



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

MCVRC Newsletter

December 2014 :: Volume 1, Issue 5

To Supporters & Families of Homicide Victims,

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and approach the holiday season, we are mindful and grateful for the community that fights for and supports victims' rights and services through every season.

To ensure that victims' rights and services are more than mere words on paper, we are dependent upon a strong and informed community willing to take action to support crime victims every day in every season.

Thank you for helping MCVRC fulfill its mission.

This is our end of the year newsletter, and while it is available through mailing, the costs of printing and mailing demand that we encourage you to sign

up for our electronic newsletter by going to our webpage at: www.mdcimevictims.org.

Please notify us when you have a change in address, email or phone number.



Thank you,
The MCVRC Staff

The Work of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

Every day, MCVRC offers the following services to any victim of crime:

Services	Offered	Notes
Education and assistance about criminal justice proceedings	✓	
Trial preparation and a court companion for support	✓	Support extends through post-conviction appeals and parole
Assistance and legal representation for enforcement of victims' rights	✓	Includes restitution and criminal injuries compensation
Therapeutic counseling	✓	
A peer support group for families and friends of homicide victims	✓	Services provided whether or not there has been an arrest
Community referrals	✓	

Newsletter Highlights

- > 2015 Legislative Priorities, pg. 9
- > GIVING TUESDAY December 2nd is Giving Tuesday. See Flyer on the back pg.
- > EVENT: Dec. 9th Holiday Gathering, pg 3 margin.

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*"Buy a gift for your loved one
and give it away to someone
who otherwise might not
receive a gift. Holidays are
about giving and sharing
love.
...
Finding new ways to share
love can bring healing."*

Seeking Support?

We invite you to join the
MCVRC Support Group

When: Every Tuesday
evening from 7pm to 9pm

Where: MCVRC Office

*Please call to attend our
next session.*



Holiday Hope

Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays are before us. If this is the first holiday season since your loved one was taken from you by criminal violence, you may feel lost in a wilderness and uncertain of your course. Most families have certain traditions or rituals that are uniquely theirs. They are part of their history and bring comfort and happiness to everyone.

Now your family faces situations for which you are painfully unprepared. You might wish to skip from November to January and pretend that the holiday season did not exist. Of course it is almost impossible to ignore all of the holiday signs around us during this time. Also, even if we tried to do this, we would compound the loss that we experience: we have lost a loved one, and now we stand to lose the holiday season too. So what then, can a grieving person or family do?

Let's look at some directions that may help you to get through a first holiday season without your loved one. These directions may be equally helpful to families when several or many years have passed since the death of their loved one.

As our MCVRC support group members know, we share and learn from each other.

The first direction is **remembering**. We cannot force ourselves to forget. The first step in the grieving process is acknowledging your loss and the feelings you have about that loss. Involve your family and consider some ways you may remember your loved one:

- Light a special candle or hang a special ornament in honor of your loved one.
- Buy a gift for your loved one and give it away to someone who otherwise might not receive a gift. Holidays are about giving and sharing love. Finding new ways to share love can bring healing.
- Give yourself the gift of emotion ... find a way to express the intensity of your emotions as you remember ... pound a pillow ... shovel snow and yell ... keep a journal.

The second direction is **reorienting**. Grief is a normal and natural response to loss. The loss of a loved one requires us to understand that things are not the same and never will be again. That doesn't mean that they will never be good again; however, we must consider our traditions and make a plan for dealing with them. A family meeting may be helpful to con-

Continued on next page

Holiday Hope cont.

sider:

- Whether you observe the holidays as you always have? Should you change the time, location or menu or eliminate them altogether?
- Should you attend different religious services or go at a different time?
- Will you decorate differently? Have someone else decorate? Not decorate at all?

Remember that you and your family are the only judges as to what is right for you.

The third direction is **relying**. Do not hesitate to rely on others ... it is not a sign a weakness!

Feelings of grief and depression can push you into isolation. Stay connected to others and share your feelings with family and trusted friends.

Sharing grief is another way of resolving grief. Give sorrow words. Whether or not family and friends are available, consider joining another family of fellow survivors ... a support group. Fellow survivors care, understand, make no judgments. They share their coping skills and help us find hope and healing.

The fourth direction is **relaxing**. Give yourself permission to relax. Pace yourself and plan ahead. Learn to say 'no' to the demands of the holiday season if they become overwhelming. Listen to your body: it will tell you when you are pushing yourself too much.

The journey through grief and loss during the holiday season may bring us unexpected dangers and fears. We must remind ourselves that we not only can survive, but ultimately thrive again. Living without a loved one is always difficult, no matter how many years have passed.

As we give thanks and celebrate the holiday season, remember and give thanks for the loved one who whose cherished memories remain forever alive for us.

Love never dies!



Holiday Gathering

MCVRC will have a Holiday Gathering for families of homicide victims.

December 9, 2014

For more information:
Please call MCVRC at
(301) 952-0063

MCVRC's Annual Ceremony of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance at the Prince George's County Courthouse on Judges Drive provided a beautiful setting for this event. If you have not previously attended and would like more information, please contact a Victim Advocate at 301-952-0063.



Because this is an annual ceremony, individuals may place an order for a memorial paver or a memorial tree for installation before the next year's ceremony.

On November 15, 2014, families and friends of homicide victims gathered to remember and honor those whose lives were taken by criminal violence.



**A full photo album is available on
our Facebook page
www.Facebook.com/MDVictims**

Will You Make a Difference for Crime Victims?

Partner with the MCVRC Team by ...



Make a victim memorial donation to provide victim services or make a donation to honor someone on a special occasion. Become an Annual or lifetime member of MCVRC.

Contribute to:

- MD Crime Victims Resource Center, Inc. (www.mdcrimevictims.org/donate)
- Cars 4 Causes (www.cars4causes.net)
- Amazon Smile (www.smile.amazon.com)

Donate to the MCVRC through:

- United Way/Central Maryland 5442
- United Way/National Capital Area 9325
- Combined Federal Campaign 60472

Join the electronic victims' rights community:

- MCVRC Webpage
- Homicide Survivor's Network webpage
- MCVRC Facebook
- MCVRC Twitter
- MCVRC LinkedIn

Volunteer to assist victims – call the Director of Human Resources 301-952-0063

Court Agrees to Receive MCVRC's Appellate Brief

On August 6, 2014, MCVRC attorneys filed a brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in support of a federal trial court ruling in Salt Lake City, Utah, which had rejected a state prisoner's claim that challenged his 1985 jury conviction and sought a new state trial.

The Prisoner, Douglas Carter, confessed twice and was convicted of sexually attacking and murdering a woman while robbing her of her jewelry.

Prisoner Carter has been trying to obtain a new state trial by alleging, among other claims, that witnesses at his 1985 state trial were seriously bi-

ased against him, and that his trial counsel, whom he privately chose and retained, was incompetent at uncovering that bias.

The Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic requested our support and assistance in opposing his federal post-conviction attack on the fairness of his state trial.

The State of Utah Attorney General's Office has filed a 175 page brief which rebuts all the prisoner's individual specifications of prejudice.

Generally, victims and victim organizations like MCVRC do not have a statutorily based right to file a

"The Utah Crime Victims Legal Clinic requested our support and assistance in opposing his federal post-conviction attack on the fairness of his state trial."

Appellate Brief cont.

separate brief in an appellate court.

Here, MCVRC applied for authority to file an appellate brief based on a published federal court decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

If applied, this decision would allow victim organizations to file a brief defending trial court rulings.

MCVRC's appellate brief argues that victims have a right to see courts rule on a prisoner's complaints in a timely manner.

The 10th Circuit accepted MCVRC reliance on the 7th Circuit case and allowed MCVRC to file a separate brief in support of the trial court ruling denying the prisoner's request for a new trial.

MCVRC Leads Effort to Establish Homicide Survivor Network

MCVRC is in the process of creating a Statewide Survivor Network to better ensure that every Maryland family of a homicide victim receives assistance with enforcement of their rights in criminal justice proceedings and has access to therapeutic counseling and peer support groups to help heal the trauma caused by crime.

