

SAVING LIVES... ONE TOWN AT A TIME

# STOP DRUNK DRIVING NOW

# PRESS

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COLORADO	ILLINOIS	ILLINOIS	OHIO	OKLAHOMA
RECORD COMPANY GIVES LOCAL TEENS OPPORTUNITY, COMBATS DRUNK DRIVING	TEENS: SUBMIT A SONG TO FIGHT DRUNK DRIVING	KIDS SAVING KIDS CD CAMPAIGN TARGETS DRUNK DRIVING	OHIO TEENAGE MUSICIANS: WANTED FOR NATIONAL DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	LOCAL TEEN MUSICIANS SOUGHT FOR NATIONAL DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD
FEBRUARY 24, 2010	FEBRUARY 24, 2010	FEBRUARY 26, 2010	FEBRUARY 17, 2010	MARCH 4, 2010

				
DELAWARE	NEVADA	NEVADA	DELAWARE	MINNESOTA
DELAWARE TEENAGE MUSICIANS WANTED FOR NATIONAL DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	YOUNG MUSICIANS WANTED FOR DRUNK-DRIVING CAMPAIGN	YOUNG MUSICIANS WANTED FOR DRUNK-DRIVING CAMPAIGN	DELAWARE TEENAGE MUSICIANS WANTED FOR NATIONAL DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	TEEN MUSICIANS WANTED FOR DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD
MARCH 4, 2010	MARCH 4, 2010	MARCH 4, 2010	MARCH 4, 2010	MARCH 6, 2010

				
TENNESSEE	PENNSYLVANIA	SOUTH CAROLINA	SOUTH CAROLINA	INDIANA
KINGSTON SPRINGS TEENAGE MUSICIANS WANTED FOR DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	MAKE AN IMPACT THROUGH MUSIC	TEEN MUSICIANS WANTED FOR DRUNK-DRIVING AWARENESS CD	TEEN MUSICIANS WANTED FOR DRUNK-DRIVING AWARENESS CD	TEENAGE MUSICIANS WANTED FOR NATIONAL CD
MARCH 6, 2010	MARCH 8, 2010	MARCH 16, 2010	MARCH 17, 2010	MARCH 18, 2010

				
INDIANA	LOUISIANA	IOWA	NORTH CAROLINA	OREGON
DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN SEEKS YOUNG MUSICIANS	VERNON PARISH TEEN MUSICIANS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	IOWA TEENAGE MUSICIANS WANTED FOR NATIONAL DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	N.C. TEENAGE MUSICIANS WANTED FOR NATIONAL DRUNK DRIVING AWARENESS CD	YOUTHS' MUSIC CD TAKES AIM AT DRUNK DRIVING
MARCH 22, 2010	MARCH 23, 2010	MARCH 26, 2010	APRIL 1, 2010	APRIL 7, 2010



# MASSACHUSETTS



The High School will host the first of an estimated 30 rock concerts Friday geared toward raising money and educating students on the perils of drunken driving.

The concert, titled, "Arrive Alive," features the band NE Rocks (New England Rocks). Their members, including lead singer Jay Hajj AHS '86, are between 18 and 22 years of age, but they frequently play some of Boston's popular night spots such as the Channel, Narcissus and the Paradise. Hajj, 21, describes their music as "listenable heavy metal."

Ron Bellanti, promoter and owner of entertainment newspaper, The Rock Report, said the concert is a complete benefit with profits going toward drunken driving education programs. Others are planned at various high schools across the state and in New Hampshire.

Hajj said the drummer, Terry Chapel of Londonderry, N.H., lost his younger brother in a drunken driving car accident.

"We practice at their house and we see their pain. His (Chapel's) mother always wished something good could come of her son's death."

Hajj said they will be careful not to preach, but there will be a message in the performance: do not drunk and drive.

"It's hard to find someone kids will listen too, but they might listen to a rock band. We think we have found a way for them to listen," said Hajj, who has a younger brother in the High School.

"It would be nice to set an example and get a point across. I know a lot of kids in Amesbury. I'm not that much older than the kids at the High School," he said.

Bellanti said a client from the National Head Injury Association, Woburn, will speak to students from the stage.

The concert is presented by Bellanti's Bad Boy Productions in conjunction with the Amesbury Student Council. It is sponsored by the Rock Report and WCGY radio. On-air personality Lisa Garvey will be there.

Tickets are \$8 in advance at the High School and \$10 at the door. Doors open at 7:30.

# MASSACHUSETTS



When the five long-maned and leather-jacketed musicians in NE Rocks break into the opening strains of "Fox on the Run" at Amesbury High tomorrow night, few are likely to take the rock hit as a love song. But to the five rockers on stage, it is a love song of sorts -an odd requiem to a young man who once aspired to make music like theirs. The young man was in a car crash in early 1978, a week before his 16th birthday. "Fox on the Run" by the rock group "The Sweet" was playing in the tape deck when the car in which he was riding crashed into a tree in southern New Hampshire. He and another young passenger were killed.

His name was Terry Chappell, and his kid brother, Ted, now 21, is the drummer for NE Rocks. Tomorrow, the band begins a series of "Arrive Alive" benefit concerts at area high schools to promote awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. Proceeds will go to Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). "We're hoping we're actually going to get a message across, and that people will hear it," says Ted. "I'd rather hear it from somebody who has actually been there than from a teacher or a cop."

The concert, produced by Ron Bellanti of Lawrence, is co-sponsored by WCGY radio and Rockreport Magazine, and will include brief talks by lead singer Jay Hajj and by a spokesman for the National Head Injury Association. Ted, who has taken the stage name "Terry Terror," was eight when his brother was killed.

"He used to play drums, too," says the Londonderry, NH musician. "He was always like my idol, the greatest guy that ever lived. Whatever he was doing, he'd drop it just to fix my bike. Everyone used to call me 'the terror' when I was a kid. I ended up using that, and his name, in his honor. I started playing drums because of him."

Ted still remembers the rainy night when his parents, Ted Sr. and Emily, rushed home from the accident scene, where they had been called, and took him and his sister, Tammy, then 12, to the hospital. Terry died within an hour. "You don't think about death when you're 8 years old," says Ted, "especially to someone in your family. I always thought of him as my older brother. To think he was only 15." Ted says he and his fellow band members have always been concerned about drunken driving. One of them doesn't drink at all. The rest drink at parties, he adds, "but there's always someone who doesn't drink... If you kill somebody, who wants to live with that for the rest of your life?"

Their "Arrive Alive" concerts -including 10 original songs and "Fox on the Run" -feature what Ted calls "intricate but commercial heavy metal." The tour is expected to take them to 30 high schools in Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire before spring. Ted says he is aware that many young people "laugh at stuff like this" (anti-drunken driving benefits). "But," he adds, "we like to think maybe it will save a life."

# NEW HAMPSHIRE



NE Rocks, a Manchester-based, top-40 rock band, whose drummer lost his brother in a drinking-and-driving accident, plays a fundraiser for The Arrive Alive Foundation tonight at 8 p.m. at Classics, 1 Highlander Way. Fundraiser's like tonight's make it possible for the band to perform at area high schools. The band members' goal is to convince teens not to drink and drive.

Donna Packer, whose daughter, Lacey, was killed by a drunk driver a year ago as she rode on her father's motorcycle in the breakdown lane of the Everett Turnpike in Nashua, NH, will speak at an NE Rocks performance Nov. 10 in Manchester Central High School Auditorium. Packer will tell students about the consequences of Peter Dushame's drinking and driving on her family. Dushame is serving a 15- to 30-year sentence for manslaughter in Lacey's deathmake it possible for the band to perform at area high schools. The band members' goal is to convince teens not to drink and drive.

Testimony at his trial indicated his blood alcohol level was .33 - three times the legal measure for drunken driving. Dushame had a history of DWI convictions But while the testimony - of people like Packer, band member Ted Chappel, or survivors of DWI accidents - is aimed at convincing young people not to drink and drive, the concert also is intended to entertain.

Promoter Ron Bellanti says, "We use the MTV approach. This is a real concert, not just another high school dance." Bellanti said the Arrive Alive Foundation, a teenage anti-drinking-and-driving organization, is sponsoring the concert with Central's Students Against Driving Drunk chapter. Bellanti says the show is an intricate special-effects package, with a professional sound and light show by a group that regularly performs in Boston-area clubs.

"We're not an anti-alcohol group," Bellanti said. "We don't say 'drink' either." What the foundation does, he said, is try to convince young people not to drive if they've been drinking, or not to ride with a drinking driver. Bellanti says Arrive Alive tries to reach students who wouldn't normally be part of the SADD chapter, or any other organization. The idea is to treat the young people as adults. "We say 'think what you're doing,'" Bellanti said.

Drummer Chappel, who was only eight when his teenage brother was killed in a DWI accident, says, "What happened was foolish, a foolish waste. That's why we are doing this, to try and reach all the kids, even the ones who don't usually listen to anybody. There has to be a way."

Tickets to tonight's performance at Classics are \$5 for adults, \$6 for those under 21.

Tickets for the concert at Central High School Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m. are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



While listening to music Friday night, area high school students will learn a valuable lesson about drinking and driving. The anti-drinking and driving organization Arrive Alive will present a concert at Centerstage at the Speakeasy, Lafayette Road on May 10. Performing will be the groups T.T. Strip and Heavens to Murgatroid.

Arrive Alive is the brainchild of Ronald Bellanti, a band promoter and currently president of the association. All of its events focus on teaching people, especially teenagers, not to drink and drive. Although this is the first time Arrive Alive has presented a show in Portsmouth, plans are under way for more shows. Arrive Alive began in 1989 and currently focuses its efforts in New England. "We are not anti-alcohol," Mr. Bellanti said. "We don't think alcohol's bad. We're trying to show people we care about customers."

Instead of preaching, the band or guest speaker advises the audience, during its performance, not to drink and drive. "I think anyone who says: 'don't drink, it's illegal,' isn't going to get far with these kids," Mr. Bellanti said. "When I was in school, I was one of those problem kids; ripped jeans, black boots. Nothing was going to keep me after school." Arrive Alive presents productions at high schools and nightclubs. At high schools, it generally brings in a guest speaker to discuss drinking and driving while at clubs; it focuses more on increasing awareness of the problem."

"I don't think we can cure drinking and driving," Mr. Bellanti said, "but we can make sure kids are aware of the problem."

"The easiest audience to promote to is in the teen-age audience," Mr. Bellanti said. "Music is a good vehicle in which to promote the message to schools."

Mr. Bellanti, whose father is a Massachusetts state trooper, founded Arrive Alive after hearing about a fatal car accident occurred in Reading, Mass., the night of the prom. "I decided there had to be a way to reach the schools," he said.

Arrive Alive will create a mailing list the night of the show. Interested members of the audience will receive mail brochures, newsletters, concert schedules, etc. The headlining band T.T. Strip is from Southern Maine. The band consists of four men and has been together for three years. "This isn't a crusade," said Ron Hallee, guitar player for the band. "It's not anti-good time. We feel Arrive Alive is a good cause." Other band members are Joe Monroe, vocalist; Brian Keithley, drummer; and Patrick McGuire, bass. The band plays all original music.

Doors open at 8 p.m. for the show Friday night at the Speakeasy.



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



Parents who don't like the way their teen-ager drives, should yank their license to do so. New Hampshire law allows parents to do this until their child reaches ages 18, according to a newly-formed community task force aimed at putting an end to the recent rash of fatal car accidents in Derry involving teens. Parents should also wear seat belts to set an example for their child and should ride in the car with their teen after he gets his driver's license, they suggested.

The task force was organized by Dr. Joseph Sabato Jr., emergency services director at Parkland Medical Center, in response to the deaths of six teens, five of them from Pinkerton Academy, who have been killed in cars since May. More than 50 people from Derry, Londonderry, Windham, and Salem attended the group's first meeting Wednesday night at Parkland. "We decided that our initial focus will be aimed at parents because of all the programs already in place for students," Dr. Sabato said. He noted that he has received calls and letters from parents eager to get involved. The task force plans to hold a meeting for parents at Pinkerton sometime in the next six weeks, he said.

A Lawrence safety agency is compiling a booklet on parents' rights and responsibilities in New Hampshire to be distributed at the meeting. It will be called "You Have the Power." Deborah Jordan, dean of students at Salem High, was among those who attended the meeting. She called it "very productive." She was glad to learn that Pinkerton's driver's education class included a parent education class, something she feels would be good for Salem High, she said. "I think we can put together a comprehensive program by sharing information and looking at student programs," Ms. Jordan said. "We need to reach children before they get into high school."

Ronald Bellanti Jr., founder and director of Arrive Alive in Lawrence, also attended. His nonprofit agency takes its anti-drinking and driving campaign to schools throughout New England. "We are already compiling a booklet telling parents they have a lot more rights than they realize. They also have a lot of liability. If their kid is driving the family car parents are liable if he kills or injures someone," Mr. Bellanti said.

Derry Police Chief Edward B. Garone said he believes many parents do not know that they can take away their teen's license to drive under state law. Teens must also get their parents permission to get a driver's license, he said. The legal driving age in New Hampshire is 16.

