



## JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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**SEE OUR URGENT CALL TO ACTION BELOW!**

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### FROM OUR DIRECTORS

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As we kick off 2025, it's hard to believe the first month is already almost behind us. Here at MCVRC, we're continuing to move forward, reflecting on the past year and gearing up for the 2025 Legislative session. Last week, we held our first Lunch and Learn series, where we took a look at 2024 and discussed what we expect in the upcoming Legislative session. If you missed it, you can catch the January 2025 Lunch and Learn on Legislative Updates on our [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) pages. There's a lot of important information there about what's coming in the legislature, and how we plan to respond.

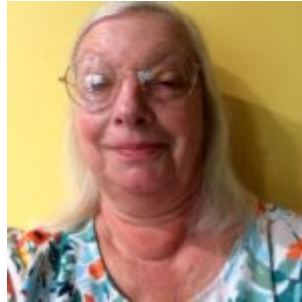
A big part of our work in Annapolis with the legislature is staying quick and proactive when it comes to proposed laws. We need to make sure lawmakers understand how their decisions impact crime victims, and we work hard to stop any laws that could harm victims' rights.

As we step into this new year, I'm excited about the challenges and successes we'll face, even those we can't foresee just yet. Our Executive Director, Kurt Wolfgang, recently reflected on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, drawing an important connection to the work we do here at MCVRC. He said, "While it would be wrong to equate the great American civil rights movement with the fight for rights for crime victims in many ways, there are many parallels: both are civil rights movements. We work in a task that is no less sacred to secure human rights and dignity for those who have been mistreated by a callous system, whose attention is too often diverted and exaggerated toward not only the rights of the accused, but the rights of the guilty. There is so much more that can be done that diminishes nothing for the accused, and so much more that is justly owed to victims regardless of how it affects the guilty."

I invite you to join us in this critical work of protecting the rights of crime victims and making sure they stay at the center of the conversation. We have some exciting events coming up, including our Walk/Resource Fair in April, and our Ceremony of Remembrance and Gala this Fall. I encourage you to think about how you can support our efforts as we continue to bring justice to victims and fight to ensure they are treated with the dignity and compassion they deserve. Thank you for everything you do to support us in this mission!

**Joanna D. Mupanduki**

## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Happy New Year! We hope the start of 2025 has been positive for everyone.

Our last board meeting took place on November 14th, and we are looking forward to our next gathering on February 27th.

At the November meeting, we discussed a range of important topics, including program updates, upcoming events, and the budget. Board members are actively involved in donor engagement, legislative updates, and strategic planning efforts. Marilyn Moses is leading the Strategic Planning Committee, which is forming a sub-committee focused on succession planning. Sydney Comitz, a board member, is currently working to establish the best procedures for this new group.

With several new staff members on board, the Board emphasized the importance of reinforcing MCVRC's mission and goals across the organization. We also plan to periodically review the organization's history to ensure everyone is aligned with our values and vision.

We are excited for the next meeting in February and the continued progress we'll make together.

**Debra Tall**  
Board Chair

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**Gloria Lockett**  
Director of Victim Services

Gloria Lockett is a powerful advocate and transformative force within the Criminal Justice System. With a wealth of diverse experience, she has worked across various sectors, including supporting crime victims, engaging with adult and juvenile offenders, assisting individuals in crisis, and advocating for socially excluded populations. She is widely respected for her authenticity, assertiveness, compassion, commitment, and her ability to listen deeply and connect with others.

After earning her bachelor's degree in Human Services with a focus on Criminal Justice, Gloria took a reflective pause, allowing the universe to guide her to where her skills were most needed. Her journey has led her to numerous impactful roles, including:

- Victim Services/Outreach Coordinator, Maryland Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
- Program Manager, My Covenant Place (Intimate Partner Violence)
- Witness Protection/Relocation Coordinator, Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office
- Correctional Lieutenant, Division of Pretrial Detention and Services
- Case Manager, Department of Juvenile Services (Community Detention)

Gloria's leadership extends beyond her professional roles, with current and past affiliations including:

- President, Maryland Association of Victim Service Providers
- Chairperson, Baltimore City Women's Commission (Public Safety Committee)
- President, "Declaring His Works" (nonprofit assisting cancer survivors)
- Certified Mediator, Harford County Mediation Program

Throughout her career, Gloria has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of her dedication and impact. Notably, she was honored with the Governor's Citation in 2007 for her selfless service to crime victims.

A passionate advocate for a victim-centered approach, trauma-informed care, and understanding the impact of adverse childhood experiences, Gloria founded the grassroots initiative "6 Degrees – Let's Talk," a project designed to foster healing and connection within the community.

