









MCVRC

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

2023 Annual Report

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mcvrc@mdcrimevictims.org
www.mdcrimevictims.org

About Us

In 1982, Vince and Roberta Roper's daughter, Stephanie, was brutally murdered just as she was to graduate from college. As the Roper's were dealing with the intense grief of their loss, they were struggling to find justice in the criminal court system. They found that there were no rights for victims. Excluded from the criminal court trial and disregarded by the court, they formed the Stephanie Roper Committee dedicated to changing the way victims are treated. Now, more than 40 years later, The Stephanie Roper Committee and its dedicated supporters, have become Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. Maryland now has more than 100 laws for victims' rights. The Constitution of Maryland. Article 47 of the Declaration of Rights now provides: A victim of crime shall be treated by agents of the State with dignity, respect, and sensitivity during all phases of the criminal justice process. Through the tenacity of Vince and Roberta Roper the mission to "make good come from tragedy" has been fulfilled. * MCVRC continues the fight for victims' rights.







*Excerpt from Roberta Roper's remarks at an Annapolis rally, January 1983

Our Mission

To ensure victims of crime receive justice and are treated with dignity and compassion through comprehensive victims' rights and services.



Our Services

Our services include court accompaniment, victims' rights education, legal representation and other forms of direct support services to victims of all types of crime throughout the State of Maryland.

Dedicated staff provides legal representation and advocacy support to those in need of our services. In addition to direct victim services, MCVRC provides training to first responders, legal representatives and other victim advocates as needed and requested. These trainings include different levels such as education on legislative changes and annual review training. MCVRC reaches additional residents through participation in community events to ensure community members know of the resources available. All victims' rights services are provided at no cost to the victims, regardless of their income

Executive Director Message



Kurt Wolfgang

We have fought for years to get the recognition that we deserve in the form of adequate funding and finally, in December 2023, we received significant funding increases, which allow us to expand dramatically for 2024! Please join me in welcoming our sixteen new employees, bringing our employee total to 35. We now have eighteen attorneys, including our new Deputy Director, Joanna Mupanduki, and myself, two paralegals, 10 advocates and 5 administrative/operational support staff! Due to the staff increases, our Baltimore office moved from a cramped, antiquated space to a spacious, modern high rise office suite (1 N. Charles Street, Suite 700, Baltimore, MD 21201)! Watch our newsletter for information about the ribbon cutting event.

IYou may recognize the name of our new Deputy Director -- Joanna Mupanduki. She previously worked for us for three years as an attorney, and she is an experienced prosecutor, having prosecuted in Maryland, California, and Washington state. Her keen insight and calm, steady influence will help guide this organization for years to come. I am so grateful to have her assistance as my Deputy this year, and into the future.

About two years ago, an organization was studying the three most successful crime victims' organizations in the country. Their task was to examine how we successfully help victims and to copy our style to train other entities. When we were compared to the other two groups successful organizations it was found that we were handling more than ten times as many new cases per year than both other groups put together! Many of our old cases, collected over forty-two years, require our continued service to the victim-survivors multiple times over many years. For example, in 2023, I helped a survivor family in court with a forty-year-old murder case that we helped with in 1983.

Our organization, being the best in the USA, really makes us the best at what we do in the world. Each of our attorneys impress me as being very special people. The first thing we look for in potential candidates is caring – empathy. We deal with people going through the worst experiences of their lives. While it is great to have guides to lead you through the dysfunction

and confusion of the backwards system, it is critical that those guides understand how to treat people with dignity, respect, and compassion. On this measure of success, I am so proud of both our long-time staff, but also, we have chosen wisely for our new staff.

In past years, we have spent most of our energy on our core functions of providing services to our clients, and not enough energy reaching out to the community to ensure they know we exist. For the past few years, we made serious efforts to ensure we were bridging this gap through our events and programs. In addition to these, we started a wonderful and important initiative that we do at every event that we have, and many other community events. Thanks to our retired homicide guy, Detective Jeff Gray, we pass out identity kits for parents to keep important information about their children in case they ever go missing. I hope that you take the time to read about all of our important events and programs in this annual report.

In addition to our services, events and programs, we have kept pretty busy in 2023. A big project for us in 2023 was the release of the Attorney General's Report on sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. More than six hundred victim-survivors came forward to be interviewed for the report, identifying 158 sexual abusers in the clergy, and many people within the Archdiocese who actively participated in a cover-up. I will spare you the lengthy details, but without MCVRC, the report would have been released without listing the names of the offenders. Because of our motion, many names have been revealed.

In 2023, we also broke new and amazing ground in our relations with Maryland's Attorney General, an old ally of ours, former delegate and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown who took over office as Attorney General in January 2023. He was so kind as to invite us to meet with him to improve communications and to hear our input. I now have his cell phone and he has my number, with an open invitation to call him anytime. I have also been surprised to have him call me on a Saturday twice to discuss matters that we have raised to his office.

2023 was a remarkable year, but there is an old saying among us Air Force Pilots: There is nothing as worthless as the runway behind you. I must borrow from another saying that I saw recently to ask you to help us: "Be the reason that someone believes in good people." Our staff lives that experience every day. It is especially important to show those whose faith in humanity has been shaken to its core that there are people who care, people who will help, people who can restore their faith and trust. Will you help us? Will you be the reason that someone believes in good people? I believe you will because I believe in good people. One cannot know Roberta Roper, and the universe of people who surround her who she has inspired, without believing that good people outnumber the bad, and that truth will prevail, and that care, kindness, and love for those who desperately need help are miracle medicines to heal the soul.

