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Victims of Crime

25 *Redefining Justice.*
Rebuilding Lives.
years

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Dear Colleague:

I am privileged to share the *2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide* with you. Watching the Resource Guide take shape during the past months has inspired me, and I hope these resources will help launch your preparation for events during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10–16, 2011, and throughout the year.

The 2011 theme—*Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*—captures the mission and the passion behind our work. Every day, we help victims reshape their futures by addressing crimes that marred their pasts. We guide victims to needed resources, and we envision a justice system that responds to their needs. We seek a future built on the successes of the past.

Each year, the National Center for Victims of Crime takes pride in advancing such progress. We celebrate new federal laws that better protect crime victims. We continue expanding VictimLaw, our unique victims' rights database at www.victimlaw.info, which now includes more than 18,000 legal provisions. Our Stalking Resource Center trains thousands of professionals every year and educates the public about stalking. Our Youth Initiative fosters new approaches to help young victims of crime.

As we prepare for the future, we also confront daunting challenges. Acts of terrorism, such as the September 11 attacks, and other mass violence crimes, require new responses for victims. Violence on our streets and in our homes victimizes far too many Americans, and new technologies help far too many offenders to carry out their crimes. In these times of financial hardship, dwindling budgets stress our providers and our communities. Only by working and thinking together can we overcome these obstacles.

The strength and spirit that inspired our field's history will help us confront the challenges to come. I look forward to observing 2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week and working to reshape the future with all of you.

Sincerely,



Mai Fernandez
Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime