

LEGISLATIVE ALERT



14750 Main Street, 1B, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-3055
Phone: 301/952-0063 Toll Free: 1-877-VICTIM-1 Fax: 301/952-2319
Email: mail@mdcrimevictims.org Website: www.mdcrimevictims.org

Nineteen years ago in January 1985 when I was admitted as an attorney, one of my first clients was the Stephanie Roper Committee as their first paid employee. Crime victims were considered by many as mere "bit players" in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. With the Oklahoma bombing case and 911 terrorist acts, the plight of crime victims has become a national interest. Yet it was the slow incremental progress of the victims' rights movement that has served as the foundation of crime victims' rights. Today as we continue to raise the bar for crime victims, we are pleased that victims' rights are now part of our American values. -

Russell P. Butler, Executive Director

2004 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We ask your support for our 2004 Legislative Priorities:

1. HB ____/SB____ **Capital Bond Bill for MCVRC.**- A bill to provide the Maryland Crime Victim Center with money to purchase office space. *(Delegates Proctor and Vallario/Senator Miller)*

2. HB ____/SB____ **Consecutive Sentences** – A sentence which a judge orders to run consecutive to a term of parole should actually run consecutively regardless of the order of the sentence and parole revocation. *(Delegate Vallario/Senator Miller)*

3. HB 786/SB____ **Restitution** – Maryland's restitution laws be improved. Suggested improvements include:

Allowing restitution for rehabilitation expenses.

Providing that the \$10,000 cap of restitution is per child per incident and not aggregate children per incident.

If restitution is overdue and a restitution obligor is employed, requesting the court to consider imposing an earnings withholding order to collect the restitution of the obligor's salary.

Providing for the presumed necessity of certain restitution expenses when written documentation is provided.

Other clarifying changes to improve the ordering and collecting of restitution judgments. *(Delegate Vallario/Senator Miller)*

4. HB____/SB____ **Correctional Compliance with Victims' Rights Laws.** Advice from the Attorney General's Office will be sought regarding whether the standards for correctional facilities include notification to crime victims and restitution. If no authority currently exists, authority will be sought to provide that correctional institutions standard should comply with Maryland law regarding notification and restitution. *(Delegate Vallario/Senator Miller)*

Please let us know if you have experienced any problems in regards to the above? (If Bill numbers are not inserted above, please call 301-952-0063 or 1-877-VICTIM1 to obtain Bill numbers.)

OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST.

SB 43 - **Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Life Insurance Benefits:** Provides that awards are not reduced by the first \$25,000 of life insurance benefits.

SB 44 - **Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - Emergency Award:** Increases from \$1,000 to \$2,000 the amount of an emergency award and allows under certain circumstances the emergency award need not be repaid.

Contact **Robin Woolford** of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for Information at 888-679-9347 regarding SB 43 or SB 44.

How to contact your elected officials:

To support legislation to improve our criminal and juvenile justice systems through our legislative priorities, contact these legislators:

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

Senator	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail address
Brian E. Frosh, <i>Chair - Dist 16</i>	2 E Miller Sen. Bldg	3124	3850	brian_frosh@senate.state.md.us
Leo E. Green, <i>Vice-Chair Dist 23</i>	2 E Miller Sen Bldg	3631	3174	leo_green@senate.state.md.us
James Brochin - <i>Dist 42</i>	221	3648	3850	jim_brochin@senate.state.md.us
Jennie M. Forehand - <i>Dist 17</i>	223	3134	3850	jennie_forehand@senate.state.md.us
Robert J. Garagiola - <i>Dist 15</i>	104	3169	3850	rob_garagiola@senate.state.md.us
John A. Giannetti, Jr. - <i>Dist 21</i>	122	3141	3850	john_giannetti@senate.state.md.us
Larry E. Haines - <i>Dist 5</i>	316	3683	3729	larry_haines@senate.state.md.us
Ralph M. Hughes - <i>Dist 40</i>	121	3656	3850	ralph_hughes@senate.state.md.us
Nancy Jacobs - <i>Dist 34</i>	403	3158	3850	nancy_jacobs@senate.state.md.us
Philip C. Jimeno - <i>Dist 31</i>	101	3658	3586	philip_jimeno@senate.state.md.us
Alex X. Mooney - <i>Dist 3</i>	402	3575	3193	alex_mooney@senate.state.md.us
<i>Staff:</i> Debra A. Dickstein;				
Jeremy M. McCoy; Susan H. Russell.	2 E Miller Sen Bldg	3623	3623	

