

*Honoring Those Who
Bring Honor to Victims*



2006



Office for Victims of Crime

OVC

"Putting Victims First"

National Crime Victims'
Rights Week Awards

April 23-29, 2006

Putting Victims First

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) shares your mission and annually recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. We invite you to submit a nomination for one or more of eight awards—the *National Crime Victim Service Award*, the *Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services*, the *Special Courage Award*, the *Allied Professional Award*, the *Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award*, the *Volunteer for Victims Award*, the *Crime Victims Fund Award*, and the *Federal Service Award*. In making your nominations, we encourage you to recognize programs and individuals who have made significant contributions to the crime victims field. Recipients of the awards will be honored in Washington, D.C., as part of the federal commemoration of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), which is scheduled for April 23–29, 2006.

About the Office for Victims of Crime

OVC was created in 1984 and formally established by a 1988 amendment to the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to support services for crime victims and training and technical assistance for the field. OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) provides resources for local organizations throughout the country that are often faced with limited financial resources. Through TTAC, OVC offers

an infrastructure to assess need and build capacity by delivering training and technical assistance to eligible organizations, free of charge. For more information about OVC TTAC or NCVRW, call OVC TTAC at 1-866-OVC-TTAC or visit their Web site at www.ovcttac.org. For more information about OVC, call the OVC Resource Center at 1-800-851-3420 (TTY 1-877-712-9279) or visit the OVC Web site at www.ovc.gov.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

In 1981, President Ronald W. Reagan proclaimed the first Victims' Rights Week, calling for "a renewed emphasis on, and an enhanced sensitivity to, the rights of victims." Each April since, communities throughout the Nation have held public rallies, candlelight vigils, and a host of commemorative activities to promote awareness of victims' rights and needs. The 2006 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is scheduled for April 23–29, 2006. OVC is tentatively scheduled to kick off the national observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week on Thursday, April 20, 2006, with a candlelight observance to pay tribute to crime victims and on Friday, April 21, 2006, with an awards ceremony to honor individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of victims. The public and the press are also invited to participate in the awards ceremony. Both events will take place in Washington, D.C. Please check OVC's Web site to confirm the final dates and locations for both events.

Significance of the Awards

As the discipline of crime victim services has grown over the years, so has the number of remarkable individuals and organizations that significantly contribute to its success. Today, the field includes countless people and programs that, through vision, action, and leadership, have improved the lives of victims in the aftermath of crime.

Each year, through the prestigious *National Crime Victim Service Award*, the U.S. Attorney General honors extraordinary individuals and programs who provide services to victims of crime. OVC, within the U.S. Department of Justice, coordinates the submission of nominations for programs and individuals whose work has been particularly noteworthy, and who exemplify the long-term commitment that characterizes many of our Nation's victim service providers, some of whom are also victims of crime.

The *Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services* was instituted in 2001 in memory of an OVC employee, Susan Lawrence, who helped professionals who had not traditionally served victims to develop effective victim responses. In her honor, this award recognizes a program, organization, or individual who has helped to expand the reach of victims' rights and services.



The *Special Courage Award* recognizes an individual or individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary bravery in the aftermath of a crime or who have performed a courageous act on behalf of a victim or potential victim. The award may honor a victim or survivor who has exhibited exceptional perseverance or determination in dealing with his or her own victimization, or it may acknowledge an individual who has acted bravely either to aid a victim or to prevent a victimization.

The *Allied Professional Award* will recognize an individual or individuals from a specific discipline outside the victim assistance field for their service to victims and/or contribution to the victims field. This year, OVC will honor a representative from the *faith community*.

First announced during the 2005 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Awards Ceremony, the *Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award* will honor an outstanding individual whose leadership, vision, and innovation have led to significant changes in public policy and practice that benefit crime victims.

Many of the dedicated men and women who serve crime victims do so without compensation, in addition to their other responsibilities. The *Volunteer for Victims Award* honors individuals for their selfless efforts to reach out to victims. Examples of volunteerism include but are not limited to crisis counseling, transportation, court accompaniment, food delivery, and emotional and material comfort.

Established by the Victims of Crime Act in 1984, the Crime Victims Fund is a source of federal funding for thousands of victim assistance programs throughout the country and for victim compensation programs in every state. The *Crime Victims Fund Award* recognizes individuals and teams for their outstanding work in pursuing federal criminal offenders and in imposing and collecting the criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalty fees, and special assessments that constitute the Crime Victims Fund.

Finally, the *Federal Service Award* honors individuals for their direct service to victims of federal crime. The award recognizes a service provider's, other professional's, or volunteer's exceptional contributions on behalf of victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas governed by federal jurisdiction.

The award winners will be honored at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2006, commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week for 2006. Biographies and accomplishments of former award recipients can be found on OVC's Web site at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw.

Nomination Submission Guidelines

1. Each nomination form must be accompanied by a nomination letter. If you, the nominator, are affiliated with an organization, your nomination letter should be submitted on official stationery and contain your signature and your position/title. No anonymous nominations will be accepted.
2. Each form must include the nominee's full name, title, organization affiliation, address, telephone number, signature, date of birth, and Social Security number. If you are nominating an organization, please have the individual accepting the award on behalf of the organization provide the following required information: name, title, contact information, date of birth, Social Security



number, and signature of the accepting individual. **Note:** Please make sure the nominee's full name is spelled correctly and indicate in the space provided on the form whether another name (e.g., a nickname) needs to appear on the award plaque if the nominee is selected.

3. Your nomination letter should not exceed two single-spaced, single-sided, letter-size (8.5" x 11") pages and should be typed using a standard 12-point font. This letter should reflect as much as you know about your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims.
4. Please review the award categories carefully and select the category that most accurately reflects your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims. An individual, program, or organization **may not** be nominated for more than one award category.
5. Please provide additional information about the nominated individual or program that should be considered in the review process. Supporting documentation, such as newspaper articles or résumés, can be attached if it is relevant to the nominee's contributions. **Please note:** Videos, bound publications, and notebooks should not be submitted. Also, supporting documentation will not be accepted after the nomination deadline.

6. The entire nomination package, including supplemental information and letters of support, may not exceed 10 single-spaced, single-sided, letter-size pages. Nominations exceeding this limit will not be considered.
7. Please provide an original and two copies of the entire nomination package.

Eligibility Guidelines

1. You may nominate one or more worthy candidates, including individuals, programs, organizations, teams, or a coalition of individuals and programs. **Note:** Please submit separate nomination packages for each nominee. However, you **may not** nominate the same individuals, programs, organizations, teams, or coalition of individuals and programs for more than one award category.
2. Nominees can be federal, state, local, or tribal professionals *and* volunteers in direct victim services and allied professions.
3. Candidates nominated but not selected in previous years are eligible for consideration. Previous award winners, however, are not eligible to be nominated and will not be considered for future awards.
4. Elected officials are *not* eligible for consideration.

Deadline for Submitting Nominations

Your nomination form and supporting materials must be received no later than Friday, October 14, 2005. Your nomination package should be mailed to

Office for Victims of Crime

Attention: Maria Acker/Kim Kelberg
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

Please be advised that due to increased mail handling security measures, mail sent via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) may be significantly delayed in reaching OVC. Nominators are encouraged to fax their nomination packages or to consider alternatives to USPS such as commercial carriers. If nominations are submitted by fax, only one copy of the package is required. The OVC fax number is 202-514-6383 or 202-305-2440. If a nomination is delayed in the mail and does not reach OVC by the deadline date, it will not be considered.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the award nominations or selection process, please submit them to AskOVC at <http://ovc.ncjrs.org/askovc>.



Nomination letters must address the questions listed under the award type.

National Crime Victim Service Award

- What accomplishments has the nominee made on behalf of crime victims?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- If the nominee is a paid professional working with crime victims, how do his or her contributions qualify as *beyond the call of duty*?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices in victim services?

Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services

- What accomplishments has the nominee made on behalf of crime victims, and how are those accomplishments unique and original?

- How has the nominee's work brought about change in new or nontraditional areas of victim rights or services?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices?

Special Courage Award

- What act of courage has the nominee performed either in the aftermath of his or her own victimization or in coming to the aid of a victim?
- How is this act extraordinary?
- Who are or were the beneficiaries of this courageous act?
- What verification of this act can you provide?

Allied Professional Award

- In what way has the nominee served victims and/or contributed to the victims field?
- How is this service or contribution extraordinary within the nominee's particular discipline?
- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- How has the nominee's service to victims contributed to bringing closer collaboration between the nominee's particular discipline and the victims field?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community, state, or Nation?

Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award

- What innovations in public policy has the nominee developed that benefit crime victims, and how are those innovations unique and original?

- How long has the nominee served victims of crime?
- How have the nominee's leadership and vision helped change public policy and influence attitudes?
- What impact have the nominee's efforts had in the community, state, or throughout the Nation?

Volunteer for Victims Award

- What services has the nominee provided for victims?
- How can the nominee's volunteer contributions to victim services be considered extraordinary?
- How has the nominee's service or program affected the community or other jurisdictions?
- How have the actions of the nominee influenced attitudes, policies, or practices?



Nomination letters must address the questions listed under the award type.

Crime Victims Fund Award

- What innovations in procedures, regulations, or laws has the nominee developed that promote awareness of the objectives of the Crime Victims Fund?
- How have the nominee's aggressive investigation, prosecution, management, and/or collection practices resulted in greater offender accountability?

- Has the nominee undertaken any notable training efforts that promote awareness of the Crime Victims Fund?
- Has the nominee discovered any previously undisclosed assets through innovative or creative investigation?

Federal Service Award

- What extraordinary assistance has the nominee provided for federal crime victims?

- How long has the nominee been serving crime victims?
- How have the nominee's achievements affected his or her community or other jurisdictions?
- What innovative changes in attitudes, policies, or practices has the nominee brought about?
- How can the nominee's contributions be considered *beyond the call of duty*?

- How effective is the nominee in implementing the provisions of the *Attorney General Guidelines for Victim and Witness Assistance*?



Nomination Form (Please type or print clearly.)

The following information is to be completed by the nominator:

Nominator's Name _____

Nominator's Title or Position _____

Nominator's Organization _____

Nominator's Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number [_____] _____ Fax Number [_____] _____

E-mail _____

If you are nominating an organization or program, please provide the information below for the individual who would accept the award on behalf of that organization or program.

Nominee's Full Name _____

Type of Award (Check one.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Crime Victim Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer for Victims Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Courage Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Victims Fund Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Professional Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Service Award |

Abstract of Nominee's Accomplishments (Mandatory)

In 100 words or less, please summarize the nominee's accomplishments and your reason for nominating this individual, program, or organization.

To the best of my knowledge, all of the information contained in this application is true and correct.

Signature of Nominator _____

The following information is to be completed by the nominee:

Note: The following information is sought for the purposes of this nomination and will not be used for any other purpose.

Nominee's Full Name _____

Name for Award Plaque _____
(If different from full name)

Nominee's Title _____

Nominee's Organization Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number [_____] _____ Fax Number [_____] _____

E-mail _____

Date of Birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Social Security number _____

Voluntary Nominee Demographic Data Disclosure

The following information regarding nominee demographics is collected on a voluntary basis.

Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Racial/Ethnic Background: African American Caucasian
 Asian and Pacific Islander American Indian
 Hispanic Other: Please specify

Terms of Award

The nominee must sign below. Otherwise, the nomination will not be accepted for consideration. The signature authorizes the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, to conduct a criminal history background check. If chosen for an award, the nominee agrees to participate in all National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) award ceremony events, located in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the award winner. Participation in the events will likely include photographic portraits or pictures, digital images, videotapes, other media material, and/or sound recordings of the award winners for general use with the press and to post on the Internet. The media will be invited to participate in all NCVRW events.

Signature of Nominee _____

If the nominee is an organization, program, or team, the name, contact information, and signature of the individual authorized to accept the award is needed. If a team is nominated, please complete a separate nomination form for each individual on the team.