

## **WHAT IS CARTEENS?**

The CARTEENS program is a traffic safety education program for first time juvenile traffic offenders. The CAR in CARTEENS stands for Cautious and Responsible, which is the main objective and focus of the program's presentations. The program format utilizes visual aids (i.e. videos, slides, etc.), lectures, group discussions, skits and an evaluation tool to help assist violators in becoming safer and more responsible drivers.

## **PURPOSE**

Teen driving and traffic fatalities are a national as well as local issue. The use of cell phones, text messaging and general distractions from other teens while driving has led to increased concerns. Laws are being proposed and modified to address this growing situation. In Greene County juvenile traffic cases make up 25% of all cases before the court. The CARTEENS program is our attempt to directly focus on this critical issue at the local level.

The program is designed to reduce the number of second time juvenile traffic offenders by helping youths make more responsible choices. It will help to increase awareness of driving decisions and the impact these decisions have on others. The statement will be clearly made that "the decisions you make will affect those you know and those you do not know."

## **PROGRAM PROVIDERS**

The major agency participants in the CARTEENS program are:

- 1) Ohio 4-H Program
- 2) Ohio Highway Patrol
- 3) Greene County Juvenile Court

The Ohio 4-H will assist through its Junior League Club's, Youth Leadership Program. Their teens will serve as youth instructors and program facilitators. They will be trained and instructed by the 4-H leadership in terms of presentation methods. In general, 4-H will be responsible for program management and evaluation.

The Ohio Highway Patrol will participate through its various presentations. They will present a video (End Result) dealing with driving accident statistics. They will also discuss and stress seat belt

safety, defensive driving and the ever growing deadly issue of drinking and driving.

The Ohio Highway Patrol's involvement will also help to establish better communication with an appreciation for police authority. It will help to remove the fear factor, instill respect and promote the humanization factor.

An additional video (Cry for Life) will also be used to focus on the fact that an accident can happen to anyone. It will further emphasize the impact that a crash has on family, friends and community.

The final participating agency will be Greene County Juvenile Court. The Court will be responsible for all referrals to the program. The procedure will be to Court order first time traffic offenders into the program as part of their disposition. They will be given an information sheet about CARTEENS with the date, time and place for their participation. The Court will keep a list of those individuals for attendance verification.

Additionally, the Court will be responsible for housing the program, which will take place on the third Tuesday of each month, and for follow-up on those who fail to attend. No-shows will be addressed through further Court remedies to include reassignment or a Court re-appearance before the Judge/Magistrate. It may be necessary in some extreme cases to temporarily suspend a violator's license until CARTEENS program participation has been met. Nevertheless, the main objective is to have the child participate in the program.