

# The JOURNEY

VICTIM ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## ***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.***

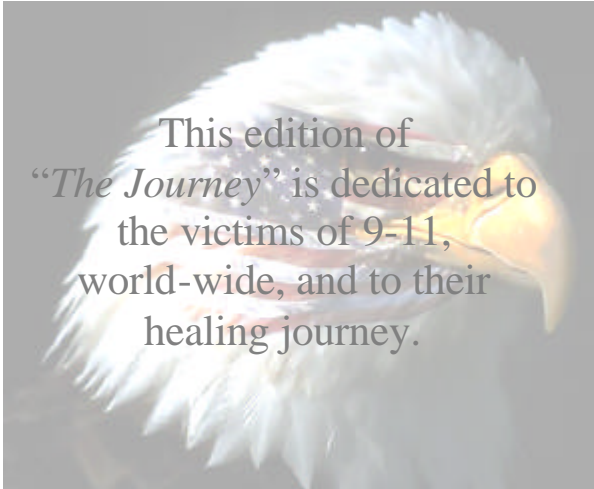
***Assist other agencies in the development of victim education efforts and assist in cross-training programs with allied criminal justice and victim service professionals.***

***Develop legislative and Department proposals to enhance victim rights, services, and programs.***

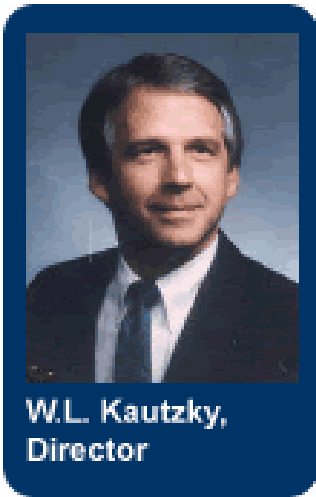
## ***About our name “The Journey”***

***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 a 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.***

***Cyndi Ruzicka, Correctional Counselor  
Newsletter Editor  
Iowa Correctional Institution For Women***



**This edition of “The Journey” is dedicated to the victims of 9-11, world-wide, and to their healing journey.**



## **A Message from Director W.L. Kautzky**

Budget reductions have significantly diminished Iowa's ability to address offender and community problems. These same budget problems provide an opportunity and a challenge to more effectively engage victims and the community in solutions rather than relying upon the "state" to remove or solve the problem.

Restorative justice principles enhance the ability of offenders, correctional workers and communities to repair the harm caused by criminal behavior. They empower communities to build their capacity to reintegrate offenders as responsible citizens. Restorative justice principles require offenders to take responsibility for the harm caused by their behavior and fix the damages. The community provides accountability and support for the offender's reintegration as the process moves forward.

This transformation provides victims, offenders and communities an opportunity to heal—a process that often times is not effectively accomplished by our traditional criminal justice system of prosecution and penalties. Victims' voices are being heard in a system that once ignored them. Harm is being repaired and healing may begin.

Restitution, community service work, victim impact classes and victim-offender mediation are a few examples of how restorative justice principles makes operable, the quest for or return of harmony among

offenders, victims and communities. Restorative justice based programming must mobilize neighborhoods to actively monitor and provide opportunities for offenders to be responsible community members if community safety and offender reintegration are to be successfully accomplished. The collaborative approaches of restorative justice principles have the potential to more fully and effectively engage community resources and victims' needs, which is increasingly critical in difficult financial times.

I am enthusiastic over the support of these programs and the impact restorative justice principles have on victims, offenders, community and staff.

## **Letter From The Wife Of An Officer Held Hostage In The 1981 Prison Riot At The Iowa State Penitentiary**

*By Mary Kay Moline*

I remember the silence after taking the phone call that Larry had been taken hostage in the 1981 riot. I sat in the guidance room at my school, looked at my hands for a while and tried to decide what I was going to do. It was long enough that the secretary came in to check on me. I went back to class and finished up the morning. I went to pick up our son, Nate at school and came home. My mom and the next-door neighbor were sitting on the front steps leading up into our yard.

