



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

MCVRC Newsletter

November 2015 : Volume 2, Issue 3

2015 Ceremony of Remembrance

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center held its annual Ceremony of Remembrance on 19 September.

This Ceremony, established as a statewide event, this event provides a forum for the family and friends of homicide victims to gather in remembrance of their loved ones.

Held at the Garden of Remembrance outside the Prince George's County Circuit Court, this ceremony culminated with a reception and a viewing of the names and pictures of victims with whose family we have worked.



This year, the reception was held at the Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro.

Pictures from the ceremony and the reception are available on the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. webpage at www.MdCrimeVictims.Org

Words of Support and Encouragement

The MCVRC support group for families of homicide victims is privileged to have a diverse group of individuals who demonstrate the power of the human spirit to rise above the most tragic of crimes inflicted by another human being. Often these individuals also are re-victimized by a criminal justice system that they depended upon and trusted. Nevertheless, these individuals muster the courage and determination to triumph over tragedy.

We believe that these thriving survivors should be recognized and celebrated. We also believe that the peer support group, which provides a safe and comforting environment, enables them to share coping skills, gain strength from each other and empowers them to lead the best lives possible ... despite what they have suffered.

Listed below are examples of activities, services and

Cont. on 2

Newsletter Highlights

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Words of Support cont.

projects that many have chosen for themselves and to honor their murdered loved one:

- Volunteer in the MCVRC office – answer calls, do general office and newsletter assistance
- Become active leaders in specialized groups, like Concerns of Police Survivors or Parents of Murdered Children
- Volunteer for MCVRC’s annual Garden Ceremony of Remembrance
- Testify for legislation on state and federal level to help other victims and survivors
- Participate in Victim Impact presentations in State Prisons
- Support and comfort other survivors with their presence at trials or hearings
- Serve on the State Board of Victim Services and chair awards ceremony
 - Plan and coordinate fundraising activities
 - Sponsor or participate in scholarship programs and awards
 - Provide school supplies to children in memory of their loved one
 - Do community outreach in churches and other organization,
 - Honor their loved one by sponsoring and cleaning up a segment of a road or highway

As you can see, thriving survivors make the choice to not allow the perpetrator to take anything else from them or to rob them of a good and happy life. As long as they live and thrive, they’re loved.

Notification to Victims of Crime Regarding DNA Profiles

Significant new notification requirements have been imposed on law enforcement authorities that inform certain victim or victim’s representatives about the availability and use of DNA profiles by law enforcement authorities. These new requirements took effect in Maryland on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

With these new notification requirements, the family members of victims of crimes of violence and victim’s representatives will become more informed about developments in cold cases.

Highlighted legislative changes include:

On written request of a victim of a crime of violence or the victim’s representative, and unless to do so would impede or compromise and ongoing investigation, a Law Enforcement Agency shall give the victim or the victim’s representative timely notice of:

Whether a DNA profile of the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators was obtained from evidence in the case;

When any DNA profile of an alleged perpetrator developed in the case was entered into the statewide DNA database system; and

When any match of the DNA profile of an alleged perpetrator is received.

Subject to the authority of the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office Crime Control and Prevention, the Maryland State Board of Victim Services shall develop pamphlets to notify victims and victim’s representatives of the rights, services, and procedures provided under Article 47 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights or State law and how to request information regarding an unsolved case.

A DNA Notification Form is located on Page 12 of this newsletter.

2016

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

The Board of Directors has voted to introduce, as a priority in the 2016 General

Assembly session, the overturning of the Court of Appeals decision in

Griffin v. Lindsey -

<http://www.mdcourts.gov/opinions/coa/2015/88a14.pdf>.

If successful victims will be able to appeal the denial of a motion for reconsideration regarding restitution.

