

# CIF FEATURE STORY:

## 2017 P.A.R.T.Y. Program



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### Feature Story: 2017 P.A.R.T.Y. Program, Safe Communities Humboldt & Area

The P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol & Risk Related Trauma in Youth) Program Day is a full day session where students follow the paths of injury survivors and meet professionals involved in trauma situations. Paramedics, RCMP, Therapists, Emergency Room Nurses, and Addictions Counselors assist students in experiencing the difficult journey of a trauma patient. Students have hands-on experience with the equipment used in trauma care and rehabilitation. They have the opportunity to witness a mock crash scene and learn about the harsh realities of not only sustaining an injury but other potential consequences of being involved in a vehicle crash. They also visit a local funeral home and morgue and hear from a coroner. To end the day, injury and trauma survivors share with students their own personal experiences as they describe their lives, before and after the injury and trauma. **“The real life information and stories shared by the professionals and survivor speakers drive home the ripple effect traumatic injury and fatalities can have on an individual, a family, and a community. The choices one makes can have consequences that effect people beyond themselves; that is one of the key messages we want our youth to take away from the day. We want them to understand the consequences of risk taking behavior and realize that their life and the lives of others can be changed in an instant by making a poor decision and taking unnecessary risks,”** shared Shari Hinz, Executive Director of Safe Communities Humboldt & Area.

New and young drivers throughout the region are the primary target audience of this program. Community volunteers assist as group leaders, disability lunch volunteers, mock crash scene victims, and assist the coordinator. Including students, teachers, and volunteers, approximately 500 individuals between the two event days are directly reached. Local emergency personnel benefit from this program as it provides professional development and training opportunities. All citizens from our local communities benefit from this program because major injuries affect everyone from the person injured or killed, family members and friends, employers, schools, and communities in the region, along with the emergency services personnel and first responders. **“The scope of impact from a traumatic event is exponential and by offering this program in the region annually, the P.A.R.T.Y. Program continues to educate not only youth but those directly involved with youth and their families,”** shared Shari.

SGL statistics within the region from 2008 - 2015 show that the number of injuries and collisions involving drivers under 18 has been declining in the Humboldt area. Regional SGL statistics for impaired driving show a steady decline from 2008 - 2012 with some spikes in the number of collisions in 2013 and 2015. Provincial SGL statistics shared in the media during 2017 have shown higher numbers of impaired driving charges in Saskatchewan which suggests ongoing work needs to be done. **“By offering this program over the past 14 years in our region, we are continuing to educate and create awareness of the grave consequences of not only impaired driving but other risk taking behaviors such as distracted driving, drug use, and consequences of not wearing proper gear such as helmets when undertaking various recreational activities,”** said Shari.

**“If we can work to instill positive core values in our youth regarding safety education, that will carry forward to the next generation as those youth proceed into adulthood and begin families of their own. This program can be life changing so it will continue to be offered to the youth in our region in an effort to maintain the positive trends we have seen in terms of declining incidents of collisions involving young drivers in our area,”** shared Shari.



Photo credit: Safe Communities Humboldt & Area

Mock crashed scene used to teach about the harsh realities of not only sustaining an injury but other potential consequences of being involved in a vehicle crash.