



THE NEW HOPE TIMES



WHEN THE WORLD SAYS, "GIVE UP", HOPE WHISPERS, "TRY IT ONE MORE TIME." - AUTHOR UNKNOWN

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

VSU FIRST

I have had the honor of serving as the supervisor of the Victim Services Unit here at the Reno Police Department since September of 2005. I have been working in the victim services field for seventeen years now and still enjoy every minute of it. I meet the most amazing people every day that have survived trauma in the worst ways possible. Serving them with respect and dignity is so critical for their journey towards healing.

In these past few years at RPD, I have also had the opportunity to experience many "firsts" as our services continue to develop. It is with great pride and excitement that we present to you the "first" Victim Services Unit Newsletter. I see this newsletter as a conduit of information for other service providers, survivors, and criminal justice agencies. Information sharing is truly paramount in accomplishing our mission to better serve victims of crime. Future issues will include articles on issues related to victimization, upcoming training opportunities, volunteer and employment opportunities, resources for victims and much more. I hope you will let us know your feedback on this first issue so that we can continue to improve our services. To be successful in this work, we must work together as a community. Thank you for all that you do. I wish you and your family peace, joy, and safety during this holiday season. ~ **Lori Fralick**

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QUILTS FOR VICTIMS

The Victim Services Unit receives generous donations of quilts from the Sierra Nevada Stitchers. The Sierra Nevada Stitchers is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping local children at risk. They make and donate approximately 500 handmade quilts, along with hats, scarves, bibs and stuffed animals each year to eleven different charities. This group is amazing and a total treasure to VSU!

They are accepting donations of cotton fabrics, quilt batting and polar fleece. Donations can be dropped off every Tuesday, 9:30am-11:30am at the Foster Grandparents/Senior Companions offices, located at Oakcrest Business Park, 1380 Greg Street, Suites 211/212, Sparks, Nevada 89431. You can also call Shirley at 775-303-3196 or email at

Looking for a job in advocacy? See back cover for information on current job opening at VSU!



MEET THE STAFF

Brie Bertges, Victim Advocate

Brie joined the Victim Services Unit in September of 2009 after relocating to Reno, Nevada. Before joining the VSU, she worked as a crisis mental health therapist and a program director for a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and encouraging at-risk youth. Brie is a licensed therapist and has been practicing therapy with children, adolescents and their families for the past six years. She is a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) in the state of Nevada and has experience working with families impacted by substance abuse.

Brie has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois in Psychology and has an advanced degree in Clinical-Counseling Psychology from Illinois State University.

Brie's career has been guided and energized by her enthusiasm for helping others and recognition of the importance of instilling hope. She is passionate about empowering others and identifying strengths to encourage and support people in times of crisis. Her personal interests include cheering on the Fighting Illini, playing games, spending time with her family and exploring Nevada.



Marisol Perez, Bilingual Victim Advocate

Joining the Victim Services Unit in the summer of 2009, Marisol's enthusiasm and excitement for victim advocacy has been central in boosting the positive atmosphere at VSU. She comes with experience, knowledge and compassion for working with victims of sexual assault as well as familiarity working in a non-profit social services agency. Her past employment in the medical profession adds to this foundation that translates to excellent services to clients.

Born in Mexico and raised in Nevada, she is very connected to and feels proud to serve our Hispanic community in Reno. While in southern California at the University of Vanguard, Marisol focused her undergraduate studies in Psychology with an emphasis in human services.

Marisol's dedication to help people who are less fortunate and who are not aware of all of the resources available in the community has allowed her to bring hope to all families who did not have it. Her heart for helping people and consideration towards others has made her a great asset to the group. Some of Marisol's personal interests are bike riding, scrapbooking and enjoying fun times with family and friends.



VSU HEROES



The Victim Services Unit was proudly presented with a generous donation for \$2,500 from the Pyramid Lake Sprint Triathlon. Ann Conlin and Mike Ginsburg presented the Victim Services Unit with a check on Friday, November 5, 2010. This money will provide supplies and expenses for VSU such as volunteer training costs, food for victims, and other expenses not covered by our grants. In August at the Triathlon, the event also invited VSU to host a snack bar at the event where we successfully raised \$350.00 from the sales of yummy muffins, fruit, coffee, drinks, and doughnuts. We are grateful for the support and looking forward to our new partnership with this amazing group. Thank You Mike and Ann!!!