WRITE: Senator's name, room #, James Senate Office Building, 110 College Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Delegate	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	Email Address
Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., <i>Chair - Dist 27A</i>	121	3488	3850	
Anthony G. Brown, <i>Vice-Chair - Dist 25</i>	121	3707	3030	anthony_brown@house.state.md.us
Carmen Amedori, <i>Dist. 5A</i>	322C	3371	3315	carmen_amedori@house.state.md.us
Curtis Stovall (Curt) Anderson, <i>Dist 43</i>	317	3291	3850	curt_anderson@house.state.md.us
Jill P. Carter, <i>Dist 41</i>	317	3283	3850	jill_carter@house.state.md.us
Kathleen M. Dumais, <i>Dist 15</i>	226	3052	3850	kathleen_dumais@house.state.md.us
Donald H. Dwyer, Jr., <i>Dist 31</i>	213	3217	3850	don_dwyer@house.state.md.us
Ana Sol Gutierrez, <i>Dist 18</i>	223	3028	3850	ana_gutierrez@house.state.md.us
W. Louis Hennessy, <i>Dist 28</i>	216	3247	3252	louis_hennessy@house.state.md.us
Darryl A. Kelley, <i>Dist 26</i>	205	3212	3850	darryl_kelley@house.state.md.us
Kevin Kelly, <i>Dist 1B</i>	320	3404	3484	none
Susan C. Lee, <i>Dist 16</i>	221C	3019	3026	susan_lee@house.state.md.us
Susan K. McComas, <i>Dist 35B</i>	326	3289	3850	susan_mccomas@house.state.md.us
Herbert H. McMillan, <i>Dist 30</i>	216	3439	3850	herb_mcmillan@house.state.md.us
Pauline H. Menes, <i>Dist 21</i>	210	3114	3850	pauline_menes@house.state.md.us
Anthony J. O'Donnell, <i>Dist 29C</i>	319	3314	3850	anthony_odonnell@house.state.md.us
Carol StockerPetzold, <i>Dist 19</i>	222	3001	3850	carol_petzold@house.state.md.us
Neil F. Quinter, <i>Dist 13</i>	206	3246	3850	neil_quinter@house.state.md.us
Christopher B. Shank, <i>Dist 2B</i>	321	3447	3850	christopher_shank@house.state.md.us
Luiz R. S. Simmons, <i>Dist 17</i>	225	3037	3850	luiz_simmons@house.state.md.us
Theodore J. Sophocleus, <i>Dist 32</i>	214B	3233	3235	ted_sophocleus@house.state.md.us
Robert A. (Bobby) Zirkin, <i>Dist 11</i>	304A	3342	3379	bobby_zirkin@house.state.md.us
<i>Staff:</i> Claire Rooney; Lauren C. Nestor; Douglas R. Nestor		3488	3850	

WRITE: Delegate's name, room #, Lowe House Office Bldg., 84 College Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401 - 1991

Please check our website for legislative developments throughout the General Assembly Session: www.mdcrimevictims.org We urge you to contact Governor Ehrlich as well as your State Senators and Delegates to support our legislative and budget priorities. If your Senator and/or Delegates do not serve on the Senate Judicial Proceedings or House Judiciary Committee, you should also contact President Miller, Speaker Busch, Chairman Frosh, and Chairman Vallario.

