SCVAN Newsletter:  
VRW Edition  
June 2019  

SCVAN News  

VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK 2019  
Approximately 500 people attended the 2019 conference to receive training and to network with experts in the field. Professionals working in criminal justice and victim services, counselors and social workers, healthcare providers and educators gathered together with survivors of crime, to attend the three-day conference that was held April 2-4, 2019 in Columbia, South Carolina, sponsored by the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network.

Crime victims and professional service providers attend to learn from each other as well as experts in the field, share their experiences and meet others who “walk in their shoes.” Victims paid homage to their lost loved ones during an intensely moving Unity Ceremony that was held at the First Baptist Church in Columbia. Thank you to all who attended this year, and we hope to see you next year!

VRW HIGHLIGHTS  
• 90+ crime victim/survivors attended the conference through scholarship, our largest scholarship attendance to date!
• 30+ volunteers assisted throughout the conference. We LOVE our volunteers, and we couldn’t do it without you!
• 58 workshop sessions providing a range of topics for both services providers and survivors.
• 110 workshop presenters shared their valuable time and expertise in a wide range of subject areas.
• Attendees loved the conference app and logged in approximately 19,800 minutes, wow!
• This year’s participants have BIG hearts for those in need:
  ⇒ Donated/collected 655 lbs. of food was donated to Harvest Hope  
  ⇒ $706 was collected at Tuesday’s luncheon and presented to the Carver Lyon Bucket Brigade at their performance on Wednesday evening.

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Phone: (803) 750-1200  
Email: info@scvan.org  
Website: www.scvan.org
2019 VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK AWARD WINNERS

Above: Linda Boyne, Volunteer of the Year
Below: Crystal Salley, Outstanding Service Provider
Top Right: Brian Bennett, Criminal Justice Award

Above: Kimberly Cockrell, Laura Hudson Scales of Justice Award
Below: Chandra McPherson, Distinguished Humanitarian
Bottom Left: Ashley Thomas, Distinguished Survivor

UNITY CEREMONY

The Unity Ceremony is a special time to gather and remember lives lost to violent crime, join in survivorship with those impacted by crime, and support one another with hope and healing. The 2019 Unity Ceremony was held at First Baptist Church of Columbia. We heard opening remarks from SC Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, music by Pastors Tony and Joanie Watts Foster and an empowering message from survivor, Brittany Todd.

We would like to thank all those who committed their time and talents to making this a very special and meaningful evening!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Silent Auction • Live Auction • Food Drive • Clothing/Accessories Drive • Minute to Win It Games • Music • Fun • Fellowship

The food trucks were a hit!

Ready for next year? Go ahead and mark your calendars!
March 31 - April 2, 2020
For more info visit: www.scvan.org/vrw
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

January – December 2018

- SCVAN served 1,676 new South Carolina crime victims/survivors through our various programs.
- SCVAN provided $283,790 in emergency and transitional housing funds to South Carolina victims.
- SCVAN manages a listserv of over 4,000 individuals including law enforcement, service providers, social workers, school counselors, attorneys, etc.
- SCVAN averages over 70,000 people reached every month through its social media outlets.

Our Mission: To be the voice for all victims of crime and those who serve them.

The South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN), a 501(c)(3) organization, was created in 1984 in response to a mandate in the South Carolina Crime Victims Bill of Right for a network of service providers to be formed to better protect and serve victims of crime.

SCVAN fulfills three main objectives: 1) to ensure ALL crime victims receive access to and assistance from the criminal justice system; 2) to improve the quality of services provided to crime victims by victim advocates; and 3) to ensure the criminal justice system adequately serves crime victims. SCVAN sponsors events and training seminars, publicizes victim issues, and manages grants to further assist victims. Throughout its history, SCVAN has made an impressive impact on services available to our State’s victims and criminal justice professionals, with a proven track record of addressing the needs of crime victims with measurable results in all of our programs.
STATEWIDE FORENSIC NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAM

Program staff are currently working on a Forensic Compliance Report for the State. It is a collaborative effort with SCVAN, SCHA, SC Attorney Generals Office, SCCADVASA, the FNE Task Force and FNE programs throughout the state. We hope to get the surveys out by the end of August!

We have a free FNE continuing education training on August 8, 2019 from 9am - 5pm in Columbia. Please RSVP to Amanda Brown or Sabrina Gast by 8/1/2019. The training announcement is located on last page of this newsletter.

FAITH BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SAVE THE DATE: You’re Invited to...
A Faith Response to Crime Victims Roundtable: Meeting Needs-Healing Hearts by the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network In partnership with the Town of Saluda Police Department

DATE: Thursday, September 12, 2019
PLACE: St. Paul United Methodist Church
102 East Butler Avenue, Saluda, SC 29138
TIME: 10:00am to 12 noon

Requested Attendees: All Crime Victim Advocates, All Crime Victim Services Leaders, All Faith Leaders/Members, and All Community Services Leaders that are supporting or willing to learn to support crime victims and their surviving families.

Check out our website for the most up-to-date registration information.

We are on Facebook, check us out (@faithandpartnerships).

FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM

We are very excited to announce...the new Emergency Fund Online Application is officially LIVE! Applications for the Emergency Fund can now be submitted online. The online application can be accessed via the VSP Portal on the website.

If you would like to know more about our program, please feel free to reach out to us at: 803-750-1200 ext. *6031 (you must include the asterisk with the extension).

Case example:
A DUI victim was badly injured and unable to return to work. His spouse is a stay-at-home mom and has no income. The Transitional Housing fund provided them with payment for a utility bill and the Emergency Fund provided them with a food voucher.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS PROGRAM

Over the past several months, LAV staff has represented victims statewide in courts in victims’ rights enforcement cases, orders of protection, permanent restraining orders, termination of parental rights, and has conducted over 15 trainings on victims’ services. In June, our Reaching Rural Program presented on technology and legal access at the National Crime Victim Law Conference in Portland, Oregon.

We continue to work diligently on the design of our LAV website which will provide consolidated resources, templates, trainings, and other assistance for pro bono attorneys, victim service providers, and the community. Stay tuned for its September launch! Our nonprofit networking breakfasts are a hit and occur each month at one of our LAV offices so attorneys, nonprofits, and victim service providers can share and collaborate. We hope to see you there.

In the meantime, check out our SCVAN Legal Assistance for Victims page on Facebook to keep updated on news, events, and other happenings with LAV!
CRIME VICTIM INFORMATION SERVICE SYSTEM (CVISS)

This program provides resource and referral services to crime victims and service providers. Information is vital to crime victims and service providers, and it must be current and readily accessible.

Email Shannon Geary at shannon@scvan.org or call (803) 750-1200 Ext. *2797 (you must press star before ext.) for the following requests:

- You would you like to post an event, training, or employment opportunity through our listserv.
- You need more information about SCVAN and/or other available resources for SC crime victims/survivors.
- You would like more information about our Annual Victims’ Rights Week training event.
- You need to submit an update for our resource listing.
- You would like us to set up an exhibit or information table at your event.

“SCVAN staff members are skilled at guiding victims down the right path so they feel empowered to move forward and maneuver through the criminal justice system.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

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