



SANTA FE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

Protecting Our Community, Building A Positive Future

DWI MARCH OF SORROW / MARCH OF HOPE

The first March of Sorrow was held in 2010 during the state legislative session. This powerful event was driven by youth. The March was organized in collaboration with the students of Santa Fe Preparatory School to recognize the four teens killed in the tragic alcohol-related crash in June of 2009. The teens who lost their lives to DWI were students at Santa Fe Preparatory and Monte del Sol Charter schools.

Students from Capital High, Santa Fe High and Monte del Sol Student Wellness Action Teams (SWAT) joined the Santa Fe Prep students to advocate for stricter penalties and to close loopholes in current DWI legislation. Youth testified before legislative committees, worked with print, radio, and television media, and met one-on-one with legislators. These youth were featured speakers at a press conference, sharing share their experience and the impact inadequate laws have on their generation. Their leadership touched adults profoundly, inspiring the event to be held annually.

The DWI March of Sorrow has been an annual gathering for youth and adults to come together to bring awareness to the needless loss of life that DWI has delivered to our families and communities. The procession begins when the silence is broken by the sound of a single drum beat. Together we walk the perimeter of the New Mexico State Capitol as a unified group, marching in quiet remembrance of all of those individuals who have lost their lives to a drunk driver.

Participants come from communities throughout New Mexico. Surviving families and friends, local and state law enforcement agencies, first responders, elected officials, public and private school youth and teachers, prevention specialists, advocates, and community members touched by DWI march in hope that one day DWI will cease to exist.

The 6th annual March is scheduled for February 17, 2015. The event has been renamed the DWI March of Sorrow / March of Hope to recognize the great progress that has been made to reduce DWI and to encourage everyone to build on that remarkable success. This year, the march will take place on the sidewalks of downtown Santa Fe, as youth and adults join together to remind our communities that DWI is 100 % preventable and to strengthen us in the coming years.

MEMBER PARTNERS: Student Wellness Action Teams (SWAT)

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- AAA New Mexico (sponsor since 2013)
- DWI Coordinators Affiliate
- MADD New Mexico

RESULTS

- 300-500 youth and adults participated in the march annually since 2010
- Media coverage has spread the message about the importance of taking action to prevent DWI
- DWI deaths in New Mexico dropped from 152 deaths in 2009 to 146 in 2014.

***OUR VISION:** Santa Fe County where no one drinks alcohol before the age of 21,
where adults model low risk use, no one drives while impaired and no one abuses drugs.*