BOND BILL - Call these legislators to support Capital Bond Bill funds for MCVRC:

BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE (Appointed by Senate President)

	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail Address
Ulysses Currie, <i>Chair, Dist 25</i>	3W Miller Bldg	3127	3091	ulysses_currie@senate.state.md.us
Patrick J. Hogan, <i>Vice-Chair, Dist. 39</i>	3W. Miller Bldg	3686	3670	patrick_hogan@senate.state.md.us
David R. Brinkley, <i>Dist 4</i>	321	3704	3713	david_brinkley@senate.state.md.us
James E. DeGrange, Sr., <i>Dist 32</i>	120	3593	3589	james_degrange@senate.state.md.us
Verna L. Jones, <i>Dist 44</i>	420 Miller Bldg	3612	3613	verna_jones@senate.state.md.us
Edward J. Kasemeyer, <i>Dist 12</i>	301	3653	3610	edward_kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us
Robert H. Kittleman, <i>Dist 9</i>	414	3671	3395	robert_kittleman@senate.state.md.us
Rona E. Kramer, <i>Dist 14</i>	401 Miller Bldg.	3625	3618	rona_kramer@senate.state.md.us
Gloria G. Lawlah, <i>Dist 26</i>	304	3092	3410	gloria_gary_lawlah@senate.state.md.us
Nathaniel J. McFadden, <i>Dist 45</i>	314	3165	3138	nathaniel_mcfadden@senate.state.md.us
Donald F. Munson, <i>Dist 2</i>	401	3609	3675	donald_munson@senate.state.md.us
Ida G. Ruben, <i>Dist 20</i>	422 Miller Bldg.	3634	3166	ida_ruben@senate.state.md.us
J. Lowell Stoltzfus, <i>Dist 38</i>	423	3645	3569	lowell_stoltzfus@senate.state.md.us

Staff: Jennifer B. Chasse; Victoria L. Gruuber;
Christine A. Romans; Molly M. Slominski

WRITE: Senator's name, room #, Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing, 11 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991,

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE (*Appointed by House Speaker*)

	Room #	Phone #	Fax #	E-mail Address
Norman H. Conway, <i>Chair, Dist 38B</i>	416	3425	3489	normas_conway@house.state.md.us
Talmadge Branch, <i>Vice-Chair, Dist. 45</i>	131	3257	3550	talmadge_branch@house.state.md.us
Susan L. M. Aumann, <i>Dist 42</i>	303	3258	3163	susan_aumann@house.state.md.us
Charles E. Barkley., <i>Dist 39</i>	222	3001	3009	charles_barkley@house.state.md.us
Gail H. Bates, <i>Dist 9A</i>	319	3556	3571	gail_bates@house.state.md.us
John L. Bohanan, Jr. <i>Dist 29B</i>	212	3227	3386	john_bohanan@house.state.md.us
Joan Cadden, <i>Dist 31</i>	213	3217	3553	joan_cadden@house.state.md.us
Galen R. Clagett, <i>Dist 3A</i>	324	3240	3308	galen_clagett@house.state.md.us
Steven J. DeBoy, <i>Dist 12A</i>	307	3328	3007	steven_deboy@house.state.md.us
Adelaide C. Eckardt, <i>Dist 37B</i>	308	3343	3299	adelaide_eckhardt@house.state.md.us
George C. Edwards, <i>Dist 1A</i>	320	3435	3040	george_edwards@house.state.md.us
Peter Franchot, <i>Dist 20</i>	424	3460	3532	peter_franchot@house.state.md.us
William J. Frank, <i>Dist 42</i>	303	3258	3311	william_frank@house.state.md.us
Tawanna P. Gaines, <i>Dist 22</i>	207	3058	3197	tawanna_gaines@house.state.md.us
Melony G. Griffith, <i>Dist 25</i>	207	3557	3498	melony_griffith@house.state.md.us
Keith E. Haynes, <i>Dist 44</i>	315	3263	3537	keith_haynes@house.state.md.us
Mary Dulany-James, <i>Dist 34A</i>	326D	3289	3294	mary_dulany_james@house.state.md.us
Adrienne A. Jones, <i>Dist 10</i>	312	3391	3157	adrienne_jones@house.state.md.us
John R. Leopold, <i>Dist 31</i>	213	3206	3764	john_leopold@house.state.md.us
Richard S. Madaleno, Jr., <i>Dist 18</i>	223	3028	3053	richard_madaleno@house.state.md.us
Van T. Mitchell, <i>Dist 28</i>	423	3325	3252	van_mitchell@house.state.md.us
Doyle L. Niemann, <i>Dist 47</i>	203	3326	3403	doyle_niemann@house.state.md.us
Jeffrey A. Paige, <i>Dist 44</i>	315C	3263	3537	jeffrey_paige@house.state.md.us
James E. Proctor, Jr., <i>Dist 27A</i>	411	3083	3459	james_proctor@house.state.md.us
Nancy R. Stocksdales, <i>Dist 5A</i>	322	3371	3241	nancy_stocksdales@house.state.md.us
Frank S. Turner, <i>Dist 13</i>	206	3246	3986	frank_turner@house.state.md.us

