

IDEAS FOR NCVRW SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year, communities throughout the country develop a variety of creative ways to commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week. From festivals to educational forums, art displays to tree plantings, marches to memorials to media outreach, diverse groups with a variety of experiences, knowledge, and skills create their own traditions to honor, engage, and advocate for victims. In anticipation of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, your organization has the opportunity to reach out to other local groups and coordinate events that honor crime victims and raise awareness of victim issues within the community.

To support these efforts, the Office for Victims of Crime, in conjunction with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, offers funding assistance through its Community Awareness Projects initiative. Each year, the awards are selected based on criteria including collaboration, innovation, community impact, media involvement, and experience with victims' issues. As you plan your 2018 activities, be inspired by last year's projects and look for ways to *expand the circle* and *reach all victims* in your community. (See <http://cap.navaa.org> for more information.)

Contents

Advertising Campaigns

Art Exhibits and Cultural Events

Award Ceremonies

Candlelight Vigils

Educational Events

Garden and Tree Ceremonies

Information and Resource Fairs

Marches and Walk/Run Events

Yoga and Art-Therapy Events

Youth-Focused Outreach

Advertising Campaigns

- The **Maricopa Police Department Victim Assistance Program** in Arizona distributed NCVRW-branded coasters to local restaurants and bars and posted two city billboards to raise awareness.
- The **Butte County District Attorney Victim Assistance Bureau** in Oroville, California, organized a four-week marketing campaign targeting transient and rural populations through ads in bus shelters.
- **Boundary County Youth Crisis & Domestic Violence Hotline** in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, distributed recycled plastic bags branded with NCVRW artwork at a local grocery store and aired ads on local radio stations reaching multiple counties.
- The **Crime Victim Assistance Division, Iowa Attorney General's Office** in Des Moines printed and distributed business cards featuring NCVRW and Crime Victim Assistance Division information in eight languages to culturally specific victim services programs.



- **Family Crisis Centers** in Sioux Center, Iowa, promoted its call-center number through double-sided pump toppers at local gas stations across the state throughout the month of April.
- **NIAD Center for Human Development** in Mason City, Iowa, distributed 5,000 stickers with NCVRW artwork to local coffee shops, grocery stores, and restaurants; supplied local schools and libraries with branded bookmarks; and advertised through billboards in the Dubuque area.
- The **YWCA Kalamazoo** in Michigan promoted National Crime Victims' Rights Week through digital billboards with a design selected by a focus group of crime victims.
- The **Lincoln Police Department Victim Witness Unit** in Nebraska promoted National Crime Victims' Rights Week through a digital billboard downtown. It also coordinated presentations on victims' rights and services by 18 chaplains from the Lincoln Police and Fire Departments to their faith communities.
- The **Los Alamos Police Department** in New Mexico planned an awareness campaign that included printing and distributing over 700 t-shirts, giving a 30-minute interview on a local radio station, and publishing stories of both victims and survivors in the newspaper.
- The **Korean American Family Service Center** in Flushing, New York, focused on a bilingual advertising and media campaign, including an ad that ran on two popular Korean-language radio stations.
- The **North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Victims Services Program** in Bismarck designed four billboards, newspaper ads, and social media posts, and created customized stickers, fliers, and posters that it distributed to state public safety employees and city, county, and state agencies.

CAP Grants

Do you have ideas on how to raise awareness of crime victims' issues, rights, and services in your community? Community Awareness Project (CAP) grants can provide financial assistance of up to \$5,000 for NCVRW-related activities.

While this year's CAP awards have already been made, you can sign up now to be notified when the 2019 CAP applications are available. Visit www.cap.navaa.org to sign up or learn more.

- The **South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services** in Columbia enacted a statewide community awareness campaign including 13 billboards and over 600 "Victims' Bill of Rights" posters in both English and Spanish.
- **Trauma Support Services of North Texas** in Duncanville held a billboard and digital news and social media campaign to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week that ran for a month.
- **Lutheran Community Services Northwest** in SeaTac, Washington, used six billboards across two counties to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week.