The Statewide Survivor Network has already begun making progress in its quest to coordinate services for families of victims of homicide throughout the State of Maryland.

On October 6, a meeting was held at the Anne Arundel Police Department Headquarters in Millersville. Participants included members of the newly formed State Survivor Network.

MCVRC's appellate brief argues that victims have a right to see courts rule on a prisoner's complaints in a timely manner. In this case, the courts' failure to resolve all of this prisoner's complaints more than 29 years after his jury conviction resulted in the murdered victim's husband dying without ever seeing her murderer's request for a new trial settled.

MCVRC believes, and therefore argues, that this is an unreasonable delay that violates the victim's rights to see the guilt of the convicted criminal settled in a timely manner.

It is anticipated that oral arguments will be set in late fall and that a decision will be issued in 2015.



The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit where MCVRC filed a brief in support of the Utah Crime Victim's Legal Center and a federal trial court ruling in Utah.

"The Statewide Survivor Network has already begun making progress in its quest to coordinate services for families of victims of homicide throughout the state."

2014 Contributors

*A special thank you goes to our contributors (as of 17 November 2014).
Their generous support makes it possible for us to support others.*

A

Scott Alford
Amazon (Smile)
Yolanda Anderson

B

Barbara Barra
Harold Belcher
BoJangles' (Upper Marlboro)
Abraham J. Bonowitz
Betty Bunns-Gay

C

California Tortilla (Bowie)
Michael Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Cooke
Barbie and Russell Corwell
Costco

D

Allan Davis
Carmen Davis
Mary Theresa Delhomme
Aloyse M. Demuth
Desert Rat Designs
Francis and Mary Donato
John and Delores Downs
Department of Public Safety and Cor-
rectional Services
Margaret B. Dupee

E

Eastern Correctional Institution
Engineered Building Solutions, Inc.
Betty English – IMO son, Frank
Roberson
ITT Excelis

F

Rosario Fichter

G

Charles and Patricia Gerhan
General Dynamics C4 Systems
Giant Foods (Upper Marlboro and
Bowie)
Alphonso Gibbs
John and Patsy Gillis (Cars 4 Causes)

H

Debbie Haigler
Erin Harrison
Thomas and Susan Howley
Thomas and Carlyn Hudak (In mem-
ory of the Hudak, and and Kahrs
families)

I

IOLTA Sponsors

J

Diane Lynn Jeffries
Francis and Jane Jenkins

K

Katherine Kelley
Susan Kerpetenglu
Daniel and Daria King
Dr. Harry Klapper

L

Ledo's Pizza (Largo)
Levi's Restaurant
Warren and Patricia Lupson

M

Stephen Q. Mack
Jeffrey H. and Helene L. Marcus
Maryland Crime Victims Resource
Center, Inc. Staff and Volunteers
Meadow Market

Stay informed
with the latest
MCVRC
developments.
Show your
support and tell
others how
much you care.
Join us on
social media!



Follow us on Twitter!
[@MDCrimeVictims](https://twitter.com/MDCrimeVictims)



2014 Contributors cont.

*A special thank you goes to our contributors (as of 17 November 2014).
Their generous support makes it possible for us to support others.*

Nancy Mears
MEDART, LLC
Mikcos Party Rentals
Patricia Millner
Morgan Stanley
Shyrlene Morris
E. Payman Moshedi, M.D.
Phyllis Mulligan

N
Ilene J. Nathan
Arthur and Heather Nesbit
Network for Good

O
Olive Garden (Bowie)
Outback (Bowie)
Lawrence and Kathleen Owens

P
William and Charlene Passmore
Panera Bread (Corporate Office)
Rhonda Pearson (Parties that Pop)
Doralea Pepper
Edgar and Melanie Pineda
Dan E. Philipp
Prince George's County State's Attorney

R
Eugene Rashich – IMO John Rashlich
Lisa Ray
Helen Rhodes
Rev. Stephen Ricketts
Rotary Club of Beltsville Foundation
Brian Roper