“NEVER DEPRIVE SOMEONE OF HOPE, IT
MAY BE ALL THEY HAVE”
-ANONYMOUS

MEET THE STAFF

Kristine King, Violence Against Women Crimes Analyst

Kristine M. King was hired in November, 2009 as the Violence Against Women Crime Analyst at the Reno Police Department. Kristine works closely with the Family Crimes Unit, Victim Services Unit, and the Sex Crimes/ Child Abuse Unit. Kristine provides statistics and research concerning the crimes of Domestic Violence, Stalking, Sexual Assault, Harassment and the individuals affected. Kristine obtained her Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Reno, focusing on Crime Analysis and Methamphetamine Drug Markets. Kristine has also worked closely with drug and alcohol affected populations and alcohol education programs, and has assisted in conducting research for the Department of Justice anti-methamphetamine initiative grant for the City of Reno. Kristine is working on some great projects, including a review of D.V. Fatalities, suicides, attempted suicides, and other near-death domestic violence related cases as well as the first annual report from this project.



Eunice Peterson, Volunteer Outreach Coordinator

Eunice hails from Honolulu, Hawaii and since being married in 1982 has lived in the Philippines, Australia, Guam and Alaska. Her travels have introduced her to many exciting people, cultures and best of all, their foods.

Living in Nevada since 1998, Eunice has volunteered and worked as a substitute teacher in the WCSD finding her most fulfilling assignments working with the students of Washoe High School.

Eunice has been with the Reno Police Department since 2005 spending much of her time as a liaison forming partnerships within our community. She is a Secret Witness board member dedicated to making Northern Nevada a safer place for our families.

As the Volunteer Outreach Coordinator since February 2009, Eunice is responsible for the development of the volunteer advocate program. She recruits, screens and trains volunteers to work immediately with victims of intimate partner violence, offering safety planning and resources immediately following an incident.

UNR SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK & CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPT.

VSU is a placement for Social Work and Criminal Justice Interns from the University of Nevada. The interns are valued members of our team and have accomplished many wonderful projects. This school year we have Social Work interns Amber Weller and Hannah McCready. Both of these amazing students have been trained in direct services and are now handling their own caseload. Additionally, they represent VSU at committee meetings and work on special projects such as this newsletter.

Svetlana Brovko is working on her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and has been assigned this semester to assist our Missing Persons Unit and VSU. Svetlana is extremely organized and dependable and has assisted with developing a family resource packet for the juvenile runaway cases. Svetlana has also helped with research on a project to improve RPD's response on Sexual Assault cases. Interns are such a great investment and are a wonderful resource for VSU.

Last semester Criminal Justice students Amanda Jarding, Vivian Luong, and Carrie Devitt did an amazing job for VSU and are greatly missed. MSW intern Mashal Malik was with us for nine months and contributed greatly providing direct services and her integrative project. Mashal left her mark on VSU by creating an amazing logic model and program evaluation project on intimate partner violence cases. Good luck to you ladies and thank you for all you did for VSU.



Reno Police Department's Volunteer Victim Advocate Program
 ASSISTING MORE VICTIMS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE?
 BY: EUNICE PETERSON

The Reno Police Department is recruiting area residents to be trained as Volunteer Victim Advocates for the Victims Services Unit.

Applications are available at the Reno Police Department at 455 East Second Street or by e-mailing petersone@reno.gov or online at www.reno.gov under Police and the Victim Services tab. Applications must be returned to the Victims Services Unit by **December 17, 2010**. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, be at least 18 years of age and pass a police background investigation.

Volunteer victim advocates provide crisis intervention, coordinate emergency and other support services to victims of intimate partner violence which includes domestic violence, stalking, protection order violations, and others. The Victim Services Unit is hoping to have 12-15 volunteers in this training program. Volunteers will receive training that will provide: 1) Methods for working with people in crisis situations; 2) Identification and delivery of community resources available to victims of crime; 3) Skills and knowledge to develop customized safety plans with victims; 4) and Knowledge of Reno Police Department operations and the criminal justice system, as well as other topics.

The initial training program is 40 hours with sessions that will be scheduled on week nights and weekends.

