

Fall 2014

Dear Friend,

The car is coming right at me. There isn't time to get out of the way. I know it's going to be bad.

There's a horrific crash then everything goes black. It all happens so fast and then it's over.

My life is over.

Fire fighters are pulling my broken body out of the wreckage. I see them shaking their heads. Then I see the guy who hit me. He can barely stand, he's so drunk. There's not a scratch on him.

Why is this happening to me? I'm young and so full of life. And my kids, my poor kids, they need their mother.

A wave of panic washes over me. I think of my family, safe at home. In a few minutes, their world is going to crash down.

I can see the police officers now, climbing the steps to my house. They're ringing the bell. My husband answers. His face turns white and his knees buckle.

My daughters are there too. "What's wrong, Daddy," they're asking. Any moment now, they'll start to cry. And I won't be there to comfort them.

But the officers are gentle. They know how to break the devastating news. They'll take care of my family.

In the weeks ahead, MADD Canada will be there too. Just like a Guardian of Hope, they'll watch over my family and help them get through this. It's the one thing I am grateful for today, my last day on earth.

A few days after my funeral, my husband will call MADD Canada. And the tears he's been holding back will finally flow when he hears the compassionate voice on the other end of the phone. Here's someone who understands and has been trained to counsel victims.

From that day on, my family will use many Victim/Survivor Support Services. A knowledgeable volunteer will accompany them to court where the man who took my life will hopefully be held accountable.

Another volunteer will be there to talk to my husband, for hours on end, day after excruciating day. She'll be strong for him so he can be strong for our children. She will understand because,

Like many of the volunteers at MADD Canada, she is a victim too.

And in the spring, my family will attend MADD Canada's National Conference for Victims of Impaired Driving and Candlelight Vigil. Through a haze of tears, they'll speak my name and light a candle for me.

Yes, MADD Canada will watch over my family. They'll help them pick up the shattered pieces of their lives and go on in a world without me. And I'm glad and so very grateful.

I'm grateful for you too as it is only through the generosity of people like you that my family and so many others can get the support they need when the unimaginable happens.

I hope you'll find it in your heart to send MADD Canada the most generous gift you can today.

But before you do, please consider becoming a Guardian of Hope just like MADD Canada has been to my family. It would help them so much if your donations were on a monthly basis. Imagine all the work that could be done, all the devastated families that could be helped.

It is almost time for me to go. My heart is breaking at the thought of leaving my family. Because someone chose to drive impaired, I won't be here to see my daughters bloom into beautiful young women. I won't be here to grow old with my husband.

But as I peer into the future, I can see my daughters working side-by-side with other committed MADD Canada volunteers. They're fighting for stronger impaired driving legislation. They're turning personal tragedy into hope. And I am as proud as a mother can be.

My life is over now. As I leave this world, my last thoughts are of my family. And I smile. Because I know they'll get through this. With MADD Canada and caring people like you, they'll survive.

Sincerely,
Barb