Staff: Rachel H. Hise; Leslie Knapp, Jr.; Shannon M. McMahon

WRITE: Delegate's name, Room #, Lowe House Office Bldg., 84 College Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

PLEASE check our website for legislative developments throughout the General Assembly Session: www.mdcrimevictims.org. We urge you to contact Governor Ehrlich as well as your State Senators and Delegates to support our legislative and budget priorities. If your Senator and/or Delegates do not serve on the Senate Budget and Tax or House Appropriation Committee, you should also contact President Miller, Speaker Busch, or Chairman Curry and Chairman Conway..

Court of Appeals to Consider Modifying Reconsideration Rule

By an 11-10 vote, the Rules Committee recommended that the current modification rule remain the same. A proposal endorsed by the Conference of Circuit Court Judges would have required courts in "crimes of violence" to rule on modifications within 5 years. After the vote, the Committee unanimously voted notwithstanding the 11-10 vote to forward the subject to the Court of Appeals to determine if there should be any revision of the modification rule.

The Policy Committee of our Board of Directors has recommended the modification of the reconsideration rule as a MCVRC priority. MCVRC urges that reconsiderations should not be allowed in homicide cases. Further we recommend that in cases where reconsiderations are allowed, they be allowed only if the court at the time of sentencing reserves its jurisdiction and allows a motion to be filed. Current practice almost forces a reconsideration to be filed in every case causing anxiety to victims and creating likely post conviction challenges if modifications requests are not filed.

Now is the time for citizens to provide your input. Please send written comments to:

The Maryland Court of Appeals
C/O Sandra F. Haines, Esq.
Reporter, Rules Committee, Room 1.517
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2030

We anticipate a public hearing on the subject of modification of the reconsideration rule. If you would like to testify, please call the Court of Appeals on 1-800-926-2583 to find out when a hearing will be held and how to sign-up to testify.

Executive Director's Corner Tax Credits Available

Space or lack of space has become an issue for us in Upper Marlboro. While we have had tremendous growth, which has allowed us to serve more victims in more ways, we have outgrown our current office space. The good news is we have been awarded a grant from **Governor Robert Ehrlich** and **Secretary Victor Hoskin of the Department of Housing and Community Development** of \$30,000 in tax credits from which we hope to leverage \$60,000 of private donation in the Neighborhood Partnership Program. (NPP) We thank Governor Ehrlich and Secretary Hoskins for their assistance. We also want to thank the Town Commission of Upper Marlboro. (**Commission President Helen H. Ford** and **Commissioners Robert D. Hopkins III, and Lawrence K. Warman, Jr.**)