~Kurt

Founder Message



Roberta Roper

Happy New Year! How can it be that we are now entering our 42nd year of service to crime victims and survivors! Once again, this new year will find MCVRC engaged in the legislative process to advance the interests in justice for crime victims. Today our legislative efforts are more focused on fine tuning existing rights and working toward their full implementation. This is why having staff attorneys is so necessary for the enforcement of victims' rights. And together with support and legal representation, MCVRC's comprehensive, free services continue to make life-changing differences in people's lives.

While there remain those who challenge the validity of crime victims' rights, it is clear that there has been a cultural transformation in the American criminal justice system's treatment of crime victims and survivors. Many have come to recognize that justice is better served when crime victims and survivors are treated with dignity and respect. It has been my great honor to be a part of that transformation. And from my perspective, the torch is now being passed to a new generation of advocates and attorneys who will have the patience, passion and perseverance for victim justice.

I often refer to the time when we began as the dark ages because in 1982 victims had no rights in the criminal justice process, there were no community organizations to support them and there were no counseling services specific for families of homicide victims. My husband, Vince and I naively believed that if certain policy changes were made, our work would be done. We could never have envisioned the challenges we would face, the victories that would be achieved and the wonderful people who would be part of that process and a part of our lives. Despite the tragedy that brought people together, it offered the opportunity to know and work with the finest people we would never have met … except for the murder of our beloved daughter, Stephanie.

I have been asked what my vision is for MCVRC in the next thirty years. If dreams could become reality, I would envision a world where our advocacy and services would no longer be necessary. And while we must strive to achieve such a world in which every life is valued and each person is enabled to pursue a life of purpose, we must be vigilant to safeguard the great American concept of liberty

and justice for all. While MCVRC is called upon daily to serve victims of all kinds of crime across our state, we are well aware that there are so many others who have not received the support services they need and deserve. Some suffer in isolation. Others are marginalized by poverty and fear. It should be our collective dream that no crime victim has to suffer alone without any hope for healing. And of course, this always relates to funding. MCVRC's number one priority has to be securing adequate funding to achieve our missions of service. Funding to serve all victims of crime, especially survivors of homicide victims, should be as equal a recipient of state funding as programs that serve domestic violence, sexual assault and child victims.

In the field of victim advocacy and services, there is a title that is bestowed upon veteran crime victim advocates that I am humbled and honored to bear. I am proud to be an "old buffalo!" Borrowed from the native America culture, this title is one held in great esteem and respect. It reflects the courage, strength and wisdom of this strong creature. My hope is that this new generation of advocates and service providers may one day attain and appreciate the title of "old buffalo."

Over the years, many have asked me how I could do the work of an advocate … that it must be so challenging and depressing. My reply has been how could I not do this work? And yes, it has been the most challenging work of my life, but it is far from depressing. It has been the most rewarding work of my life because it has empowered victims to not only find hope and healing, but to become thriving survivors. It is work inspired by individuals who despite the undeserved suffering and injustice they have endured, have courageously mustered the strength to survive with dignity and live happy and productive lives.

I have kept and treasured a description written years ago by an unknown West coast advocate who simply yet eloquently defined the role of an advocate: Advocacy means that I have to be willing to work on a problem that society would rather not admit to having. It means that I must have the strength to face the worst that society has to offer and not despair. It means that I must be able to care enough about total strangers to help them put their lives back together after they have been torn apart and they have been rejected by their family and friends. Being an advocate means that I am willing to work to make this world a better place, even though the work goes unnoticed by the public. Yes, this is the work I have chosen to do.

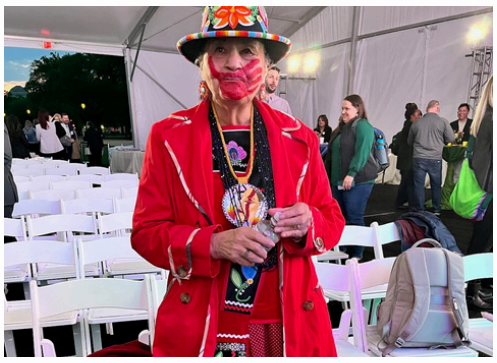
And now as always, MCVRC respectfully seeks the continuing support of our members and the public as we move into the future. With our dedicated Executive Director, staff attorneys, advocates, and Board of Directors, let us move into the future never forgetting Stephanie's reminder that "one person can make a difference and every person should try."

~Roberta

2023 National Crime Victims' Rights Week









Each year, the Office for Victims of Crime sets a theme for the annual Victims' Rights Week. The 2023 theme was "Survivor Voices" and our very own Roberta Roper was asked to speak at the national Crime Victims' Rights Week Candlelight Vigil that took place on Wednesday, April 26th. This is an amazing way to pay homage to the dedication the Roper family has put into Victims' Rights for over 40 years.

