

The Journey

JANUARY 2011 VOLUME 20



Restoration, like healing, is a journey that we all must make together. We lean on, support, learn from, give ideas, encourage, and grow in the attempt to heal, make whole again, and restore that which was taken during the commission of the crime. As correctional professionals, advocates, victims, community members and offenders, we are on a journey that will change our lives forever as well as those lives that we touch along the path of our journey.

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Julie; I am a single mom of two boys, Drake and Gavin. My boys mean everything to me...all we ever wanted was to live a normal life. I am writing you today, to ask you to please listen to what I have to say....

On July 26th, 2009, my life and my sons' lives were shattered! My ex-husband of four years had the boys on a forced custody visit when he killed my 10 year old son, Gavin, in a drunk-driving crash. My oldest son, Drake, age 14 at the time, was with another family member at the time of the crash, so his life was spared. This crash could have been prevented!

Gavin's father pre-meditated to drive and commit this crime. He had no license, no insurance, fraudulent registration stickers, a BAC of .175, no seat belt on Gavin (while he wore his own), and driving on the wrong side of the road. He forced two cars into a ditch before impacting a third vehicle, hitting another man head on, killing Gavin and critically injuring another innocent party. Gavin got into his father's car knowing he had to trust him, instead he was violently killed.

On that day, I was thrown into a legal system that was completely foreign. I was hoping to rely on the County Attorney, but soon realized that my son Gavin was merely a folder on his desk. The first time I tried to reach out to him by phone, I was greeted with the importance of another case he was working on, and I felt my son's life meant nothing to him. I felt as if I had been completely victimized all over again. I had just lost my son in a horrific and violent crash, wasn't that enough?

I feared the worst, so I reached out to the MADD national office in Texas, and they became my victim advocates and held our hands through the process. John Evans from MADD stepped up and acted as our voice. I would also like to commend the Iowa State Patrol for their efforts in investigating this crash. They did everything they could to make the charges against my ex-husband stick.

I was planning to be involved in the court proceedings as much as possible. This never happened – I was kept up-to-date by reading about the case in the local media. After many court continuances, the time drew near for a plea hearing. I made several attempts to contact the County Attorney; he would not return my calls. John Evans from MADD again acted on my behalf and I finally received an email back stating that my ex-husband was going to plead to Class C Felony of Vehicular Homicide, rather than Class B, and Serious Injury by Vehicle. The Child Endangerment and other charges were dropped. I

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was horrified.

At the sentencing hearing, the judge asked questions about the plea agreement, but the attorney could not answer them. Although the original agreement included a recommended sentence of probation, the judge gave the maximum sentence allowed by the agreed charges and sentenced my ex-husband to 10 years for Vehicular Homicide and 5 years for the Serious Injury - consecutive.

The State has strict laws about seatbelts and child endangerment, as well as Vehicular Homicide and drunk driving. How can our local officials drop these charges when they are supposed to be representing our State? No one should have to go through what we have. Drake, my now 16-year-old son, and I have been through so much, but to have been completely victimized again was unimaginable. My concern is that someone else will have to go through the same nightmare we have with the justice system.

There are no words for losing a child. The pain and emptiness that you feel each and every day is overwhelming. It doesn't get easier as time goes on, because it never goes away. We have been forced to learn to live a new life. In today's society, a crime victim should be treated with dignity and respect. As a mother who lost a precious son, what more should I have to bear?

I am Gavin's voice and he deserved more respect than what he received. Gavin was robbed of his life by his father, and robbed of his support by the local criminal justice system. I know I cannot change the outcome of what has happened in our case, but maybe I can make things better for the next person that has to be thrown into a legal system that shows no care for crime victims. A crime victim should never have to seek out help – it should be offered to them. ■

Julie Vander Wel
Mother of Gavin and Drake



"A Precious Moment" – Gavin is in the middle – he is our inspiration

Victim Impact Programming in Corrections: A Team Approach to Reducing Recidivism



**Note from Verna Wyatt,
Executive Director of You Have the Power:**

"In 1991, my sister-in-law was sexually assaulted and murdered. The impact from that horrendous crime devastated our family and turned my world upside down, setting me on a personal mission to prevent that kind of pain from touching other innocent families. If you had told me then that I would someday be working with incarcerated men and women, I would never have believed you. I didn't like offenders one little bit. I didn't believe any of them could ever change, and the recidivism rates and my personal experience supported my thinking.

