



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

MCVRC Newsletter

March 2015 :: Volume 2, Issue 1

Dear Supporters,

This year, as part of National Crime Victims' Rights Week on April 19 – 25, 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice (Office of Victims of Crime) is emphasizing their vision of reaching and supporting all victims with the theme "Engaging Communities. Empowering Victims."

For the Staff and Volunteers of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. this has always been our vision.

For more than thirty (30) years, MCVRC has established a legacy of empowering victimized individuals and their families. Through our advocates, we provide an atmosphere where victimized individuals are believed and supported by their community.

"I am not alone. I am not a victim. I am an individual who has been victimized."

Through our lawyers, we enforce those rights

already on the books and advocate for those that "ought" to be on the books.

"I am not just a survivor; I am a catalyst for change and I will make a difference."

Every day is Crime Victims' Empowerment Day for the staff and volunteers of Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. We support the transformation of individuals, who have been victimized, into individuals who are catalysts for positive change in their community. Your volunteered time and resources; financial support; and promotion of our efforts within your personal networks make our work possible.

Some of our many accomplishments, over the past three months, are detailed in this edition of the Newsletter.

Please continue to support the Maryland Crime Victim Resource Center, Inc.

Respectfully,
MCVRC staff and volunteers

Words of Support and Encouragement

Feedback from victims who have been helped by MCVRC

Thank you for the beautiful Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service. It was my first time and was a bittersweet experience. ...I will never forget those beautiful balloons that carried my loved one's name into the heavens as we sang "Amazing Grace". I was deeply touched. *Your work is powerful!* God Bless You.

Connie Moore – Homicide Victim Survivor

I am most grateful for your services ... *thank you for all you are doing for me and my family.*

Milton Hayslett – Victim of Identity Theft

Newsletter Highlights

- > **EVENT:** National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 19-25
- > **FUNDING:** Fighting for Homicide Survivor Grant in State Legislature pg. 4
- > **ACTION:** Contact these Budget Committee members to support MCVRC legislative priorities pg. 6

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"[Russell Butler's] work to ensure that victims are heard and carefully considered has made a lasting impact that will continue to enrich the [U.S Sentencing] Commission's process."

Letter of Recognition from Chair of U.S. Sentencing Commission

Russell Butler, Esq., Executive Director of Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., recently completed his sixth year as a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

As a member and subsequent chair of the Victims Advocacy Group, he made extremely valuable contributions to the Commission. Specifically, providing them with a viewpoint of the criminal justice system that is often overlooked, that of the victim.

Mr. Butler was one of the initial members of the Group. His work to ensure that victims are heard and carefully considered has made a lasting impact that will continue to enrich the Commission's process.

A letter of appreciation from Patti Saris, Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission was issued to Mr. Butler in January 2015.

Congratulations Russell! Your multifaceted work on behalf of victims is greatly appreciated.

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 Legal Action Update

In Re: Tyrell A.

On December 3, 2014, the Maryland Court of Appeals granted MCVRC's motion to file a "friend of the court" amicus brief in re Tyrell A., and the amicus brief has now been filed.

This case involves the question of whether a judge has the discretion to order restitution for medical expenses incurred by a juvenile victim who had his nose broken after he showed up for a fight proposed by another student. Only the other student was prosecuted and he pled guilty to "affray," which is an old offense prohibiting fighting in public that endangers the public. The crime is not designed to protect either of the combatants.

The case was set for public argument in the Maryland Court of Appeals courtroom in Annapolis on February 9, 2015.

Schedule of Events

Peer Support Group for Families & Friends of Homicide Victims

Every Other Tuesday Evening: 7-9 PM. Call First.

Fundraiser at Wendy's of Bowie, MD

Second Wednesday of Every Month, 5-8 PM

- April 11** Morehouse Alumni Association meeting
- April 19** Ceremony of Remembrance Statewide Memorial Service
(4 Locations around The State)
- April 19-25** National Crime Victims' Rights Week [Click Here](#) for full details.
- September 19** MCVRC's Annual Ceremony of Remembrance

MCVRC Legal Action cont.

State v. Johnson

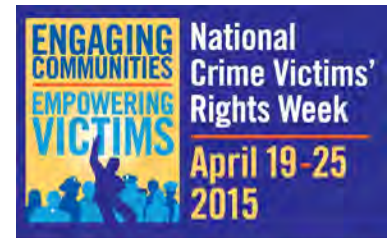
On October 22, 2014, the Maryland Court of Appeals decided State v. Johnson. This case asks the question of whether a prosecution witness' psychological counseling records may be shared with a defense counsel if, upon private inspection, a judge concludes that the records contain information that may be useful to the defense. Such a decision would undermine the absolute privilege of privacy currently given to such records.

