

NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES
SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

**NATIONAL
HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH**

6023 GERMANTOWN AVENUE

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19144

215-438-4410 OFFICE PHONE

267-808-0350, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MELANY P. NELSON



Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month



As we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, we honor the rich history, cultures, traditions, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities across our nation.



At Northwest Victim Services (NVS), we recognize that every survivor's experience is unique and that culture, language, family, and community can play an important role in the healing process. As a victim services agency, we are committed to ensuring that survivors from Hispanic and Latino communities feel heard, respected, supported, and empowered to access the services they need.

This month is also an opportunity to recognize the strength and resilience within Hispanic and Latino communities and to acknowledge the advocates, families, community leaders, and service providers who work every day to promote safety, dignity, and healing.

Our commitment extends beyond this month. We will continue working to provide compassionate, culturally responsive, and accessible services to all survivors of crime and to build stronger partnerships with the communities we serve.

On behalf of NVS, we wish everyone a meaningful National Hispanic Heritage Month. May we continue to celebrate our diversity, honor our shared humanity, and create communities where every survivor has the opportunity to heal and thrive.

NVS STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



WHY I SERVE

Being a victim advocate in the City of Philadelphia means standing beside individuals and families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. It means providing support, compassion, resources, and a voice to those who may feel unheard or overwhelmed. As a victim advocate, I have the responsibility of meeting people where they are, respecting their experiences, and helping them navigate systems that can sometimes feel intimidating or difficult to understand. Advocacy is more than a job—it is an opportunity to remind survivors that they are not alone and that their experiences and voices matter.

September is also a meaningful time to reflect on culture, identity, and the contributions of the Hispanic and Latino community as we recognize Hispanic Heritage Month. For me, honoring Hispanic Heritage Month is not simply about celebrating our traditions, language, food, music, and history. It is also about recognizing the strength, resilience, sacrifices, and values that have been passed down from generation to generation. Our heritage teaches us the importance of family, community, perseverance, and supporting one another through difficult times.

As a Hispanic victim advocate, honoring my heritage means bringing those values into the work that I do every day. It means understanding that culture can shape how someone experiences trauma, how they seek help, and how comfortable they may feel reaching out to institutions for support. I want to be someone who helps create a safe and welcoming environment, especially for members of the Hispanic community who may face language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, fear, or uncertainty when seeking assistance. I can honor my heritage by using my voice to advocate for people who may feel that they do not have one.

Most importantly, honoring my heritage as a victim advocate means carrying forward the strength and resilience of those who came before me while using my position to help those who need support today. I am proud to be able to serve my community while also honoring where I come from. My heritage is a reminder that advocacy is rooted in compassion, dignity, and community. During Hispanic Heritage Month, I celebrate not only who we are and where we come from, but also the positive impact we can make when we use our experiences, our voices, and our values to uplift others.

- Rachael Reyes-Vazquez, Bilingual Court Advocate, Northwest Victim Services

RACHAEL REYES-VAZQUEZ





AWARENESS, ACTION & ADVOCACY: CELEBRATING SURVIVORS & REMEMBERING THOSE LOST

Through various engaging workshops, guest speakers, and open dialogue amongst guests, **ROSEBUDS and MASTER Mentoring Program Inc** hopes to bring light to this growing social/mental issue that affects millions of women, men and children every year.

- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS SEPTEMBER 16TH**
- **ALL REGISTRATION ENDS SEPTEMBER 30TH**

**FRI,
OCT
16**

**6PM-
8PM**

Join us for a candid discussion about relationships and how men and women view them. What is a healthy relationship and how can it lead to violence?

**SAT,
OCT
17**

**9AM-
4PM**

A day filled with information and education for adults and teenagers. Facilitators will present on topics ranging from Signs Of An Abuser to Debunking Stereotypes Surrounding Victims. Teen workshops will include topics such as Healthy Relationships and The Safety of Social Media.

**SUN,
OCT
18**

**12PM-
4PM**

As we close our weekend of awareness and education, join us as we honor those who are eradicating domestic violence with our **Robin's Voice Beacon of Light Community Service Award** at our luncheon. This closing ceremony will be inspiring and moving as we celebrate survivors as well as remembering those lost



FOR MORE INFO:
rosebuds0612@gmail.com

REGISTER BY LINK OR SCAN QR:
[https://pci.jotform.com/
form/261874458666171](https://pci.jotform.com/form/261874458666171)



**AWARENESS, ACTION & ADVOCACY:
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SATURDAY WORKSHOPS



WHAT ARE SIGNS OF AN ABUSER?