But about 6 years ago, I had an epiphany that drastically changed my thinking. The Tennessee Department of Correction victim liaison asked me if I would come speak to a class of inmates and share my personal story of victimization. It was a new program that was incorporating victim impact education for the inmates. My first encounter sharing my story was very powerful – for the inmates, but also for me.

The next jolt of reality came to me when an Assistant Commissioner of Corrections told me, "Verna, 97% of the inmates who are incarcerated are going to be returned to the community. How do you want them coming back?" I had been putting my head in the sand for so long, hanging on to the ideal of "locking them away and throwing away the key." But now, I was faced with black and white reality - the inmates need attention, not because they deserve it, but because we do."

Why is victim impact important?

At first glance, it might seem counter-intuitive for victim advocates to work with inmates. However, the truth is, victim advocates and corrections professionals are not adversaries. We actually

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share a common goal: “no more victims.” Conducting Victim Impact classes for the incarcerated is a team approach to preventing victimization. There have been several studies looking at the effectiveness of victim impact programs across the country. A 2007 Iowa Department of Correction Victim Impact Report, using two evidence-based studies, concluded victim impact is a contributing factor in reducing recidivism.

YHTP developed our own Victim Impact Curriculum based on our experience as victim advocates. We’ve learned from our class participants that the majority of offenders never think about their victim as a human being. Many never even think about their victim at all. One of our offender participants told us, “I’ve been incarcerated for over twenty years, and I never once thought about my victim until this class.”

What are the components of a good a victim impact program?

The YHTP victim impact curriculum covers ten topics: accountability, domestic violence, child abuse, drug addiction/drug dealing, DUI, property crime/burglary/robbery, sexual assault, hate crime/gang crime, crimes against the elderly, and homicide. We also talk about the difference between guilt and remorse. This class is not about guilt or making the offender “feel bad.” We want remorse from our class participants. Genuine remorse is a catalyst for changing behavior and making amends. Guilt holds back any kind of progress.

Core issues are discussed in every class because they are the root of self-destructive and criminal behaviors. Addiction, violence, anger, depression, and promiscuity are often mistaken for core issues, when in reality, they are symptoms of core issues. While symptoms must be treated, they are not the root cause of negative or criminal behavior. Offenders must identify the source for their symptoms which is often early exposure to family violence, childhood trauma, or sexual abuse. This is not an excuse for committing crime - offenders must take responsibility and accept the consequences of their actions. There is

absolutely no excuse for victimizing behavior. However, there are explanations. And it is very important to understand what motivates negative behaviors if we want to address them. Knowledge of core issues can help offenders have a “light bulb moment,” realizing they are not crazy or a bad seed. Connecting those dots, they can now work on their symptoms more successfully by tackling the issues driving the symptoms. Because many core issues are tied to child sexual abuse and growing up in homes with domestic violence, we spend more time in our victim impact classes talking about the dynamics of these crimes and the long term impact for the victim.

What is the best way to measure offender progress?

Pretests and posttests measure an offenders’ knowledge about victim impact before and after the class. YHTP statistics indicate that 85% of offenders improve their scores from pre to post tests. Personal surveys are administered to gain understanding of offenders past history of victimization, substance abuse, and criminal behavior. It provides a view of how offenders interpret their personal experiences. It is given at the beginning and end of class time to see if they view their personal experiences differently after taking the class. While the focus of the class is to help them understand victim impact, it is critical that they also begin looking at their past to figure out the reasons behind their criminal behavior. Of course, the ultimate goal is no more victims and reduced recidivism.

Victim advocates and corrections professionals must work together to prevent victimization. Prisons and jails are constantly plagued by staffing and budget problems – for most, implementing a victim impact program would be a challenge. However, if we are serious about changing the “revolving door” nature of the correctional system, victim impact is as necessary as substance abuse, life-skills, and chaplaincy programs.

