

Changing Lives....

Every 21 seconds a violent crime occurs in America.

During the past ten years of the Crime Victims Recovery Services Program, hundreds of victims have been referred for counseling assistance. Of the grant monies received, more than 90% of it has gone to direct service. The money is used to fund client contact with minimal administrative overhead costs.

Our goal is to serve as many victims in need as quickly and effectively as possible. The result has been that many families and individuals have been able to overcome the ravages of violence and return to productive, meaningful lives.



Crime Victim Recovery Services

Mid-America Psychological Services

Attn: Jean Ogilvie

8036 Moorsbridge Road, Suite 2

Portage, MI 49024

Phone: (269) 327-1438

Voicemail: (269) 383-7918 (ext. 34)

Crime Victim Recovery Services



Have you
or someone
you love been
the victim of a
crime?

*For an appointment,
please call:*

(269) 327-1438

Crime Victim Recovery Services



The most fundamental goal of this program is to mitigate the psychological impact of crime on its victims and their families. Crime Victimization has a devastating impact on victim's trust in others. Beyond the physical losses that usually accompany crime, there is a deep loss of faith that the world is a safe, just, and fair place. Many times the victims of crime experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This anxiety disorder, first recognized in veterans of war, is now widely recognized as a consequence of violent crime. Crime victims are most vulnerable to developing PTSD in the absence of early psychological intervention, potentially leaving them permanently debilitated.

As a part of this program, the therapists provide vital services to address the grief experienced by crime victims and/or their families. As the clients go through the process of grieving and working through their pain and loss, they can

begin to learn new coping skills and avoid the lifelong devastation that can accompany victimization. Victims become survivors and often go on to help other victims.

The therapists paid by these dollars work with victims referred by the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office and other community resources. They meet with victims as many times as is necessary to offer the opportunity to heal in the context of a safe, private and supportive environment.

Most often, victims who seek private therapy, but are not insured or are otherwise not able to pay for counseling, are placed on waiting lists for "sliding scale" or "pro-bono" services. These lists are usually long and the victim's healing is further hampered by lack of services.

Crime Victim Recovery Services allow victims almost immediate access to counseling. Because the experience of victimization tends to be isolating, the offer of little or no cost, specialized services is an important step toward recovery. It is a symbolic gesture that reminds the victim of the goodness that exists in the world, reducing the sense of estrangement and fear. This service also puts victims in touch with each other, allowing them the experience of hearing each other's stories and helping one another.

This program is supported by:

Kalamazoo Community Foundation
Fetzer Foundation
YWCA's STOP Grant
Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office
Mid-America Psychological Services

Goals:

- To provide individualized counseling and education to crime victims and their families.
- To operate group sessions upon recommendation/request of victim and/or therapist to further the healing process by group support.
- To provide outreach by expanding community awareness with educational materials distributed to physicians offices, businesses, schools, and law enforcement.
- To make transportation available by taxi-cab or other public means when the victim has no other available transportation.
- To provide services to those victims whose cases may never see an arrest or trial.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Your dollars help us help others where the need is most.
If you would like to donate to Crime Victim Recovery Services, please contact:

Kristine Toshalis
(269) 383-8965
kdtosh@kalcounty.com