The afternoon and evening passed slowly. People came and brought food, and offered to spend the night if necessary. Our superintendent's wife came and sat at the kitchen table while I covered Nate's schoolbooks with paper sack book covers. Seeing books covered this way has always brought back memories for me through the years.

The inmates let Larry call home once. I found out later he thought it was to be his last call to me. I felt after that everything was going to be okay.

The biggest mistake I made was not to go to the prison after Larry was released. I waited at home.

Finally a secretary called and wanted to know if I was coming up. I went. I react slowly to events. It would be days before it all sunk in.

The happiest time was that night when Larry was settled in bed asleep beside me. We had always cuddled up like cub bears and that night we were a little tighter, but went to sleep quite quickly. Sometime in the night I woke up with a start. I reached for Larry's hand to see if the inmates had taken his wedding ring. It was there where it should have been.

Twenty-two years later, Larry still has bad dreams and fitful sleep. I still worry at the sound of any siren in town.

For our family, our life has been spent with more awareness that time could be short and opportunities together limited. Even as young children, our kids were tuned into daddy's job. It was hard and dangerous. We made the decision to keep them in the loop by having them watch "Hill Street Blues". They knew daddy worked with bad guys and that some days, daddy would not be happy. At the same time, our family grew very close, and over the years our house became the place to be for celebrations and holidays for all members of our extended family. The problems were talked about and solved.

For my part, I studied all kinds of information on mental health, post traumatic stress, and stress of a trauma. In time I came to understand what Larry was going through was what many people experience when they don't have help. At the time of the riot it was not "cool" to get help and Larry probably would not have done it if help had been offered. Today I think it would be different.

The hardest part of this whole thing for me is the fact that our son, Nate, works at Newton and how I wish he didn't. He knows the problems of the prison job and has been in corrections for eleven years. I truly wish he worked somewhere else and had a job that produces something instead of restraining people. It is hard to live with the danger of Larry's life and now many more years with our son.

A prison job is one of serious worries, and can be very dangerous. If I could redo our lives, Larry would be a physical therapist and I would still be a teacher, but maybe at a college. How different would our lives be...who knows.

### **Iowa Department of Corrections Is Responding To Workplace Violence**

Through the efforts of the Victim Advisory Council, the Department of Corrections has developed a Staff Victimization Program. The mission of the program is to promote a safe workplace through community partnership in providing crisis intervention, advocacy, support, education, and training to Department employees victimized by incarcerated or community supervised offenders, and to their families.

The Department recognizes there are factors unique to correctional professionals victimized by inmates, parolees, or probationers, and strives to educate and provide assistance to its employees. Staff Victim Representatives have been appointed in each prison facility as well as each community supervision district. A toll free number 800-778-1182, is available for victims to call the Administrator of Victim and Restorative Justice Programs for assistance. The department's web site includes information on victim services available at [www.doc.state.ia.us](http://www.doc.state.ia.us).

The program offers assistance by allowing victimized staff members to express their feelings about their victimization, help rebuild their self-esteem, provide them with a variety of coping mechanisms to deal with the aftermath of victimization and answer questions about returning to the workplace.

If you have further questions or concerns, call; Betty Brown, Administrator Victim & Restorative Justice Programs, 420 Watson Powell Jr., Way, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 (515)242-5742 or 800-778-1182

## **Victim Rights Week at ICIW**

**By Yvette L., ICIW Inmate**

ICIW's second annual Victims' Rights Week Program was held on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Victims, offenders, prison staff, and victims' rights advocates came together to recognize National Victim's Rights Week and to give voice to the changes that ICIW's Victim Impact and Restorative Justice programs have made in our lives. This year's theme, "Bringing Honor To Victims", sets the goal of supporting and honoring all victims. Those who suffer from low profile, every day crimes as well as those who are victims of major tragedies.