Schedule of Events

Peer Support Group for Families & Friends of Homicide Victims

First Monday: 7-9pm. In Baltimore City, Md (Call Dr. Hicks (facilitator) at 410-466-9023)

Every Other Tuesday Evening: 7-9 PM. In Upper Marlboro, Md (Call Roberta Roper and Brandy Thompson Co-Facilitators at 301-952-0063)

Fundraiser at Wendy's of Bowie, MD

Second Wednesday of Every Month, 5-8 PM

Giving Tuesday

The first Tuesday after Thanksgiving

Holiday Gathering

December 15th at the MCVRC office at 6:30 PM

Chocolate Affair fundraiser

April 2, 2016

@MDCrimeVictims
Twitter Feed

"As the use of the Internet increases, we need to be aware of the potential net crimes that may occur."



fb.me/1DNgqA2vK

Life Crisis Center Joins the Statewide Survivors Network

We are pleased to announce that the Life Crisis Center, Inc., led by Ms. Michele Hughes, Executive Director has joined the Survivors of Homicide Victim Network.

The Life Crisis Center, Inc. is located on Maryland's Lower Shore (Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester). This new addition means that the network has expanded to the Lower Eastern Shore and fills another resource gap we had identified in our effort to have representatives in each region of Maryland.

Ms. Dee Copeland will represent the organization at our quarterly meetings.

See: <http://www.lifecrisiscenter.org/> for more information

Join us online!



MCVRC Attorney Helps Court Rule Defendant “dangerous”

Under the guidance and legal counsel of MCVRC attorney Victor Stone, a victim and his representative requested and were granted an interview with the Medical Director of the Maryland State Department of Health facility. The Director was attempting to determine the conditions of release for a defendant by evaluating the “dangerousness” of a defendant. The defendant had been found incompetent to stand trial in two prior sexual assault cases.

Under normal circumstances, a Department of Health Medical Evaluator would only interview the defendant and his family. Unsurprisingly, these interviews generally conclude with a decision Favoring the defendant.

MCVRC attorney Stone successfully obtained the right to speak to the evaluator. During this interview, victim, victim’s representative, and the victim’s attorney described several facts relating to the defendant’s violations, including similar acts by the defendant, his planning of the attack, evidence that the defendant had stalked other family members, and even evidence that the defendant took steps to cover up his crimes.

Based in part on this information, much of which would not have otherwise come to light, the Court found the defendant “dangerous” and required that he be placed on 24 hour supervision and have no contact with the victim or the victim’s family.

Volume 2, Issue 3

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Twitter Feed

“As the use of the Internet increases, we need to be aware of the potential net crimes that may occur.”
fb.me/1DNgqA2vK”



“SPREAD THE WORD!!! All Howard County Homicide Families, Support Group Meeting. Contact MCVRC for details.”

Join us online!





Kristin Nuss

Kristin Nuss is originally from Hughesville, Pennsylvania. She has her bachelor of science in Criminal Justice from Penn State University and her law degree from The University of Baltimore School of Law. She was admitted to practice law in Maryland in December of 2014.

Prior to starting at MCVRC, she was a law clerk to the Honorable Michael A. DiPietro in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. She has been working with minors, elderly, and disabled victims of crime as a court appointed guardian ad litem.

Claudia Ahwireng

Claudia Ahwireng is originally from Silver Spring, MD. She attended University of Maryland College Park and Duke Law School. During law school, she participated in the HIV AIDS Clinic, where she advocated for low income community residents who faced employment and housing barriers.

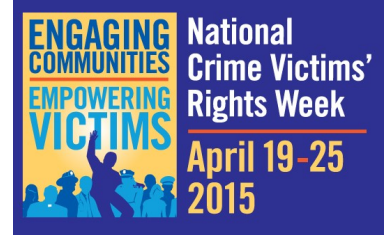


Before coming to MCVRC, she supported insurance attorneys with compliance and outreach activities. She is passionate about public interest work and wants to make a difference in the lives of those affected by violent crime.

Social Worker's Corner



**CLICK HERE
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/
WATCH?V=JFDN9479U3S
TO LEARN ABOUT THE
IMPACT OF TRAUMA ON
CHILDREN**



TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Direct Services for Victims of Crime

- Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center.....866-USWOMEN
- Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline...800-4-A-CHILD
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving..... 877-MADD-HELP
- National Domestic Violence Hotline..... 800-799-7233
..... TTY 800-787-3224
- National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline 866-331-9474
- Parents of Murdered Children, Inc..... 888-818-7662
- Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network...800-656-HOPE

