IDEAS FOR NCVRW SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year, communities throughout the country develop a variety of creative ways to commemorate National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW). 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 NCVRW, your organization has the opportunity to reach out to other local groups and coordinate events that honor crime victims and raise awareness of victims’ 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 2019 activities, be inspired by last year’s projects and look for ways to honor the history of victim services and create hope for our future initiatives. (See https://cap.navaa.org and sign up for the mailing list to receive information about 2020 opportunities.)

Advertising Campaigns

- The Mobile County District Attorney’s Office in Alabama organized a mass print campaign, ranging from billboards to NCVRW-themed pizza box stickers. The DA’s Office also distributed posters to churches, restaurants, and grocery stores, and placed easels advertising NCVRW in the Government Plaza downtown. The skyline downtown was also illuminated with the NCVRW theme colors.

- The Pinal County Attorney’s Office, Victim Services, in Florence, Arizona, in conjunction with the City of Florence and the Maricopa Police Department, hung 12 banners throughout Florence, rented a billboard on the interstate between Phoenix and Tucson, and distributed 2,300 NCVRW-themed coasters to 10 local businesses.
• The **Broward Victim’s Rights Coalition** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, promoted NCVRW events through 15-second ads that played at movie theaters. The coalition also distributed NCVRW-themed bookmarks and ecofriendly shopping bags.

• **Remedies Renewing Lives** in Rockford, Illinois, ran a bus advertising campaign on the local 211 phone number and distributed domestic violence awareness pins and phone wallet carriers during community events.

• The **Iowa Attorney General’s Office Crime Victim Assistance Division** in Des Moines distributed 20,000 coffee cup jackets that included the NCVRW theme, logo, colors, and information about the Crime Victim Assistance Division and the Iowa Victim Service Call Center.

• The **S.O.S Shelter, Inc.** in Endicott, New York, created brochures specifically for LGBTQ and older adult victims, which were distributed to 25 nonprofits and businesses that work closely with these populations. Facebook ads of staff wearing NCVRW t-shirts were also created.

• The **North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Victim Services Program** in Bismarck organized a mass media campaign including two billboards, 15- and 30-second radio ads, social media advertising, online and print newspaper ads, and daily emails to staff around the state. State public safety employees and city, county, and state agencies were given NCVRW-themed stickers.

• **North Central Victim Services** in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, launched a social media campaign in which individuals wearing NCVRW-themed buttons answered the question, “Why are you a voice against violence?” in videos. Posters were distributed to local businesses, faith-based and community organizations, police departments, and schools.

• The **South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services** in Columbia printed posters of the South Carolina Victims’ Bill of Rights and distributed them to 372 high schools, libraries, courthouses, police stations, churches, convenience stores, fast food restaurants, and gas stations throughout the state. The Department also distributed 500 of these posters in Spanish to counties with the highest percentage of Spanish-speaking residents.

• **Wisconsin Victim Witness Professionals** in Alma issued a press release informing citizens of NCVRW and a campaign to distribute 25,000 awareness bracelets across the state that were printed with “Reach All Victims: April 8-14, 2018.” County programs and victim witness coordinators helped to distribute the bracelets.

• The **Vanderburgh County Prosecutor’s Office** in Evansville, Indiana, collaborated with local victim service agencies to honor NCVRW with a multifaceted community celebration promoted through television advertising, posters, social media posts, and NCVRW-themed stadium cups and magnets distributed at the courthouse and at other events.

## Art Displays, Video Screenings, and Cultural Events

• The **Kings County District Attorney Victim Witness Program** in Hanford, California, hosted a ceremony where a quilt was unveiled that was made by families who had lost loved ones to homicide, a high school choir sang, and two survivors shared their stories. A short film was shown that featured events from previous ceremonies and words of encouragement and support from county officials.
• The Equality Michigan Department of Victim Services in Detroit held community resource fairs, where it encouraged individuals to create a quilt square in memory of someone they had lost to crime. The squares will be sewn into a quilt and will be displayed during NCVRW 2019.

• Wynona’s House in Newark, New Jersey, held an event that featured a poetry reading and spoken word performance and short interactive plays about homicide, robbery, and sexual assault. A licensed clinician was available for anyone who wanted to debrief after the event.

• The Salt Lake Area Domestic Violence Coalition in Utah unveiled “Voices of Hope and Survival,” an exhibit featuring art and writing made in community workshops and additional informational displays on NCVRW. The exhibit included paintings, creative writing pieces, a short film, and a Clothesline Project.

• In Denver, the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance created a seven-minute video that highlighted the needs of some of the most vulnerable crime victims, including the LGBTQ, immigrant, and Latino committees. The video also raised awareness of the difficulties that male victims face. It played at Denver’s annual NCVRW event and was also posted on social media.