Planning for this evening began months before Victims Rights Week. Led by Counselors Scofield and Abbott, a group of Victim Impact graduates worked on raising enough money to fund the event. The resulting movie night was a huge success, and it was immediately decided that any left over money would be donated to help defray transportation costs of the men and women who speak on victim panels at prisons and facilities across Iowa.

The program itself was short, but memorable. Andrea welcomed our guests, thanking the victims, advocates and staff for coming to work and share with us. Tammy made introductions and spoke about the restorative justice programs at ICIW. She detailed how we have taken the new understanding we've gained from Victim Impact and shared it with the girls who come to ICIW to take part in the Healing Circle and GRIP (Girls Reaching Inner Peace).

After the introductions, Nikki, Gloria and Lisa spoke on the offender panel, an opportunity to let the victims know how their stories have changed our lives and our thinking. Betty Brown from the Department of Corrections Victim and Restorative Justice Program thanked all of the offenders who have taken part in restorative justice projects. Lisa closed by inviting each guest to take home one of the origami peace cranes she folded as decorations and symbols of what we wish for all of our victims.

Last year, the Victim Impact graduates and counselors made a quilt to honor the victims and

victim advocates. This year, we asked each of the victims, advocates, staff, and offenders to make quilt square after the program. The squares honor the victims themselves, loved ones who were victimized, and our goals and hopes for a truly just world. The squares will be sewn into a quilt and displayed as a reminder of what we create together when we honor the principles of restorative justice.

## **Principles of Restorative Justice**

**Harry Mika and Howard Zehr**

- 1) Focus on the harms of wrong doing more than the rules that have been broken.
- 2) Show equal concern and commitment to victims and offenders, involving both in the justice process.
- 3) Work toward the restoration of victims, empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them.
- 4) Support offenders while encouraging them to understand, accept and carry out their obligations.
- 5) Recognize that while obligations may be difficult for offenders, they should not be intended as harms and they must be achievable.
- 6) Provide opportunities for dialogue, direct or indirect, between victims and offenders as appropriate.
- 7) Involve and empower the affected community through the justice process, and increase its capacity to recognize and respond to community bases of crime.
- 8) Encourage collaboration and reintegration rather than coercion and isolation.
- 9) Give attention to the unintended consequences of our actions and programs.
- 10) Show respect to all parties including victims, offenders, community members, and justice colleagues.

Approximately 2 employees are murdered in the workplace each day, in America.

## **Reflections on Participating In The Victim's Rights Gathering at ICIW** *By Lolya Lipchitz*

Yesterday morning I woke up feeling particularly disturbed about events in the world—continuing battle in the Middle East with no hint of what a resolution might be, bleak long-term implications of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, this on top of the background of “smaller” wars ever-present around the globe. So I really wondered whether it was the right day for my first real visit to a prison.

As it turned out, it was EXACTLY the right place for me to be. It seems bizarre, even to me, to say this, but I was overwhelmed by such a sense of hope and optimism. I felt a real sense of privilege at being able to be a part of the Victim's Rights gathering organized by a group of women incarcerated at the Iowa Correctional Institution For Women, at Mitchellville. All of the women in the group had participated in a Victim Impact class, and had clearly permitted the lessons of that class to touch them at a very deep level. Though I had never met any of them before, they seemed to have made very dramatic changes in themselves from who they were at the time they committed their crimes. Courage and open heartedness emanated from that old gymnasium last night, both from the women who had committed crimes and from those who had been victimized by crime, who accepted the invitation to come to the prison for this event.

