

Allegany County STOP-DWI Program Annual Report 2014

In 2014, the Allegany County STOP-DWI Program completed 30 years as a community based resource totally funded by drunk driver fines. The 2013 budget of \$133,936. was expended to provide a variety of services to the community to battle drunk driving. Funding from the agency aided in increased enforcement, prosecution, and supervision of offenders as well as improving education efforts and public information. The agency relies on positive partnerships with law enforcement, Probation, the District Attorney's office, town and village officials and not-for-profit organizations.

During the year funding was provided to ten municipalities. All of these departments, the New York State Police and the NYS University Police participated in unannounced DWI patrols. A total of 206 alcohol-related arrests were made in 2014. Several agencies in the county participated in Alfred's Hot Dog Days Blanket Patrol. There were no fatalities in the county this year. The number of DWI arrests rose slightly this year, but is unclear if this is due to educational efforts or police enforcement. The STOP-DWI Program received a grant of \$54,800 from the NYS STOP-DWI Foundation to provide crackdown enforcement during designated holiday periods.

The STOP-DWI office continues to provide funding to the District Attorney's Office for an ADA and secretary to assist prosecutions of DWI arrests. The Probation Department received funding for the year 2014 to be applied toward salaries for a Probation Officer and an Account Clerk to assist in the collection of fines, preparation of pre-sentence investigations, and supervision of those convicted of DWI offenses.

The Victim Impact Panel, collaboratively administered by this agency, Probation, and the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, continued to be a viable tool for offender accountability and a method of Restorative Justice for victims of DWI crimes. In 2014, four Victim Panels were held with 130 defendants attending. This year defendants attending the panels continued paying a fee of \$25.00, helping to financially support the program.

The STOP-DWI Program continued to provide prevention and education services to youth and adults in the County. The agency supported the local SADD chapters by sponsoring the leadership training Conference in October. This year the SADD Conference educated students regarding Distracted Driving. Jacy Good spoke about her experience as a victim of a crash that also killed her parents on the day she graduated from college. A donation was also made to the Allegany County Counselor's Association in support of their annual basketball tournament. This provides college scholarships to local students through a positive holiday activity. Finally, the DWI program supports local radio programs and public service announcements promoting DWI efforts.

STOP-DWI is grateful for the efforts of local and State legislators who have lobbied to increase sanctions for offenders.

Linda Edwards, Coordinator
Allegany County STOP-DWI Program