Others at the meeting included Pinkerton Headmaster Bradford V. Ek, Salem Police Chief Stephen B. MacKinnon, Salem Fire Chief John Nadeau, Windham Police Chief Bruce Moeckel, and Derry Police Capts. Malcolm Iver and Charles Steele.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE



Ron Bellanti is not waiting for another teen-ager to die before he gets involved in Derry's fight against irresponsible driving. Bellanti, founder of Arrive Alive -a non-profit agency based in Lawrence, Mass., dedicated to preventing teen-age drunk driving -has joined the community effort to find ways to stop the tragedies.

A community task force, initiated by Parkland Medical Center emergency room Director Dr. Joseph Sabato, recently formed in the wake of five fatal car crashes in Derry involving teen-agers. The task force, which first met Jan. 17, consists of area police and fire officials, emergency medical staff, educators, local state legislators and members of the legal community. (Related story, Page 2.)

"I've never seen a more influential group of people with such dedication toward solving this problem," Bellanti said this week. "My main reason for wanting to get involved with this is two-fold. Number one, it's what our organization does. But more than that was seeing the people at that first meeting and how emotional they were regarding the issue of kids getting killed in their community."

While the schools, hospitals, police and fire departments all must serve many varied and vital functions, Bellanti said his agency operates under the sole mandate of helping the area's children and young people stay alive.

"We're not looking to come in and take over," said Bellanti, who has worked as a concert promoter. He was motivated to start Arrive Alive in 1989 after he witnessed the death of a 15-year-old girl, who was thrown hundreds of yards when the pickup truck she was riding in collided with another car in a parking lot after a concert.

Although most of the recent crashes in Derry have not been related to alcohol, Bellanti said there is a visible problem. "It isn't in the drinking water," he said. "There's obviously something going wrong here." With support from parents and community leaders, Bellanti is confident he can make a difference.

Arrive Alive has already started compiling a booklet for parents. The booklet, "You Have the Power," will present ways to deal with young drivers and review laws, seatbelt facts, DWI facts, injury and fatality statistics, speed and insurance liability.

"We want parents to realize just how much say they have over their kids and the way they act in the car," Bellanti said.

In addition, Bellanti hopes to hold a walk-a-thon in Derry in May, just before graduation and prom season when more teen-age car crashes historically occur. Bellanti said the walk-a-thon would act as a great community involvement tool, raising both awareness and expectations. It would also be an excellent fund-raising tool to pay for further events, promotions and educational programs, he said.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE



Michael Williams, who lost his son in a fatal car crash last year, is on a mission. Williams has joined the community effort to find ways to prevent future teen tragedies in Derry. "The things we've gone through; I don't want to see anybody ever go through it," Williams said. "There's nothing worse."

The parent education committee of the community task force, spearheaded by Dr. Joseph Sabato of Parkland Medical Center, met Tuesday night at Pinkerton Academy. Although only 35 people attended the meeting, many ideas were tossed up during a three-hour monologue.

Harry Richardson, founder of Harry's Driving School, blamed himself and other driving schools for not doing their jobs. "You have been sending your children to us for their protection," Richardson told parents and community leaders. "I'm here, as a driving educator, to tell you we have let you down. Because if we hadn't let you down, we wouldn't be having this meeting tonight." Richardson proposed the idea of lobbying Legislature to raise New Hampshire's driving age from 16 to 16 1/2. Currently, the state allows teens to start driver education at 15 1/2. "We are asking these young drivers to make adult judgments, adult decisions, while they're on the road," he said. "They are not biologically capable of doing it. They are still children." He also proposed community leaders and parents to start a petition that would force the Legislature to look at a graduated licensing system. "If you stand up and scream for something, they'll listen," Richardson said.

However, Ron Bellanti, founder of Arrive Alive- an agency based in Lawrence, Mass., dedicated to preventing teen driving tragedies-disagreed with Richardson. "I don't think they're incapable of driving," Bellanti said. "The idea of safety is not being sold to the kids in this area." Bellanti said what the community needs is a marketing strategy- a way to bring the message to students by appealing to their interests. "I want to do something right now that will make these kids want to get this information," Bellanti said. "This community cannot afford another fatality." Bellanti is proposing to motivate students by holding a walk-a-thon, rock concert, and a simulated car crash just before graduation and prom season, when more teen-age car crashes historically occur.

Wendee Cloutier, whose daughter was killed in a car crash last year, was impressed by Bellanti's ideas, but she believes the students should be involved in planning the activities. "They should be in control of this," Cloutier says. "They are the ones who are affected. They are the ones who are hurting. They're working through the grief." Williams agreed, adding that he was very disappointed by the meetings turnout.

The task force will meet again on Tuesday, Feb.13, at 7:30 p.m. at Parkland Medical Center.



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



Ron Bellanti was dismayed by the low turnout. Here, he thought, was a chance for Derry residents to come together in large numbers to show their solidarity in the effort to end the string of fatal car accidents that have claimed the lives of four area teenagers in recent months.

Instead, what he saw was a small group of people who-although concerned about the problem- did not represent a community-wide commitment.

"I don't understand why there's not a lot of people here," he said. "Quite frankly I'm shocked because the kids in this town are dying and something has to be done about it."

That something, Bellanti believes, is an event that can generate large-scale interest among adults and teenagers alike- perhaps a walk-a-thon and rock concert-where the message of safe driving can be conveyed in a way that seems more fun than fearful.

"We seem to have a marketing problem," said Bellanti, who founded Arrive Alive, a Lawrence based non-profit agency dedicated to preventing fatal car accidents involving teenagers. "For some reason the message isn't getting out. This community can't afford another fatality."

Bellanti's comments were made at a meeting last week. The meeting, headed by Dr. Joseph Sabato, chief of the emergency department at Parkland Medical Center, was intended for parents who want to get together to discuss ways of preventing another fatal accident involving a teenager. Within the past nine months, four area teens have died in separate car accidents. Police have said death could have been avoided in three of the accidents if the victims had been buckled up.

The meeting, although sparsely attended, generated several suggestions. They ranged from lobbying to make seatbelt use mandatory for children between the ages of 12 and 18 to instituting a graduated licensing process for teenagers.

And while all were worthy ideas, Bellanti said they will require long and drawn-out efforts that won't see results for several years.

"You have a problem that requires more immediate attention," he said. "I want to do something right now."

Once the spring arrives, Bellanti thinks a walk-a-thon followed by a concert would be just the type of event to call attention to the situation. Bellanti, who has worked as a concert promoter, thinks Arrive Alive can help. "This could be the one event in town that gets everyone aware," he said.



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



While community leaders are rallying parents to join their task force, student leaders at Pinkerton Academy have been looking for ways to recruit their peers in an effort to halt teen-age car deaths.

Members of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD) are going hand-in-hand with Ron Bellanti, founder of Arrive Alive, a non-profit agency based in Lawrence, Mass., dedicated to preventing teen-age drunk driving. "If we're going to achieve any success in preventing these car crashes, then we have to bring in the students," Bellanti told SADD members at their Wednesday night meeting. "You have to be part of the solution."

While other task force members lobby legislators to raise the driving age and implement a stricter licensing system, Bellanti wants to focus on the here and now. He believes the safe-driving message can be spread to students through a single, galvanizing event that would include the entire community. His idea is to motivate students by holding a walk-a-thon, a simulated car crash, and a rock concert just before graduation and prom season, when more teen-age car crashes historically occur. SADD members want to include a candlelight vigil in the plan. "It is an extremely well-prepared concept," SADD president Lisa VanCopenolle said. "It's going to bring young adults, parents and neighboring towns together."

VanCopenolle and other SADD members said they plan to be involved in the process every step of the way. "We're going around here in Pinkerton and in the community," said junior Nathaniel Nucci. "He needs our input to really be able to tell whether this is going to work." SADD Faculty Advisor Saul Shriber said Bellanti's concept could be the vehicle to get people to listen to the problem. "The car accidents have really affected the kids here," Shriber said, adding that the community must approach the idea on a positive note. But for the idea to work, Bellanti and SADD leaders will need support from the academy. Bellanti has proposed holding the concert inside the Ivah Hackler gymnasium, which would accommodate 3,200 people.

If successful, the walk-a-thon would generate enough money to pay for the concert to take place. Bellanti said he plans to get local radio and television stations to endorse the day-long event and perhaps promote it along with Arrive Alive and SADD. Bellanti said no one will have to pay for his services. "Any event that Arrive Alive does, whether it be educational or educational/entertainment will never require anyone other than myself, to be put in financial risk," Bellanti said. "We're not looking to take the town's money. We're looking to get something off the ground." "I'm not going to allow skepticism and apathy interfere with progress," Bellanti said, adding that he will operate under the umbrella of the task force. "I think Dr. Sabato's group is going to launch a lot of ships in that are going to help this situation and I want to be on one of them."

Ultimately, Bellanti would like to open an Arrive Alive office in Derry and staff it with the program director, who would work with SADD leaders to develop safe-driving programs for Pinkerton students. While the particulars of the event have yet to be worked out, SADD members are committed to seeing the joint endeavor through. "We have to battle the apathy," Shriber said. "We really need to change the attitude. Maybe this is going to set the right mental state for our students."

# CALIFORNIA



Eighteen songs by 18 different local bands, with all the proceeds going to a campaign to reduce drunken driving among the young ---- "San Diego Rockers for Life 2007" is a solid collection of local music benefiting a worthy cause. (San Diego is one of 17 cities having a Rockers for Life compilation.)

Although there's no information on how the bands were selected, the dozen and a half bands chosen are a pretty fair cross-section of San Diego's rock scene. All of the bands included here are active, playing out and recording their own CDs.

The musical styles lean toward the hard-core rock side of things. Not until the fifth track, Trent Hancock's "Stay," is there anything that isn't hard, metal or screamo. Almost two-thirds of the tracks here are in those styles. Toward the end, Vista's Clay Colton Band and Bob Martin (Alpine) lend a bit of a country/Americana tinge to things.

Other bands included are Oceanside's Decompression, Temecula's American Hitmen (an all-Marine band), Black Sunday, Innocent Noise, Unbeknown, Silver Side, Vinyl 45, Critical Me, No Practical Reason, Down With Leo, Craze, Trisula, Blyth, Hector's Revenge and Burn Proper, since moved to L.A.

And given that each band would want to contribute its one best track, most of the songs on here are pretty darned good ---- a kind of greatest hits set from the region's hard rock community. It's a quick and easy way to get up to speed on what's happening on the local scene.

"San Diego Rockers for Life 2007" can be purchased from the participating bands or ordered from [myspace.com/sandiegorockersforlife](http://myspace.com/sandiegorockersforlife).

# RHODE ISLAND



He has a fan club and an MBA, which might not make all that much sense. But if you listen to Phil Ayoub, you can hear the two opposing qualities in his music: It's keen and endearing, witty as well as likable. Ayoub, a product of Cumberland now living in Seekonk, quit his job in a big investment bank in Boston to concentrate on a career in music. While you might not call that a "smart" move, Phil is definitely following his heart, and his heart is taking him to all the right places. His most recent album, *Schoolbus Window Paper Heart*, is produced by Tim Bradshaw, a former member of Dog's Eye View who has worked with David Gray, Liz Phair, and Josh Ritter, and now boasts a spot in John Mayer's touring band. When Ayoub teamed up with Bradshaw, he had just finished work on Gray's *Life In Slow Motion*.

"I thought for sure I was out of my league and that he wouldn't want to work with someone like myself who wasn't quite as advanced," says Ayoub, "but I sent him my demos and he liked them a lot." They met at a Hope Street coffee place and talked some shop. They agreed on an MO, and shook on it. They recorded most of Phil's disc in Providence; the drums were done in Boston. Ed Toth, who was with the band Vertical Horizon at the time and now tours with the Doobies, played those drums.

So far *Schoolbus Window Paper Heart* has been embraced affectionately by radio and press. Ayoub writes empathically, with sensitivity and intelligence. "I find inspiration in things that I go through," he explains, "often really simple things, but things I think are powerful. So I write about things I hope other people find some kind of connection with. And so far they seem to have."

Ayoub also employs a sort of discipline to his work that many in music find elusive. Perhaps this comes from his fairly orthodox business background, which, ironically, often vibes with the more unpredictable nature of art and inspiration. "Above all, I think what influences me most is timing," he says. "What I mean by that is that if there's a certain evening that I have blocked out and intend to write music, if I hear an interesting song that grabs my attention earlier in the day, that song style will be in my head later that evening and probably seep through into my writing. So in some ways the timing of that kind of stuff is what influences my work the most." Thanks in part to this technique, Phil has won a few songwriter awards, so he must be doing something right. And remember, he has a fan club and an MBA. Perhaps we should just leave it at that.

Phil Ayoub | March 10 | Snookers Pool Lounge, 145 Clifford St, Providence | 401.351.7665



# MINNESOTA



Winona rock band Psycotropic is featured on a new compilation CD aimed at preventing drunken driving. The band will sell copies of "Twin Cities Rockers for Life 2007" for \$12 at its Saturday show at Rascals.

Well, maybe Winona is not exactly a Twin Cities suburb, but the band was happy to be part of the project.

"Even if it helps only one or two people, that's one or two less drunk drivers on the street," bassist Jeremy Presson said.

The CD is part of the Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign, and money raised will fund drunken driving prevention programs and media campaigns throughout Minnesota.

Joining Presson in Psycotropic are lead guitarist and vocalist Zanny Noble and drummer and vocalist Billy Jonsgaard. Psycotropic formed about 10 years ago, took a few years off and reunited last summer. Jonsgaard joined the group in August.

Presson says the band isn't quite as heavy as it used to be and now mixes their own originals with classic rock songs by ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Rolling Stones.

"It goes over great with the crowd," Presson said.

The Rascals show is the band's first since December, when they decided to take a break and work on more originals. In January, Illumina, a record company based in Beverly, Mass., checked out Psycotropic's MySpace page and let the band know it was interested in including them on the compilation CD.

They only had a week to find a recording studio and send three songs that were shorter than four minutes to Illumina.

"We were really cramming to get it done," Presson said.

"Time for Me to Go," one of the newer originals, was selected.

"We were happy because that is one of our newer songs," Presson said.

You can hear that song at the April 14 show and also at upcoming gigs April 21 at Stingers in Winona and April 28 at The Joint in La Crosse and again May 12 at Rascals. Psycotropic plans to take more time off in May to work on a full-length CD for release this year.



# OHIO



As a Perry Township police sergeant, Bill Yarbrough has seen his share of drunk drivers.

As founder of the Christian rock band Broken 3418, he's now using his platform as a musician to raise awareness about drunken driving.

Broken 3418 recently was selected to be on the "Cleveland Rockers for Life" CD compiled by Illumina Records of Beverly, Mass. The CD is part of the record label's Ground Control drunk driving prevention program and features 19 bands from Northeast Ohio.

"Having a law enforcement background, it didn't take much for me to buy into that," Yarbrough said. "I've seen the devastation that drunk driving causes. I've pulled dead bodies out of cars because of senseless acts."

Broken 3418's song "Will I Change?" is the featured song on the "Cleveland Rockers for Life" CD and is the first song to load at the band's MySpace.com Web site.

To date, Illumina Records has released "Rockers for Life" CDs in about 40 cities, spokeswoman Nicole Van Eden said. Participating bands, while contributing to the cause, also get exposure through the CD and through MySpace.com. "We ... give local bands that national platform that they can't get on their own," Van Eden said.

Illumina is not the only record label to express interest in Broken 3418 recently. The Perry Township band got signed to Soul Joy Records in April.

The Hallettsville, Texas, record label came calling after Yarbrough turned down an invitation to play at the Gospel Music Association's annual Awards Showcase in Nashville. Yarbrough said the band wanted to play at the event, where record label executives are known to attend, but members had previous family commitments.

"It showed a lot of people that our hearts were in the right place," he said. "Our goal was never to get signed (to a label)." Lead singer Yarbrough, guitarist Dave Hug of Perry Township, bassist Bob Pickens of Canton, and drummer Tony Wolfe of Louisville signed the contract on April 12. They expect to go into the studio to record their first full-length CD in September. In the meantime, they've got gigs to play at two of the biggest Christian festivals of the summer: Cornerstone in Bushnell, Ill. (June 25-30) and Ichthus in Wilmore, Ky. (June 14-16). Tonight, Broken 3418, a reference to Psalm 34:18, plays at the downtown Massillon club CBAM/The Light, 332 Erie St. S. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$5. "We're trying to do it for a deeper purpose," Yarbrough said. "We want to change a generation that we feel is lost."

# OHIO



If you must drink and drive, drink coffee.

That's the message of Wee Waffle Castle, two-time winner of Pleasant High School's annual Battle of the Bands, as it lends its support to a drunken driving prevention effort.

The popular alternative band is among 20 bands featured on Illumina Records' "Cleveland Rockers for Life" CD. The CD contains the band's song "Perestroika" and is available for \$10 at Cafe Anzas, 1713 Marion-Mount Gilead Road.

Illumina Records is partnering up with bands throughout the country as part of its Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign. The campaign utilizes the Internet and support of local bands as it targets its message to teens. "They get to be married to a cause," said Nicole Van Eden, director of publicity for Illumina Records. She said it gives the bands national exposure that they may not be able to get as easily on their own.

The record company contacted the band through MySpace, an online social networking site that devotes a special section to musicians. The band's MySpace Music profile has had 13,900 page views since Wee Waffle Castle joined MySpace on Sept. 7, 2005.

"Back in the day you had just CDs and tapes," said bass guitarist Tony Antjas, one of the band's founders. "Now everyone who wants to be heard can be heard."

The band and drunk driving prevention poster promoting the group is featured on the Cleveland Rockers' MySpace site.

# VIRGINIA



Driving one night, Victoria Patchen recalled seeing someone swerving on the road ahead of her. After slowing down to keep a safe distance, Patchen watched as the driver slammed into a guard rail. Patchen pulled over and rushed to the driver's aid, eager to call for help. But the driver, still conscious, told Patchen not to call the police. Clearly intoxicated, the woman behind the wheel of the wrecked car did not want to get caught drinking and driving. "If someone else had been in her path, you could only imagine what could have happened," she said. "It's not something you can hide." Patchen, along with her band Lucky Day, is now speaking out against drunk driving by contributing a song to the D.C. Rockers for Life CD, one of over 50 compilation CDs put out by Illumina Records. Ron Bellanti, the company's president, started his anti-drunk driving campaign in 1989 when an intoxicated 15-year-old fell out of the back seat of a moving pickup truck during a concert, leaving her severely injured. The driver, who was drunk and driving in rapid circles in the parking lot, crashed, leaving everyone in the car unconscious. "Children don't die in hospitals in America ... they die on highways," Bellanti said. The record company, based in Beverly, Mass., found Lucky Day through their web page on MySpace.com. "I love the band," said Bellanti. "They don't just play good tunes, they have a good heart."

Lucky Day, which performs in the D.C. area, consists of Patchen on vocals, Brian Huber on guitar, Eric Belec on bass and David Ray on drums. Huber, who lives in Burke, Va., started the band in the summer of 2005. His Brit-pop influences combined with Patchen's lyrical lines has been compared to 60s music by reviewers such as The Washington Post. Belec and Ray, despite previously playing in a hippie jam band, currently focus on instrumentation for the pop-like group. Huber wrote all six of the upbeat, catchy tunes on their independently released EP, All My Rainy Days. They contributed their title track "Rainy Days" to the compilation album. "It's something that'll help raise awareness," said Huber. "People regard it [drunken driving] as an everyday thing at this point." "Even if you don't immediately know someone, it could happen to anyone," said Belec. "We could all be affected." Lucky Day does their part by setting an example. "There's a particular lifestyle that people associate with rockers," said Huber, referring to a drinking culture. When touring, they always make sure whoever is behind the wheel is fit to drive. They mention planning ahead or taking a taxi as valuable preventive measures. There has been talk of uniting bands from the D.C. Rockers compilation for a benefit concert, however, nothing has materialized as of yet. For now, the band is focusing on releasing a second CD by early next year, one featuring Latin and reggae influences. "It's a way of showing our range more stylistically," said Belec. "We're never going to go outside of the pop-rock genre, but we're adding that little extra taste." Belec plans to experiment with the mandolin on some songs.

While the band mostly performs in Virginia and the D.C. area, they have also toured further south into the Carolinas. In the future, they plan to do a New England tour where they will visit Connecticut, the home state for both Patchen and Belec. Lucky Day will be performing on July 12 at the Friday Night Live! Summer concert series in Herndon, Va. and at Royal Lake Park in Fairfax on July 20. To learn more about Lucky Day, visit: [www.myspace.com/luckydayband](http://www.myspace.com/luckydayband) or more information and to buy the D.C. Rockers for Life CD, go to [www.myspace.com/dc\\_rockers](http://www.myspace.com/dc_rockers).



# MASSACHUSETTS



The connection between rock music and alcohol isn't always a flattering one: Images of intoxicated artists tripping over instruments and fumbling song lyrics while drunk fans flail around in mosh pits may come to mind. But Seekonk resident and musician Phil Ayoub is helping to forge a different relationship between alcohol and music through his involvement with the Ground Control drunk-driving prevention campaign. The campaign was started last year by Ron Bellanti, founder and president of Beverly-based Illumina records, after a 15-year-old girl died in his arms as the result of a drunk driving crash.

Ground Control spreads the drunk driving prevention message through a number of programs that leverage the power of music and art, including music-oriented presentations in schools, music festivals, fashion shows, a "Rock & Roll Circus," an art series with the anti-drunk driving message at its core and compilation CDs. "What better way to create awareness or get somebody's attention than with music or the arts?" said Brooke Anido, vice president of operations at Illumina Records. Ayoub, 33, will appear on both the Providence and Boston "Rockers for Life" compilation CDs, which fund Ground Control's programs and media campaigns while giving local artists greater exposure.

The CDs are sold through Discarc.com and Newbury Comics as well as through the musicians featured on them; each musician is required to buy 50 copies of the CD with the option to sell them or give them away. Artists are promoted on the Illumina Records Web site, the "Rockers for Life" MySpace page, as well as posters and other promotional material. They are selected for inclusion on the CDs based on their desire to help as well as the quality of their music. "This is not a talent competition," Anido said. "We're looking for talented people, of course, but at the same time we're looking for people with good hearts."

Ayoub - a full-time musician in the Americana/pop/rock genre who cites his influences as U2, Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan - was contacted by Illumina Records through his MySpace page. Although he hasn't been personally affected by drunk driving, Ayoub said he was immediately interested in the cause. "It's a two-fold thing," he said. "It gets my music out there, which is sort of of secondary importance to helping out the charity. Any sort of good cause, if I can be a part of it musically or any other way, I will." Ayoub has taken part in charity efforts to benefit several causes, including multiple sclerosis, homeless pets, and the Jimmy Fund. As a musician performing in locations where liquor typically flows freely, he said the issue of drunk driving is particularly relevant.

"It's difficult because sometimes if I'm onstage or talking to people in the crowd, I sort of get a sense for how drunk they are," he said. "And sometimes I do sit and wonder to myself, is this person going to be driving home? Obviously I can't be a policeman to everybody, but it is something you sort of ask yourself: Where is this person going from here, and how are they getting there?"

For more on Phil Ayoub, visit [www.myspace.com/philayoub](http://www.myspace.com/philayoub).

For more on the Ground Control drunk driving prevention campaign, visit [www.preventdrunkdriving.net](http://www.preventdrunkdriving.net) or [www.myspace.com/rockersforlife](http://www.myspace.com/rockersforlife)



# MISSOURI



Brothers Nathan (guitarist) and Aaron (bassist) Rorabaugh and drummer Zac Otero, known together as the hard rock/progressive/metal local band Berlin Drop have found a vehicle to take them into the national ear and to promote a good cause at the same time. Having made some live appearances at Cruisin' Route 66, a venue near St. Louis, the band came across a unique opportunity -- the St. Louis Rockers for Life campaign.

Put together by Illumina records, the effort consists of a compilation CD that enjoys national distribution. The CD is from of the company's "Rockers and Hip Hop for Life," an effort through which the company has compiled a total of more than 20 CDs, with another 15 in production.

Artists sell the CD at live performances, and a portion of the money goes to fund programs that fight drunken driving. Artists are also featured in three drunken driving prevention posters, a Myspace page, and CUSP magazine. The artists get national exposure, plus the opportunity to promote prevention of unsafe behaviors.

"We have one of our songs on the compilation disc," said Nathan Rorabaugh. "The Mexican," a hard rock selection written by Aaron Rorabaugh and featuring Spanish lyrics is the song they chose to include.

"We promote it at our live shows, and money generated goes to anti-drunk driving programs," Nathan Rorabaugh said. Specifically, it goes to the Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign with a message simply put but not so simple to accomplish: to prevent teenage drunk driving fatalities across America.

Berlin Drop has 50 copies of the CD to sell at its shows. "It's something we thought would be good for the band, and it has a good theme," Nathan Rorabaugh said of the CD.

The band has gone through many changes in the three years since its inception, and Nathan Rorabaugh agreed that the band's style, voice and the quality of the music has evolved and improved over the years.

"We have two albums out now, and we can see how we've gotten better and better," Nathan Rorabaugh said. "The next five songs will be much better."

"We're coming into it, I think. It's coming to be 'this is the way we sound.'" he said. Nevertheless, the band's style can't be expressed in just one word or one genre. "We all like different kinds of music," and that's reflected in the songs written and performed by the band. One of the band's newest songs is an a cappella piece. "Obviously, that's totally different from some of the other stuff we've done. It's just a process that every musician goes through," Nathan Rorabaugh said. For now, the band's goal is to be heard by as many people as possible, who they hope will like their unique sound and eclectic fancies.

For more information about Berlin Drop, visit [myspace.com/berlindrop](http://myspace.com/berlindrop).

# RHODE ISLAND



It's impossible to not take note the alarmingly high number of teen traffic fatalities. Everywhere you drive you see those roadside shrines -crosses on trees, flower arrangements, stuffed animals, photos -poignant reminders of the hefty price some pay for bad judgment.

In an attempt to phase out the existence of such sad sightings, Illumina Records, a label based north of Boston, has decided to do its part to call attention to this epidemic, not just in South County but state- and nationwide. Ground Control: Providence Rockers For Life 2007 features a roster of area bands who have contributed their time and effort to the cause of raising awareness of drunk driving. Money collected by the sale of the CD will fund prevention programs and media campaigns from Providence to Portland, Oregon. " We're really excited about being a part of this collection," says Curtis Lambert, whose band BearKat Grooves contributed the cut " The BearKat Denial."

Spearheaded by Illumina Records president and founder Ron Bellanti and produced by Bellanti and Andrew Swaine, the compilation appears thanks to the support of a number of worthwhile organizations, including 1 Loud Street, Cusp magazine, Driver Agent, Amped PR, and Amped CD Duplication. In the coming months, Illumina, along with the bands on the CD, will be spreading what they call their " lifesaving message": " Never Drive Drunk."

"We want to educate our young people on the dangers associated with drunk driving," says Bellanti.

The recording project serves as an eye-opener for the issue at hand and a really good disc, and the Providence Plantation reps acquit themselves nicely. Kanerko shakes the house with a Load-era-Metallica-like riff on "365." Psyche rocks too -only a notch quieter -with the heartfelt " My Letter to You," with some strong vocals and an arcing, melodic chorus. Incidentally, Psyche, from northern Rhode Island, has been cranking things up lately, so be on the lookout for a bump in activity. Noreaster, with musos from Rhode Island and Massachusetts, haven't been together long but have already pumped out a CD and are working on another. Evident rips it up on " Asteroid," with a slammin' Pantera vibe. The Faulted strums out the passionate " A New Day" with moving vocals by Robert Quinn. Phil Ayoub, from nearby Franklin, Massachusetts, opens the disc with the rootsy, lyrical " Cinderella and the Subway," and Unbroken Ground closes it with the unusual " Common Place," a slightly psychedelic metal outing with prominent percussion and emotive vocals by a belter named Melody.

While we're a little confused as to why the disc is billed as " Providence Rockers" but features a handful of non-local bands, we won't quibble over semantics, not with a cause like this. It's all good stuff, regardless of where it was birthed. And it's nice to hear some bands that fall outside the list of " usual suspects" taking part in a high-profile project.

# MINNESOTA



Rock and roll has matured, as evidenced by a new compilation CD including Robbinsdale's NemoJoe and Send Up The Room. "Twin Cities Rockers for Life" is part of Illumina Records' campaign against drunk driving called Ground Control. NemoJoe lead singer and guitarist Mark Johnston said none of the band has personally had any serious run-ins with drunk driving, but he remembered what happened to a friend who lost her license. "It had to be tough love," he said. Johnston said he didn't go out of the way to help his friend with transportation because she needed to "face the consequences" of her actions. He told her she was, "lucky [she] didn't kill anybody." As a new father and former softball and kickboxing coach, Johnston said it was important that NemoJoe be "community minded." "We think about the kids," Johnston said.

After a friend committed suicide in high school, Send Up The Room bassist Steve Ryan said it became important to him to create awareness of the many issues people face, including drunk driving. Ryan said many of his fellow band members have worked in hospitality and see their share of drinking. Drunk driving is, "a good cause to bring attention to," Ryan said. Drinking and concerts tend to go hand-in-hand, according to Ryan. "Where you see music, you can buy booze," he added. Ryan, who recorded, produced and engineered the band's album, formerly worked as a bartender.

Ryan was responsible to, "cut people off if they're drinking too much; make sure they're not driving home drunk," he said. NemoJoe's next performance will be Sept. 15 at O'Gara's Bar & Grill in St. Paul. Send Up The Room currently has no September shows scheduled, but recently was a finalist for the Basilica Block Party. Either band can be reached online at myspace.com: [www.myspace.com/nemojoe](http://www.myspace.com/nemojoe) or [www.myspace.com/senduptheroom](http://www.myspace.com/senduptheroom). "Ground Control is unique; it's unlike any other campaign," said Nicole Van Eden, publicity director. For a fee, local bands can have a song included in a "Rockers for Life" compilation. "It's a double-edged sword - we help each other," Van Eden said. Illumina Records promotes bands to their target audience, while the artists promote Ground Control's message of not drinking and driving. "One of the biggest things musicians can do is make a difference with their music. We're allowing local bands across the nation to do that," Van Eden said.

Ground Control focuses on getting the attention of teenagers and people involved in their local rock scene, since drunk driving is "the number one killer of rock and roll fans," Van Eden said. "Artists can use the talent they have, doing what they love, to save the lives of their fans, friends, family." As the artists are out performing at the bars and CD release parties, they "get to share the message with the kids at the bar," Van Eden said, and hear musicians spreading the word of awareness, to drink and party responsibly. The campaign started in 2005, and includes "almost 60 cities," according to Van Eden. Aside from the Twin Cities, there are "Rockers for Life" compilations in Miami, New York City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and other major cities.



# ARIZONA



For Tucson band Last Day of March, the battle against drunk driving is personal. Drummer Zan Settlemire's brother-in-law Rob Faulk was killed in a DUI-related accident in October 2006. Ironically, the tragedy happened at the same time the band was involved in the production of an anti-drinking and driving CD. "It was just an eye opener for us and gave us more drive to complete the CD and get the word out," singer Collin Sisk says. Last Day of March often pauses during its concerts to remind people about the dangers of drinking and driving, Sisk says. So it was only natural for the group to be a part of "Arizona Rockers for Life." The compilation CD aims to raise awareness about the problem in the hopes of preventing additional DUI-related deaths, which totalled 16,885 nationally and 492 statewide in 2005. Arizona ranked sixth in the nation with the largest increase of alcohol-linked deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"It's (the CD) giving local bands the chance to make a difference through their music," says Nicole Van Eden, director of publicity for Illumina Records, the production company putting out the CD.

Established in late 2005, Illumina has produced similar anti-drunk driving compilations in other states throughout the U.S., Van Eden says. This mission to use music to save lives and help aspiring bands get a foothold in the music industry has been the company's intent since it was created. "When I created Illumina, I had but one simple goal: to give up-and-coming musicians a big voice," says Ronald J. Bellanti, president and founder of Illumina Records on the company's main Web site. Several other new Arizona bands have each contributed a song to the 20-track collection, Van Eden says, adding that the state was one of the first 10 the CD was released in. The Internet played a key role when the label was searching for bands. Many were chosen after Illumina execs heard their music on MySpace pages, Van Eden says.

That included the Old Pueblo's own Japanese Barbie, whose desire to make a difference inspired their participation in the project. "We saw it as a good thing to give back to the community," says Noah Harkey, who plays keyboard and is the group's lead vocalist. The album features local bands Tridon, Happen Stance, Japanese Barbie, WORM, Last Day of March, and Mostly Bears. The compilation is currently available for purchase through these groups or for download on [discarc.com](http://discarc.com)

# WASHINGTON



Local home-grown musicians teamed up with approximately 20 other Washington bands for a compilation CD to promote a message of life and peace to youth listeners through their love of music. Edson, a Lynden band, is featured on the disc as part of a nationwide drunk driving prevention campaign organized by a Massachusetts based record company, Illumina Records.

For the campaign, label executives tapped into local music scenes by state and networked to find unsigned, independent musicians or groups to sponsor that fit with their vision, ideals and style. The sponsored bands' events are promoted by Illumina, which includes endorsements of the label's message of teen safety and drunk driving prevention.

"This is a reputable project, so we weren't just taking anyone," said the company's director of publicity, Nicole Van Eden. "We were looking for talented bands that would benefit from working with us, but also have good hearts. Artists that jump in to the project put money into the campaign for the amount we promote them for, so there's no cost to them."

Edson was involved with "Seattle Rockers for Life," the Washington state division of Illumina's Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign. Compilation CDs have been compiled for each project division, with hand-selected bands from more than 100 cities across the nation contributing at least one song to the track list for the "Rocker and Hip Hip for Life" compilation CD series.

In early April, Illumina produced the Seattle project CD and distributed discs to the featured bands, but a record release party is still in the works to be scheduled. Illumina hopes to have shows set for each state by New Year's, Van Eden said. Illumina Records and Ground Control program president and founder, Ronald Bellanti, established the project in the 1980s as a result of having witnessed an overwhelming number of drinking and driving accidents through his career in the entertainment industry, Van Eden said.

In 2005, with the initiation of Illumina Records, Bellanti attached the campaign to the label so a percentage of all profits made by the record company goes back into the campaign. The Edson band members have since split up after the collaboration with Illumina's project. Two months ago, the musicians went their separate ways to pursue their respective musical styles and interests, said Rev, the band's bassist. The band members, however, are planning to reunite for the event after the release event date is set, he said.

"We didn't end on bad terms," Rev said. "Our music styles and backgrounds are so different and that's what made us so unique, but it ultimately led to our downfall as well. We're all still good friends so if they set up a release event, we'd all be down." Other Washington bands featured on the "Seattle Rockers 4 Life" album are Road 20 and Kill Kill Orchestra. To find out more about what Edson members current projects are, or to sample Edson's music, visit [www.myspace.com/edsonband](http://www.myspace.com/edsonband) or [www.edsonband.com](http://www.edsonband.com). For more information about Ground Control, visit [www.myspace.com/groundcontrolawareness](http://www.myspace.com/groundcontrolawareness).

# NEW YORK



A Horseheads-based rock band has teamed with others across the state to record a CD to raise awareness about drunken driving. Fatal Attraction, made up of three Horseheads High School students and a University at Buffalo sophomore from Horseheads, has a track on Illumina Records' "Buffalo Rockers for Life 2007" CD.

The CD was organized by the Massachusetts record company's Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign, which stages concerts to teach teens about the dangers of driving under the influence. Sales of the CD help support a scholarship fund established in the name of Kayla Lynn Miller, who was killed in January in a crash involving a driver under the influence of alcohol and marijuana, according to information from the record company. Fatal Attraction - singer and guitarist Nate Miner, bassist Geoff Poley, guitarist Grant Danby and drummer Greg Tarshus - recorded an original song, "Take My Hand," for the CD. For more information, visit the band's Web site at [www.myspace.com/fatalattraction05](http://www.myspace.com/fatalattraction05) and [www.preventdrunkdriving.net](http://www.preventdrunkdriving.net).



# MASSACHUSETTS



The decision to drop out of college hardly seems like the first step toward becoming a big success in business.

But for Ron Bellanti, ditching his books and class schedules for a life on the road with rock band Van Halen was the beginning of his now-successful career in music management and marketing.

It's been more than 20 years since Andover resident Bellanti ditched Northern Essex Community College after his freshman year and became a rock 'n' roll roadie.

Now the owner of his own record company, Illumina Records in Beverly, Bellanti saw the full range of human emotion and behavior while on the road, working at more than 3,000 concerts by his estimation.

But it was one event in 1989 that changed his path.

It was that year that Bellanti witnessed a drunken-driving fatality, and had a teenage girl die in his arms in the parking lot of a concert. The girl was thrown from a pickup truck driven by her friends, who had been drinking. Even though it was 18 years ago, the image of her death will always stay in his mind's eye, he said.

"I've had a career of highlights, and that was a lowlight," he said. "That made me decide to do something different."

Bellanti -- whose father was a state trooper -- knew that not everyone had a strong anti-drunken driving voice at home like he did.

So with music business booming, he created the Ground Control program, the largest drunken-driving prevention campaign on the Internet, which uses rock music to present the message that "not driving drunk is cool," said Bellanti.

"Ground Control is designed to put it in the front of their head that drunk driving is bad," said the 45-year-old.

A Lawrence native, Bellanti has lived in Andover for three years.

"It's worth millions, the feeling you get when a parent says my child's (drunken driving) death was not in vain," said Bellanti. "There's no amount of money that can compare. It makes you feel like your life's got some purpose to it. It's a great job to come to every day."

Ground Control spreads an anti-drunken driving message through MySpace.com, which teens visit to hear the rock bands on the Illumina label. They also periodically produce regional compilation CDs, bringing

# TEXAS



A Louisiana lawyer witnessed the impact of drunken driving after seeing her Delta Gamma sister killed near the Louisiana State University campus. Jennifer Lindsey said she watched her sorority sister cross a street and get hit and dragged by an oncoming car driven by an intoxicated student. Lindsey said she remains forever affected.

Awareness and prevention of drunken driving remains an important area of concern for Lindsey, the lead vocalist for the Dallas-based band Random Circumstance, and she tries to convey this message through the music her band performs. Random Circumstance wrote a song titled "Stupid Mistake," which will be featured on the CD "Austin Rockers for Life," produced by Illumina Records in support of the drunken driving awareness campaign Ground Control.

Massachusetts-based Illumina Records promotes drunken driving prevention and awareness. The company found Random Circumstance through MySpace. The company looks for bands and singers with a clever sound and a worthy cause, said Nicole Van Eden, director of publicity for Illumina Records. Once Illumina Records chooses a band or singer, they place them on a national platform and illuminate the cause expressed by the band, Van Eden said. "We want to shed more of a positive light on these bands," Van Eden said. "They need to be heard."

