

Academy Forum

Continuing the Message of the Roper Victim Assistance Academy

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue #2 - April 2006

Just a Thought

Anne Seymour discusses the principles of restorative justice and how this model ensures that crime victims needs, rights and concerns are met

Page 1

Web Links

You never know what resources await you on the world-wide web ...come see what our latest surfing expedition uncovered

Page 2



News From the Field

Read about some of the most recent legislative changes affecting victim services

Page 2

Hot Topics



Learn about the current threat to the nation's Crime Victims Fund and what you can do to help "Save the Fund."

Page 3

Alumni Updates

Always find yourself thinking "I wonder what happened to..." Check out what our alums are up to these days - from birthdays to graduations to job promotions.

Page 4

The 20/20

Each newsletter get an inside look at one of the RVAAM peers - 20 questions, 20 unique answers

Page 5



Just a thought...

Crime Victims and Restorative Justice

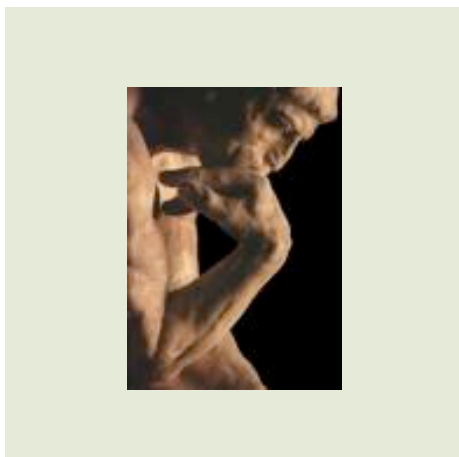
Anne Seymour

As the justice system seeks new approaches that focus on prevention, early intervention and a greater emphasis on crime victims needs, restorative justice has become an important framework. It seeks to balance the rights and interests of offenders, their victims and the community, and engage all three groups as clients of all criminal and juvenile justice processes.

Principles of Restorative Justice

At a national restorative justice teleconference sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections in December 1996, a panel of experts identified seven core values of restorative justice:

- * Crime is an offense against human relationships;



- * Victims and the community are central to justice processes;
- * The first priority of justice processes is to assist victims;
- * The second priority of justice processes is to restore the community, to the degree possible;
- * The offender has a personal responsibility to victims and to the community for crimes committed;
- * The offender will develop improved competency and understanding as a result of the restorative justice experience; and
- * Stakeholders share responsibilities for restorative justice through partnerships for action.

A Shift in Philosophy

These principles evoke a substantial shift from America's traditional approaches to justice and victim assistance. Within the parameters of restorative justice:

- * Crime victims and survivors are engaged in meaningful ways to provide input and guidance relevant to their needs and concerns.
- * Crime victims are considered clients of criminal and juvenile justice agencies.
- * Victims' needs are identified, assessed, and addressed.
- * The implementation of victims' core rights - notification, protection, participation, victim impact statements, restitution, compensation, and information/referrals - becomes a priority of justice processes.
- * Efforts are made to provide victims with information about, referrals and access to victim services within the justice system and the community.
- * Offenders are held accountable for their criminal or delinquent actions, and provided with opportunities to become productive members of society, and to pay back both their victims and communities.

(Continued on page 3)

EDITOR'S CORNER

RVAAM Alumni - Well I hope everyone enjoyed the first issue of the Academy Forum. My sincere thanks to all involved in its compilation. A special thanks to Roberta Roper for her contribution on serving crime victims, how informative!

I would like to welcome Eileen Katrick back after her recovery from her medical emergency, we missed you! The Editorial Board again did a great job collecting information on resources, legislative updates, and events to share with everyone. My hat is off to them, as once again they have helped put together a newsletter chock full of valuable information. And thank you for helping them by sharing information you come across in your daily lives!

This is a very exciting and busy time of year in Victim Services, with April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Awareness Month, and Crime Victims Rights Week! Check out the Save the Date section for the many activities planned during this time and please feel free to forward any other events not listed to your fellow alums.

The Alumni Directory has finally been distributed! I would like to thank those of you who worked so hard to get this directory to its completion! I would like to remind everyone that if your information changes at any time, please contact me with those changes so that we may keep the directory current after the addition of each new Academy class. Plus, we just don't want to lose touch with any of you!

A heartfelt thanks to Father Ray Chase for bringing the "Illuminations" training to our alumni. Much was learned about child abuse and its dynamics. This training is quite amazing and I encourage anyone interested in child abuse issues who was unable to attend to check out the website at:

<http://www.illuminationsprogram.org>

Wishing you all the best!

Debbie Creswell, Editor

creswell@harfordsheriff.org

Web Links

Although we have a virtual library at our fingertips every time we turn on the computer, we often lose sight of the forest through the trees just trying to navigate the world-wide web. So, here are some sites we thought you might find useful ... happy surfing!

www.ncvc.org/src/Main.aspx - The National Center for Victims of Crime's Stalking Resource Center was launched in July 2000 with initial funding from the Violence Against Women Office with the United States Department of Justice. Its mission is to raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage the development and implementation of multi-disciplinary responses to stalking in local communities and across the country.

www.acy.org - "Advocates for Children and Youth" (ACY) is an independent nonprofit organization that promotes the interests of children in Maryland.

www.unh.edu/ccrc/ - The mission of the "Crimes Against Children Research Center" (CCRC) is to provide research and statistics to the public, policy-makers, and law enforcement to educate individuals about the nature and prevalence of crimes against children, and the impact such events have on the child, their family, and the community.

www.nnedv.org - The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) is a advocacy organization of state domestic violence coalitions, allied organizations, and support individuals who work together to develop policy that changes the way the nation responds to the complex and far-reaching problem of domestic violence.

<http://wind.uwyo.edu/resourceguide/default.asp> - Victims of Crime with Disabilities Resource Guide provides a searchable database of products and services that target the unique needs of this population of victims.

www.rainn.org - The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. RAINN operates the National Sexual Assault hotline and operates numerous programs to prevent sexual assault, assist victims, and help bring offenders to justice.

News From the Field

Everyone knows that the field of victims services is always evolving. The challenge is to find a way to keep on top of all the changes ... we're here to help! Here's an overview of just some of the most recent legislative changes:

Presently, the legislature is still in session and while we can anticipate many of our victims rights issues are being worked on, we cannot summarize them until the session ends in April. Some of the issues they are currently addressing, however, include: Witness intimidation; Robbery with a deadly weapon; Domestic violence protective orders; Electronic access to court records; Eminent domain and real property taking; and Providing alcohol to minors. We will definitely keep you posted of any immediate decisions!



On January 5, 2006, President Bush signed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) reauthorization into law.

Save the Date

Spring is definitely a busy time of year in Victim Services. Here is just a sampling of the events and training that are going on in your communities during the next few months!

"Preventing Sexual Abuse in Communities of Color: Men and Women United"

April 19, 2006; 8:00am-4:30pm; Prince George's Community College, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD.

For more information, contact Kathy Ferguson at Kathy@mcasa.org or register on-line at www.mcasa.org

2006 National Crime Victims Rights Week, April 23-29, "Strength in Unity"

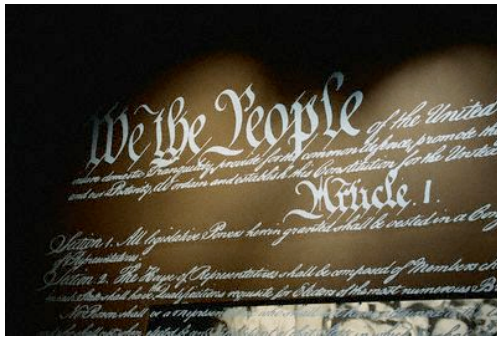
U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony

April 20, 2006; 6:30p; U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Annual National Organization for Victim Assistance Forum on Victims' Rights

April 21, 2006; 8:30am - 1:30pm; Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2360 Washington, D.C.

Registration required. Contact NOVA for further information at (703) 535-6682.



Just a thought...