Congratulations to Roberta and thank you to OVC for honoring her. Below is a brief synopsis written by Board Chair, Debbie Tall:

"The National Candlelight Vigil sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime was beautiful and enjoyable. It was held outside for the first time in a tent on the National Mall in Washington, DC on Wednesday, June 26th. The tent was located in the middle of the National Mall with a beautiful view of the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. The theme was "Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change". The American Pops Orchestra played the opening music as well as the National Anthem. There were three main speakers at the vigil: Anna Nasset, a surviving stalking victim; Jerome Brown, SNUG Street Outreach Program from New York State; and Roberta Roper, Founder of the Maryland Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc. A video was shown, in sections, depicting many different types of victimizations. Kelly Jackson and the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians did a musical presentation depicting many generations of abuse to Indian children and adults. Candles were lit in memory of the numerous crime victims who have suffered and survived as well as those who lost their lives. It was a beautiful vigil."

Community Engagement

2nd Annual Make a Difference 5k & Resource Fair

In 2022 MCVRC held a walk & resource fair as a reason for our families to come together to learn about resources, remember lost loved ones and honor heroes. This event aligned with the theme for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and is one of the projects funded by OVC. After the 2022 event and having received so much positive feedback, MCVRC knew this walk would become an annual event.

On April 15, 2023, we gathered for all the same reasons. One thing that you can never plan for in Maryland - the weather! The weather kept us on our toes and threatened our event. We stuck with it and the weather ended up being amazing and the crowd was full of smiling faces!

This event was made possible thanks to grants from the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project, the Maryland Bar Foundation and our local sponsors and supporters.

It's a wonderful experience to see people connect and engage with us and each other. Join us on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Watkins Regional Park in Upper Marlboro for our next 5k & Resource Fair.











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"LOVE TO THE STAR – CALL UPON MARY"
SUITLAND, MD.
ALUMNAE

FUNERAL SERVICE CONCIERGE

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National Crime Victims' Rights Week
Survivor Voices
Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.
April 23–29, 2023

Bio-One
Help First, Business Second

Trollinger Law








Victims' Rights Gala: Survivor Voices

Presented by

Grant & Eisenhofer

JENNER LAW
TRIAL LAWYERS

The Victims' Rights Gala was held on Saturday, September 23rd. With much anticipation, the weather turned against us, again. But as is the case with indoor events, the show must go on -- and it did.

Our gala is a major fundraising event and an opportunity to recognize individuals with the Roberta Roper Lifetime Achievement Award. Last year we decided our annual gala would be called the Victims' Rights Gala and each year, we would honor the theme from Crime Victims' Rights Week. How perfect is it that the theme this year was "Survivor Voices". We were absolutely made for this theme! As we looked back at the past year, it was apparent how we would tell the story, the question was, how to decide what stories and whose voices to include when they are all important. Choosing individuals and stories to highlight was not an easy task but we wanted to make sure we showed a variety of voices in various formats.

Our evening began with a silent auction sponsored in memory of Quincy Emmanuel Barnes Dyson and a musical selection from Carolyn Surrick. Deadra Jackson's recited a moving personal poem about the loss of her son, Arick.

This year, three Roberta Roper Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented: one to Delegate C.T. Wilson and the other two to Tripod Media's Jessica Hargrave and Ryan White. We honored C.T. Wilson, who shared his story to push for the passage of HB 1/Child Victim's Act. Tripod Media's Jessica Hargrave and Ryan White were recognized for their skills and talents in sharing the stories of victim's whose voices were silenced for over 50 years in their Netflix documentary The Keepers.

Our emcee was Melanie Miller, daughter of the late Senator Mike Miller and La Reine High Alum (as was Stephanie Roper). Melanie recounted her father's passion and commitment to the Ropers and their cause. MCVRC was honored with the presence of Maryland Attorney General, Anthony Brown, who shared a story about the murder of his cousin and also

Victims' Rights Gala (continued)

commended Roberta and her journey. Steve Kelly, who's sister was murdered when he was only 14, recounted his memory of Vince and Roberta Roper gallantly coming to his home to help his family find a voice and his lifelong commitment to victim's rights. Steve introduced us to our phenomenal presenting sponsors Grant & Eisenhofer and Jenner Law. We then pulled off a huge surprise for our very own Staff Attorney, Victor Stone and named an award after him for his dedication and effort!

The event was nothing short of amazing and each and every person in the room made a difference and strengthened our community. We look forward to our 2024 Victims' Rights Gala: How Would You Help? Get your entries ready!

Thanks to our generous community that we consider "family," MCVRC raised $88,000!














Presented by

Grant & Eisenhofer

JENNER LAW TRIAL LAWYERS

In memory of Quincy Emmanuel Barnes Dyson

Crescent Cities Charities, Inc.

SA-TECH Systems Application & Technologies, Inc.

AVLD EVENTS

In memory of Al & Helen Cordero

20 YEARS AND BEYOND ROUNDTABLE

Bio-One Help First, Business Second

NATIONAL CHILD ID PROGRAM

Trollinger Law

443-RESULTS

GSProctor & Associates Inc

In memory of Kirsten Russell

MCVRC goes Live...















Lunch and Learn is conducted monthly via Facebook Live. Individuals can contact us with questions ahead of time or leave comments in the comment feed during the broadcast. Recorded videos of each program are uploaded to YouTube for an even wider opportunity to use the video as reference.

In using simple language, MCVRC's goal is to educate the community on victims' rights issues by leading discussions on some common topics of interest.

