

PHILADELPHIANS

HOPE

NEVER

SUBSIDES

Survivors of Homicide

Northwest Victim Services April 2025 Resource Newsletter

SURVIVOR EXPRESSION OF HOPE

“Although the road ahead is tough, trust that many people are there to hold you up”! Virneal Edwards

Virneal lost her soulmate and the father to their four children Desmond Edwards. Desmond was only 37-years-old and he was murdered on the corner of street where they lived. Desmond lost his life because someone had road rage, pulled out a gun and shot him! Virneal and children’s lives will never be the same. “He did not deserve to die like that”, said Virneal Edwards

PLEASE STAND WITH ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY CRIME

DURING

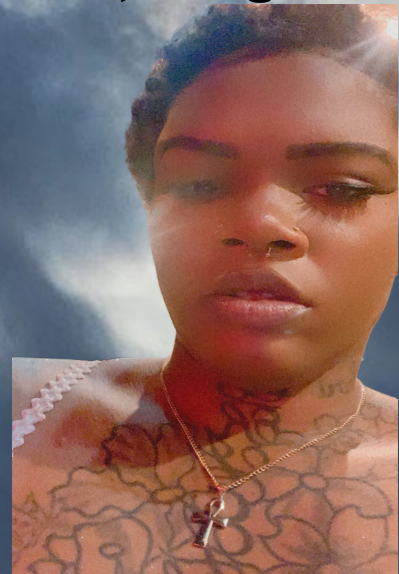
NATIONAL VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 6, 2025 TO APRIL 12, 2025



Children of Desmond & Virneal

Virneal Edwards



WE TRULY CARE ABOUT YOU!



NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES STAFF

Greetings from the Northwest Victim Services Staff. The month of April is special to each of US for two reasons. April is the National Month of HOPE and April is also when we honor those affected by crime during National Victims Rights Week. We STAND with those and for those who have been affected by crime in any way. The NVS team is small but mighty! We work extremely hard everyday and we work tirelessly throughout the day, some weekends, evenings, and holidays to ensure people know there are Advocates who truly care. We are passionate, real, genuine, and unfortunately we have been affected by a homicide in our families. We work as a TEAM, we provide LOVE with grace, and judgement is nonexistent to US.

4/1/2025 will serve as a year for my return to Northwest Victim Services. I could not be happier to be home and to work with such an amazing team!

With Unconditional Love

Melany P. Nelson, Executive Director

TRUE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) warmly invites you to join us for our Hope in Motion 5K Run/Walk and Community Resource Fair on Saturday, April 12, in West Fairmount Park (starting and ending at the Please Touch Museum). This special event marks the culmination of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW)—a national observance dedicated to uplifting survivors and ensuring equity, access, and justice for all victims of crime.

This year's NCVRW theme —“Connecting < KINSHIP > Healing”— emphasizes the importance of kinship, the deep bonds that connect us through shared humanity, purpose, and care. Hope in Motion brings that spirit to life by creating a space where survivors, families, community leaders, service providers, neighbors, and allies come together—not in competition or isolation, but in solidarity. It's not about who you are or where you're from, it's about moving and healing together. In that shared motion and connection, we build community. We build hope.

What sets Hope in Motion apart? It's not a fundraiser. It's a movement. Everything is completely free—from event registration and race t-shirts to finisher medals and access to vital resources at the Community Resource Fair. Our focus is on bringing people together, not raising money. This is about creating space to move, breathe, connect, and inspire each other toward a brighter, more peaceful future.

As AVP's Executive Director, this event holds deep personal meaning for me. In 2018, my best friend Wendy Martinez—a vibrant, strong, and deeply loved woman—was tragically killed during an evening run in Washington, D.C. Her loss forever changed my life and led me to the very work I do today. After years away from running, I'll be lacing up again for this 5K in her honor—for the first time in nearly five years. I share this because Hope in Motion is more than a run—it's a return to movement, to healing, and to community.

