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**A Safe Communities Grantee of the Ohio  
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# NEWS RELEASE

## FESTIVE BOWS TO REMIND PATRONS 'TIS THE SEASON TO DRIVE SOBER

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DELAWARE, Oh., Dec. 7, 2011** – Law enforcement officers and highway safety promoters are presenting big bright red bows to taverns across Delaware County to remind patrons to always have a sober driver.

“Tis the season to drive sober,” Delaware County Safe Communities Coalition Coordinator Jackie Bain said. “The message is simple – drinking alcohol and driving do not mix. If you plan to consume alcohol, you should plan not to get behind the wheel of a vehicle.”

Today Bain joined Powell Police and Delaware County Sheriff’s Deputies in delivering the first of 50 big bows and other educational materials to liquor establishments. Also supporting the effort are Delaware City Police and other members of the Safe Communities Coalition, organized by the Delaware General Health District. The bows were donated by American Family Insurance Agent Ty Kashmiry of Powell and State Farm Insurance Agent Adam Bibb of Delaware.

Last year, 45 percent of the highway fatalities in Delaware County involved drivers impaired by alcohol or other drugs.

“We know that the holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times on America’s roadways due to drunk driving. Taking a risk on having your 2011 end in an arrest or death is just not worth it,” Ms. Bain said.

The Delaware County Safe Communities Coalition recommends these safety steps:

- Plan a safe way home before festivities begin.
- Designate a sober driver before drinking, and leave your car keys at home.
- If you are impaired, call a sober friend or family member or a taxi for a ride home.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 911 or 1-800-GRAB DUI.
- Remember, “buzzed” driving is drunk driving. If you see a friend intending to drive impaired, do everyone a favor: Offer them a ride, and take their keys.

For more information log on to [TrafficSafetyMonitoring.gov](http://TrafficSafetyMonitoring.gov).