Back in 1981, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence created the very first “Day of Unity” as a way to bring together advocates all across the nation who were working to end violence against women and children. It wasn’t long before that single day of unity evolved into an entire week devoted to awareness activities at the local, state and national levels. Support for the movement increased and the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held in 1987, the same year the first toll-free national domestic violence hotline made its debut.

Today, Domestic Violence Awareness month is recognized and celebrated across the nation and is supported by an annual Presidential Proclamation. Stronger than ever before, the focus of the movement is to draw attention to this problem that affects every community, yet the original intent still remains - the first Monday of Domestic Violence Awareness Month is still observed as a Day of Unity.

Please join us this month to pay tribute to those who have died because of domestic violence, to support those who have survived, and to connect those who work to end violence.

Reaching Out, Making a Difference

In Kansas an estimated 106,419 women, or about 10% of the population are victims of domestic violence each year. Chances are, you know someone for whom this grim statistic is a reality. But if someone in need reaches out to you, do you know how to help? The following information can help guide you if you take that step to help make someone’s life safer.

http://www.helpchangekansas.com/10_Things_You_Can_Do.html

Nat’l Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-SAFE [7233]) 24 hrs/365 days a year.

Nat’l Teen Dating Helpline (866) 331-9474

The Fall 2010 Champion of Justice Award goes to...

Don Schwartz,
Parole Supervisor,
On behalf of The Topeka Parole Unit

Under the leadership of Don Schwartz, the Parole Officers of The Topeka Parole Unit are Champions of Justice for their actions promoting public safety and supporting victims of crime.

A couple of years ago, the Office of Victim Services made an effort to identify all parole violations involving Personal Conduct to ensure victims involved were linked for notification and received the appropriate referrals to assist them in staying safe. The details of the Personal Conduct violations are readily available in the computer system, but did not always make it to the Office of Victim Services Liaisons. When the effort began, most months resulted in four to six cases referred for follow up and as many as 10 violations not referred.

In the past few months, that has changed. From July through September of this year, the Topeka Parole Office has referred 100% of all victims of Personal Conduct Violations committed by offenders on supervision to the OVS Parole Liaisons without any reminder or prompting. It should be noted that the Parole Officers’ dedication and commitment to ensure victims have access to information, resources, and referrals provided by OVS staff is commendable.

Because of the example and leadership of Parole Supervisor Don Schwartz, the dedicated Parole Staff for the Topeka Parole Unit have focused on the details which matter most of all. They are consistently showing a willingness to assist crime victims whenever an opportunity is presented, while ensuring that offenders are supported in their successes and yet still being held accountable for their crime is what makes Don Schwartz’s team Champions of Justice. Congratulations to Don and his team! The OVS Staff truly appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

RECOGNITION/AWARENESS CALENDAR

**October**
- National Crime Prevention Month
- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Week (3-9)

**Week Without Violence** (18-22)

**America’s Safe Schools Week** (17-23)

**Make a Difference Day** (23rd)

**November**
- MADD, Tie One on for Safety

**December**
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25th)
- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
- Universal Human Rights Month
RECOGNIZING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HOW YOU CAN HELP

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION COMES FROM RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE YWCA AND KCSDV

WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Common signs:
- Heavy makeup
- New bald spots
- Scratches, bruises, cuts, or fractures
- Frequent injuries
- Loose or broken teeth
- Cigarette burns
- Bite marks
- Rope burns
- Wells with the outline of a belt buckle or other weapon

WOULD YOU RECOGNIZE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

- Were you abused as a child, or did you grow up with domestic violence in the household?
- Do you sometimes feel like you deserve to be physically hurt?
- Are you afraid of losing your children and pets if you leave your partner?

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION COMES FROM RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE YWCA AND KCSDV

BECOME A SAFE FRIEND: HOW TO START A CONVERSATION WITH A VICTIM

Start a Conversation.
Provide an opportunity to talk in a safe place. Start the conversation by saying, “You seem so unhappy. Do you want to talk? I’ll listen and I’ll keep it between us.”

Listen and Believe.
Listen without judgment, believe what she tells you, and acknowledge her feelings. Confusion, anger, sadness, guilt, numbness, helplessness, hopelessness, and self-blame are all normal feelings for a victim of abuse.

She’s not a Helpless Victim.
Don’t treat her like a child, or a helpless victim.

Explain her Rights.
Explain that she and her children have a right to peace and security in their own home. Refer her to an advocate, attorney, or other supportive professional for more information.

Offer Your Support.
Let her know you are there to support her, and you will help her however you can.

Make a Referral.
888-END-ABUSE and the domestic violence program serving your area.

Be Ready to Help.
You never know when the call might come.

You May Need Support.
The Kansas Crisis Hotline is available for you too. Call 888-END-ABUSE.
In order to best assist crime victims, the KDOC Office of Victim Services (OVS) has three Victim Notification Coordinators (VNC) on staff. Their job is to notify of certain types of changes with an offender that could impact victim safety and to provide victims with the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. If there is a chance that a victim might meet their offender on the street, one of the VNC has probably attempted to notify about it. By law, crime victim information is kept in a separate confidential data base from other KDOC records. Reports are run on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis to provide mail notification to victims. Notification Coordinators also track requests for information that comes from phone calls or face-to-face meetings with victims who contact our office with questions or concerns. It is important that victims keep their contact information up to date if they want to continue to receive notification.

Molly Turner began working for the KDOC in July 1997 and has worked for OVS since November 2000. Molly provides notification to victims about special parole hearings, re-entry programs, media programs, and early discharge from parole. She coordinates the public comment session program and provides case histories to the Kansas Parole Board (KPB) when victims request them. She also provides follow up with victims who attended these sessions to answer their questions once a KPB decision is made. Much of Molly’s time is spent answering the OVS toll free hotline and general Victim Notification emails. No phone call is ever the same, nor is any story we ever hear the same. Every day is different as a victim notification coordinator. The questions and needs that come to OVS through these contacts are varied and cover the entire range of services that OVS offers so Molly is well versed in all of our services.

Amber Ray began working for OVS in June 2008 and has been in her position as Special Programs Notification Coordinator for the past year. Amber provides notification and maintains the data systems for victims of offenders involved in the following special programs:

- Sexually Violent Predator – Kansas law allows the state to try certain sex offenders as predators in civil court after their release from the Department of Corrections. All violent sex offenders are screened. However, only those offenders who have both a qualifying offense and a mental abnormality or personality disorder will be considered for civil commitment to the Sexual Predator Treatment Program at Larned State Hospital for an indefinite period of time, subject to annual review.
- Interstate Compact - the option to have an offender’s Court Service, Community Corrections, or Parole supervision transferred to another state.
- 4th DUI - offenders are supervised by Community Corrections after the offender serves the required jail sentence.
- SRS Mental Health notification - provides assistance to the victims of those defendants that are found not guilty by reason of mental defect or are not able to stand trial due to being incompetent. This is a fairly new initiative by the Office of Victim Services and went into effect July 1, 2010.
- Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) - detains and deports those offenders that have entered the US illegally and are sent to ICE post-incarceration to determine if that offender will be deported.
- Out of State Detainers - a warrant pending with another state to which the offender must report immediately to address the warrant/pending charges.

Amber provides training to other KDOC employees as needed on these special programs so that state/federal guidelines for program administration are met. She works closely with victims over safety concerns arising from these special situations by providing appropriate community referrals. Amber serves as a liaison between victims and the Attorney General’s Office, KDOC staff, the Kansas Parole Board, county victim/witness coordinators, and county prosecutors.

Kimberly Marotta has been with the OVS for almost a year now. She sends over a thousand letters a month to victims starting with their registration when the offender comes into the facility. Victims are notified about clemency applications filings, work release and private industry job opportunities available to minimum custody offenders, KPB public comment sessions for upcoming parole decisions, escapes, and parole/post release dates for offenders currently serving time in a facility. Victims are also notified about offenders on parole/post release who are absconders, apprehended, or condition violators as well as offenders who are no longer under KDOC supervision due to sentence max or death. Kimberly also provides information about OVS to victims of crime, community victim advocates, and KDOC employees through our brochures, web pages, and newsletter.
Inmate Family Reintegration Services (IFRS) and the Women’s Activity Learning Center (WALC)

The IFRS program maintains positive relationships and fosters healthy connections between incarcerated women and their children. The classes offer women opportunities for growth in their parenting skills, knowledge of child development and nutrition. The women also work on craft projects for the United Methodist Women to give back to the community. Communication with the caregivers of their children, whether it is a private home, foster care, group home or institution, is supported and encouraged when authorized. Child centered visiting areas and parenting skill building activities provide the incarcerated parent and their families the ability to reintegrate with confidence and support. Mother/infant bonding is available for mothers and their babies for the first six weeks of the baby’s life if the caregiver is able to bring the infant to the facility each day. TCF supports new mothers who choose to nurse their babies by providing the necessary equipment.

Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts Beyond Bars

Programs provided through the Inmate Family Reintegration Services/Women’s Activity Learning Center offer the children of incarcerated mothers a scouting opportunity with guidance from local Girl Scout and Boy Scout Councils.

Growing Through Loss

This grief group allows inmates to have a better understanding of the characteristics of grief and loss by increasing self-awareness of their grief and its impact. Losses can come in many forms including death, divorce, abandonment, loss of freedom, and loss of parental rights. Inmates process their grief through telling their story, journaling and art projects. The program is presented by volunteers from the community.

Volunteer-Provided GED Programming

Since 2005, volunteers have provided a structured opportunity for inmates to earn their GED diploma. In FY 2009, fourteen inmates earned their GED through the program.

RE-ENTRY INITIATIVES

Shawnee, Sedgwick and Wyandotte County Re-entry Programs

Administered by the Department of Corrections, these programs prepare and assist offenders transitioning back into the Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City areas. The programs’ community partners include representatives from: law enforcement, businesses, job service/training agencies, political representatives, landlords, mental and medical health providers, victim services, and faith- and community-based organizations.
### OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

Kansas Department of Corrections
Office of Victim Services
900 SW Jackson 400-N
Topeka, KS 66612
Phone: 620-331-7787
Toll-free: 866-404-6732
E-mail: victimwitness@doc.ks.gov

### NOTIFICATION SERVICES

- Public Comment Session
- Release Status—Parole, Conditional Release or Post-Release
- Assignment to a Work Release Program
- Eligibility for a Community Service Work Assignment
- Application for Clemency
- Supervision Revocation
- Expiration of Sentence
- Death of inmate
- Escape
- Application for Early Discharge
- Interstate Compact
- Absconders
- Sexually Violent Predator

### VICTIM INITIATED SERVICES

- Public Comment Session
- Advocacy Program
- Facility Tours
- Victim/Offender Dialogue
- Parole Liaisons
- Facility Liaisons
- Apology Repository
- Personalized Web Page

www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services

### VICTIM SERVICES LIAISONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Liaison Services</th>
<th>Parole Liaison Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitation/Contact Screening</td>
<td>Safety Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release Plan Screening</td>
<td>Family Reintegration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cease Correspondence</td>
<td>Assistance with Investigations/Sanctions/Revocations/Morrissey Hearings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility Tours</td>
<td>Work Closely with Community Partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Public Comment Sessions</td>
<td>Provide Referrals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with Navigating the System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"GIVING KANSAS CRIME VICTIMS A VOICE IN CORRECTIONS BY PROVIDING INFORMATION, SERVICES AND SUPPORT WITH COMPASSION AND RESPECT"