Whether you're from North, South, West, Southwest, Northeast, or Center City, this event is for you. Whether you're a survivor, a neighbor, a youth, a service provider, a runner, or someone simply looking to show up—we welcome you. Come run, walk, roll, volunteer, table, or just be present.

Because healing doesn't happen in silos. Hope knows no boundaries. And when it comes to building stronger, safer communities, it's always cause over ego.

Let's take the next step forward—side by side.



Natasha Danielá de Lima McGlynn, MPA
Executive Director, Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK
APRIL 6-12, 2025
KINSHIP
CONNECTING & HEALING

HOPE IN MOTION
5K RUN & WALK
APRIL 12, 2025

REGISTER NOW!
bit.ly/avphopeinmotion

Saturday, April 12, 2025 | WEST FAIRMOUNT PARK
4231 Avenue of the Republic
Philadelphia, PA 19131 | Start from 8:00AM EDT

This project is supported by a National Crime Victims' Rights Week Community Awareness Project subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators through grant number 15POVC-24-GK-01921-NONF awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

AVP Hope in Motion 5k Run/Walk and Resource Fair - Site Map



Kicking off National Victims Rights Week in Northwest Philadelphia

CALLING ALL: ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, VICTIMS,
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE, BUSINESS OWNERS, ADVOCATES,
&
CONCERNED CITIZENS OF NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA

KINSHIP CONNECTING & HEALING

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM

Location: Germantown & Wister

Please join us in honoring your loved one that was affected by crime
& to uplift crime survivors (Please bring pictures).

Program & Short Walk

Melany P. Nelson/MC

Welcome: Reverend Leroy Miles

Prayer: Pastor Alyn E. Waller

Poem: Rosetta Robinson

Words of Encouragement: District Attorney Larry Krasner

Words of HOPE: Pastor Alyn E. Waller

Solo: Dezzie

Words of Empowerment: Pastor G. Lamar Stewart



Theme: KINSHIP is a call to action to recognize that shared humanity should be at the center of supporting all survivors and victims of crime.

To reserve a resource table contact Melany Nelson at mpn@northwestvictimservices.org

Please bring your table & chairs

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

KINSHIP
**CONNECTING
& HEALING**

APRIL 6-12, 2025

Support Survivors!
Attend this year's Rally!

Crime Victims' Rights Rally

April 7, 2025

The Capitol Rotunda
at 11:00a.m.

POST-RALLY JOIN US!

"LET YOUR VOICE be HEARD!"

Legislative Activities

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Light Dessert Reception

**Please email Melany Nelson
for questions or additional information.**

MPN@northwestvictimservices.org

Visit us on Facebook :

@crimevictimsallianceofpennsylvania

MONDAY APRIL 7

RALLY AGENDA

**OPENING, WELCOME and MOMENT
of SILENCE**

BETH DOCHERTY
**Crime Victims Alliance
of Pennsylvania**

SCHIMEN SCOTT
NAMI

NICOLE AUSTIN-HILL
Death by Drug Use Victim's Voice

HONORABLE DAVID STROUSE
**Clinton County District Attorney
President of District Attorneys
Association**

VICKIE MELVIN
Labor Trafficking Victim's Voice

SUZANNE ESTRELLA, ESQ.
Commonwealth Victim Advocate

TIFFINEY HALL
Domestic Violence Victim's Voice

CLOSING
MELANY NELSON, CHAIR
**Crime Victims Alliance
of Pennsylvania &
Crime Victims' Rights
Rally Committee**

Hey COMMUNITY

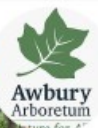
residents in zip codes 19138 • 19119 • 19144 • 19141
19126 • 19150

Ready to learn how to grow nutritious and delicious fruits, roots, herbs, beans, edible flowers, and leafy greens like a pro?

The **Philly Goat Project Neighborhood Family Garden** could be the perfect place for you!

