

# Collaborations

*The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.*

*Volume 2, October, 2003*

## Phase Two *by Scott Beard*

We are now moving into the next phase of the OVC supported Collaborative Faith project. I have visited each of the five sites and met the staff and many of the advisory board members. The consultants and I are very impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm we discovered everywhere we went. It was also helpful and instructive for us to see firsthand the neighborhoods targeted for collaboration in each city. One of *my* most revealing experiences was a drive through the Nashville selected area with a gentleman, who grew up on the streets, wound up in prison, and now runs an HIV prevention program in the targeted areas. He exemplified the significance of making contact with target populations through those who are already respected in a community.

Each site is moving at its own pace, and we at MCVRC want to help you move to the next stage. It is crucial that the advisory committees (continued on p. 2)



**Highlighted Program:** Following 9/11, Janice Lord, one of our national consultants, began to facilitate a group called "Daughters of Abraham." The group is made up of about 35 Jewish, Muslim and Christian women. Their philosophy focuses more on similarities than distinctions. Janice says that the women have grown beyond mutual education and tolerance to genuine respect and love for each other. They started out as step-sisters in faith, but as time goes on, the "sister" has become more important than the "step." For more information contact Janice at [jhlord2@comcast.net](mailto:jhlord2@comcast.net).

*"One person can make a difference—and every person should try." Stephanie Roper*

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fully participate to assure that the project leads to productive goals.

It was important for Dr. DeHart to come to each of your communities to conduct an initial needs assessment before significant information and training was offered. We are now ready to introduce some elements that we hope will lead to successful meeting of project goals.

As you are aware, the first year of the project is primarily devoted to forming and providing structure to your advisory councils. The initial stage builds bridges between the faith and victim assistance communities so that people can come together to establish bonds and connections through facilitated meetings conducted by project staff.

Each of you should now have a sense of the leaders in the faith community and the victim assistance community who will not only contribute valuably to this project, but make a long term commitment to collaboration.

Jayne Crisp, our national training consultant, has developed a community collaboration model to assure sustainability of the advisory councils. We are currently seeking permission to use collaboration profiles and surveys. Once we get this permission, we will ask you and your advisory council members to complete these instruments. These surveys and/or profiles will give us an idea of where your advisory council stands with regard to true collaboration and, along with the needs assessment, show us the gaps where training may be helpful. Jayne Crisp and/or one of your staff will then present the collaboration training to your advisory council.

The second part of the process will be strategic planning. This exercise will give your advisory council the opportunity to formulate their goals and objectives. This training will not only rely heavily on the needs assessment provided by Dr. DeHart, but will also incorporate the knowledge base of the community partners you have brought together into the advisory council. The strategic planning session can be facilitated by one of our consultants or by someone skilled in the process in your community who is not connected to the victim assistance community or biased through any faith affiliations. One of our consultants, Janice Lord is available to assist with strategic planning.

Another opportunity I mentioned in a recent e-mail is a gathering of staff site personnel in early 2004. Our original plan was to bring you together at the NOVA conference in August, 2004. However, we now think it will be more advantageous to do it sooner, here in the Baltimore area. Details will follow as they become available. As always, feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

### *Bibliography—The following articles are available online*

- ? Church and State Tax Law in North Carolina offers publications on screening and background checks for churches - [http://www.elca.org/dcm/Ministry\\_Planning/images/Screen%20Hire%20Supervise.pdf](http://www.elca.org/dcm/Ministry_Planning/images/Screen%20Hire%20Supervise.pdf)
- ? "It Should Never Happen Here: A Guide for Minimizing the risk of Child Abuse in Ministry" by Ernest J. Zarra III - (book) A practical guide to protecting faith communities from sexual predators. (see Amazon.com)

### *Websites of interest*

- ? Amazon.com website for Fundraising resources - [www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/07879524](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/07879524)
- ? American Religion Data Archive - [www.thearda.com/arda.asp?Show=Home](http://www.thearda.com/arda.asp?Show=Home)
- ? Celebrate Recovery: a national network of faith based (mostly christian) support groups for addiction and recovery from trauma - [www.celebraterecovery-ne.com/index.html](http://www.celebraterecovery-ne.com/index.html)
- ? Children, Youth, and Families at risk projects - [www.cyfernet.org](http://www.cyfernet.org)
- ? US Dept. of Health and Human Services Grants website - [www.hhs.gov/grantsnet/otherops.htm](http://www.hhs.gov/grantsnet/otherops.htm)
- ? Standards for Victim Assistance Programs and Providers by Dr. Dana DeHart (through OVC) - [www.sc.edu/ccfs/NVASC\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.sc.edu/ccfs/NVASC_Standards.pdf)
- ? Interactive Knowledge for Non-profit organizations worldwide - [www.iknow.org](http://www.iknow.org)

*(views expressed by the authors in the articles and websites above do not necessarily reflect the opinions of OVC or MCVRC)*

This Project was supported by Grant No. #2002.VF.GX.K017 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