The following topics were discussed with guests in 2023:

- January: Stalking Awareness with Board Member, Ricardo Wiggs, who lost his wife Sharon, as a victim of stalking and Mark Kurkowski, retired police officer now trainer on the local, statewide, and national level on intimate partner violence, stalking, and sexual assault.
- February - Hate Crimes with MCVRC Director of Legal Services, Pauline Mandel, Dawn Collins, who lost her son Lt. Richard Collins III several years ago in a hate crime; and Anne Arundel Police Department subject matter expert, Major Katie Goodwin.
- March - Paths to Healing with Equispirit Coaching, Sherri Grove, Notre Dame of Maryland University Art Therapy, Cathy Goucher and Washington Adventist University Music Therapy, Alicia Barksdale discussed different ways to healing using these therapy methods.
- April - Intro to the Courtroom. Staff Attorney, Alonzo Robertson took the lead on introducing the courtroom and its major components. Alonzo was joined by our PR/Development Specialist, Sandra Sanna-Buckles and Staff Attorney Danielle Trollinger for some Q&A.
- May: LBGTQ Rights with Director of Legal Services, Pauline Mandel and Freestate Justice, Lauren Pruitt and Emily Thorner.
- June - Child Sex Abuse with Teresa Lancaster and Jean Hargadon Wehner from *The Keepers,* a 2017 Netflix documentary.
- August - Human Trafficking with Director of Legal Services and Amara Legal Center, Caroline Ackerman.
- December - Peace Order, Protective Order and Extreme Risk Protective Order with Calvert County Sheriff's Office, Sharon DiMaggio, University of Maryland Capital Region Health's Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Center and Chief of La Plata Police and President of Maryland Chief of Police Association, Carl Shinner.

We are eager to continue this program into the new year and continue to educate and spread awareness of victims' rights.



Victims' Lawsuit Against Maryland Parole Commission Ensures Victims Voices are Heard

Victims of crime and their survivors established as part of Maryland's "law of the land" to have their voices heard and to be treated with respect and dignity decades ago, but a new regulation enacted by the Maryland Parole Commission threatened to silence those voices and take away those rights.

In 2021, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Parole Commission adopted a regulation that would quiet the voices of victims.

The regulation in question states that after an initial parole hearing, the circumstances of the crime have a "diminished significance" on the parole commissioners' decisions for parole.

In other words, the seriousness and even brutality of the crime would be considered less, and the record of the offender in prison and rehabilitation would count more. For example, the offender could have tortured their victim, and there may have been multiple victims, but those facts would be of lesser importance. MCVRC worked swiftly to file an official complaint in April 2022.

Although state agencies have authority that allows them to declare their own rules and regulations, the regulations created must remain consistent and not conflict with any existing statutes. The existing statute under § 7-305 states the commission must consider eleven (11) factors to make decisions of each individual case for parole. Three of these factors pertain to victim impact including: 1. an updated victim impact statement or recommendation, 2. any information that is presented to a commissioner at a meeting with the victim, and 3. any testimony presented to the Commission by the victim or victims' designated representative. These, along with the other 8 factors are weighed against each other to provide a holistic approach to the parole decision. MCVRC argued that the Parole Commission was not free to "de-emphasize" any of the eleven factors. Such a change was the sole responsibility of the legislature, and Judge Monise Brown agreed.

Such a change was the sole responsibility of the legislature, and the Circuit Court for Charles County agreed. Since the regulation in question contradicts the existing statute, the court deemed it was "outside of the scope of the Parole Commission's delegated legislative power and therefore is not a valid exercise of the Parole Commission's rulemaking authority". The findings of this case were released in the Opinion and Order of the Court. Kurt Wolfgang, Executive Director of MCVRC states "This decision invalidates the Parole Commission regulation that de-emphasized the circumstances of the original crime in determining parole release after the first parole hearing. We do not know yet whether the Attorney General's office will appeal this to the Appellate Court, but for the present, Judge Brown's decision is law. We are very pleased to have struck another blow in favor of crime victims. This is our forty-first year of doing so, and this case ranks among our many great accomplishments for the rights of crime victims."

More Wins...

Restitution Win in 2013 Case

A $25,000 Judgment of Restitution was ordered in a 2013 case where the defendant was prosecuted for burglarizing the home of a friend and her husband. MCVRC, Western Maryland, was retained to collect the restitution ordered. It took ten years and multiple court appearances to obtain the full payment of the monies owed. The victims can now enjoy retirement without the stress and worry about collecting restitution.

CICB $25,000 Win

MCVRC offers many different client services to crime victims and an important one is legal assistance to victims who have been denied for Criminal Injuries Compensation benefits. Statistics on denial of CICB benefits indicate that of the 855 new CICB benefit requests filed in 2022 only 354 were processed and deemed eligible. These benefits are critical to homicide families looking for funeral expenses or dependency benefits for children, as well as compensation for medical expenses, or therapy and counseling. After a battle with CICB spanning five years, MCVRCs client victim who awarded $25,000.00 in CICB benefits. The client was stabbed while working in an ice cream truck, causing serious injury. He was unable to work and lost wages over an extended period of time. After checking with workers' compensation and having benefits denied, arguing before the Board and supplying information on several occasions, the client received an award letter after five years. He was very grateful for the work done by MCVRC and the staff member Ellie Jones and Richard Hoffman, the attorney who pursued his claim.

