

**Institutional and Community Corrections-sponsored
Community Service Projects to Benefit Crime Victims
In Conjunction With
National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

***Summaries of
Community Service Projects Submitted by:***

**Arizona Department of Corrections
Brazoria County (TX) Community Supervision and Corrections Department
California Youth Authority
California Department of Corrections
Colorado Division of Probation Services
Dallas County, Texas Crime Victims Council
Dupage County, Illinois Victims' Concerns Committee
Iowa Sixth Judicial District Dept. of Correctional Services, Cedar Rapids
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
West Virginia Department of Corrections**

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Introduction and Overview

Historically, community service has played an important role in sentencing and adjudication, and community and institutional corrections. It can be an important component of the conditions of sentencing to hold offenders accountable for their actions, and to “pay back” the community in some way for the harm that is caused by crime.

In the past decade, the concept of “restorative community service” has taken hold in many correctional agencies and communities. Restorative community service is best described as that which is visible, viable, and allows victim input into the types of service that is performed. Increasingly, it is also being utilized to directly benefit organizations that provide services and support to victims of crime.

Increasingly, institutional and community corrections agencies in both the criminal and juvenile justice systems have sponsored community service initiatives that help victim assistance organizations and coalitions commemorate National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW) each April. The wide range of projects includes support for and sponsorship of victim awareness activities; building memorials that pay tribute to victims of crime at courthouses and in other public venues; sponsoring art projects that result in creative NCVRW public awareness posters, victims’ rights calendars, and coloring books for child victims; and sponsorship of fundraising activities, with proceeds donated to victim assistance organizations.

This summary is designed to offer practical ideas for positive partnerships between correctional agencies and victim assistance organizations that utilize community service projects to promote NCVRW, provide greatly needed support for victim services, and help offenders better understand the impact of crime on victims. Each submission includes a brief summary of key activities, along with contact information for the project’s sponsor.

“Institutional and Community Corrections-sponsored Community Service Projects to Benefit Crime Victims in Conjunction With National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” is published by Justice Solutions, Inc. and the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) Victim Issues Committee. It was written by Anne Seymour, Senior Advisor to Justice Solution and a member of the APPA Board of Directors and Victim Issues Committee. Additional submissions to be included in this publication can be sent directly to Anne Seymour at annesey@erols.com.

Justice Solutions and APPA are grateful to the many agencies that submitted projects for inclusion in this publication, and their willingness to provide guidance to other agencies that seek to promote offender accountability, victims’ rights, and National Crime Victims’ Rights Week each April.

Arizona Department of Corrections

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The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) showed its support for National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 2004 by hosting a series of activities throughout the state. The week-long event from April 18-24 brought together survivors, criminal justice professional and community volunteers to mark the 2004 theme, "Victims' Rights: America's Values."

Highlighting the activities was a commemorative service hosted by the Governor's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, ADC, Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, along with many other state agencies and victim service providers on Sunday, April 18 at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix.

Throughout the state, ADC organized activities in observance of NCVRW. Employees participated on-site and with their local communities to recognize and honor victims of crime. Activities and events included guest speakers who are victims themselves; poster contest among offender; memorial services; voluntary offender collection drive; and a variety of fund-raising events to benefit victims groups.

Proceeds from the statewide fundraisers totaled more than \$18,000 and was awarded to Donna Pickering, president of the Arizona Victim Services Coalition by Director Dora Schiro.

A variety of activities sponsored by institutions and inmates to benefits victims and survivors, and those who serve them, included:

- The ADC partnered with ChildHelp USA and the Child Crisis Nursery to provide books and bears to children who have been victimized by crime. Also, under the direction of Dan Levey, Central Office coordinated the NCVRW kickoff event at Wesley Bolin Plaza.
- At ASPC-Douglas, Chaplains Keat and Donnelly provided inmates with information about the Arizona Coalition for Victims Services and solicited donations from them to benefit this organization. ASPC-Douglas Maintenance staff constructed a victims' commemorative bench at a local park in Douglas. A dedication ceremony was held with representatives from victims' organizations and local dignitaries.
- The Eyman Complex dedicated a monument that was designed in concert with the Pinal County Attorney Victims Services office. The monument is on display at the Pinal County government complex in Florence. Eyman staff donated confiscated, unauthorized inmate appliances to the Against Abuse shelter in Casa Grande. Also, Cook Unit inmates are making wooden toys such as rocking horses, cradles, and puzzles to give to various victims' organizations.
- The employees of ASPC-Florence hosted a victims' rights ceremony at the Florence city park to dedicate a bench with the inscription "Their voices may not always be heard, but they will never be forgotten." Coloring books consisting of more than 45 drawings by inmates, as well as donated crayons, were distributed to local domestic abuse shelters for children who stay there. A memorial was built on-site honoring victims of crime.

- Toys and furniture were built by inmates of ASPC-Lewis and donated to local victims' organizations. The inmates of the complex also made donations to this effort.
- The inmates of ASPC-Perryville participated in the complex-wide fundraiser that raised \$2,600 for victims' rights. The complex held a victims' rights poster contest with winning posters selected from each unit.
- The Phoenix complex staff held a tree planting ceremony dedicated to crime victims. Staff also adopted the United Methodist Outreach Ministries New Day Center as the recipient for donated clothing and toys. UMOM offers emergency housing for the homeless and low-income families for up to 120 days.
- ASPC-Safford hosted various inmate fundraisers to raise money and increase awareness for victims' rights organizations. Safford employees and city officials participated in the dedication of a victims' rights memorial built by inmates at the Graham County Courthouse. Plans are underway to dedicate a memorial garden in front of the Complex Administration Building.
- Warden Harlan Nelson met with the Winslow city mayor to plan the construction of a victims' rights wall at a local park. Inmate fundraisers were held to support the victims' rights charities.
- ASPC-Tucson has taken an active role in assisting the Arizona Coalition for Victims Services by donating 30 televisions to the Brewster Center for Domestic Violence. Warden Charles Flanagan and the Southern Arizona Correctional Release Center are working in conjunction with Homicide Survivors, an organization dedicated to the welfare of homicide survivors, and the city of Tucson to establish a Victims' Memorial Garden.
- The Yuma Complex contributed blankets, hygiene items, clocks, and surplus denim jackets to the Crossroads Mission in Yuma. The complex is collaborating with Catholic Community Services to help with the construction of a women's' shelter. They plan to offer inmate labor to assist with all facets of this project including providing general laborers, construction workers, concrete workers, plumbers, electricians, welders, and tailors.
- The winning design for the ADC inmate poster contest for the 2004 Victims' Rights Week was submitted by an inmate from ASPC-Safford. ADC staff, victims and victim service organizations voted for the poster that best represented victims' rights. More than 20 inmates created posters for the contest.

**Brazoria County
Community Supervision and Corrections Department
Angleton, TX**

Contact: Gary Barker, Victim Services Coordinator
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For the past six years, the Brazoria County CSCD has sponsored “Operation Sleep Tight” in conjunction with NCVRW. The program, conducted in concert with the Women’s Center, collects new sleep attire for the Women’s Center. Collections points are established throughout the county, and news releases are arranged with local papers.

California Youth Authority

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Sharon Arroyo, Parole Agent I, California Youth Authority's Heman G. Stark YCF, Ontario, California, (909) 606-5000

Felicia Jones, Teacher, California Youth Authority's Heman G. Stark YCF, Ontario, California, (909) 606-5000

- Victim Impact Presentations with juvenile offenders.
- Victim Impact Presentations for staff.
- Fundraisers (bake sales for staff, fast food sales and athletic events for offenders, NCVRW theme related t-shirts, paraphernalia, etc.) with proceeds provided to victim serving organizations.
- Essay and poetry contests for offenders.
- Resource tables for staff.

Karen Jennings, Maggie Schubert, PAI, NA Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility, Stockton (209) 944-6400

- Guest speakers
- Assembly honoring women's shelters and victim services agencies
- Art/Essay contests
- Victims Garden

Rose Madsen, Families and Friends of Murder Victims, San Bernardino County, California, (909) 798-4803

- Candlelight Vigil
- Victim Impact Presentations
- Victim/Survivor Support
- Fundraising

Dawn Foor, Brenda Titus, CSP, Inc., Sexual Assault Victim Services, Santa Ana, California, (714) 834-4317

- Clothesline Project
- Recognition Luncheon
- Support Groups
- Victim Forums
- Victim Impact Presentations
- Sexual Assault Prevention

Chris Hillman, Parole Agent II Specialist, California Youth Authority's Parole Victims Services Coordinators, Southern Region Parole contact, South Coast Parole Office, Westminster, California, (714) 898-4177

- Victim Impact Panels, Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Victim Impact Presentations for offenders
- Community Service Projects

Reidel Post, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Orange County Chapter, Santa Ana, California, (714) 838-6199

- Victim Impact Panels/Presentations
- Essay/Art Contests, local schools/community

Marilynn Kimball, Chief, Victims Services Bureau, County of San Bernardino, Office of the District Attorney, San Bernardino, California, (909) 387-6384B

- Community Awareness Event
- Candlelight Vigil
- Training and Outreach
- Victim Impact Speakers

Kim Taylor, Alternatives to Domestic Violence/Coalition Against Family Violence, Corona, California, (909) 737-8410