Driving home, I wondered at the apparent paradox: I had driven 40 miles from home to a prison, an icon of bleakness, and found enough light, energy and hope to encourage me to see the world situations differently. (*Lolya was inspired to the degree that she now volunteers her time in assisting prison staff facilitate Victim Impact classes.*)

**“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.**

***Martin Luther King, Jr.***

## **In Memory of Rhonda Sturtz** *By Randy E., Braille Center, Newton Correctional Center*

On June 11, 2002, a light went out in the world. Rhonda Sturtz passed away after a sudden illness. She had accomplished a great deal in her short time in this world. She had worked at the Iowa School For the Blind for a long period of time, where she helped children expand their horizons and develop the skills needed to live their lives. Over a decade ago, she was the key figure in establishing the Anamosa Braille Center, which is a prison-based program within the walls of Anamosa State Penitentiary. Since then, she helped to develop similar programs at the Newton Correctional Facility and the Rockwell Correctional Facility. At the time of her passing she was in the process of trying to establish a Braille program at the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility. As a Senior Iowa State Industries Technician, she recognized the potential, as well as the ability and desire in the offenders to help others. Her prison-based Braille program serves a model for other such programs across the country.

She worked tirelessly as a volunteer and spent a great deal of time as an advocate for the blind and visually impaired. She assisted for many years with Braille organizations, such as the National Braille Association, where she served on the board of directors and gave many seminars to volunteers on Braille methodology.

In 1996, she was awarded the Governor's Star Award for her work. Because of her efforts, and through her love for Braille and her generous spirit, she has helped to bring many people into the circle of volunteers. She served as a mentor, teacher, leader and friend. She brought vision to many people. She will always be remembered for her great character and loving spirit.

It goes without saying that if ever there was an angel watching over the world of the blind, Rhonda is that angel. Hers is a light that will shine forever. She will be sorely missed. But her dream will go forward.

## **A Note From . . .** **Ron Erwin, 6<sup>th</sup> District**

WOW!!! The quality of this newsletter goes far beyond that of any other that I've seen. It is interesting to read these types of articles that demonstrate how programs help victims and offenders. I have interviewed clients who attended victim empathy classes who have broken down and cried in my office. A former client told me the following when he was told he could benefit from participating in victim empathy class. "I would like to tell you something about that (the offense). I think she (the victim) didn't act properly. What I mean to say is that if an angry person with a bat was coming at me, I would leave and not stay." This was essentially a road rage case where the client struck the victim and her car with a bat. At the conclusion of the classes, this client didn't cry in my office, but he did see how he made his own case for why he needed this type of intervention. I appreciate having this type of intervention to refer a client to. Keep up all the good work you do.

**Thanks Ron!!!!!!!!!!**

## **Back From Ground Zero** **By Claudia Atkisson** **Newton Correctional Facility**

I clearly remember September 11, 2001 in my mind. I can see where I am and remember what I was doing. What took place on September 11, 2001 will be an event remembered in history like the attack on **Pearl Harbor** or the **Assassination of JFK**. An act of violence pierced the heart and stains the soul. My first reaction was that of disbelief and anger. How dare they attack a symbol of freedom? How dare they attack the United States?

Being on the Iowa Crisis Response Team you can imagine my enthusiasm when asked to go to the World Trade Center "Ground Zero" to help counsel those affected by that tragic act.

Upon reaching Ground Zero on the first of what would be an eight day trip to NYC, the feelings and

emotions I felt on September 11<sup>th</sup> began to swell and grow deeper as I witnessed the devastation not from the media's eyes, but first hand. No excuse could be made from such a senseless act. I find that often in our profession we try to rationalize the whys, yet knowing it cannot be done.

Please understand that I returned home to Iowa with every kind of emotion running through my mind. I feel slightly detached and very disorganized. I will attempt to walk you through my experience; keeping in mind mere words will not do justice.

As I think of all the training that I have participated in over the years, I can honestly say that nothing prepared me for what I was to witness at Ground Zero. From the enormous amount of pain and suffering, to the countless acts of heroism and bravery, the commitment and teamwork displayed at Ground Zero was a sight to be hold and I was truly honored to be part of it.