CICB Win after three years

A victim claimant on the Eastern Shore applied to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for medical bills, lost wages and counseling co-pays. He had been grievously injured in an attempted murder case in April 2020. The client presented all of his information to CICB and then requested services from MCVRC. A hearing was held in August 2022 by the MCVRC Eastern Shore staff attorney. After many months a favorable decision was made which awarded the client $22,258 for lost wages as a result of the crime.

MCVRC Wins Interlocutory Relief from Appellate Court of Maryland

In a pretrial order, a Baltimore City circuit court judge ordered the home addresses and telephone numbers of two victims of a hate crime to be disclosed to the defense, or else bar them from testifying at trial. The Maryland statute and rules that protect victims against such an order were not followed by the court, and the court did not act on the State's motion for reconsideration this order. MCVRC filed a pleading supporting the State's motion for reconsideration, which the circuit judge also did not rule on, despite the approaching trial date. On January 6, 2023, MCVRC attorney Victor Stone filed an interlocutory victim's appeal with the Appellate Court of Maryland. The appellate court received the documents from the circuit court on January 13, causing Mr. Stone to file a motion for expedited treatment before the impending circuit court trial date of January 17, 2023. On January 15, 2023, a Sunday, the Appellate Court of Maryland issued an order remanding the case to the circuit court and instructing it to rule on the State's motion for reconsideration, and in the event the circuit court did not rescind its order, it ordered the circuit court to stay the matter and return it to the Appellate Court for a full review. This appears to be the first successful emergency interlocutory victim's appeal that MCVRC has secured that protects the improper violation of a crime victims' pretrial rights.

Restitution Granted

On March 31, 2023, a Prince George's Circuit reduced the life sentence of a juvenile murderer who in 1998 had been sentenced to life with parole for stabbing the victim 27 times during a robbery. The judge reduced the sentence to time served plus 5 years' probation pursuant to the 2021 Maryland Juvenile Restoration Act that allows judges to resentence those who have served 20 years in prison and who were under 18 when they committed their crime. This reduction was not opposed by the Office of the State's Attorney for Prince George's County but was opposed by the victim's family members. The offender still maintains his innocence despite a jury verdict, his denial of a new trial motion by the original trial judge, affirmance of his conviction on appeal, and rejections of his various post-conviction petitions attacking the sentence. MCVRC staff attorney Victor Stone asked the court, since this was a resentencing, for restitution of the 1998 funeral and burial costs, and the family was awarded almost $4,500 in restitution.

Two cases in one day



In our gala section of our report, we announced that this year, we created an employee award in honor of our Staff Attorney, Victor Stone. The award will be given to those employees who exudes integrity and diligence and these two wins highlight what that can look like.

We share our wins so that our communities not only know what we are doing, but also so those in need know that there is hope...

On February 18, 2023, a jury in the U.S. Federal Courthouse in Greenbelt, Maryland, returned a guilty verdict against Madani Tejan that included drug counts covering over a thousand fentanyl pills, and the robbery and murder of a Maryland man who was the son of our client. The lead prosecutor was Gerald Collins, a U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division attorney based in Washington, D.C. The case was tried over the course of two weeks and MCVRC staff attorney Victor Stone accompanied and counseled the murdered man's family members during the trial. Since the judge presiding at the trial is retiring, a new judge will be assigned for sentencing.

Also on February 18, 2023, on the basis of a two-decade old request for a sentencing reduction after a first-degree murder conviction, a Prince George's County Circuit Judge held a hearing in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The Office of the State's Attorney took the position in court that it agreed with the defendant that he deserved to have his life sentence which started in 2002, be reduced to time served. The defendant, who was just shy of this 18th birthday when he repeatedly and brutally shot and killed our client's much smaller juvenile son, was later convicted in 2009 of assaulting a prison official, which resulted in a consecutive five-year sentence. The mother of the slain victim, assisted by MCVRC attorney Victor Stone, opposed the sentence reduction both as untimely and premature given the defendant's record. The court agreed with the victim's representative that **"time served" was not appropriate**. Instead, the court reduced the sentence from life with parole, to life with parole with all but 35 years suspended. This new sentence means that the defendant continues in prison until the Maryland Parole Commission decides he is appropriate for release, and if they do not, for about ten more years.

Success Stories:

La Reine Alumnae Continue to Honor Fallen Sisters!

We have been so blessed by the lovely ladies of La Reine High School alumnae. They became engaged during our 40th year and have continued to raise awareness to our mission.

During their initial efforts with us, they discovered that seven of their sisters were taken by violent crimes! This burned their passion even more. One of their efforts brought them to a project to beautify the area surrounding the Stephanie Roper highway dedication sign on Rt. 4. They engaged another sister, Julie Cronin McHale, and her husband Steve McHale, owners of McHale Landscape and Design and the idea/concept was born.

