

CROSSROADS

New Hampshire Department of Corrections Victim Services Office

“Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime”



FROM THE COMMISSIONER

As I return to the Seattle area this fall to be with my family, it is with mixed emotions that I leave New Hampshire. Staff of the New Hampshire Department of Corrections has made this 3 ½ years experience as Commissioner very worthwhile. It is an excellent Department with professional employees. A number of constructive changes have brought much progress in recent years. For continued improvements, it is important that the DOC sustain efforts in collaboration with all criminal justice stakeholders throughout New Hampshire. One of the primary reasons we do this work is to prevent further crime victimization. In promoting community safety and offender change, it is important to understand victims’ concerns. It is constructive and instructive to keep crime victims at the fore. They best understand the impacts of crime on our citizens and communities in New Hampshire and across the nation.

Phil Stanley



This **CROSSROADS**

By Peter Michaud

This second edition of *Crossroads* features a number of perspectives related to New Hampshire’s responsiveness to the needs and rights of crime victims. Articles include contributions by a probation-parole officer, a police officer, a county corrections superintendent, a batterers intervention provider and the NH Department of Justice Office of Victim/Witness Assistance. Additionally, a poignant poem was written by the victim/witness coordinator of a prosecutor’s office.

Each of their observations offers practical accounts in understanding and addressing victimization issues. In part, they discuss matters of victim safety, victim participation, information sharing, and efforts to promote offender accountability and change.

The next *Crossroads* will be published during Spring 2004. Among other topics will be information about crimes against elders, victim advocacy during criminal trials, and the AmeriCorps Victim Assistance Program in New Hampshire.

Peter Michaud is Victim Services Coordinator for the New Hampshire Department of Corrections. He may be reached at (603) 271-1937 or pmichaud@nhdcc.state.nh.us.

Inside this issue:

Crime Victims Rights in New Hampshire	p. 2
Automated Victim Notification	p. 2
What Is Abuse ?	p. 3
Batterers Intervention	p. 5
Child Victim	p. 5
Female Offenders	p. 6
A Long Way to Go	p. 6
A Few New Laws for NH	p. 7
Contact “ <i>Crossroads</i> ”	p. 9

A LOOK AT CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

By Sandra Matheson

The State Office of Victim/Witness Assistance, within the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, exists to ensure that all victims of crime in New Hampshire are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. The experience of victims in New Hampshire is very different today than it was years ago....

WHAT RIGHTS ?

When their daughter was raped and murdered they found out about her death through a phone call. They had to take a loan out to pay for her funeral and they had no insurance to pay for mental health counseling. They were not notified about what was happening with their case and there was no victim/witness advocate available to support them through the criminal justice process. When the case ended in a plea negotiation, they read about it in the newspaper and they were not given the right to speak at the sentencing of the murderer.

When a drunk driver killed a child, everyone just called it an "accident." After all, didn't everyone drink and drive at some point in their lives? When the driver was convicted, she was sentenced to 3 months in jail – after all, she really didn't mean to kill someone.

When the sexual abuse began at age four, she was told that no one would believe her, not even her own mother, and that if she

told anyone she would be punished. Silence was her only answer. There was no one in the schools to encourage her to come forward. There were no services available to assist her. The abuse continued until she moved out of her home at age 17. When she finally decided to report the years of abuse, she was told there was nothing that could be done because the statute of limitations on the crimes against her had run out.

When she was raped by her date, she went to the hospital for a sexual assault exam, which included the invasive process of pulling pubic and head hair and "routine" toxicology testing. She had no medical insurance. The hospital

"New Hampshire has made tremendous progress in recognizing and ensuring the rights of crime victims."

sent her a bill for over \$1,000 for collecting evidence in her own case.