Author info:

Verna Wyatt and Valerie Craig are Executive Director and Director of Education for You Have the Power, a crime victim advocacy organization founded by Andrea Conte, current First Lady of Tennessee and survivor of violent crime. They facilitate classes for inmates at Charles Bass Correctional Complex, Corrections Corporation of America, Tennessee Prison for Women, and Metro-Davidson County Sheriff's Department. For more information about our victim impact classes or curriculum, please contact YHTP at 615-292-7027 or email sara.kemp@yhtp.org. Our website is www.yhtp.org. ■

**You have
the Power** ... know how
to use it
yhtp.org

ICA Citizen Award

This Iowa Corrections Association Citizen Award is given to an individual or group who has had a significant, positive impact on corrections in the State of Iowa. The recipient should not currently be a paid corrections employee. Their efforts, whether in the public or private sector, may have been relatively unsung or widely acclaimed in the community previously.

This year's recipients have been instrumental in assisting with training of volunteer mentors from across the state. Their sense of determination to develop strong effective Circles of Support around the state has brought them to the doors of the Department of Corrections. In the past, government agencies and faith organization have been cautious about working together. The connection between the Archdiocese of Dubuque's prison ministry and the DOC is a strong, positive model, proving that the two groups can effectively work together. This group is willing to accept offenders, community volunteers and crime victims into their ministry – and religious affiliation is not part of the admission criteria.

They started under a directive to utilize the principles of Restorative Justice in their work within jails, correctional facilities and prisons in Iowa. As a result, a small group of dedicated volunteers began to collaborate with the 1st, 2nd and 6th Judicial Districts to learn, hear what correctional services' needs are, and develop programs to address these needs. As a result they began focusing their prison ministry to include expanded mentoring and Circles of Support and Accountability, a program that provides a type of "group mentoring" to offenders preparing for release to the community and after release from prison, as well as probationers. In addition, they embraced the concepts of Restorative Justice that crime victims must be central to working with offenders.

This group of dedicated volunteers, under the leadership of Tom Lang and Bill Hickson, has made a huge impact in the lives of offenders who struggle with re-entry. This year's award recipients and their volunteers have given their time, shared their wisdom, and



Left to Right: Mary Roche, Bill Hixon, Tom Lang, LuAnn Smith

provided excellent role-modeling for the men and women fortunate enough to work with them. They welcome offenders from any faith tradition, and work diligently to find volunteers from other faiths to accommodate offenders' needs. They seek out the victim perspective to ensure the victim voice is part of mentoring and Circles – and offer this service of support to victims as well.

They have gone above and beyond by reaching out to our correctional facilities, districts and institutions and have been generous enough to offer their training to other faith-based mentoring groups who wish to begin or expand. With their solid foundation of restorative justice principles they are a model for other faith-based groups as well as all of us in corrections working to create change.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque's Prison Ministry, under the excellent leadership of Tom Lang and Bill Hickson are very deserving of the ICA Citizen Award. They as individuals, and as a program, are prime examples of Restorative Justice Principles in action. ■



In Honor of Ken Eaton....

There is a new foundation that has just been founded by Jennifer Eaton-Bertagnolli and Dr. Rico Bertagnolli, in honor of Jennifer's father Ken Eaton. Ken was murdered in 1988 in a hate crime; he was targeted because of being a gay man. Ken was a middle school teacher at Brody Middle School in Des Moines, Iowa.

Jennifer created this foundation to carry on with her father's legacy of education. The foundation will give group scholarships to benefit children in honor of a victim of a violent crime.

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Please take a look at the website www.healingheartsandopeningminds.org

If you are interested in the scholarship program, fill out information requested on the scholarship link and then send to Jennifer.

