

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

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January 2012

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Dear Colleague:

The National Center for Victims of Crime is proud to share with you the *2012 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, developed in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. We hope this year's outreach materials will provide just the right ideas and tools you need as you get ready to observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, 2012.

The 2012 theme—"Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim"—reflects the ideals we all seek to realize. We've come a great distance since the days when crime victims had no rights or services. Yet we also know how many crimes are still committed, how few are reported, and how many victims struggle alone to overcome the impact of crime. In these financially challenging times, we know how hard our colleagues are working to achieve more with less—to keep their doors open so that victims have somewhere to go for help.

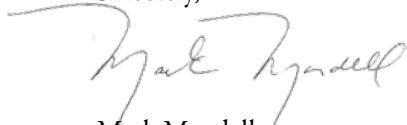
Despite these challenges, we have much to celebrate. OVC's *Vision 21* initiative—echoed in this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week theme—seeks to renew the vision that inspires us and expand the impact of our field. The National Center has contributed capacity-building research and feedback from the field to help OVC prepare its *Vision 21* recommendations. Also with OVC's support, we recently published *Making Restitution Real: Five Case Studies on Improving Restitution Collection*, based on a nationwide roundtable we held. The report and companion toolkit (available at www.ncvc.org/policy) can help us remedy a constant challenge to our field. We are advancing our field's vision through such projects, along with the work of our Stalking Resource Center, Youth Initiative, Public Policy department, and National Crime Victim Bar Association.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week gives us an annual opportunity to engage the public in the struggle for victims' rights. We are honored to present the *2012 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide*, and we look forward to observing the week with all of you.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mai Fernandez

Sincerely,



Mark Mandell
Chair
National Center for Victims of Crime



Mai Fernandez
Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime