



CHCHD News

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Students from Harriet Tubman Express Join Click It AND Ticket Teen Safety Belt Campaign

Chattanooga, TN- The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department's Harriet Tubman Express Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (HTE), along with State Farm Insurance, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions Across Tennessee (CADCAT) and nine Tennessee high schools, will help the Governor's Highway Safety Office (GHSO) promote the Click It AND Ticket Teen Safety Belt Program.

During the activity which takes place Friday, April 15, at Brainerd High School from 6:30 a.m. to 7:05 a.m., fifteen student volunteers from HTE will conduct seat belt observations as students arrive at school. All student drivers will receive tickets indicating whether or not they were wearing their seat belt. Students wearing their seat belt can enter a prize drawing to win a gift card.

Last fall, HTE students attended the *Lead and Live Youth Conference* hosted by the GHSO, where they were selected to participate in the Click It AND Ticket campaign.

"They attended several workshops and made presentations at the leadership conference. The students did such an outstanding job that they were asked to take part in the upcoming Click It AND Ticket activity. This is a great way for students to educate their peers about the importance of wearing seat belts and driving safely," said David Sabir, director of HTE.

In 2009, 110 teens died in traffic crashes across Tennessee. "With proms and graduations just around the corner, this is a critical time to emphasize the importance of wearing a safety belt and encourage our teenagers to make this potentially life-saving decision," said TDOT Commissioner John Schroer.

Every year thousands of teens in the U.S. die in motor vehicle crashes. The number of teenage deaths in Tennessee has declined from 185 in 2006 to 110 in 2009. However, teenage drivers are still involved in three times as many fatal crashes compared to other drivers.

TDOT reminds teens that in addition to not wearing a seat belt, texting while driving is also a dangerous practice and it's against the law in Tennessee. To learn more about the GHSO, visit <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/ghso/>. For more information about the Harriet Tubman Express Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, visit <http://health.hamiltontn.org/CHS/HTprog.aspx>.

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