He first started beating her right after she got pregnant with their first child, and over the years it just kept getting worse. She thought about leaving him many times, but she had no

(Continued on page 3)

Automated Victim Notification

By Gene Charron

The Rockingham County Department of Corrections, in August 1998, initiated the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system. This system of victim notification interacts with the correctional facility's Jail Management System. After people register, they are notified by an automated telephone call when the offender is released. VINE was developed after a young woman was murdered in 1993 in the State of Kentucky. Despite her request, she had not been notified when her offender was released on bail. He subsequently stalked and murdered her. The VINE program serves more than 1200 communities in 36 states and two Canadian Provinces. Seventeen states including Texas, New York, Illinois and Florida have implemented a statewide program. The communications center is 24/7 for callers who need help

checking on an offender or registering for notification.

Rockingham County statistics show that, from January 2002 to September 2003, the VINE system received approximately 3,300 calls of inquiry. There are over 170 current registrations for notification. The Rockingham County system, initiated by Superintendent Gene P. Charron, was the first system installed in New England. Superintendent Charron says, "I am really proud of the support that we received from the County. If one person is spared from injury or worse because of this program, then it will have paid for itself twofold." He continues, "The system provides notice that the offender is being released and

(Continued on page 5)

Victim Rights (from page 2)

job, three children, no money, no family support and no place to go. And, besides wasn't she to blame? There were no battered women shelters, no domestic violence laws or protective orders, no one to turn to for help. Even her minister told her she should stay in her marriage. Once, she even called the police, but she was told that it was a family affair and that she and her husband should work it out for themselves.

HOMICIDE SURVIVORS

Since those real crimes against real people, New Hampshire has made tremendous progress in recognizing and ensuring the rights of crime victims. The state's first prosecution-based Victim/Witness Assistance Program was created in Hillsborough County in 1985. In 1987, the State Office of Victim/Witness Assistance was established by law to (a) provide 24-hour direct services and support in all of the state's homicide cases; (b) coordinate efforts among the county attorneys, law enforcement and other agencies in developing and standardizing services for victims of crime statewide; (c) develop protocols and policies; and (d) provide training to the many professional disciplines involved in these issues.

New Hampshire is one of four states where all homicides (except negligent homicide) are prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office. This enables a centralized victim services unit to be involved from the onset of the in-

vestigation. When a homicide occurs anywhere in the state, an advocate responds to the scene. The advocate is responsible for notifying the victim's family of the death, providing immediate crisis intervention and support to both family members and witnesses to the crime. Services provided by the advocate are extensive and can include arranging for cleanup of the homicide scene, informing the family of autopsy results, and assisting with funeral arrangements.

As a criminal case proceeds through the justice system, the advocate provides services and support to the families. These include orientation and information about court procedures, notification of case information (e.g. status, hearings), accompaniment and support at all pre-trial and post-trial hearings, intervention with employer, school or creditor if needed. The advocate is also knowledgeable about helpful community resources and assists families with obtaining victim com-

"The New Hampshire Crime Victims Bill of Rights (law since 1991) entitles victims to 21 legal rights."

pensation funds and property return. Services continue throughout the post-conviction process as well.

ADVOCATING THROUGHOUT...

In 1989, the state legislature passed the Victims Assistance Fund, financed by an assessment on court fines and penalties. By 1993, all of New Hampshire's County Attorney Offices, including the rural counties where services had been almost nonexistent, had initiated Victim/Witness Assistance Programs. The effort to standardize services and support for New Hampshire crime victims was taking shape.

(Continued on page 4)

"Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime"
www.state.nh.us/doc

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Physical abuse examples: slapping, hitting, kicking, spitting, punching, burning, driving in a reckless way, punching walls, breaking things, pulling hair, biting, arm-twisting, use of weapons.

Emotional abuse examples: put-downs, disrespect for feelings and opinions, threats, jealousy, possessiveness, mind games, stalking, the "silent treatment", making all the decisions, isolation, threatening to harm family, friends, or pets.

Sexual abuse examples: rape, unwanted touching, unwelcome sexual comments, pressuring a partner for sex, refusing to talk about or use contraception, uncomfortable stares.

Verbal abuse examples: yelling, threats, name calling, swearing, talking over another person, constant interrupting, humiliating someone in public or in private.

Economic abuse examples: interfering with a partner's job, not letting a partner have a job, withholding money, destroying property.

SOURCE: NH Governor's Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence

Victim Rights (from p. 3)

With passage of the Victims Assistance Fund, the NH Victim's Assistance Commission was established. The Commission provides compensation to help minimize financial hardships for victims of violence. Victims, who already suffer emotionally and physically, would no longer be deprived of essential mental health counseling, or go bankrupt trying to pay for the cost of medical treatment or take out a loan to pay for the funeral of their loved one who was murdered. The state now pays for the cost of the sexual assault medical forensic examination and victims are no longer being re-victimized by being billed for it. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are now available in many hospitals to provide consistent comprehensive medical care that respects the emotional and physical needs of the sexually assaulted patient, while collecting the best possible evidence for prosecution.

The New Hampshire Crime Victims Bill of Rights (law since 1991) entitles victims to 21 legal rights, including full orientation and participation in the criminal justice process. This law changed the way "the system" views the role of crime victims. They are not just potential witnesses. Judges now ask for input of the victim before imposing sentence on the defendant. Victims are being treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Other progress in recognizing crime victims' rights? New Hampshire has comprehensive domestic violence protection laws, presumptive arrest policies, and availability of emergency telephonic protection orders by the court. With 24-hour confidential crisis center services available statewide, victims of domestic violence are offered the support and protection they need to escape violence in their homes. The relatively new crime of stalking gives law enforcement a tool to intervene in situations before physical violence occurs.

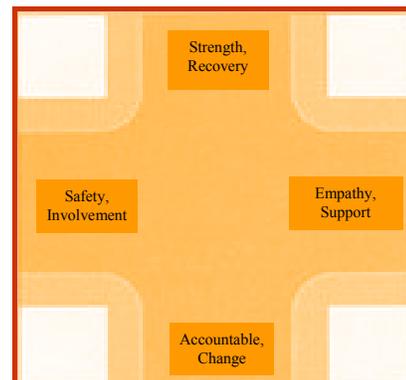
The statute of limitations in child abuse cases is now 22 years past the age of majority (age 40), empowering victims to seek justice years after the crimes occurred. Confidentiality surrounding crimes committed by juveniles has changed; victims of violent crime committed by juvenile now have a right to information in their cases and the opportunity to be heard.

In 1998, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections created a Victim Services Unit to provide information, support and safety for victims during an offender's sentence to corrections. There is recognition that a crime

victim's trauma does not end with the sentencing of the offender.

The State of New Hampshire is fortunate to have a network of dedicated, committed victim advocates, working in and out of the justice system, who work tirelessly on behalf of those citizens who have been traumatized by crime. The cooperation and assistance of the crime victim is critical to a successful prosecution of an offender. Victims play an important role in our criminal justice system. The goal of the State Office of Victim/Witness Assistance is to continue to ensure that the rights of all victims of crime in New Hampshire are protected, without taking away the rights of the defendant, and that all citizens involved in the system are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Sandra Matheson is Director of the NH Attorney General's Office of Victim/Witness Assistance. She may be reached at (603) 271-3671 or sandi.matheson@doj.nh.gov



October 2003

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

"A home, a family should be a place of support, should be a peaceful place not a place of cruelty and brutality. Domestic violence betrays the most basic duties of life, it violates the law, it's wrong, it is a crime that must be confronted by individuals, by communities and by government."

President George W. Bush
October 8, 2003

April 18 - 24, 2004

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

"Victims' Rights – America's Values"

Automated Notification (from page 2)

because of that it

provides a critical warning to the victim to do whatever they have to do to be safe. My hope is that one day the State of New Hampshire will join the other states in being a statewide program.”

Gene Charron is the Superintendent of the Rockingham County Department of Corrections. He may be reached at

Batterers Intervention: Practice Standards

By Scott Hampton

Overview of domestic violence: By even the most conservative estimates, over a million women each year in the United States are abused by their husbands, boy-friends, or ex-partners. While the vast majority of severe assaults in heterosexual relationships are perpetrated by men against women, men can be abused as well. Violence in same-sex relationships is also a pervasive problem. In short, domestic violence cuts across all racial, cultural, religious, economic, sexual orientation and social lines. No one is immune.