Information and Referrals for Victims of Crime

- Battered Women's Justice Project...800-903-0111, ext. 1
- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Country Child Abuse Hotline 800-633-5155
- Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline 877-ID-THEFT
..... TTY 866-653-4261
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 800-843-5678
- National Human Trafficking Hotline..... 888-3737-888
- National Organization for Victim Assistance 800-879-6982
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Helpline.....877-SAMHSA-7
..... TTY 800-487-4889

Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Services for Victims of Crime

- Child Welfare Information Gateway..... 800-394-3366
- National Children's Alliance..... 202-548-0090
- National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges775-784-6012
- National Crime Prevention Council202-466-6272
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (OVC Resource Center)800-851-3420
..... TTY 301-240-6310
- National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.....800-537-2238
..... TTY 800-553-2508
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center 877-739-3895
..... TTY 717-909-0715
- OVC TTAC 866-OVC-TTAC
..... TTY 866-682-8880
- Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody 800-527-3223

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U.S. Department of Justice • Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime

Success in \$375,000 Restitution case

MCVRC attorneys successfully litigated a Contempt of Court Case involving a defendant who failed to comply with court order requiring him to pay victim \$330,000.00 in restitution.

In State v Reichart (Carroll County) the defendant was convicted of embezzling or stealing more than \$375,000.00 in business and equipment from his employer. The conviction included a requirement to pay \$375,000 in restitution.

From 2007 to 2015 the victim only received 2,700.00 of the \$32,000.00 he should have received.

To add insult to injury, the defendant was running a business that competed with this the victim's business and, it is strongly suspected, was using equipment that had been stolen from the victim.

Victims' right attorneys from the Md Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., initially working with the Carroll County State's attorney office, were able to initiate a contempt of court action for failure to pay restitution before Judge Galloway.

When the State's Attorney office could no longer pursue the action, MCVRC was able to obtain and win a contempt of court action. Normally in these circumstances, the defendant is given a speech and told to show up in six months. At which time the defendant provides an excuse as to why restitution could not be paid. MCVRC's attorney's were not satisfied with this outcome and proceeded to advocate for the defendant's incarceration.

In a hearing that had already been delayed a year the defendant requested a continuance to seek legal counsel. MCVRC attorney Alonzo Robertson won his objection to the request and with the assistance of an Agent from the Department of Parole and Probation Commission succeed in demonstrating that the defendant's failure to pay restitution was due in large part to his belief that the Courts would not punish him.

To the defendant's surprise, Judge Galloway ordered the defendant led from the courtroom in handcuffs sentenced to 179 days in county jail and a continued requirement to pay restitution.

The successful collection of restitution from a defendant is often more of a surprise than an expected outcome. In his closing statement, Judge Galloway reminded the Victim's Representative that restitution does not require that victim is made whole and should not exceed defendant's ability to pay. A clear sign that the Court saw it as unlikely that the victim will receive much of the \$375,000.00 that the Defendant has been ordered paid. Judge Galloway's actions however, sent the stronger and more reassuring message that respect for the victim and the Court will be demanded.

@MDCrimeVictims
Twitter Feed

*"As the use of the Internet increases, we need to be aware of the potential net crimes that may occur.
fb.me/1DNggA2vK"*



"SPREAD THE WORD!!! All Howard County Homicide Families, Support Group Meeting. Contact MCVRC for details."

Join us online!



The Passing of the Father of the Crime Victims' Movement



Wendy Preston was a 23-year-old geriatric nurse who was switching careers to attend the New York School of Ballet. While visiting her parents Bob and Pat Preston in Florida, she was senselessly murdered on June 23, 1977 – a time where her murder was considered only a “crime against the state” and when victims’ rights were nonexistent.

Bob Preston emphasized the importance of victims’ rights in the criminal justice process with the following quote: “From the standpoint of the process of justice being done, victims who are included in the criminal justice process will be far more cooperative with reporting crime, and cooperating with authorities and proceeding in the prosecution. From the

standpoint of the victim, when you are treated with trust and compassion, you start to regain faith in the world, and a view of the fact that life goes on, and that life can be beautiful.”

- When you appreciate victims’ rights to be treated with fairness, dignity and respect, *think of Bob Preston.*
- When victims and survivors are allowed to be present and participate in justice proceedings (as opposed to when Wendy was murdered, when they were *not*), *think of Bob Preston.*
- When you consider that 33 states now have constitutional amendments, *think of Bob Preston.*
- When an elder of our field takes time to mentor you and help you become a better advocate, *give a personal shout-out to Bob Preston.* He taught us all well.