“HOPE SEES THE
 INVISIBLE, FEELS
 THE
 INTANGIBLE
 AND ACHIEVES
 THE
 IMPOSSIBLE.”
 -UNKNOWN

RPD's Victim Services Unit Volunteer Coordinator Eunice Peterson says, “The volunteer victim advocate program provides a great opportunity for area citizens to give back to those in a less-fortunate situation, which is priceless.” Peterson says participants will be able to “learn more about the unique career of victim advocacy and be a part of a wonderful team which helps people in need.” This program is invaluable to the City of Reno and from January 1, 2010 to present our volunteers have logged in over 3,000 hours. This program is built on citizens with giving hearts, professionalism training, and a willingness and desire to help others. We look forward to watching it grow and continue to reach more and more victims.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Why Become A Volunteer?

- To provide an invaluable source of support, resources, information and guidance to victims of crime and their children.
- To better understand the dynamics of intimate partner violence.
- To act as a critical resource to RPD detectives and officers in assisting victims.
- To gain knowledge of RPD operations, and the criminal and civil justice systems.
- To touch the lives of your neighbors in crisis, while at the same time growing and learning as individuals.

Qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Good moral character
- No felony convictions
- Current U.S. citizen or possess a permanent resident card.
- Ability to pass a police background and criminal history check

Requirements:

- Complete a 40 hour training course
- Shadow a staff advocate and work on cases a minimum of 12 hours
- Complete a 4 hour police ride along
- Make a one year commitment
- Volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per month
- Attend 8 hours of ongoing in-service training annually.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Eunice Peterson at petersone@reno.gov or **775-657-4519**

“HOPE” FOR IMPROVEMENT



On many occasions we work with individuals and entire families who have experienced a traumatic event. Often victims are required to be at the police station for long periods of time for interviews and other needs. This includes elderly victims, large families in crisis, and many children. These children are primary victims of violent crimes such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, or have lost a parent or loved one to homicide or DUI Causing Death cases. In these instances, the children may have witnessed the violence or not even know yet what has occurred. Most

recently, we had three children under four years old from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. These children were at the scene of a homicide and needed to be somewhere safe while parties were interviewed. Another recent case involved seven children in our care for 13 hours while their mother was being treated at a local hospital for injuries she sustained in a brutal domestic violence attack.

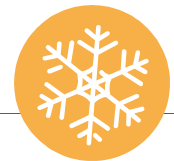
Prior to November 2009, there was a lack of space in our building to accommodate victims. Victims of violent crimes had to speak about private and confidential matters in a crowded lobby and were often distracted by background noises and other people listening in. Once the victims were brought into the station, they were either taken to a room designed to interview suspects of crime or the staff break room where they had no privacy. Upon meeting with an advocate, victims were consoled in our kitchen or an open space near busy elevators.

Our goal at the VSU was to create a safe and peaceful area where victims of all ages can wait comfortably and children can be occupied with movies, books, art supplies and other activities. We envisioned a space with possibly a mural painted on the wall, nice furniture, rugs, a coffee/tea/cocoa station, a small refrigerator stocked with beverages and snacks, an art station with a child's easel, a small picnic table for playing and eating, a television, DVD player, chairs, video games, changing table, and a portable crib. With the grant money we received and the generous help from NVEnergy, we are excited to report that our wishes have been granted!



Comfortable new areas where victims of crime can be interviewed and victim advocacy can be accomplished have been created at the Reno Police Department through the extreme makeover efforts of the NVEnergy Leadership Certification Project. The areas were made-over to help put victims of crime and their families at ease as they are interviewed and go through assistance programs at the 62-year-old police facility. “This type of environment was lacking here at RPD, primarily due to the lack of space” says Victim Advocate Supervisor Lori Fralick. “The NVEnergy Leadership Certification Project adopted the Reno Police Department’s Victim Services Unit as their public service project, and worked with us to collect items such as arts and crafts, tables, chairs, a changing table and many more items from our wish list. NVEnergy identified changes that could be made, and then put together a new victim interview room and a child/family area on the second floor.”

COMING SOON...Our next venture in early 2011 is to redecorate and furnish the interview rooms for the Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit.



“ONCE YOU
CHOOSE HOPE,
ANYTHING IS
POSSIBLE.”
-CHRISTOPHER
REEVES

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DATA PROJECT

In November of 2009, the Reno Police Department was able to hire a Violence Against Women Crimes Analyst funded through the Stop Violence Against Women Recovery Act Grant administered by the Nevada Attorney General's Office. Currently, the analyst works within the Family Crimes and Victim Services Units at the Reno Police Department.

Since being hired, the analyst has implemented and maintained a new Domestic Violence database from LEA data technologies. The database, put into operation in January of 2010, keeps track of all domestic violence, harassment, and stalking incidents that have occurred in the city of Reno. In this program all domestic battery, harassment, and stalking incidents and those involved can be accessed at the touch of a button. Also included within this case management system are details that we cannot otherwise extract from our Automated Reporting System, Tiburon. These include, but are not limited to, alcohol/drug use, children present, domestic violence history, prosecution/charge details, risk factors, specific descriptions of offender actions, relationship of victim/offender, direct contacts with offender/victim (if the case is assigned to a detective), and etc. Additionally, the database is used by the Family Crimes detectives for more efficient case management throughout the unit, and has allowed better service and useful intervention efforts for victims in a variety of ways. Although the analyst does not directly assist victims, she often supplies the detectives and victim advocates with new information regarding repeat offenders and victims. While managing the LEA database and conducting research for various statistical projects, she often sees certain details of reports beforehand that sometimes others are not aware of.



“NEVER TALK
DEFEAT. USE
WORDS LIKE
HOPE, BELIEF,
FAITH AND
VICTORY.”
-NORMAN
VINCENT PEALE

The analyst also continues to gather quarterly statistics for the Nevada Department of Public Safety from the LEA database, as well as other domestic related statistics for Reno Police Department use. She is also in the process of taking a deeper look into the new Domestic Strangulation law, as well as how domestic violence cases are moving through the court system (charges, convictions, pleas, etc.). Currently, all of the domestic violence cases that have been charged in Municipal Court for 2009 are being examined. An examination of all domestic related homicides, suicides, and attempted suicides is also in progress; a portion of these statistics were presented at the Attorney General's Nevada Domestic Violence Fatality Review Summit on October 1, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Furthermore, the analyst has also begun to compile statistics regarding sexual violence in the city of Reno. It is hoped that the statistical

reports that are in progress may depict certain patterns among victims and offenders which could provide critical information regarding modeling future prevention efforts, improved advocacy, and other initiatives.

Additionally, current development of a project to identify repeat domestic, harassment, and stalking offenders that have been involved in any domestic related incidents is underway. The goal of this project is to have a report that will automatically update daily through email and distributed amongst the Family Crimes Sergeant, detectives, and advocates that will notify them of any repeat individuals that have been involved in a domestic related incident. We want to be able to identify repeat suspects and victims to better assess the history of an individual, rather than just look at a new incident, and to provide more immediate advocacy. This would assist law enforcement personnel to be alerted of any documented domestic, suicidal, harassment, or stalking history of a victim and offender. Early intervention in these incidents is important for prevention of future incidents, or even death. Detectives and victim advocates would also benefit from such alerts in regards to urgency of cases and what services can be offered before a catastrophic event occurs. We are also hopeful that our finished data product might encourage more training for law enforcement personnel, victim advocates, and other staff that are working with these populations. We will continue to provide updates in future newsletters to keep you apprised of progress of this exciting new project.



THANK YOU!



SINCE THIS IS OUR FIRST ISSUE, WE WANTED TO THANK OUR AMAZING DONORS!

- Bath and Body Works —The Summit
- Becky Gebhardt
- Church
- City of Reno Emergency Communications -Dispatch
- Cross-Check Aviation
- Danyale Urban & Family
- Doris Family
- Evans Family
- Fralick Family
- Funk Family
- Garrett Family
- Hayden Lyle
- Holladay Family
- Jacqueline Calvert
- Jenkins Family
- Jensen Precast
- Joel Finley Family
- Judy Gilmore
- Kim Schweikert

- Levrett Transmission
- MAC Cosmetics —The Summit
- Macy’s
- Tim & Kelly McKenna Family
- Meister Family
- Melting Pot
- Mike Lucido
- Nevada Urban Indians
- Nevada Woodchucks
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- NV Energy
- Paula Walker
- Prater Way College of Beauty
- Project Love Packs
- Pyramid Lake Sprint Triathlon
- Ralston Massage School
- Reno Police Dept. Employees
- Sara Asuncion
- Scichilone Family

