



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

MCVRC Newsletter

December 2015 : Volume 2, Issue 4

Welcome to the Chairperson for MCVRC's Board of Directors

It is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome our good friend and colleague, Debra Tall, as the new Chair of the MCVRC Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2016. We are very fortunate to have Debbie to lead the Board in its continuing missions of service, support, advocacy and representation for all victims of crime.

Roberta Roper, Founder/BD Chair

MSG From the Chair-elect:

2015 has been a busy and great year for me. My husband (Ben) and I had our 60th birthdays in May; We celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary on the Mediterranean coast with a cruise in August; Saw the arrival of our first grandchild (and became his daycare providers); and after 38 years with the Anne Arundel County Police Department, I retired.

This is a new chapter of my life, but the theme of my story is the same. I have been a victim advocate for 32 of my 38 years with the police department. I have been the secretary of the Board for the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC), served on both the Maryland State Board of Victim Services and the Maryland Association of Victim Service Providers, Inc. I even served two two-year term as President of the Maryland Victim Assistance Network before the Maryland State Board of Victim Services was created. As Chairperson of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. I will continue to be the victims' advocate.

I have known and worked with Roberta and Vince Roper for over 32 years. We have a strong personal and working relationship. I thank them for having the vision to build this organization into one that serves victims. As we move forward, I want to strengthen financial resources of the MCVRC. I believe we can increase our fundraising results and develop stronger relationships with foundations. Only then can we keep developing and providing the level of free victim services and legislative and legal advocacy needed to ensure victims' rights are protected.

I look forward to working with the Board and the staff as we pursuing these objectives.

Respectfully,
Debra Tall

Chair-elect of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

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

Newsletter Highlights

- > ACTION: Support fundraising events on Schedule of Events pg. 3
- > ExDir Appointed to Body Camera Commission pg 8

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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.

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. es are honored and remembered in the best way possible. They demonstrate to the world that despite what they endured, their broken places are made stronger through service to others. MCVRC salutes them! We are blessed to have them in our world.

Schedule of Events

Peer Support Group for Families & Friends of Homicide Victims

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, December 1, 2015

Holiday Gathering

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

Chocolate Affair fundraiser

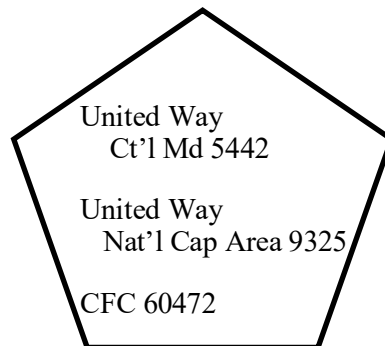
April 2, 2016

@MDCrimeVic-
tims
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



Social Worker's Corner



Psychologists: Coloring is Best alternative to Meditation.



<http://tinyurl.com/penrqxm>

MCVRC Assists Baltimore Protest Victim

From April 25 to May 3, the city of Baltimore was engulfed in several protests following the city's decision regarding the prosecution of officers involved in the death of Freddie Gray. Riots that arose out of these anti-police brutality protests resulted in the destruction of property and led to several acts of victimization. In one case, a shop worker in West Baltimore suffered serious injuries that required him to undergo several medical procedures. The victim became disenchanted with the justice system because the Baltimore police failed to arrest the suspect, even though they were provided a name and address.

According to Claudia Ahwireng, a victim advocate with the MCVRC, The scale of the protests made it difficult for the police to provide a comprehensive response for all victims. This victim felt like no one was listening to his story or really looking for the assailant. It took about three months before the police made an arrest and charged the defendant with second degree assault, despite being given identifying information about the defendant immediately after the incident had occurred.

MCVRC worked with the victim to contact the investigating detective. We advocated for the police to make an arrest. In addition, MCVRC helped connect the victim with financial assistance resources such as the victims' compensation board and the State Attorney Office.

