



For Immediate Release

San Antonio AirLIFE recognized for 10 year commitment to local drinking and driving education program

South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center and other local coalitions help expand Shattered Dreams program

SAN ANTONIO (January 2008) — The South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center (STIPRC), a community-focused injury prevention center at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), along with the Circles of San Antonio Community Coalition, and the Bexar County DWI Task Force recently awarded San Antonio AirLIFE with a Collaboration Award.

This distinctive award was given to San Antonio AirLIFE for their ongoing commitment to the *Shattered Dreams* program — a two-day, school-based program that promotes responsible decision-making amongst high school students regarding underage drinking and impaired driving by showing them how irresponsible choices can end all dreams.

“In 1998, Shattered Dreams was done at McCollum High School for the very first time, and now ten years later, it is only fitting that we honor one of our most committed partners for their participation in the program for the past ten years. As we celebrate this year’s program reunion at McCollum High School, we also want to be sure to recognize those that have made the Shattered Dreams possible for the past ten years. If not for agencies such as San Antonio AirLife, Shattered Dreams would not be the success that it is today,” said Lizette Villarreal, Project Coordinator, South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center & Chair, Circles of San Antonio Community Coalition.

The *Shattered Dreams* program emphasizes the results of alcohol-related crashes through various activities which include a parent retreat, a student retreat, a dramatic “mock” crash, and a mock memorial that all demonstrate the shattered dreams of those who drive after drinking including the innocent victims, their friends, and families.

The number of teens who die annually in alcohol-related crashes is equivalent to having a 727 aircraft full of teenagers crash every two weeks. One can imagine the media attention that would be directed towards the crash of a commercial airline filled with teenagers; however, this same number of teen deaths on the nation’s roadways is barely even noticed.

Shattered Dreams empowers families and communities by creating this great example of a life changing experience carried out through community mobilization, meaningful family dialogue, and education on the consequences of poor choices emphasizing the importance of decision-making skills to prevent underage drinking and impaired driving. The STIPRC along with the Shattered Dreams Coalition plans to implement the Shattered Dreams program in other high schools across Texas.

About the South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center

In partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center and the University Health System, the South Texas Injury Prevention and Research Center (STIPRC) is a community-focused injury prevention center. STIPRC aims to reduce injury-related death and disability among the people of South Texas through a combination of education, research, intervention programs, and public policy modification

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