“We can make this world a much better place if we can heal people's hearts and open their minds. Thank you.” ■

Jennifer Eaton-Bertagnolli



Planting a Seed

By Candis Lockard

Ten survivors of a large family wanted to read their victim impact statements at sentencing. Two family members had been shot and killed by another family member. The immediate survivors for one the victims included: five sisters, one brother, six in-laws, two daughters and two grandchildren. The immediate survivors for the other victim were: two children, two sisters, and the victim's mother. The victims were father & daughter, killed by the son & brother. Our victim's statute limits "immediate family" (those who can file a victim impact statement) to parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers and sisters. This definition has been defined by case law.

The judge, being a real stickler for the law, questioned whether the brother and sisters of the father could mention the daughter, i.e., their niece, when reading their statements. After all, by law, the aunts and uncles were not immediate family. In addition to that issue, there were several cousins of the daughter, and nieces and nephews of the father who wanted to read statements. The judge didn't know if she would allow them to read their statements either. Even though the judge was technically correct, my first thought in hearing this was, "Dear God, has common sense completely left this woman?"

Because of past situations and experiences in other cases with this judge, the prosecutor and I were prepared with other case law that says members from outside the immediate family, i.e., the public, can write letters and state the harm to them as a community.

The judge allowed all the impact statements and letters – and they were read in open court. This made the family feel victorious. After seventeen months of sitting quietly in one hearing after another during a two-week trial, their voices were finally heard. I have found this to be one of the most satisfying experiences many victims/survivors have with the criminal justice system. This family felt the same. They shed many tears that day, but they were also able to have a positive experience with the closure of the trial. They went home knowing their voices had been heard by the judge, the defendant, and the defense attorneys.

When everyone had gone, I asked the court attendant if I could

speak to the judge. I thought this was an opportunity to plant a seed.

I waited 45 minutes. When I walked into her chambers, I got the feeling from the look on her face that she was expecting me to complain about her treatment of the family. However, I shook her hand and said, "Your Honor, I want to thank you for your sensitivity to the family in allowing them to read their impact statements. I know you could have limited what was said. Please know it makes all the difference in the world to them to be able to speak." She was not expecting this compliment. Her response was, "Well, I think it's all futile." I responded, "Your Honor, with all due respect, you are mistaken about that." I continued, "It's not all futile. It means so much to them. I can't imagine what it would be like to have a family member kill two of my other family members. But, I do know this: by letting them speak in open court, you gave the unspoken message that the criminal justice system cares about them. That alone helps them to heal a little more."

We talked for several minutes. When I left, she thanked me for coming in to see her. I can only hope a seed was planted. ■



THANKS...

By Darcue D. Sims
Albuquerque, New Mexico

It doesn't seem to get any better...but, it doesn't get any worse, either.
For that, I am thankful.

There are no more pictures to be taken...but, there are memories to be cherished.
For that, I am thankful.

There is a missing chair at the table....but, the circle of family gathers close.
For that, I am thankful.

The turkey is smaller....but, there is still stuffing.
For that, I am thankful.



The days are shorter....but, the nights are softer.
For that, I am thankful.

The pain is still there....but, it lasts only moments.
For that, I am thankful.

The calendar still turns; the holidays still appear.....but, I am still here.
For that, I am thankful.

The room is still empty; the soul still aches....but, the heart remembers.
For that, I am thankful.

The guests still come, the dishes pile up.....but, the dishwasher still works.
For that, I am thankful.

The name is still missing, the words still unspoken....but, the silence is shared.
For that, I am thankful.

The snow still falls, the sled still waits, and the spirit still wants to....
For that, I am thankful.

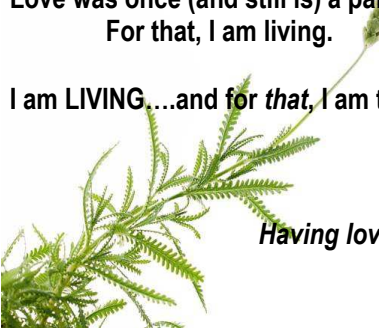
The stillness remains.....but, the sadness is smaller.
For that, I am thankful.



The moment is gone....but, the love is forever.
For *that*, I am blessed. For *that*, I am grateful.

Love was once (and still is) a part of my being....
For that, I am living.

I am LIVING....and for *that*, I am thankful.



*May your holidays be filled with reasons to be thankful.
Having loved and having been loved is perhaps the most wondrous reason of all.*

The Elizabeth (Liz) White Investment

"I love helping people, so most people know if they need me I'm only a phone call away. I believe love and laughter are the best medicines." Elizabeth's Facebook

Someone once said, "Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active." Elizabeth believed in God. A contemporary copy of the New Testament was found on her bed. She had an active faith. Elizabeth was accumulating wealth. She invested in people and this investment is the most important one we will ever make. Being rich toward God means loving and enjoying the people around you. It means learning about your gifts and passions and doing good work to help improve the world.



Elizabeth White was a 2007 Graduate of North Scott High School. She attended Tipton Community Schools through 8th grade. She was enrolled at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) when she was involved in a tragic car accident and became an innocent victim of a fatal drunk driving crash on November 15, 2007.



"Liz wanted to be part of an organization that helps save lives. She devoted herself to making sure she was willing and available to help out when and wherever needed. Liz has proven to be one of the hardest workers I have ever met." - Tammy Lewis, HRA, Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.

This is where you come in and make a difference in someone's life. Enclosed is \$10. We are asking that you reach out and make an investment in someone in memory of our daughter and sister, Elizabeth White. We are going to give you the opportunity to remember Liz's life on an ongoing basis by spending the enclosed money as a fitting tribute to her and in a way that will help another person. Examples:

- Buy fresh flowers and visit someone who is sick, in a nursing home or in the hospital.
- Elizabeth loved music. Surprise someone with a gift certificate or CD.
- Make a donation to your favorite charity in her name.
- Elizabeth loved "groupies". Pool your money for a good cause.

Use your imagination. And remember that it has been said, "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little." Consider spending some of your time with the money. We trust you will honor her life, bless your life and improve another life. Thank you for helping us with the Liz White Investment.

Please let us know how you invested in people. We would love to hear from you!

Kirby & Kim White
26735 172nd Ave.
Long Grove, IA 52756

or kombo100@msn.com
Subject: Liz White

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 (NIV) ■

The Healing Process

I will never forget coming around the bend close to our home after the memorial service of our 21 year old son, crying so hard and my eyes so sore already from days of preparation for that horrible day. I asked my dear husband, "Honey how will we ever make it without our son John?" I will never forget what he said with just as many tears flowing from his eyes, "Only with God honey, only with God".

Our son was taking home one of his friends who had just gotten out of the service and had had too much to drink. John was asked to take him home when he was hit head on and killed by a 16 year old kid and a passenger, both of whom were way over the Iowa limit of drinking and driving.

Four kids involved, three totally drunk, and one kid who never touched alcohol in his life, yet the three kids who were drunk walked away from the accident and the only one who was not drinking died. That has been a lot to swallow for sure as well as a lot to have to work through.

Soon our family was pushed into the court system which was just another adjustment. Shoot I had never even gotten a traffic ticket let alone been given regular court dates to attend. A "Victim" I was called. I had no idea what all that meant. BUT, soon, very soon our family found out.

With what just happened in our family, I soon found out that life would never be the same for us. We would have to deal with things we never imagined could happen in our lifetime. We would wake up every morning asking questions which usually contained the word "Why". Why our family? Why John? Why didn't the surgery work? Knowing that I really couldn't find any answers to my Why questions and realizing the Why questions would only drive me crazy, I began to

wonder, so how does the healing process begin?

