TN Department of Correction

Victims' Voice

Newsletter For Those Impacted By Crime

From the Director of Victim Services

On Thursday December 1, 2022 we celebrated our 20th Annual Tennessee Season to Remember event. In person for the first time since the pandemic. The event took place at the First Baptist Church in downtown Nashville and was streamed live at https://www.youtube.com/firstbaptistchurchnashville. TDOC Victim Services collaborated with the Office of the State Attorney General, Board of Parole, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, District Attorneys General Conference, Department of Finance of Administration's Office of Criminal Justice Programs, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Tennessee Rehabilitative Initiative (TRICOR), Secretary of State's Office, State Treasurer's Office, and victim advocacy group You Have the Power to host the event.

Music for the event was provided by Kate Blair, a recent Belmont graduate and professional singer with Nashville-based 12 South Band. The keynote speakers were Penny and Donnie Fox, whose brother and brother-in-law Mark Nelson was killed by a drunk driver on July 15, 2013 in Claiborne County and our emcee was Alex Denis with WKRN Channel 2 Nashville. Several families attended in person and names were read aloud during the special ceremony.

The Tennessee State Capitol and Korean Veterans Bridge were also lit in purple to honor the event and homicide victims.

Check out photos from the event at: https://www.flickr.com/gp/139218170@N08/58z6188PF3

Happy Holidays!

Tamika Dobbins

December 2022

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

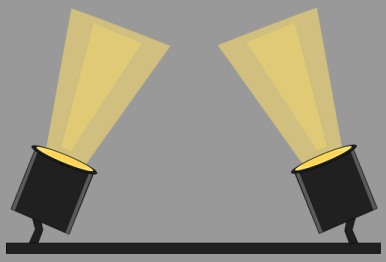
- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights….Let’s meet

Kaitlin Ladha, the Agency Communications Coordinator at You Have the Power, graduated from Belmont University in May 2022 with a B.A. in Public Relations and a Photography minor. She has nonprofit and industry experience through her internships at DayBreak Arts, Classic 77 Creative Company and Parthenon Public Relations.

Originally from Knoxville, TN, Ladha grew up a UT Vols fan but decided to trade orange for gold and blue in supporting the Preds and the Tennessee Titans when she moved to Nashville. In addition to photography, Ladha's interests include playing soccer, reading and traveling as much as possible. She is so excited to be able to make a difference in her community through her work at You Have the Power. She has been able to work on projects such as the Children's Memory Garde, a memorial dedicated to children lost to violence in Nashville and the Powerfully Thankful Auction, that raises money to keep YHTP's services available to the community.

“We are thrilled to have someone with Kaitlin’s vision and drive join us,” Cathy Gurley, YHTP CEO, said. “Her talent and efforts will help us reach even deeper into the communities of Tennessee.”



Coping with the Holidays

Grieving during the holidays is difficult. Especially the first holiday cycle after the passing of a loved one. Whatever your age, whatever the cause of death, holidays lived in the absence of a loved one can be a very difficult time. Customary routines are ended, never to be repeated in quite the same way. Easy-going laughter, once flowing so naturally, may become awkward or even altogether missing. Gift-giving, once so filled with fun, may seem somehow empty and sad. Familiar songs, once so comforting, may catch in your throat or bring tears to your eyes.

The best way to approach a holiday is to find ways to make it personally meaningful while acknowledging events, feelings, and circumstances. Thinking beforehand about what may be helpful to make the holidays easier and better and what might make them harder, can be beneficial. Here are a few tips that may help survivors and their support system.

- Choose to celebrate or not.
- Spend time with those who are helpful, supportive, understanding, patient, and caring.

Consider starting a new tradition or activity that is comfortable and enjoyable. Celebrate in ways that are meaningful and helpful. Maintain existing family traditions only where desired.

VOICE (Victim Offender Information Caller Emissary) Decommissioned

The Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) previously provided a toll-free hotline service for victims/ victim family members to receive offender information. This service is provided through a system known as VOICE (Victim Offender Information Caller Emissary) which retrieves offender data details (current location, sentence expiration date, sentence effective date, parole hearing information, etc.). **This service has been replaced with VINE and has been disabled effective December 5, 2022.**

The same data will be available through VINE, and we highly encourage all current users of VOICE to transition over to VINE at VINELink - Tennessee (vineapps.com) or by phone at 888-868-4631.

Offender information may also be found on our website at FOIL - Offender Search (tn.gov).

Please contact Victim Services if you have any questions at victim.notification@tn.gov.

Victim Services Monthly Statistics

Central Office Phone Calls

Telephone Calls	November
Phone calls Received/Returned	192
Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email)	59
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	2
Referrals	33
Release/Parole Inquiry	93
Other	65

Central Office Mailed Notifications

Notifications Mailed	November
Registrations/Voice	138
Movement	70
Advance Release	367
Final Release *	45
Death	9
Other	4

Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report
11-01-2022 to 11-30-2022

Agency	Month	Email	TTY	SMS	Phone	InApp	Letter	Total
TN Department of Correction	November 2022	10,490	2	20,717	4,764	692	n/a	**36,665**
	AGENCY TOTALS	10,490	2	20,717	4,764	692	n/a	**36,665**
OVERALL TOTALS		**10,490**	**2**	**20,717**	**4,764**	**692**	**n/a**	**36,665**

New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification
11-01-2022 to 11-30-2022

		Anonymous	Concerned citizen	Family member of offender	Family member of victim	Law enforcement	Not Reported	Other	Victim	Victim coordinator/advocate	Total
TN Department of Correction	November 2022	125	91	351	84	403	4,412	195	51	3	**5,715**
	AGENCY TOTALS	125	91	351	84	403	4,412	195	51	3	**5,715**
OVERALL TOTALS		**125**	**91**	**351**	**84**	**403**	**4,412**	**195**	**51**	**3**	**5,715**

Announcements

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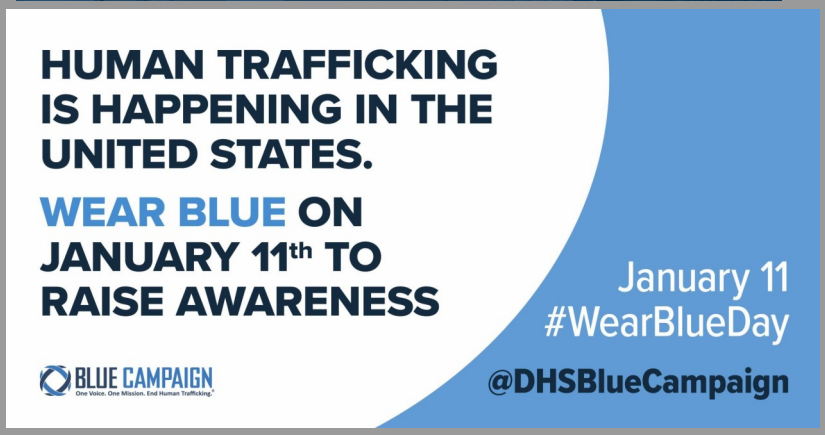

WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)

Tennessee Department of Correc-

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