

# Lexington group plans to drive for drinkers

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LEXINGTON, Ky. — It may seem like a large amount for a ride home, but some Lexington residents are willing to pay more than \$50 for the privilege. It could save them a fine or a jail sentence.

With police cracking down on drunken drivers, a recent University of Kentucky graduate believes he has found a way for people who drink to get home safely.

LADD's Club Inc. will dispatch two drivers anywhere in Fayette County to pick up a member and his guest after they have been drinking.

The drivers will take a member home in his car and, for an extra charge, will drop off his guest at his home.

"Apparently there is a problem with people drinking and getting behind the wheel," Chuck Malkus, president of Lexington Anti-Drunk Drivers, said at a news conference yesterday. "We feel we have provided people with an alternative to that with our club."

Malkus said it costs \$50 to join the club. A standard charge of \$20 will be assessed for each run.

The service is available from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m., Monday through Saturday.

Ten pairs of UK students have been employed as drivers, Malkus said. Each team has a "clean driving record and has received instructions in professional conduct during a

run," he said. Students are paid \$5 for each trip.

One student drives the member's car and another follows in a second vehicle.

Malkus came up with the idea five weeks ago when Lexington police began a crackdown on drunken driving. There have been many arrests.

"Since the crackdown, legally, 'under the influence' means you've had two cold beers. Lots of times, people won't admit or realize they are drunk," he said. "We feel this service offers a less embarrassing way out so they don't have to ask friends or family to take them home."

He said that members were obtained through "word of mouth. The corporation has not been advertised a lot for fear that, in the beginning, we would not have enough drivers to answer the calls in the promised five to 10 minutes."

Malkus said that the service is also for those who may be under medication or are physically unable to drive.

Malkus said he has talked with Lexington police officers, who feel the club is "an excellent idea because the crackdown isn't to throw people in jail but to keep drunken drivers off the road."

Several lawyers in Louisville and Cincinnati have expressed interest in starting a similar program in their cities, he said.