

NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES



VICTIM NO MORE
ANNUAL REPORT

Your 2025/2026

Northwest Victim Services
Journey Unlocked

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I would like to thank the Northwest Victim Services (NVS) staff and board of directors who worked extremely hard this past fiscal year from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The NVS staff served victims and survivors of homicide with dignity, respect, and love. We were able to serve those affected by crime because of the help we received from the Victim Assistance Officers in the 5th, 14th, 35th, and 39th police districts.. A special thank you to Officer Harrison from the 5th police district, Officer Kelly from the 14th police district, Officer Fowley from the 35th police district and Officer McCalister from the 39th police district. Temple Health Advocacy team, Jefferson Einstein Hospital Advocates, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Office of Victim Advocate in Philadelphia and the Office of Victim Advocate in Harrisburg. All of these entities have been beneficial to NVS in making sure victims and survivors of homicide receive the resources and services they need.

NVS is extremely grateful for Sankofa Healing Studio, the Philadelphia Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) and Dr. Janet Etzi for offering mental health services.

Northwest Victim Services hosted workshops that had never been offered by the agency. Witness of crime workshop, emotional support workshop for parents, caregivers, and guardians, as well as a workshop for survivors of gun violence. On April 18, 2026 NVS hosted their first legislative breakfast to uplift community voices to ensure their needs would be apart of legislative actions in the city of Philadelphia.

On May 30, 2026 NVS hosted an event to bring awareness to missing and unidentified person's in the city of Philadelphia. Within the four police districts in the Northwest section of Philly there were many juveniles missing that was not made aware of on news stations. NVS wanted to bring attention to this important issue! We have to work together to bring missing individuals home safely.

Many know that I work after normal business hours, during evening hours, and on holiday's. That would not be possible without the assistance from Inspector Jarreau Thomas, Captain Kimrey, 5th police district, Captain McCoullum, 14th police district, Captain Burks, 35th police district, and Captain Bradley 39th police district. I also lean on Dr. Erica Harris from Jefferson Einstein Hospital as well as Scott Charles from Temple Health. All of the individuals listed above are amazing and they truly care about those affected by crime.

I am looking forward to the coming fiscal year. Senator Art Haywood and Senator Vincent Hughes heard the need for NVS and advocated for the agency to receive VIP funding. We are truly grateful!

The NVS Staff and Board of Directors is dedicated to serving those affected by crime in the Northwest section of Philadelphia.

- Melany P. Nelson

FACTS & FIGURES

OF THE YEAR

CLAIMS FILED FROM JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

286 CLAIMS

REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE VICTIMS COMPENSATION PROGRAM

\$402,020.80

REIMBURSEMENTS TOTALS

Ambulance	\$4345.00
Clothing for Deceased	\$328.75
Counseling-Adult Victim	\$7940.92
D-LOE-Cimt-Funeral Arrangement	\$1248.38
D-LOE-Cimt-Trauma	\$9434.32
Dental	\$3941.00
Doctor	\$3461.99
Funeral Flowers	\$280.00
Funeral Home/Cemetery	\$155279.11
Funeral Travel Expenses	\$1047.20
Hospital	\$20643.78
LOE-Vctm-Physical Disability	\$140684.81
Medical Equipment & Supplies	\$550.00
Memorial Meal	\$350.61
Physical Therapy/Chiropractic	\$18943.50
Relocation-Lodging	\$675.00
Relocation-Rental Housing	\$7777.33
Stolen Benefit Cash	\$24771.91
Transportation/Meals	\$319.19

TOTAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS SERVED

Gender		Reporting Period: 7/1/25 to 6/30/26			New			Primary Victimization			
		Total		Total		Total		Victimizations Assessment in Reporting Period			
								SA	OC	DV	
Female	639			1,047							
Male	317										
Non-Binary or Non-Conforming	0										
Not Reported	88										
Transgender	3										
Race											
African American or Black	799	Kidnapping (custodial)	0	2	0						
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	Kidnapping (non-custodial)	0	0	0						
Asian	11	Mass Violence (Domestic/International)	0	0	0						
Hispanic or Latino	80	Other Property Crime	0	0	0						
Middle Eastern or North African	4	Other Vehicular Crime	0	24	0						
Multiple Races	1	Rape	1	0	0						
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	2	Recklessly Endangering Another Person	0	0	0						
Not Reported	76	Robbery	0	33	0						
Other	5	Sexual Abuse of Children									
White	69	Sexual Assault	3	0	0						
		Sexual Harassment									
		Stalking	0	0	0						
		Statutory Sexual Assault									
		Survivors of Homicide Victims	0	85	0						
		Teen Dating Violence									
		Terrorism (Domestic/International)	0	0	0						
		Terroristic Threats	0	3	0						
		Theft	0	8	1						
								Adolescent Relationship Abuse			
								Adult Survivor of Incest or Child Sexual Abuse			
								Aggravated Assault			
								Aggravated Indecent Assault			
								Arson			
								Assault			
								Attempted Rape			
								Bullying			
								Burglary			
								Child Physical Abuse			
								Child Pornography			
								Conspiracy to Commit Rape			
								Domestic Violence			
								DUI Crash Victims			
								Elder Abuse			
								Harassment			
								Crime: Racial/Religious/Gender/Sexual Orientation/Other			
								Identity Theft/Fraud/Financial Crimes			

INVISIBLE ADVOCACY

what the public does NOT see!