S
Safeway (Lanham and Clinton)
Carol J. Sallie
Sam's Club (Waldorf)
Sharper's Florist
Catherine S. Shifflett (IMO Karen Sita)
Shopper's Food (Bowie)
Show Place Arena (Prince George's County)
Smokey Bones
Subway (Mitchellville)

T
Juan and Joan Torres

U
Friends of the Honorable Ken Ulman
Honorable Ken Ulman
United Way of Central Maryland
United Way of the National Capital Area
Uno Pizzeria & Grill (Bowie)

V
Veridian Energy
Nancy Beth Volk

W
Walmart (Bowie)
Earnest and Linda Washington
Steve and Charlene Weaver
Latoya Francis-Williams and Craig Williams
Woman's Club of Laurel

**If you would
like to make a
contribution to
support our
mission, please
click on the
image below ...**



MCVRC Board Adopts Legislative Priorities

What are we tweeting?

"@MDCrimeVictims - 19 states passed #ERINSLAW pending in 20. Help protect kids from abuse. Educate them! Plz watch!"



"Be part of #GivingTuesday! One person can make a difference."

The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center's Board of Directors have adopted tentative priorities for the 2015 legislative session. MCVRC will work to identify others that may be supportive of this efforts as well as possible legislative sponsors. The proposed priorities are as follows:

1. Notification rights expansion on cold cases.

Often times, victims, including survivors of homicide victims, are frustrated because of a lack of information regarding the status of an investigation. As DNA evidence has become important in solving cases, providing basic information to victims would be a way to keep victims informed without adversely impacting an on-going investigation.

2. Increase of funding for victims' services.

Continued on page 10

Meet the Staff and Volunteers!

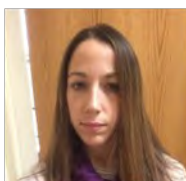
Staff



Kevin Cameron Kevin Cameron joins the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center (MCVRC) as the Clinically Licensed Social Worker. He is responsible for providing counseling services to family members and friends of those who have lost a loved one by homicide. He has also taken on the task of going around the State of Maryland to establish local support groups.

Before joining MCVRC, Mr. Cameron worked with active duty members, and their families. He served in locations across the globe and worked with families and couples who experienced suicide, homicide, domestic violence, sexual assault and depression.

Mr. Cameron is from Iowa. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa -School of Social Work with a Master's Degree in Social Work. He has been licensed at the clinical level since 1997. He is fluent in Spanish. SE HABLA EL ESPAÑOL.



Samantha Prinsen Ms. Prinsen has joined the MCVRC as a staff attorney. She will serve as the lead attorney for MCVRC's minors, disabled and the elderly clients requiring a Guardian ad Litem. Originally from Chicago, IL, Ms. Prinsen is most recently from South Carolina where she served as a Prosecutor for the 14th Circuit. She received her

Continued on page 11

Join us online!



Next
**Survivor's
 Network Meeting**
 planned for
 December 1, 2014.



Survivor's Network cont.

Twenty-nine (29) representatives attended the event. Anne Seymour, the National Victims Advocate, facilitated the meeting. A vision and mission statement was conceived, challenges to effectively implementing services to survivors were discussed, and next steps were identified. In addition, members of the Network shared print and other resources with each other.

The next meeting is planned for December 1.

Within the MCVRC, Kevin Cameron, is working diligently on one of the identified goals of the SOHG, the establishment of support groups throughout the state. Lisa Andrews, the current Network Coordinator for Homicide Services is leaving to pursue other opportunities. Alonzo Robertson, Esq. will assume her role and responsibilities under the Grant.

If you know individuals or families who did not receive support and would benefit from services, please access the survey on our webpage at: www.mdcrimevictims.org.

Legislative Priorities cont.

Many victim service providers are suffering from a decreasing amount of funding that is available. MCVRC has lost a number of staff positions. It is important that additional revenue for victims' services be identified.

3. Changes to improve collection of restitution.

Too often when restitution is ordered, it is either not collected or not timely collected. Prior legislative efforts have made restitution a priority in terms of governmental collections. Allowing those who owe restitution who have the ability to pay and do not pay, not only hurts victims, but allows offenders to flaunt the system.

