

# CONNECTION

For Crime Victims, Survivors, Advocates and Friends

June 2010

Volume 10, Issue 2

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Letters, comments, victim memorials or dedications, questions, poems and/or articles are always welcome and encouraged. We must reserve the right to edit for space considerations and/or for other reasons as deemed appropriate. Please send your submissions to:

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## Volunteers in Victim Services

The needs of victims which we hope to address in the Victim Services Unit are many. The programs we are developing to address those needs will demand a lot of work from skilled, compassionate people. Even before the current budget crisis hit our state government and forced significant reductions in staffing, we realized that we would not be able to accomplish all that we hope without strong support from volunteers.

Volunteers have always had a vital role in corrections. We currently have thousands of volunteers working throughout the state providing programs and services. With the agency's new focus on Victim Services we will need to, once again, call on caring, dedicated people who want to make a difference. We want to recruit and train volunteers to help in various different roles within victim services, such as:

- Providing Impact of Crime Programs at each of our facilities
- Facilitating Victim/Offender Dialogue
- Facilitating Victim/Offender Mediation
- Helping with Community Awareness and Advocacy Projects

Volunteers can come from anywhere. Many come from faith-based or community organizations that want to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Student Internship is another form of volunteering. We currently have two student interns volunteering in our Victim Services Unit. We also have many retired members of society that want an opportunity to give back, on a schedule that fits in with their other goals and plans.

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections tries to make becoming a volunteer as easy as possible. Once you have determined an area of service you would like to be involved with, you submit our one page Vol-

unteer Application Form and an Authorization to Release Information form to the Volunteer Services Unit. After your application is approved, you will be contacted to set up your training. Volunteer Training is offered at regional locations all across our state.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering or know someone who might be interested please contact Ilinda Jackson, Victim Services Coordinator, at 405-962-6142.

# Selection of Facility Liaisons for Victim Services

ODOC correctional facilities across the state have identified staff that will help assist the Victim Services Unit from the facility level. Facility liaisons will help provide valuable services to victims from the field.

In times past the role of the contact person at the facility level was very limited, primarily to passing on information about the offender to the victim. As we are re-implementing victim services, following the approved recommendations from the final quality assurance report. It is part of our goal to have the facility liaison not only provide needed information and direction but be able to engage a number of services for the victim or survivor of a crime.

This person would be responsible in the following ways:

- A contact person at the facility
- Facilitator for potential victim offender dialogue & mediation
- Offender education-Impact of Crime classes

A primary need for any victims is safety and awareness, when victims contact a facility calls will be directed to the facility liaison, the facility liaison will be able to provide information for safety and emotional well being as well as make referrals when appropriate to victims and their families. With liaisons at each facility victims are able to obtain information and support in a sensitive and timely matter.

Facility liaisons will help to provide awareness and education that is offered to offenders to learn about the impact of their crime on victims. These programs focus on the following;

- Crime Violence and Victimization Overview
- Personal Responsibility & Restorative Justice
- Making Amends & Restitution

The victim liaison will participate in the Restorative Justice Process, victim offender mediation and victim offender dialogue. Facility liaisons will have a scheduled time of training ensuring a consistent approach to addressing victim issues and the work associated with Victim Services.



**The 2010 Annual  
Partnership Conference  
will be held:**

**September 8 - 9, 2010  
Embassy Suites Hotel &  
Convention Center  
Norman, OK**

**SAVE THE DATE !!!**

# Oklahoma Correctional Employee Memorial Foundation

## Memorial Service

### May 5, 2010

#### *The "Fallen" within the Correctional Family*

We in Corrections, work in a world within the world that is unique from any other. This world has numerous challenges and demands; but, for the Correctional Professional, they are enhanced a million times further!

The Military, the Firemen and the Police-protect and serve the community.

They choose these careers, they serve with their lives-they serve without fears!

Corrections is a profession likened in comparison to no other.

It is a family unit that cannot survive without trust of your sister or your brother!