- Violence Prevention Programs/Presentations
- Victim Impact Speakers
- Fundraisers
- Outreach/Awareness

LaWanda Hawkins, Justice for Murdered Children, Los Angeles, California, (310) 547-5362

- Victim Impact Presentations
- Community Outreach/Awareness
- Victim Support/Advocacy/Liaison Services
- Youth Fairs/Carnivals
- Safe Zones

DWNYCF

Dana Wilson, Language, Speech and Hearing Specialist
Claudette Thompson, Youth Correctional Counselor
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- Pizza Fundraiser, Essay/Art Contest, Clothesline Project, Guest Speakers, Victims Garden

Oakland Parole Office

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- Bake sales and various fundraisers for victims of domestic violence

Preston Youth Correctional Facility
Andy Scholl, Teacher
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- Jogathon Fundraiser, Victims Garden

Preston Youth Correctional Facility
Joanne Richmond
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- Car Wash Fundraiser, Coat/Clothing Drive for local women's shelter

California Department of Corrections

**Contact: Matt Mullin, Associate Warden, Camp Division
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This project involved a vocational trades program in our Level III facility. The instructor was looking for a project to challenge his advanced students. He felt that building a sailboat would offer an array of challenges to his students. We entered into an agreement with an organization named Lassen Family Services, Inc. (LFS). LFS is the region's primary organization for domestic violence prevention/victim shelter, sexual assault/rape counseling, court-appointed special advocates (CASA), child abuse prevention, and suicide crisis hotline.

The agreement called for LFS to provide all materials for the project. The vocational shop, under the direction of Steve Dandridge, Vocational Instructor, obtained engineered plans for the sailboat and started the project. The sailboat took nearly a year to complete. During the year, LFS obtained a used boat trailer, and other vocational shops took on the project of cleaning up the trailer (mostly painting).

After the boat was completed, LFS accepted donations for chances at winning the boat. They took the boat to a number of boat shows in California, and raised \$12,000 after expenses (which were only a few thousand dollars). This money eventually contributed to LFS's ability to purchase a permanent domestic violence shelter in Susanville.

The inmate students were given a wonderful opportunity to more fully develop their carpentry skills at no additional expense to the State, and LFS eventually obtained a permanent domestic violence as a result of the project.

**Colorado Office of the State Court Administrator
Division of Probation Services**

Contact: Jalice Vigil-Kelly, Victim Services Coordinator
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Over the past few years during NCVRW, the Victim Services Division of Probation Services has sponsored numerous activities, including:

- Creating a beautiful quilt in honor of crime victims, with staff each making squares that were then sewn together and framed. It is now on permanent display in the office.
- Children of the employees of the Office of the State Court Administrator drew pictures in honor of crime victims, and a calendar was created that featured this artwork.
- Several brown bag luncheons have been sponsored, where victims were invited to come and speak.
- A clothesline was made that featured little T-shirts with something written on them to commemorate crime and victimization, which was displayed during NCVRW.
- Every day throughout the week, Jalice Vigil-Kelly would send an e-mail to the entire office with crime statistics, quizzes, inspirational quotations, etc. about victimization and crime victims' rights.

Dallas County, Texas Crime Victims Council

Contact: Cindy Brignon, Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections
Department Victim Services Coordinator
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The Crime Victims Council of Dallas County (of which the Victim Services Unit of Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department is a part) has recognized National Crime Victims Rights Week in several ways. The first few years we had a ceremony with local criminal justice professionals and victims that spoke during an hour-long ceremony. This was followed by a reception.

Two years ago, we had a day-long victim issues training for criminal justice employees (mainly law enforcement and probation officers). This included booths that were set up by victim advocacy groups as well as a luncheon for participants and victims. An award ceremony was held during the luncheon honoring local victim services providers.

Last year, we held a Safety Fair at one of our local shopping malls. Numerous victim advocacy agencies had tables inside the mall where we distributed information regarding our programs. Numerous law enforcement agencies had their vehicles (fire trucks, squad cars, motorcycles, sheriff's department VIN etching vehicle, DPS mobile driver's license eighteen wheeler, DWI unit, etc.) in the parking lot for the public to see. The children were able to have their picture taken with the officers and their vehicles. Additionally, we had entertainment and public safety speakers on a stage by our tables as well as McGruff the Dog for the kids.

This year (2005), we are planning three activities. We are going to try and do radio broadcasts to educate the public regarding National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Our Council is also putting together a breakfast for our annual victim services providers awards ceremony and victims will be invited. Third, our Crime Victims Council is going to participate as a group (with our Council name on our t-shirts) in the Mothers Against Drunk Driving 3K walk during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. We will be carrying banners for NCVRW as well as banners that list victims' rights. The Council will have a table at the walk with brochures describing our different programs.

**Dupage County (Illinois)
Probation and Court Services Victims' Concerns Committee
and Dupage County State's Attorney Office**

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Gary Balgemann, Victim Services Coordinator, Juvenile Division and Committee
Co-Chair
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For 2004 NCVRW, the two county agencies collaborated and designated a conference room for NCVRW, and displayed letters of apology to crime victims that were written by offenders on the walls. Also displayed were victim advocacy posters, and paper footprints were hung throughout the office that had the theme, "Walk in a Victim's Shoe," printed on them.

Youth in the detention center helped out by decorating old donated shoes with found materials, and created posters and artworks to commemorate NCVRW. They mounted plaster masks on boards and filled the entire piece with their own messages about victimization. These were displayed in the conference room and, according to organizers, "it was both powerful and moving to see objects like an electrical cord for a girl who had been whipped as a child, and chains covering the mask from a boy who had been living with an alcoholic father. The therapist at the detention center said the project had been very therapeutic for the kids that did it."

Everyone in the building was invited to see the displays throughout the week. The Committee also put together a book of victim resources and articles related to victim concerns and restorative justice for probation officers to access throughout the year.

In addition, adult and juvenile offenders created ribbons commemorating NCVRW through a community service project, which were distributed to staff throughout the courthouse.

**Iowa Sixth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services
Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

Contact: Jean Kuehl, Assistant Director
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Every year, the Victims Advisory Board organizes a fundraising event just before the holidays where various vendors display their goods, and donate a portion of the profits to victim services. Goods are provided by victims and survivors, offenders, and agency staff.

Native American offenders made dreamcatchers to hand out to victims at the kickoff event during NCVRW which featured the theme, "Victims' Rights: Dare to Dream." They were beautiful and greatly appreciated by the victims and survivors who received them.

Offenders have also made life-size cutouts of victims of domestic violence, along with carrying cases for the traveling display. This project was featured on the local cable television program. This display is set up in the office, with offenders visiting the display and after, writing a paper to submit to their probation officers.

White crosses have been made by offenders so that victims whose loved ones have been killed as a result of crime could write their loved one's name on the cross, and display them in a local park at the NCVRW kickoff event. The crosses are left up for the entire week.

The Department was also successful in getting one local television station to dedicate all week during NCVRW to do spots on the nightly news on a variety of victim-related topics and the availability of victim services in the community.

Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections

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National Crime Victims= Rights Week - 2004

As you'll see, some units offered detailed reports; some, abbreviated versions. In either case, the materials offered portray a satisfying mix of public outreach and awareness education for staff and for offenders. Like our victim services in general, observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week has become part of who we are (and we're getting better every year). Thanks to all who help that happen.

Probation and Parole is clearly a community-based function, and most of the observances reported from the Division included a strong element of community outreach.

First mention of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in the Natchitoches area came in a March letter to the editor from officer Melissa Murray of the **Natchitoches Probation and Parole District**. She called attention to the upcoming observance and later contributed an article, which ran in the *Coushatta Citizen* on April 1. NAD joined forces with others in the community for a week-long, city-wide observance: a kick off at the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse and, on following days, a prayer vigil, a poster contest at Natchitoches High School, a ceremony on the Riverbank downtown honoring victims killed or injured "in the line of duty," and lunch along the Cane River.

The **Alexandria Probation and Parole District** observance was also community-based and collaborative. ALD engaged **Avoyelles Correctional Center** and **Dabadie Correctional Center** as partners. ALD contacted the *Town Talk*, which ran an article about victims' rights, beginning with the story of a local resident whose son was killed. The article acknowledged ALD, AVC, and DCC for the victim services bookmarks they were making available to community residents, and described services available to victims through the department. Warden T. W. Thompson and District Administrator Jeffery Gaspard authored an informational letter and distributed it and bookmarks to seven mayors, four district attorneys, six sheriffs, and the Rapides Parish Library. Mindful that increasing the number of inmates who successfully release to the community simultaneously reduces the number of crime victims in the community, ALD created an Inmate Pre-release Information flyer to distribute at monthly pre-release talks at AVC, DCC, and the Rapides Parish Prison. According to ALD organizer Michael Wynn, "Our victims rights week program this year has been more successful than ever before in the history of ALD with more victim inquiries than imaginable."

West Baton Rouge District Probation and Parole distributed victim services bookmarks also. On April 21 staff held a brief ceremony at the WBR Detention Center and planted a tree to honor crime victims. Special guests for the ceremony were parents of a young woman killed by a Baton Rouge area serial killer. They and others at the ceremony returned to the district office for a reception and homemade snacks.

Shreveport Probation and Parole District concentrated on staff awareness. Their guest speaker was Debbie Lawhead, Director of Women Services at the Biedenharn Center in Shreveport, which supports women with addiction problems, homeless situations, illiteracy, and

unemployment issues. Ms. Lawhead, a nurse, has herself experienced physical and mental abuse and has overcome these problems. She shared her story and the stories of other women at the Biedenharn Center, telling staff as she did so about help available to victims on their journey from "victim to victor."

Within the prisons, awareness and outreach were also mingled themes. **David Wade Correctional Center** inmates reached out to the community, and staff and inmates wove victim's issues into group activities. As outreach, inmate organizations donated \$300 for supplies, which the prison's carpentry and welding classes used to build ten benches and two picnic tables for the Homer Park.

Within the prison quotes calling attention to the week appeared in the daily inmate notification bulletin, and every inmate organization covered a crime victim topic at its organization's weekly meeting. Mental health staff discussed victim-related issues with their groups. The Anger Management and Sex Offender groups discussed the definition of "crime victim" and took a Crime Victim Quiz, which was followed by a discussion directed at correctly identifying victims and victim rights. In parenting classes, discussions focused on an article, "The Impact of Criminal Behavior and Incarceration on Families and Friends of Offenders."

The Substance Abuse group defined "crime victim," talked about the different types of victims, and considered ways that addiction and crime/victimization are related. The Transition group discussed the definition of "crime victim," then wrote letters to someone they have victimized in the past and shared their letters with others in the group. They also discussed possible connections between rehabilitation for inmates and the situation of crime victims, the impact of crime on the families of incarcerated individuals, and the impact of criminal behavior in general.

Louisiana State Penitentiary ran a public awareness campaign as a way to call attention to victims' rights. All week tour groups (about 350 persons total) were told about NCVRW, and inmates who spoke to the groups, spoke of the damage done when they created a crime victim. Classification offers told visitors about services available to victims throughout the department and talked about policy, restorative justice, and moral rehabilitation. Visitors to the Museum were invited to sign "The Violence Stops With Me" statement and received an American flag sticker.

Programming at **Dixon Correctional Institute** this year focused on a specific area of victimization: child abuse. Vets Incarcerated provided a display of 42 white crosses representing the number of children killed by child abuse/neglect last year. The crosses and a banner were placed in a visible area of the prison where it could be seen by staff, visitors, and inmates. Additional banners were placed at the front gate and along the walk fence, offering statistics about child abuse and stating DCI's commitment to prevention. Two seminars on child abuse were presented to approximately 175 inmates by Mandy Weber from Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana. Two inmates made two posters for each inmate recreation rooms: one poster focusing on general crime victim statistics and the other on child abuse/neglect statistics. Literature on child abuse/neglect was distributed to visitors through the visitor processing building and the concession stand at visitation, and inmates received literature at the seminar. Role call training included information on child abuse/neglect. Pre-release classes focused on victim awareness on April 23 and April 30, and included two victim impact speakers and a speaker on victim rights.

Elayn Hunt Correctional Center offered inmates the opportunity to hear a victim impact speaker.

Washington Correctional Institute used the national observance to get inmates thinking about crime and the impacts of their actions on victims, communities, and their own families. Each Friday of the month, staff met with inmates approaching release and used videos and other materials to present and explore issues like the following: What actually is a victim (and can it be a community)? In what ways are inmates' family members (spouses, children, mothers, fathers, and siblings) also victims? And what about the direct victims – their feelings, need for “closure,” and the age-old question “why me (us)”? What can/must inmates do to help restore self-esteem in victims themselves? Personal choice was an important topic too: How does an individual's choice affect other people? What steps could inmates take to make a difference in their community when they return?

Like Natchitoches District P&P **Phelps Correctional Center** got a head-start on the national observance. The January/February and March/April issues of the prison publication *The Insider* ran articles about victim issues from the OVC packet and from inmates. In March, posters appeared along the walk to notify inmates of a victim awareness program planned for April 20; the *Daily Notification Bulletin* also promoted attendance. On that Tuesday morning staff and inmates observed a moment of silence; staff members were encouraged to discuss victims rights issues as a lead-up to the moment. The main program took place in the evening with 151 inmates in attendance. It included music by the Gospel Harmonizers and a play presented by the Jaycees (“The Meeting”), which portrayed a victim-offender dialogue. Program highlights were guest speakers: Pat Taylor and Gene Guidry of MADD and Catalene Theriot, a victim assistance coordinator from the 16th JD and founder of VOICE, a support group for victims and survivors of crimes of violence.

At **Avoyelles Correctional Center** inmates and staff were invited to attend a victim awareness program on April 20. A statement on the program set the tone: “...America's Values. Let us all look within ourselves and remember the victims of crime within our community and beyond.” After welcoming remarks from Warden Lynn Cooper, second and third place winners in the inmate essay contest were acknowledged, and the first place winner read his composition. Speakers for the event were the DA's victim assistance coordinator for Avoyelles Parish (accompanied by two crime victims served by his office), the director of the Crime Victims Services Bureau, and a representative of the Avoyelles Parish Domestic Violence Outreach Office. Inmates from the Culinary School provided and served refreshments following the program.

At **Winn Correctional Center**, the Jaycees completed a mural on this year's theme, “Victims' Rights, America's Values,” and donated a check for \$200 to the Volunteers of America. Inmates were invited to compete in a theme-based essay contest. The first and second place submissions were published in the inmate newsletter. At an open call out inmates heard from the victim assistance coordinator from the District Attorney's office in Natchitoches and from P&P officer Melissa Murray.

The Washington Parish Rape Crisis Center/ADAPT, Inc., received community awareness grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, and involved WCI staff and the Crime Victims Services Bureau in event planning.

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

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NE Department of Correctional Services Coloring Book

All Nebraska Department of Correctional Services inmates were asked to draw pictures to display in a coloring book. This coloring book was then printed and donated to domestic violence shelters across Nebraska.

The goal of this Program is to involve inmates at all levels in sharing their talents in a manner that benefits crime victims.

Approximately 4,000 inmates ranging from juvenile inmates to adult inmates. All inmates were eligible to participate in this program. A total of 70 entries were received by inmates.

One of the biggest challenges to this was finding organizations to donate printing costs. Another challenge was getting the word out to all inmates that they could contribute to this coloring book. In addition, all drawings needed to be reviewed by the institutional Criminal Threat Group Coordinator prior to being submitted.

West Virginia Department of Corrections

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Operations: New Beginnings

The West Virginia Division of Corrections Victim Services conducts two major projects each year that involve 12 facilities, staff, inmates, and the community. They are National Crime Victims Awareness in April and National Domestic Violence Awareness in October. Each facility forms a committee to plan a project, which involves staff, inmates, and community participation. Money is raised to present to the victim organizations in the state, along with items made by inmates to be used by the organizations to auction or for a raffle.

This is a new beginning for the inmates, a time to realize the damage their actions have caused their victims and to give back to the community. It is a step forward in their taking responsibility for their victims. It is also a new beginning for the Division of Corrections to offer services to victims of crime.

Program Goals:

- To assist victim organizations.
- To establish a means in which, inmates can give back to the community.
- To raise awareness of victims rights and issues in the correctional institutions and communities.

Offender Participation:

The West Virginia Division of Corrections, as of September 15, 2003, has 4,815 adult inmates housed in 12 facilities.

Victim Services Partners and/or Beneficiaries:

The West Virginia Division of Corrections Victim Services has established many new partnerships with "Operation: New Beginnings." They are listed as follows:

- The West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Parents of Murdered Children
- Prosecutor-based advocates
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- WV Crime Compensation Fund

Many of our facilities have formed partnerships with different agencies in the effort to assist victims.

- Huntington Work Release Center and Branches, Domestic Violence Shelter along with Cabell Huntington Hospital Neo-natal Unit.

- Charleston Work Release and YWCA-Resolve Family Abuse
- Mt. Olive Correctional Complex and Women's Resource Center along with WV University Institute of Technology, and West Virginia State College.
- Beckley Correctional Center and Women's Resource Center
- Huttonsville Correctional Center and Women's Aid in Crisis
- Lakin Correctional Center and Branches, Domestic Violence Shelter
- Anthony Correctional Center and the Family Refuge Center
- Northern Correctional Facility and YWCA-Family Violence Prevention Program Along with the Moundsville City Police Department
- St. Mary's Correctional Center and the Pleasants County Family Crisis Intervention Program

Program Activities

The outcomes listed below are from Operation: New Beginnings Crime Victim Awareness Month, April 2003.

Huttonsville Correctional Center:

1. **Opening Ceremony:** A ceremony was scheduled to be held by the flag pole at the entrance of the institution but was relocated to the staff building due to inclement weather conditions. The ceremony consisted of Marcia White, Executive Director of Women's Aid in Crisis, as guest speaker, Chaplain Brake led a prayer, Warden Haines concluded the ceremony. Staff and select inmate representatives attended the ceremony.
2. **Ribbon Drive:** Blue & orange ribbons (colors for the month) were given to staff, all staff including contracted services (PSI-MED, Aramark, CMS), which were worn during the week.
3. **Coloring Books:** All inmates permitted to submit pictures to be judged for a coloring book. The committee received in excess of 100 pictures with volunteers from the Arts Council doing the judging. They selected 30 that were best suited for a children's coloring book. The book was compiled with a color cover and 30 pictures varying from primary to more elaborate pictures. The books, along with a box of crayons, were given to various agencies such as Women's Aid in Crisis, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and Parents of Murdered Children and to several county prosecutors' advocates.
4. **VVA Donation:** VVA made a cash donation of \$250.00, which was donated to Women's Aid in Crisis.
5. **Staff Donations:** A large collection of items needed by the shelter was presented to Women's Aid In Crisis by the staff.
6. **Clothesline Project:** The Therapeutic Community Lighthouse Project prepared a simulated clothesline in which each inmate decorated a t-shirt in honor of his or her victims. The project was displayed at the Federal Building in Elkins.
7. **Benefit Breakfast:** Project committee members prepared a delicious breakfast for staff who made donations. A total of \$301.00 was raised and donated to Randolph County Homeless Shelter.

8. Inmate Play: The inmates prepared a play titled “DE’JA’Vu—My All American Family.” Inmates wrote the play, planned the scenes, props, and costumes, and wrote 11 songs that depicted the theme of the play. Approximately 50 inmates participated. Nearly 300 inmates as well as staff attended. This was a very emotional and well rehearsed play that received rave reviews.
9. Closing ceremony: Following the play, a closing ceremony was held in which Geneva Foster, Parents of Murdered Children was the guest speaker. Warden Haines presented Parents of Murdered Children, Women’s Aid in Crisis, Randolph Homeless Shelter, and Court Appointed Special Advocates with a cash donation.
10. Reception: All inmates and staff as well as representatives from the above mentioned agencies were invited to a reception that was held in the dining hall. Beautifully decorated with “Fulfill The Promise” theme decorations, sheet cakes were purchased by staff donations and donations from Aramark. This proved to be a positive atmosphere.
11. Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office sponsored a “Lighting of Hope Ceremony” where Warden Haines was the guest speaker. Staff also attended.

Huttonsville sent t-shirts, pictures, coloring books, and a tape of the play to Victim Services Manager Sandi Jaynes.

Anthony Center:

1. Inmates drew posters which were put on display at the facility
2. Staff donated items to the Family Refuge Center
3. Inmates made quilts that were given to the Family Refuge Center

Beckley Correctional Center:

1. Held a car wash and raised \$240.00, which was given to the Women’s Resource Center
2. Placed a display in Raleigh County Library

Denmar Correctional Center:

1. A short ceremony was held in the visitation building on April 18th, honoring victims of crime. The theme was “Victim’s Rights—Fulfill the Promise.”
2. Dennis Mynuk, Associate Warden of Security opened the program with a welcome to guests who included, Joe Callison, Pocahontas County Commissioner, Danette Condon, Family Refuge Center, Emily Huges from WVMR Radio Station, staff and inmates.
3. Chaplain Jerry Moore offered prayers for victims and offenders

4. Four inmates, members of the Denmar Correctional Center Violent Offender Counseling and Learning Group, spoke concerning the remorse and responsibility they felt about their crimes.
5. Ginger Lyall, Case Manager, spoke briefly; emphasizing the long recovery process victims of crime must deal with and the continuing need to provide resources to help victims recover, especially in the field of sexual assault and domestic violence.
6. Two Weeping Cherry Trees were planted outside the prison gates in honor of past, present, and future victims of crime
7. The ceremony closed with a prayer led by Chaplain Jerry Moore
8. Four white pigeons were released by Charlie Burke and Teresa Dunbrack
9. A bulletin board was designed to display artwork by Inmate Kamey Davis. The picture depicted domestic violence. Other pictures, ribbons, statistics, and information were also displayed.
10. Red white and blue lapel ribbons were made and distributed to staff and visitors to wear in honor of victims.
11. A poem "Weeping Cherry Tree" written by Charlie Burke was displayed.
12. An article about our program and victims' need for additional and continuing resources was placed in two newspapers, *The Valley Ranger* and the *Pocahontas Times*.

Northern Correctional Center

1. Correctional Counselors, Rick Strait, and John Yoders went to the Marshall and Ohio County Courthouses to pass out information to the public on victim's rights.
2. They also provided the Moundsville City Police Department with information about crime victims' rights so they could help educate the public.
3. A poster pledge was held at the facility promoting victims' rights

Lakin Correctional Center is the newest facility to open for female offenders. The facility had not been operational long when the staff began their project. They sold candles raising \$128.00 to be given to Branches, the Domestic Violence Program that serves Mason County. Inmates wrote letters to their victims and they were displayed in the front lobby, along with statistics about different crimes and information for victims to gain resources.

Charleston Work Release Center

1. Created and submitted a bulletin board for Operation Reach Out in Town Center Mall
2. DeeDee Pauley, Secretary, Sharon Spurlock, Case Manager, and CO11Dannette Clark assisted by staffing the Victim Services Display at the Town Center

3. The Center flew the Victims Justice Flag for the month of April

Pruntytown established five main objectives for Victim Awareness Month:

1. Educate inmates and staff about victims and their rights
2. Enlighten inmates to the consequences of the crimes, giving them the opportunity to make an empathic statement to assume accountability for such
3. Educate all on the devastating results of domestic violence
4. Provide updates on crime statistics
5. Form alliances with agencies who assist victims

The Project consisted of the following:

1. Victim empathy statement exercise sheets were given to inmates so they could hold themselves accountable for their actions. A Victim Empathy Wall was placed in the dining hall to publicly display all the statements
2. Victims' rights flyer and crime statements were posted on all housing units
3. Bulletin boards throughout the facility to inform and enlighten inmates and staff
4. 90 inmates and 10 staff members attended the Domestic Violence Presentation. Domestic Violence Director and a victim shared their experiences. It was a very powerful and informative presentation
5. Articles were prepared for the inmate and staff newsletters
6. We have planned future projects with the local Domestic Violence Shelter

Mt. Olive Correctional Complex had several projects:

1. Staff made peanut butter Easter eggs to sell
2. Staff worked with Red Fern Country Accents to sell candles
3. Staff designed and sold t-shirts and hats with the "Victim's Rights—Fulfill the Promise" theme
4. Bucket Drive and community awareness project was held on Corridor G
5. Sold Krispy Kreme Donuts to inmates
6. Staff participated in Opening ceremony for Operation Reach Out
7. Staff participated in Victim's Day at the Legislature
8. Staff participated in Operation Reach Out at Town Center Mall
9. Mt. Olive staff, inmates and community raised \$1700.00

10. The proceeds will go to the building fund for the Children's Advocacy Center in Kanawha County.

Huntington Work Release Center:

Pennies from Heaven: Resident Gerald Hunter (now on parole) came to me with this idea as part of our Victims Awareness Week Projects. Pennies From Heaven is a fund raising drive to assist TEAM for West Virginia, which provides programs for children who are victims of mental, physical and sexual abuse, including: Child Assault Prevention Project (CAP), Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA), Healthy Families America, New Steps and Prevention Child Abuse West Virginia. For this project, we obtained permission from a local grocery store to hand out information on Victims Services and collect donations from customers for TEAM West Virginia at their business location. Our residents got together to make up collection containers (a container was placed here in the Center as well). The residents greeted people as they went into the business and handed out hundreds of pamphlets on VINE and other victim services. We collected a total of \$377.00.

Blankets for Babies: This idea came about after a counseling session where one of our residents was dealing with the death of her mother, guilt over her drug use and the feeling of never being able to do anything at this point to pay honor to her mother. When I asked her about good memories of her mother and the things they did, she told me that they use to crochet together. She was in agreement to teach others to crochet and make baby blankets to be given to babies born to drug addicted mothers. During NCVRW, we were able to present 24 hand crocheted baby blankets to the nurses at Cabell Huntington to be used by the Intensive Care Unit and given to these babies and their mothers when they leave the hospital. We hope to keep this as an ongoing project.

Clothing Distribution Project

We are regularly working with The Village Closet, a consignment shop in Barboursville, West Virginia. The owner of this shop allows us to pick up excess items, which are brought to the Center, sorted, and then distributed to Renaissance Center, a Center for women who are in long-term drug rehabilitation. We help provide clothing and toys for the children (the true victims of addiction) as well as household items for their new surroundings.

Items from this project are also given to Branches Domestic Violence Shelter. These items assist women and children in restructuring their lives in their new environment.

Playground Equipment for Renaissance Center

A large amount of playground equipment was purchased for the children of Renaissance Center last year and our residents noticed it lying on the ground in the boxes leaving approximately 25 children with nothing to play on. We checked into the situation and our residents volunteered to assemble the equipment for the children as part of our victim awareness efforts.

Swing Set

While assembling the playground we found that there was no swing set. Our residents purchased and assembled a new swing set for the children's use at Renaissance.

Easter Basket Drive

Our residents took up a collection and donated \$175.00 to the children at Renaissance to be used for an Easter Party, toys, and Easter Baskets.

Huntington Work Release Center inmates have also been doing repairs on the domestic violence shelter. All inmates at the Work Release Center are not incarcerated due to a violent crime.

Several facilities have taken "Operation: New Beginnings" a step farther than just two projects a year. They have formed yearlong projects with their community partners. They are:

- Mt. Olive Correctional Complex
- Huntington Work Release Center
- Charleston Work Release Center