



# Crime Victims Resource Center

Serving victims in Mower County since 1977

## Crime Victims Resource Center celebrates 40 years

Crime Victims Resource Center (CVRC) marks 40 years of assisting victims of crime. The center was established as an extension of Y.E.S. (Your Emergency Services Hotline). The original plan was to establish a rape task force, however, many calls received by Y.E.S. were from crime victims seeking emotional support, information, and resources. It was then decided to establish a center that would address the needs of all crime victims. On October 3, 1977, Victim's Crisis Center, which was a part of Mower County Mental Health Center, opened its doors. In 1985 the center became part of St. Olaf Hospital (now known as Mayo Clinic Health System). The center's name was changed to Crime Victims Resource Center in 1996.

Programming for CVRC is funded entirely by grants; the center was initially funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Today the center is funded by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety – Office of Justice Programs, The Hormel Foundation, and United Way of Mower County. Mayo Clinic Health System provides an in-kind contribution to the agency.

We provide assistance to men, women, and children. There is a misconception that we only assist victims of domestic violence; however we provide assistance to all crime victims.



In the first seven months of 2017 we have provided 2,849 services (51.6% increase from 2016) to 371 victims (37.9% increase from 2016). The addition of our bi-lingual advocate has increased our Hispanic clientele by 105% in the past year.

We continue to see a need for emergency shelter, low-income housing, and affordable legal services for our clients. We are continually engaging community organizations to assist us with solutions for these obstacles.

For a detailed list of our services, please see the last page of our newsletter. For more information on victimization, services, or volunteer opportunities please call (507)437-6680.

To subscribe or unsubscribe, email [miller.tori@mayo.edu](mailto:miller.tori@mayo.edu)

## Now a “Safe at Home” Site

Safe at Home is a statewide address confidentiality program that is administered by the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.

This address confidentiality program assists people who fear for their safety by establishing an alternate address that public and private entities must accept as their true address. This program is for survivors of domestic violence, victims of stalking, people with professional safety concerns, witnesses to crimes, and people who fear for their personal safety. It helps survivors of harm go about their daily lives without the risk of the person they fear discovering their physical address. It allows participants to keep their home, work, and school addresses confidential and allows them to receive mail without using their physical address. Linnea Garness, Victim Advocate, was recently certified as an Application Assistant for Safe at Home. An application assistant is trained to determine eligibility and assist with the application process. There are approximately 200 Safe at Home Application Assistants located throughout Minnesota.

An individual who is interested in applying to Safe at Home must meet with an application assistant to discuss their current safety concerns that they are experiencing. If both the application assistant and the applicant feel that the Safe at Home program would be an effective strategy

regarding their safety, and they meet the eligibility requirements, the application assistant will assist with the application and will also conduct personalized safety planning.

Eligibility requirements in order to join Safe at Home are:

1. A person must reside in Minnesota; and
2. A person must be afraid for their personal safety, or be afraid for the safety of their child or ward, or be afraid for the safety of another person with whom they reside.
3. A person who is a registered predatory offender, or a predatory offender required to register in any state, is not eligible.

Once enrolled, the Safe at Home program continues for four years. A participant can renew their enrollment at the end of four years, and they can voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time.

If you are interested in becoming a Safe at Home participant, or if you would like more information about the program or your eligibility, please call Linnea at 507-437-6680 or visit the Safe at Home website at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/safe-at-home/>.

## Volunteer with Crime Victims Resource Center (CVRC)

We are always looking for volunteers to staff the 24 hour crisis line from their own home. CVRC supplies a cell phone that volunteer advocates can take with them for their scheduled shifts. Volunteer advocates are trained by CVRC, and provide non-judgmental care and support services to anyone experiencing various types of crime, including victims of sexual assault, domestic assault, and general crimes such as burglary and stalking.

