



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2008

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Pine Grove Middle School Group Receives SADD National Accolade

*Maryland SADD Chapter Honored for Promoting Safe
and Healthy Decision-Making Among Teens*

Marlborough, Mass. – The Pine Grove Middle School SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) chapter in Baltimore, Maryland, has been chosen to receive the 2008 SADD National Chapter of the Year award. Created in 1995, this SADD chapter has become an integral part of the community. SADD students at Pine Grove Middle School decided to call this year “The Year of the Helper” and set different goals each month based on health and safety issues.

“As one of the most active SADD chapters in the country, this group highly deserves this special recognition. Year after year, youth from Pine Grove have carried out SADD’s mission, empowering their peers to make safe, healthy decisions,” SADD President and Executive Director Penny Wells said. “We are particularly pleased this year’s winner is a middle school, because it is important for SADD’s message to reach youth before they enter high school.”

Pine Grove Middle School SADD has a long list of accomplishments, including school events and community outreach projects. Throughout this past year, the chapter reached out to help others and promote a healthy lifestyle. During the fall months, SADD students focused on Red Ribbon Week, a schoolwide canned food drive, impaired driving awareness, and helping others. Throughout winter and spring, the chapter focused on preventing bullying, honoring diversity, recognizing disabilities, and increasing awareness of the harms of tobacco. They made food baskets and candy gift bags for families in the community, assisted with the school’s coat drive, and raised money for cancer patients and research.

“We are very proud to receive this award. It’s an honor to work with such a dedicated group of students,” said SADD Advisor Lindy Hall. “Pine Grove SADD projects are good for the school and community and are personally rewarding for the students. These students are showing commitment that will last through their high school years.”

The chapter will be formally honored at an awards banquet at the SADD National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, this June. The chapter will receive a \$500 cash prize, and SADD will cover the cost for one youth and one adult chaperone to attend the conference.

For more than 25 years, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) has been committed to empowering young people to lead education and prevention initiatives in their schools and communities. Founded as Students Against Driving Drunk in 1981, SADD has become the nation’s preeminent peer-to-peer youth education, prevention, and activism organization, with nearly 10,000 chapters in middle schools, high schools, and colleges nationwide. SADD now highlights prevention of many destructive behaviors that are harmful to young people, including underage drinking, substance abuse, risky and impaired driving, and teen violence and suicide. For more information about SADD, visit sadd.org.

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