DECEMBER 2023

YEAR-AT-A GLANCE

January - December 2023

Prepared By:

Tobi Downing
Executive Director

www.northwestvictimservices.org  @northwestvictimservices
NVS has had a year of transition, growth and new beginnings. Continuing our legacy of service to the communities of Northwest Philly, NVS has seen staffing changes, increased funding as well as new and exciting programming opportunities and collaborations. As I transition into another position, I leave NVS in the hands of an amazingly devoted and prepared team to move the organization forward in 2024.
NVS MISSION

To provide prompt, effective, and holistic Services to all victims of crime in Northwest Philadelphia while increasing prevention strategies to elevate community safety.

VISION: To permanently alter the way, we treat victims of crime in Northwest Philadelphia.

VALUES:
Northwest Victim Services values six principles when aiding victims of crimes and the Northwest community. These principles are Community, Empathy, Dignity, Reliability, Competence and Confidentiality.
OUR TEAM

RYSHEDA ELLIOTT
Victim Advocate
Certified Peer Specialist

RACHAEL REYES-VAZQUEZ
Court/Victim Advocate

LA'NITA HARRIS
Trauma Care Coordinator

WYNTER DOWNING
Youth Engagement Coordinator (P/T)
OUR TEAM

TOBI DOWNING
Executive Director

ELIJAH TWYMAN
Intern/Youth Organizer

DR. JANET ETZI
Therapist

TRINA DOW, MSW
Counselor/Therapist
NVS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-2023

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2022-2023

DR. JOANN COZZA
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NICK TALIFERRO
NVS SERVICES
YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

-NVS served approx. 635 victims during 2023 on the VOCA grant.
-Over 200 additional victims of gun violence served through the City Expansion Grant (Jan - May) and PCCD -VIP Grant (June - Dec).
- Targeted intervention and prevention outreach for underserved populations including young victims of crime and men and boys of color
- Referrals for counseling, alternative mental health services, workforce development/employment, housing, and utilities.
- 82% were victims of gun violence.
- 30% were survivors of homicide.
- Over 500 hours of counseling services were provided by NVS therapists to victims of crime.
- NVS advocates staffed over 95 preliminary hearings to support victims of crime in the courtroom.

Through private donations NVS assisted 25 families
- Relocation costs
- Rental assistance multiple families of murder victims
- Beds for children of DV victim fleeing abuser
- Food, utilities and personal necessities
- Transportation and travel expenses
What's New

2023 Eagles Social Justice Funds Grant Recipients

This partnership with the Philadelphia Eagles will allow NVS to further its work with our youth leaders through advocacy, education and leadership development. The Eagles Social Justice Fund grants support gun violence reduction efforts of community-based organizations that seek to address the systemic factors that contribute to violence. In coordination with our other grant programming and priorities, NVS will engage in the following activities:

- Salary and stipends for youth staff and leaders
- Digital media outreach enhancement - podcast costs, social media campaigns, and consultants
- Outreach materials
- Youth Summit and community activities that make services more accessible to young people and build awareness around trauma, grief and violence prevention.

Pat the Artist

$32,500

This Grant Will Support Youth Engagement Efforts

NVS Designed Sneaker signed by Eagles Center Jason Kelce
What's New
Community Outreach and Education Events

- 2023 Crime Victims’ Rights Week with NW VAOs
- NVS Youth Collective Block Party
- Senator Art Haywood’s Youth Summit
- CareerLink Northwest - Job and Community Resource Fair
- Seniors Expo
- NVS Youth Collective Community Harvest and Coat Drive
Continuing NVS’ legacy of dynamic collaboration and partnerships, through the VIP grant we have embarked on some formalized relationships to meet the specific and nuanced needs of gun violence victims.

- CareerLink (Northwest)
- Career Wardrobe
- Pa Housing Alliance
- Philadelphia Housing Authority
- Area Trauma Centers

In 2024 in an effort to exponentially increase our ability to provide mental health supports to survivors, NVS will host a series of peer support groups.

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Co-Victims of Homicide
- Victims/Survivors of violence

Our new Court Advocate has started to build a collaborative relationship with the DA’s Office and Philly 6 to coordinate court assistance and advocacy. She has been able to implement a regular practice of reaching out to victims/witnesses prior to their court dates which has significantly assisted in providing more timely advocacy.