



"Creating a new pathway in the brain of offenders."

Winter 2014

Letter from the Director

Mission Statement

To strengthen, improve and transform the lives of crime victims and survivors by offering programs that will open dialogue between victims and offenders, and provide offenders with insight into the aftermath of trauma their victims/survivors have experienced.

We have had an exciting few months. Recently we have implemented a few new programs. The first is a support group for families of homicide in New Castle County. We also have begun working with two new populations of incarcerated individuals teaching our Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program; women and youth. These are new arenas for us and we are excited to have been given the opportunity to expand our work. Please be sure and read the articles inside to find out more about the new inroads we are making in Delaware.

As this year draws to a close we are reflecting back on what a blessing it has been to have our work embraced by so many agencies and individuals in the state. The Department of Correction (DOC) is now funding two facilities that house the Victim Impact program; Baylor Women's Correctional Facility and the Plummer Community Corrections Center. The work we do would not be possible without the support we have received from the Criminal Justice Council. Ideas are just that; *ideas*; without the support and funding from those who believe in our mission we would not have the opportunity to make an impact on incarcerated individuals in Delaware.

Looking towards the future, we hope to hire our first part-time administrative person and locate an office in Wilmington during the spring of 2014. Our workload is increasing and although that is a great thing, it's getting harder and harder to keep up. Until recently most of our work was concentrated in Kent and Sussex counties. The last six months we are providing more and more of our services in New Castle County.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your support throughout 2013. We could not do what we do without that support and your belief that we can empower victims and create new pathways in the brains of offenders so they will be less likely to reoffend.

We are looking forward to a new year and more opportunities to assist victims and survivors while working towards ending recidivism in our state.

Peace,
Kim



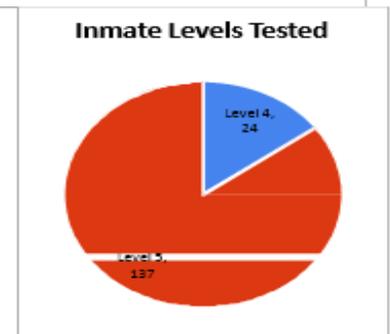
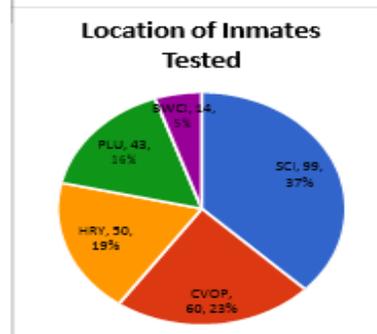
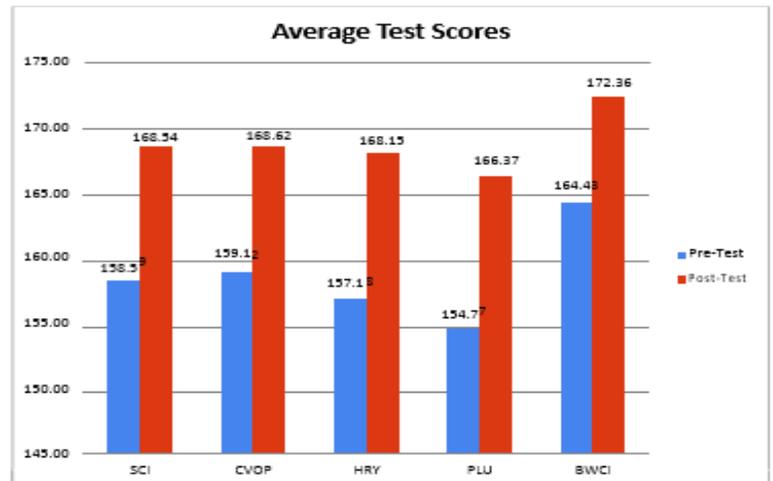
Statistical Data

We are now facilitating the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program in 5 facilities in the state:

- Sussex Correctional Institution (Georgetown)
- Central Violation of Probation (Smyrna)
- Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (Wilmington)
- Plummer Community Corrections Center (Wilmington)
- Baylor Women's Correctional Institution (New Castle)

This twelve week program teaches victim empathy to soon to be released participants who volunteer to participate in the program. The participants are given a pre-test with fifty questions to test their knowledge about the impact of crime on victims; they are given the same test at the end of the twelfth session.

