

OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES



THE BEACON

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES

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MESSAGE FROM LIBBY KEOGH DIRECTOR OF VICTIM SERVICES

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I have been employed with the Kansas Department of Corrections for seven years. In this time, I have held a number of different positions, one of those being a Victim Service Liaison. It was during this time that I was able to first sincerely grasp the weight and immeasurable importance of the services provided to victims and survivors by the Kansas Department of Corrections. It was also during this short period of time that I developed an admiration for not only the former leaders of my new team but also my relentlessly hardworking, selfless and compassionate teammates.

In 12 years, I am only the third Director for the Office of Victim Services. If nothing else, this shows commitment. My two predecessors are intelligent, motivating, strong women but what stood out most for me was their commitment to victims and survivors and their determination to assert victim services as a key foundational piece of the Kansas Department of Corrections. In my career, my role models were and are Debi Holcomb and Jennie Marsh and though they have resigned from their position with the Kansas Department of Corrections, both volunteer their time as active members of the

OVS Advisory Council. The commitment remains. I cannot count the number of times throughout my career when making a referral to the Office of Victim Services that, with confidence, I commented, "They are wonderful...they can help you... they are great." In the nine months that I have served as Director, my opinion remains unchanged. I am proud to once again be part of this team and make the same commitment to victims and survivors. I have big shoes to fill but am up to the challenge.

Libby T Keogh

Our Mission

Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services serves as a liaison between victims and department staff, the Prisoner Review Board, and victim service providers. We are committed to providing crime victims the opportunity to express their ideas and opinions. We will approach our work from a victim-focused perspective.

NAVSPIC In partnership, Missouri and Kansas are proud to be co-hosting the 2012 Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) Summit and the National Association of Victim Service Professionals in Corrections (NAVSPIC) annual conference. The VOD Summit will be December 3-4, 2012 and the NAVSPIC Conference will follow on December 5 and 6. The conferences will be held at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, MO.

NAVSPIC The NAVSPIC conference will focus on Partnering to Meet Victim Needs in Tough Economic Times. Conference attendees can expect the most current/best practice information about national trends in VOD and victim services in the post-sentencing phases of cases; information that addresses quality programming and services in times of significant fiscal cutbacks; and opportunities to network with allied professionals and to learn about important partnerships that promote victims' rights and services.

NAVSPIC Registration information is available on line at http://navspic.org/ or by contacting Libby Keogh at libbysc@doc.ks.gov.

## CHAMPION OF JUSTICE FOR 2011-2012

BY JANET GOOD AND KIMBERLY MAROTTA

The 2011- 2012 Champion of Justice Award goes to . . .

### Tammy Richardson

Parole Officer II,  
Lawrence Parole Office

In her daily role, Tammy supervises a caseload of high-risk offenders and works to hold offenders accountable for their actions as well as ensuring compliance with their conditions of supervision. However, Tammy is noteworthy for her awareness of the impact that parole actions have on the victim and approaches her caseload work with the attitude that a victim's safety is paramount and therefore should be protected. It's not uncommon for Victim Services to present Tammy with a piece of victim sensitive information about an alleged violation and instead of depending on a victim statement, Tammy can skillfully confront the offender about the alleged violation in a way that elicits an admission, therefore eliminating the need for the victim to testify against the offender. Tammy has also been known to say "Let's keep the victim out of this as much as possible" and then pro-

ceeds to do just that - gaining the information she needs without jeopardizing the safety of the victim.

Tammy is always open to collaboration and often consults Victim Services "just in case..." In addition, Tammy was responsible for the addition of National Crime Victims' Rights posters and resource material to the Lawrence Parole Office, as she wanted to not only send a message to offenders that parole takes victim safety seriously, but also to reach out to anyone visiting the parole office who may be a victim and need assistance connecting with helpful services.

Ghandi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Tammy demonstrates the change we encourage throughout KDOC, where victim safety isn't an afterthought, but incorporated into the daily work of offender accountability. From her positive attitude about changes to policy, to understanding the advanced characteristics of domestic violence, Tammy is a role model in every sense. Victims are safer in the community because of Tammy and this is why she was chosen to be recognized as the 2011 - 2012 Champion of Justice.

Congratulations Tammy!