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### PROPOSED LEGISLATION CHANGES 2025

<b>SB-291</b> (same as SB-123 from 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• grants defendant who has served 20 years of a sentence a new resentencing every 3 years</li></ul> <b>BILL HEARING 1/30/25</b>	<b>SB-181</b> (cross bill HB-190) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• requires Parole Commission to consider age of defendant and whether they "will not recidivate"; provides for "medical parole" for those 60 yo+ and served 15 years.</li></ul> <b>BILL HEARING 1/28/25/ HB-190 02/04/2025</b>	<b>HB-311</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• eliminates the Governor's ability to disapprove the Parole Commission on medical parole requests</li></ul> <b>BILL HEARING 2/4/25</b>
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Proposed changes in the Maryland General Assembly would allow criminals, including the most violent offenders, additional opportunities to shorten their sentence. Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. (MCVRC) opposes the following legislative changes and needs your voice to speak out for victims' rights ASAP.

What can you do?

- Sign up to testify on January 30th at 1pm to speak at the bill hearing for SB-291. You need to be signed up ahead of time so please email Paralegal, Brayan Blandin at [bblandin@mdcrimevictims.org](mailto:bblandin@mdcrimevictims.org) by COB Monday, January 27th. If you cannot attend live, you may submit written testimony to Brayan using the same email.
- Attend our press conference on Wednesday, January 29th at 5:30pm at the FOP 89 Lodge in Upper Marlboro (2905 Old Largo Road, Upper Marlboro, MD). Link to RSVP [here](#). Please bring a photo of your loved one for display if we do not already have one.
- Can't do either? We understand that the timing is short and it can be challenging to rearrange schedules. Please follow our social media and share our posts on these important events.

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## FREE Mental Health Counseling for Crime Victims

MCVRC has contracted with Safe Harbor Behavioral Care, LLC to assist clients in accessing mental health services **at no cost**.

We understand many victims face challenges in finding affordable counseling, and we are committed to alleviating this concern.

If you are a client or a victim of crime seeking mental health services, please call our office at 301-952-0063 to get on the referral list.

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## LUNCH AND LEARN:

### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



# Recap!



[Click here to watch this month's lunch and learn!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. Survivors of Homicide Victims Support Group

**PLEASE NOTE** that the next meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 6, 2025, and will be held on Thursday's moving forward.** It will be held in a hybrid format, both virtually and in person at the Upper Marlboro Office (1001 Prince George's Blvd, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD).

The Support Group is a safe place for friends and family members of victims of homicide to meet, discuss, and support each other. All participants need to call us and request a referral to the homicide support group only (if you prefer individual counseling, we offer that too). **You can reach MCVRC at 301-952-0063 to get put on the referral list.**

## 2. Lunch and Learn: Paths to Healing (Virtual)



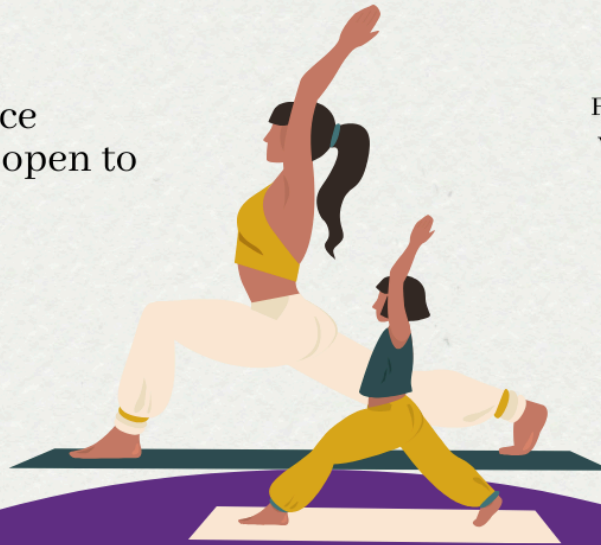
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# PATHS TO HEALING (VIRTUAL) HEALING WITH YOGA

No experience  
necessary & open to  
all ages!

Find us on Facebook or  
Youtube as we go live!



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Join us for a virtual transformative and healing experience. This session offers trauma-informed, gentle yoga at a relaxed pace suitable for all ability levels.

[Click here to watch our Lunch and Learn series](#)

## 3. Save The Date

*4th Annual*

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE WALK *and* RESOURCE FAIR



CONNECTING <



KINSHIP >



HEALING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025**

Watkins Regional Park  
Upper Marlboro, MD

Save the Date



Join us for our 2025 Make a Difference Walk & Resource Fair: Connecting < KINSHIP > Healing

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming Walk/Resource Fair, a free event for everyone to attend! This is your chance to make a difference while enjoying a day of community and connection.