His death is a crushing personal loss to many “Old Buffalo” elders of our field. We were all blessed to have him in our midst. Roberta Roper (Founder/Board Chair)

Seeking Support?

We invite you to join the MCVRC Support Group

When: Every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 9pm

Where: MCVRC Office

Please call to attend our next session.



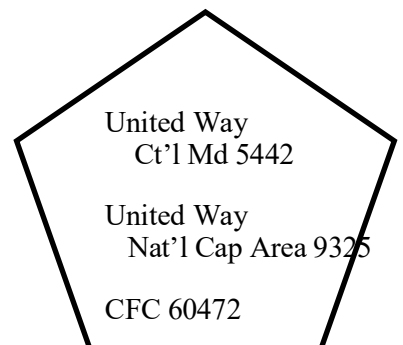
MCVRC at National Night Out in Montgomery County



Quote on behalf of Ike Leggett.

“Montgomery County has worked hard to develop a coordinated approach to providing victims services. Through our Family Justice Center we have a one-stop place that brings together law enforcement, the States Attorney’s office, and social services for victim and their families.”

Pic.: MCVRC staffer Claudia Ahwireng with Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive



MCVRC Helps Identity Theft Victim Clear His Name

A Baltimore City resident called MCVRC about expunging his criminal record. While not within the normal mission statement of MCVRC an exception was warranted in this case. He was the victim of identity theft.

In the course of applying for an apartment he discovered that he was facing criminal charges and arrest in multiple jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia...for crimes which he never committed.

MCVRC Victim Advocate, Claudia Ahwireng, contacted several organizations, including the Commonwealth Attorney of Richmond, VA . After some research, she discovered that the defendant had an hearing scheduled and that the presence of the victim would greatly enhance efforts to convict the defendant.

She worked with the victim to help him travel to Richmond, VA and assisted him in completing the necessary steps for the expungement of his record. In the end, the charges were transferred to the defendant.

MCVRC’s intervention allowed the defendant to continue in his search for housing and employment without fear of discrimination or arrest.



Three Steps to Success in Identity Theft Matters:

First

- Find out if you are a victim of identity theft. Many victims discover their identity has been stolen when they are turned down for a job or a home or car loan. You can request a copy of your record from an employer or landlord, if you get turned down for a job or housing because of your record. Failure to show you a copy of the record is against the law.

Second

– Be proactive. Don’t make the mistake of thinking that just complaining to a court official or law enforcement official will clear your name. Convictions do not automatically drop off your record after a period of time. Nor can they be removed by a clerk or administrator. Expungement is a judicial process requiring a ruling by a judge.

Third

– Contact Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center.

@MDCrimeVictims
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fb.me/1DNggA2vK”



“SPREAD THE WORD!!! All Howard County Homicide Families, Support Group Meeting. Contact MCVRC for details.”

Join us online!



2014–2015 Contributors

A special thank you goes out to our contributors. Their generous support makes it possible for us to support others. (Contributions between October 2014 to February 2015)

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 (DBA Mexico Restaurant)

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* Contribution made in memory of a victim

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A special thank you goes to our contributors. Their generous support makes it possible for us to support others. (Contributions between October 2014 to February 2015)

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(DMV Chapter)
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Phyllis Mulligan
N. James Myerberg

N

Ilene J. Nathan
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Arthur and Heather Nesbit
Network for Good

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Tower Federal Credit Union

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Honorable Ken Ulman
United Methodist Women of Providence
(Fort Washington, Maryland)
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of the National Capital Area
Uno Pizzeria & Grill (Bowie)

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Walmart (Bowie)
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Steve and Charlene Weaver*
Wendy’s
Latoya Francis-Williams and Craig Williams
Rubenia Williams-Winston
Woman’s Club of Laurel

If you would like to make a contribution to support our mission, please click on the image below ...



Photo By: Kathryn Harper

MCVRC Staff and Volunteers Outreach Efforts



Meetings with the Prince George's County Rotary Club and the Office of the Mayor of Baltimore



Representatives of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission from Hawaii, and The Judicial Reinvestment Initiative (a Pew Charitable Trust program)



Find out about the Howard County and Baltimore City Peer Support Groups .

Contact MCVRC at 301-952-0063



Radio personalities and representative from nonprofit Organizations based in Baltimore.



Prince George's Family and Friends Day Hosted by Councilman Mel Franklin.



Community Day events held throughout Maryland including a visit from Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.



DNA Notification Form

Law Enforcement Agency {LEA investigating the crime}

STREET ADDRESS City, State, Zip Code

County:

Dear Chief Law Enforcement Officer:

I am {check one of the following}

- A victim of a crime of violence
A family member, guardian, representative of a victim of a crime of violence,
Other {insert your relationship to the victim}
who is (i) a minor; (ii) deceased; or (iii) disabled.

Under Md. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE Code Ann. § 11-104 (c), I hereby provide my written request to receive timely notice regarding:

- (1) Whether an evidentiary DNA profile was obtained from evidence in the case;
(2) If any evidentiary DNA profile developed in the case was entered into the DNA database system and if so when; and
(3) When any confirmed match of the DNA profile, official DNA case report, or DNA hit report is received.

YOUR SIGNATURE

DATE

{Your contact information below}

NAME

STREET ADDRESS CITY

COUNTY STATE ZIP CODE

Phone

EMAIL

Become A Member!

Victim Supporter \$25

As a Victim Supporter, you will receive a free subscription to the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events.

Victim Friend \$50

As a Victim Friend, you will receive a free subscription to the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events, and a memorial ornament on the MCVRC-sponsored Holiday Tree of Remembrance.

Victim Advocate \$100

As a Victim Advocate, you will receive a free subscription to the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events, a memorial ornament on the MCVRC-sponsored Holiday Tree of Remembrance, and a 25% discount on all special event tickets.

Lifetime Membership \$500

As a Lifetime Member, you will receive all benefits of a Victim Supporter for your lifetime.

Organization Membership \$500

As an Organizational Member, your organization will receive the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events, and three complimentary ornaments on the MCVRC-sponsored Holiday Tree of Remembrance.

To make a donation by mail please make checks payable to "Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center Inc." and mail to "1001 Prince George's Blvd, Ste 750, Upper Marlboro, MD



MCVRC utilizes volunteers as well as a limited number of full-time and part-time staff in key positions. Please consider becoming one of our volunteers.



Volunteer!

Court Accompaniment – Assist victims through the criminal justice process by providing accompaniment and support at criminal justice proceedings.

Special Events – Help with organizing and setting up special events, such as media conferences, fundraisers and banquets.

Office Assistance – Work alongside our key staff by providing office assistance as your time allows. Schedules are flexible to match your availability.

Community Events – Staff neighborhood gatherings, and other events as needed to provide more information about The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center.

Pro Bono Assistance – Attorneys to provide pro bono assistance to crime victims experiencing civil matters that are a result of the victimization.

Contact Us!

Main Office:

Phone: 301-952-0063
 Phone: 877-842-8461
 Fax: 240-929-0526
 1001 Prince George's Blvd.
 Suite 750
 Upper Marlboro, MD
 20774-7427

Baltimore Offices:

Phone: 410-234-9885
 Fax: 410-234-9886
 218 E. Lexington Street
 Suite 401
 Baltimore, MD 21202

DC Office:

Phone: 202-531-3346
 Fax: 202-747-7518
 Ronald Reagan Building &
 International Trade Center
 1300 Pennsylvania Ave.,
 NW Suite 700
 Washington, DC 20004

Visit us online: www.MDCrimeVictims.org

Design Your Brick or Submit Information for the Tree:

To place an order for a brick or tree, please complete this form and return it to:

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., 1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.

For additional information, please call: 301-952-0063 or email: rroper@mdcrimevictims.org.

First Line (max. 15 characters):

Second Line (max 15 characters):

Adjustments will be made for names longer than 15 characters.

Donor Information (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Example:

First Line: EVAN MORRIS

Second Line: 1989 – 2011

Payment Information

Enclosed is my check payable to MCVRC

Please charge my credit card:

Name on card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CSC/CID (3 or 4 digits): _____

Type of card: VISA Master Card

Authorized Signature: _____

Please send the completed form along with payment to the: Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., 1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.

