



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

## MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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FROM OUR DIRECTORS

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## **May Reflections: A Month of Milestones and Momentum**

As spring blooms across Maryland, May has proven to be a season of success and first steps for MCVRC. From launching our first-ever townhall, to celebrating well-deserved recognition for our founder, and gearing up for a summer full of outreach, we're filled with momentum and gratitude. Here's a look at everything we've been up to — and what's coming next.

### **Spotlight on Progress: Our First Townhall**

We're thrilled to have completed our very first townhall! Held in Waldorf, Maryland, this event brought together five amazing local partner organizations that provide vital services to victims of crime. It was an incredible opportunity to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another — and we're just getting started.

The response was fantastic. Our townhall gained over 300 views on social media — a big thank you to everyone who tuned in! To watch the recap, click [here](#)!

### **Next Stop: Cecil County!**

Mark your calendars! Our next townhall is scheduled for **June 24th at 5 PM** in Cecil County. We're excited to continue these important conversations across Maryland and are lining up additional townhalls throughout the summer. (Scroll below for more details!)

### **See You This Summer!**

The MCVRC team will be out and about all summer long at various community outreach events. If there's a large event happening in your area where people would benefit from learning more about our work, let us know — we'd love to be there!

Thank you for your continued support in our mission to stand with victims and survivors of crime. We can't wait to see more of you in the weeks ahead.

Let's keep moving forward, together.

**Joanna D. Mupanduki**  
Deputy Director

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## **STAFF SPOTLIGHT**



My journey with Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center began when I was 18 years old as an intern. I felt deeply connected to the mission and the people we serve. In 2020, I returned as a contracted Victim Advocate working on homicide cases, and it felt like coming full circle. After a year, I transitioned into a full-time role supporting victims of all types of crime.

This work has always been more than a job to me. What drives me is knowing that when someone becomes a victim of crime, their entire world shifts. It can feel overwhelming, isolating, and unjust. My role is to help guide them through that darkness, to be a source of support, information, and empathy during one of the hardest times in their lives.

I'm passionate about helping people reclaim their voices. Whether I'm walking someone through the court process, sitting with a grieving family, or simply showing up consistently, I want them to know they are not alone. Being part of their journey, even in the smallest way, is incredibly meaningful to me.

Every day, I'm reminded why I chose this path. I'm proud to stand beside victims, and I'm honored to be part of a team that shows up with heart, compassion, and dedication.

**Kayla Williams**  
Advocate

## IN THE NEWS



We are honored to celebrate our Founder, Roberta Roper, who was recognized multiple times throughout the month of April for her tireless advocacy and dedication. Roberta was awarded the prestigious Charles County Pillar of Justice Award and was featured on the T-Bone & Heather Morning Show on Southern Maryland's favorite radio station-- 98.3 FM!

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 Listen to the full interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZFm7KUnTL8>

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## BURIAL PLOTS

**We are deeply grateful to the Estate of Doris C. Burroughs for the generous donation of two burial plots to MCVRC.**

This gift will help provide peace and dignity to crime victims and their families during some of their most difficult moments. We are honored to accept this meaningful contribution in memory of Mrs. Burroughs.

If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Jennifer Abell, Chief Finance & Operations Officer, at [Jabell@mdcrimevictims.org](mailto:Jabell@mdcrimevictims.org).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 1. Survivors of Homicide Victims Support Group

**PLEASE NOTE** that our monthly homicide meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, June 5, 2025**. 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 877-VICTIM1 to get put on the referral list.**

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### 2. Townhall Series - Southern Maryland



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.

# COMMUNITY TOWN HALL: VICTIMS RIGHTS IN MARYLAND

**JUNE 24, 2025**

Cecil College  
Conference Center D208  
1 Seahawk Drive; North East, MD

5:00 -7:00 PM



### Learn about your Legal Rights

- Domestic Violence/  
Human Trafficking
- Children as Victims
- Homicide & Assault
- And more

### Open Q&A

Ask real life questions  
and get real life  
answers!

### Onsite Resources

Apply and get details  
about resource  
partners

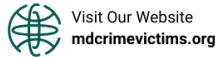
## OUR MISSION

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

### THANK YOU SUPPORTER:

*The Langbein  
Family Trust*

George L. Langbein, MBA, MSPM, PMP  
Board Member, MCVRC



Visit Our Website  
[mdcrimevictims.org](http://mdcrimevictims.org)



(301) 952-0063



1001 Prince Georges Blvd Ste 750,  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

Our next stop of our Townhall Series is in Cecil County!

Join us for an empowering community event where you can:

- ✓ Learn about your legal rights
- ✓ Ask questions during an open Q&A
- ✓ Connect with onsite resources that support YOU

📍 Cecil College  
Conference Center D208  
1 Seahawk Drive; North East, MD  
📅 Tuesday, June 24 | 5PM–7PM

This is your space to get informed, get connected, and get support.  
Know someone who could benefit? Spread the word and bring a friend!

We're securing relevant resources and looking for sponsors. More details coming soon!

## 3. Save The Date: Annual Victims' Rights Gala



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## 4. Save The Date: Ceremony of Remembrance

**October 11, 2025**

Join us at the Ceremony of Remembrance, a peaceful event dedicated to honoring those whose lives were tragically lost to criminal violence. This meaningful ceremony will take place at the Prince George's County Courthouse, where the pathway and garden not only honor those taken from us but also symbolize your journey of healing and remembrance.

The bricks laid along the path represent the lives lost to violence, and each one serves as a powerful reminder of the impact these individuals had on their communities and families. We invite you to be a part of this moving tribute as we come together in solidarity to remember, reflect, and heal.

More details coming soon!

In the meantime, you can submit your brick order form [here](#) OR submit an online order [here](#)

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## #WHYWEFIGHTWEDNESDAY

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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!](#)



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc.  
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