In the early 1970's, when the battered women's movement was being formed both nationally and in New Hampshire, services such as shelters, advocacy, support groups, and hotlines were developed for victims or survivors of domestic violence. As vital as these services were, and continue to be, in helping to protect and empower survivors, society soon realized that the violence would never end until batterers are held accountable for the harm they cause and we challenge the attitudes and beliefs underlying their abusive behavior.

Role of batterer intervention programs: Years ago, the first batterers intervention programs were developed as one tool to help challenge batterers' abusive attitudes

(Continued on page 8)

Did you not receive the Summer 2003 Edition of *Crossroads*? If you would like a copy, please contact us by phone or e-mail! See page 9.

CHILD VICTIM

by Lyndi Horn

172.

This is the house.

I park my sports car,
slowly get out.
My heels on the walk,
the brush of my new coat
sound intrusive when
I approach this sad home.

Paint chipped house, unkempt yard
a rusted sedan on the side.
A dirty blank face peers out
behind a faded sheet-curtained window.

Masking my pity, I arrive at the torn screen door.
Sad stare.
This wiry little boy,
answers without greeting.

A meek, dark eyed, pale-faced woman,
swaggers feebly down the cluttered hall.
Avoiding the wreckage and broken doll,
I walked to the scribbled stairway wall.
This other child, she leans, looking small.
Vulnerable smirk on her made up face,
it appears to say, go to hell, go away.

I know the uneasy mistrusting stare,
I can feel the tense, unstable air around her.
Approaching her with care, as she lives in fear,
I gently brush back her tangled hair
to see her young, pretty-painted face.

I take her hand firmly, I lift her chin.
Her eyes meet mine, in a long silent stare.
"What he did to you is not right or fair.
It is not your fault, I know you're scared.
Court is no fun, I am aware,
You won't be alone, I'll be there.
Come on, take my hand,

Let's go."

Lyndi Horn is Victim/Witness Coordinator with the Cheshire County Attorney. She may be reached at (603) 355-3013, or lhorn@co.cheshire.nh.us.

A LONG WAY TO GO

by Marty Swirko

I remember the night, the people, and the call so well. It was Christmas Eve, several years ago; I'll guess around 1993. I was working midnights and it was the day before Christmas. The only other things I remember about that night were the heavy rains; the fact that I was soaked; and the burglary arrest I made later that shift. But this call was a domestic dispute, in a tenement I had been to several times before. The man of the house had been arrested several times for assaulting his partner in the past. Each time, the charges were dropped at the request of the victim.

This night, I walked into the apartment, which was sparsely furnished. I found several young children crying, their Christmas tree overturned, partially thrown down the stairs,. Broken glass and bulbs were all around. The man was highly intoxicated. His girlfriend was very angry. She turned that anger towards me, which is not unusual. The children? Their mood went from one of disappointment and fear for their mother, to feelings of terror because the police were there.

The victim yelled at me that the police won't help her; she said he beats her and the kids all the time and we "do nothing." I asked her what happened the last time we arrested him; she looked at the floor and said only, "the charges were dropped."

This made me very angry. I scolded her.

Eventually, I arrested the suspect. I don't even remember what happened in court. I left the apartment angry, and blamed the whole situation on the victim because, after all, this wouldn't happen if she did not let it happen. SHE was in control. That night seems like a long time ago, and in many ways it is long past.

In May 2003, as I sat through New Hampshire's Annual Statewide Domestic Violence Conference, I thought about those days, what I didn't know about my job, and I realized that I had come a long way, professionally and personally. It was good that our society as well has made large strides in how we look at and handle crimes involving domestic and sexual violence.

As the day went on, I thought back about some memorable cases I worked later in my career while assigned to the department's domestic violence unit. I wondered, "Just how far have we come?" I thought about the litany of cases; the offenders who get pass after pass; and the victims who rarely find closure, and when they do, it is long in coming.

Before we pat ourselves on the back, I thought, perhaps we should talk with a young lady, whose EX-boyfriend was angry one night because she had been out with another man. According to this victim, when he tried to throw her off the bridge, he told her he was going to kill her. In fact, a person who did not know either party testified she saw the defendant dragging the victim across the bridge. When she stopped to

(Continued on page 8)

Female Offenders & Victimization

By Christine McKenna

At times, Probation-Parole Officers supervise female offenders. The rate of female offenders in the criminal justice system seems to continue to rise each year. During the 1980's, the male population nationally increased by 112 percent in state facilities, while the female population increased by 202 percent (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1992). The proportion of the population they represent has also been on the rise. Most are incarcerated for drug offenses, a change from property offenses in the past. Women bring to the criminal justice system a myriad of issues, including substance abuse addictions, broken relationships, single parenting, little education, lack of jobs skills, as well as mental and physical health issues. They have many of the same problems as their male counterparts.

However, one significant difference between the genders is that female offenders are often victims of sexual abuse, very likely but not necessarily to have occurred in the adolescent years. They are victims of forcible rape as well as date rape. More often than men, women are victims of domestic assault. Their

(Continued on page 7)

Female Offenders (from page 6)

seeming vulnerabilities leave them open to various types of victimization.

An estimated six out of every ten women have been abused at some point during their lives. Many female offenders have been victimized by domestic assaults and, as children, witnessed spousal abuse. In one study of children who murder, more than 75 percent had been exposed to violence and abuse, especially sexual abuse during childhood (Lewis et al., 1985). Not surprisingly, a rise in child abuse and neglect can often be attributed to drug use.

Many inmates have been victims of abuse sometime in their lives. Some psychological effects of long-term spousal abuse and child abuse are similar to being taken hostage. Strong bonds take form between abuser and victim – so strong that many hostages have tried to remain with their captors after the terms of their release have been negotiated. Seeming to defy logic, victims

and children often lie about injuries and abuse to protect their abusers (Dutton & Painter, 1981). Research suggests that memories formed in traumatic situations are ingrained more deeply and affect behavior more directly than memories developed under

“Some psychological effects of long-term spousal abuse and child abuse are similar to being taken hostage.”

normal circumstances. This bond has been labeled the “Stockholm syndrome” in hostage events and “traumatic bonding” when discussing spousal or child abuse (Dutton & Painter, 1981).

Women in battering relationships work hard to keep the relationship in the “honeymoon” phase. They believe their behavior will be rewarded positively if they “just try hard enough.” Yet, punishments and rewards often have little to do with an abuser’s behavior. Abuse victims are very adept at reading and

(Continued on page 8)

OF INTEREST ...

A FEW NEW LAWS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE IN 2003

Chapter 275 (HB 248): Amended RSA 169-B:34 to require the disclosure of certain information to victims in juvenile delinquency cases. It is also unlawful for a victim or any member of the victim's immediate family to disclose confidential information to any person not authorized or entitled to access such confidential information.

Chapter 259 (HB 389): Amended RSA 21-M:8-k to permit victims of crime or attempted crime to designate a representative to assist the victim in making an impact statement to the court. The victim impact statement may include injuries, harm, or damages that were not fully determined or discovered at the time the information or indictment was filed.

Chapter 227 (HB 461): Established a commission to study financial exploitation of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Chapter 226 (HB 105): This law amends the prohibition against sexual conduct by corrections officers, probation/parole officers, juvenile probation/parole officers or any other person in a supervisory or disciplinary capacity against individuals under their care or supervision.

It also authorizes courts to prohibit visitation between a parent convicted of sexual abuse or sexual assault against a minor child or minor stepchild and any sibling of the victim.

Chapter 141 (HB 214): Amended RSA 517:13 such that no party in a criminal case shall take the discovery deposition of a victim or witness who has not achieved the age of 16 years at the time of the deposition.

Chapter 69 (HB 212): Amended the criminal threatening law to define “terrorize” as meaning to cause alarm, fright, or dread; the state of mind induced by the apprehension of hurt from some hostile or threatening event or manifestation.



A Long Way (from page 6)

help, the defendant told her not to worry, the woman he was dragging had not taken her medication and he was just trying to get her under control and back home. We charged the defendant with attempted murder, and an assortment of other charges.

A long trial followed and there were problems with the victim's testimony. The defense was able to impeach her credibility. Despite that, I thought, wow, we finally have a victim a jury can like. A professional woman -- maybe we have a shot at a conviction.

The victim spent more than two days on the stand. When it was done, the jury had found the defendant not guilty of all charges. Looking into this woman's eyes after the trial – the eyes of a devastated human being – I knew that I could not tell another victim like this that it was in her best interest to let us prosecute, and she should be willing to testify, and so on.

Before we pat ourselves on the back, I thought, perhaps we should talk about another suspect who confessed, on tape, that he raped a partially deaf and mute girl. Also, he ad-

“All I can do is reassure her that she is a fighter and it took courage to see this case to the end.”

mitted to raping a young child in another city years earlier, and that charge had been dropped. He said he often rapes, or in his words, “does these things” to women, and when he does, he puts it out of his mind because it makes him feel bad about himself. For that reason, he claimed, he couldn't give details about others he had sexually assaulted beyond those he mentioned. Good job by my partner and me. Thank you very much. He was sent to jail and from there they will throw the key away – right? Was I surprised when I found him cooking my dinner at a local diner two months later! I learned the case was reduced to Simple Assault, time served. The victim would have been a “terrible witness,” I was later told.

Before we pat ourselves on the back, I thought of a seventeen-year-old rapist who admitted, on tape, to raping a 21 year old woman, a seven-year-old girl, and a five-year-old child when he was fifteen. The last cost him two years in YDC. This young man tearfully told me about the man who molested him in his home since he was seven. He told me he had no control over himself, and begged me to put

(Continued on page 9)

Batterers Intervention (from page 5)

and behaviors. Good batterers intervention programs do NOT provide psychotherapy, anger or stress management training, substance abuse treatment, couples or family counseling, or mediation. Instead, they focus solely on providing education to abusers on domestic violence-related issues. Providers need to offer that education in collaboration with other key stakeholders and in a fashion that maximizes offender accountability while not compromising victim or child safety.

Importance and scope of Standards of Practice:

Without proper training or adequate policies and procedures, batterer intervention providers not only are ineffective but may actually increase risks to victims. Even the best programs cannot guarantee that a batterer's participation will enhance victim safety and welfare. The purpose of Standards of Practice is to encourage the development of responsible batterers intervention programs by providing easy to understand guidelines for program providers.

In New Hampshire, the Batterers Intervention Subcommittee of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence published Standards of Practice in 2002. The Standards provide guidance to potential providers on a variety of topics including (1) the appropriate length (36 weeks minimum) and format (educational group) of programs; (2) educational and background requirements of staff; (3) funding considerations; (4) screening and assessment of batterers; (5) the program's role in enhancing perpetrator accountability; (6) collaboration with other stakeholders, particularly the criminal justice system and victim services; and (7) program evaluation.

During 2003, the Subcommittee collaborated with The Greenbook Project in sponsoring a two-day training to familiarize providers with the Standards. Another intensive 2-3 day training in March 2004 will impart the basics of providing services to batterers. For more information about the Standards, upcoming trainings, or other information about New Hampshire's batterer intervention services, *contact the Subcommittee Chair, Scott Hampton at (603) 742- 2954 or endingviolence@aol.com.*



Female Offenders (from page 7)

interpreting the mood of their abuser and often lose the ability to recognize their own feelings. Quite simply they have learned to survive by keeping the victimizer content. Continued abuse reinforces to the victim that she has no power and cognitively she begins to assume she has no control, no means of escape. Self-esteem is greatly diminished and the belief she has value to other people or can succeed in other situations is severely limited. (Dutton & Painter, 1981)

From a behavioral perspective, abuse victims have difficulty learning new behavioral patterns. They experience chronic subjective stress and may suffer from various internal physical health problems. Chemicals in the brain, such as serotonin norepinephrine, and endorphins, may be unbalanced as a result of “hyperarousal” (Van der Kolk, 1989).

