



## CRIME VICTIMS SHOULD NOT FEEL FACELESS

### You Know Them – It's Personal!

Statistics indicate that 8 out of 12 Americans will become victims of a crime at least once in their lifetime. It could happen to someone you know – your neighbor, your best friend, a family member; It could happen to you!

**Be Prepared. Educate yourself on crime victims' rights and services, and how you can help!**

#### **“I knew I Had to Leave...”**

*Living in a Crisis Shelter*

I had to leave my home in the middle of the night with my two children to get away from my boyfriend. He had been hitting me right along but when I discovered he also hit my little boys, I knew I had to leave. We are safe here in this shelter but I don't know how long we can stay. My boys deserve a normal life.

**In Belknap County, we believe that serving crime victims serves justice.**

It takes unity in our county's community of people to recognize and understand the rights and needs of crime victims, in order to help victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime.

Based on the values of restorative justice, we believe that the offender, the victim, and the community's needs must be met before justice is served.

It is for these reasons that Belknap County recognizes:

**National Crime Victim's Rights Week**

**April 23-29, 2006**

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#### **“They Were Lying to Me”**

*I Was Scammed*

It sounded so good over the phone when he promised that I would earn back twice what I contributed. I gave them a good portion of my retirement savings; I wanted to be able to leave something to my kids. I recently found out they were lying to me. The police have no way to track them down, and what's more my kids blame me for falling for the scam.

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### “My Heart is Breaking”

*Melanie is Gone*

My beautiful teenage daughter, Melanie, was jogging down the wooded path in our town when someone tackled her and threw her in the bushes. She was raped, stabbed, covered with leaves, and left to die. She wasn't found for a week. My heart is breaking, my wife is in shock. Our family will never be the same again. How could someone do something like this?

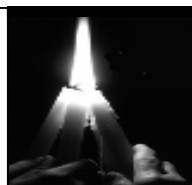
**Do You Know Someone Who is a Victim of Domestic or Sexual Violence?**

Help is Available!

**In an Emergency Call 9-1-1**

For Assistance Contact the 24-hour Help Line:  
**1-866-841-6247**

For Information on how you can help visit the OVC Website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/>



Strength in Unity  
It's Personal!  
For Victims Rights

The Belknap County observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week is supported with funds from the Office of Victims of Crime (U.S. Department of Justice), LRGHealthcare, and the Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families. Artwork Courtesy of OVC & David Stamps



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### “Losing My Identity”

*Someone Else is Now Me*

I can't believe this happened to me. Suddenly my credit card maxed out and then \$400. dollars worth of checks bounced. When I followed up with my bank, I learned that someone had been using my credit card and writing checks with my name. I have a full time job and I don't have enough time during the day to do what is needed to fix this problem. Not many people seem to know what I should do.

**Do You Know Someone Who is a Victim of Identity Theft or Fraud?**

Help is Available!

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### **“My Only Friend”**

*It Was a Drunk Driver*

My mommy was killed in a car accident by a driver who was drunk. I can't see her anymore. I miss her so much and I am so sad. I have to live with my aunt and uncle now, in a new town. They said that the girl who was driving drunk only sprained her ankle in the accident. My cousins are mean, and the kids at my new school all hate me. My only friend is my dog, Scout.

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### **“Now I Have to Start Again”**

*My Laptop was Stolen*

The new computer that my parents gave me for my birthday was stolen out of my car last week. The doors were locked but it was on the car seat. In the process they broke the window. I was right in the middle of preparing college applications and all my essays and other important information is gone. I am very angry because I now have to start all over again and the applications are due in four days.

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### "You Will Never Get Away From Me"

*Stalked!*

My boyfriend and I broke up but now he follows me everywhere and calls me many times every day. Yesterday, he was sitting outside the restaurant where I work and as I was walking to my car at the end of my shift, he aimed his flashlight right into my eyes and hollered out his window.... "You will never get away from me." I have been so scared that I have missed several shifts at work and am in danger of losing my job.



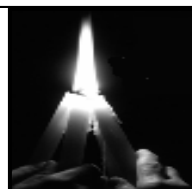
#### Do You Know Someone Who is a Victim of Negligent Homicide or Stalking?

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### "I Don't Feel Safe Here Anymore"

*Break In*

I worked very hard to afford a summer home on the lake. It is a place I go to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of this area. This past winter some teens broke into my house. They broke lamps and dishes, slashed the cushions and mattresses, and covered the walls with graffiti. They used my home as a spot to party, there were empty beer cans and drug paraphernalia all over the place. Not only will it be very expensive to repair the damages, I don't know if I feel safe here anymore.



#### Do You Know Someone Who is a Victim of Vandalism or Theft?

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