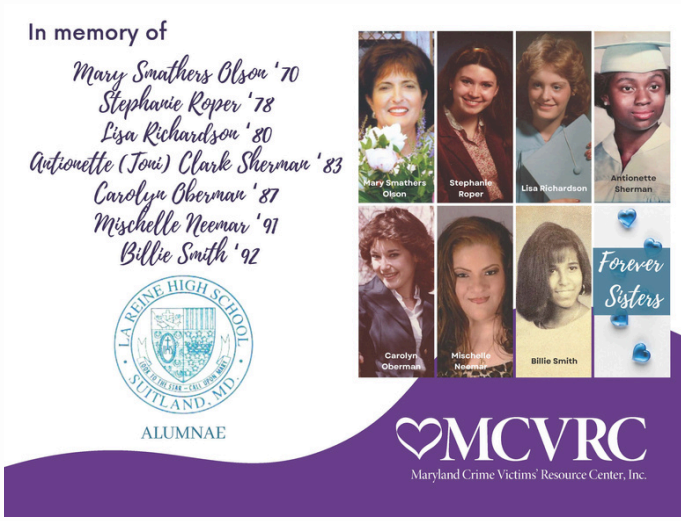
Thank you to McHale Landscape Design for their willingness and generosity to complete this project. There are seven crepe myrtles trees to be planted behind the Stephanie Roper Highway sign in loving memory of the seven known La Reine High School alumnae who have lost their lives to violent crime.

Thank you!

LA REINE HIGH SCHOOL · SUITLAND, MD. · ALUMNAE

McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INC.









Top to Bottom: La Reine Alumnae present Roberta Roper at 5k/Resource Fair; Poster for La Reine Alumnae of Fallen Sisters; Idea concept for highway beautification project; La Reine Alumnae visits McHale on site to bring "thank you" lunch

Garden of Remembrance/ Ceremony of Remembrance

Our annual Garden of Remembrance/Ceremony of Remembrance event was held on Saturday, November 4th. Attendees came out, many for the first time since COVID, and enjoyed the comradery of the occasion. The event at the garden included musical pieces, poems and moving words. Each attendee gently placed a heart on the tree, as is the tradition.

The reception was held at the FOP 89 Lodge and catered by Cole's Creative Catering. Personalized peace pillows were generously created and donated by Linda Lattimore of Peace Pillows

Thank you to those who participated and were able to attend. These annual gatherings provide an opportunity for survivors to remember their loved ones and gain support from each other. It was a joy to see so many that we hadn't seen for so long. It's always bittersweet to come together, but leaving for the day made us remember our mission and why we do what we do.

Special Thanks to:

Cole's Creative Catering

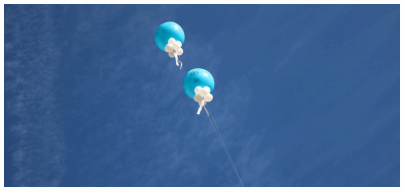
Comfort Creations
Thank you
For your business
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Special moments / memories crafting