Ernestine Volcy

THE IMPACTS AND AFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE DISABLED COMMUNITY

Stacie Leap

SAFETY OF SOCIAL MEDIA WHILE BEING A CONTENT CREATOR

Erin Marshall

HUMAN TRAFICKING

Gracie George

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS (BOYS)

Rev. Payne

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

Danielle Matthews

DEBUNKING STEREOTYPES SURROUNDING VICTIMS

Yolanda Jennings

ESCAPE PLAN

Tommie Wilkins

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS (GIRLS)

Rashidah Inge

WHAT IS ABUSE AND THE ABUSE CYCLE?

Aisha Sheppard

THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND HOW IT LEADS TO POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SELF ESTEEM IN TEENS

Kevin Dean



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Meet Our Keynote Speaker

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2026

Melany P. Nelson

Executive Director of
Northwest Victim Services

Because of Melany's passion and love to help others, she served many victims as well as co-homicide survivors and they were able to receive services around the clock. Those services included, filing claims through the victim's compensation program under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency {PCCD}, resources that helped them relocate, therapy at no cost, court accompaniment, and advocacy without a time restriction.



PLEASE REMEMBER THE MISSING INDIVIDUALS IN THE NORTHWEST SECTION OF PHILADELPHIA & BEYOND

PRAYING FOR A SAFE RETURN FOR EVERYONE

<https://www.phillypolice.com/news-blotter-cat/missing-persons/>

(COMPLETE LIST)

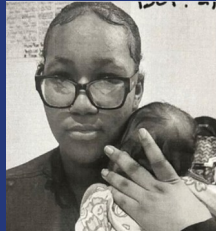
215.686.TIPS (8477)

5th POLICE DISTRICT

Nathan Mureiko AKA Natalie
Raven May 12, 2026, on the 4xx
block of Domino Lane



Juvenile, 16-year-old Zamiyah Ivery, Last
seen Friday, March 20, 2026, on the
5300 block of Ridge Avenue



Juvenile, 13-year-old, Cashmere "Cash" Brown Janu-
ary 10, 2026, at 4:00pm, on the 74xx block of Keiffer
Street



14th Police District

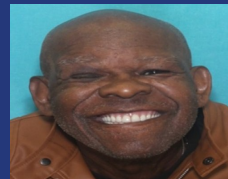
Endangered Missing Person Walter David
Bader, 80-year-old -male, last seen at ap-
proximately 12:57 p.m. on Tuesday, August
25, 2026, in the area of 600 W. Park Lane.



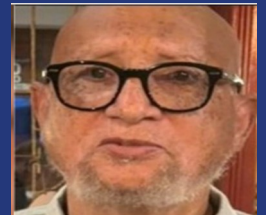
Endangered Missing Person
Azelia C. Jones, last seen
August 2, 2026, at 12:00 AM,
on the 79xx block of Woolston
Avenue



Endangered Missing Person
George Preston, 75-year-old, last
seen at his residence at 69xx
Cresheim Road on August 13,
2026



Arthur Grimstead, 73-year-old, last seen on
Wednesday, August 19, 2026



35th Police District

Lauren Fulton-Bey, 19-year-old, last
seen at approximately 2:45 a.m. on July
2, 2026, at her residence on the 200 block
of West Rockland Street.



Endangered Missing Person Robert
Barlow, 67-year-old, last seen
August 17, 2026, at 8:00 am, on the
51xx block of N Broad St



Tamika Knox, last seen August 11,
2026, on the 50xx block of N. 8th
Street



15-year-old juvenile. Farhin Tasnim
was last seen leaving her residence
on the 14xx block of Lindley Avenue
on Friday, July 3, 2026



39th Police District

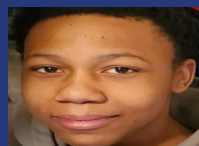
Endangered Missing Person Shirley
Byrd Robinson, 70-years-old, last seen
August 25, 2026, at 9:00p.m. on the
36xx block of N 18TH Street



Linda Flowers, 70-year-old, Linda
was last seen August 10, 2026, at
12:50pm, on the 55xx block of
Morris Street



Juvenile Nyeal Johnson-Wilkes, 16-years-
old, Nyeal was last seen Monday, August 3,
2026, at 10:00pm, on the 33xx block of N.
22nd Street



Juvenile Jerel Jackson, 12-years-old, last seen
on Friday, June 26, 2026, at approximately 3:30
a.m. at his aunt's residence on the 1900 block of
West Hunting Park Avenue

