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## **National Youth Advocate Stephen Wallace Honored for Three Decades of Service to Youth and Families**

*SADD's Friends for Life Inaugural Gala Pays Tribute to Wallace's Passionate Service  
and Celebrates Organization's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**Marlborough, Mass., October 11** – SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), the national school-based, peer-to-peer prevention, education, and activism organization, today announces that Gloria Larson, president of Bentley University, and L. Jay Lemons, president of Susquehanna University, will serve as Co-Chairs of SADD's *Friends for Life* Inaugural Gala to be held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, MA, on the evening of December 1, 2011.

Founded in 1981 as Students Against Driving Drunk, SADD has evolved to meet the changing needs of youth and is now the nation's leading peer-to-peer youth education, prevention, and activism organization. This gala will commemorate SADD's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and honor Stephen Wallace, M.S.Ed, for his three decades of service to young people and families, including 15 years as SADD Board Chairman and CEO.

As a school psychologist, author, professor, and leading national advocate for youth, Mr. Wallace has embraced the forward-thinking necessary to provide relevant resources to families in an ever-changing environment. This evening will mark Mr. Wallace's recent retirement from SADD's board and celebrate his continuing commitment to cutting-edge

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research on youth and family issues that will inform SADD's mission in the future through his upcoming work with students and faculty at Susquehanna University, his alma mater, in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

“As presidents of universities, Jay and I understand the growing and changing challenges our youth face,” remarks Gala Co-Chair Gloria Larson, president of Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and former SADD board member. “SADD prepares students to succeed at our schools and in life, and we have a strong interest in helping SADD succeed and grow. Stephen has dedicated his professional and personal life to helping teens, through his work with SADD and in many other venues,” adds Larson.

L. Jay Lemons, president of Susquehanna University and Gala Co-Chair, adds, “We applaud the work and dedication of SADD and Stephen Wallace who received the University's 2010 Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award. We feel strongly that they are both making important headway in addressing and advocating for teens across the country,” adds Lemons. “We appreciate this opportunity to partner with Stephen in this important work.”

Larson and Lemons head a distinguished 21-member Gala Committee. The *Friends for Life* gala will raise critical funds to support the ongoing work and cutting-edge research on youth and family issues which will help ensure the safety and well-being of our youth – tomorrow's future. For more information about sponsorship packages and individual ticket sales, visit [www.sadd.org](http://www.sadd.org) or contact Carol McKean, president of Carol McKean Events, at 781-925-3459 or [Carol@carolmckeanevents.com](mailto:Carol@carolmckeanevents.com).

### **About SADD**

SADD, the nation's leading youth-based peer-to-peer education, prevention, and activism organization, is committed to empowering young people to lead initiatives in their

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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, substance abuse, risky and impaired driving, and teen violence and suicide. To become a Friend of SADD or for more information, visit **sadd.org**, **parentteenmatters.org**, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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