Annual Report 2013

The Year of Victims' Advocacy & Awareness

Hard Work

Commitment

Connecting

A National Nonprofit Organization
PursuitSAFETY®

Exists to Save Lives.

Our goal is to reduce the number of deaths and injuries to innocent bystanders and police officers as a result of vehicular police pursuit and response call crashes. We are working for a safer way through education, awareness and by uniting families of innocent victims. We are here so innocent victims and families of innocent victims don’t have to go down this path alone.

On Our Cover

The logo that represents one of our most progressive programs, the Safer Way Award®.

The Angeles Ipiña Memorial Tree planted on the grounds of Mercy Street in Dallas, where Angeles engaged in programs to further enable her to become a future leader. Her sister Diana is taking a picture.

Esther Seasanes and Candy Priano met for the first time in Austin.

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ANNUAL REPORT 2013
Members of PursuitSAFETY deal with tragic and heartbreaking stories each and every day. Those of us who are actively involved with this unique organization have personally suffered through the deaths or permanent injuries of family members or friends. Sadly, during 2013, our friend and Board member, Brenda Ehrensperger, succumbed to a lengthy, painful series of illnesses. This year I am using my Annual Report space to share a note from Executive Director Candy Priano.

Brenda Ehrensperger, PursuitSAFETY’s first emeritus board member departed from this earthly life September 7, 2013. My conversations with Brenda centered on her love for husband, David, daughter, Kristi, and her late son Steven. [An officer responding to a call crashed into Steven’s car.] Brenda shared, with happiness, how she looked forward to hugging her sons Steven and David Jr., who would be at her Heavenly Homecoming. This link, [www.pursuitsafety.org/press_releases/brenda_Ehrensperger_farewell.html](http://www.pursuitsafety.org/press_releases/brenda_Ehrensperger_farewell.html), takes you to images of Brenda, the marker for her Beloved Sons, Brenda speaking to officers, and at the 2011 PursuitSAFETY Family and Friends Connection where she had her picture taken with our spokesperson Glenn Morshower. I will always remember you, Brenda, my faithful friend! I love you.

Thank you, Brenda for all that you did for PursuitSAFETY. And thank you for your friendship. We will always remember you in our hearts and take strength from you as we continue our mission to save innocent lives through fewer police pursuits and safer police response calls.

Warmest Regards,

Jonathan “Jon” Farris

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**Introducing Esther Seoanes**

Esther Seoanes joined PursuitSAFETY shortly after her husband James Williford became an innocent victim of pursuit. She reached out to PursuitSAFETY and began helping the organization both personally and financially. The board unanimously voted for Esther to serve on its Governing Board. She is a medical professional with a heart—huge heart—for everyone and especially those people impacted by the tragedy of pursuit. Esther lives in Texas, and her work began with us as a victims’ advocate. In March 2013, she hosted families from three different cities in Texas. In the most casual setting, families talked about their loved ones, their struggles with prosecuting the drivers who flee, and their shared difficulty to receive information about the pursuit Everyone welcomed an opportunity to share their story on video.

Esther writes: my sweet husband James was killed in a high-speed police chase on June 15, 2012. My life changed forever and hopelessness surrounded me. Then one day I was fortunate to find PursuitSAFETY while browsing the web. When I spoke with Candy and Jon, I felt like they knew exactly what I was going through. They were both compassionate and caring listeners and helped me immensely. I felt blessed to be able to find PursuitSAFETY.

As an acute care nurse practitioner, Esther provides her patients with compassionate care. With PursuitSAFETY, she makes a difference by transferring her caring ways to help people who have experienced the tragedy of pursuit.
NO LONGER ALONE IN OUR PAIN

Our connectedness will make a better and safer tomorrow.

By Esther Seoanes

One Spring Day in March 2013, I picked up Candy Priano from the Austin airport. She was about to meet a group of Texans from three different cities. These people, including myself, were waiting to meet the founder of PursuitSAFETY because we had become part of a growing number of people who had experienced the tragedy of pursuit. Like so many other families before us, we too had the unthinkable happen: police pursuit crashes had killed our loved ones, people who had nothing to do with the chase.

Candy would introduce us to PursuitSAFETY, a safe place we could turn to for the support we needed and still need. What we didn’t know is that we would also be meeting a friend for life. Candy was a good listener and understood the complexities of this public safety problem. We spent the first evening dining at a local Mexican restaurant enjoying one of her favorite foods, Tex-Mex, while we discussed our PursuitSAFETY goals. I expressed my desire to be part of the team and was welcomed into a loving, heartfelt family of compassionate friends. Our three-day itinerary included visiting with Texas families of innocent bystanders; being videotaped by a professional videographer while we told our stories; and in memory of James, I would host my late husband’s last giveaway party.