MCVRC filed a "friend of the court" amicus brief in this case arguing that refusing to honor the victim's statutory privilege attaching to his or her psychological records is important to victims who might otherwise not feel comfortable talking freely to a psychological counsellor, including when they are depressed or even suicidal.

The court decided that it would require that a very high threshold showing be made to a court, before that court could inspect these records. The defense must now show the court from evidence it has other than these privileged psychological counseling records that there is "a reasonable likelihood" that the privileged psychological counseling records will contain exculpatory evidence, before the trial court is allowed to inspect the records.

As a practical matter, we expect that this high threshold standard should make judicial inspection of a person's psychological counseling records a rare event.

Russell Butler was interviewed by the Daily Record regarding this matter and noted that the decision "poses problems in the future" for victims.



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..... | 800-879-6682 |
| 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 Judges..... | 775-784-6012 |
| National Crime Prevention Council..... | 202-466-6272 |
| 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 |

SPONSORED BY:

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

MCVRC Supports the National Crime Victim Law Institute Program

Staff and volunteers of the MCVRC supported the National Crime Victim Law Institute’s first Annual “Voices for Justice Reception” in Portland, Oregon.

The event included the former Chief Justice of Oregon Supreme Court, and featured the Oregon Attorney General as keynote speaker. To support this program members of the staff and MCVRC volunteers provided short responses to the following questions:

- 1) **Why does it matter to justice to have a victim’s voice in the system?**
- 2) **Why do victims’ rights matter?**

The **answers** are a powerful testament to why we do what we do. A copy of the videos can be viewed on the MCVRC’s [YouTube page](#) or a direct link [here](#).



Legislative Appearances

MCVRC Staff Members Appear Before the House Budget Subcommittee

In February, the Maryland General Assembly held two budget hearings pertaining to the Survivors of Homicide Victims Grant (SOHG) recipients. The budget analysts for the House and the Senate recommended that the Governor cut the funding currently used to support the projects established to support and improve services to Homicide victim survivors.

MCVRC sent Pauline Mandel, Esq., and Alonzo Robertson, Esq., (Program Manager and Coordinator, respectively) to the House session. They went armed with several letters of support from (i) members of the Statewide Survivors of Homicide Victims Network and (ii) recipients of the services which would be impacted by the proposed elimination of funding.

At the Hearing, Mr. Christopher Shank, the GOCCP Executive Director, gave a very persuasive presentation about the importance

Continued on page 5

Stay informed with the latest MCVRC developments. Show your support and tell others how much you care.

Join us on social media!



Will You Make a Difference for Crime Victims?

Partner with the MCVRC Team by ...

Contribute to:

MD Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc. (www.mdcrimevictims.org/donate)
Cars 4 Causes (www.cars4causes.net)
Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com)



Donate to the MCVRC through:

United Way/Central Maryland 5442
United Way/National Capital Area 9325
Combined Federal Campaign 60472



Join the electronic victims' rights community:

[MCVRC Webpage](#)

[MCVRC LinkedIn](#)

[Homicide Survivors Twitter](#)

[MCVRC Facebook](#)

[Homicide Webpage](#)

[MCVRC Twitter](#)

[Homicide Facebook](#)



Volunteer to assist victims – call the Director of Human Resources 301-952-0063

MCVRC House Budget Subcommittee cont.

of the SOHG. Unfortunately, SOHG was just one of several very important initiatives Mr. Shank had to address. Ms. Mandel and Mr. Robertson used their time to focus the attention of the members on the impact of the SOHG.

In particular, Ms. Mandel gave an impassioned and yet succinct description of the difference between Criminal Injuries Compensation Board services and the more expansive and encompassing services being provided by the SOHG recipients.

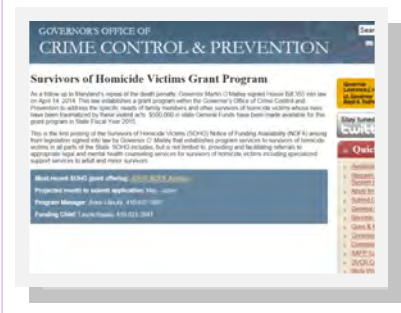
Mr. Robertson referenced a compliment given to the State's Attorney Office for extraordinary care they gave to the mother of a murdered

child last year. He reminded them that SOHG funding would ensure those same services are available to the families of the other six (6) children murdered last year.

The Senate Subcommittee does not accept public oral testimony, so written testimony was submitted by MCVRC and members of the Statewide Survivors of Homicide Victims Network.

"Ms. Mandel gave an impassioned and yet succinct description of the difference between Criminal Injuries Compensation Board services and the more expansive and encompassing services being provided by the SOHG recipients."