## RECOGNITION/AWARENESS CALENDAR

### August

Be Kind to Humankind Week (25-31)  
National Safe at Home Week (27-31)

### September

National Alcohol & Drug Addiction  
Recovery Month  
National Preparedness Month  
Baby Safety Month  
Remembrance Day (11)  
National Respect Day (18)  
International Day of Peace (22)

### October

National Crime Prevention Month  
National Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month  
National Bullying Prevention  
Month  
Universal Childrens Week (1-7)  
America's Safe Schools  
Week (21-27)  
Week Without Violence (21-27)  
Make a Difference Day (27)

### November

MADD, Tie One on for Safety  
International Day of  
Tolerance (16)  
International Day for the  
Elimination of Violence  
Against Women (25)

### December

National Drunk and Drugged  
Driving Prevention Month  
Universal Human Rights Month

## Determining Suitability for Release and Public Comments

Dave Riggan, Prisoner Review Board

Approximately a year ago (July 1, 2011), Executive Reorganization Order No. 34 replaced the Kansas Parole Board with the Prisoner Review Board. One of the primary functions of the Board is to conduct parole hearings to determine the suitability of certain offenders for release. An extensive amount of information is considered in determining parole suitability. A list of the parole suitability factors considered by the Board may be found at [www.doc.ks.gov/prb](http://www.doc.ks.gov/prb). This information is obtained through public comment sessions, an exhaustive case review and an interview with the offender.

Since the July 1, 1993 implementation of the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act, the majority of individuals convicted for drug and property crimes under the “old law” or indeterminate sentencing structure have been released. As a result, most cases now heard by the Board involve very serious and heinous crimes where the degree of harm experienced by the victim(s) is tremendous. Victims and their families have suffered loss, experienced grief and been traumatized by the offense. In many instances, the crimes committed by these offenders have altered the victim’s life forever or changed the dynamics of the victim’s family in ways that others cannot fully understand.

There are 632 “old law”/indeterminate sentence inmates out of 9488 total inmates currently held by KDOC.

The serious and violent nature of these crimes, as well as their impact, also means that there are no “easy decisions”. As Board members however, we are required to balance the comments received, both verbal and written, with the remaining parole suitability factors set forth by the Kansas Legislature, the sentence imposed by the court and any other pertinent information regarding the offender under consideration for parole. We understand the weight of the decisions that we make and the lives that are impacted by those decisions. We also understand that not all victims and/or family members are able to come forward and share their stories. Even though we may not always have direct testimony, whether it be verbal or written, we do always consider the impact of the crime in our decision making process.

6.7% of inmates in Kansas prisons are serving “old law”/indeterminate or “off grid” sentences and are eligible for release by the PRB.

Thank you for attending public comment sessions and/or submitting written statements to the Board. The information provided is always helpful in our deliberation and decision making process.

You may find additional information regarding the Prisoner Review Board, our processes and upcoming dates and locations for public comment sessions on our website at [www.doc.ks.gov/prb](http://www.doc.ks.gov/prb). Written comments may also be submitted online at our website or emailed directly to [prb@doc.ks.gov](mailto:prb@doc.ks.gov).

## HELPFUL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

National Children’s Alliance  
(800) 239-9950

National Center for  
Victims of Crime  
(800) 394-2255

National Domestic Violence  
Hotline  
(800) 799-7233

National Mothers Against  
Drunk Driving  
(800) 438-6233

DUI Victim Center of Kansas  
(800) 873-6957

National Council on Aging  
(800) 424-9046

National Center for Missing &  
Exploited Children  
(800) 843-5678

National Sexual Violence  
Resource Center  
(877) 739-3895

National Organization for  
Victim Assistance  
(800) 879-6692

Office of Crime Victims  
Advocacy  
(800) 822-1067

Rape, Abuse, and Incest  
National Network (RAINN)  
(800) 656-4673

Juvenile Justice  
Clearinghouse  
(800) 638-8736

National Clearinghouse for  
Alcohol and Drug Information  
(800) 729-6686

## HIGHLIGHT VICTIM SERVICES—VICTIM/OFFENDER PROGRAM SPECIALIST HOLLY CHAVEZ

In July of 2011, the Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services (KDOC OVS) received grant funding through the Federal Recovery Act Victims of Crime Act Victim Assistance Grant Program to create the new position of Victim/Offender Program Specialist. This position oversees and coordinates the Restorative Justice Services and programs offered to victims and survivors. Holly Chavez was hired as the first Victim/Offender Program Specialist. After the one year grant to get this position up and running, Holly's position has been maintained by KDOC. Prior to starting the position in OVS, Holly worked for KDOC in Community Corrections for four years.

One of the programs enhanced by this grant is the Victim/Offender Dialogue (VOD) Program which allows survivors of severe violence to meet face-to-face with their offenders for a facilitated dialogue. From 2004—2008, there were approximately five active VOD facilitators. In September 2011, Kansas contracted with Jon Wilson from JUST Alternatives to provide training for VOD facilitators. In conjunction with a partnership with Offender/Victim Ministries in Newton, eight additional volunteers were trained, resulting in a total of 13 volunteer facilitators to assist with the VOD program. From the creation of the VOD program in 2004 to July 2011, eight dialogue cases reached completion. As a result of the work invested within the last nine months, eight new cases have been started, two cases

have been closed after completion of a VOD "Alternative to Face-to-Face" option and nine cases have been closed for other reasons, including lack of current victim contact information, the offender declining to participate, or assessment that the offender was not appropriate for VOD. In a period of nine months, the number of cases on the VOD waiting list have been reduced from 42 to 33.

As a result of our volunteer expansion, quarterly VOD volunteer meetings were initiated to discuss VOD topics and to brainstorm any emerging issues that volunteer facilitators were experiencing. Kansas has also created a written agreement for the volunteers that addresses the confidentiality of cases as well as ethics and conduct inside the Department of Corrections facilities.

The grant funding also allowed for Holly, as Victim/Offender Program Specialist to train staff and volunteers to facilitate Victim Impact Classes for incarcerated offenders. Currently, there are five trained KDOC staff and two trained volunteers for the program in the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. The class uses a curriculum created by the Office for Victims of Crime, *Victim Impact: Listen and Learn*, and provides offenders an opportunity to learn how their behaviors have impacted others. This 13 week course helps offenders define who their victims are under the possible impact of nine different crimes and work to comprehend the effects of those

crimes on different victims. The curriculum includes a component for victims and survivors to come into the classes and tell their story, relaying the impact that crime had on them, their families and their communities, directly to the offenders. With the initial pilot, there have been seven offenders who successfully completed the Victim Impact Class. Of those seven, one has been released to parole supervision and several others have expressed an interest in being more involved in restorative justice efforts. The second class in Hutchinson graduated six offenders—all of which were interested in more Restorative Justice programs. On August 21<sup>st</sup>, eight new volunteers and one KDOC staff member will be trained to allow the program to expand to Lansing Correctional Facility. Classes will begin shortly after completion of the training.



**Congratulations,  
Camie  
Borsdorf,  
OVS Liaison  
Supervisor,  
for being elected  
Treasurer for the  
National Association  
of Victim Service  
Professionals in  
Corrections for 2012!**

## 2012 CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

BY HOLLY CHAVEZ AND LIBBY KEOGH



National Crime Victims' Rights Week, observed the week of April 22-27, 2012, was a time to honor crime victims and our nation's progress in advancing their rights. This year's theme—*Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim*—celebrated the visions behind the progress and the ideal of serving all victims of crime.

During CVR Week, each community is encouraged to participate in events that support victims of crime. This year, the Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services, the Office of Attorney General Derek Schmidt and the Kansas Organization for Victim Assistance (KOVA), joined together to co-sponsor a Courage Walk around the Capitol to remember those who have been victims of crime. Facing spring storms, the Walk was moved indoors and was followed by the

“Voices of Victims” rally, in which several victims of crime shared their own stories of courage. In addition, awareness materials highlighting facts about different types of crime victimization were distributed to legislators and to corrections staff throughout the state.

Participating agencies also held a *Wipe Out the Violence* fundraiser in which \$3,475.22 was collected as well as paper and hygiene products for local shelters. Special commendation goes to the staff at El Dorado Correctional Facility for raising a total of \$1,064 in support of two local charities. The products and money collected were divided among local organizations in the areas that participated.

The Kansas Department of Corrections Office of Victim Services thanks everyone who participat-

ed including Members of KOVA, the Office of Attorney General Derek Schmidt, El Dorado Correctional Facility, Ellsworth Correctional Facility, Lansing Correctional Facility, Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility, Northern Parole Region, Southern Parole Region, Topeka Correctional Facility, Wichita Work Release Facility, and the KDOC Central Office.

In light of the successes of this year's CVR week, planning has already begun for next year with



visions of an even bigger series of events to bring continued attention and awareness to the importance of providing ongoing rights and support for crime victims.

Look for events being offered in your area and around the state. . .

## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

### April 21-27, 2013

## Nietzsche Was Wrong - A Victim's Story

Larry Wohlgenuth

"That which does not kill us makes us stronger." ~Friedrich Nietzsche

It sounds good, and it's easy to say to people who have just experienced disaster in their lives. However, as much of a fan as I am of Nietzsche's work, he was wide off the mark on this one. Obviously, he never experienced true disaster in his life.

I'm not talking about things like having a parent or a child die, not to trivialize those experiences. I've had both, but society is configured to help us in these matters. All of the support mechanisms are in place to assist us through the grieving process. Also, we live with the understanding that things like this are possible. So while horrifying, our minds are able to eventually make sense of what happened.

Such is not always the case with crime victims. How can a second-grader possibly make sense out of the fact that his parents were extinguishing their cigarettes on his rectum? What chance does that child have a normal life? Did this child become stronger because of the experience? This actually happened here in Des Moines, and based on what his teacher says, the idea of normalcy for this child is far-fetched.

In my case, the sexual and physical abuse began when I was three and continued until I was 11. All my memories of it were repressed, and what followed was the horror story that I call my life. For 42 years nothing worked for me. Alcoholism, drug addiction, and outbursts of rage undermined what seemed like a very promising future. I knew something was broken, and I tried every way possible to fix it, but to no avail.

In 1992, at the age of 37, all those memories came out and I suffered a complete breakdown. Over the next three years I lost everything; my family, my job, and my home. I was hospitalized multiple times because I was suicidal, and it would be 14 more years before I found treatment that could alleviate the posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and complex trauma that had dogged me for four decades.

I finally found Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy (EMDR), and after a year virtually all the symptoms of PTSD were gone. Unfortunately, that wasn't the end of it for me; my work to recover was only beginning.

I had major resentments against the people who had committed these crimes against me, and I had to invest a large amount of effort in learning forgiveness. I also had to learn to be grateful for what I had, which sounds easier than it really is. Sometimes I would look back at the train wreck of my life caused by childhood sexual abuse and PTSD, and all I could do was sit there and cry. I was 54 years old, and 50 of those years had been a total disaster.

But the rest of life doesn't stop just because you're working hard to put things back together. A year after I completed therapy I was well into my forgiveness work. Then I got a phone call telling me that my daughter had died. I was devastated.

What struck me about my reaction to her death was that I intuitively understood that the emotions I felt matched the circumstance. It may have been the first time in my life that my response was appropriate, given the events around me. It was an indication that maybe, after 54 years, my life was becoming normal.

I disagree with Nietzsche on his point, because what doesn't kill us can leave us a quivering mass lying on the floor, unable to tend even our most basic needs and bodily functions. I've been there, and there are still ghosts that haunt me to this day, although they continue to fade.

That's what it's like to be a victim of violent crime. Millions of people in this country have had similar experiences. As a result, many of them landed in prison, and more occupy mental institutions. Then there are those you know who seem fine when you look at them from the outside, but they are never quite able to get their lives in order. The next time you see one of these people, ask yourself what might have happened to them.

Childhood sexual abuse is a devastating crime with long-term consequences. In the United States today one in four females and one in six males are sexually abused before their 16th birthday. If it was the flu it would be considered an epidemic. It's time for people to stand and speak on behalf of these victims, because many of them lost their voices years ago in the midst of a horror that you can only imagine.

Larry Wohlgenuth is a native Kansan who now resides in Ankeny, Iowa. He wrote a book chronicling his life as a survivor of childhood sexual abuse and PTSD, *Larry Tells Stories: A Journey of Sexual Abuse, PTSD and Recovery*. You can find links to his book in both e-book as well as print format on his website. Please visit him at <http://www.larrywohlgenuth.com/>.

We are on the Web!

[www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services](http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services)

**OFFICE OF VICTIM SERVICES**

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**“ G I V I N G   K A N S A S   C R I M E   V I C T I M S  
A   V O I C E   I N   C O R R E C T I O N S   B Y  
P R O V I D I N G   I N F O R M A T I O N ,  
S E R V I C E S   A N D   S U P P O R T   W I T H  
C O M P A S S I O N   A N D   R E S P E C T ”**

**VICTIM INITIATED SERVICES**

Public Comment Session  
Advocacy Program  
and Travel  
Reimbursement

Facility Tours

Victim/Offender Dialogue

Parole Liaisons

Facility Liaisons

Apology Repository

Personalized Web Page  
[www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services/personalized-offender-information](http://www.doc.ks.gov/victim-services/personalized-offender-information)

**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 SERVICES LIAISONS**

**Facility Liaison Services**

Visitation/Contact Screening

Release Plan Screening

Cease Correspondence

Facility Tours

Assistance with Navigating the System

**Parole Liaison Services**

Safety Planning

Family Reintegration

Assistance with Investigations/Sanctions/  
Revocations/Morrissey Hearings

Work Closely with Community Partners

Provide Referrals