"It is extremely important that a victim feels that the authorities are investigating their case. From our work, the victim feels validated and this is really important for the healing process," MCVRC is working with community groups and local stakeholders to support victims of crime in Baltimore. The Baltimore Office of MCVRC is providing legal support for residents as well as the tools needed to make an informed decision about their case.

You can call the office at 410-234-9885 to find out how we can assist your pending case or other helpful local resources.

@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!



2015 has been one of relentless advocacy for victims needing resolution of legal issues. A victim in Carroll County, who had been waiting for almost 10-years for assistance and justice in collecting restitution of more than \$300,000.00 found some measure of justice when the perpetrator was ordered back into jail until he got a job and started paying restitution. This miracle was accomplished by a MCVRC attorney.

A mother, seeking restitution from a perpetrator who murdered her son, was awarded a judgement for restitution in Baltimore City after initially being denied by a judge. A MCVRC attorney argued the restitution issue.

Numerous homicide families, caught in the web of the criminal justice system worked with both victim advocates and MCVRC attorneys to ensure their rights were protected and their ability to be present and heard were preserved. Three or four of those families were accompanied to the appellate courts in Annapolis to hear legal arguments in their cases by MCVRC attorneys. MCVRC staff accompanied numerous homicide families to parole hearings in Cumberland, Hagerstown, the Eastern Shore, and Baltimore City. They delivered victim impact statements and argue against the early release of a defendant.

Elderly victims and child victims have had their rights and privacy preserved by motions filed by MCVRC attorneys. Young sexual assault victims have been protected and shielded from defense counsel seeking privileged mental health records, personal health records, and private school records. A MCVRC attorney argued these motions and won several convictions.

Numerous appellate briefs have been filed on behalf of victims this year by a MCVRC attorney. Issues on restitution, privacy of victim's records, and the use of a video as part of a victim impact statement have all been briefed and argued before the Court of Special Appeals and in courts from Maryland to Hawaii.

At least thirty homicide family members or victims have sought assistance from MCVRC attorneys in cases before the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Arguing, pro bono, MCVRC attorney strove to protect the victims' family from loss of their right to funeral expenses, dependency benefits, lost wages and other State funded benefits.

Your financial support will ensure these attorneys will be around to provide these services next year.

The Work of MCVRC Staff and Volunteers

Can you identify the people or the event?

1



6



12



2



7



13



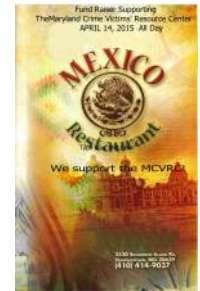
3



8



14



4



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15



5



10



16



11



17



Work sheet

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Law enforcement body cameras

MCVRC executive director, Russell Butler, was appointed to the Commission on the Implementation and Use of Body Cameras for Law Enforcement Officers. The Commission was appointed to make recommendations to the Police Training Commission in regard to the expanding use of body cameras by law enforcement. Russell was appointed to ensure that the perspectives of crime victims were considered.

While body camera technology has the potential to improve the law enforcement process, the technology also present a significant risk to the safety and privacy of crime victims. As the recordings will be public records, those records may be obtained as provided under the State's public information act. Once obtained, those records may be uploaded on the Internet for the world to view.

Law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts will likely have recordings of rape victims, child victims, and elderly victims is various depictions where the rebroadcast of the information will be harmful to victims. (including for example where the victims may be disrobed.) Moreover, these recordings will have metadata including GPS coordinates that will identify the exact location of where victims live or regularly travel.

Russell indicated, "There is no good public reason why our government should make available to the general public recordings of victims that will violate their dignity, respect, and sensitivity. Safety and privacy of victims should be a paramount concern of our justice system."

A final copy of the Commission's final report can be found on-line at: http://goccp.maryland.gov/bodycameras/documents/Body_Camera_Commission_FINAL.pdf As part of the final recommendations, the Commission recommended action by the General Assembly regarding what should be available to the public including for the protection of victims.

Those interested in the issues involving law enforcement body cameras and victims should contact MCVRC at mail@mdcrimevictims.org.