How the NPP program works: *NPP Description*

The State of Maryland has awarded the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. an authorization to exchange State tax credits to leverage contributions through the Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) to obtain office space. For every contribution through the NPP, you or your business makes to the MCVRC, up to the limit of our allocation, you will receive 50% of the amount of the contribution as a credit on your Maryland tax liability. Most importantly, this credit is in addition to your normal Maryland and federal deductions for charitable contributions. Under this program depending on your tax bracket, a \$1000 contribution to the MCVRC may cost you as little as \$80 out-of-pocket but normally about 30 % of your contribution.

How you can help: Please make a donation now and receive Maryland tax credits along with your federal and state tax deductions. For more information regarding how to contribute under the NPP program, call Cortney Fisher at 301-952-0063.

MCVRC Brings National Faith Project Sites to Maryland

from Scott Beard, Esq., Director of Collaborative Faith Project

As many of you read in the recent newsletters, MCVRC received a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime to oversee projects in five high crime urban areas across the United States. The project staff in the five selected cities: Philadelphia, PA, St. Paul, MN, Nashville, TN, Richmond, CA, and Baltimore, MD are tasked with bringing together representatives from the victim assistance community and the faith community in an effort to build trust and reach underserved victims of crime. The project staff from each of the five sites will be coming together this February 18-21 at the Donaldson-Brown Center in Port Deposit, MD (Northeast of Baltimore) for a 3 day retreat to network, receive training, and hopefully become motivated for the year ahead.

Victim Services

from Therese Horn, Victim Advocate

Our new year has us looking forward to Victims' Rights Week, which is scheduled for April 18 to 24, 2004. The theme this year is, "Victims' Rights: America's Values." The statewide memorial service (sponsored by the State Board of Victim Services) for the friends and families of homicide and vehicular manslaughter victims will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2004 in the following four locations: Eastern Region: Caroline County; Western Region: 7th Day Adventist Church, Jefferson Pike, Frederick 2 PM; Northern Region: Bryn Mawr School, Melrose Ave, Baltimore, 4-6 PM (Subject to change); and Southern Region: Charles County. .

Work on Grief, Trauma & Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome - Dr. Marcella Marcey will present on Tuesday, February 24, 2004. Call to RSVP and for details.

Dedication of Victims' Memorial Wall - On Friday, April 23, 2004, a Memorial Wall honoring those whose lives were taken by criminal violence will be dedicated by State's Attorney, Glenn Ivey, Prince George's County. Call us for details.

For Victims' Right Week, the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center will have our annual **Ceremony of Remembrance** on Saturday, May 1, 2004. If you have never before been invited and would like to attend, please call Therese Horn at 301-952-0063, or if you are outside the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area, call our toll free number at 1-877-VICTIM1.

Please continue to mail your contributions or use our new Combined Federal Campaign number (CFC) 7439

Legal Services Report

from Sandy Bromley, Esq., Director of Legal Services

In October 2003, the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC) was awarded a Maryland Victims of Crime grant and, therefore, hired its first ever Staff Attorney, Sandy Bromley. Now MCVRC has the opportunity to assist victims of crime proactively throughout the criminal justice process. Additionally, the Staff Attorney may be available to serve crime victims in collateral matters, such as housing, consumer, and restitution issues. For more information about the direct legal services we offer, please call Ms. Bromley at (301) 952-0063.

MCVRC continues with its Crime Victim Legal Advocacy (CVLA) program. As many of you know, this program provides brief legal advice and referrals to Pro Bono attorneys for low-income victims of crime. The CVLA program wishes to thank Pro Bono Panel attorney, **Neil Quinter**, who has graciously devoted many hours representing a CVLA victim in a case which is now before the Court of Special Appeals. If you have any questions about the CVLA program or wish to volunteer as a CVLA Pro Bono Panel attorney, please call our Paralegal, Bonnie Cord, at (301) 952-0063.

