

VIP's: Voices for Injury Prevention

Dynamic and persuasive Voices for Injury Prevention education have been an important and effective component of the Think First for Teens presentations for many years. We are proud to recognize two of those voices in this issue.

Engaged initially by **Franky Guerrero's** energy and contagious smile, young people are quickly drawn in by the *rest* of his story. In February 1993, at the age of 17, he sustained a spinal cord injury as a result of a gang-related gunshot. A self described risk taker before his injury, Franky works with Think First because *I want to help others by sharing my experience*. Franky has been with the **Sharp on Survival Think First Team in San Diego** for 4 years as a full time VIP and administrative assistant. He is currently attending school to become a counselor for youth at risk.

VIP **Darcy Keith** (Indianapolis, IN) sustained a traumatic brain injury in 1991 as a result of a car crash. A college student at the time, she lost all memory of her mathematics related major. When she returned to college three months after the incident, she changed majors and graduated Ball State University in 1993 with a degree in insurance.

Today, Darcy is a commercial insurance underwriter, but since 1994, regularly sets aside vacation days for presentations in schools. *Turning Quicksand Into Solid Ground* is one of her presentation themes. Darcy has certainly *been there, done that*. She states that her motivation comes from a *desire to help others understand brain injuries and how survivors are treated*. Darcy credits **husband Chris as her biggest supporter** and notes that he has also been a tremendous source of support, feedback, and encouragement to the Indianapolis Think First team.



Think First VIP's – (left to right)
Franky Guerrero; Darcy Keith
with husband Chris.