Located at Farm at Awbury, the NFG offers a beautiful, collective green space where you can learn to grow your own food alongside community members of all ages.

We proudly support and warmly encourage community members facing food insecurity, and our cherished seniors, to join our team.



CELEBRATE
the SEASON



Scan to join now!

- ✓ Grow & Share Fresh Produce
- ✓ Enjoy Free Mindfulness & Wellness Activities
- ✓ Contribute to Sustainability
- ✓ Foster Community Building Connections

To learn more or for other ways to join, visit us at
www.phillygoatproject.org

or contact Raquel at



planthood@phillygoatproject.org



215-688-1536



Loss comes in many shapes and sizes. All are welcome. Come join us.

Free Grief Walk in Nature

Grief in the Elements Series: **EARTH**



No reservation
needed!

Saturday, April 5th

12PM-2PM

Rain Date: Sunday, April 6th

Philly Goat Project is proud to partner with Grief Coach, Naila Francis, and offer the community Free Grief Walks in Nature alongside our friendly herd of 13 goats. **We welcome anyone to join us, regardless of loss and regardless of time since the loss.**



Guided by Grief Coach:
Naila Francis



This year, for each walk, we will be focusing on one of the 4 elements found in nature (fire, earth, water, air). Make sure to check out each walk to see the different activities we will have relating to each element.

WINTER: Fire

SPRING: Earth

Summer: Water

Fall: Air

Program Details

Our 2-hour program starts right at 12pm with a brief guided meditation. Then we will embark on a quiet 30-minute walk (goat walking optional) through the arboretum, with a few stops along the way for reflection. Our last hour of the program is devoted to an "open sharing" activity, which includes options to speak, to listen, and to reflect. Every part of our program is optional and is not required.

Text or call us for questions:

215-703-8057



Philly Goat Project is located at 6336 Ardleigh Street, 19138.
If you cannot make this walk, please stay tuned for future walks at www.phillygoatproject.org under "Events".



TEEN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

AT THE PHILLY GOAT PROJECT
SPOTS ARE OPEN FOR MATURE TEENS AGES 11-14
TO JOIN OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM!



**THIS IS A FREE JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR A SMALL
NUMBER OF TEENS WHO WILL LEARN GOAT CARE AND
OTHER OUTDOOR TEAM BUILDING SKILLS.**

YEAR ROUND ON SATURDAYS 8-11.
SUMMERTIME: WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND
SATURDAY FROM 8-11
TEENS WHO GAIN SKILLS WILL THEN BE
INVITED TO WORK AT EVENTS WHICH THEY
WILL BE PAID FOR.

Our video



*About
YOU!*

- **MUST LIVE AND GO TO SCHOOL IN THE NEARBY COMMUNITY, PREFERENCE TO TEENS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED BACKGROUNDS**
- **MUST BE ABLE TO FOLLOW DIRECTIONS INDEPENDENTLY, WALK ONE MILE ON TRAILS, AND LIFT 10 POUNDS**
- **MANY FAMILY ACTIVITIES ARE CONNECTED TO THIS PROGRAM, FAMILY MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US MONTHLY.**

*About
US!*

**PHILLY GOAT PROJECT IS A NONPROFIT LOCATED AT THE FARM AT AWBURY
6336 ARDLEIGH STREET, PHILADELPHIA PA 19138 (NEAR WASHINGTON LANE)**

PLEASE REACH OUT IF INTERESTED.

TEXT: (215) 703-8057 OR EMAIL: DIRECTOR@PHILLYGOATPROJECT.ORG

FOR MORE INFO CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.PHILLYGOATPROJECT.ORG/EDUCATION



**PLEASE SHOW YOUR
LOVE AND SUPPORT
DURING NATIONAL
VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK**

THE POWER OF ONE STARTS WITH YOU!

Northwest Victim Services

6023 Germantown Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19144

215.438.4410

Northwestvictimservices.org