

National Crime Victims' Rights Week 25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act

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Fact: In 2005, students ages 12 to 18 were victims of 136,500 serious violent crimes at school

Fact: In 2007, the average dollar loss per burglary offense was \$1,991. The total amount lost to burglaries was an estimated \$4.3 billion

Fact: Approximately 1 in 5 high school girls report being abused by a boyfriend

Fact: In 2006, 117,760 persons over the age of 65 were victims of violent crime

The National Center for Victims of Crime and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, within the U.S. Department of Justice, are proud to once again announce the 2009 National Crimes Victim's Rights Week which runs from April 26-May 2, 2009.

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) has been the time of national remembrance, an opportunity for communities, victims and their loved ones, and victim-serving professional to join together and reflect on the progress achieved in victims' rights and services and the challenges many crime victims still face. Each April since 1981, the Office for Victims of Crime have held rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities each year to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf.

To help celebrate, the NCVRW has but together a resource guide to assist in planning and bringing awareness of Crime Victims' Rights to your local communities. The 2009 NCVRW Resource Guide contains a wide array of readily adaptable outreach tools, information on current levels of victimization and the history of victims' rights in the United States, and tips on how to involve your community in helping crime victims rebuild their lives. Please be encouraged to explore these resources and plan a public awareness campaign for this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

The Restorative Justice Program advocates for victim rights with our Victim Offender Conferencing Program. With this program, victims are able to meet with the offender in a neutral environment with a trained facilitator to discuss how they have been affected by the crime. This meeting is also a venue that allows for the juvenile to apologize for their actions. Finally, this meeting is used to discuss ways the offender can give back to the victim by completing service to community, paying restitution, attending an educational class, and/or a special project as requested by the victim. This process gives the victim a voice and empowers them by allowing the victim to be involved in deciding the 'consequence'.