- See’s Candies
- Sierra Nevada Stitchers
- Spanish Springs Elementary, Cheryl Pregal’s 6th graders
- St. Ives Florist
- Tami Fruhwirth
- Totton Family
- Tracy Gilmore
- UNR Wolf Pack Baseball and Basketball Athletes
- Van Diest Family
- Walmart
- Walters Family
- Washoe County School Police Explorers
- Washoe County Children’s Services Division
- Watland Billing Consultants
- WELCA of Lord Mercy Lutheran

VSU WISHLIST

Child Victim Supplies

- Diapers (all sizes) and wipes
- Crayons and coloring books
- Gift certificates for haircuts
- Sunscreen
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Gift bags and tissue paper for birthdays or holidays
- Gift certificates for any form of entertainment (movie tickets, Wild Waters, Wolf Pack games, ice skating etc.)
- Games or activities
- All sizes of children’s shoes
- Toiletry items

Adult Victim Supplies

- New toiletry items (toothpaste & brush, soap, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant and hairbrushes)
- Gift certificates (haircuts, oil changes, etc.)
- Feminine hygiene products
- New underwear (various sizes)
- New socks (various sizes)
- Shoes for women and men
- Women’s sunglasses (to be used when women have black eyes)
- Inexpensive flip flops (all sizes)
- New Women’s bras (all sizes)

General Supplies

- Kleenex
- Paper plates
- Heavy duty trash bags
- Used cell phones
- Duffle bags or luggage
- Bottled water/soda
- 3-inch white view binders for volunteer advocate training
- Rubbermaid storage containers in all sizes to help organize and store items
- Clorox sanitizing wipes
- New greeting cards that will be used for victims and our volunteer program.



“HOPE IS PUTTING FAITH TO WORK WHEN DOUBTING WOULD BE EASIER” -UNKNOWN

OUR MISSION

We proudly serve victims of crime, treating them with respect and dignity while responding to their needs and concerns. We educate victims of crime on their rights and are committed to providing the most professional empowering advocacy possible while assessing each case on an individual basis.

VSU provides assistance to victims of the following crimes:

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault/Abuse
- Stalking
- Homicide
- Hate Crimes
- Gang Violence
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Elder Abuse and Exploitation
- DUI causing injury or death

Our agency is proud to provide the following services:

- Personal Advocacy and Support
- Crisis Intervention
- Safety Planning
- Immediate basic needs assistance (e.g. shelter, food, transportation, lock/window replacement, etc.)
- Property Return Assistance
- Counseling
- Information and Referral
- Assistance filing for state compensation

OUR PROMISE

We will treat you with respect, compassion and dignity.

We will not judge you based on your lifestyle choices, or any substance abuse or mental health issues you may have.

We will provide you with services to encourage, empower and support healing and recovery.

We will inform you of your rights as a victim.

Victim Services Unit

Reno Police Department

Location

Reno Police Department Main Station

455 East 2nd Street

Reno, NV 89502

Phone: 775-657-4519

Fax: 775-334-4257

Email: petersone@reno.gov



UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

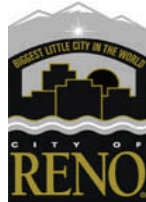
CURRENTLY HIRING: The Victim Services Unit is currently looking for a Victim/Witness Advocate. The position is open until FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 2010. Please visit www.reno.gov under Human Resources and current openings.

Our next 40-hour volunteer victim advocate training program will be March – April, 2011. Please contact Eunice Peterson at petersone@reno.gov or (775) 657-4519 if you would like to apply or if you have any questions. DEADLINE IS Friday, December 17th, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
AT

WWW.RENO.GOV

CLICK GOVERNMENT,
POLICE, THEN VICTIM
SERVICES UNIT



Special thanks to both former intern Amanda Jarding and current intern Hannah McCreedy for their hard work on the development of this newsletter. Congratulations, you did it ladies!!!

VSU is made possible due to the following grant funds: VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) is a federal funding source and is awarded by the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services. VSU grant support from this source is used for the Victim Advocate staff positions and emergency services funds for victims of crime being served by the Unit. A Violence Against Women grant awarded by the Office of the Attorney General is allocated to the Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator and Crimes Analyst positions. The Nevada Department of Public Safety Office of Criminal Justice Assistance awarded VSU with a recovery act grant to purchase a new case management database and to support personnel costs for the on-call advocates.