

YOUTH ACCESS TO ALCOHOL NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 17, 2018

CONTACT: Tony Ackiss, 803-536-4900 ext. 145, tackiss@tccada.state.sc.us

Underage Drinking. Adult Consequences. *Campaign Targets Underage Drinkers and Parents Who Provide Alcohol*

Orangeburg, South Carolina -- In hopes of saving more lives in South Carolina, local community leaders, concerned citizens, and law enforcement officials in South Carolina are joining together to crack down on underage drinking and DUI's during the month of April.

The month of April is set aside as Alcohol Awareness month. This year MADD is collaborating with UBER to get the word out about the dangers of drinking and driving. On April 14, 2018, MADD conducted their "Walk Like MADD" walk. This event brought together South Carolina Law Enforcement and the public in an effort to raise money for MADD and also get the word out about the dangers of drinking and driving. After the walk concluded, law enforcement throughout South Carolina were encouraged to conduct DUI enforcement in their counties.

In the 1st Judicial Circuit, (Orangeburg, Calhoun and Dorchester Counties) law enforcement held several checkpoints on the west portion of Orangeburg County that included officers from Santee, Elloree, Holly Hill, Eutawville and the South Carolina Highway Patrol. Also, present at the checkpoint were family members of Ikeescha Washington. Ikeescha was a 24-year-old that died in Dorchester County, December 17, 2017. The mother of Ikeescha and her family could be seen standing at the checkpoints wearing t-shirts with her picture and the message, "Our love will never be forgotten". Their presence was meant to show drivers passing by that drinking and driving is dangerous and has very negative consequences. That night, there were a total of 102 tickets written, ranging from speeding to seatbelt violations and also included Minor in Possession of Alcohol. For more information about Alcohol Awareness month activities, call Tony Ackiss at 803-356-4900, ext. 138.

###