Our first official work began when Wes with New Road Productions videotaped us as we told our individual stories about our loved ones. Jessica Herrera Rodriguez from Edinburg spoke about her father Reynaldo while Miriam Stewart, my mother-in-law from Austin, shared stories about her only child James. Traveling from...
PHILADELPHIA—PursuitSAFETY presented its 2013 Safer Way Award® to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) during the 120th International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Conference at the High-way Safety Awards Breakfast in Philadelphia on October 22. PursuitSAFETY each year honors a law enforcement department that has made significant, well-designed revisions to its vehicular pursuit practice and policy, increasing safety both for police officers and the responsible driving public. Founded in 2007, PursuitSAFETY is the only national nonprofit civilian organization working to reduce deaths of innocent bystanders and police officers resulting from the violent crashes that repeatedly occur when drivers flee police. The organization also provides much-needed support to bereaved families and injured innocent victims of vehicular police pursuits.

LVMPD Lt. John Farrell, who was instrumental in the development of his department’s progressive pursuit training methodology, and Sgt. Dave Sims received the award on behalf of the LVMPD. Retired Minneapolis Police Chief Timothy Dolan, who serves on PursuitSAFETY’s advisory board, and PursuitSAFETY founder and executive director Candy Priano made the award presentation. Priano said the LVMPD nomination exemplified the thoughtful, innovative approach needed to apprehend offenders without endangering the driving public. “We all understand that drivers who flee from the police do not behave rationally or responsibly,” Priano noted. “The public depends on law enforcement to exercise caution, restraint, and good judgment.” In nominating his agency for the award, LVMPD Deputy Chief Gary Schofield detailed a series of targeted strategies that “have significantly reduced the number of pursuits and provided a training and awareness level second to none.” Schofield said the LVMPD began a review of its pursuit practices in 2004, a year in which 260 pursuits occurred. By 2009, the number of pursuits had been reduced to 57, but three fatal collisions resulting from pursuits prompted another comprehensive review, which led to a new Safe Driving Policy.

Las Vegas Metro Police honored for making our roads safer

By Ellen Tucker
PursuitSAFETY Media Relations Assoc.

This policy has not resulted in an increased crime rate, Lt. John Farrell said. “We are still capturing about 80% of all drivers who run from police,” he stated, adding that when helicopter support is available, “we catch suspects 90% of the time, regardless of whether we pursue or not.”

Messages from Facebook

We held memorial benefits for our loved ones. We spoke to the media.

We posted too many stories about innocent victims of pursuit.

Staying Connected

PursuitSAFETY’s Facebook (FB) Group base stands firm at more than 1,000 members. In addition, some supporters now choose to post on our “Likes” page.

PursuitSAFETY® sent out two E-newsletters (above, left), “Word on the Street,” through Constant Contact E-newsletters. Watch us on YouTube where you will see our spokesperson, actor Glenn Morshower. Glenn is an international, inspirational speaker and helps us by getting the word out about PursuitSAFETY®.

3rd Annual Safer Way Award®


2012-2013 HIGHLIGHTS
On behalf of PursuitSAFETY’s board members and families, I thank our financial donors for their contributions to our life-saving organization. Our organization has been able to fund our ongoing programs, most importantly our Victims’ Advocacy along with our Education & Awareness initiatives regarding the dangers of vehicular pursuits.

In addition, we have made great strides with the law enforcement community as a result of the PursuitSAFETY® sponsored Safer Way Award® program. We thrive because of your generosity and thank you for your support of this dedicated organization. Your Board Members make sure we properly use all donations. Thank you!

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Candy Priano
Founder and Executive Director

Overview
PursuitSAFETY’s Board worked hard during the Fiscal Year of October 2012 to September 2013 to stay in the black and continue promoting our programs. We succeeded by using some of our savings from previous years. We remained strong with our Victims’ Advocacy outreach, spending more than $5,000.

We also moved forward with the trademarking of our name and logo, as well as the words Safer Way Award®. These expenses totaled $3,148.20 for Legal, Accounting and Trademark Registration Fees.

Balance Sheet
September 30, 2013
Checking/Savings: $2,613.83
Fixed Assets: 3,790.84
Total Assets: $6,404.67

We thank our financial donors: pursuitsafety.org/donors.html

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PursuitSAFETY®, Like Other Nonprofits, Relies on Financial Gifts to Help Those in Need

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Candy Priano
Founder and Executive Director

Your gift provides
HOPE & HELP
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