



Outreach News

The Choice Bus Visits West Virginia

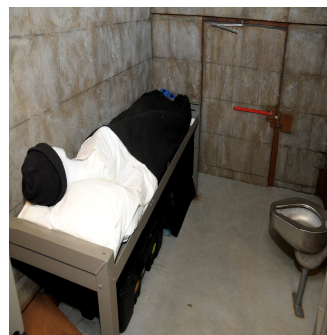


The Choice Bus was part of Operation Reach Out activities on April 19, 2010, at the State Capitol Complex.

During the month of April, a customized bus aimed at reducing dropout rates visited students in Wheeling, Lewisburg, and Charleston. The bus is half-school bus and half-prison cell and is designed to show young people the importance of completing their education. As participants enter the bus, they are seated and shown a four-minute movie which quizzes them on the earning

potential of a dropout versus a high school and college graduate. It also talks about the likelihood of dropouts ending up incarcerated, including testimonials from inmates who express regret for quitting school. After the movie, attention is directed to the back of the bus, which is made into a prison cell illustrating the reality of what it would feel like to live in one. Students are encouraged to enter the cell and actually take part in the experience. At the end of the demonstration, students receive a pledge card to commit to finishing school and making positive choices. The entire process lasts about twenty minutes and targets grades 6-10. Encouraging students to make positive choices

and to recognize the consequences of making negative choices is a theme that is reiterated throughout this powerful prevention effort. This opportunity was made possible by The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, a national non-profit organization established in 2007 that focuses on reducing the dropout rate. For more information, please visit www.mattiecstewart.org.



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Facts About The High School Dropout Rate:

- 75% of all prison inmates are high school dropouts.
- Every 26 seconds a child drops out of school.
- 8 out of 10 dropouts in up in prison.
- The U.S. spends \$40 billion a year on prisoner incarceration.
- 7,000 students drop out every school day.

**This information was provided by The Mattie C. Stewart Foundation at www.mattiecstewart.org



crime victims' rights:

**FAIRNESS.
DIGNITY.
RESPECT.**

**National
Crime
Victims'
Rights
Week**

April 18 - 24, 2010

West Virginia Celebrates National Crime Victims Rights Week

Operation Reach Out was established in 2001 by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, in conjunction with the WV Victim Assistance Committee and various other federal, state and local government and nonprofit

organizations. The free, one day event features many fun-filled, family events and displays such as : child identification kits; police cars; emergency response vehicles; car seat safety; fire trucks and safety house; face painting, Jupiter Jump; clowns; refresh-

ments; games and prizes. Most importantly, victim service and crime prevention classes are taught and information is distributed by numerous agencies and organizations to provide valuable resources, tools and safety tips to the community.

This year, Operation Reach Out was held in Charleston and Wheeling.



Webster County Steps Up to the Challenge Once Again

As victim service providers, we are always trying to find ways of getting information out to our communities about victimization issues. In the past, Connie Lynch, Women's Aid in Crisis, has worked diligently to coordinate health fairs and other projects in her area to provide information about services available to victims as well as prevention tools. This year, she and many others were able to



Mock car crash brings awareness to the dangers of drinking and driving

combine their efforts at Webster County High School to provide the students with an informational fair that addressed health issues as well as teen safety issues.

April was "Alcohol Awareness Month." The students who were attending from this year were asked to sign a banner committing themselves to an alcohol-free celebration. Law enforcement

officers were there to demonstrate Fatal Vision Goggles, which illustrate students' lack of control while under the influence. The day ended with a mock car crash where a drunk driver was found to be at fault. Three students from the high school were the victims of this mock crash. This demonstration was planned by Paula Tanner with the Family Resource Network, and made a memorable impact on all who observed and participated. Congratulations on another successful event!



"About three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives."

For more information:
(<http://www.madd.org/Drunk-Driving/Drunk-Driving/Statistics.aspx>)



**WV CRIME VICTIMS
COMPENSATION**

Building 1, Room W-334
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia

Phone: 304-347-4850
Fax: 304-347-4915
E-mail:
trish.miles@wvlegislature.gov

We're on the web!
[http://www.legis.state.wv.us/
Joint/Victims/main.cfm](http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Joint/Victims/main.cfm)

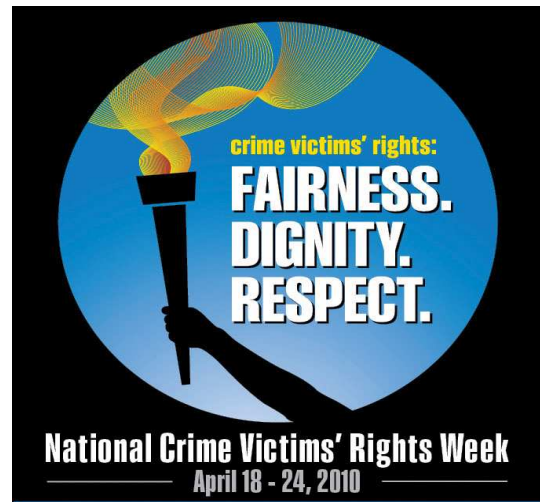
Mark Your Calendar

2010

- June National Safety Month
- June 15 WV World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- July 7-9 From the Front Lines and Beyond: It Takes a Team conference at Stonewall Resort
- July 19-23 State Victim Assistance Academy on the campus of WVSU
- August 8-13 National Victim Assistance Academy in Washington D.C.
- August 17 WV Drug Endangered Children Conference at the Charleston Marriott
- October 20-21 WV Children's Justice Task Force Annual Conference at the Charleston Civic Center

2011

- April 10-16, 2011 National Crime Victims Rights Week



NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center	866-USWOMEN
Battered Women's Justice Project	800-903-0111
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Country Child Abuse Hotline	800-633-5155
Childhelp USA National Hotline	800-4-A-CHILD
Child Welfare Information Gateway	800-394-3366
Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline	877-ID-THEFT
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	800-GET-MADD
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	800-THE-LOST TDD 800-826-7653
National Center for Victims of Crime, National Crime Victim Helpline	800-FYI-CALL TTY 800-211-7996
National Children's Alliance	800-239-9950
National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information	800-729-6686 Español 877-767-8432 TDD 800-487-4889
National Crime Prevention Council	800-NCPC-911
National Criminal Justice Reference Service/ Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center	800-851-3420 TTY 877-712-9270
National Domestic Violence Hotline	800-799-SAFE TTY 800-787-3224
National Fraud Information Hotline	800-876-7060
National Organization for Victim Assistance	800-TRY-NOVA
National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.	888-818-POMC
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence	800-537-2238 TTY 800-553-2508
National Sexual Violence Resource Center	877-739-3895 TTY 717-909-0715
Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center	866-OVC-TTAC TTY 866-682-8880
Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network	800-656-HOPE
Resource Center on Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Custody	800-52-PEACE
United States Postal Inspection Service	877-876-2455

Sponsored by:
**U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime**