



Arizona Department of Public Safety Victims of Crime Act Newsletter

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Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October 1-31, 2003)

A calendar of events can be found at www.azacadv.com.

Crime Victim Services www.azvictims.org

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The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Crime Victim Services Unit is to effectively administer VOCA Assistance funds by ensuring appropriate and accessible services are available to crime victims, enhancing the delivery of those services through technical assistance, training opportunities, and promoting a continuum of care for every victim in every community.

Childhelp USA Children's Mobile Advocacy Center in AZ

Childhelp USA, in partnership with the Safe Child Center at Flagstaff Medical Center, has announced the launching of the Children's Mobile Advocacy Center of Northern Arizona, the first of its kind in the state. This collaborative project will begin service in October and will provide a variety of services to abused children in rural Northern Arizona, including tribal reservations. Initially the mobile center will serve Coconino, Apache, and Navajo counties.

Currently, there is only one child abuse investigational facility (the Safe Child Center) in all of Northern Arizona. In some cases, it can take as long as three hours for a child abuse victim to be transported to the investigation site. This, coupled with an increased demand for services from the Safe Child Center, led to the development of the mobile center as a way to better serve the residents of this large geographical area. Childhelp USA has operated a similar mobile advocacy center since January 2002 in rural East Tennessee with successful results.



(Pictured above is the newly delivered mobile advocacy center. It will be decorated in a culturally sensitive theme promoting healing in Native American Children. Standing from left to right are Bob Gillette, Childhelp USA Manager/Driver; Roger Illingworth, AZ DPS; and Russ Huber, Director of the Childhelp Children's Center)

The mobile center will provide one-stop multi-disciplinary services, reducing time and trauma for abuse victims and their non-offending family members. The advocacy center is a specially outfitted, 38-foot motor home staffed by a manager/driver, as well as a specially trained nurse practitioner and a forensic interviewer who will provide professional medical examination and forensic interview services for abused children. Victims will be scheduled directly through the Safe Child Center and can be referred by Child Protective Services, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, local law enforcement agencies, or the bureau of Indian Affairs. Services will include crisis intervention, medical examinations, forensic interviews, victims' compensation assistance, provision of educational literature, and local resource referrals for follow-up services.

The program is funded through a combination of gifts and grants from individuals, corporations and foundations, including:

- AZ Foundation for Women*
- AZ DPS*
- Safe Child Center*
- Children's Justice Task Force*
- Celebrity Fight Night 2004*

Funded in 1959, Childhelp USA is one of the largest and oldest national nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. For additional information, visit the website at www.childhelpusa.org.

The Safe Child Center was established in 1994 and is a child advocacy center serving all of Northern Arizona. Investigative and child protective team members come together at Safe Child to conduct case reviews, forensic interviews and exams in a coordinated and timely fashion in order to make recommendations for criminal prosecution, determine safety issues and discuss treatment needs for the child victim and their family. The mission of Safe Child has always been to ensure abuse victims a sense of wholeness and well-being.

For more information contact Rebecca Heller from Childhelp at (480) 922-8212 or Shana Costarella from the Flagstaff Medical Center at (928) 773-2080.



Answer This..

Question-My agency receives funding for emergency victim services. What can these funds be used for?

Answer- Emergency expenses for victims covers those services which respond to the immediate emotional and physical needs of crime victims. These services can include: emergency food, clothing, transportation, emergency shelter and other emergency services that are intended to restore the victim's sense of security. Also included are services which offer an immediate measure of safety to crime victims such as boarding up broken windows and replacing or repairing locks. Emergency legal assistance such as filing restraining orders are allowable when such actions are directly connected to family violence cases and are taken to ensure the health and safety of the victim.

When tracking the use of emergency expense funds, ensure the actual expense can be tracked back to the victim.

If you have any questions regarding the proper disbursement of emergency victim expense funds, refer to your VOCA guidelines or contact your grant coordinator.

Training Update

The DPS Crime Victim Services Unit recently held a series of regional trainings. Attending the four classes were 138 attendees representing 82 agencies.



We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all subrecipients who attended the training and provided us with meaningful feedback to assist CVS in improving our training process.

ARCT

Trainings for the Arizona Response Crisis Team will be held in Chandler October 22-24 and in Prescott November 19-21. The following curriculum will be offered to prepare ARCT members to assist victims of mass violence and terrorism: Victimology, Incident Command System, Start Triage, First Aid, CPR Crisis Intervention, Recent Attacks and Lessons Learned, Spiritual Intervention, Grief, Death and Next of Kin Notification, Victims' Rights, Weapons of Mass Destruction and an intense tabletop exercise. If you or someone you know has experience in assisting victims of crime and is interested in becoming an ARCT member and attend-

ing these trainings, please contact Officer Sheila Markwell, Crime Victim Services Liaison Officer, at (602) 223-2762.

Sexual Assault Conference

The third annual statewide Sexual Assault Conference will be held November 17-18 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix.

For a detailed description of the conference workshops and to register, go to www.pcaaz.org.

During the conference Governor Janet Napolitano and the Attorney General's Office will be recognizing and honoring professionals and volunteers for their outstanding contribution to victims of sexual assault.

The Governor's Office is accepting nominations in the following categories:

Outstanding...
 Investigator
 Medical Professional
 Mental Health Professional
 Advocate
 Judicial Professional
 Prosecutor
 Volunteer

You may make a nomination in each category. Nominations should include:

- Category
- Nominee's name, address and phone number
- A short paragraph on the nominee's contribution to the prevention of sexual assault

The awards will be presented at the closing luncheon on Tuesday, November 18.

Submit nominations by Email, mail or fax no later than October 31, 2003 to:

Prevent Child Abuse
 PO Box 432
 Prescott, AZ 86302
mail@pcaaz.org
 (928) 778-5300



In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, please join Governor Janet Napolitano and Charles M. Davis, AZ District Manager, United States Postal Service, for the unveiling of the *Stop Family Violence* Postal Stamp and a Proclamation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The ceremony will take place Wednesday, October 8, 2003 at 3:45 pm in the Executive Tower Lobby.

Policy Update

Governor Janet Napolitano has announced a statewide Action Plan for Reform of Arizona's Child Protection System. The plan can be reviewed in its entirety at www.governor.state.az.us



We always welcome input for articles in our quarterly newsletter. Forward ideas to your grant coordi-