



## WV Joins the Nation in Recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Angie Rosser,  
WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence



Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) evolved from the "Day of Unity" in October 1981 conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels.

In October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was

observed. That same year marks the initiation of the first national violence toll-free hotline. Every year since, the U.S. Congress passed legislation designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WVCADV) member programs have various local events and activities planned around the state in conjunction with Domestic Violence Awareness Month with common themes that include:

- Mourning those who have died because of domestic violence;
- Celebrating those who have survived; and
- Honoring those who work to end violence. ♦



## WVCADV Light in the Window Campaign...Lighting the Way to Peace in our Heart, our Homes, and the World

By Angie Rosser, WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence

October 2008 marks the debut of the WVCADV Statewide Light in the Window Campaign. West Virginians are invited to display a

purple-bulbed candle in their windows to show support for survivors of domestic violence and solidarity in building a safer state of family. To

participate in this campaign, contact your nearby local WVCADV member program. ♦

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### Special points of interest:

- *Crime Victims Compensation Fund Staff gets NEW e-mail addresses. (See page 4.)*
- *Last day to submit information for the January newsletter is December 12, 2008.*

# Webster County Recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month by Displaying "Empty Places"

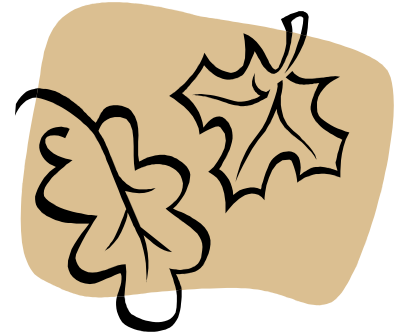
by Connie Lynch, Women's Aid in Crisis

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Webster County's Women's Aid in Crisis displays "Empty Places" at a local diner for the full month of October. All of the victim stories that I use are from Webster County. The stories which are displayed on a table were written by the family, and only first names are used. I had worked with one of the victims, and one I knew only by name. Another,



along with her family, were close friends. Out of respect, I contact the families each time I set up the display to let them know in advance so that they do not happen upon it and are caught off-guard. Their lives and families have been trau-

matized enough. Thanks go to the restaurant owner who allows me to display "Empty Places." Even in Webster County, as small as we are, hundreds view the display. ♦



## Frequently Asked Questions

By Trish McElhaney, WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund

**Will the Fund reimburse mileage expenses for traveling to a police station?**

No. Although the Fund can reimburse mileage expenses for going to court proceedings or medical appointments, the Fund cannot reimburse for going to a police station. If a police station is called they will send someone out to file a report, so the person does not have to incur travel expenses.

**Can a person communicate and send**

**documents by e-mail to the Crime Victims Fund?**

Yes. We encourage everyone to utilize electronic mail if it is available. The Crime Victims Fund's e-mail address is: [cvic-tims@wvlegislature.gov](mailto:cvic-tims@wvlegislature.gov).

**Which agencies are certified to do meth lab cleanup?**

Currently, there are only

two licensed contractors allowed by law to perform remediation and testing duties. They are:

Astar Abatement Inc.

304-984-4030

Or

Simon Environmental LLC

304-558-6782

*"We encourage everyone to utilize electronic mail if it is available."*

## Bulletin Board

- Last day to submit information for the January newsletter is December 12, 2008.
- November 18 & 19 is the WV 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Substance Abuse Prevention Conference at the Charleston Civic Center. Visit [www.prevnet.org/stv](http://www.prevnet.org/stv) or contact Jo Beyer at 304-766-6301 (x21) for more information.
- New service: WV Prescription Drug Abuse Quitline 1-866-WVQUIT
- If you or someone you know would like to schedule WV Crime Victims Compensation training in your area, please contact Trish at 1-877-562-6878.



Daylight savings time ends on November 2, 2008!

# Introducing the Crime Victims Compensation Fund's NEW Administrative Assistant...Erika Schrader

By Trish McElhaney, WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund

As many of you may know, David Bennett has resigned and accepted another job outside State government. Our staff was very sad to see him go, but we wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. David will be missed by many!



Taking his place is Erika Schrader. I recently sat down with her for a quick Q & A session, and this is what

she had to say:

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: West Virginia University.

Q: What degree did you earn?

A: Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and Investigations.

Q: What brought you to this office?

A: Previously, I was the Receptionist/Secretary for the WV Court of Claims and I thoroughly enjoyed it, but when the opportunity to work for the Crime Victims Fund came, I jumped on it. I like the fact I am using my degree and that I am a part of a terrific program that provides compensation for innocent victims who cannot afford the health care and other expenses caused by the incident they were involved in.

Q: What is your role as the Administrative Assistant

A: I open all the new claims, send out the requests for information for the investigators, issue Finding of Facts and Recommendations from the investigators, issue Orders, and take telephone calls for status updates and payment questions.

Q: What do you find most rewarding about your job?

A: In all honesty, I have only been in this position approximately two weeks and I have not found one thing that I feel is most rewarding. Just the fact that even in an indirect way I am assisting these people in getting back on their feet and starting with a clean slate after such a troublesome time in their lives is rewarding enough. ♦

## Violence Against Males

Information obtained from: <http://www.ncadv.org/cgi-bin/htsearch>

**Did you know** that 1 out of 14 men has been physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or date at some point in his life?

**Did you know** men and boys typically do not report the violence or seek service due to the stigma of being a male victim, the perceived failure to

conform to the "macho" stereotype, the fear of not being believed, and the lack of support from society, family members, and friends?