Staff Developments

Welcome to the Newest Additions to Our Staff

We are very happy to welcome back **Sandy Bromley** as our first staff attorney. Sandy previously worked for MCVRC managing our federal grants. Sandy's presence will allow us to quickly respond to legal matters for crime victims especially when there is insufficient time to obtain a *pro bono* attorney.

Good byes and best wishes: **Jan Withers** - Our former Director of Victim Services has moved on and she will work as a victim advocate for MADD where her husband and member of our Board of Directors **Joseph Sikes** serves as president of Maryland MADD. Thank you for your years of services to victims and good luck with MADD.

Both **Tom Miller** and **Mike Connelly** have resigned from our Board of Directors. As Tom hears contested cases as a member of the Maryland Parole Commission, to prevent the appearance of a conflict of interest, Tom resigned from the Board. Mike has taken the position at the newly created Wisconsin Sentencing Commission.

Congratulations and notes: **Steve Kelly** - Member of our Board of Directors and employee for the law firm of Piper and Rudnick in Baltimore on his passing the Maryland bar exam. Good job counselor!

Do you want to know when an offender is released????

We can register you for V.I.N.E. to receive telephone notification when Maryland offenders are released. Even if you previously registered for V.I.N.E., a new enhancement will soon allow for email notification as well. Please call 301-952-0063 if you want more information or to register.

Force One Hundred – *America's Force for Justice*

(An Update on the Proposed Federal Constitutional Amendment)

(Roberta Roper – Maryland Co-Chair)

Force 100 is a gallant group of victim-survivors of criminal violence from every state who are dedicated to the passage of the United States Constitutional Amendment to protect all citizens, even those who, through no fault of their own, become a victim of violent crime. Coordinated by Collene Campbell, Force 100 has established a state network of teams to educate members of Congress and utilize public support to achieve true justice for all Americans.

Force 100 enhances the existing work of the National Victims' Constitutional Network by mobilizing the victim/survivors/leaders in each state to win support and passage of the victims' rights amendment. The Maryland team is composed of Roberta and Vince Roper and Victoria and Kevin Shearer. Two decades of state and federal statutes have failed to establish a balance of rights between defendants and victims. Only a federal amendment can provide equal protection between victims' and defendants' rights.

As a victim or survivor of violent crime or a concerned citizen, Force 100 needs your help in gaining the support of Maryland's members of Congress. Please contact Roberta Roper and provide your email or phone number at her email at: roper@toadmail.com or by calling the MCVRC office at: 301-952-0063. You will then receive information regarding contacting Senators Mikulski and Sarbanes NOW to support federal constitutional rights for victims of crime at:

- Senator Barbara Mikulski,
Suite 709, Hart Senate Office Bldg,
Washington, D.C 20510.
Email: mikulski.senate.gov/mailform;
Phone: 202-224-4654;
- Senator Paul Sarbanes,
Suite 332 Dirkson Senate Office Bldg,
Washington, D.C 20510.
Email: sarbanes.senate.gov/pages/email;
Phone: 202-224-4524.

Action on the amendment will occur on the floor of the U.S. Senate soon ... ACT NOW! Dedicated in memory of victims everywhere, Force 100 needs YOU to be Maryland's voice for victims who can no longer be heard!

We are counting on hearing from you!

***PLEASE MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
OR USE OUR COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN #7439.***

United Way donors may designate the MCVRC to receive their UW pledge. We anticipate that by mailing time we will have implemented a secure donation system on our website www.mdcrimevictims.org. For those shopping online, please designate mdcrimevictims.org at www.igive.com.

Special Appreciation to . . .

VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

As an organization, we value volunteers. As we look back to our last 22 years, we appreciate the efforts of the volunteers who served as pioneers to create and maintain our organization. We want you to know about our volunteers and how you too can help. We want to especially acknowledge our "Volunteers of the Quarter."

A special "thank you" goes out to **Neil Quinter**, who is our Volunteer of the Third Quarter. An heroic volunteer attorney who has been crucial in the past few months is **Neil Quinter Esq**, an attorney at the firm of **McDermott, Will, & Emery** in Washington, D.C. and a **Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly**, has taken the case of a victim who was permanently injured when he was shot by a juvenile in Howard County. Because of an order agreed to by the State's Attorney, the victim was granted less restitution than allowed by law. Mr. Quinter has, since June of 2002, advocated on behalf of the victim by attempting to alter the judgment of restitution. The State and the Juvenile Respondent argued that the victim has no standing to reopen this case. Despite an unfavorable opinion in the matter, Mr. Quinter has filed an appeal and has committed to the cause of this victim. On behalf of the MCVRC, we wish to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to Neil.

A very big thank you goes out to **ShaDonna Morris**, a Largo High School senior who dedicated 40 hours of her time during several afternoons a week, to our organization. Ms. Morris was especially helpful in setting up our new Victim Services Library and in writing a few of our future Public Service Announcements, a humble beginning to her future as a famous journalist. Good luck at college next year, ShaDonna!

Kudos to **Pat Woods** who volunteered at MCVRC several mornings to assist us in various projects to help victims of crime, including preparing our support group materials and mailings. We wish Ms. Woods luck in her new employment position.

Many other helping hands who gave many hours preparing bulk mailings for MCVRC including **Catherine Van Tassel, Marion Kneas, Anne Bridges, Pauline Oden, Joan & Tony Komatsoulis and Margaret & Robert Beaver**.

WE NEED YOU!!!! How can you help? We need all kinds of help. If you are an attorney, please volunteer to serve on our *pro bono* panel. If you have other skills and are willing to help, let us know how you may be able to contribute. Don't know what you can do or you need training? Let us know and we will consider you for a future training. Don't have time? Please consider a monetary contribution or urge others to help us serve victims and continue the missions of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center.

Victims - Update Your Addresses

Crime victims, you may be losing out on court-ordered restitution if you have not provided the Division of Parole and Probation with your correct addresses. Contact the Division's Office of Victim Services at: 1-877-227-8031

Grateful Appreciation . . .

Baltimore City Office Becomes a Reality

Through the support of **Brian Frank**, President of Lexington National Insurance Company, we have made arrangements to open an office in Baltimore City. While the official opening date is not yet scheduled, we continue to welcome all victims across the State to contact us for assistance. We also want to thank Baltimore City State's Attorney, **Patricia Jessamy**, for entering a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the referral of crime victims to us. Last but far from least, we want to acknowledge the efforts of University of Baltimore Law School Professor **Byron Warnken** for his continued support of the role of crime victims in our justice system. Professor Warnken provided academic research and legislative testimony to support constitutional rights for crime victims. Today, Byron continues to help open doors especially in conjunction with opening our Baltimore office. Please contact us if you are interested in being notified when the official opening occurs. (Tentative date: March 1, 2004)

We Need Your Support!

Since our last newsletter we have been moving full speed ahead to develop new and creative ways to expand our services for victims and survivors. In November, we held our **2nd Annual Maryland Champion of Crime Victims Awards Dinner** honoring **Senator Norman Stone, Chief Judge Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., and Victor C. Pietkiewicz** for their tireless contributions to victims of crime in Maryland. The event, held on November 15th, was a huge success. Thank you to all who attended and helped to make this event special for our Board of Directors, staff, and honorees.

In an effort to continuously honor and bring public attention to the never-ending suffering of our courageous survivors, we sponsored our **1st Annual Holiday Tree of Remembrance** in the Prince George's County Administration Building in December. The Tree, which stood for the entire month in the County's lobby, featured angels, purchased by a loved one and hung in memory of a fallen victim of crime. In addition to being a powerful reminder of the effects of victimization during the Holiday season, the Tree received many compliments from employees and visitors of Prince George's County. A very special thank you to **County Executive Jack Johnson and Ola Hill, Director of Community Services**, for their help and support to victims of crime!

