

VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners and Advocates

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Crime Victims' Rights Week Information
- Overview of the National Toolkit
- A listing of events nationally and state-wide



The Victims' Rights Brief is published by the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services, which remains wholly responsible for its content. The goal in generating the Brief is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system. To learn more about victims' rights visit us at www.azag.gov.

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 26- May 2, 2009 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). This is a time for victim advocates and our communities to learn about victimization, reflect on the cost of crime to our society, and promote laws, policies, and programs to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The 2009 NCVRW theme is "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act". This theme invites us to celebrate the 1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) that has fueled progress and programs and services for victims of crimes.

NCVRW Toolkit

As providers of services to crime victims you may have received information from the Office for Victims of Crimes. A toolkit complete with ideas and materials for raising awareness of victims rights and planning NCVRW events can be found at <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>

The toolkit also provides statistics on victimization

and information on the history of crime victims' rights in our nation. The toolkit can serve to strengthen presentations and educate our communities. The toolkit tells the story of victimization nationally and the statistics can aid in grant writing.

Collaboration

Our current economy means our agencies are experiencing shrinking budgets, layoffs, and furloughs. Planning events and raising awareness will require creativity and innovation. April is also National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Partnerships and collaborations become an important tool to continue in our work of raising awareness and serving victims. The NCVRW toolkit provides ideas for events, collaborations, and collateral materials that can be tailored to fit your own event.



Statewide and National Events

The following is a list of the some of events and projects going on around the nation and our state to observe Victims' Rights Week. We invite you to participate and support these events to energize your own commitment to the work you do and to show support in helping victims heal and move forward.

National Events

The Office for Victims of Crime will hold two events in Washington , D.C., leading up to National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

Thursday, April 23, 2009

6:30-7:30 p.m. ET
National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony
U.S. Chamber of Commerce at 1615 H Street NW., Washington, D.C.

Friday, April 24, 2009

National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony
Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium at 1301 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, D.C.

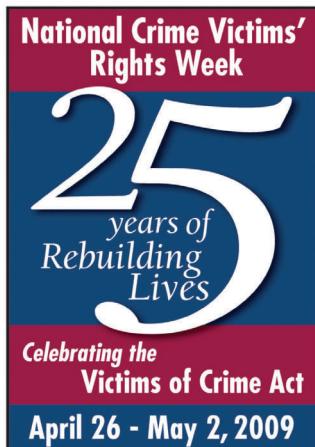
Office of Arizona Attorney
General Terry Goddard

1275 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Phone: 602-542-4911
Fax: 602-542-8453

We're on the Web!
www.azag.gov

VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK CONT...



Arizona Events

Gila County

Tuesday, April 21, 2009- Victims' Rights Week will begin with presentations at the Gila County Board of Supervisors Meeting and the Payson City Council requesting a Proclamation for recognition of National Crime Victims Week of April 26 to May 2 in Gila County. There will also be an information booth with refreshments after the Board Meeting in the lobby of Gila County Courthouse with posters, crime clock and handouts.

Media Support

There will be a written series in local newspapers for the three weeks leading up to April 26. The schedule as follows; on week one- Cost of Crime and Victimization, week two- Identity Theft and Financial Crime, Week three- School Crime and Victimization. Public Service Announcements in the newspapers and radio stations in Globe and Payson as well as on local Television station.

Have an idea for an article?
Give the Victims' Rights
Brief a call! Contact
Brittany James at
602-542-8848

Gila County Event Schedule

Monday April 27, 2009,
6:30 pm – There will be a Candlelight Vigil at Green Valley Park, Payson Arizona, with presentation of Certificates to Victims' Rights Supporters

Wednesday, April 29, 2009,
6:30 pm – There will be a Candlelight Vigil at the Gila County Courthouse, Globe, Arizona, with presentation of Certificates to Victim Rights Supporters.

Wednesday, April 29, 2009- An information desk will be set up at the Payson library - providing coloring books, pencils, bookmarks, and information about victim services

Friday, May 1, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm- In conjunction with First Friday on Main St. in Payson, an information booth regarding Victims' Rights Week. There will be penny wars, where each merchant that is open has a big jar for pennies they collect from the customers and proceeds are donated to the Domestic Violence Shelter.

Phoenix

March 9, 2009 through April 27th, 2009

Baby Diaper Drive

In conjunction with Victims' rights week, the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services is collecting diapers for the East Valley Child Crisis Center.

Sunday, April 26, 2009,
5:30pm -Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc., Valley

of the Sun Chapter, will host a vigil to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It will be at the Arizona State Capitol, Senate Grounds by the POMC Memorial. Attendees are asked to bring a teddy bear in memory of a murder victim and the bears will be donated to Childhelp. A thank you gift is given at our vigil for those who work with crime victims in the service fields.

Monday, April 27, 2009, 10 am- Arizona Governor's Office will host a ceremony in recognition of Victims' Rights Week at the State Capitol, Executive Tower, First Floor Lobby 1700 W. Jefferson Street, Phoenix, AZ. The event will pay tribute to crime victims and survivors who have joined together to support and promote victims' rights and services. The Governor will also present a "Triumph over Tragedy" award to a crime victim/survivor who has given back to help make a difference in the lives of others who have been victimized.

Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 9-10am- In celebration of Victim Rights Week, Attorney General Terry Goddard will present the 2009 Distinguished Service Awards and honor those who help the Attorney General's Office fight crime and serve crime victims throughout the state. Ceremony will be at the Victims' Rights Rose Garden at the Arizona Attorney General's Office at 1275 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK CONT...

Thursday, April 30, 2009,
10:00am- The United States Attorney's Office is commemorating Victims' Right Week with a ceremony at their offices. Their offices are located at Two Renaissance Square, 40 N. Central Ave., Suite 1200 in Phoenix. The keynote speaker will be Meg Garvin, JD, executive director at the National Crime Victim Law Institute.

Prescott

Tuesday, April 28th, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm- To commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week the Homicide Victim Remembrance Display in Prescott will unveil two of the newest silhouettes. Community outreach information will be available. Guests can take part in creating a memory banner and a candlelight ceremony.

Wednesday, April 29th through Friday, May 1st- A Homicide Victim Remembrance display will be open for public viewing in recognition of Victims' Rights Week and to encourage remembrance, awareness, and advocacy. The display will be in the lobby of the Yavapai County Criminal Justice & Detention Center at 255 E. Gurley in downtown Prescott. The display includes thirteen life-sized silhouettes representing actual homicide victims in Yavapai County. Each figure is made by prison inmates and has a breast-plate shield giving the victim's name, dates of birth and death, and a short summation of their victimization. The County Attorney Victim Services Division worked with the Arizona Department of Corrections to create the display.

Safford

Wednesday, April 29, 2009, 10:00 am- In recognition of Victims Rights' Week there will be a Play Ground Equipment Dedication at the Mt. Graham Safe House. The event is collaboration of community

partners including, Arizona State Complex-Safford, Safford Victim Witness and Mt. Graham Safe House. The inmates are doing a fund raiser for the play ground equipment as part of a Restorative Justice Program. There will be speakers and a dedication ceremony to commemorate the event.

Tucson

Tuesday, April 28th, 12:15pm-1:30pm- The Tucson office of the Attorney's General , in collaboration with the James E. Rogers College of Law from the University of Arizona and the Pima County Attorney's Office will host an event to commemorate Crime Victims' Right Week. The event will take place on at the U of A Law School in Room 164. Attorney General Terry Goddard will be speaking, as will a victim and a victim advocate from the county.

Wednesday, April 29 all day- The Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault (SACASA) Dine-Out for Safety. Tucson area restaurants will donate portions of day's sales to SACASA. Go out for lunch and/or dinner to benefit a good cause.
Go to www.sacasa.org for a list of participating restaurants.

Yuma

Monday, April 27, 2009, at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. In recognition of Crime Victims Rights Week, the 2009 Yuma County Victims' Rights Week Committee is sponsoring "Walk a Mile in their Shoes", at Smucker Park located at 28th Street & Ave. It is a community event to raise awareness and show support for victims of crime. There will be informational booths, activities for children, and education and awareness activities. The Yuma County Victims' Rights Week Committee is a collaboration of community crime victims/survivors, the Marine Corps, local nonprofits, higher education institutions, and the Yuma County Attorney Victim Services.



"Every day in every state, VOCA shows victims they are not alone. VOCA represents hope, renewal, and a nation that stands behind victims of crime."

John W. Gillis, former director of the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, DOJ.

"In 2006, VOCA grants helped fund more than 4,400 public and nonprofit agencies serving almost 4 million victims throughout the country."

Steve Derene, "Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Crime Victim Fund: Briefing Background 2009 Budget," (Madison, WI: NAVAA, 2008)

In 25 years, VOCA has become "a part of what we are and...how we take care of people. The better job we do in taking care of victims, the healthier our communities will be."

Kathryn Turman, director of the FBI Office of Victim Assistance