No matter what position is held in Corrections, it is a career that is worthy-despite the imperfections.

It is a career, it is a profession, and women serve without hesitations.

Corrections-the work demands are high and the risks are great.

Corrections-a place where men and women daily test their faith.

In the line of duty-brave women and men answered their calling.

The brave, The "Fallen" will be forever remembered and missed-forever held in our hearts' list.

The military, the Firemen, the Police and the Correctional professional strive daily to protect, serve and teach.

The love and memories of the "Fallen" are always within the heart's reach-they are FAMILY!

May GOD embrace them ALL and bless them with ETERNAL PEACE



Justin Jones, Director DOC



Ron Hood, Chaplain, NE District



Ann Tandy,  
Board President,  
OCEMF



Poem By: Beverly Henderson  
Senior Probation Officer III

# *Victims' Rights Day at the Capitol*



crime victims' rights:

**FAIRNESS.**

**DIGNITY.**

**RESPECT.**

*April 21, 2010*

The Crime Victims day at the Capitol was held April 21, 2010 and is part of Oklahoma's observance of National Crime Victims Rights Week.

National Crime Victim's Rights Week was recognized April 18-24. This year's theme ---"Crime Victims' Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect" captures the ideals they inspired the victims' rights movement. Only a few decades ago, shocking numbers of crime victims experienced unfairness, indignities, and disrespect. Yet years of work by victims and advocates led to thousands of statutes and 32 state constitutional amendments that establish victims' rights. Every year, this progress is celebrated ensuring that all victims know about and can exercise these rights.

Oklahoma Department of Corrections Victim Service Unit helps to promote the event and offers support to those who organize this ceremony. The day was designed to create awareness of the needs of victims and to give voice to victims so that they the victim can be heard. It was a liberating and sobering day, giving fuel to the fire inspiring advocates and others to keep providing meaningful service to victims and their surviving families.

This event was organized and supported by Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Tonia Byers, District Attorneys Council, District Attorney's Office Personnel, David Hooten, Ron McDaniel, MidFirst Bank, Office of the Attorney General, OHP Honor Guard, OSU-OKC (Victim services degree students) United States Attorneys Office, Western District, United States Attorneys Office, Eastern State. The keynote speakers were Attorney General Drew Edmondson and Lt. Governor Jari Askins.

## *The Honorable W.A. Drew Edmondson Attorney General, State of Oklahoma*

Drew Edmondson was elected Attorney General in 1994, and was re-elected in 1998, 2002 and 2006. Edmondson served as the 2002-2003 President of the National Association of Attorneys General. In 1996, Edmondson filed suit against the tobacco industry re-



sulting in a \$2 billion settlement between the industry and Oklahoma, part of the largest settlement in the history of the world. Edmondson was one of eight attorneys general asked to serve on the negotiating team for the states.

Under his leadership the attorney general's office has helped reform the death penalty appeals process, established victims' services, and vigorously represented rate payers in telephone, gas and electric rate cases.

Edmondson is a Navy veteran with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Presbyterian Church and the Democratic Party.

## *Jari Askins* *Lieutenant Governor*

**B**orn and reared in Duncan, Oklahoma, Jari Askins was sworn in as Oklahoma's 15th Lieutenant Governor in 2007, giving her the rare distinction of being involved in public service in all three branches of government.

Lieutenant Governor Askins received her BA in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and earned a juris doctorate from the OU College of Law. She served as Special District Judge for the District Court of Stephens County for eight years, from 1982-1990. In 1991, the Governor appointed her to the Pardon and Parole Board, which elected her as its first woman Chairman. She later served as Executive Director of the Pardon and Parole Board and as Deputy General Counsel to the Governor.

Askins was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1994 from District 50, and served for twelve years, earning the position of Democratic House Leader in 2005. She won statewide election as Lieutenant Governor in 2006, becoming the first Democratic woman to serve in that office.



## *Susan Krug* *Governor's Commendation Award*

Excerpt form Nomination Form:

*I have had the honor and privilege to work with Susan Krug for the past 5 years. She became Unit Chief July 1, 2005. Since that time she had been instrumental in enhancing victim services state wide. Susan administers certification for family violence and batterers intervention programs; victim notification programs; Address Confidentiality Program; Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board; State Wide training on violence against women and statewide hot line for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Her latest project is developing the Oklahoma Victim's Academy where all disciplines who work with victims can receive training.*

*Susan began her victims' advocacy work when she worked at the District Attorneys Council. She returned to working on behalf of victims when she became unit chief in 2005. When it was announced that Susan*

*was the first unit chief for the newly formed victims services unit, I called and congratulated her. She told me she was so excited to be able to be involved working on behalf of victims again. She said "I feel like I am coming home."*

*Susan is most deserving of the Governors Commendation Award. She is so dedicated to her work on behalf of victims. She has demonstrated outstanding efforts in assisting victims and holding offenders accountable. She truly is Oklahoma's "Victims Advocate."*

## ***Tressia Meeks***

### ***Governor's Commendation Award***

Excerpt from Nomination Form:

*I would like to nominate Tressia Meeks for the Governor's Commendation for her exceptional contributions and the extraordinary impact she has had on her community and State since becoming a survivor on Christmas Eve, 1999. On this day, Tressia and her family's life was forever changed by the act of a person who chose to drive a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Her family was on their way to celebrate Christmas with their family in Anadarko when a drunk driver hit their vehicle from behind. Her son, nine year old Ren Meeks did not survive.*

*There were numerous obstacles Tressia had to endure during her journey through the criminal justice system. She found out quickly the system was not always kind nor held accountable to victims. The offender who killed her son had a lengthy criminal record which included rehabilitation opportunities as well as incarceration. She dealt with the criminal justice system with class and dignity. She has dedicated her life to making a positive impact on victim's coping with a loss and has also tried to make sure other offenders did not travel down the same path as the man who killed her son. Tressia shares her personal tragedy by being a regular speaker at schools, civil clubs and victim impact panels.*

*For the past 10 years Tressia has exhibited exceptional perseverance in dealing with her personal tragedy. She works tirelessly on behalf of victims and is dedicated to making changes in the justice system to help others. Her determination to keep drunk drivers off the road is shown each time she compassionately speaks at a Victim Impact Panel. For 10 years, Tressia and her family have actively participated in Tree of Honor and Remembrance and the Victims Rights Day at the Capitol.*

*Tressia Meeks is a woman of compassion with a kind spirit who works tirelessly to help others understand what it means to be a survivor and how drinking and driving can lead to tragedy. Her courage, leadership and outreach efforts have truly made a difference in many peoples' lives. For these and numerous other reasons, Tressia is deserving of this award.*

# Stop Youth Violence before it starts

## *Bullying Prevalence*

Almost 30% of youth in the United States (or over 5.7 million) are estimated to be involved in bullying as either a bully, a target of bullying, or both. In a recent national survey of students in grades 6-10, 13% reported bullying others, 11% reported being the target of bullies, and another 6% said that they bullied others and were bullied themselves.

## *Male vs. female*

Bullying takes on different forms in male and female youth. While both male and female youth say that others bully them by making fun of the way they look or talk, males are more likely to report being hit, slapped, or pushed. Female youth are more likely than males to report being the targets of rumors and sexual comments. While male youth target both boys and girls, female youth most often bully other girls, using more subtle and indirect forms of aggression than boys. For example, instead of physically harming others, they are more likely to spread gossip or encourage others to reject or exclude another girl.

## *Facts*

- Among students, homicide perpetrators were more than twice as likely as homicide victims to have been bullied by peers.
- Bullying statistics say revenge is the strongest motivation for school shootings.
- 87% of students said shootings are motivated by a desire to “get back at those who have hurt them.”
- 86% of students said, “other kids picking them, making fun of them or bullying them” causes teenagers to turn to lethal violence in the schools.
- Bullying statistics shows that those who bully and are bullied appear to be at greatest risk of experiencing the following: loneliness; trouble making friends; lack of success in school; and involvement in problem behaviors such as smoking and drinking.
- 61% said students shoot others because they have been victims of physical abuse at home.
- 54% said witnessing physical abuse at home can lead to violence in school.
- According to bullying statistics, one out of every 10 students who drops out of school does so because of repeated bullying.
- Harassment and bullying have been linked to 75 percent of school-shooting incidents.



## *Join us on Facebook*

A social networking group where we can share photos of events, agendas, invitations etc. We look forward to growing, so please check us out at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

# Calendar of Events

**18th Oklahoma Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect and Healthy Families**

August 13 - September 2, 2010

Embassy Suites Hotel

Norman, Oklahoma

**Partnership Conference on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault**

September 8-9, 2010

Embassy Suites Hotel

Norman, Oklahoma

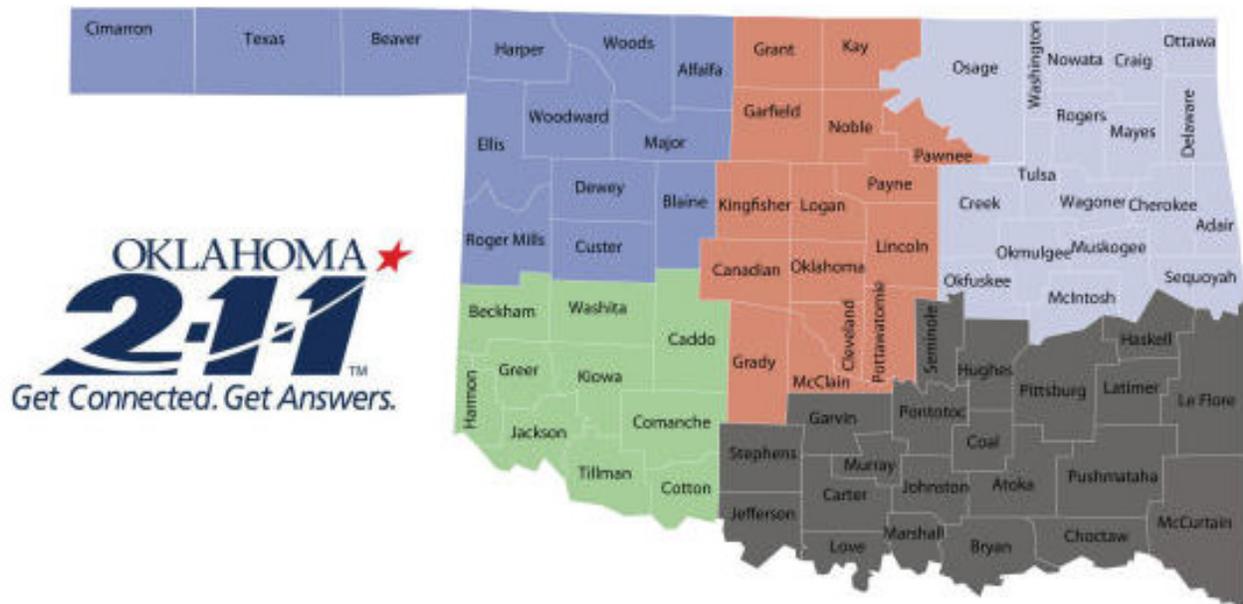


POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**The 27th Annual National Night Out**

Tuesday, August 3, 2010

## 2-1-1 Oklahoma



Northwest OK 2-1-1  
**866-927-1185**

OKC HeartLine 2-1-1  
**877-362-1606**

Tulsa Helpline  
**877-836-2111**

Southwest OK 2-1-1  
**888-355-7575**

2-1-1 of Southeastern OK  
**877-212-5526**

[www.211oklahoma.org](http://www.211oklahoma.org)

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