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## **Conrad Weiser High School Group Receives National Accolade**

**Marlborough, Mass.** – The Conrad Weiser High School SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter in Robesonia, Pennsylvania, has been chosen as the second-place winner of the 2009 SADD National Activity of the Year award for “*The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter*,” an event that provides a safe and substance-free environment to youth in the community.

“The creativity and dedication of these SADD students is truly inspiring,” said SADD Executive Director Penny Wells. “*The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter* is a successful ongoing event that serves as a great example of how much can be accomplished when a community pulls together its resources. Conrad Weiser SADD deserves to be recognized for unique and tireless efforts to promote SADD’s message and empower friends to make safe, healthy decisions.”

Conrad Weiser SADD, in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, created *The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter* after the death of a senior due to a car crash. The activity began as an opportunity to provide students with a safe environment after home football games. The Trinity Lutheran Church opened its doors for the Friday night events, which include live music and food. The SADD chapter brings in local bands to perform a variety of music, and a local DJ has even aired live broadcasts from the event. Students are treated to free pizza, soda, and baked goods, while volunteers from the community chaperone the event. The events provide high school students with a safe and substance-free environment on Friday nights. To keep the program running successfully, the chapter is committed to requesting support from local businesses and generating promotional materials. *The 5<sup>th</sup>*

*Quarter* has grown tremendously since its inception, and average attendance in the fall was 386 students. The event became so popular that after football and basketball season ended, Conrad Weiser SADD asked the church to continue the program through the spring.

“*The 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter* provides a place for students to hang out with friends in a safe environment,” said Russ Kline, the SADD advisor. “Conrad Weiser SADD students should be commended for making it work, making it popular, keeping it safe, and making it theirs.”

The Conrad Weiser High School SADD chapter will be formally honored at an awards banquet at the SADD National Conference in Washington, D.C., this July. The chapter will receive a \$250 cash prize. Two additional SADD chapters will also be recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout the past year. Cocalico High School in Denver, Pennsylvania, was chosen as the first-place winner and will receive a \$500 cash prize. Denham Springs High School in Denham Springs, Louisiana, placed third and will receive \$100.

SADD, the nation’s leading peer-to-peer youth education, prevention, and activism organization, is committed to empowering young people to lead initiatives in their schools and communities. Founded in 1981, today SADD has thousands of chapters in middle schools, high schools, and colleges. SADD highlights prevention of many destructive behaviors and attitudes that are harmful to young people, including underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, and teen violence and suicide. More information about SADD can be found at [sadd.org](http://sadd.org).

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