2008 National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 13–19, 2008

Attorney General's Crime Victims' Service Awards

Call for Nominations

Deadline: October 19, 2007

Innovation • Partnerships
Safer Neighborhoods

Office for Victims of Crime
OVC
"Putting Victims First"

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

In 1981, President Ronald Wilson 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 2008 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) is scheduled for April 13–19, 2008. OVC will kick off NCVRW on Thursday, April 10, 2008, with a candlelight observance to pay tribute to crime victims. On Friday, April 11, an awards ceremony will honor individuals and programs for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. The public and the press are also invited to participate in both events, which will take place in Washington, D.C.

Among the speakers that OVC has featured at past candlelight observances are Mark Lunsford, father of Jessica Marie Lunsford and founder of the Jessica Marie Lunsford Foundation, and Sharon Rocha, mother of Laci Peterson and grandmother of Conner, and author of *For Laci: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Justice*. Please check OVC's Web site for the most current information about the featured speaker, dates, and locations for both 2008 NCVRW events.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

1. You may nominate one or more worthy candidates, including individuals, programs, organizations, teams, or a coalition of individuals and programs. You must submit separate nomination packages for each nominee. 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. Previous award recipients, regardless of award category, are not eligible for subsequent awards.
4. Elected officials are not eligible for consideration.
5. Candidates nominated but not selected in previous years are eligible for consideration.

NOMINATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. ***Each nomination form must be accompanied by a 100-word abstract and 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 position or 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 possible, please provide the nominee's e-mail address. This information will be used to complete a background check of the nominated individual. 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.

3. ***If you are nominating a group of individuals who work on a specific project, please submit one nomination letter for the group of individuals with a SEPARATE nomination form for EACH individual in that group.*** All required information must accompany the submission. Please note that only one plaque will be presented per group or organization. Therefore, it is important to indicate the same plaque name consistently on each nomination form provided for a group of individuals. If the nominee is an individual, please indicate in the space provided whether another name (e.g., a nickname) needs to appear on the award plaque if the nominee is selected.

4. 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 address the questions listed under the award type for the award you are submitting a nomination for (see the Nomination Letters section of this nomination form), and should reflect as much as you know about your nominee's accomplishments and services in supporting crime victims.

5. 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. OVC has the final decision regarding which category the nominee will be evaluated under.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Please provide an original and two copies of the entire nomination package.

   You may submit the complete nomination package online at ***www.ovc.gov/ncvrw***.

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(s) who would accept the award on behalf of that organization or program. If more than one person is accepting the award, a separate form needs to be completed for each member of the group. Please note that only one plaque will be presented per award nomination at the awards ceremony, regardless of the number of individuals accepting on behalf of an organization or program. 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 (and each individual team member wishes to participate in the awards ceremony), please complete a separate nomination form for each individual on the team.

Nominee's Full Name _____

Type of Award *(Check only one.)*

- ❑ National Crime Victim Service Award
- ❑ Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services
- ❑ Special Courage Award
- ❑ Allied Professional Award
- ❑ Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award
- ❑ Volunteer for Victims Award
- ❑ Crime Victims Fund Award
- ❑ Federal Service Award

Abstract of Nominee's Accomplishments *(Mandatory)*

On a separate sheet of paper, 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:

Nominee's Full Name _____

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

If you are nominating a group of individuals, please ensure that the plaque name provided is the same for each nominee in that group. You must submit a nomination form and abstract for each nominee. A group will receive only one plaque.

Nominee's Title _____ Nominee's Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number (___) _____ Fax Number (___) _____ E-Mail _____

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

Voluntary Nominee Demographic Data

The following information regarding nominee demographics is collected on a voluntary basis. Gender: Male _____ Female _____

Racial/Ethnic Background:

- ❑ African American
- ❑ Caucasian
- ❑ American Indian
- ❑ Hispanic
- ❑ Asian and Pacific Islander
- ❑ 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, Office of Justice Programs, 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. Award recipient's travel expenses will be reimbursed within Federal Government guidelines. Participation in the events will likely include photographic portraits or pictures, digital images, videotapes, other media material, and sound recordings of the award recipients 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 _____

Nomination Letters

Each nomination form must be accompanied by a 100-word abstract and a nomination letter. If you are nominating a group of individuals who work on a specific project, please submit one nomination letter for the group of individuals with a separate abstract and nomination form for each individual in the group. Nomination letters must address the questions listed under the award type below and should comply with nomination submission guideline #4.

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 victims' 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 has the nominee's leadership and vision helped change public policy and influence attitudes?
- What impact has the nominee's efforts had in the community, state, or 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?

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"?

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Deadline for Submitting Nominations

Your nomination form and supporting materials must be received no later than Friday, October 19, 2007. Submit your nomination online at www.ovc.gov/ncvrw or mail your nomination package to

Office for Victims of Crime Resource Center
P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849–6000

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the award nomination or selection process, please submit them to "Ask OVC" at *http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/askovc.*

Nominators are encouraged to submit their nominations online.

Due to increased mail handling security measures, mail sent via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) may be significantly delayed in reaching OVCRC. If a nomination package is delayed in the mail and does not reach OVCRC by the deadline date, it will not be considered.

Nominators may also fax nomination packages to OVCRC at 301–519–5212. For nominations submitted by fax, only one copy of the package is required. Nominators who are unable to submit their nominations online or via fax should consider alternatives to USPS, such as FedEx or UPS.

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.

About the Office of Justice Programs

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides federal leadership in developing the Nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist victims. OJP is headed by an Assistant Attorney General and comprises five component bureaus and an office: the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime, as well as the Community Capacity Development Office, which incorporates the Weed and Seed strategy and OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk. More information can be found at www.ojp.usdoj.gov.

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