Random Circumstance continues to be Illumina Records' favorite Texas band, Van Eden said. Lindsey said "Stupid Mistake" correlates to the accident she witnessed. She said she uses her music to get messages out and raise awareness of the drunken driving problem in Texas. According to The Texas Department of Transportation, every five hours a person is killed in an alcohol-related accident.

The song may be interpreted several ways but getting behind a wheel after drinking is conveyed in the lyrics, Lindsey said. The pain surrounding an event involved with drunken driving and the inability to take back time are powerful, she said. "Young people just don't get it," Lindsey said. "They don't understand the actual effects until something drastic happens to them." Lindsey said insufficient awareness on alcohol and its effects remains in college areas. "No one seems to be promoting these things," she said. "It's so important." Lindsey said support for alcohol awareness lies with deans and high officials of these schools. "Call upon the deans and see what it would cost the school to get cabs driving these students around," Lindsey said. She believes the school's faculty should feel an obligation to promote such ideas that could possibly lessen the effects of drunken driving by students. "Listen, college students are going to drink, no doubt about it, and they need to be guided," Lindsey said. "The faculty of universities should look in to this more."

# NEW MEXICO



Las Cruces band Captain Jookie has joined musicians across the country by using their music to raise awareness about drunken driving.

Illumina Records' Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign hopes to use music from local bands as a vehicle to prevent drunken driving.

"Santa Fe Rockers for Life 2007" CD will feature Captain Jookie's song "Chokula" as well as 15 other tracks by various New Mexico-based bands.

"It's got a bunch of different bands from New Mexico," said drummer Dave Wheeler about the compilation CD.

Wheeler said Illumina Records got in touch with the band through their MySpace page. "It's a promotional thing, but I thought it was a pretty good message," Wheeler said.

Band members include Wheeler (drummer), Scott Guthrie (guitarist), Oliver Charity (singer) and Will Sadler (bassist).

Nicole Van Eden, director of publicity for Illumina Records, said they have released more than 60 CDs nationwide since November 2006. Van Eden said they use the promotion that comes along with the CD itself to actually raise awareness for drunken driving.

"The demographic that they're trying to reach with their music is the same demographic that we're trying to reach to raise awareness about drunk driving," she said.

Wheeler said he hopes their contribution will let people know live music is still happening while supporting an important cause. "It's a good promotional tool, and it's helping put Cruces on the map a bit," he added.

To purchase the "Santa Fe Rockers for Life" CD featuring Captain Jookie's song "Chokula", send a message to the band via their MySpace page ([www.myspace.com/captainjookie](http://www.myspace.com/captainjookie)) or send an e-mail to [info@studio603.com](mailto:info@studio603.com) or visit [discark.com](http://discark.com).



# MICHIGAN



A recently formed program called Ground Control is an effort put forth by Illumina Records to raise awareness to prevent drunk driving. Illumina Records is a record company that features up-and-coming local artists, and is using them to help promote their Ground Control project.

In return, those artists who participate in the program receive more promotion and exposure for themselves and their bands. The purpose of Ground Control is to use music as a vehicle to prevent drunk driving. The president of Illumina Records, Ronald Bellanti, came up with the idea for Ground Control after witnessing a fatal accident before an Illumina Records concert that occurred because of several drunk teenagers who thought that it would be a good idea to fool around with their cars in a parking lot.

"It was easy to see that even with the plethora of programs available that lots of kids were being skipped over. I wanted to do something about that," said Bellanti. "We have one mission, to educate teenagers and young adults about the dangers of driving drunk, to show them that they have choices. We show them that they can in fact choose life."

Bellanti also stated that, "We really have to work at keeping the attention of young people today." To keep that attention, Illumina Records and Ground Control promote their program through concerts, music compilation CDs, speeches, school assemblies and fashion shows.

This year, Illumina Records and Ground Control will be producing a nationwide series of internet advertisements and will be sending them out directly to over 10 million Americans. To further back their cause, Ground Control provides statistics on their Web site concerning drunk driving and underage teen drinking.

Some of the facts that one could expect to find on Ground Control's Web site are that a victim of drunk driving in America dies ever 32 minutes, that more than three million teens are alcoholics, that two in five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash sometime in their life, that the typical American child will be exposed to 160,000 to 180,000 beer ads before they are legally old enough to drink and that 70 percent of adolescents age 13 to 14 have consumed alcohol by the time they reach eighth grade.

Anyone who would like more information about Illumina Records, its artists and its mission can visit the Illumina Records Web site at [www.illuminarecords.com](http://www.illuminarecords.com), or the MySpace page at [www.Myspace.com/illuminalaunch/005](http://www.Myspace.com/illuminalaunch/005). Media Credit: Illuminarecords.com Artists represented by Illumina Records have pulled together to help put an end to drunk driving. The performers have created a prevention campaign that incorporates singing to save lives. [www.themichiganjournal.com](http://www.themichiganjournal.com)

# CALIFORNIA



Illumina Records has teamed up with musicians with a new program to try to prevent drunken driving. President of Illumina Records Ronald Bellanti started the campaign, which is called Ground Control. "He had witnessed the highlights and lowlights of music. He saw a lot of victims of drunk driving along the way," Nicole VanEden, spokeswoman for Illumina Records said.

Ground Control's Web site [preventdrunkdriving.org](http://preventdrunkdriving.org) provides posters for bands, victim's stories and the story of why Bellanti started Ground Control. An excerpt from the story gives readers a glimpse of what Bellanti saw. "I ran to the crash as fast as I could. When I got there I could see that it was bad, there was with screaming and blood everywhere. The girl that I was just speaking to was lying on her side. One of her arms was severed and blood was everywhere, it was just pumping out of her. The thing I remember the most was her eyes, and that only one of them was still in her head. I remember that I kept looking all over for her other eye."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes and non-fatally injure someone every two minutes.

The target audience of this campaign is teenagers and college-age young adults.

Two of the artists involved in the campaign are Ian Allen and Margot MacDonald.

MacDonald is the 2007 national spokesperson. She recently recorded a Christmas song whose proceeds will go toward the Ground Control campaign.

"It's easy to avoid. A lot of times it's not avoided, sadly," MacDonald said.

She said if someone is thinking about drinking and driving they should call a cab.

Allen wrote a song titled "Will ICU Again" that is being used in the campaign.

"It's gratifying when someone hears your song and says 'We can use it for our campaign,'" Allen said. "What better way to reach them than through music?"

The San Diego-based singer wrote the song about a friend who was killed in a car accident.

Allen has a message for people who are thinking about drinking and driving. "Don't do it. Don't be selfish, it's not about you, it's about other people," he said.

Allen's song can be heard at [purevolume.com/IanAllen](http://purevolume.com/IanAllen).

# OHIO



The Fairfield band Sireney may not be around any longer, but the group is part of a new CD series that fights drunk driving. Massachusetts-based Illumina Records and Promotions has produced a compilation CD series called "Rockers for Life." Each CD is designed for various cities around the country, and Sireney's "Hold on For Now" is the 20th song on the "Cincinnati Rockers for Life 2007." The Rockers for Life series helps fund Ground Control, Illumina's drunk driving prevention campaign. "It feels really cool to say, 'Check out this compilation CD my band's on,'" said Sireney's former lead singer Alex Long. "The money that goes into it goes for a good cause, and it goes for a good message." "Hold on For Now," created with former band guitarist Lee Brown, is about having faith in God, and holding on to that faith until heaven, he said. "I'm not sure why, but it caught their attention," Long said. Sireney, which broke up over the summer, was a group comprised of guys who shared a faith in God, although Long said they were not a religious band. "We just had all positive lyrics," Long said. "(Our music) was all based on positive qualities." More than 60 cities nationwide have a specialized compilation Rockers for Life CD. The compilation CDs started just more than a year ago, but this is the first compilation CD for Cincinnati. Illumina spokeswoman Nicole Van Eden said there is a lot of talent in the city, "I'm sure we'll be back around." For more information, visit Sireney's still-active MySpace page at [myspace.com/sireneymusic](http://myspace.com/sireneymusic), or visit [disark.com](http://disark.com). Songs can also be downloaded through Napsters or iTunes.



# PENNSYLVANIA



Alcohol and rock 'n' roll have had a long partnership.

But Ground Control, a new campaign by Illumina Records, is using rock 'n' roll to cut down on the irresponsible use of alcohol.

Nicole Van Eden, the director of publicity for Illumina Records, said the campaign works to prevent drunken driving and lower the startling driving accident death toll.

When a band joins the campaign, Illumina Records helps to create a MySpace.com page for the band that is dedicated to a victim of a drunken driver.

In return for the band taking an active anti-drunken driving stance, Illumina Records provides support for these up-and-coming musicians, Van Eden said. Giving the band \$1,000 in promotions, creating CDs and sending out press releases are some ways that Illumina Records helps to promote the band and the message of Ground Control, Van Eden said.

"When we put out the MySpace page, we're also raising awareness about our message and our cause," Van Eden said.

Currently, Ground Control supports 50 artists who have signed on with Illumina Records to help promote drunken driving prevention. Van Eden added that Illumina Records has a number of different campaigns, and currently more than 1,500 artists nationwide are a part of these programs.

"We go on MySpace and try to find bands that have a lot of potential," Van Eden said. "They're serious bands. We want to help them with professional marketing." Van Eden added that bands contact Illumina on a regular basis seeking participation in the campaign as well.

"It's not American Idol," she said. "The bands taking part are socially concerned with preventing drunk driving."

Van Eden said the campaign targets more than just "bar bands," but that they are definitely not excluded, adding that bars provide an effective place to have bands promote safety behind the wheel. Music draws people to the bars, so promoting awareness in a setting where it matters is important, she said.

"If they want to help our cause, we want to work together," Van Eden said.

Garrett Bogden, drummer for the local band Cloverleaf, said he feels bands in the area would most likely be interested in Ground Control if they learned all of the specifics of the campaign.

"Especially in a town like State College, where [drunken driving is] such a prevalent issue," Bogden (junior-marketing) said.

# NEW YORK



In order to create further awareness among today's youth about drunk driving, 19-year-old Greg Hogan, a local musician, joined a nationwide music project to open people's eyes about DWIs.

"I've had friends who have died due to drunk drivers and my own family has been involved with DWIs in the past," Hogan, a graduate of Cohoes High School, continued. "That's what drew me to be a part of this."

The local teen joined with Illumina Records earlier this year to create an album dedicated towards the fight against drunk driving.

The compilation CD entitled Buffalo Rockers for Life combined the work of about 20 different artists to make a CD with 20 original songs.

Hogan's song on the CD is called A Day After Erin which is about a very low point in his life when his former girlfriend broke up with him and how he overcame his problems following that incident.

"I eventually met my wife and life picked up again," he explained. "It's an ironic song because you think that it will be sad, but really it's about moving forward, which I thought was appropriate for the CD."

The songs from the CD are being sold online on iTunes and Amazon. Proceeds go towards creating awareness about drunk driving, said Nicole Van Eden, a spokesperson for Illumina Records.

"We have combined our drunk driving cause with music to reach a younger demographic," she said. "It's great that we are able to get everyone together to create national attention about this problem. Every 32 minutes someone dies in a drunk driving accident. It happens so often that people have become numb to it and it is not as talked about."

Boston-based Illumina Records has put out about 70 similar albums since its inception in 2006 and are planning drunk driving awareness concerts throughout the country for 2008.

They have worked with about 2,000 artists in the different rock genres like acoustic, hard rock, and soul.

Hogan, who has played the guitar since he was about 12, describes his music as emo-rock. The album he recorded with Illumina was dedicated to 17-year-old Kayla Lynn Miller who died in a drunk driving accident in Pennsylvania in January 2007.

Specific proceeds from this project will go towards creating a photography scholarship in Miller's name since she was interested in photography, said Hogan. Besides this music project, the local musician is recording his own solo album call We Live as We Dream with Colorblind Studios, he said. "This has been a great opportunity to share my music while also raising awareness about drunk driving," Hogan said.

# MASSACHUSETTS



On Thursday January 31st Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan and the Lawrence School Committee recognized Tiffany Johnson for her work with and for the children of Lawrence with a citation at the Lawrence School Committee meeting.

"Great people do great work" said Mayor Sullivan as he introduced Miss Johnson to the school committee and those in attendance.

Tiffany was recognized for her annual holiday concerts that she has performed at Lawrence's Parthum School. The event, which will be entering its fourth year, is a free holiday extravaganza that has brightened the lives of thousand of Lawrence school children. Parthum School principal Sharman Sullivan says "They love her. They treat Tiffany like she's a movie star. It really is a bright spot for all of our students. She is what every parent wants their child to aspire to." Added Sullivan, "I was very moved when I listened to Tiffany's CDs and learned about the performance. It is so awesome that Tiffany takes time out of her busy life to entertain our students. You are a special person for that."

The Christmas Concerts are produced by Illumina Concert Events, a nationally known event production company. Illumina President Ronald Bellanti, who is a Lawrence native, grew up in the Prospect Hill Area where the Parthum School is located.