Our next scheduled event will be the **1st Annual Chocolate Affair** to be held at **Quiet Waters Park** in Annapolis on **April 22, 2004**. We anticipate a fun evening with family and friends to raise money and awareness for victims of crime—not to mention stimulate our taste buds. Contact **Cortney** at **301-952-0063** for more information. Special thanks to **Kathy Beard** for all of her continued hard work on this event!

As always, we are continuing to sell custom-made jewelry from **Crystal's Charms**. **Crystal Lal** is a locally-based jewelry designer and owner of Crystal's Charms who has agreed to produce custom-made jewelry designed to honor a victim, the proceeds of which will benefit the MCVRC. Please call us if you wish to inquire about honoring your loved one with a custom-made piece of jewelry.

If you are interested in helping with any of these activities or have any ideas for additional activities, call Cortney at 301-952-0063.

THE MARYLAND CRIME VICTIMS' RESOURCE CENTER, INC. - COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

ALLEGANEY COUNTY

Barbie Dezen-Corwell (Co-Chair)
12918 N Cresap St., #70
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-729-9274 (H) 301-777-1960 (W)
Darrell Lyon (Co-Chair)
19023 Sloan Ave, SW
Frostburg, MD 21532
301-689-5951

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

James V. Donnelly
8406 Sultan Drive
Pasadena, MD 21122-4228
410-544-1473 (H)

BALTIMORE COUNTY (Vacancy)

CALVERT COUNTY
Carole Henley
1130 Stagecoach Trail
Lusby, MD 20657-3665
410-326-3318

CARROLL COUNTY

Robin Cianos (Co-Chair)
512 Pine Run Court
Sykesville, MD 21784-9029
410-795-4807 (H) 410-368-2965 (W)
Mary Harp (Co-Chair)
1412 Fairmount Rd., Apt. D
Hampstead, MD 21074-2184
410-374-0967

CECIL COUNTY

Jennie Parker
2184 Tome Highway
Port Deposit, MD 21904
410-658-3175

CHARLES COUNTY

Rosalie & Jim Romano
4235 Shelton Drive
Pomfret, MD 20675-0261
301-932-0594 (H)

FREDERICK COUNTY

Norm Workman
P.O. Box 354
New Market, MD 21774-0354
301-788-5797

HARFORD COUNTY

Margaret Wason
2208 Lyns Court
Bel Air, MD 21015-5020
410-836-2826 (H), 410-638-3500, X262W)

HOWARD COUNTY

Vicki Rapoport
6335 Orchard Club Drive, #3
Elkridge, MD 21075-6918
410-796-7095

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Kay Cummins
19020 Quail Valley Boulevard
Gaithersburg, MD 20879-1743
301-330-4450, FAX: 301-869-8748

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Helen & Al Cordero
4113 Offut Drive
Suitland, MD 20746-3734
301-736-0944 (H) FAX: 301-735-4630

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Aloyse M. Demuth
140 Kirwan's Landing Lane
Chester, MD 21619-2650
410-643-007

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Jeannie Copsey (Co-Chair)
39260 Persimmon Creek Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
301-884-0339 (H) 301-475-4590 (W)
Gwen Bankins (Co-Chair)
P.O. Box 133
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-0133
(301-373-5211)

EASTERN SHORE

Jay Olson
19 Beaconhill Road
Berlin, MD 21811-161
410-208-1683

VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE

Wendel Allen
9019 Admiral Vernon Terrace
Alexandria, VA 22309
703-360-2972 703-360-0989 (FAX)

THE MARYLAND CRIME VICTIMS' RESOURCE CENTER, INC.

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