We were welcomed at WTC with open arms and given access to anywhere we could offer aid to the many people in need, such as firefighters, policemen, construction workers, caregivers and family members of those lost. Our counseling was not a group setting but personal face to face encounters. We were trusted with painful and intimate memories everyday. We shared many tears and sometimes laughter. Countless times we were embraced and told how much they appreciated us being there. I felt guilty playing such a small part, but was honored to help out in any way I could. Please understand that in the past seven months people have been working 12-hour shifts around the clock without days off or seeing their families. A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished. America is truly a melting pot of strong individuals. Their hard work and determination to recover the men and women lost is amazing. Their determination to rebuild is a constant message to all Americans that the victims will not be forgotten and that the American Dream will prevail.

In closing I would like to say that I did not go to WTC alone. Each and every one of you walked with me along the way. I not only represented Iowa but

you. You were my anchor as I viewed red bags of body parts, firefighters raking through the rubble, men and women crying, thousand mile stares, friends and families looking for remains of their loved one's.

I request that we do not forget, and that we stand strong and tall with them, united as one.

## **What's new in Rockwell City?**

A gazebo was constructed at the Memorial Park across the street from the new Fire Station in Rockwell City. The monies used came from the Quasquicentennial Celebration. The committee wanted to give something back to the community in memorial of their celebration and the gazebo was the perfect gift. The structure is 12 foot by 18 foot with benches around eh inside for seating and is unique to the area because it is octagon shaped with curved sidewalks. The project was built by inmates at North Central Correctional Facility, under the supervision of Tim Lange.

## **Writing Workshop at NCF**

**By Barb Link, Homicide Survivor**

Every Friday morning five women from the Des Moines area leave their homes, meet to pool a ride and make their way to the Newton Correctional Facility. What ARE these women doing? Not one of them has a relative or friend incarcerated there.

They check in at the Control Center, leave their driver's licenses with the officer at the desk, put their belongings on the conveyor belt to be x-rayed, walk through the metal detector, then go through locked doors and gates into the main building. At first, the hard sound of locking and unlocking gates and doors is somewhat intimidating but that feeling is soon overcome.

They walk down a long white-walled, sparking clean corridor to the prison library. Watching the ladies pass by are three huge murals. Two are of American Indian heads, very striking in vivid colors. The other mural is of eagles on a background of

blue sky. All have been beautifully done by very talented inmates. Promptly at nine o'clock ten inmates join the women in the library where several tables have been pushed together to make the setting as intimate as possible.

What you are seeing is the weekly meeting of the Creative Writing Workshop inside prison walls. The workshop is led by Anne Scott, a free-lance writer. Accompanying her is Betty Brown, Department of Corrections Victim and Restorative Justice Program Coordinator, Martha Norell, retired Homicide Survivor Advocate with Polk County Victim Services and two community homicide survivors, Cheri and Barb, who have each lost a son to murder. Evelyn Oltmanns, the prison librarian, is a gracious hostess, and participant in the group.

For the next hour and a half, this group of sixteen will read their compositions, critique each other's writing, talk, laugh and yes, even shed some tears. Anne gives an assignment for the next week – such as “My Favorite Pair of Shoes” or “My Childhood Kitchen”. Everyone writes on the same subject, but each composition is so different. Some are done in story form, some in poetry and some even in rap. Some writings are true, some purely whimsical. Such incredible and unexpected talent manifests itself.

The Workshop is doing just exactly what it is intended to do. Oh sure, writing skills are being honed and perfected, but the coming together of inmates and community persons to form a personal bond through the sharing of intimate thoughts, sorrows, hopes and joys grows with each awesome session.

The harder the conflict, the more  
glorious the triumph. What we obtain  
too cheap, we esteem too lightly.  
It is dearness only that gives  
everything its value.

