

SUPPORT post



Spring 2010

Crime Victim Center of Erie County

2010 CVC Awards Recipients

The Center's Annual Awards Luncheon will be held April 21st, 2010 at the Ambassador Banquet and Conference Center. Several individuals will be recognized for their roles in "reducing the impact of crime" for victims in our community. **Stephen Chatman, Erie Weed & Seed Site Coordinator** is being honored for increasing public safety and promoting activities to reduce crime and build a stronger community. Under his leadership the Erie Weed & Seed Program has become the number one, model program in the state of Pennsylvania. He has leveraged funds, built collaborations and been responsible for bringing federal funding for projects in Erie. The other award is being presented to the **Corry School District Elementary School Counselors**. The counselors are **Mary Rose Hammer, Holly Trauner** and **Linda J. Yeaney**. The three of them have a combined total of 51 years experience as school counselors. They are being recognized for the dedication and compassion they have for their students. They are aware of the need to educate children about victimization and how important it is to teach them risk reduction skills. They consistently invite the Center's community educators to come to their schools and present educational programs. They believe it is their duty to equip children of all ages with the tools that will help them grow and achieve in today's world.

Congratulations to these dedicated individuals!



Erie Weed & Seed Site Coordinator, Stephen Chatman

Keep Us Informed - Every Cent Counts!

Crime Victim Center's newsletter is published quarterly. The agency realizes that a lot can change in a person's life in three months. Each time the newsletter is mailed out, we update the mailing list with additions, changes and deletions. If you would like to make a change of address, be removed from the mailing list, or receive our newsletter through email, please let us know. This can be done using the form on the back of the newsletter, calling (814) 455-9414, or sending an email to ange@cvcerie.org

Thank you for helping us stay current and reduce costs!



Corry School District Elementary School Counselors, Mary Rose Hammer, Linda J. Yeaney, and Holly Trauner

Welcome A-Board!

The Center is pleased to announce the addition of several new Board members. They are **Eric Consiglio**, Principal/Vice President of Loesel Schaaf Insurance Agency, Inc., **Elvage Murphy**, Attorney and Associate Professor of Political Science and Criminal Justice at Edinboro University, and **Shawn Waskiewicz**, Assistant General Manager of the Erie Otters Hockey Club. They bring a wealth of knowledge, varied experience and willingness to share it all in helping us advance the mission of the agency.

CVC Presents Certificates of Merit and Appreciation



Accepting their Certificates are: Kevin Mazon, Regal Service Company; Mark Cermak, Eriez Magnetics; and Scott McFeely, Board member.

Each year the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency accepts nominations from local victim service agencies for Certificates of Merit or Certificates of Achievement. The awards recognize individuals or groups for their efforts to enhance crime prevention through the support of victim service programs in the community. During a ceremony at the Center in November 2009, **Scott McFeely**, a Crime Victim Center Board member and employee of Regal Service Company was presented a Certificate of Merit. **Eriez Magnetics** and **Regal Service Company** were awarded Certificates of Achievement. All three recipients were honored for being instrumental in furthering the mission of the Center - "reducing the impact of crime through counseling, education and advocacy" and their multi-year support of the agency and its programs.

Throw a Party with a Purpose!

Choose Crime Victim Center to Benefit
Go to **Celebration Donation!**

Celebration Donation is an Erie-based nonprofit organization that can help you throw a "party with a purpose." Celebrate special times and occasions by giving to others. All you have to do is plan your party, choose your charity, invite your friends and you can do it all by going to their website, www.celebrationdonation.org

Teen Violence

Violence - especially teen violence - has been an almost daily topic in our news since January. Locally or nationally, violence has become a real part of a teenager's life. Violence is viewed on TV and at the movies, played on video games, heard in their music, and witnessed in their homes, at school, and on the streets. Pointing a finger at any or all of these things and blaming them for the promotion of violence will not accomplish much. But, learning to recognize the stressors that put teens at risk and teaching them conflict resolution skills could help reduce the violence. According to a study done by the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, one in eight people murdered each year in the United States are younger than 18 years of age. Furthermore, almost 16 million teens have witnessed some form of violent assault. Among teens ranging in age from 15-19, homicide is the third leading cause of death and is the 5th leading cause of death for teens ages 10-14. Teaching teens that violence is never an acceptable form of behavior is imperative.