Mr. Bellanti is also the founder of a child Safety Campaign Called Ground Control. He has recently named Tiffany the New Hampshire State 2008 Spokesperson for his group. " The amazing thing about Tiffany is not simply her high level of talent. It is her high level of caring. She uses her talents to give back. When she plays at that school she is treated like a star. The kids absolutely go crazy over her. And you can see how happy it makes her to make them happy. Tiffany is a role model for these kids and more than that she is an inspiration.

Superintendent Wilford Laboy summed his feelings up like this, "Thank you for letting us benefit from your talents. The kids have a profound sense of appreciation, probably greater than anyone." Adding, "When you become famous I am going to pull out your picture just to show everyone I knew you when."

When Tiffany was 12 years old she wrote and subsequently published, a children's book. The book titled, "Why Snow Falls in Winter," was unique in the fact that it was a book for children written by a child. At about that same time Tiffany began showing high levels of ability as a painter and an artist. By the time she entered the eighth grade Tiffany began to turn her attention more and more towards her singing career. Says Tiffany "I love all aspects of creativity. I love to write, I love to compose poetry, and paintings are things I really enjoy. But at some point relative to my music it all just clicked...I just knew."

What has happened since is the creation of an impressive body of musical work that would be impressive for a performer twice Tiffany's age. Her debut release, "Christmas @ Tiffany's" was recorded during the summer of 2005, and released in November of that year. That record was followed by two additional CD releases 2006's "Tiffany Over Broadway" and 2007's "All of Me". All three musical collections were all produced by music business giant, producer Marty Walsh. Walsh, who is best known for his worldwide



# INDIANA



EchoFarm, currently consisting of Chesterton brothers Eric and Brian Fine, recently signed on to be a part of Illumina Records "Rockers For Life" CD compilation. The focus of this compilation is to raise awareness of the dangers of drunk driving amongst teens. The Fine brothers donated their song "Become Fall" off of their self-titled demo recorded by Grammy award winning engineer Gary Loizzo (Styx, REO Speedwagon.) EchoFarm currently has 50 of these CD's for sale.

One hundred percent of the proceeds will go towards battling teenage drunk driving. Illumina Records currently has 20 CD's in major markets across the country with 30 more in the works. EchoFarm appears on the Midwest Collection. This is not the first time EchoFarm has donated their time or music to a cause. For the past two years, EchoFarm has performed at Chesterton's Relay For Life. They are again booked for this year's event which will be held at Chesterton High School for the first time on June 20th-21st.

# MASSACHUSETTS



Tiffany Johnson, 16, is a junior at Andover's Phillips Academy with a message to spread.

The Salem vocalist has teamed up with an independent record company to try to prevent drunken driving.

Founder of Beverly, Mass.-based Illumina records Ron Bellanti said this is the first time the company has picked a spokesperson and Tiffany is "worthy of the honor."

She earned the honor earlier this month and plans to spread her anti-drunken-driving messages through social networking Web sites and speaking at schools and events in New England. For more information on Johnson's message, visit [www.preventdrunkdriving.org](http://www.preventdrunkdriving.org).

# FLORIDA



A victim of drunk driving dies every 32 minutes. Nearly a third of teenage crashes are alcohol related and traffic accidents as a whole are the number one killer of teens. What better way to get through to the younger generation about drinking and driving than through music?

Illumina Records' mission is to create awareness. So far their national Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign has directed 1.2 million messages via radio stations, MySpace, Facebook, and Internet ads.

Devil's Highway, a local Manatee County band, recently joined this fight when selected by Illumina as an artist band to be featured on their compilation CD, "Florida Rockers for Life." Chris Moore, guitarist, and Brandon Reed, bass player, were good friends who shared a paintball hobby. They were also music lovers who enjoyed going to hear bands but never felt they heard the kind of music they liked. "Music seemed so over processed and calculated. We missed that feeling of spontaneity reminiscent in good old-fashioned rock and roll," Moore said. In 2005 they started the band named Southern Comfort and added drummer Casey Rupert of Palmetto. The name paid homage to their original southern roots from Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia and Florida, but they feared brand-name infringement with the popular alcohol and changed the name to Devil's Highway. In 2007, Jason Schroeder on keyboard joined the group. Although it was their first band for the original trio, Schroeder brought 15 years of professional band-playing experience. These men have a common musical bond while sharing unique backgrounds: Moore owns a physical therapy/athletic conditioning studio in Palmetto, Reed does maintenance repair on machinery for the Bradenton Herald, Rupert is working toward his pilot's license, while Schroeder dedicates his full time to music and being a good dad to his young son.

Devil's Highway is influenced by the likes of Lynard Skynard, Chuck Berry, Clapton, Hendrix, and other classic rock artists, but Moore feels all music, when performed well, is appreciated regardless of its origin. Ranging in age from 25 to 36, these sons of the South play a variety of standard hard-driving rock classics. They focus on the legendary bands' songs but become engrossed in the music and deliver spontaneous moments that add to the framework. Devil's Highway's goal is to make a name for themselves with their original music and will offer their own first full-length CD in the fall. One of their 12 original songs, "Don't Take Long," is featured on the "Florida Rockers for Life" compilation CD. "What an honor to be a part of Illumina Record's CD," Moore said. Moore feels the CD is well done and well rounded with all types of rock and quality Florida bands. "We are all in favor of positive messages that prevent drunk driving," he said. Playing in bars, they regularly see people who get drunk and are always concerned about their safety. As a brand new father, Moore has become more sensitive about his wife and daughter's welfare on the highway.

"If a person drinks, they should be responsible and use a designated driver," he said. Devil's Highway plays local bars (In Cahoots and Clancey's Irish Pub in Bradenton and Peggy's Corral in Palmetto) plus bike shows and other events. They've performed at both the St. Petersburg and Manatee County Rib Fests and been on the same bill as Grand Funk Railroad, The Guess Who and The Marshall Tucker Band. The Rockers for Life CD is available for \$10 at Devil's Highway shows and through [www.myspace.com/devilshighway](http://www.myspace.com/devilshighway) with total proceeds supporting Illumina Records' Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign. Check the Web site for upcoming shows.



# MASSACHUSETTS



Preventing drunk-driving through music: Illumina Records and Ground Control created what they say is the first of its kind project that uses music to stop drinking and driving. Through its Rockers and Hip Hop for Life compilation series, they use local bands to help create awareness on drunk driving. A Worcester band called Worcester (will they be as big as Boston?) recently joined the fight, and is included on Boston Hip Hop for Life Volume Two. Find out more at [illuminarecords.com](http://illuminarecords.com).

# FLORIDA



Up and coming Southside musician Parker Roberts has collaborated with Illumina Records to help raise awareness for drunk driving by participating in the Miami Rockers for Life compact disc. Illumina Records created the first of its kind project which uses music as a vehicle to raise awareness and prevent drunk driving. Through its Rockers and Hip-Hop for Life compilation CD series, the company is creating awareness about drunk driving and exposing the local bands that help make it possible. Roberts has been working on the project for more than a year and has supported the program with numerous time and monetary donations, he said. "It's good that drunk driving is almost becoming the 'un-cool' thing to do, but unfortunately there's still a lot of it out there," Roberts said. "It's an easy thing to rationalize, so people do. But, buzzed driving is drunk driving." As a supplement for all of the musician's time and energy spent giving to the cause, Illumina created the CD compilation to compensate the artists and promote their talent, said Nicole Van Eden, director of publicity at Illumina Records. Roberts is one of 20 bands on the Miami Rockers for Life project. Illumina only printed 1,100 copies of the CD, 50 copies go to each band and Illumina keeps the other 100 copies for promotional use. Parker now has the CDs, which he can sell or give away at shows to help create awareness, Van Eden said. "It's well worth it," Roberts said. "If you believe in the cause, you're willing to spend time and money, and make sacrifices to help support it." Illumina Records also created a public service announcement poster for Roberts with his quote about drunk driving prevention and Internet advertisements, for placement on his MySpace page or Web site. "Parker joined the project because he also understands that this vital message can reach our target demographic, teens and young adults, better through local music and music than any other method," Van Eden said. Two thirds of this project is promotions and marketing, she said. Illumina used Roberts' image as a local musician to reach out to his fans and potential fans with this message, while Roberts received the promotions and marketing of his music, Van Eden said. "We give Parker a national fan base by advertising our cause and his music via the Internet and MySpace," she said. "Seeing that kids these days don't watch TV anymore, and are consistently on MySpace and the Web, this is the perfect way to reach them." It is a mutually beneficial project for Parker to marry his music to a greater cause, speak out on a serious issue and reach his music to a much larger fan base as we market him, she said. For more information on Roberts or to hear his music visit [myspace.com/parkerroberts](http://myspace.com/parkerroberts). For more information on Illumina Records' Ground Control campaign visit [www.preventdrunkdriving.net/](http://www.preventdrunkdriving.net/).

# CONNECTICUT



NEW HAVEN - Who knew that freshman orientation would foster not only a friendship but a band headed for success? University of New Haven junior Graham Hartmann and former student Miguel Alexandro Jones von Schroeder II surely didn't expect that their experiences at SOAR would lead to bigger things. Now, as their band Diseased Princess looks forward to a string of shows, SOAR has proved to do much more than intended.

When Hartmann (lead vocals/guitar) and von Schroeder (backup vocals/guitar) teamed up with Rob "The Janitor" Trieschmann (backup vocals/bass) and Washington D.C. native Yancey Guthrie (drums), Diseased Princess became complete. Guthrie joined the group after the band's former drummer dropped out right before a tour by deleting himself from the band's MySpace and Facebook accounts. Luckily, the switch turned out to be the best move.

"Yancey fits in great and there's a very good creative energy between us," Hartmann said. All four members combine their influences from a wide spectrum from The Ramones and Modest Mouse to folk music and organ music at hockey games. Due to the variety of influences, it is hard to categorize the band's sound.

"We've been changing a lot lately but the core of [our music] is free-form punk," Hartmann said, "We're experimenting with a lot of noise."

Experimenting seems to work for Diseased Princess. The band's rap song "Asian Girl Tongue Ring" blew up with hits in their MySpace page. They also plan on recording a full-length album, which will have a "dueling realities theme." "I want it to feel like the line between fantasy and reality is very thin," said Hartmann, "like a horror movie."

Before they think about recording that album, Diseased Princess needs to make it through a busy month of shows. They are performing at The Space in Hamden on Sept. 18 and then they are celebrating Hartmann's 21st birthday with a show at the Amity Teen Center on Sept. 26. The next day, they are headed to Club 645 in South Windsor to support the Murder Junkies with The AIDS. "It's going to be a bang-up of a time," said Trieschmann.

The band just recently performed in Wallingford, at their "best show ever" and at the 1Loud Street Live Music Festival in Southbridge, Mass. The festival was sponsored by Ground Control, a drunk driving prevention campaign. Diseased Princess was one of over 40 bands that helped support the cause while playing great music.

With such a busy schedule, it's clear that Diseased Princess is bound to find more great opportunities.

"We want to reach the kids," said Hartmann.

To learn more about the band, check out their MySpace at [www.myspace.com/diseasedprincess](http://www.myspace.com/diseasedprincess).



