Community Partners Appreciation Luncheon

Crime Victims Resource Center held its 2nd Annual Community Partners Appreciation Luncheon on November 17, 2015 at the Hormel Historic Home. 41 people attended the event, including representatives from human services, law enforcement, probation, court administration, Fountain Centers – Austin, city & county prosecutors, and Mayo Clinic Health Systems administrators.

Lee Ann Schafer, Legal Assistant with the Mower County Attorney’s Office, was recognized for her compassion and concern for victims and her diligence in connecting them with support and advocacy. Shelley King, City Prosecutor with Baudler, Maus, and Forman, was recognized for being a voice for victims during prosecution of their offenders.

Steve King, Director of Mower County Correctional Services, spoke to us about the importance of all community partners working together for the victim. “The people in this room do a great job working together to hold offenders accountable,” King said. He went on to say, “the victim is truly our customer and that’s who we are really serving.”
Stalking

Stalking continues to be a problem in our community – one in 12 women will be stalked during their lifetime as well as 1 in 45 men.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline reports that social media surveillance is increasing. Stalking through social media can take several forms; one form is using apps such as Facebook to keep track of what their stalking victim is doing or going to do and then using that information in a way that is distressing to their victim. For instance, a victim posts on social media that they are going to go to the movie that evening with friends and the stalker shows up at the same movie.

Another way social media is used by stalkers to torment their victims is by posting disturbing information under their victim’s name as if they are actually the victim. Similar to this method is a stalker creating a false profile in their victim’s name with derogatory information about their victim in order to embarrass or tarnish their victim’s reputation in some manner.

There are three simple steps you can take to minimize your risk of being stalked through social media. The first is to really pay attention to what privacy settings you are using. Second, be very careful about whom you accept as a friend; if you don’t know the person, think twice about becoming “friends” with them. Third, be careful what information you post about your social plans or what very personal information you choose to share.

If you or someone you know is being stalked through social media, call us at 437-6680, we will provide information and options.

Transitional Housing

Crime Victims Resource Center in collaboration with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority has a transitional housing program for women leaving their abuser. There are two apartments and at times there may be a waiting list. Each unit has two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, and bath. Utilities and garbage are included in the rental cost; rent is based on income.

Applicants will be screened to determine placement based on the following:

- Verification of physical abuse and/or danger of physical abuse.
- Financial needs as pertains to Section 8 guidelines.
- Availability and urgency of need.
- Willingness to develop and pursue an individual case plan.

While in transitional housing, the family’s needs will be assessed and they will be referred to appropriate programs for services such as medical, educational, legal, financial etc. Crime Victims Resource Center will provide on-going support, advocacy, and case management.

Transitional housing is short-term, giving individuals adequate time to find affordable housing. Services to clients will be provided on a non-discriminatory basis, regardless of age, race, sexual preference or economic status.

If you know someone in need of this service please contact Crime Victims Resource Center.
Any person, regardless of age, gender or life circumstances can be a victim of crime.

The Crime Victims Resource Center (CVRC) is here to serve you and those close to you with support and options. Growth and recovery are encouraged by caring and skilled people in a non judgmental setting.

Our job is to work for changes which will enable all citizens to live in a community free of fear and violence through advocacy, actions and education.

The Crime Victims Resource Center will help individuals who have been victims of many different types of crime. Some of the specific crimes we work with are:

- Accidents involving intoxicated driver
- Assault
- Burglary
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Abuse/Assault
- Elder Abuse
- Harassment
- Sexual Abuse/Assault
- Stalking
- Terroristic Threats
- Theft

CVRC offers education/information presentations on the nature and scope of victimization, prevention strategies, and the services we provide.

Victim Support Services

- 24 hour crisis hot-line
- Crisis counseling
- Safety planning
- Arranging emergency shelter
- Support groups
- Referrals to other agencies
- Emergency transportation
- Support during hospital examinations
- Support during police reporting
- Assistance with Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders
- Assistance with understanding the criminal justice system
- Accompaniment to court proceedings for support
- Updates on the progress of court proceedings
- Notification of victims’ rights

Crime Victims Resource Center is a free and confidential service brought to you in part through community funding by The Hormel Foundation, Minnesota Department of Public Safety and United Way of Mower County.

Looking for a speaker for your service/civic or professional organization?

All services of Crime Victims Resource Center are provided free of charge.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CVResourcecenter
Crime Victims Resource Center is Expanding

We have received a significant increase in the federal funds we receive from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. This increase has been earmarked to hire an additional staff member to provide services to under-served populations.

Crime Victims Resource Center has been looking for a bilingual – English/Spanish individual to provide awareness, intervention, and support to crime victims, with under-served populations as the primary focus.

This person will have a BA/BS in Social Work, Psychology, Criminal Justice, or related field and has knowledge of state and federal statutes regarding victims’ rights, domestic abuse, criminal sexual conduct, and other crime areas.

Don’t have time to volunteer, but still want to contribute?

Crime Victims Resource Center is always actively recruiting volunteers, but if you don’t have time and would still like to make a difference, donations and in-kind contributions help to keep this service available to victims free of charge. Please cut out and return the voucher below.

Here is my caring gift of:

☐ $15  ☐ $25  ☐ $40  ☐ Other ___________________________

Make checks payable to Crime Victims Resource Center and mail with this voucher to: Crime Victims Resource Center, 101 14th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota 55912.

Name: ____________________________________________  Phone: ________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________

☐ I would like to be recognized in publications  ☐ Please do not recognize me in publications