- ◆ Managing personal emotions while supporting victims in crisis.
- ◆ Providing empathy and validation regardless of personal stress.
- ◆ De-escalating emotionally charged situations.
- ◆ Absorbing secondary trauma and compassion fatigue.
- ◆ Maintaining professionalism after hearing traumatic disclosures.
- ◆ Offering hope and encouragement during difficult cases.
- ◆ Bridging language and communication barriers.
- ◆ Mentoring new advocates.
- ◆ Follow-up calls that go unanswered.
- ◆ Celebrating small victim successes that are not reflected in performance metrics.
- ◆ Managing burnout while maintaining quality services.
- ◆ Explaining complex legal and medical systems in an understandable language.

THE LIST IS ENDLESS!



BEYOND THE NUMBERS

- ◆ Monitoring personal reactions to trauma exposure.
- ◆ Practicing self-care to remain effective.
- ◆ Constantly assessing client safety and risk needs.
- ◆ Setting healthy boundaries with victims and survivors of homicide.
- ◆ Processing difficult cases through supervision or peer support.
- ◆ Time spent searching for scarce resources.
- ◆ Safety planning that occurs over multiple conversations with victims.
- ◆ Carrying the emotional weight of cases long after the workday ends.
- ◆ Filling staffing gaps.
- ◆ Organizing awareness events and outreach activities.
- ◆ Repairing relationships after system failures.
- ◆ Coordinating multiple services simultaneously.

THE LIST IS ENDLESS!

Thank you to all Victim Advocates, YOUR hard work does NOT go unnoticed.



IMPORTANT ISSUE NVS IS FIGHTING TO CHANGE

CARJACKINGS & STOLEN VEHICLES

Carjacking victims and victims who have their vehicles stolen are being revictimized in the city of Philadelphia. They fall between the cracks and they are not eligible to file a claim under the victims compensation program (VCAP). The city code enforces charges to the victim:

Philadelphia City Code: § 12-2406.1. Fees and Charges. 215

(6) No more than one hundred five dollars (\$105) shall be charged to the owner of any vehicle to cover the costs related to towing and recovery when the vehicle has been reported stolen to the Police Department or illegally used by a person other than the owner of the vehicle, without his authorization, express or implied. This amount is inclusive of the City's fifteen dollar (\$15) administrative cost. 221

(7) No towing company may charge more than eighteen dollars (\$18) per day for storage of a vehicle that has been reported stolen by its owner to the Police Department, or illegally used by another person other than the owner of the vehicle, without his authorization, express or implied, up to a maximum of one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175) in total storage charges. 222

MAJOR ISSUE—THE CITY CODE IS NOT BEING UPHELD IN PHILADELPHIA

Eric Payne was carjacked ON 7/10/2021 while driving home from the barber shop. He was held up at gun point, physically assaulted and told to run while the one of the carjackers pointed the gun at him. Eric ran for his life! Eric's vehicle was later discovered in Chester PA which was placed on a paid lot. Eric's father and sister rode to Chester to recover his vehicle. His father had to pay almost \$900.00 to get his car off of the paid lot. That out-of-pocket expense will never be reimbursed.

Raymond Mayson was carjacked and dragged by his car by the carjackers at the wheel on 9/7/2020. Raymond was in the hospital for over a month. When he returned on home he discovered his vehicle was on a paid lot. He called the lot owner and he said "if you do not get your car today, I am selling it." Raymond did not have the almost \$900.00 to get his vehicle. Raymond NEVER got his vehicle back—his sole means of transportation.

NVS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Melany P. Nelson, Executive Director has been meeting with Councilman President Kenyetta Johnson's staff, the Office of Victim Advocate in Philadelphia, Executive Director and Deputy Director, and the Philadelphia Police Department to see how the city code can be amended to STOP revictimizing carjacking victims.

Melany P. Nelson, Executive Director met with State Representative Darisha Parker regarding this issue and State Rep. Parker jumped into action. State Rep. Parker is working to pass a bill for carjacking victims and for victims who have their vehicles stolen called the "Raymond Mason Bill."

We are optimistic a CHANGE will come in the near future!

FUNDING SOURCES

PCCD

VOCA

CITY
COUNCIL

DA'S OFFICE

SPONSORSHIPS,
GRANTS
&
DONATIONS

NORAH
WALKER

PCOM

DR. ERICA
HARRIS

TONYA
ELLIS

GARY
BARBERA

PECO

TEMPLE HEALTH

JEFFERSON
EINSTEIN

Weaver's
Way

Cris Penn

THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
CHESTNUT HILL

ACTIVITIES
FUNDS
GRANT

VIP
GRANT

DA FORFEITURE
GRANT

PHILADELPHIA
FOUNDATION

KEVIN & AMY
RAPHAEL

REVEREND DR. JOHN
L. PAYNE & PATRICIA
PAYNE

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Sorority, Incorporated
Omega Omega Chapter

PHILADELPHIA
EALGES

COLLABORATIONS

The Northwest Victim Services (NVS) staff worked very closely with the Victim Assistance Officers from the 5th, 14th, 35th, and 39th police districts. Without their help NVS would not have been able to serve those affected by crime.

The NVS team is looking forward to working with the new Victim Assistance Officers under the leadership of *Ayanna Greene-Davis, Executive Director of the Office of Community Advocacy and Engagement for the Philadelphia Police Department.*

Jefferson Einstein Hospital

Temple Health

The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

The Philadelphia Homicide Unit

The Officer of Victim Advocate in Philadelphia

The Office of Victim Advocate in Harrisburg

The Philadelphia School District: Office of School Safety

Taylor Baptist Church

Concilio

Congreso

Philly 6

PCOM

Sankofa Healing Studio

CFAR

Dr. Janet Etzi

Looking Ahead

The NVS Board of Directors & staff will continue to seek new and creative ways to better service those affected by crime. We will implement five new components for the upcoming fiscal year from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

Culturally Responsive Services Initiative

Digital Advocacy & Virtual Services Expansion

Community-Based Mobile Advocacy

AI and Technology Safety Initiative

Trauma-Informed Workforce Initiative



5TH Police District

Victim Assistance Officer Harrison



14th Police District

Victim Assistance Officer Kelly



35th Police District

Victim Assistance Officer Fowley



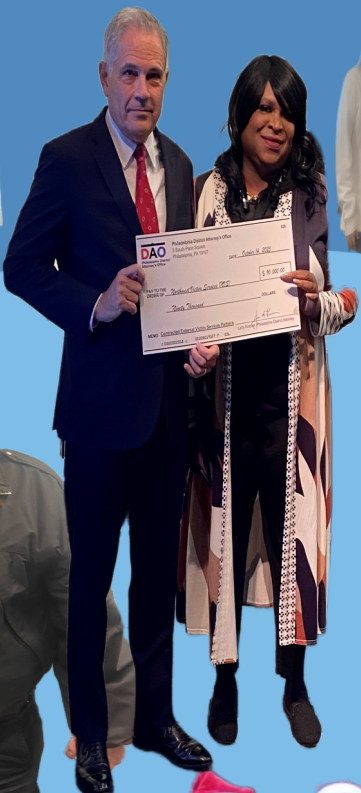
39th Police District

Victim Assistance Officer McCalister



SERVICE IN ACTION









CORNERS CONNECTIONS
WILLIAMS & SONNETT
TO SERVICE ATTORNEY
MAY 15, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO BIRTHDAY'S
58 YEARS OF SERVICE. ONE COMMUNITY. ONE MOVEMENT.
GIVE AND RECEIVE. GROW AND LEARN. MEANS FOR THE MOVEMENT.
MAY 15, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
WILLIAMS & SONNETT
TO SERVICE ATTORNEY
MAY 15, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
QR CODE





HAPPY BIRTHDAY NVS

**38 YEARS OF SERVICE.
ONE COMMUNITY
ONE MOVEMENT**

**JOIN US FOR OUR VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER:
MEANS FOR THE MOVEMENT**

OCTOBER 27, 2026

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$38 (FOR 38 YEARS OF SERVICE)

**NVS WAS THE FIRST COMMUNITY-BASED
AGENCY IN PHILADELPHIA CREATED
AND DEDICATED TO HELPING THOSE
AFFECTED BY CRIME:
CATHERINE BACHRACH,
FOUNDER**

**North Central
Victim Services**

**Center City
Victim Services**

**West/Southwest
Victim Services**

**Northeast
Victim Services**

**East Division
Victim Services**

**South Philadelphia
Victim Services**

**Northwest
Victim Services**



**NORTHWEST
VICTIM SERVICES**



DONATE \$38 AND JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

NVS TEAM

Board of Directors July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028

Tonya Ellis, President

Cristandra Penn. Treasurer

Dr. Erica Harris, Secretary

James McArthur, Co-secretary

Kevin Raphael

Mark Moore, Esq.

Lisa Michelle Thomas Muhammad

Joseph Pailin

Pedro Rodriguez

Dr. Janet Etzi

Dr. Sean Cuillo

Staff Inspector Ernest Ransom

Advisory Board

Maleka Fruean

Reverend Nick Taliaferro

Reverend Leroy Miles

Derrick Sawyer

Stacie Leap

STAFF

Melany P. Nelson

Executive Director

Rysheda Elliott

Peer Support Specialist

Rachael Reyes-Vazquez

Bilingual Court Advocate

Wynter Downing

Cultural and Trauma-Informed Care Advocate

Lanita Harris

Cultural and Trauma Informed Care Advocate