



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Office for Victims of Crime

Washington, D.C. 20531

January 1, 2000

Dear Colleague:

This year's commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a very special one for the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and, indeed, the entire field of victim services. April 9-15, 2000 marks the 20th anniversary of its observance. This year's theme—"Dare to Dream"—is quite fitting as we join together to celebrate the many accomplishments of crime victims, service providers, and allied professionals who have dared to dream of a world in which "victim justice" is a reality.

Since its inception in 1983, OVC has sought to provide leadership to the field in expanding the scope and effectiveness of victim services in the United States and throughout the world. Recent OVC efforts include assistance to the families of the victims of the Pan Am 103 bombing as well as coordination of the criminal trial, and the Children Exposed to Violence Initiative, a project which is focusing much-needed attention upon children who are victims of as well as witnesses to violent crime. We are also pleased to report that FY 1999 was a banner year for the Crime Victims Fund, deposits for which reached nearly \$1 billion.

During this special year, the U.S. Department of Justice and OVC join you in honoring those who bring honor to crime victims, and in paying special tribute to each and every person who has made a significant difference in the lives of people and communities who are hurt by crime. Your work is so very critical—to victims in need of supportive services, to criminal and juvenile justice officials who continually seek ways to involve and inform victims, and to our communities that look for positive remedies to violence and victimization. It is important to remember that every time you help a victim of crime, you are doing your community justice.

I hope that this Resource Guide helps you commemorate 2000 National Crime Victims' Rights Week in innovative and collaborative ways, and that you are successful in highlighting the significant accomplishments made by crime victims and service providers over the years that contribute to safety in our homes, in our community, in our nation, and in our world.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2000 National Crime Victims' Rights Week!

Sincerely,


Kathryn M. Turman
Director