• The Women’s Transitional Living Center in Fullerton, California, constructed an outdoor art display consisting of three dining room tables with missing place settings, representing individuals who had been lost to crime. Name cards at each empty seat told the details of a particular victimization story. Centerpieces on the table gave information about victim services or displayed art.

• The Christian League for Battered Women/Tranquility House in Cartersville, Georgia, worked with the District Attorney’s Office and a local theater group to make a 60-second video discussing child abuse, drug abuse, and domestic violence. The video played at a local movie theater for five weeks as a pre-show feature.

• In Troy, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Michigan held a contest to design t-shirts with the NCVRW theme and colors, and the winning shirt was printed and distributed at a resource fair. The organization encouraged students and those who suffer from PTSD and grief to submit entries.

• The Kaw Nation Family Trauma Healing Center in Kaw City, Oklahoma, showed a documentary about two underage girls who were sexually assaulted on camera and the impact it had on their lives and the ripple effects on families, friends, schools, and communities. Afterwards, there was an awards ceremony and a discussion about the film.

• The Utah Office for Victims of Crime in Salt Lake City, Utah, collaborated with victim service providers, community organizations, other government agencies, and tribal councils to present a youth art show at the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art, where 10 children’s art pieces were displayed for a month. The group also hosted a multicultural night with music, dancing, and art, as well as an NCVRW kickoff event at a Utah Grizzlies hockey game.

Award and Recognition Ceremonies

• Victims for Justice in Anchorage, Alaska, hosted an awards ceremony honoring victims and victim service providers in both the justice system and in the community. It was attended by local business owners, government officials, and members of the public.
• The Crime Victims Assistance Association of Arkansas in Little Rock organized an awards ceremony that recognized individuals, agencies, and victims in the community. It also included a forum with a panel discussion, a presentation, and a viewing of the NCVRW Theme Video.

• The Lake County State’s Attorney’s Office in Waukegan, Illinois, organized a public event called “Creating a More Inclusive Lake County,” which included an awards ceremony recognizing community leaders and a viewing of the Oscar-winning short film Sing. Breakout sessions and a question and answer panel concluded the event.

• The Kentucky Office of the Attorney General Office for Victims Advocacy in Frankfort held a Victims’ Rights Day of Commemoration in the capitol building with an awards ceremony, a survivor art exhibit, and distribution of printed materials pertaining to NCVRW.

• The Saginaw Police Department in Saginaw, Michigan, began NCVRW with an event at city hall where individuals were honored with awards, a survivor spoke, and a proclamation was read.

Community Awareness and Engagement Events

• GABRIELA Washington, DC, organized an event called “Rise for Rights & Dignity,” which featured testimony from survivors of domestic abuse, human trafficking, and state violence. The event also included educational programs and an art and writing workshop, and participants and survivors made a handprint mural.

• Safe Haven Transitional Inc. in Conley, Georgia, partnered with a local community college and law enforcement to hold a panel discussion, a memorial ceremony, a poster and essay contest, and workshops at the local library.

• Legacy House in Indianapolis, Indiana, organized eight community events throughout the week in conjunction with five universities, a high school, and seven nonprofits. The events included a ROCC-a-thon (Reaching Out to Citizens Affected by Crime) with 20 rocking chairs, a floating lantern display, a candlelight vigil, and a trauma-focused yoga class.

• The Office of the State’s Attorney for Baltimore City in Maryland organized a weeklong open house in its downtown Victim/Witness Waiting Room. Staff offered tours of the newly renovated facility and distributed bilingual brochures on victims’ rights.

• The L.U.K. Crisis Center, Inc. in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, organized a “CommUNITY Voices” event, including a resource fair, a candlelight vigil with a moment of silence, and a survivor panel discussion.

• The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department in Nevada worked with the Community Coalition for Victims’ Rights to host an open house at the new Southern Nevada Family Justice Center. There were bilingual workshops focusing on victims’ rights and services and journaling workshops for survivors.

• The Winner Resource Center for Families in South Dakota organized a two-day event called the “Crime Victims’ Rights Week Cruise for Awareness,” where victim advocates traveled to six area communities to distribute crime victims’ rights cards, brochures, and other information to businesses and the general public on the street.

• The Henderson County HELP Center, Inc. in Athens, Texas, organized several events during NCVRW, such as a proclamation signing, a “Lights Out Against Crime” event with wooden silhouettes representing victims illuminated in NCVRW colors, a Clothesline Project, and a community event at the county arboretum with a butterfly release.
• The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe-Victim Services Program in Wadsworth, Nevada, organized a variety of events on its reservation, starting with a presentation on missing and murdered indigenous women with speakers from the tribal council, victim services, and law enforcement. Later in the week, survivors were provided flowers to lay on the graves of loved ones lost to violence.