# CONNECTICUT

MiddletownPress.com

AUGUST 28, 2008

## RAPPER SPREADS GOOD WORD

MIDDLETOWN - Hip-hop artist NiiDjan Lomotey, 28, known musically as DJ Cue Summitt, has been writing raps for a good part of his life - since he was 15. Words are a large part of his musical pursuit, and perhaps hearken back to his Ghanaian roots. His given first name means "chief" in traditional Ghanaian language and "Cue," a nickname from childhood, is from the name, "Niiaku," which means "born on a Wednesday" in Ghanaian. Lomotey later added "Summitt" to his name to symbolize, he says, elevating yourself, as in a summit as the highest level [one can achieve], bringing everything together. After graduating from Branford High School in 1988, he started to record his music while in college at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. There, he majored in criminology, with a major in psychology. Soon afterward, Lomotey built his own studio, where he records his rhymes and rhythms before sending them out to be mixed down. His muse is in the beats, Lomotey says. "When you hear the beat, an emotion comes over you," he explains. Lomotey uses truth in his experience of living life to compose songs that carry a message. There are a lot of rap artists who rap about guns, drugs and violence. Though obviously, these subjects are a real part of life on the city streets in many large cities, there are other things in life that are more positive [to sing about], according to Lomotey. With a desire to spark hope through his music by relaying real-life experience to his audience, he says he gives out the seeds of grace. And the message is a supremely positive one. "Sometimes in life, it might seem like there's nowhere to go, like you're down on your luck, trying to see what's up. Look in the mirror, my brother, and decide a plan. It's up to you, my sister, to discover the game. They can torture my body, but can't take my mind. We were born to survive living in troubled times," is from a song titled, "Reason," written and recorded by Cue Summitt. Recently, Illumina Records out of Beverly, Mass., noticed Lomotey on Myspace - for his talent just as much as his positive message. Nicole Van Eden is director of publicity at Illumina. "We discover unsigned artists online, mostly via MySpace. This is because we can hear music from local artists across the country from our office. We find artists we like and offer them a part in our projects." Van Eden says the office has "talent scouts on MySpace looking for artists with good music and big hearts." Illumina Records and Ground Control, a campaign to stop drunken driving, in a project that is the first of its kind, has created a series of compilation CDs. The collaboration uses a variety of artists in the hip-hop and rock 'n roll genre to raise awareness about the hazards of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. "Through our area Rockers and Hip-Hop for Life compilation CDs series, we are creating awareness about drunken driving and exposing local bands who help make this possible. With over 20 CDs released and an additional 30 in production, we are working diligently to save lives and promote our artists who support our cause," says Van Eden. The money raised by the sale of the CDs goes to drunken-driving education and awareness. Lomotey's song, "Without A Kiss," is the first track on the "NYC Hip-Hop For Life" CD, released this past spring. And plans are in the works for a concert festival series. "1Loudstreet.com is a work-in-progress and will be a social networking site for unsigned musicians. All our musicians will be a part of 1Loudstreet," says Van Eden. "We also are beginning 1 Loudstreet Live Music Festivals across the country, where local and unsigned artists help us raise awareness for drunken-driving prevention via festivals and live shows." Lomotey writes from a place of passion and love, which is evident in his lyrics. "A lot of people out there don't seem to care. Then you might find the one that gives you a helping hand. And they always seem to say, there will be angels in disguise. Well, a hand puts a stone on the steps of life, then the flash of intellect of the times you had," is from the song, "Without A Kiss." For Lomotey, whose day job is a residential youth counselor at The Children's Home in Cromwell, using his music as a way to better the world is natural thing. He is a

# CONNECTICUT



WEST HAVEN - Balancing school, work, and a hobby is no small feat. Luckily for sophomore Spencer Haddad, all of this balancing has paved his way to the place "where legends play." Haddad and his band Perish Hill have managed to obtain a gig at one of the most coveted venues in the New Haven area: Toad's Place.

The metal band will join close to 30 acts for the 1Loud Street Music Festival being held at Toad's Place this Sunday, Dec. 14. Bands from all around the New Haven area will perform all day starting at noon to support Ground Control, a drunk driving awareness organization. The festival is no doubt a big step for Perish Hill, based out of lead guitarist Haddad's hometown of Norwich, Conn. "So far, the 1Loud Street Music Festival seems like it's going to be a really good time," Haddad said, "It's also for a good cause...so that's cool. We are definitely excited to play Toad's."

Perish Hill formed in the beginning of 2007 when Haddad and former guitarist Ryan Mara started jamming together at Haddad's house in Norwich. As the band struggled to find the right sound, they eventually moved Mara to drums, and picked up bassist Jim Kiernan, a Sound Recording major here at UNH, vocalist Karl and guitarist Wes.

With Haddad and Kiernan attending school here, Perish Hill took advantage of the opportunity and recorded a four-song demo in the recording studio in Dodd's Hall. "We have enough material to do a full-length, so we will probably re-record the songs on the demo plus five more songs," said Haddad.

Until then, the band is busy playing shows throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island. "We have played a lot of shows at the Webster Theater in Hartford, but we prefer to play hardcore shows because they are a lot more fun," said Haddad, "We like to mix up the kind of shows we do to keep it interesting." The band has especially facing a busy couple of weeks, performing at a metal bar and a house party last weekend and at the Toad's festival this weekend.

Playing death metal, the band is certainly not afraid of being hardcore. The group pulls its influences from contemporary metal groups like Through The Eyes Of The Dead, As Blood Runs Black, The Acacia Strain, and Cockpunch, just to name a few. "We also are definitely influenced by older metal bands to such as Iron Maiden, Black Sabbath, AC/DC Metallica [just their old stuff], Pantera, Slayer, Megadeth, and too many more to list," said Haddad.

No matter how the show at Toad's goes, Perish Hill is looking ahead. "Our main goal as a band is to continue to play shows and take it as far as we can. We are a really serious band but we mainly do it because it's the most fun thing we can do. The real goal is to be able to support ourselves with the band while still having fun doing it," said Haddad.

Check out Perish Hill and their demo on MySpace. Also be sure to support the band and drunk driving awareness at the 1Loud Street Music Festival at Toad's Place in downtown New Haven on Sunday, Dec. 14 starting at noon. Perish Hill takes the stage at 11 p.m. Admission is only \$10 for the entire day. To find out more about the festival and where it's headed next, go to <http://musicfestivals.1loudstreet.com/>



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



MANCHESTER - Nearly two decades ago, Illumina Records and Ground Control President Ronald Bellanti witnessed an event that would change his life. Bellanti, a longtime entertainment industry veteran, was working at a concert in New York when approached by some teens hoping to score backstage passes. "It was early in the afternoon, well before show time," he recalled. "They were skipping school, partying in the parking lot and hoping to get a glimpse of the band at sound check." They were also high on wine and marijuana. One girl, a beautiful blond 15-year-old with striking eyes, dove into the back of the truck with a couple of her friends, and they started doing 60 mph doughnuts in the parking lot. Seconds later, the truck collided with a car, sending the occupants flying hundreds of feet through the air. Within seconds, the scene was one of blood and screaming. The teen Bellanti noticed earlier was lying on the ground, one arm severed. "The thing I remember the most was her eyes, and only one of them was in her head," he recalled. "I kept looking for her other eye."

Bellanti returned to Massachusetts with a mission: to show young people the hideous consequences of drinking and driving. With that in mind, he started Ground Control, a program designed to educate teens about the dangers of driving drunk.

The message is certainly prescient: It is estimated that in America today a victim of drunk driving dies every 32 minutes. As Bellanti put it, "the streets of heaven are filled with American angels today." Ground Control aims to put a stop to all that. "We're trying to let teenagers know that it's cool to not drink and drive," said Nicole Van Eden, vice president/public relations representative at 1LoudStreet and Illumina Records and Promotions. "We're featuring all unsigned musicians who share in our message and hoping to hit the core demographic among music fans, educating them to the danger."

It is, Van Eden maintains, very much a community of like-minded musicians and fans. "We're trying to raise awareness together," she said, "so that the fans of one band can communicate with the fans of others, and hopefully, get the word out."

On Friday, March 27, Illumina Records and Ground Control will descend on Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., to present their most recent entry in the 1LoudStreet Live Music Festival when they bring Before the Rise to the stage. The band, celebrating its debut album, "Seed to Soil," are comprised of natives of Danville and Methuen, Mass. Though they are a hard-rocking bunch, the group nonetheless enthusiastically approves of Ground Control's message. "We want our fans to live to rock again," Before the Rise's Web site declares. At this show, they will be joined by special guests Thurkills Vision, Brikked and Behind the Barricade.

The show is an 18-plus event, and tickets are \$10.

"We'd like to think that our message is what other record labels should be doing," said Van Eden. "All of this comes out of our pockets. The mission is everything. We're not doing this to turn a buck; we're doing this to make the world a better place."



# MASSACHUSETTS



When Sterling-based Ska band Ruckus played in a music festival in Southbridge last summer, they not only got a chance to share their music with a wider audience but also joined Illumina Records' mission to raise awareness to prevent drunk driving. Illumina created a project, the first of its kind, that uses music as a vehicle to fight drunk driving through their 1Loud Street Music Festivals. The 300 bands that participate in the nationwide festivals support them in their endeavor.

The seven members of Ruckus all attend Wachusett Regional High School, and played together for a year and a half. Two of the teens are from Sterling, and the others are from Holden and Princeton. When they were approached by Illumina to participate in the music festival, they didn't hesitate to say yes.

"It is a very good cause, and we are willing to support it. Everybody thought it was a good thing to do," said Ruckus bassist Jeremy Betterley. Ruckus produces its own music, and has played local venues such as Tammany Hall in Worcester. They once participated in a Battle of the Bands at St. Mary's Church in Holden, where they placed second.

"We just love playing for a live audience," said Betterley. Illumina promotes nearly 2,300 acts nationwide, including bands in the rock and hip hop genres as well as many others. They find their musicians on MySpace, a Web site where you can hear music samples of the bands before contacting them.

"Illumina is a company where a group of people are working together to create social change while trying to further unsigned artists careers. It is rewarding to not only help raise awareness and hopefully save lives, but to help struggling talented artists receive media exposure, industry attention and help them in career success," said Nicole Van Eden, vice president of the record label. Eden said the feedback from the drunk driving prevention campaign has been extremely positive. "Everyone loves coming to a live rock or hip hop show and enjoying the music while doing something good to help change the world. Everyone is extremely supportive and it is not only encouraging for our staff and our artists, but refreshing to know that people do care," she said. Asked if playing music would always be part of his life, Betterley replied with an enthusiastic "absolutely," and added that his band will most likely participate in another 1Loudstreet Music Festival in the future. Eden has nothing but praise for the young band and its involvement with a worthwhile cause.

"Along with their impressive talent, [Ruckus has] been especially helpful and supportive in spreading awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving. In America today, a victim of drunk driving dies every 32 minutes. With that in mind, this request for help is urgent and extremely important," said Eden. In addition to Betterley, Ruckus band members are Andrew Robinson, Matt Corrao, Alex Thorsen, Conner Johnston, Cody Strait and Dave Garcia. For more information visit Illumina's [1loudstreet.com/musicfestivals](http://1loudstreet.com/musicfestivals). You can also see pictures of the bands and hear the music from the festivals at [musicfestivals.1loudstreet.com/show](http://musicfestivals.1loudstreet.com/show).

# MASSACHUSETTS



By Dan Baer / The Daily Item LYNN - As part of what has become a vibrant urban music and art scene in the city, 19-year-old Manny Alcantara is gearing up for the release of his debut R&B album "Call Me Manny" next month, but friends and classmates of the 2007 Lynn English High School graduate can no doubt remember a time when he was printing his own independent rap albums and distributing them to his friends in an effort to get his music career off the ground.

A writer, singer and producer, Alcantara recently hooked up with Beverly-based Illumina Records to produce his first record and in the process became the company's New England R&B spokesman for its Ground Control anti-drunken driving campaign. "Ground Control is a great thing. They use music and the artists to promote safety when it comes to drunk driving and kids," said Alcantara. "They asked me to be the New England R&B spokesperson for it so I will be doing concerts and appearances and that sort of thing." A life long Lynn resident, Alcantara is the son of Deputy DPW Commissioner Manny Alcantara and Lynn English High School teacher Maria Alcantara. He is hoping to make a name for himself as the most successful musician to come out of Lynn and has had his sights set on the goal for a long time.

Always a fan of music, Alcantara first put pen to paper on a rap song when he was 12 years old and was soon recording his own tracks into a computer microphone. By the time he had graduated from English, he had self-recorded three rap albums. "I started writing when I was 12 and recording when I was 14. I always liked music and one day I just decided to plug in a computer microphone and see what I could do," he said. "I found that it didn't always come out great at first, but I ended up doing three albums as a rapper. I didn't have much of a fan base. I would even print the CD covers myself." Although most of his background was in rap, his friends started noticing the R&B hooks on some of his songs on his latest album and started complementing Alcantara on his singing as well, which inspired him to make a change.

"I started out doing just rap, but I started taking it a little bit more seriously in January and February, so a lot of my new music is R&B and pop," he said. "This will be my first album as an R&B artist so I wanted to come out with something that a lot more people could hear. I have been playing a lot more shows and making more fans."

Alcantara signed with Illumina Records in April and has been diligently promoting 'Call Me Manny', which is set for a Sept. 29 release. Along with the album release, the artist hopes to play a record release show on Oct. 1. Although music is his life right now, Alcantara says he is doing it because he loves it, not to make money. He has confidence in his career, but has enrolled in the entrepreneur program at Salem State College as a backup plan. "I do it just because I like it, not just to make money, because who knows how it is going to work out," he said. "(R&B artist) Pleasure P has a song called 'Dream in the Air.' There is a line that goes 'I see a dream in the air and I believe.' That song is really inspiring, it has kind of been my inspiration for a lot of this."

To learn more about the album or Manny visit [www.callmemanny.com](http://www.callmemanny.com).

# MICHIGAN



Having been recently named the "2009 Michigan Hip-Hop Spokesperson" for the Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign, R.A.B.S. has chosen to record his most recent album, "The Ground Control Sampler" for the cause at hand.

David "R.A.B.S." Rabor, born and raised in Detroit, began writing lyrics at the tender age of 10-years-old. To compliment his song-writing talent, he also taught himself to play guitar, bass, drums, and even took lessons to learn piano. As a teenager, R.A.B.S., along with his mother and brother, moved to Mount Clemens. R.A.B.S. was 16-years-old when he was bitten by the "hip-hop bug" in 1995 and began rapping. Of his own testimony, it was life on the streets which first motivated R.A.B.S. to choose rapping as a means to a better end. "My family was not structured in a way where I learned from them how to be a man.

