



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

NEW NONPROFIT BOARD SEEKS TO RESTORE VICTIMS' LIVES AND REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME

DOVER, DE – A new nonprofit organization seeking to improve victims' lives and reduce repeat criminal offenses statewide has just appointed its first Board of Directors.

Victims' Voices Heard (VVH) began as a program at People's Place under founder Kim Book in 2002. VVH became an independent nonprofit agency in 2010 and is now moving forward with the guidance of an exceptional new Board.

"Our founding Board includes a number of the best and most experienced people in the fields of victim services and criminal justice in Delaware," said Ms. Book. "I look forward to working with the Board as we introduce important new programs to reduce criminal activity, and expand the impact of restorative justice on victim needs through victim-offender dialogues."

The new Board members of VVH include:

LeeAnn Bullock – Safety & Health Specialist, DuPont Corp.

A Wilmington community leader and former VVH client, Ms. Bullock has participated in the Greentree Program at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Facility and assists with The Day of Remembrance, an annual event held in memory of homicide victims and their families. She recently launched an intervention group for women ages 18-30.

Diane Glenn – Coordinator of Victim Services, City of Dover Police

Ms. Glenn was an original member of the victims' advocacy group that assisted in writing the state's first comprehensive Victims' Bill of Right for Delaware. She is a leading advocate for victims and survivors of crime and remains an active member of the Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force and numerous state and local committees that work on issues, policies and concerns regarding victimization.

Mariann Kenville-Moore, LCSW – Director of Victim Witness Services, Delaware Department of Justice

After receiving her BA from the University of Delaware and Master's in Social Work from Rutgers, Ms. Kenville-Moore worked in the field of child abuse, neglect and dependency before joining DOJ. She is an adjunct professor at Wilmington University and a former member of the Board of Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.

Emily McCauley – Certified Public Accountant

Ms. McCauley received her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Wilmington University, where she serves on their adjunct faculty, in addition to being a partner at Book & Associates in Dover, DE.

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www.victimsvoicesheard.org

Rachel Grier-Reynolds – Alternatives to Violence Facilitator

A licensed Clinical Social Worker, Ms. Grier-Reynolds specializes in psychotherapy with adolescents and their families through school-based public health clinics. She also facilitates AVP workshops within the Delaware prison system and in community workshops.

Harold E. Stafford – principal, The Stafford Firm

Mr. Stafford spent 31 years serving Delaware in senior positions within the Office of Management, Budget Planning, the Department of Correction, Department of Labor and Delaware Economic Development Office. In 2001 he was appointed Secretary of Labor where he worked until retiring in 2005. His consulting firm helps improve performance and streamline operations at nonprofits and government agencies.

Kim Book, the founder of Victims' Voices Heard, is a trained mediator and facilitator in cases of severe violence dialogue. Ms. Book began volunteering in the correctional system following the murder of her only child, Nicole, in 1995. Her experiences and work are the subject of a new book, "After the Crime," by University of Delaware professor Susan Miller due to be released on 4/4/11.

Victims' Voices Heard works to restore victims' and survivors' lives and end repeated violence. Like many states, Delaware experiences a high rate of criminal recidivism, as much as 75% among violent offenders. Reducing repeat offenses is a primary objective of Governor Jack Markell. VVH addresses this problem with two programs:

The Dialogue Program reaches out to violent offenders at the request of their victims or survivors to arrange meetings where offenders who are willing to accept responsibility for their crimes can explain their actions and apologize. The trained staff of VVH coordinates those meetings.

Victim Sensitivity Training is a 10-week training course to be offered at each of the four Delaware prisons, seeking to reach as many as 240 prisoners each year before they are released. The course encourages offenders to accept responsibility, achieve empathy with victims and understand why they committed their violent crimes – all in order to decrease the likelihood that offenders will repeat their crimes once released.

An Apology Letter Bank is also maintained by VVH for offenders who wish to express their remorse in writing.

A primary responsibility of the new VVH Board will be to develop the resources needed to fully implement both programs.

For information about how you can support Victims' Voices Heard or be involved with their programs, please write VVH at PO Box 576, Camden, DE 19934, or call 302-697-7005. You may also visit our website at www.victimsvoicesheard.org

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Photo: Standing left to right: Diane Glenn, LeeAnn Bullock, Emily McCauley and Harold Stafford. Seated left to right: Executive Director, Kim Book; Rachel Grier-Reynolds. Not pictured: Pauline Funk and Mariann Kenville-Moore.