• The Oregon Department of Justice, Crime Victims' Services Division, in Salem distributed 600 NCVRW-themed t-shirts to 80 different programs throughout the state. The t-shirt message promoted the three tenets of victims’ rights: to be heard, be informed, and be present. Recipients were encouraged to post photos of themselves wearing the t-shirts on social media.

• The Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, partnered with local police and victims service providers to challenge local businesses and offices to wear provided NCVRW-themed t-shirts together in unity. More than 40 groups participated, and many photos of the “challenge day” were shared on social media.

• The Office of the State Attorney 20th Judicial Circuit, Victim Services Unit in Fort Myers, Florida, hosted an awareness event at a local park, where a survivor read a poem prior to a butterfly release. A special song was performed, and bagpipes were played.

• The Webb County Sheriff’s Office in Laredo, Texas, collaborated with victim service providers, faith-based groups, and criminal justice system agencies to hold five events during NCVRW. These included a memorial service, a candlelight vigil, and a proclamation ceremony, and information booths were set up in churches and hospitals.

Resource Fairs and Education

• The Community Advocates for Family & Youth in Capitol Heights, Maryland, hosted a Unity Day event, which included a resource fair with speakers and giveaways. Prior to the event, the organization released 30-second ads that played in movie theaters and distributed print materials to local groups.

• Destined to Win Ministries in Winterville, North Carolina, organized a community-wide resource fair to highlight local crime victim services and conclude NCVRW. Flyers, event calendars, and a list of criminal and juvenile justice resources were distributed earlier in the week.

• The Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc. - Behavioral Health Services in Pine Hill, New Mexico, hosted an all-day event that included presentations on active shooter situations, human trafficking, and crime within the Navajo Nation. Later in the week, the organization held another educational event for children at a school that highlighted safety, wellness, education, and available victim services.

• The Sequoyah County Sheriff’s Office in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, organized a Victims’ Rights Awareness Street Fair where victims’ rights advocates spoke. There were also information booths staffed by the District Attorney’s Office, victim services agencies, mental health agencies, and first responder/law enforcement organizations.

• The Puerto Rico Health Justice Center - San Juan Bautista School of Medicine in Caguas hosted a community event at a local mall where victim service organizations and agencies that represent LBGTQ individuals, older adults, immigrants, and people with disabilities conducted short educational sessions. A card with information about victims’ rights was distributed.
• The Cameron County District Attorney’s Office Crime Victims Unit in Brownsville, Texas, organized its 13th Annual Crime Victims’ Resource Expo, in which more than 60 local agencies participated. The event was lined with information booths, door prizes were donated by local groups, and a homicide survivor addressed attendees.

• First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence in Harrisonburg, Virginia, planned a presentation on sexual assault and child sexual abuse in conjunction with the Domestic Violence Task Force. The organization also hosted a “Make a Difference in Your Community” event that included multiple presentations, an inspirational speaker, and poetry readings.

• The Monongalia County Victim Assistance Program in Morgantown, West Virginia, set up interactive information booths on a local college campus, which included trivia games to raise awareness of crime victims’ rights. With help from local attorneys and judges, the organization also held a mock trial to educate the public and accurately portray a court case.

Vigils and Memorial Ceremonies

• The Riverside County District Attorney’s Office in Riverside, California, organized three separate candlelight vigils across the county. Each included a speaker, a reading of victims’ names, and a presentation of colors. Attendees at each vigil created a paper chain in NCVRW colors to symbolize strength found in unity.

• The Delaware Center for Justice in Wilmington planned a crime victims’ rights tribute event in conjunction with a candlelight vigil, which also featured resource tables and a memorial wall display. A survivor gave the keynote address.

• Advocates Against Family Violence in Caldwell, Idaho, organized a candlelight vigil and recognition event where two survivors spoke and a proclamation was signed. Victims, victim witness coordinators, and local law enforcement were honored, and a Scout troop provided a color guard.

• The Siouxland Human Investment Partnership in Sioux City, Iowa, with Season’s Center for Behavioral Health and the Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, hosted a celebration of life and a candlelight vigil. Family members were invited to share stories of their loved ones lost to crime.

• The Alliance for Victims’ Rights in Reno, Nevada, organized its 25th Annual Candlelight Vigil, where individuals were honored at a ceremony, memorial quilts were on display, a high school orchestra participated, and a survivor spoke to the audience. A memorial plaque, which will hang in a local memorial garden, was dedicated to several families. The organization advertised the event with promotional seed packets.

• The Mercy Center’s Community Victim Witness Advocacy Program in Asbury Park, New Jersey, hosted a candlelight vigil in a community with a high crime rate, bringing attention to victims who are sometimes not reached by services. A church choir performed, and several “Champions of Victims’ Rights” awards were presented.

• The New York City District Attorney’s Office in Manhattan organized a candlelight vigil where members of the community had the opportunity to share photos of loved ones who were victims of violence. Therapy dogs and mental health representatives were on site, and the vigil was translated into Spanish, Mandarin, and American Sign Language.
• The Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program in Red Rock, Oklahoma, held a memorial ceremony, which included speakers, survivors’ stories, and a Native drummers’ performance.

• Family Services of Rhode Island in Providence worked with the Rhode Island Crime Victim Service Provider Steering Committee to hold a ceremony at the newly enhanced Victims’ Grove Park, where state and local officials honored victims and victim service organizations.

• The Family Refuge Center in Lewisburg, West Virginia, organized the Beacon of Hope ceremony to recognize individuals who have championed victims’ rights at the state and local levels. The Center also organized two candlelight vigils.

Walks, Runs, and Rallies

• The Eighth Judicial District Attorney’s Office in Fort Collins, Colorado, worked with law enforcement and victim advocacy organizations to organize a mile-long awareness walk, which also featured awards and speakers. NCVRW branded water bottles and t-shirts were distributed.

• Deaf Iowans Against Abuse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held a Heels for Hope mile-long walk as part of a National Crime Victims’ Rights Awareness Day that included two deaf keynote speakers.

• The St. Landry-Evangeline Sexual Assault Foundation in Opelousas, Louisiana, sponsored the Community Crime Prevention Walk and Rally. The march brought attention to violent crime, highlighting the issue of sexual assault. Participants were provided with educational information.

• The Boone County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office in Columbia, Missouri, organized a 5K run/walk and recognition ceremony. The walk featured signs along the route highlighting NCVRW-related statistics, information, and quotes.

• The New York Crime Victims’ Assistance Task Force in Albany, New York, hosted multiple events throughout the week, including a “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event highlighting sexual assault and three Take Back the Night rallies.

• The Guernsey County Prosecutor’s Victim Assistance Program in Cambridge, Ohio, organized a “Walk a Mile in Their Shoes” event that extended from the local courthouse to a pavilion at the city park. Information booths were set up at the pavilion after the walk, and individuals were encouraged to participate in a “Pay It Forward” campaign to promote acts of kindness.

• The Abuse and Rape Crisis Center in Towanda, Pennsylvania, hosted the NCVRW Awareness Walk and Resource Fair, where a survivor of childhood abuse gave the keynote speech.

• The Clemson City Police Department in South Carolina organized a “Tutu March,” where law enforcement officers, government officials, sororities, fraternities, and other members of the community came together raise awareness of their commitment and duty to provide services for all victims of crime equally and without bias.

• The Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region (Urban Grief) in Albany, New York, hosted its Walk for Healing along the waterfront, where the organization provided Zumba classes and meditation demonstrations as holistic healing approaches to crime-related trauma.
• The Forensic Nursing Cheyenne Regional Medical Center in Wyoming worked with local law enforcement and victim service providers to organize the 5K Victims’ Rights Run and resource fair. A local prosecutor addressed the crowd, and McGruff, the crime prevention dog, paid a visit.

• Trails West CASA in Ogallala, Nebraska, held the Crime Victims’ Rights Memorial Walk, which included a tree planting and dedication ceremony.

• Crime Stoppers of Michigan in Southfield organized the Crime Victim Awareness Walk and bike ride. Artwork by local elementary school students was featured on luminaries lining the path.

Youth and College Engagement

• The Network for Victim Recovery of DC in Washington, DC, organized a youth soccer tournament where NCVRW-themed soccer balls, t-shirts, and water bottles were distributed along with brochures about crime victim service organizations. A dance and theater presentation about youth violence was also part of the organization’s activities.

• The Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas in Salina organized a family festival where children talked to a police officer, explored a fire truck, and learned about personal space and healthy boundaries through hula-hooping. There was also an egg hunt that focused on safety tips.

• In addition to a ribbon campaign, the Support Within Reach Sexual Violence Resource Center in Bemidji, Minnesota, distributed wristbands that said “Not Violent, Not Silent #CVRW” to schools in the area.

• The American Association of University Women Marion Branch in Marion, Alabama, hosted a student essay contest with the theme, “Expanding the Circle of Safety in Our School and Community.” Participants were recognized during a candlelight vigil on the courthouse square.

• Community Action of Greene County, Inc., in Catskill, New York, organized a variety of events and activities during NCVRW, including co-hosting a Clothesline Project at a local community college with a “Survivor Speak-out,” a self-defense class, and a resource fair.

• Opportunities for Otsego Violence Intervention Program in Oneonta, New York, addressed violent crime with a “What Were You Wearing?” art exhibit created by student sexual assault survivors to address rape myths, an “Empty Space at the Table” exhibit displayed at a local college for those lost to domestic violence, and mobile life-size silhouettes of crime victims called the “Silent Witness Project.”