**Did you know** that these men experience guilt, shame, humiliation, anger, anxiety, depression,

*"...1 out of 14 men has been physically assaulted by a current spouse, cohabitating partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, or date..."*

and withdrawal from relationships as a result of being victims of violence?

\*\*For more information, please visit the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website @ <http://www.ncadv.org/cgi-bin/htsearch>. ♦

## Those Serving Victims in West Virginia

by Warren Elliott, Monongalia County Victim Advocate



This photo was taken at the WV Prosecuting Attorney's Institute Summer Meeting

## Investigator's Corner

By Nicole Reed, WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund

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The following story is an EXCELLENT example of how important a complete police report is to the Crime Victims Fund investigators. This is an actual claim on file with our office. The names have been changed to protect the identity of those involved.

The victim was with a group of individuals, all but one of whom had been consuming alcohol. One of them, identified as Joe, spoke of a sawed-off shotgun. Joe and the others traveled to another location for the purpose of firing this gun. All but one member of the group exited the vehicle and walked a short distance. One of them fired the gun before handing it to the victim, who then fired the

gun. Suddenly, for reasons unknown to the victim, the owner of the gun took control of the weapon and struck the victim in the face with it multiple times. The victim was treated for a fracture to his third finger.

The victim sought compensation for his hospital bills and work loss related to the hand injury. According to the police report, the officer believed that the injuries the victim sustained to his hand were the result of firing the weapon and not the result of the actions of the alleged offender. The weapon was seized by officials of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Had the police officer neglected to note in his report that it was his

belief that the victim's injuries were the result of his voluntary actions, and not due to the physical altercation that had taken place between the victim and the alleged offender, an award may have been recommended in this claim. ♦



## Coming Soon...WV Victim Assistance Academy

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- Who:** WV State University, in a partnership with WV Regional Community Policing Institute, WV Division of Criminal Justice Services, and the WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund with host the first WV State Victim Assistance Academy.
- What:** The Academy will be a week-long, academically based, skill based course on victimology, victims' rights, and victims services.
- When:** July 2009
- Where:** WV State University, Institute
- Why:** It will meet the training needs of a broad range victim service providers and allied , thereby enhancing the services received by crime victims throughout the State.

## New E-mail Addresses for the Crime Victims Compensation Fund Staff

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Name	Title	New E-mail Address
Becky Ofiesh	Chief Deputy Clerk	<a href="mailto:becky.ofiesh@wvlegislature.gov">becky.ofiesh@wvlegislature.gov</a>
Rocky Martin	Investigator	<a href="mailto:cvictims@wvlegislature.gov">cvictims@wvlegislature.gov</a>
Nicole Reed	Investigator	<a href="mailto:nicole.reed@wvlegislature.gov">nicole.reed@wvlegislature.gov</a>
Amy Shupe	Investigator	<a href="mailto:amy.shupe@wvlegislature.gov">amy.shupe@wvlegislature.gov</a>
Trish McElhaney	Community Liaison & Outreach Admin.	<a href="mailto:trish.mcelhaney@wvlegislature.gov">trish.mcelhaney@wvlegislature.gov</a>
Erika Schrader	Admin. Assistant	<a href="mailto:Erika.schrader@wvlegislature.gov">Erika.schrader@wvlegislature.gov</a>
WV Crime Victims Compensation Fund	General office e-mail	<a href="mailto:cvictims@wvlegislature.gov">cvictims@wvlegislature.gov</a>

# West Virginia Licensed Domestic Violence Programs

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## **Branches, Inc.**

(Cabell, Lincoln, Mason, Putnam, Wayne)

1-888-538-9838

## **Family Crisis Center**

(Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral, Pendleton)

1-800-698-1240

## **Family Crisis Intervention Center**

(Calhoun, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt, Wood)

1-800-794-2335

## **Family Refuge Center**

(Greenbrier, Monroe, Pocahontas)

1-866-645-6334

## **HOPE, Inc.**

(Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion)

(304) 367-1100

## **Lighthouse & Domestic Violence**

### **Awareness Center**

(Brooke, Hancock)

(304) 797-7233

## **Rape & Domestic Violence Information Center**

(Monongalia, Preston, Taylor)

(304) 292-5100

## **Stop Abusive Family Environments (S.A.F.E.)**

(McDowell, Mercer, Wyoming)

1-800-688-6157

## **Shenandoah Women's Center**

(Berkeley, Jefferson, Morgan)

(304) 263-8292

## **Tug Valley Recovery Shelter**

(Mingo, Logan)

1-800-340-0639

## **Women's Aid in Crisis**

(Barbour, Braxton, Tucker, Randolph, Upshur, Webster)

1-800-339-1185

## **Women's Resource Center**

(Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh, Summers)

1-888-825-7836

## **YWCA Family Violence Prevention Program**

(Marshall, Ohio, Wetzel)

1-800-698-1247

## **YWCA Resolve Family Abuse Program**

(Boone, Clay, Kanawha)

1-800-681-8663

## **West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

(Statewide Coalition Office)

(304) 965-3552

WEST VIRGINIA CRIME VICTIMS  
COMPENSATION FUND

Building 1, Room W-334  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Phone: 304-348-4850  
Fax: 304-347-4915  
E-mail: [trish.mcelhaney@wvlegislature.gov](mailto:trish.mcelhaney@wvlegislature.gov)

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We're on the Web!

[www.legis.state.wv.us/joint/victims/main.cfm](http://www.legis.state.wv.us/joint/victims/main.cfm)

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***Serving Crime Victims Financially Since 1982***