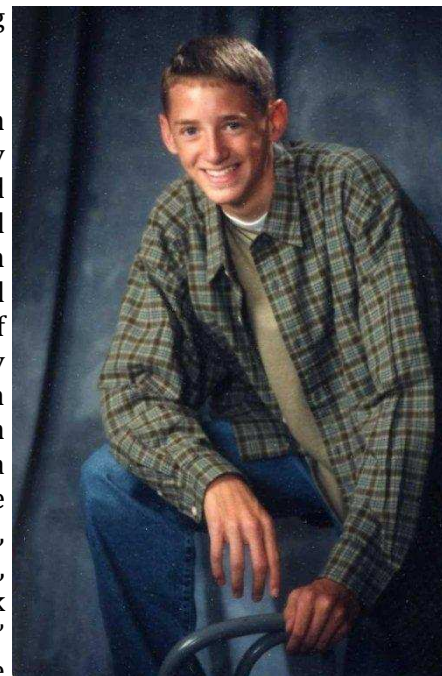
My relationship and walk with God has always been very strong. I don't mean some kind of religious thing that you feel you have to do to stop from going to a place called Hell (though that in and of itself would make me want to give my life to God). But my walk with God is more than that, so much more than that. My walk is a relationship with HIM. There was a time in my life that I said, God I am tired of running my life, I am in need of someone to walk through this thing called "LIFE" with, I want to give my entire life over to you. Trust me I have never had any regrets I made that choice. Jeff (my husband) was right; God would be our source of healing.

When the doctor first came out of intensive care and with tears in his eyes leaned on the wall and said, "I did all I could do, but it just wasn't enough, Johnny's gone." Oh man talk about the worst words a Dad, Mom and sister could hear in their lives! Again, I asked, "Why...Oh why wasn't it enough? Why wasn't my son saved?"

It became very evident that we would be walking through a very hard life coming up. Losing a child would never be easy but I realized that to lose him to something as foolish as a 16 year old drunk who flagrantly crossed the line going 80 miles an hour, was just going to be extra hard. However, I never really had a choice in the matter; my son was gone and I had to face it; I could either walk this road with God or without God. Frankly, I would never ever imagine walking through something so horrible without a Savior to help me.

Every one of us sometime in our life will come face to face with hard times and will have their own way of coping but for our family we so have found running to God and praying for HIS strength for the day, WORKS! ■

Pat Swartzendruber



VICTIM ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Restitution Committee

This past year, 2010, saw an increase in the collection of victim restitution in some parts of the state. Due to counties' ability to pursue their own collection of outstanding monies owed, some have shown a marked increase in victim restitution as well. Basically, if an offender fails to submit a payment plan, or fails to make a monthly payment, the county can then pursue collection. In some jurisdictions, this has reduced probation/parole officers' struggles to encourage compliance.

We are hopeful that more counties will develop their own collection practice – and, that they include cases where victim restitution is owed, following the excellent example of counties currently doing collection.

VAC Victim Fund

This past year, our VAC Fund needed to find a new home. We are very grateful to the BRIDGES of 1st District for assisting us over the past couple of years. Karen Herkelman and Diane Sents were wonderful. When BRIDGES informed us they would no longer be an option, we decided to approach the Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA), given their non-profit status and their mission is in alignment with ours. We anticipated it might be a hard sell, given that we were asking them to manage our fund, handle the accounting duties, and issue checks for us. Delightedly, IOVA did not hesitate in taking on our Fund! We are very grateful and look forward to further collaboration.



This past year, the VAC Fund was also a recipient of the 5K for 5Charities fundraiser sponsored by the 5th Judicial District. We hope this will be an annual event and one the Fund can count on for income. We also received generous donations from: (1) The North Central Correctional Institution's Mens Fund – an offender organization, and (2) The Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility – staff donated funds from a "casual day." Thank you to all who continue to keep our volunteer victims in mind as this fund directly supports victims who speak on panels, and those who participate in a Victim Offender Dialogue.

2010 Issues

1. This year the VAC was involved in reviewing and advising the DOC on our visitation policies.
2. We collaborated with the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (Iowa VINE) to better address the registration and notification needs of Iowa's crime victims (see more information in our article *Victim Registration and Notification: Important "Need to Know" Information*).
3. We reviewed the confidentiality of Victim Impact Statements and see the need for continued education on the handling of this important right for victims.
4. We also stayed informed of recent Iowa Supreme Court decisions that affect crime victims:
 - a. The *State of Iowa vs. Cashen* case allows defendants and defense

attorneys to subpoena confidential mental health and medical records of witnesses if there is reason to suspect such records contain exculpatory evidence. For a summary of this case, go to: <http://www.lclark.edu/live/news/6689-state-v-cashen--nw2d--no-072109-2010-wl-2629827>

b. The *State of Iowa vs. Jenkins* case in which the court determined that defendants can challenge the validity of any restitution payment made by the Iowa Crime Victim Compensation Program in which reimbursement is sought from the offender. In the past, only restitution claims not covered by the program could be challenged by offenders. To view this decision, go to: http://www.iowacourtsonline.org/Supreme_Court/Recent_Opinions/20100917/09-0063.pdf