Frederick Douglas

## MY WISH

I WISH THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN A  
CHILD

WHEN PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU  
PUT HANDS AND HEARTS TOGETHER  
TO SHOW US WHAT TO DO

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW OUR RIGHTS  
AND FIND THE THINGS WE SHARE  
NEVER, EVER BE HUSHED UP  
ONLY COMFORTED WITH CARE

THAT TODAY WE WOULD NOT HIDE  
AS EVE TAUGHT US WITH A LEAF  
TO COVER UP FALSE SHAME  
TAKING GUILT FROM OUR BELIEFS

I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN A CHILD  
I'D THANK YOU ONE AND ALL  
FOR THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR  
CHILDREN  
MAKES THEM STRONG AND GROWING  
TALL

YES, I KNOW YOU TOUCH THEIR SOULS  
IN THE WORK THAT YOU DO NOW  
LEAVING PRAYER THE ONLY REASON  
THEIR HEADS NEED EVER BOW

*Love, Edie*

**Six children are reported abused and  
neglected in America every minute.**

## The Batterer

By Marty Marsh Psychologist, NCF

Crimes involving battering differ from other types of offenses. Unlike the majority of crimes, which are motivated by financial gain, the batterer is motivated specifically by domination and control of another human being. This is intrinsic to the offense.

The batterer shares a number of attributes with the sex offender. He grooms his victims. There is an obsessive quality to his actions. He, like the sex offender, rapes his victims. He threatens the life of his victims and frequently lives of their loved ones if they attempt to leave or tell. He physically harms his victims. And perhaps even more frequently than the sex offender, he even kills his victim.

The batterer's tactics are insidious. He does not generally start out abusive. Overtime, however, he attacks the psyche of the individual. The tactics for batterers generally differ very little. Batterers usually begin by progressively separating the woman from important supports. Those who could possibly dissuade her away from his abuse are not permitted. Many batterers completely deny or drastically reduce contact with the woman's family, for example. He takes offense to her supports and criticizes them endlessly. He begins to become jealous at the slightest provocation. He tells the woman she is ugly, somehow defective, and sets out to convince her that no one would want her. He has spent a lot of time learning about her before any of this happens. He has asked dozens of questions and shown concern about her feelings and the things she holds dear or fears. He learns how to hurt most deeply. At some point the woman rebels from the abuse, but he continues prior tactics or begins physical assaults. He tells her if she leaves him, he will kill himself or her. As time goes on he may also threaten to kill her parents, children, or others dear to her. She becomes gravely afraid of telling anyone. She does not trust the police or courts to protect her. She has heard too many horror stories. In fact, she is right. Most batterers kill their victims after the woman attempts to leave. She is living in a hell with no clear means of escape. He tells her it is her fault, she acts like a slut, she is stupid. She just

needs to quit pushing his buttons. And after the most rampant abuse, he says he is sorry. He may be temporarily loving to offset any attempt on her part to break away. He soon returns to old tactics, however. His recipe is generally successful. She begins to think of herself as defective. She begins to wonder if maybe he is right. To survive, she must consider these possibilities. Getting away could mean the end of her life or the lives of those she cares about. She tries to adapt. Her world becomes chronically unpredictable. She cannot anticipate his mood. In order to gain any control of her life, she may try to instigate his anger, just to get it over with. The only control she has is to provoke, because things predictably get better after he blows up. She enlists this tactic only after a long period of abuse however. The batterer will later use these incidents as justification for his tirades and physical assaults, conveniently forgetting the unsolicited rampant abuse, which finally led to her trying to control her world in this manner. Where substance abuse is involved, he generally blames his actions on such, promises to quit, and never follows through. In fact, it is not the alcohol driving the behavior. It is the batterer. Even when dry, his characteristics remain.

The batterer, like the sex offender, fails to empathize with his victims. He feels justified in his actions. He is fully aware of what he is doing. He has spent a lot of time preparing his victims after all. If he ever enters treatment, he learns what to say. He spends three months or thereabouts listening to why he should empathize with his victims, what he has done to them, how he has destroyed their lives. He says the right things. But three months of classes no not unravel a long-term perspective about women. He is not stupid. He knew he was hurting them when he split lips, blackened eyes, threatened them, and destroyed their self-images. Treatment is no major revelation.