- The **Crime Response Program in the Dane County District Attorney's Office** in Madison, Wisconsin, used digital billboards, bus wraps, and window clings for squad cars, hospitals, insurance companies, community centers, and other community partners to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

story" video, a poetry station, and a dance performance.

- The **Albion Fellows Bacon Center** in Evansville, Indiana, organized a Celebration of Survivors event, where survivors were invited to write on a five-foot tri-fold chalk board what "Strength. Resilience. Justice" meant to them.

Art Exhibits and Cultural Events

- **Southern United Neighborhoods** in New Orleans, Louisiana, hosted a month-long visual and literary art exhibit called "Healing Together New Orleans: Strength, Resilience, and Justice." Victims and their families were encouraged to contribute photos to a memory book or submit an art piece.
- The **Suffolk County District Attorney's Office** in Boston, Massachusetts, incorporated a photography exhibit titled "Now You See: A Celebration of Courageous Kids" into their survivor-based public awareness campaign. The photos featured the eyes and words of more than 100 survivors of abuse.
- **Opportunities for Otsego** in Oneonta, New York, created two art exhibits, "A Silent Witness Project" and "An Empty Place at the Table," highlighting victims of domestic violence.
- The **Sharing H.O.P.E. Center** in Cincinnati, Ohio, created a Memorial Wall and incorporated "Strength. Resilience. Justice." as a design element.
- The **Kaw Nation** in Kaw City, Oklahoma, held a "Dancing to Heal a Community" event that featured cultural speakers, cultural song and dance, and an awards ceremony for local victim service providers.
- The **H.O.P.E. Center** in Athens, Tennessee, hosted The Clothesline Project, a display of t-shirts decorated by survivors of violence. The center encouraged local survivors to come together to create their own shirts to donate to the project.
- **Friendship of Women** in Brownsville, Texas, hosted a "Take Back the Night Block Party," with a "survivor

Award Ceremonies

- **One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center** in Birmingham held a Recognition Ceremony to honor victims who exemplified strength, resilience, and justice.
- The **Lake County State's Attorney's Office Victim Witness Unit** in Waukegan, Illinois, held a National Crime Victims' Rights recognition event where an award was presented to a local victim service provider who exhibited compassion, commitment, and sensitivity to victims.
- The **Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance in Des Moines** presented an award recognizing outstanding work on behalf of crime victims at a community event to increase awareness of victims' issues. A "Reading of Names" honored Iowans whose lives were lost as a result of violent crime.
- The **Community Advocates for Family & Youth** in Capitol Heights, Maryland, held a "Neighbor for Neighbors" award ceremony to recognize four individuals for overcoming their victimization and working for victims' rights.
- **Someplace Safe** in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, issued 30 awards to individuals in recognition of their service to victims. Awardees received framed certificates and letters of appreciation.
- The **Delaware County Office of the District Attorney** in Media, Pennsylvania, hosted an awards ceremony to recognize advocates and organizations for their work in victim services and raised awareness throughout the community with billboards, banners, and table displays.



- The **Family Refuge Center** in Lewisburg, West Virginia, held an awards event to recognize members of the community, local businesses, and criminal justice representatives who serve as a “beacons of hope” for survivors. A candlelight vigil was also held with a survivor sharing her story and a choir providing music.

Candlelight Vigils

- The **Delaware Victims’ Rights Task Force** in Wilmington held its annual Crime Victims Tribute, which included a candle-lighting ceremony featuring a speech by a survivor, a memorial video to honor victims who died, local musicians, and art created by survivors’ groups.
- The **Crime Victims Assistance Association of Arkansas** in Little Rock held a candlelight vigil to acknowledge the impact of crime, offer an opportunity for healing, and connect people with service providers.
- **Victim Assistance of the Fort Wayne Police Department** in Indiana incorporated a portrait wall of homicide victims in their candlelight vigil.
- The **Webb County Sheriff’s Office**, in Laredo, Texas, organized a butterfly release during their candlelight vigil and memorial service for victims of crime.
- The **Manatee County Sheriff’s Office Victim Advocate Unit** in Bradenton, Florida, hosted a candlelight vigil that included musical performances and invited speakers. They publicized the event through a 30-second video played during movie previews at local theaters.
- The **Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center** in East Prairie, Missouri, advertised their candlelight vigil through newspaper ads and interstate billboards.