4. Some statutory appellate authority to allow expedited appeal regarding adverse privacy determinations. See e.g. <http://www.mdcourts.gov/opinions/coa/2014/3a14.pdf>

In the recent case of State v. Johnson, the Maryland Court of Appeals found that victim's privileged records are not absolutely privileged. Victims and those holding the records of victims need to have an expedited appeal process to challenge a court order adverse to their interests.

The 2015 legislative session will have a new Governor, Attorney General, Chairpersons of the Senate Judicial Proceedings and the House Appropriations Committee as well as many new legislators and State's Attorneys.

Your voice to elected officials can help make a difference. Please visit www.mdcrimevictims.org/legislation between January and April 2015 to see our final legislative package and what you can do to make a difference.

2015 Legislative Package

Available on the MCVRC website
www.mdcrimevictims.org

Current Status 2014 Regular Session - For Tracking list: MCVRC 2014 Legislative Information (All Bills) - Created on: 04/04/2014 02:09 a.m.

Number/ Chapter (Cross File)	Title	Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
Total 17				
HB051	Sentencing Procedures -	First Reading	Judiciary	Judicial
SB022	Statement by Victim or Victim's Representative (Alec's Proceedings Law)	Judicial	1/16/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Proceedings
HB053	Criminal Procedure -	Third Reading	Judiciary	Judicial
SB106	Programs for Survivors of Homicide Victims	Passed with Amendments	2/18/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Proceedings
HB070	Victims of Crime - Legal	Favorable Report	Judiciary	Judicial
SB090	Representatives of Minors and Disabled and Elderly Persons	by Judiciary Proceedings	2/25/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Proceedings
HB063	Courts and Judicial	Hearing 2/25 at	Judiciary	
SB060	Proceedings - Crime Victims and Witnesses Funds - Court Costs	1:00 p.m.	2/25/2014 - 3:00 p.m.	
HB124	Crime Victim and Crime	Second Reading	Judiciary	Judicial
SB023	Victim's Representative - Electronic Notification	Passed	2/25/2014 - 1:00 p.m.	Proceedings
SB022	Sentencing Procedures -	Favorable Report	Judiciary	Judicial
HB001	Statement by Victim or by Judiciary	Proceedings		3/27/2014 -

Meet the Staff and Volunteers cont.

Bachelors of Science in Human Services from the University of South Carolina and her Juris Doctor from the Charleston School of Law. Ms. Prinsen is a veteran and served in Okinawa, Japan as a Marine Corps firefighter.



Have you seen pictures from the Annual Ceremony of Thanksgiving and Remembrance on Facebook?

www.facebook.com/MDVictims

DYK?

VOLUNTEER with us!

MCVRC utilizes volunteers as well a limited number of full-time and part-time staff in key positions. Please consider becoming one of our volunteers.

See page 13 for details.



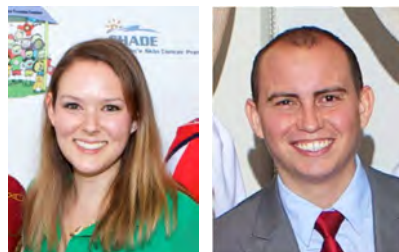
Alonzo Robertson Please congratulate Alonzo as he assumes the Network Coordinator position of our new Homicide Services Grant. In his new capacity, he will utilize his negotiation and collaboration skills to advance the state-wide effort of providing support services to the families and loved ones of homicide victims.

Alonzo Robertson, Esq. joined the legal staff after serving as Sr. Counsel to Congress' House Committee on Intelligence. He also manages a boutique law firm with a focus on personnel experiencing national security employment issues. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and the Howard University School of Law.

Volunteers



Susan Bearn Please join us in welcoming Susan Bearn as a MCVRC intern. Ms. Bearn is a foundation practicum student studying at the University of Maryland - School of Social Work. She will be at MCVRC on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She plans to work with all staff members and has already begun accompanying the Social Worker on client visits. Ms. Bearn will be with the MCVRC for the duration of her 2014-2015 academic year.



