

The Advocate Exchange

4th Judicial Circuit Volume 2, Issue 2

Families of Highway Fatalities (FHF)

Visit the FHF website at www.scdps.org/fhf for additional information



Have a heart for highway safety

"I am privileged to work hand-in-hand with these families every day. I am amazed at their compassion and loyalty to each other and their determination to share their stories in hopes of preventing highway fatalities.

**Ms. Faith Turner,
Coordinator**

Have you lost a loved one on South Carolina roadways? You are not alone... Every year in our nation about 45,000 people are tragically killed on our highways -- 1,000 in South Carolina alone. For each life lost, there is a family left behind to grieve. The Families of Highway Fatalities is dedicated to providing compassionate resources for families who have lost loved ones in motor vehicle-related collisions. Our goal is to provide Peer Support for grieving families, facilitate forums and opportunities for grieving families to meet; prevent further highway fatalities through public education and information; and to diligently work alongside law enforcement, first responders, the Legislature and other government officials as advocates for highway safety.

The Families of Highway Fatalities' group was created in 2003 and formally named in 2005. The group provides bereavement resources, counseling opportunities, and an avenue for families to share their stories as a safety message to others. FHF is comprised of family members who have suffered a motor vehicle fatality, clergy, counselors and friends of fatality victims. The group meets each month either in an informal setting or through one of four Hope and Healing Grief Workshops. Members benefit from opportunities to talk with each other about their losses and from formal counseling provided through various seminars and support workshops.

FHF seeks to address the unique situations brought on by sudden and traumatic losses related specifically to death on the highways. Our members help guide the programs we offer based on their evolving needs. The South Carolina Highway Patrol, a division of the SC Department of Public Safety, received federal grant funding in 2007 for its Families of Highway Fatalities' program. The department's safety outreach efforts are enhanced by family members who "have been there" and can caution others about such safety issues as failure to buckle up, speed and aggressive driving.

For additional information about the Families of Highway Fatalities and the services they provide for our community, contact Ms. Faith Turner at (803)-896-8171.

South Carolina Department of Public Safety Victim Services

The South Carolina Highway Patrol Office of Victim Services is designed to provide honest, effective, compassionate and professional services to the families of highway fatality victims as well as the seriously injured. In providing these services, it is always the goal of this office to ensure that the Victims' Rights are protected. This program offers a variety of services to victims when applicable, including:

- Emotional support: crisis counseling and intervention
- Assistance in applying for Victims' Compensation Aid
- Information about the case and the criminal justice system
- Referrals to agencies for counseling and other services
- Court escorts

For further information, contact Emma Lilley at (803) 896-0719.

**South Carolina Highway Patrol
Victim Services Office
Emma Lilley, Victim Advocate
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