The scores being produced by the Victim Impact program prove we are making an impact on the participants. To date we have been given the opportunity to reach 338 incarcerated individuals in our state.



Note: Information above is a result of 266 (195 post-test) inmates that were tested in total during the most recent testing interval.

Our New facilitators



Sheryl Hickman, Ed.D

Sheryl Hickman facilitates the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program at our newest facility, Baylor Women's Correctional Institution in New Castle.

Sheryl has a background and experience that includes a career in education and leadership development at major corporations as well as many volunteer initiatives in the community. Sheryl has a Bachelor's in Human Resource Management, Master's in Technology Education, and Doctorate in Education, and is a certified Biblical Counselor.

Sheryl is involved in projects providing awareness to the issue of domestic violence against women and children. Sheryl serves as director of a ministry that supports and mentors single mothers; Beautiful Gates Ministry. Some of these mothers are past or current victims of domestic abuse, so victim impact is a relative issue in both of these areas of volunteer work. Previously she has served as a board member for SOAR (Survivors of Abuse in Recovery), an organization which provides support to victims of sexual abuse.

Norwood Coleman Jr., ACSW, LCSW

Norwood facilitates the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program at the Plummer Community Corrections Center.

Norwood has a Bachelor and Master's degree in Social Work. He is a Clinical Supervisor for Delaware Guidance Services in the city of Wilmington. He provides clinical supervision for a team of Master level Mental Health clinicians and Bachelor level case managers in an early response emotional-trauma response program working in collaboration with the Wilmington Police Department (first responders/primary referral source).



Coley Harris

Coley is facilitating our new pilot program at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in Wilmington with the Young Criminal Offender Program (YCOP). Coley is the Operations Manager for Crossroads of Delaware providing out-patient substance abuse treatment services in Wilmington.

Because this population of offenders presents a different challenge in teaching victim empathy, VVH knew we needed to hire someone who could relate to these young men on a level they could understand. Coley is unique to our organization in that he has spent time incarcerated in the Delaware prison system. This experience is why he is able to have a critical impact on young offenders in the correctional system. We are proud to have him as part of the work we are doing in creating a new pathway in the minds of those who offend.

New Facilities for Victim Impact

YCOP

In July, Jill Walters, the Program Director for the Young Criminal Offender Program (YCOP) housed at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution in Wilmington, contacted us to ask if VVH would teach a Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program to the youth.

YCOP houses a juvenile male population between the ages of 16-18. It is located at the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution and is intended to manage the State's most difficult juvenile offenders. These youths are either found non-amenable in Family Court or are sentenced by Superior Court to the adult system for serious offenses. YCOP is segregated from the adult population within the facility. YCOP is a therapeutic community, which seeks to change behaviors through structured programming.

VVH requested and received reverted funds from the Criminal Justice Council in order to run this pilot program. These are uncharted waters. VVH did research to find victim empathy programs for juvenile offenders and found only one program in the United States, California, and a program in the UK. We are currently using the UK model, *What Have I Done*, but will be working to create our own material to work with this new population of offender.

Baylor Women's Correctional Institution

This summer, The Department of Correction (DOC) requested the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program at the women's correctional facility in New Castle. This is also a new population for the Victim Impact program, as we are accustomed to working with the male population in the state. Warden Caple' and her staff have been instrumental in assisting us with the start-up of the program at the women's facility. We are looking forward to working with this population and receiving feedback on our efforts through testing and recidivism rates.

New program: **Support group for survivors of homicide in New Castle County**

In response to the overwhelming number of homicides in New Castle County, VVH has initiated a support group for families of homicide. This is another pilot program funded through the Criminal Justice Council. We hope that our efforts in providing support for the families who are survivors of homicide in New Castle County will help bring healing and a sense of wholeness to those who have lost a loved one to violence.