Educational Events

- The **San Juan Bautista School of Medicine Puerto Rico Health Justice Center** in Caguas hosted a public symposium with speeches from survivors, a panel of victims’ rights professionals, and workshops.
- The **Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services** hosted a workshop on resiliency for victims, survivors, advocates, and service providers, and recognized victim activists in an awards ceremony.
- **Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio** in St. Paul, Minnesota, tabled at a market for the local Latino community and conducted educational workshops on victims’ rights and services.
- The **Kansas DUI Impact Center** in Wichita hosted a Victims’ Services Fair, where first responders and criminal justice personnel spoke on crisis response services, the judicial system, and victim compensation.
- The **Monongalia County Victims’ Assistance Program** in Morgantown, West Virginia, presented an interactive mock trial at a local theater with participation from actual defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, bailiffs, and police officers.
- **Independence House** in Hyannis, Massachusetts, hosted four press conferences where survivors shared their experiences. Advertising included yard signs, postcard invitations, and 2’ x 4’ banners.
- The **Twelfth Judicial District Attorney’s Office** in Alamogordo, New Mexico, held two outdoor rallies to highlight National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Speakers included victims and victim advocates. The second rally was broadcast live on social media by the local newspaper, which published articles both before and after event.



Garden and Tree Ceremonies

- **Victims for Justice** in Anchorage, Alaska, held a Tree Ceremony, where victims and prominent members of the community tied large ribbons to a tree to honor victims of violent crime and raise awareness of victims' rights.
- The **Victim Services Division of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office** in California held a community resource fair at City Hall that included planting an interactive living-wall garden to commemorate victims.
- **Family Service of Rhode Island** in Providence held a wreath-laying ceremony and distributed packets of forget-me-not flower seeds. An engraved granite bench to honor victims and their families was added to the park.
- The **Monterey County District Attorney's Office** in Salinas, California, held its 18th Annual Victims' Dedication Ceremony to honor victims and survivors of all types of crime. Doves were released to specifically honor homicide victims.
- The **City of Cape Coral Police Department** in Florida released butterflies, with bagpipe accompaniment, in honor of victims during its National Crime Victims' Rights Week community observance.

Information and Resource Fairs

- The **Office of the Attorney General** in Tamuning, Guam, organized a Community Resource Fair focused on victims' rights and services.
- **Legacy House** in Indianapolis, Indiana, collaborated with local universities, a high school, the prosecutor's office, and public and nonprofit organizations to host four community resources events and a walk and rally.
- **Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services** in Nevada hosted a Victims of Crime Resource & Recovery Expo, where local and state organizations and offic-

es distributed information on victim services. Local law enforcement offered self-defense demos, and a yoga instructor led several brief yoga sessions.

- **South Asian Network** in Artesia, California, hosted a Resource Fair with a focus on surviving violence. It was promoted through fliers and store-front posters produced in five different languages.
- **Destined to Win Ministries** in Winterville, North Carolina, sponsored a Resource Fair to provide information on cybercrime and identity theft, and hosted a candlelight vigil to honor victims and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- The **Guthrie Police Department** in Oklahoma hosted a Family Fun and Safety Festival, featuring resource materials and children's activities provided by local victim service agencies, community and civic groups, churches, and schools.
- The **Clemson City Police Department** in South Carolina tied NCVRW-branded ribbons to patrol cars and held a family-friendly kickoff event to showcase services available to victims.
- The **Mitchell Area Safehouse** in South Dakota held an expo and resource fair with speakers, breakout sessions, and information tables of local victim-centered agencies.
- The **Williamsburg/James City County Victim/Witness Assistance Program** in Virginia held a community-wide resource fair and speaker event at a local high school with activities for adults and children.

Marches and Walk/Run Events

- The **Mobile Police Department** in Alabama held a 5K run/walk that included a pinwheel ceremony serving as a visual tribute to support victims and survivors.



- **Lassen Family Services** in Susanville, California, held its 4th Annual Walk-a-Mile-in-Their-Shoes event led by victims carrying a NCVRW banner. Attendees were invited to write messages of support on a chalk wall at the end of the walk.
- The **Eighth Judicial District Attorney's Office** in Fort Collins, Colorado, hosted a Commemorative Walk and Awards Ceremony that included speeches by the district attorney and two survivors.
- The **Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's Office** in Columbia, Missouri, held a 5K run/walk with NCVRW-related statistics and quotations posted along the route. The prosecuting attorney and a crime victim spoke at the concluding recognition ceremony.
- The **Newark Antiviolence Coalition** in New Jersey hosted a Community Engagement Walk for survivors. It also coordinated a "Caravan of Love" through different parts of the city to raise awareness for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- The **Wyandotte Nation** in Oklahoma hosted a Superhero 5K walk. Awards were presented by the Chief and a victim of crime spoke.
- The **Centre County District Attorney's Office** in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, hosted a NCVRW black light vigil at the local university student center. Two victims spoke and participants were invited to write notes of encouragement to a victim on a paper silhouette. The notes were shared at the Victim/Witness Office.
- The **Center for Trauma & Resilience** in Denver, Colorado, offered trauma-sensitive yoga for the Latino community, college students, and older adults, with an emphasis on socio-economically diverse neighborhoods. Participants received a blue mat imprinted with the NCVRW theme design.
- **Network for Victim Recovery of DC** in Washington, DC, organized two free yoga sessions and a public awareness "Know Your Rights" campaign, which included two educational presentations at local libraries.
- The **DC Center for the LGBT Community** in Washington, DC, held an Art Therapy Night with participants creating oil paintings that promoted healing and self-care. The artwork was later displayed at the Center.
- The **Ulster County Probation, Crime Victims' Assistance Program** in Kingston, New York, held a trauma-informed yoga class to show the effects of body work on the mental health of victims.
- **Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center**, in Newark, New Jersey, hosted an art therapy mask painting event led by an art therapist and a mental health professional. Much of the art produced was displayed at the public library during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and returned to the artists.

Youth-Focused Outreach

- **Safehouse Services** in Cheyenne, Wyoming, partnered with the Community College Theatre Group to develop skits on intimate partner violence, bullying, stealing, and other topics, which were performed at local junior high and high schools and other venues for youth. Participants could then attend an agency information fair at a skating rink.

Yoga and Art-Therapy Events

- The **Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center** in California hosted a resource fair for the Spanish-speaking community, featuring an art therapy workshop, children's activities, and a memorial tree display dedicated to victims and their families.



- The **Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas** in Salina hosted a community festival to promote awareness of victims' rights and services, featuring children's activities, including chalk drawings, poster and coloring contests, and planting flower seeds.
- **Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region** in Albany, New York, hosted "Peaceful Hands: Healed Hearts," a creative paint/play session for neighborhood youth in high-crime areas.
- **North Central Victim Services** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, held a panel discussion with elementary school students featuring representatives of the police department, the district attorney's office, and the agency.
- **Shelter Agencies for Families in East Texas** in Mt. Pleasant held a Super Hero 5K Fun Run with a focus on activities for kids.
- The **Utah Office for Victims of Crime** in Salt Lake City made a presentation to high school students on National Crime Victims' Rights Week, dating violence, and healthy relationships, and hosted a "Families and Communities Together" multicultural event that focused on resilience. They also sponsored a "Strength. Resilience. Justice." coloring contest, for which the Attorney General presented awards to the winners.

