



## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WRITE INNOVATIVE BOOK TO SAVE TEEN LIVES**

**Young authors create program that teaches peers about safe driving**

DANIA BEACH – After seven months of work, a group of South Florida students has written a fun but powerful book that shows other teens how to save lives and prevent accidents on the highways. Titled “I Care! Best Friends Helping Best Friends Stay Alive,” the book taps into personal relationships to encourage young drivers to pay attention behind the wheel.

The “I Care!” book includes all-original rap and other poetry, quizzes, stories, photos, graphics, even a comic book. Teens will share the book with their best friends, asking them to sign a pledge to remember the book’s clever lessons when driving – not out of fear but instead out of friendship. More teens die in car accidents than from any other cause in the United States. The new book now forms the foundation of a bold “I Care!” driver safety program aimed at reducing those numbers.

“We believe busy, distracted teens feel invulnerable when driving, as if nothing bad can happen,” notes Bob Knotts, founder and president of the Humanity Project. This 501c3 South Florida-based nonprofit group created the “I Care!” program with a grant from State Farm Insurance. “But when their best friend gives them this very cool book to read, along with a request to pledge better driving habits, teens are much more likely to put down their cellphones and focus on staying safe on the roads.”

The “I Care!” book includes a section for teens to share with their parents, helping adults understand how to best deal with their children’s driving. “We believe that this new program will encourage more teens to drive safely – not for their own sake, but for the sake of those friends who care most about them,” says Jose Soto, State Farm public affairs specialist. “The ‘I Care!’ book uses their closest social connections to teach better concentration and cooperation on the roads.”

The “I Care!” book will be distributed for free through [the Humanity Project website](http://thehumanityproject.com), with copies available for downloading at <http://thehumanityproject.com/programs/i-care/>. Other distribution methods will be offered soon, including through driver education programs. The newspaper staff at South Plantation High School in Plantation, Florida worked with the Humanity Project to write the “I Care!” book. During the 2012 fall semester, these same students plan to expand the “I Care!” program to a Facebook page, text message campaign, even a smartphone app.

More about the Humanity Project’s empirically based programs can be found at [www.thehumanityproject.com](http://www.thehumanityproject.com).

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