

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard

VICTIMS' RIGHTS BRIEF

For Arizona's Justice System Administrators, Practitioners, and Advocates

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2005 Attorney General's Office's Distinguished Service Awards

In observance of Victims' Rights Week, Attorney General Terry Goddard participated in promoting awareness of this year's Victims' Rights Week theme "Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are" by recognizing victim service providers throughout Arizona. These outstanding groups and individuals have demonstrated exceptional service to victims and inspire all of us who assist them in the aftermath of crime.

On April 11, 2005, Attorney General Goddard presented the Attorney General's Office's Distinguished Service Awards to deserving recipients at Arizona's Victims' Rights Week kick-off on the Senate Lawn of the State Capitol in Phoenix. In this issue of the Brief, we honor those recipients.

The Distinguished Service Award for **ADVOCACY/DIRECT SERVICES** is given to an individual or group that has evidenced passion and perseverance in promoting victims' legal rights as well as crucial services to meet victims' needs for recovery from the shattering effects of crime. This year we have selected both a group and an individual.

For the group recipient, we have selected the **Phoenix Fire Department's Community Assistance Program** based on their willingness to recognize a need and seek a solution in an area outside of its normal operation.

In 1998, the Community Assistance Program, in cooperation with the Phoenix Police Department, began delivering on scene crisis intervention and assistance to victims of crime in metro Phoenix.

The program is primarily volunteer-based with more than 28,000 hours donated last year. It is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to respond when requested by police or fire personnel to provide crisis intervention and victim assistance to those in need. Staff members assist in safety planning, educating, creating support systems, explaining investigative and judicial processes, explaining victims' rights and compensation, securing shelter placement or safe housing, providing transportation and emergency financial assistance, delivering death notification and identifying other community resources.

Recognizing the need for after-hour services which were not available, they took on after-hour assistance for the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, providing support and assistance to victims of sexual assault. They also have a partnership with a domestic violence shelter to provide advocacy and transportation to residents in need of civil standbys to retrieve property or to serve court orders.

For the individual recipient of the Award for Advocacy/Direct Services we have selected **Terry Woodmansee** based on her perseverance in establishing a direct service advocacy program while still providing service to crime victims.

When Ms. Woodmansee began working as a 911 operator for the Goodyear Police Department in 1999, she saw first-hand the need to provide assistance to the police officers for helping the citizens and victims of Goodyear. From then on, she worked tirelessly for three years, researching other victim service, crisis service and alternative response units in Maricopa County. She then evaluated and wrote a proposal for the Crisis Services Unit. Incredibly, she then wrote all policies and procedures, applied for grant funding and worked part-time while working dispatch full-time to get the unit up and running.

By recruiting volunteers, she was able to have services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She began working full time (and always on-call) in a paid position as Crisis Service Coordinator in 2003. Since then, the unit has been able to provide services to more than 800 victims and is currently working on 381 open cases.

Terry's accomplishments are truly commendable. She not only runs the unit, but she goes into the community and educates employees on domestic violence and violence in the workplace. She created an outreach program to provide services for domestic violence victims and has worked with local merchants to provide DV information in restrooms throughout the city. While doing all of this, she provides direct service to victims and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty in her cases to ensure victims' safety and well being.

Annie St. Johns-Wilkins, victim advocate for the Goodyear Police Department, stated, "Thanks to Terry's hard work, dedication to helping victims and her unending passion for doing what is right and not always what is easiest or quickest, our citizens of Goodyear have a Crisis Services Unit that is always there for them."

The Distinguished Service Award for **SERVICE COORDINATION** is given to a group of individuals, or an organization that has been instrumental in establishing comprehensive, coordinated, multi-disciplinary approaches to servicing crime victims within its jurisdiction.

This year, we have selected **Detective Coy Johnston and Domestic Violence Specialist Andrea Sierra** based on their diligence in going beyond the scope of their duties and finding outside resources to assist crime victims.

As members of the Domestic Violence Enforcement Response Team (DVERT), Mesa Police Department, Detective Johnson and Ms. Sierra strive to quickly arrest domestic violence offenders as well as work with the victims of domestic violence to educate them on the cycle of violence. What makes their collaboration unique is that one is a sworn officer and the other is a civilian victim specialist. This combination brings different perspectives to the solutions of problems. Their accomplishments include helping to organize the "31 Days of October" (a statewide DV awareness campaign which was recognized by the Governor) and holding a statewide warrant roundup coinciding with DV awareness month. They have worked on many other projects along with other agencies and continually make a huge impact on domestic violence issues in the state.

In situations where there is not a resource or a solution, they have proven that they can develop a system to address the need successfully.

The Distinguished Service Award for **PUBLIC POLICY** is given to an individual or group that has made an invaluable contribution or played a critical role in ensuring public policy reforms aimed at improving the treatment of crime victims.

This year we have selected **Debra Tredway** for this award based on all of her efforts in promoting public policy reform.

In the State of Arizona, there are currently lower penalties for sexual assault and sexual assault on a spouse. For years, women have been victims of spousal rape, and then, victimized by the system that gave the perpetrator only a slap on the wrist. With the belief that no victim should have to go through this victimization, she decided to take this matter to our state legislators.

Working with the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Ms. Tredway became an accomplished citizen lobbyist. According to Bill Hart, executive director of Arizona Sexual Assault Network, "She is one of the most courageous, dedicated and compassionate people that I have ever met." Ms. Tredway's commitment to change our antiquated law is highly commendable.

The Distinguished Service Award for **INNOVATIVE PRACTICES** goes to an individual or group of individuals or an organization that has developed programs to serve victims in a new way, provided services where none previously existed, or used technology to assist victims.

This year we have selected **Childhelp USA** for continuing to raise the bar in finding innovative solutions to further assist victims of child abuse.

Childhelp USA has made itself a frontrunner in the race to eliminate child abuse from our society and to provide the best possible services to those affected by this issue through the development of long term residential facilities, advocacy centers, group homes and prevention programs. The advocacy center model has been highly effective in the investigation of child abuse bringing together those agencies involved in the investigative process as well as prosecution and mental health.

This work has now been taken to the next level with the Childhelp USA Mobil Center of Northern Arizona. In many rural areas, the closest possible investigative services are four to six hours away. Childhelp saw the need for a solution to this problem and took action.

The mobile center provides comprehensive, professional services and state-of-the-art telemedicine for the investigation, treatment and prevention of child abuse. It provides a child-friendly traveling location where interviews and medical examinations are conducted and used for evidence in successful prosecution of child abusers. What's more, it partners with local law enforcement agencies throughout Northern Arizona.

The Distinguished Service Award for **LEADERSHIP** is given to an individual, a group of individuals, or an organization who, while endeavoring to promote better treatment of crime victims,

has exercised vision, initiative, commitment, excellence, service to others, cooperation, and integrity, thereby serving as a model for others.

This year we have selected **Kym Pasqualini** for her vision and commitment in serving crime victims.

Mark L. O'cheltree, the vice president of the National Center for Missing Adults wrote the following in regard to Ms. Pasqualini, chief executive officer of the National Center for Missing Adults: "...her leadership and unyielding vision have made a historical impact in the way crime victims will be served in the future."

In 1994, Ms. Pasqualini founded the Nation's Missing Children Organization. In 1995 she expanded the agency's charter to accept cases of those over the age of 18 and identified that missing adults and their families were a segment of the victim population not yet recognized as victims and were therefore underserved. In 1996, she set out to request the assistance of Congress by introducing legislation to establish the first national clearinghouse for missing adults. In June 2002, she was able to establish the National Center for Missing Adults.

Since then, she has worked tirelessly to fulfill her obligation to families of missing persons throughout the country, cooperating with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Ms. Pasqualini is considered a leading national expert in her field and is well respected among her peers. As a resident of Arizona, her efforts have improved victim services locally as well as nationally.

We appreciate all the nominations that our agency received for these awards and felt it appropriate to recognize each of the nominees as their efforts are all noteworthy.

Kathy McLaughlin, Director, Yavapai Family Advocacy Center
Rachel Robles, Victim Advocate, Maricopa County Attorney
Elliot Glickman, Attorney, Stompoly, Stroud, Glicksman & Erickson, PC
Hanneke den Ouden, Program Director, Colorado River Reg. Crisis Shelter
Pima County Attorney's Office Victim Witness Volunteer Program
Holly E. Robles, Senior Victim Advocate, MADD, Pima County
Fern York, Victim Witness Volunteer, Cochise Co. Attorney's VW Program
Sydney Hawkins, Victim Assistance Caseworker, Glendale Police Department
Randy Koeppen, Victim Advocate, Chrysalis, Inc.
The Empower Project Victim Witness Program, Pima County Attorney' Office
The Honorable Carey Hyatt, Superior Court, Domestic Violence Court
The Honorable Robert Pickrell, Retired
DV Patrol , Glendale Police Department
Ruth Cherrick, Vice President of Programs, Southern AZ Center Against Sexual Assault
Russ Huber, Retired, Childhelp USA



The Victims' Rights Brief is published by the Arizona Attorney General's Office of Victim Services who remains wholly responsible for its content. The goal in generating the Brief is to promote justice and healing for crime victims by sharing information and fostering sensitivity within the justice system. Questions regarding content can be directed to Sarah Lynne Vasquez at (602) 542-4911. To learn more about victims' rights via the internet, visit us at www.agaz.gov.