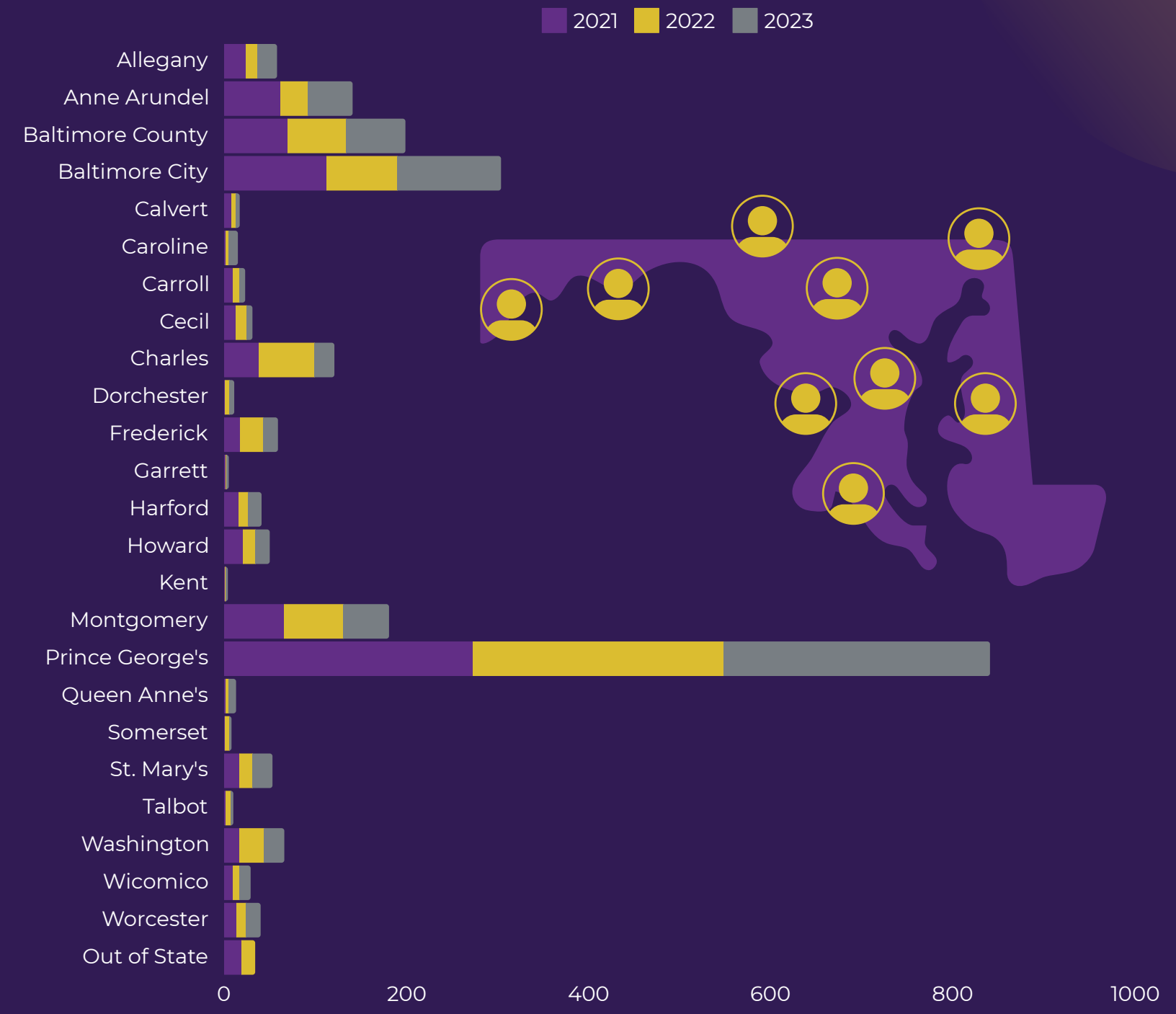








2023 New Cases by County



2023 Case Types

Unlike many other victim advocacy organizations, MCVRC handles a full gamut of criminal case types. Our attorneys and advocates focus on ensuring that all victims rights are upheld.

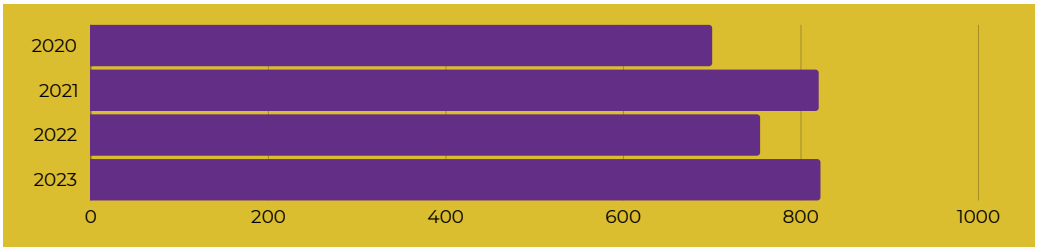
Violent Crimes	366	45%
Domestic Violence	128	16%
Sex Crimes	61	8%
Stalking/Harassment	29	4%
Property Crime	63	8%
Theft	17	2%
Child Abuse	69	9%
Hit and Run	12	1%
Fraud	31	4%
Other	37	3%
	813	100%

Case Turnovers

MCVRC takes on new cases each year. These cases add to the staff workload of existing cases.

Month	Starting Cases	New Cases	Closed Cases	Ending Cases
January	2223	67	59	2231
February	2231	82	68	2245
March	2245	53	114	2184
April	2184	56	18	2222
May	2222	86	52	2256
June	2256	58	93	2221
July	2221	77	49	2249
August	2249	95	62	2282
September	2282	55	45	2292
October	2292	73	23	2342
November	2342	70	3	2409
December	2409	50	19	2440

year over year comparison



Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report

FUNDING RECEIVED:

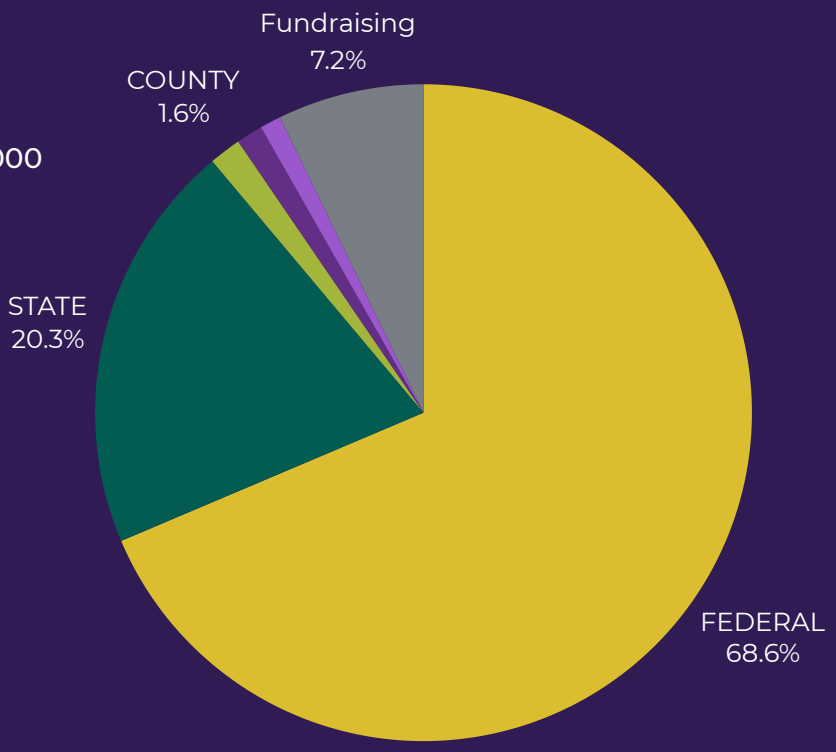
Federal:
- Victims of Crime Act 21/22 $377,387
- Victims of Crime Act 22/23 $1,191,326
- Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant 22/23 $75,000
- NAVAA $5,000