House Bill 355 established a grant program to address specific needs of family members and survivors of homicide victims. It is currently in review by the Governor's office. However, cuts to funding were recently recommended by budget analysts, see pg. 4.



"MCVRC is looking for potential witnesses to testify or to provide letters of support as well as others who would be willing to email or to call legislators to voice their support for these legislative proposals."

(Contact information pg. 10)

Grant Review Before the GOCCP

In January, representatives of the Survivors of Homicide Victims provided the Governor's Office of Crime, Control and Prevention with a status update of the Survivors of Homicide Grant accomplishments over the previous five months.

Several accomplishments were highlighted and the feedback from the GOCCP has been positive.

Provided below is a partial list of accomplishments.

- The Network has grown from seven (7) grant recipients to more than 28 organizations
- The Network has identified and targeted 23 hurdles to effective provision of services to survivors. Included in this list is required improvement of victim notification, transportation for victims, cultural competency of service providers, and counseling services.
- A set of electronic networking nodes were established. (see above)
- An increased number of briefings and presentations about the SOHG; including a presentation before the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Maryland Association of Victim Services Professionals, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Prince George's County Chapter), and more than 10 Maryland State's Attorney Offices.

Continued on page 9

Legislative Priorities

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center has two legislative priorities for the 2015 Maryland Legislative session. MCVRC is looking for potential witnesses to testify or to provide letters of support as well as others who would be willing to email or to call legislators to voice their support for these legislative proposals.

The proposals are:

- Notification in cold cases – This proposal would, unless disclosure would impede or hinder a law enforcement investigation, provide notification to victims and victim's representatives in cold cases involving crimes of violence when DNA evidence of a suspected

Continued on page 10

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)

A

Scott Alford*
Stephen Almason*
Amazon (Smile)
Yolanda Anderson

B

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Flora & Paul Beaudet
Harold Belcher*
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Victoria Brock
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The Crescent Cities Foundation, Inc.

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Anthony M. Domenico

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Correctional Services
Julie Drake, Esq
Margaret B. Dupee

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Engineered Building Solutions, Inc.
Betty English*
ITT Excelis

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Food Lion (Mitchellville)
Latoya Francis-Williams
Cari and Jerry Freemore*

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John and Patsy Gillis (Cars 4 Causes)*
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L

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Levi's Restaurant
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Patricia Lunenfeld*
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Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center,
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Cindy & Mark Morgan

* 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)

Shyrlene Morris*
E. Payman Moshedi, M.D.
Phyllis Mulligan
N. James Myerberg

N
Betty Oberman*
Ilene J. Nathan
Arthur and Heather Nesbit
Network for Good

O
Oasis of Upper Marlboro Desert of Maryland
Irene Kamm & Maria O'Haver
Betty Oberman*
Olive Garden (Bowie)
Thomas Ott
Outback (Bowie)
Lawrence and Kathleen Owens

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Edgar H. Parker
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Doralea Pepper*
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Edgar and Melanie Pineda
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Rotary Club of Beltsville Foundation
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Roberta Roper*

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Sam's Club (Waldorf)
Sharper's Florist
Oliver W. & Cynthia L. Smith*
Catherine S. Shifflett*
Shopper's Food (Bowie)
Show Place Arena (Prince George's County)
Smokey Bones
Subway (Mitchellville)

T
Deborah and Ben Tall
Juan and Joan Torres
Tower Federal Credit Union

U
Friends of the Honorable Ken Ulman*
Honorable Ken Ulman
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of the National Capital Area
Uno Pizzeria & Grill (Bowie)

V
Veridian Energy
Nancy Beth Volk

W
Charles & Judy Walker
Walmart (Bowie)
Earnest and Linda Washington
Steve and Charlene Weaver*
Wendy's
Latoya Francis-Williams and Craig Williams
Woman's Club of Laurel

* Contribution made in memory of a victim

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



Photo By: Kathryn Harper

Grant Review cont.

- The establishment of support groups throughout the State of Maryland.

For a more detailed update visit us on the following services:

- [MCVRC Webpage](#)
- [MCVRC Facebook](#)
- [MCVRC YouTube](#)
- [Homicide Survivors Twitter](#)

Meet the Staff and Volunteers!

Staff



Joseph Hsiao has joined the MCVRC as a victim advocate. He will work with crime victims to ensure that all of their needs and rights are assessed.

Mr. Hsiao is an attorney and entrepreneur, having most recently help build a venture creation firm focused on immunological technologies. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Maryland, College Park, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh - School of Law.