It is incumbent upon Probation/Parole Officers and other Correctional Staff working with female offenders to understand many victims of abuse have cognitive processes that lead to behavior where the goal is to survive. Their capacity for problem solving and understanding they have choices may be limited. Consequently, the behavior we see in the community, such as inappropriate relationships, limited parenting skills, difficulties diffusing anger, impulsivity, depression, and isolation can be a result of victimization. Many family violence victims are conditioned to believe the abusive relationships they experienced are actually love, because that is what they know. A goal for offender changes should be education and therapy designed to break through cycles of violence and victimization, as well as dissolution of the traumatic bonds. Many abuse victims have learned that violence is a way of dealing with conflict. They need to learn the tools necessary for successful conflict resolution – for themselves, for their children, for the community and for future generations.

Christine McKenna is a Senior Probation/Parole Officer with the NH Department of Corrections, Dover District Office. She may be reached at (603) 742-6621 or cmckenna@nhdoc.state.nh.us

A Long Way (from page 8)

him somewhere so he could stop and learn to become a good father because his girlfriend is pregnant. He wanted to be someplace where he wouldn't be able to do things to people that were done to him. By the time this case was ready to go to trial, the adult victim was gone, deteriorated from substance abuse and whatever other demons this young man had added to her life.

I thought about the case of the man who stalked a woman, entered her home without permission, and sexually assaulted her. This guy confessed, on videotape, to just about all the alleged behavior. We needed to “work out” a plea for simple assault on this one. No jail time. I still get emails from the woman, telling me she can't sleep, doesn't feel safe, and so on. All I can do is reassure her that she is a fighter and it took courage to see this case to the end.

The list goes on and on. Before that recent time of reflection, I never really thought about the thousands of cases I've investigated, at least not in this light. Sometimes, “the system” seems to re-victimize the victims, and enable the offenders to continue their behavior. When we put it all together, we can see how our “system” still needs much improvement. That day, I thought, maybe we really haven't come so far after all. And one thing for sure: We still have a LONG way to go.

Martin Swirko is a 13-year veteran with the Manchester Police Department. He may be reached at (603)668-8711 or MSWIRKO@ci.manchester.nh.us

Receive *Crossroads* by E-Mail !

The next edition of *Crossroads* will be published during Spring 2004.

** An electronic version is available by e-mail **

To request *Crossroads* by e-mail or to submit comments please contact the Victim Services Office at

vrussell@nhdoc.state.nh.us

(603) 271-7351



Victim Services

New Hampshire Department of Corrections
Victim Services Office
P.O. Box 1806
Concord, NH 03302-1806
Phone: 603-271-1937 or 603-271-7351
or 1-800-479-0688 Ext. 7351 (in-state only)
Fax: 603-271-5639
Email: pmichaud@nhdoc.state.nh.us
vrussell@nhdoc.state.nh.us

Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime
AUTUMN 2003

WE ARE ON THE WEB!

www.nh.gov/doc

DID YOU KNOW...?



In 2002, there were 23 million violent and property victimizations in the U.S.
(Source: National Crime Victimization Survey)

In New Hampshire, 11,601 individuals were served during 2002 by member agencies of the NH Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. (Source: NHCADSV)

In 2002, victimizations involving a firearm represented 7% of the crimes of sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. (Source: National Crime Victimization Survey)

Excluding sexual assault crimes, males are more likely to be victimized than females.
(Source: National Crime Victimization Survey)

In correctional settings, between 1990 and 2000, the number of women offenders per capita increased 48 percent, compared to a 27 percent increase in the number of men per capita.
(Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics)



"Inform & Involve Survivors of Crime"