State:
- Maryland Victims of Crime $26,000
- Survivors of Homicide $107,050
- Domestic Violence Center Grant $100,000
- Maryland Legal Services Corporation $253,880

County Grants:
- Charles County Charitable Trust $35,000
- Community Foundation of Washington County $1,935
- Community Foundation for No VA $1,000

Private Donations:
- Contributions for Major Donors $31,276
- Foundations/Trusts
  - Ruth McCormick Tankersly Trust* $25,000
- Fundraising Income $172,925

*Restricted funding













Success Stories - 5 Decades Later

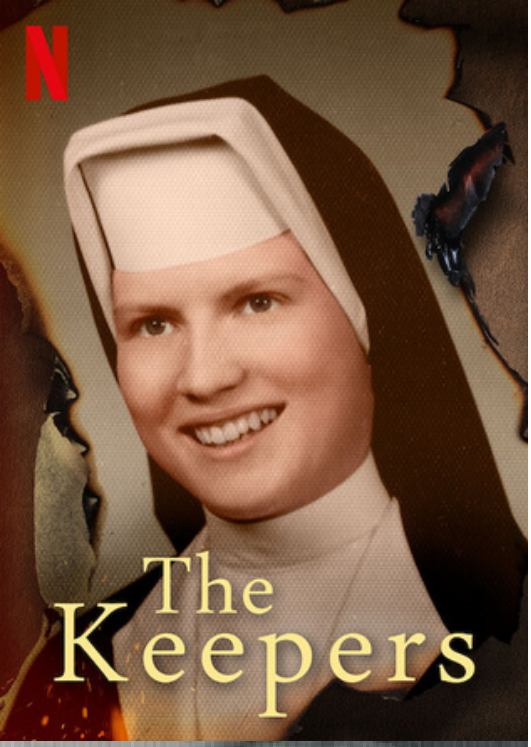
The 2017 Netflix docuseries "The Keepers" gripped viewers with the atrocities unveiled - two murders were highlighted along with stories of child sex abuse and its cover up. Viewers watch in horror as they follow along to solve crimes over five decades old. The aftermath of the series lives on in the minds and souls of its viewers knowing the victims never received justice or healing.

The actions that have resulted from the production of "The Keepers" docuseries have been profound. Many key players have worked tirelessly and are still working for the justice for these victims. Movement on these cold case crimes is being seen - particularly with the new technology available day.

In 2018, the Maryland Attorney General's Office began an investigation regarding allegations against the perpetrators of child sex abuse and the systemic coverup of these crimes in the Baltimore Archdiocese that was partially covered in the Netflix series. MCVRC is proud to have joined in this battle for the over 600 victims, working alongside our partners and supporters Jenner Law and Grant & Eisenhofer for the release of the long-awaited Attorney General's report. The release of the Attorney General's Report made headlines in April 2023, finally bringing some relief to victims, but the excitement was short lived as the list of names of the perpetrators was heavily redacted. And so the fight to continue to reveal the names of over 150 offenders. Also in April 2023, Maryland's Child Victims Act was signed into law in Maryland. This new law eliminates the statute of limitations and the statue of repose on reporting child sexual abuse, which means that survivors are no longer limited by time to file civil claims against their abuses.

In fall 2023, a revised Attorney General's Report revealed most of the redacted names. Shortly after the release of the Attorney General's report, on October 1, Maryland's Child Victim Act of 2023 was approved and in place! These were two huge strides for

Photos from top to bottom: Attorney General Anthony Brown with MCVRC Founder, Roberta Roper at our annual Gala; Mary Beth Diaz and Robert Jenner from Jenner Law, and Beth Graham from Grant & Eisenhofer at our annual Gala; Roberta Roper, Steve Kelly, and Kurt Wolfgang look on as Delegate C.T. Wilson receives the Roberta Roper Lifetime Achievement Award; at our annual Gala; Robert Jenner, Steve Kelly and Kurt Wolfgang are a press conference; and Kurt Wolfgang and Darryl Malecki, brother of Joyce Malecki at a press conference on the exhumation of Joyce's body.





(continued)

survivors who had waited for so long for justice.

The storyline of “The Keepers” continues to unfold. In December 2023, the body of Joyce Malecki was exhumed by the FBI. With DNA evidence technology now available, we hope to see justice for the Malecki family. MCVRC Executive Director, Kurt Wolfgang was able to join Darryl Malecki, Joyce’s brother and the family's spokesperson, during a press conference held shortly after the exhumation. We will continue to be a resource for those who need us and eagerly await the results of the exhumation and DNA analysis.

The case of Sister Cathy Cesnik is still unsolved. We hope that with the movement occurring with other cases, new clues will help to bring closure to this case as well.

To those who have entrusted us to be your voice and to be by your side, thank you. The journey that leads to justice is not an easy one, but we are proud to be able to do what we can to aid those in need.

Above: Netflix cover for docuseries “The Keepers”, center: Joyce Malecki; below Baltimore Archdiocese victims and supporters with makers of the show at our annual Gala



Thank You

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Debra Tall

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Gerry Evans

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Cynthia Smith
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$499-100

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Jobeth Bowers
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Deadra Jackson
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MCVRC

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1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
www.mdcrimevictims.org
1-877-VICTIM-1

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