



DELAWARE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Breaking the cycle of violence.

Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past - Delaware Crime Victims' Rights Week

As a member of the Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force, DCADV actively participates on the planning committee for the Annual Crime Victims' Rights Week events. This year's events were kicked off on Wednesday, April 6th with the 2nd Annual 5K Run/Walk for Awareness at Dravo Plaza in Wilmington. Attorney General Biden made remarks and then officially started the race. Over 160 people participated in the event and the after party at Timothy's, including 23 honored guests who participated in honor of or as a survivor.

On Monday, April 11th, Governor Markell signed a proclamation designating April 10 – 16, 2011 as Delaware's Crime Victims' Rights Week. Also at the proclamation signing, the Victims' Rights Task Force presented their Annual Awards for Outstanding Professional, Volunteer and Organization. *The Elaine Aviola Memorial Award for Outstanding Professional* was presented to Mona Bayard of Wilmington Police Department's Victim Services Unit; the *Outstanding Volunteer* award was presented to Neda Biggs; and the *Outstanding Organization* award was presented to the Delaware Department of Justice, Sussex County Victim/Witness and the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit (jointly). The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council presented Susan Baldwin of the U.S. Attorney's Office with their Outstanding Community Service Award.

The week's events were brought to a close with the 20th Annual Crime Victims' Tribute. The Tribute was held at the Dover Sheraton and drew around 150 people for hors d'oeuvres, beverages, resource exhibits, and most important, to honor crime victims and survivors. Pipers from Delaware Law Enforcement Agencies and the University of Delaware Police Department Honor Guard performed Opening Ceremony, followed by the National Anthem, Ceremonial Lighting of Candle, Memorial Reading and opening remarks by Attorney General Biden. The Rainbow Chorale of Delaware provided the music for the evening. Dr. Susan Miller introduced guest speaker, Kim Book, founder and Executive Director of Victims' Voices Heard, Inc. In 1995, her only child, 17 year-old Nicole was murdered by a 16 year-old man she knew. Kim shared how her journey is reshaping the future and honoring the past. Commissioner Carl Danberg presented closing remarks and then the audience was treated to another performance by the Chorale. Stephanie Hamilton, Chair of the Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force, thanked everyone in the room for their participation in the event.