I learned how to be a man, and how to hustle in the streets. I would listen to hip-hop/rap music all the time back thinking to myself it (the music) was just like the life I was growing up in," R.A.B.S. stated. R.A.B.S. got his first break in 2001 when an R&B singer whom he'd been writing songs for was picked up by Miami-based 187 Records. He was invited to travel to Miami to continue writing her material and gladly accepted. After years of learning the scene, making valuable connections, and even dropping a cd (Tha Tyme Iz Now in 2004) with his former group Ryze N Shyne, R.A.B.S. released his solo debut album titled Let It Be Known in 2007. The album featured Let's Slide, a vintage old-school sample laced with classic hip-hop verses and added R&B vocals from singer Merci. As a musician R.A.B.S. has met the likes of Cuban Link, Tim Dog Patterson, and Domingo Ramos and has performed and/or worked with D12, Obie Trice, Wu Tang and Jigsaw. R.A.B.S.' latest project, The Ground Control Sampler Ep, is scheduled for release this year in association with the Ground Control Drunk Driving Prevention Campaign. Being named the campaign's Michigan hip-hop spokesperson has given R.A.B.S. a unique insight into the many ways drunk-driving affects the fast-paced society in which we live today. Stated by R.A.B.S., "I feel privileged to be able to make a difference. I think it is amazing that I have been asked to use my music to draw attention to the fact that these terrible tragedies are preventable".

When asked what advice he'd give young aspiring upcoming artists R.A.B.S. replied, "If you really want to get in this game be prepared to spend money. If you don't have money, you will not get on.... them days are over for the most part". Saturday November 28th, R.A.B.S. will be performing live at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Dearborn, MI and is scheduled to drop yet another album in the spring of 2010 titled Conditional Unity Volume 3. For more on R.A.B.S. current music and/or upcoming releases and show dates, log on to: [www.R.A.B.S.detroit.com](http://www.R.A.B.S.detroit.com), [www.myspace.com/RABSdetroit](http://www.myspace.com/RABSdetroit), [www.facebook.com/R.A.B.S.detroit](http://www.facebook.com/R.A.B.S.detroit), or [detroitrap.com](http://detroitrap.com).



# WASHINGTON DC



Bands don't usually form during sleepovers. They typically don't define themselves by Jack Black movies either. And while high school romance has long held a place in the pop tune landscape, set lists that combine middle school angst and global consciousness are harder to find.

But don't let R.A.T.E.D.'s story fool you. Over the past half decade, the precocious, North west-based rock quintet has made the improbable transition from grade school fantasy to teenage reality. They've progressed from cover songs to their own material. And most importantly, they've finally made it to an age where they're being taken seriously. "We're not very old." Said Alexander Levy, 14, the band's keyboardist. "But we're old enough now that people see us and they say, 'We can have a 14-year-old group play,' and it doesn't sound bad. That's very cool." It helps to have their resume.

Levy, the unrelated Becca Levy (13, vocals), Danny Guimaraes (14, drums), Edoardo Pisoni (14, Guitar), and Nathan Corn Blatt (14, bass) have appeared during events at some of the city's most famous venues. The group, all eighth-graders at Georgetown Day School and residents of Northwest D.C., has conducted a backstage interview with nationally famous kid rock group the Naked Brothers Band, for The Washington Post's Kids Post section.

Their first original song, called "Sorry," has its own music video. And their second composition, "All Your Might," enjoyed its live debut at a Georgetown Day fundraising benefit this month. "When we were done with the second song and we played it completely through, we felt so good about ourselves," Pisoni said of "All Your Might," which contains an anti-war message. "We felt like we could do anything."

It's a confidence build from a foundation in music basis that garage bands rarely receive. R.A.T.E.D. is one of the first success stories of local progressive music school Bach to Rock (B2R), the brainchild of former school music teacher Jeff Levin. He founded B2R to teach the same structure and theory that students would get in the school band or chorus, but through the vessel of popular music styles an approach he didn't find in the school system.

While Levin was putting touchup paint on his first location then envisioned as a summer school program, called East Coast Music Production Camp Guimaraes and Pisoni were watching "School of Rock" at a basement sleepover as third-graders. The movie ended, and their lives changed. "For the next 45 minutes, we were playing air drums and air guitar," recalled Guimaraes. "It was really inspiring for us."

A few months later, in summer 2004, Pisoni's mom stumbled upon B2R's first location while looking for a parking spot in Bethesda. Guimaraes, Pisoni, Corn Blatt and Alexander Levy soon became some of Levin's first students in what grew into an after-school program. Levin's B2R now has two locations in Montgomery Country and there in Northern Virginia.

Becca Levy joined the group not long after. And when Corn Blatt returned after a sabbatical from classes a year ago, a special nucleus was formed. "I remember how young we were and how excited we were,"

# NEW JERSEY



What Becca Levy lacks in years she more than makes up for with heart. The 13-year-old Washington D.C. native has just entered her teens but has already had her fill of the drunk driving accidents that kill thousands each year.

"Did you know that every 32 minutes, a person dies in a drunk driving accident in America? When I learned this, I realized that this was something I wanted to do something about-and the best way was through music. It's a language that all young people speak." With that resolve behind her, Becca could not be happier about being named National Spokesperson for the Stop Drunk Driving Now Kid's Saving Kid's CD Campaign. The campaign marks the first time that talented young musicians from across America will work together to use their music to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence. Here's how it will work:

A total of 30 artists will appear on a digitally distributed CD, and the music of these talented young people will be available for free downloading by anyone in America. When people visit the page to hear the music, they will see a host of messages-designed by high school and college students-about the brutal costs of drunk driving and prevention messages.

Ronald Bellanti, president of Boston-based Illumina Records "This is another weapon in our drunk driving prevention arsenal," said he said. "The earlier we start kids thinking about not getting behind the wheel drunk the better."And that is exactly what the Kids Saving Kids Campaign will do. The artists that appear on the CD will all be under the age of 18. That means that the music will not only be created by young artists but geared to young listeners-the very people we need to start soaking in these messages.

The uniqueness of this opportunity is not lost on the artists. "What better way to use my music than to save other kids' lives? Drunk driving affects everyone regardless of his or her age. I hope you will join me in this fight. Together we can all make a difference," Becca said.

To submit your music for consideration you must submit a MP3 or a WAV file of ONE of your songs. Also include your age, hometown, and YOUR PARENTS' contact information.

You can submit your music at: [ksksubmit@stopddnow.com](mailto:ksksubmit@stopddnow.com) You can learn more about Becca Levy and hear her music at [www.beccalevy.com](http://www.beccalevy.com) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE RECORDED ORIGINAL SONG TO SUBMIT.**

# MAINE



What Becca Levy lacks in years she more than makes up for with heart. The 13-year-old Washington D.C. native has just entered her teens but has already had her fill of the drunk driving accidents that kill thousands each year.

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You can learn more about Becca Levy and hear her music at [www.beccalevy.com](http://www.beccalevy.com)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: YOU MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER, YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE RECORDED ORIGINAL SONG TO SUBMIT



# NEW HAMPSHIRE



What Becca Levy lacks in years, she more than makes up for with heart.

The 13-year-old Washington, D.C., native has just entered her teens, but has already had her fill of the drunk-driving accidents that kill thousands each year.

"Did you know that every 32 minutes, a person dies in a drunk-driving accident in America?" she says. "When I learned this, I realized that this was something I wanted to do something about - and the best way was through music. It's a language that all young people speak."

With that resolve behind her, Becca couldn't be happier about being named "National Spokesperson" for the Stop Drunk Driving Now Kids Saving Kids CD, which marks the first time talented young musicians from across America will work together to use their music to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence.

A total of 30 artists younger than 18 will appear on a digitally distributed CD, and the music will be available for free downloading by anyone in America. When people visit the page to hear the music, they'll see a host of messages designed by high school and college students about the brutal costs of drunk driving. "This is another weapon in our drunk driving prevention arsenal," said Ronald Bellanti, president of Boston-based Illumina Records. "The earlier we start kids thinking about not getting behind the wheel drunk, the better."

The uniqueness of this opportunity isn't lost on the artists. "What better way to use my music than to save other kids' lives?" Becca said. "Drunk driving affects everyone regardless of his or her age. I hope you will join me in this fight. Together, we can all make a difference." To submit music for consideration, one must send an MP3 or a .wav file of one song. Include your age, hometown and your parents' contact information.

Music can be submitted at [ksksubmit@stopddnow.com](mailto:ksksubmit@stopddnow.com). You can learn more about Becca and hear her music, visit [www.beccalevy.com](http://www.beccalevy.com).

# NEW JERSEY



Illumina Records is looking for New Jersey teenagers under 18 to submit an original song that may be featured on a nationally released CD aimed at bringing awareness to the dangers of teen drinking.

The record company is partnering with Stop Drunk Driving Now, a nonprofit organization dedicated to putting an end to drunk driving accidents in every community. When people visit [www.myspace.com/ksk01](http://www.myspace.com/ksk01) or <http://profile.to/kidssavingkids> to hear the music selected for the CD, they will see a host of messages - designed by high school and college students - about the brutal costs of drunk driving.

"This is another weapon in our drunk driving prevention arsenal," said Ronald Bellanti, president of Boston-based Illumina Records. "The earlier we start kids thinking about not getting behind the wheel drunk, the better." To submit one original song for consideration, send a MP3 or WAV file to [ksksubmit@stopddnow.com](mailto:ksksubmit@stopddnow.com). Also include your age, hometown and your parents' contact information.

There is no charge for the performers to submit or appear on the release. In addition, music fans will be able to download the music at no charge.

The deadline to submit a song is Sunday, Feb. 28.

The national spokesperson for the Stop Drunk Driving Now Kid's Saving Kid's CD Campaign is Becca Levy, 13, of Washington D.C.

"Did you know that every 32 minutes, a person dies in a drunk driving accident in America?" Levy has said. "When I learned this, I realized that this was something I wanted to do something about - and the best way was through music. It's a language that all young people speak." More information is available by visiting [www.stopddnow.com](http://www.stopddnow.com).

# OHIO



A Washington, D.C., teen is seeking help from young Ohio musicians to create a music CD for national release to raise awareness about the dangers of driving drunk.

Becca Levy, 13, is using her music to make a difference. "Did you know that every 32 minutes, a person dies in a drunk driving accident in America? When I learned this, I realized that this was something I wanted to do something about - and the best way was through music. It's a language that all young people speak," Levy said in a press release.

Becca has been named national spokes-person for the Stop Drunk Driving Now Kids Saving Kids CD Campaign. The campaign marks the first time young musicians from across America will work together to use their music to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence.

How it will work

A total of 30 young artists selected for the project will appear on a digitally distributed CD, and the music will be available for free downloading by anyone in America.

When people visit the page to hear the music, they will see a host of messages designed by high school and college students about the consequences of drunk driving and other prevention messages.

To submit music for consideration, you must be 18 or younger. Those "auditioning" should submit an MP3 or WAV file of one of your songs to [ksksubmit@stopddnow.com](mailto:ksksubmit@stopddnow.com). Include your age, hometown and your parents' contact information.

There is no charge for auditioning or being involved in the project if selected. On the Web

To learn more about Becca Levy and hear her music, visit [www.beccalevy.com](http://www.beccalevy.com).



# KENTUCKY



What Becca Levy lacks in years she more than makes up for with heart. The 13-year-old Washington D.C. native has just entered her teens but has already had her fill of the drunk driving accidents that kill thousands each year. And she is using her music to make a difference and she is looking for a few Kentucky teens to do that very same thing.

"Did you know that every 32 minutes, a person dies in a drunk driving accident in America? When I learned this, I realized that this was something I wanted to do something about," said Levy, "and the best way was through music. It's a language that all young people speak."

With that resolve behind her, Levy could not be happier about being named National Spokesperson for the Stop Drunk Driving Now Kid's Saving Kid's CD Campaign. The campaign marks the first time that talented young musicians from across America will work together to use their music to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence.

"I am very excited to join forces with Vermont's many talented young performers. This is a great way for kids from across America to work together and save lives. To be able to achieve that through our music is amazing," said Levy.

A total of 30 artists will appear on a digitally distributed CD, and the music of these talented young people will be available for free downloading by anyone in America. When people visit the page to hear the music, they will see a host of messages—designed by high school and college students—about the brutal costs of drunk driving and prevention messages.

"This is another weapon in our drunk driving prevention arsenal," said Ronald Bellanti, president of Boston-based Illumina Records.

"The earlier we start kids thinking about not getting behind the wheel drunk the better." And that is exactly what the Kids Saving Kids Campaign will do. The artists that appear on the CD will all be under the age of 18. That means that the music will not only be created by young artists but geared to young listeners—the very people we need to start soaking in these messages. The uniqueness of this opportunity is not lost on the artists. "What better way to use my music than to save other kids' lives? Drunk driving affects everyone regardless of his or her age. I hope you will join me in this fight. Together we can all make a difference," Becca said.

To submit your music for consideration you must submit a MP3 or a WAV file of one of your songs. Also include your age, hometown, and your parents' contact information. You must be 18 years old or younger and must have at least one recorded original song to submit. You can submit your music at: [ksksubmit@stopddnow.com](mailto:ksksubmit@stopddnow.com)

You can learn more about Becca Levy and hear her music at <http://www.beccalevy.com/>.