<p>Giving Our Grief A Voice Empowering homicide survivors in New Castle County</p> <p>Have you experienced a sudden and tragic loss? Victims' Voices Heard wants you to know that you are not alone. We provide a safe haven where mothers and other family members who have lost their loved one to violent crime can gain support and build strength. The healing process takes time. We offer friendship and mutual support in a confidential group setting, right here in Wilmington.</p> <p>Meetings are held at the Neighborhood Planning Council Building at 394 Concord Ave, Wilmington.</p> <p>For more information, dates and times, please call 302-697-7005 or go to www.victimsvoicesheard.com</p> <p><small>This program is provided by Victims' Voices Heard, Inc., a non-profit organization in Delaware working to restore victims' lives and end repeated violence.</small></p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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New Leadership at VVH

We are proud to have two members of our board assume the position as Chair and Vice Chair of Victims' Voices Heard.



Chair -- LeeAnn Bullock

A Wilmington community leader and former VVH client, Ms. Bullock has a 29 year career at DuPont as Safety Health & Environmental Specialist.

Ms. Bullock was appointed by Governor Markell in 2012 to serve on the Board of Parole. She is the first victim to serve on the Board in the capacity as a victims' advocate.

Vice Chair — Jordan Casey, Esq.

An attorney licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Mr. Casey graduated from Widener University School of Law with Pro-Bono Distinction in 2013. Mr. Casey has worked with The Homeless Advocacy Project (H.A.P.) a legal aid organization designed to meet the legal and advocacy needs of homeless individuals and families in Philadelphia and with HELP: MLP, a collaboration between Widener University School of Law and Chester health care providers, which aims to improve client well-being by providing legal and social service assistance to address the social determinants of health.



A Special Thank You

Our board could not have accomplished all we have, if it were not for Diane Glenn, former Board Chair, and Harold Stafford, Vice Chair. Both served the board for three years in our infant stages and are to be praised for their devotion in bringing us to the place we are today. Thank you, Diane and Harold.

July event at SCI

Due to the number of men (300) at Sussex Correctional Institution who have volunteered to be in the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program, VVH conducted a two night seminar for 130 men in the Chapel. The men heard from a guest speaker whose 12 year-old daughter was killed in a vehicular homicide and participated in small group exercises; all designed to help the men understand the impact of crime on lives of victims. We were honored to be joined the first evening by Corrections Commissioner Rob Coupe and the second evening by Deputy Commissioner Karl Hines.

The last night of the session, the men were asked to take a paper hand and write on it a change they were committed to making in order to ensure they did not make another victim, and to demonstrate they understood the impact of crime on victims.

Thank you, Warden G. R. Johnson for allowing us the opportunity to come into your facility in order to reach this significant amount of men in one evening.





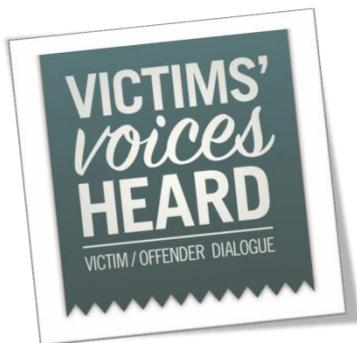
Grant in Aid

Thank you Senator Brian Bushweller!

VVH applied for state funding last fall through the Grant in Aid program. It was our first application request to receive funding that will help sustain our programs. Thanks to the efforts and support of Senator Brian Bushweller, we received Grant in Aid funding. The Senator visited the program at Sussex Correctional Institution in Georgetown on December 12th.

Thank you, Senator. We are proud of the efforts you make to ensure that we are making strides in order to make our state a safe place to live. Thank you for supporting our grass roots efforts and for making victims' voices heard.

Thank you donors!



Victims' Voices Heard would not be possible without the generous support of our donors. The funds you contribute are crucial to helping us fulfill our commitment to creating new ways for offenders to view how their crime has impacted victims.

Thank you for your contribution— every donation helps!

Mail to: **Victims' Voices Heard Inc., P.O. Box 576,
Camden, DE 19934**

...we work to restore victims' lives and end repeat violence