(continued from page 1)

* Community safety becomes a goal of justice processes, and community members are engaged in efforts to provide support to both crime victims *and* offenders.

National efforts for restorative justice initiatives have proliferated for over a decade, and have met with tremendous success in both criminal and juvenile justice agencies and communities. By putting victims at the center of justice, this approach ensures that their needs, rights, and concerns become a priority for justice, and a priority for our nation.

Anne Seymour is a Senior Advisor to Justice Solutions in Washington, DC. She has been a national victim advocate for 22 years.

Hot Topics

On Monday, February 6th, the Administration submitted its budget to Congress and unfortunately it *again* includes a provision to **re-scind the Crime Victims Fund this year**, to the tune of \$1.25 billion. This despite the fact that this money funds **all** state VOCA victim assistance and crime victim compensation grants. If this resolution passes, there will be no money...zero...zilch...in the Fund for grants the following year, which will produce a devastating effect for the millions of crime victims who depend on VOCA supported services and victim compensation.

Last year, our collective (and highly successful) efforts to "Save the Fund" were due in large part to the Victim Advocates and countless others who made sure their voices were heard loud and clear in Congress. We must again collectively band together to wage the same fight right now! What can you do? Any and all of the following:

1. You have to make certain that your Congressional delegation knows what the loss of VOCA funding would mean to you and your agency's ability to provide services to crime

victims. Last year, personal testimonials from crime victims and survivors about the importance of VOCA-funded services were presented and were very effective. You too can deliver a similar message.

2. Ask your members of Congress to go on record in strong opposition to the VOCA rescission.

3. **Forward this information to ALL** who share our concern about saving VOCA and ensuring ongoing funding for greatly needed victim services (e.g., crime victims and survivors, criminal and juvenile justice professionals, your Governor and Attorney General, local policymakers, family, friends, etc.) and ask them to also contact their Congress members. *We need thousands of contacts to make our position clear!*

4. And last, but not least, encourage your House members to join the Congressional Crime Victims' Rights Caucus, a group of Congress members dedicated to advocating victims' rights and services. They can join by contacting the office or either co-chairs, Rep. Ted Poe and Jim Costa.

The National VOCA Contact Group has current information that can help you craft your telephone calls, letters, and emails to your Congress members. You can access this and continue to keep up with the developments by visiting the website of the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators at www.navaa.org

And please let me know if you hear back from your Congress members and about your other efforts to Save The Fund, or if you need additional information. You can email me at annesey@atlantech.net

We thank you in advance for joining our truly national effort to "Save the Fund," and appreciate all you do for crime victims!

Sincerely,

Anne Seymour

Save the Date (Continued)

Office for Victims of Crime National Crime Victims Rights Week Awards Ceremony

April 21, 2006; 2:30 - 4:00pm; Andrew W. Mellon Administration Building, 1301 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Registration required (register on-line at www.ojp.usdoj.gov). A reception will follow the awards ceremony.

Annual Crime Victim Memorial Service

Sunday, April 23; 2:00-4:00pm; Perry Hall High School, 4601 Ebenezer Road, Nottingham, MD

For more information, contact GOCCP at (410) 321-3521.

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services 7th Annual Open House and Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, April 25; 9:30am - 11:00am; Maryland Public Safety, Education & Training Center, 6852 4th Street Sykesville, MD.

For more information, contact Joycelyn Evans at JE@dpsc.state.md.us or call (410) 585-3517.

Center for Abused Persons Annual Candlelight Vigil

April 25, dusk; Charles County Courthouse, 200 Charles Street, LaPlata, MD

For more information, contact Rosemary Raiman (310) 645-3337.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service's Sixth Annual Prison Tour for Crime Victims

April 28, 9:00am - 11:30am; Maryland Reception Diagnostic and Classification Center, 550 East Madison St. Baltimore, MD.

Registration required and space is limited. For more information, contact Deb Neighoff at dneighoff@dpsc.state.md.us or at (410) 585-3331.

Alumni Updates

It seems like only yesterday when we were all together at the Academy. But in a blink of an eye another year has almost passed us by. Here's just a snapshot of some of the special events and milestones our alums have experienced since we last met...