@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"*



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

Join us online!



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)

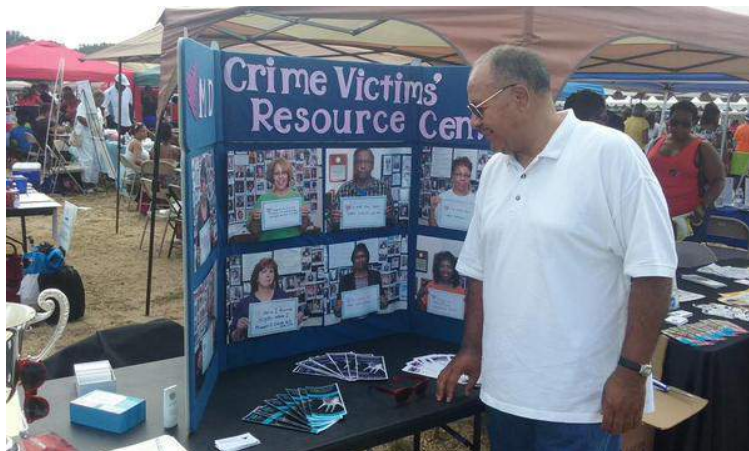


Find out about the Howard County and Baltimore City Peer Support Groups .

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.



MCVRC Assists Victims of Identity Theft

MCVRC provides legal support for victims of identity theft. Often times, victimization through identity theft occurs when a social security number has been comprised. “We have been contacted by victims who have had their identity stolen by defendants who went on to commit crimes or opened fraudulent credit lines in their names,” said Claudia Ahwireng, Victim Advocate. “In one case, the victim and the thief were living in different states when the identity thief used the victim’s SSN to open a cable account.” MCVRC worked with the victim to contact the appropriate authorities and alert credit reporting agencies.

Social Security records are used as part of a person’s work, school, and insurance history. In addition, many government agencies and businesses—such as the IRS, state motor vehicle departments, banks, credit reporting agencies, and even schools and universities use the number to establish identity. Although the Social Security Administration (SSA) does not regularly assign new numbers, a victim of identity theft may be able to swap their original number for a new one in certain cases. For example, a victim who is subject to ongoing problems from social security misuse may qualify for a new number. In such cases, the victim must show that they have made all possible attempts to resolve identity theft and support their case with official documentation: including police reports, affidavits, and points of contact for the parties involved. Please note, a new social security number doesn’t resolve all identity theft problems. E.g., changing one’s social security number can lead to issues with employment information and medical records associated with the number.



Prevention tips: While it can be difficult to track all potential signs of misuse of your information, checking your credit reports regularly from each of the major credit reporting agencies can help you catch some instances of fraud before they go too far. You should keep an eye out for unauthorized new accounts and collection items. You should also make sure all information on your reports is accurate and up to date. If you suspect there is a problem, place a security freeze on your credit report. This action will prevent third parties from accessing your credit report unless you give specific permission.

Another tip is to have your driver’s license marked with a Code R designation. This code alerts officers that you have been the victim of identity theft. If a person tries to use your identification (when pulled over by police, testify, or otherwise claim to be you when arrested) the officer knows to request a special code that you designate as your password. Without that password the officer knows that they are dealing with an imposter.

Contact MCVRC for assistance if you believe you believe your identity has been compromised.

@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!



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

Donate



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.



You Tube

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

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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* Contribution made in memory
of a victim

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Benita Nelson-Tutt
Arthur and Heather Nesbit
Network for Good

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

U

Friends of the Honorable Ken Ulman*
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)

V

Veridian Energy
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W

Charles & Judy Walker
Walmart (Bowie)
Earnest and Linda Washington
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 ...



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, {insert name of the victim}
- ☐ 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

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:

rproper@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.





There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering & too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call & answer in extraordinary ways."

Mother



There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering & too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call & answer in extraordinary ways."

eresa



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Mother Teresa

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Mother Teresa