How You Can Help:

1. **Create a Team:** Rally your friends, family, or coworkers and start raising funds for our walk! Every dollar makes a difference.

2. **Sponsor the Event:** Join incredible sponsors in supporting our mission. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sandra Sanna-Buckles at [ssannabuckles@mdcrimevictims.org](mailto:ssannabuckles@mdcrimevictims.org) or call/text 240-335-4037.

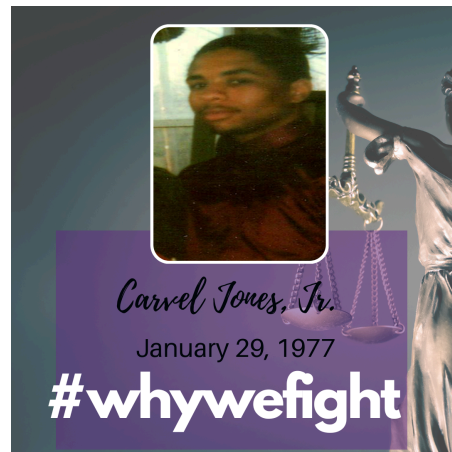
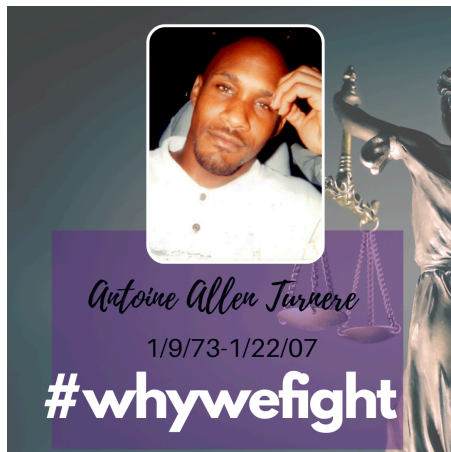
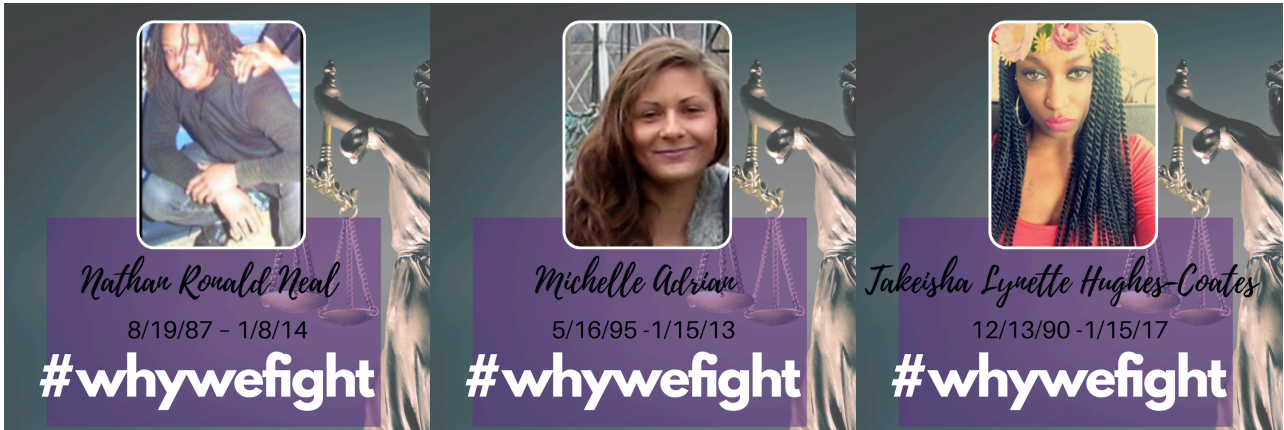
3. **Share on social media:**

Click [HERE](#) to Donate to help us reach our goal OR to create your team!

**#WHYWEFIGHTWEDNESDAY**

Each day we find motivation to continue to be a voice for those who need one. We started these posts on social media last year, but since some of you are not on social media, we are now including our monthly motivations here.

These are a small fraction of the faces that motivate us. Their names and photos are taken from our Ceremony of Remembrance event slideshow. Each Wednesday, we share a life that was taken on that date and we celebrate them and use their face to remind us that crime is not victimless. These people are real and their families miss them. These faces are "why we fight."



Do you have events you want us to attend?  
Do you have something you would like to  
share in our next newsletter?

[EMAIL US AND LET US KNOW!](#)

Feeling the love ❤️? Share it here by  
supporting our work 💪! Your 💰 goes  
a long way to support victims of crime  
and their families!

**Donate now!**

MCVRC is a non-profit organization funded by government  
and community grants, and generous contributions from  
former clients and the public who believe in our cause.

Copies of this newsletter will be made available on our website: [Access it here!](#)



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