**One woman is raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate every three minutes.**

**One violent crime occurs every 22 seconds.**



**2002 Kay Egan Memorial Award Winner, Betty Brown  
DOC Victim and Restorative Justice Program  
Administrator**

I am extremely honored to have been chosen as the 2002 recipient of the Kay Egan Memorial Award given annually by the Iowa Organization for Victim assistance (IOVA) Board of Directors.

I am fortunate to have known Kay, a kind, dedicated and tenacious human being, while working for Polk County Victim Services. Kay taught me so much about victims--their needs, grief, and lack of voice in what feels like an unbalanced criminal justice system. Kay was never afraid to fight for the rights of victims to help balance the criminal justice system.

I continually seek ways for victims to have a voice and to make a difference by teaching offenders about the impact of crime on the victims' lives. Offenders then learn about the importance of repairing the harm caused by their criminal acts. If I have been recognized for doing victim work similar to Kay's, then I proudly, accept this award. I honestly feel that at times that small woman with such a soft voice is sitting on my shoulder—tapping me when I might be missing an opportunity to teach someone about victims! How lucky I am to have known Kay and John Egan. And thanks, IOVA!

***Congratulations Betty, and thanks for all you do for victims, offenders, corrections staff and the citizens of the State of Iowa.***

## **Restorative Justice and Victim Impact Training at Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility**

**By Bruce Kittle**

Last fall MPCF began doing restorative justice/victim impact training with groups selected out of the general population (they have already been conducting victim panels with sex offenders, run by Betty Brown for several years.) The groups is usually 15-18 men, made up of a diverse selection of offenses and sentence lengths. We try to repeat the group cycle three times per year. The training begins with a four day "retreat". A rough overview of the agenda includes: 1) day one is an introduction to restorative justice; (2) day two is an introduction to victimization issues and victim impact, (3) day three is a victim panel (usually three speakers) and then processing, and (4) day four is reflection work and the writing of offender impact statements. The entire training is done in circle using circle process.

After the initial four days, the group meets for two to three hours every other week and sometimes every week if possible. At these followup circles several things are covered, including: (1) general issues that have come up relating to victimization and accountability and their work on those issues, (2) review of their written products including a victim impact statement and letters of apology (our format for writing the letter of apology is available if anyone is interested), (3) reporting out and discussion on their work through a 12 step program for offenders (similar to other 12 step programs but re-written to focus on victimization issues), (4) parole planning and goal setting, and (5) continuation of the victim impact curriculum (the chapters not covered in the first four days).

This group continues until the next group begins (roughly ending after three to four months), although the members are invited to continue meeting in circle on their own to continue to dialogue on the issues of victimization and accountability. This spring "graduates" of the MPCF RJ/VI group planned activities and raised and donated funds (almost \$500) in honor of

National Crime Victim Rights Week, including a beautiful song written and performed by one of the men.

As noted, the training and groups are conducted in circle, using an opening (many are brought by the men), candle, and talking piece. The philosophy is to create an opportunity for men (in a safe and supportive, but challenging, environment) to look hard at what they have done, how their behavior has impacted others, how they can repair the harm they have caused, and what they need to do now and in the future to assure no new victims are created.

We will be beginning another group the last week of September and continue to monitor the impact/effectiveness of the training on those who have participated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bruce Kittle (641-990-4899) or Marcy Canby at MPCF.

### Dedication

It is with mixed feelings that I write this dedication for "The Journey". As we approach the one-year anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>, it is important to remember not only the people victimized by that tragic day, but also the victims that we are so dedicated serving here in Iowa. As the Director of the Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division, and a member of the Iowa Crisis Response Team serving in New York and New Jersey, I have witnessed the pain of victims on both a local and national level. Working to assist all victims is exhausting, yet critical and rewarding work. On this anniversary, I urge all of you to reflect not only on your past service to victims, but more importantly on your dedication to assisting all victims in the future.

Marti Anderson

Iowa Department of Corrections  
Victim and Restorative Justice Programs  
420 Watson Powell Way  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

***“Peace cannot be achieved through violence,  
it can only be attained through understanding.”***

***Albert Einstein***