### Commitment

We would ask that a volunteer advocate sign up for a shift each month, generally working four weeknights

(4:30pm – 8am), and one weekend (Friday 4:30pm – Monday 8am) per month. We also ask that a volunteer advocate take one holiday per year.

### Okay, I'm interested!

Call 507-437-6680 to request a volunteer application.



# DVAM

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month throughout October with CVRC

*20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States.*

*In one year this equates to more than 10 million women and men. #breakthesilence*



This month marks 30 years dedicating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). This month is dedicated to spreading awareness of domestic violence, honoring the journey of those who have suffered, and to help prevent the number of victims from continuing to rise. The first observed DVAM was in 1987 by

the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It was created to connect advocates together who were working to end violence against women and their children. The common themes throughout this month were mourning those who had died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence. These themes continue to remain a key focus for the month of October, and year round in the unrelenting effort to end domestic violence.

### In Our Community

Crime Victims Resource Center (CVRC) is committed to spreading awareness of domestic violence; what it is, how it impacts members of our community, and how we can work together to end violence. In recognition of DVAM a table will be set up one day each week in October in the main lobby of Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin. Community

members can get information about domestic violence, our services, and the staggering myths surrounding this perpetuated violence. Stop by to learn more and sign up for prizes.

Health Cares About Domestic Violence Day is October 11, which raises awareness within the health care community. This is a nationally recognized day that raises awareness of healthy relationships, the impact of abuse on one's health, and the many ways in which domestic violence can impact a victim's life. The health care setting is often the only place that battered individuals feel they can safely seek help. If health care staff are able to identify abuse and provide referrals and support, we have the opportunity to help the many hidden victims of domestic violence in our community. When victims experiencing domestic violence are identified early, providers have a unique opportunity to break the isolation, and, through coordination with an advocate, help victims understand their options, live more safely within a relationship, or safely leave their current relationship. To reach providers with this information, CVRC set up an informational table within the medical center to provide resources and techniques to assist those working with victims of domestic violence.

If you are interested in wearing a purple ribbon to show your support for raising awareness of domestic violence, please contact our office.



\* Left to Right Linnea Garness and Tori Miller. Not pictured: Jessica Bernand

# Who we are...

# What we do

## Crime Victims Resource Center

101 14th Street NW, Austin • 507-437-6680

Crime Victims Resource Center (CVRC) is a non-profit organization assisting victims of crime regardless of age, gender or ethnic background. In 1977 we were established as Victim's Crisis Center, initially focused on female victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. As needs grew, the center expanded its focus on all crimes and all victims including; men, women, and children. In 1996 we changed our name to Crime Victims Resource Center. CVRC is a program within Mayo Clinic Health System (Austin West Building) and is grant funded by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety – Office of Justice Programs, The Hormel Foundation, and United Way of Mower County.

We have three staff members and are always looking for volunteers to assist us with victim services as well as outreach projects. Crime Victims Resource Center is the only agency in Mower County providing direct advocacy services to victims. All services we provide are free of charge. In 2016, we provided 1,951 services to 361 victims. We also provided sexual abuse prevention education to 555 2nd graders in Mower County.



Tori Miller, Director



Jessica Bernand,  
Victim/Outreach Advocate



Linnea Garness,  
Victim Advocate

## Victim Support Services

Our services are based on the self-defined needs of the victim and include but are not limited to, the following:

- 24 hour crisis hotline
- Crisis Counseling
- Emergency Service Support for Victims (dispensing emergency funds, shelter, transportation, and food)
- Support/Education Groups
- Advocacy
- Support
- Information & Referrals
- Court Advocacy
- Victim Rights Information
- Assistance with filing Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders
- Community and Professional Education

If you would like to learn more about victimization, the services we provide, or volunteer opportunities, call us at 507-437-6680 or visit [crimevictimsresourcecenter.org](http://crimevictimsresourcecenter.org)

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/CrimeVictimsResourceCenter](http://www.facebook.com/CrimeVictimsResourceCenter)