Education

This past year, GERAL Blanchard provided us with a brief education on recent and innovative treatment for traumatic brain injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The fascinating work of Peter A. Levine, Ph.D. who is the Director of the Somatic Experiencing Trauma Institute. Please visit the following website for more information about his work in this field: <http://www.traumahealing.com/somatic-experiencing/peter-levine.html>.

Crime Victims' Rights Week

This year, 2011, National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed the week of April 10th – 16th. Our annual VAC event will be developed in collaboration with the Iowa Organization for Victims' Assistance and the Southern District of Iowa U.S. Attorney's Office, as was last year. If you are interested in being part of our planning, feel free to join us at our next meeting. Call Mary at 515-725-5742. ■



Victim Registration and Notification: Important “Need to Know” Information Submitted by Mary Roche

The first step in affording crime victims their rights under Iowa law is registration. However, many victims are uninformed or misinformed about their right to register, and how the process works. If a victim is not registered, s/he may not be informed about the date, time or location of various types of hearings related to the case. This may also affect their opportunity to file a Victim Impact Statement, or further down the line, attend a Parole Hearing.

In Iowa, local law enforcement has the duty to inform victims of their right to register. Victim must register with the County Attorney who is the official “registrar.” The county clerk’s office then must forward this registration information to the county sheriff. If the offender is convicted and sentenced to probation or

prison, registration information is then sent from the County Attorney to the Iowa Department of Corrections in all probation/prison cases, and the Iowa Board of Parole and Iowa Department of Justice for those sentenced to prison.

Another option for crime victims and others is the Iowa Victim Information and Notification Everyday (Iowa VINE) system. The Iowa VINE is a service through which victims of crime can use the telephone or internet to search for information regarding an offender’s custody status and register to receive telephone and email notification when the offender’s custody status changes. Iowa VINE, however, does not register victims with the Department of Corrections, the Iowa Board of Parole or the Iowa Department of Justice, nor does it rescind the county’s obligation to register victims. To register on Iowa VINE, victims may call 888-742-8463 or visit www.vinelink.com.

If you or someone you know has questions about registration, notification or other victims’ rights, please feel free to contact Mary Roche, Director of Victim Programs for the Iowa Department of Corrections at 800-778-1182. ■



Articles of Interest

Article: The Oakdale Choir experience made me a changed man

Visit: <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20101205/NEWS01/12050311/1079>

Below is a link to an article about a family of a slain Ft. Worth officer. Two Victim Offender Dialogue facilitators, Mark Odom and Angie, facilitated the VOD with the 14-year-old daughter of the slain officer. Mark Odom commented, “It is a tribute to the power of this young girl, she is amazing.”

Visit: <http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/11/30/2669674/five-years-later-family-of-slain.html>

THE JOURNEY

VICTIM ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



Restorative Justice challenges us to design and administer a system that places the needs of the victims and the harm done by the offending behavior at the center of the process by which we sanction and hold the offender accountable. Crime is recognized as harm done to victims and the community. The goals of restorative justice are promoting understanding, accountability, and healing. Persons may contact the Victim and Restorative Justice Programs Administrator at 515-725-5742 or email mary.roche@doc.state.ia.us for more information.

VICTIM ADVISORY COUNCIL GOALS

- Expand victim outreach programs and services
- Assist judicial districts in providing victim services in community corrections agencies and other related community agencies
- Enhance public awareness concerning victim rights and services through public education programs
- Assist other agencies in the development of victim education efforts and assist in cross-training programs with allied criminal justice and victim service professionals
- Develop legislative and Department proposals to enhance victim rights, services, and programs

