



NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES

JANUARY 2026

NEWSLETTER

Message from Executive Director, Melany P. Nelson



Ushering in 2026

The Northwest Victim Services (NVS) Staff and Board of Directors is looking forward to a year filled with HOPE & Promise! HOPE in the safety for all Philadelphians and Promise that the Northwest Victim Services staff will do everything we can for those affected by crime in the 5th, 14th, 35th, and 39th police districts. We have to work together to ensure our communities are safe and to ensure WE are not living in fear where we attend school, work, worship, or raise our family. We understand being victimized can affect the way individuals function and survive. Certain Northwest neighborhoods are often exposed to higher rates of violence. This increases the risk of trauma, long-term stress and harm to one's mental health. For 2026 the NVS staff will continue to fight for those living in high poverty locations and for those who find it hard to access FREE resources.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE HELP IS HERE!

FREE SERVICES • FOOD • SHELTER • CLOTHING • SUPPORT

Need Help Today?

211

Free, confidential support connecting you to housing, food programs, mental health services, and more—24/7.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

My Place Germantown

209 E Price St, Philadelphia, PA 19144
<http://myplacegermantown.org>

Face to Face Germantown

123 E Price St, Philadelphia, PA 19144
<https://facetofacegermantown.org>

Dignity Housing

5227 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19144
<https://www.dignityhousing.org>



FREE FOOD & MEAL SUPPORT

Why Not Prosper

717 E Cheltenham Ave Philadelphia, PA
Monday/Tuesday 8am-10am
215-842-2360

New Hope AME Zion Church

5802 Musgrave St Philadelphia, PA
1st & 3rd Saturday of each month
11am-1pm
215-668-9703

Germantown Community Fridge

19 High St Philadelphia, PA
&
20 W Armat St Philadelphia, PA
24/7



INTAKE CENTERS (closest to NW Philadelphia)

Pathways to Housing PA

5201 Old York Rd 4th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19141
215-390-1500

Appletree Family Center

(shelter/diversion assessment)
1430 Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-686-7150

Women & Children services

Life Turning Point of Philadelphia
5200 Wayne Ave Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-826-7810

Office of Homeless Services: 215-686-7175

Homeless Outreach Hotline: 215-232-1984



**NORTHWEST
VICTIM SERVICES**

Poverty Is Not a Personal Failure – It's a Community Issue

Understanding how poverty shapes property conditions, crime, and safety in Philadelphia

1 in 5

Philadelphians lives below the poverty line



Over 50% of residents are housing cost-burdened

Property crime continues to impact neighborhoods already facing economic stress

Poverty increases vulnerability—not criminality



Victims in under-resourced communities face more barriers

WHY POVERTY & PROPERTY CRIME ARE CONNECTED



Vacant & neglected properties



Limited access to repairs & security



Increased stress & trauma



Underreported victimization

When basic needs go unmet, neighborhoods pay the price,



WHAT HELP LOOKS LIKE

Northwest Victim Services:

- Crisis intervention
- Trauma-informed counseling
- Court accompaniment
- Safety planning
- Advocacy—at no cost

Support services break the cycle of harm

Report property crime

Support victims—believe them

Advocate for housing & economic equity

POVERTY, SAFETY & COMMUNITY IMPACT

What the data shows and why awareness matters

ECONOMIC PRESSURE

- High poverty rates among large U.S. cities
- Many residents are housing cost-burdened
- Economic stress affects neighborhood stability

CRIME & EXPOSURE

- Property crime impacts under-resourced areas
- Gun violence is more concentrated in low-income neighborhoods
- Communities face repeated exposure to harm

**Poverty shapes risk.
Support shapes recovery.**

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Higher levels of trauma and stress
- Reduced access to support services
- Greater barriers to recovery after crime

THE ROLE OF NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES

- Supports victims of crime in Northwest Philadelphia
- Provides trauma-informed, victim-centered services
- Helps individuals navigate safety and recovery

NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES
6023 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144
OFFICE PHONE: 215-438-4410



SCAN ME