Lyda Gould and Louis Armendariz During this season of Thanksgiving, the MCVRC wants to give a special thank you to two volunteers whose work you see whenever you see a MCVRC newsletter, tweet, Facebook comment, webpage, blog etc. Mrs. Gould and Mr. Armendariz, employees of General Dynamics C4

Systems, volunteer their expertise and provide the invisible supporting hands that make the MCVRC's work for victims and victim's representatives possible. Join us in thanking them for their quiet behind the scenes support.

Design Your Brick or Submit Information for the Tree:

First Line (max. 15 characters):

Second Line (max 15 characters):

Adjustments will be made for names longer than 15 characters.

Donor Information (please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Example:

First Line: EVAN MORRIS

Second Line: 1989 – 2011

Payment Information

Enclosed is my check payable to MCVRC

Please charge my credit card:

Name on card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CSC/CID (3 or 4 digits): _____

Type of card: VISA Master Card

Authorized Signature: _____

Please send the completed form along with payment to the: Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., 1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.

To place an order for a brick or tree, please complete this form and return it to:

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., 1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774.

For additional information, please call: 301-952-0063 or email: rroper@mdcrimevictims.org.



Become A Member!

Victim Supporter \$25

As a Victim Supporter, you will receive a free subscription to the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events.

Victim Friend \$50

As a Victim Friend, you will receive a free subscription to the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events, and a memorial ornament on the MCVRC-sponsored Holiday Tree of Remembrance.

Victim Advocate \$100

As a Victim Advocate, you will receive a free subscription to the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events, a memorial ornament on the MCVRC-sponsored Holiday Tree of Remembrance, and a 25% discount on all special event tickets.

Lifetime Membership \$500

As a Lifetime Member, you will receive all benefits of a Victim Supporter for your lifetime.

Organization Membership \$500

As a Organizational Member, your organization will receive the MCVRC newsletter including advance notification of all special events, and three complimentary ornaments on the MCVRC-sponsored Holiday Tree of Remembrance.



MCVRC utilizes volunteers as well as a limited number of full-time and part-time staff in key positions. Please consider becoming one of our volunteers.



Volunteer!

Court Accompaniment – Assist victims through the criminal justice process by providing accompaniment and support at criminal justice proceedings.

Special Events – Help with organizing and setting up special events, such as media conferences, fundraisers and banquets.

Office Assistance – Work alongside our key staff by providing office assistance as your time allows. Schedules are flexible to match your availability.

Community Events – Staff neighborhood gatherings, and other events as needed to provide more information about The Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center.

Pro Bono Assistance – Attorneys to provide pro bono assistance to crime victims experiencing civil matters that are a result of the victimization.

Contact Us!

Main Office:

Phone: 301-952-0063
Phone: 877-842-8461
Fax: 240-929-0526
1001 Prince George's Blvd.
Suite 750
Upper Marlboro, MD
20774-7427

Baltimore Offices:

Phone: 410-234-9885
Fax: 410-234-9886
218 E. Lexington Street
Suite 401
Baltimore, MD 21202

DC Office:

Phone: 202-531-3346
Fax: 202-747-7518
Ronald Reagan Building &
International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Ave.,
NW Suite 700
Washington, DC 20004

Visit us online: www.MDCrimeVictims.org

CONTINUING THE MISSIONS OF THE STEPHANIE ROPER COMMITTEE AND FOUNDATION



Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

Locations:
Upper Marlboro, MD
301-952-0063
877-842-8461

Baltimore, MD
410-234-9885



Photo By: Kathryn Harper

Participant of

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

DONATE TODAY: mdcrimevictims.org/donate

One Person Can Make a Difference. Pledge Your Support Now.

There's Black Friday, Cyber Monday, and now #GivingTuesday—a global day of giving on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. On December 2, 2014, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give back.

This year, we are a proud partner of #GivingTuesday. As a non-profit organization, our services are free, but we rely on individual and community support to accomplish our mission. Your donations make all of these free services to victims of crime possible.

Your donation is appreciated to maintain and allow our programs to grow and continue serving our community.

We also offer membership to those who would like to stay informed and involved with The Center on a regular basis.



Make a donation and find more information on our website at www.mdcimevictims.org/donate