Beverly Brooks (2004) - Beverly is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her third grandchild, a girl, in May. The expecting parents are Beverly's daughter and son-in-law. She is very much looking forward to spoiling her first granddaughter. Congratulations!

Debbie Creswell (2005) - Besides juggling all of the activities organized by the RVAAM Alumni Outreach Committee, Debbie was recently notified that she will be a recipient of a Victim's Assistance Award at this year's Governor's Victim Assistance Award luncheon. Congratulations Debbie!

Connie Johnson (2004) - Connie has been busy helping build her new program, the House of Refuge in Baltimore. The Baltimore Housing Authority distributed funds this past March that allowed her to purchase 16 beds and bedding, a washer and dryer, and two televisions. The shelter will be able to operate with a counselor provided by TurnaRound, Inc. as soon as the beds are delivered, after which Connie will then select a date for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Well done!

Di'Tanya Madden (2005) - Di'Tanya has announced that the spring fundraising for Operation Safe Witness, Inc., a witness intimidation initiative, begun in late March. The objective is to raise awareness, support, and financial commitment to expand the operation to include victims and witnesses in Prince George's county. As the founder, Di'Tanya is working to coordinate efforts with several faith-based organizations and victim rights organizations in Baltimore and Prince George's counties. Way to go!

Cathie Pugliese (2005) - Cathie started a new job as a legal assistant with the State's Attorney's Office Juvenile Division, District Court Screening Unit. Cathie's job entails reviewing all District Court cases that will be heard in the Silver Spring District Court locations and select cases for further screening. The screening process then entails contacting all relevant parties in the case and acquiring all relevant evidence and discovery material. When the case is delivered to the assigned prosecutor, Cathie then forwards her recommendations (e.g., to prosecute, nolle prosequi, diversion, etc.). According to Cathie, "it is a great challenge for me and I just want to say

with the greatest sincerity that the victim awareness issues and skills I learned last June at RVAAM continue to help me be a better advocate for victims' rights every day. Thanks again to all of you and keep up the good work."

Rosemary Raiman (2004) - Rosemary was recently recognized for her service of nine years on the Charles County Department of Social Services Board (MASSB). Rosemary was also selected to be included in the Marquis Who's Who of American Women, 2006 which is an acknowledgment of individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement in their field(s) of endeavor and have contributed significantly to the betterment of society. Rosemary says she's not sure why she received this recognition - perhaps it is her work with victims, her involvement in The Silent Witness Project, the Commission for Women, or her work at the Department of Social Services!! She also earned National Credentialing this past Fall in her professional position. And, in her spare time, Rosemary had a poem, *My Hometown*, selected by the International Library of Poetry for inclusion in its "The International Who's Who in Poetry" edition. Congratulations!

Valda Rotolo (2004) - Valda recently testified in Annapolis for Senate Bill 222, Crime Victim and Witness Intimidation, this past March. The Bill would have incorporated child abuse into the Victim and Witness Intimidation Law that was passed last year. Governor Ehrlich sponsored the Bill as part of his ongoing efforts to overcome the obstacle that intimidation poses to the steady march of justice. Unfortunately, the House defeated the Bill on March 10.

Jennifer Weber (2005) - Jen has definitely had a busy year. Not long after finishing up her Bachelors degree from the University of Baltimore, she started the on-line Masters program with the University of Phoenix in Business Administration and is simultaneously planning her wedding, which is scheduled to take place on May 19th. We wish her and her husband to be all the best!

Happy Birthday!

Help us make sure we wish everyone who is celebrating a birthday, a very happy day ... if we have overlooked anyone, please shoot us an email and we'll add them to our birthday list!

Heather Pfeifer - March 9

Debra Stanley - March 22

Christine Maine (2005) - March 22

Debbie Creswell (2005) - May 28.

Save the Date (Continued)

Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

May 4, 11:30am - 2:30pm, Sheraton Hotel, 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis

Tickets MUST be purchased in advance by no later than April 20th (\$26 per person). For more information, contact Donna Fleck at (410) 821-2839.

Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth, "New Perspectives on Youth Sexual Behavior Conference"

May 5, 8:00am - 4:30pm; Maritime Institute's Conference Center, 692 Maritime Blvd. Linthicum, MD.

Registration due April 7. For more information, contact MARFY at (410) 974-4901.

National Organization for Victim Assistance's "Master the Profession" Training Seminar

May 15-19; Volunteer State Community College, 1480 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, TN

For more information, contact NOVA @ www.trynova.org or call (703) 535-6682.

Roper Victim Assistance Academy 2006

June 5 - June 9; Maryland Public Safety Education & Training Center

Registration due April 15, applications can be downloaded from the Academy website at <http://rvaam.ubalt.edu>. For more information, contact Debra Stanley by email at dstanley@ubalt.edu or by phone at (410) 837-6084.

1st Annual RVAAM Alumni Family Picnic

August 12, 12:30-5:00pm; Hammond Park, Howard County

For more information, contact Debbie Creswell at creswelld@harford.sheriff.org or by phone at (410) 836-5490. Note: A General Membership meeting will be held from 12:30-1:00pm, then the picnic will follow.

32nd Annual North American Victim Assistance Conference

August 20-25; Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL

For more information, contact NOVA @ www.trynova.org or call (703) 535-6682.

The 20/20

Each newsletter we pose twenty questions to one of our members to get an inside look at who they are ... this month get to know Wanda Peterson, an alum of the 2004 Academy.

My favorite sound is...

The sound of the ocean

My childhood nickname was...

Pig

The last book I read was...

"A Million Little Pieces" by Jeffrey Frey

My least favorite thing to do is...

Play video games

My favorite time of day is...

Early in the morning when it's quiet and peaceful, before the hustle and bustle of the day begins

My favorite word is...

Rest

If I could learn any language, it would be...

Swahili

My greatest accomplishment (so far) has been...

Being married to a great husband, raising two fine young men, enjoying two grandchildren and anticipating a third on the way.

I can't stand...

People with bad attitudes

My favorite retreat...

At the beach, sitting on an oceanfront balcony reading a good book

I appreciate...

Friendly people with a positive attitude

My favorite indulgence is...

Cooking

If I could invite any three people (alive or deceased) to dinner, it would be...

My father-in-law, because he always kept those around him laughing and planning activities to get the family together; Coretta Scott King, because I admire her dedication to fulfill her husband's dream; and Laura Bush, to converse with her about what it's like to be married to one of the most powerful men in the world, what

it's like to live in the spotlight, and how does she manage to bring a sense of normalcy to her family's life.

Best piece of advice I ever got was...

A family that prays together, stays together.

The occupation, other than the one I am currently in, I would want is...

An events planning consultant

The occupation I would most certainly not like to have is...

A school teacher

The perfect day for me would be...

To spend a full day in a Day Spa getting pampered, just spend the remainder of the day on the beach relaxing

My childhood ambition was...

To become an airline attendant and travel around the world.

If I could go anywhere in the world, it would be...

Africa, on a safari tour

One of my goals for 2006 is...

To become more organized

Occupational Outlook



Hear about an upcoming job vacancy in your agency or somewhere else? Share it with the alums! You never know who may be interested in switching jobs or looking to relocate somewhere new ... you know the adage, "sometimes it's just being in the right place at the right time."

Websites for job opportunities:

http://www.djs.state.md.us/job_opps.html

<http://www.dhr.state.md.us/jobannnc.htm>

<http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/employment/announcements.shtml>

Watch for the next edition of the Academy Forum in July 2006

Editorial Board

Debbie Creswell — Editor

Jen Weber — Assistant Editor

Sharon Leasure — Assistant Editor

Eileen Katrick — Assistant Editor

Heather Pfeifer — Art Director/Layout

Alumni Directory

Thank you for helping us finish the 2004-2005 Alumni Directory! If you have not received your electronic copy please contact Debbie Creswell via email at creswell@harford.sheriff.org or by phone at (410) 836-5490. If anything changes in terms of your contact information, please let us know so we can keep the records up to date!