

members and no volunteers. Now, we have 25 volunteers and eight board members, including five of us who have been there since day one," she said.

"MADD's mandate is to stop impaired driving and support the victims of this violent crime."

Curry became the chapter's victim advocate in 1996 and since then has followed all the court cases where drunk drivers have been responsible for injuring or killing someone.

She offers her services to the victim family and Curry said all the families have been receptive to her offer of moral support during their ordeal.

"I'm with them from the time offender appears in court until the case is resolved. Then I still stay in touch with them on a periodic basis just to see how they are coping with their loss."

Curry doesn't pretend to know what victim families are feeling because she's not in their shoes "but I do feel their pain and anguish...when they cry, I cry.

"It's hard on me but I do it because I want to help the families."

She also wants to eradicate the incidence of drunk driving.

"It's all about choice. You don't have to get behind the wheel after drinking. It's about making the right choice and not driving."

The grandmother of eight was also involved in Community Policing in Belleville for five years but had to give that up because of the increasing workload during

her presidency.

The MADD Quinte chapter is one of 50 across Canada.

Curry is adamant that MADD is not a temperance group.

"We just want people to drink responsibly and make the right choice when they do," she said.

She is extremely proud of her chapter and the work it does.

"And because we have so many drunk drivers, MADD Canada will be in existence for a long, long time. That's unfortunate too because innocent people will keep losing their lives or get seriously hurt."