Waste
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Water Heaters
- Tires **without Rims***

ARTÍCULOS ACEPTADO:

- Electrodomésticos
- Televisores
- Muebles
- Colchones
- Calentadores de Agua
- Llantas **sin Rines***

*Per State Law, transport no more than 9 tires per trip

*Por Ley Estatal, no transporte más de 9 llantas por viaje

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- Hazardous Waste
- Green Waste
- Construction Waste
- Remodeling Waste
- Business Waste

ARTÍCULOS NO ACEPTADO:

- Residuos Peligrosos
- Desechos Orgánicos
- Desechos de Construcción
- Desechos de Remodelación
- Basura de Empresas

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