In an effort to address this growing problem, the Center is involved with several school and community initiatives aimed at reducing violence. The Center's educators are developing a program to teach teens about the impact of using guns, the effect it can have on their lives and what they can do to be a part of the solution. It will be ready to present in schools at the end of April. For more information or to schedule a presentation, call (814) 455-9414.

Upcoming Events

- April 12 - 7 pm: Take Back the Night March in Perry Square
- April 20 - 6 pm: CVC's Annual Victims' Rights Rally at City Hall
- April 21 - 11:30 am-1 pm: CVC's Annual Awards Luncheon
- July 26 - 1:00 Shotgun: 4th Annual Golf "fore" a Good Cause at Whispering Woods Golf Club

For information on any of the above events, call 455-9414.

Legislative Update

PA Crime Victims Compensation now includes several new benefits for victims in the areas of funeral expenses, relocation, crime scene cleanup, emergency awards and travel benefits. These benefit changes are for crimes that occurred on or after December 12, 2009.

Funeral benefits for homicide cases were increased from \$5000 to \$6500. The \$6500 amount has no "sub-caps" - for example the former amount had a maximum reimbursement of \$4800 that could be charged for the funeral services and \$900 maximum for a monument; the new regulation would allow any combination of eligible expenses that do not exceed \$6500.

The amount of time a victim has to relocate to be eligible for the relocation benefits has been increased from 30 days to 120 days. The maximum award has increased from \$1000 per household to \$1000 for each direct victim of the household.

Crime scene cleanup benefits have been expanded to include stains from food, paint or other materials used to deface property within a private residence. These new categories are added to blood, other bodily fluid or crime scene processing cleanup costs. The \$500 maximum amount has not changed.

Emergency award amounts have increased from \$1500 to \$5000. All emergency awards must still be eligible victim compensation expenses.

Travel benefits have been expanded to include travel to and from criminal justice, juvenile justice and protection from abuse proceedings and other reasonable travel as determined by the Victim Compensation Assistance Program.

All claims are reviewed, processed and awarded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Victim Compensation Assistance Program. For a comprehensive list of the current victim compensation benefits, please check the website: www.pacrimevictims.org

The Crime Victim Center continues to provide free assistance with the filing of victim compensation claims. The Center has been instrumental in bringing more than \$3.1 million for victims in the Erie area over the last twenty years.

A Holiday to Remember



Juanita Reichel, Treasurer of Zonta Club of Erie, presented a check in the amount of \$1,456 to Sue Porowski, Executive Director of the Center. Zonta Club and Peebles hosted a Holiday Extravaganza in November and donated proceeds from the event to provide services and counseling for crime victims and their families.

A Time to be Active

Spring is known as a time for new beginnings, new life and activity. April at the Crime Victim Center is a month of awareness and activity. Designated as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month**, and the month in which **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** falls, April holds significance and meaning around which several activities are planned. April 12 will be the annual **Take Back the Night** March held in conjunction with Gannon University. The March will begin at Perry Square at 7pm and culminate in Yehl Ballroom with a keynote speaker.

Other important events taking place during Crime Victims' Rights Weeks, April 18-24, are the Annual Victims' Rights Rally on the 20th at 6pm in City Hall and the Annual Awards Luncheon on the 21st. Please see the related articles in this newsletter for more details. We will be ending the week with a ceremony in Judge Domitrovich's Courtroom to honor the annual **Good Secrets, Bad Secrets** art contest awards winners from Pfeiffer Burleigh School. If you would like more information on any of these events, please call us at (814) 455-9414.

Crime Victim Center
125 West 18th Street
Erie, PA 16501

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A Member Agency:



Please join us in honoring
Stephen Chatman, Erie Weed & Seed Site Coordinator
and
Corry School District Elementary School Counselors
Mary Hammer, Holly Trauner, Linda Yeane
for their respective roles in *reducing*
the impact of crime in our community.

April 21, 2010

Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center
7792 Peach Street

Registration 11:30 a.m.
Lunch Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Reservations (with payment) must be received by April 14

Name(s):

phone: _____

of reservations: _____

amount enclosed: _____ (\$25 per person)

Dinner choice(s):

- Stuffed Chicken Breast
- Fettuccine Primavera

Please make checks payable to:
Crime Victim Center
125 West 18th Street
Erie, PA 16501

Please remember us in your Will