Ellie Jones Coordinator of Victim Services—Please join us in congratulating Ellie Jones as she assumes the role of Coordinator of Victim Services. In this newly established position, she is responsible for MCVRC’s Victim Services, supervision of the staff advocates, and seeking and applying for grants that will provide resources to further enhance victims’ rights and services.

Dian Daley and Kevin Cameron Dian Daley (former Director of Victim Services) and Kevin Cameron (former Social Worker) have left Maryland Crime Victims’ Resource Center, Inc. to pursue private practice .

@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!



Legislative Priorities cont.

perpetrator exists, is entered into the DNA database, and when a potential identification is received. (Not the identity of the potential perpetrator)

1. The House version of the Bill is HB 501 entitled, Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Notification Regarding DNA Profile.
2. The Senate version of the Bill is SB 427 entitled Criminal Procedure - Victims of Crime - Notification Regarding DNA Profile

- Improvements in the collection of restitution – Similar to legislation that passed in the 2014 legislative session for child support, the proposal would provide for the interception of video lottery winnings from those delinquent in restitution to be paid to the victims/victim’s representatives who are owed the restitution.

1. The House version of the Bill is HB 549 entitled, Video Lottery Facility Payouts - Intercepts for Restitution Payments
2. The Senate version of the Bill is SB 561 entitled, Video Lottery Facility Payouts - Intercepts for Restitution Payments

The following individuals are members of the House and Senate Budget committees:

| House | Senate |
|--|--|
| <i>Full Committee: Appropriations</i> | <i>Full Committee: Budget and Taxation</i> |
| <i>House Office Building, Rm 121 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401</i> | State House 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401-1925 |
| McIntosh, Maggie (Chair) | Kasemeyer, Edward J. (Chair) |
| Proctor, James E., Jr. (Vice Chair) | Madaleno, Richard S., Jr. (Vice Chair) |
| Barnes, Ben | Currie, Ulysses |
| Beitzel, Wendell R. | DeGrange, James E., Sr. |
| Carozza, Mary Beth | Eckardt, Adelaide C. |
| Chang, Mark S. | Edwards, George C. |
| Ciliberti, Barrie S. | Ferguson, Bill |
| Gaines, Tawanna P. | Guzzone, Guy |
| Ghrist, Jefferson L. | King, Nancy J. |
| Grammer, Robin L., Jr. | Manno, Roger P. |

List continued on page 11



FUNDRAISER

Wendy's of Bowie, MD
hosts a bi-monthly
fundraiser for MCVRC

Second Wednesday
of Every Month

5:00—8:00 PM

For more information:
Please call MCVRC at
(301) 952-0063

Meet the Staff and Volunteers cont.

Volunteers

Fannie Palmer Please welcome Ms. Palmer to our team of volunteers. Ms. Palmer enjoys walking and gardening. Her favorite flower is the Dinnerplate Dahlia (“MysterDay”) a sample of which is featured in this photograph.



Legislative Priorities cont.

| House | Senate |
|--|--|
| <i>Full Committee: Appropriations</i> | <i>Full Committee: Budget and Taxation</i> |
| <i>House Office Building, Rm 121 6 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401</i> | State House 100 State Circle Annapolis, MD 21401-1925 |
| Gutierrez, Ana Sol | McFadden, Nathaniel J. |
| Haynes, Keith E. | Peters, Douglas J. J. |
| Hettleman, Shelly | Serafini, Andrew A. |
| Jackson, Michael A. | |
| Jones, Adrienne A. | |
| Korman, Marc | |
| Krimm, Carol L. | |
| Lierman, Brooke E. | |
| McConkey, Tony | |
| McKay, Mike | |
| Miller, Aruna | |
| Robinson, Barbara | |
| Sophocleus, Theodore | |
| Vogt, David E., III | |
| Young, Pat | |
| Zucker, Craig J. | |

www.Facebook.com/MDVictims

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. shared Baltimore City State's Attorney Office's photo. February 7 · 🌐

DNA evidence facilitates justice

Baltimore City State's Attorney Office

Nelarkher Uaenra-el, also known as Reginald Bellamy, was sentenced Tuesday afternoon to life plus 20 years. Bellamy was convicted in October of 1st degree rape ...

See More

Like · Comment · Share · 📌 1

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. February 5 · 🌐

The impact of identity theft.

Like · Comment · Share · 📌 1

DYK?

VOLUNTEER with us!

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

See page 13 for details.

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.



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.



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

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

EMPOWERING VICTIMS



April 19-25 ★ 2015



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

www.VictimsOfCrime.org

Sponsored by U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Justice Programs - Office for Victims of Crime

[Download the 2015 NCVRW Resource Guide](#) now to access everything you need to host and promote NCVRW in your



OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS