



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Program encourages parents to cultivate safe drivers

*(Anderson, S.C., Aug. 8, 2016)* – Lacey Councill and Nichole Boseman believe they've found the key – seven keys, actually – to making better, safer teen drivers. The focus is on making good decisions when behind the wheel of a car.

Councill is coordinator and health educator of the Doclink program at AnMed Health. Boseman is principal of Wren High School, which has seen more than its share of tragic results from car crashes.

Wren High has several qualifications that students must meet before they're allowed to park on campus. This fall they're adding a new one designed to secure participation from parents, and ultimately safer roads for everyone in the Wren family.

Before a student can park on campus, a parent or guardian and the student must attend a 45-minute presentation called Drive It Home, which focuses on seven keys to making better decisions behind the wheel. Since 2007, 31 high school and middle school students have died in car crashes in Anderson County, according to Councill's records. Sixteen of them were District 1 students and 11 of them attended either Wren High School or Wren Middle School.

Through Doclink, Councill has been offering a class called Arrive Alive since 2008 to freshmen in all Anderson County school districts. This new program is designed to bring information and strategies to the people who have the most influence over a child's driving habits – their parents.

“Studies show that parents are key to safer teen drivers so we've designed a class to help show parents how to engage their teen drivers and teach the habits to make them safer on the roads,” Councill said.

Three mandatory sessions will be offered right away at 6 p.m. on Aug. 22, 23 and 30, and then others as needed throughout the coming school year.

“We feel like safe driving is just like academics; there's got to be a commitment from all people who are influential in their lives,” Boseman said. “Parents are involved in other aspects of driving, like providing the car, so we think it's reasonable for them to be involved in any effort to make their teens safer on the roads. We want them to be part of the commitment to make good decisions behind the wheel.”

Doclink is a physician-driven initiative, funded in part by the AnMed Health Foundation. It aims to link doctors, nurses and other health professionals to Anderson County youth to educate and empower young people to make healthy lifelong decisions. Doclink offers a wide variety of health programs to elementary, middle and high schools that can be tailored for individual schools and their students. Teachers or counselors interested in a Doclink presentation can call Council at 864.512.5465 or 864.556.3878 or email her at [lacey.council@anmedhealth.org](mailto:lacey.council@anmedhealth.org). Visit [doclink.org](http://doclink.org) for more information.

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*AnMed Health is a 695-bed, not-for-profit health system serving the Upstate and northeast Georgia. The system is anchored by AnMed Health Medical Center, a 461-bed acute care hospital which has earned the prestigious Magnet® designation. The five-hospital system includes AnMed Health Women's and Children's Hospital, AnMed Health Rehabilitation Hospital, Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, S.C., and Elbert Memorial Hospital in Elberton, Ga. With more than 400 physicians and 3,700 employees, AnMed Health is Anderson County's largest employer. Learn more about AnMed Health, an affiliate of Carolinas HealthCare System, at [www.AnMedHealth.org](http://www.AnMedHealth.org).*