



Department of
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

April 20, 2012

April 22, 2012 begins National Crime Victims' Rights Week, a time to recognize and honor crime victims and to acknowledge appreciation to those individuals who work to assist crime victims. This year's theme, *Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim*, stands as a tribute to victim advocates, legislators, judges and others who strived to ensure that victim rights became a reality within Ohio's juvenile justice system in 1999. Prior to that year, crime victims of juvenile offenders were often excluded from court rooms and afforded few rights.

As we observe a week dedicated to victims' rights, we are reminded of the importance of having victims of crime represented in the juvenile justice system. The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 2152.01 establishes the overriding principles of the disposition of juvenile cases: provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children, protect the public interest and safety, hold the offender accountable for the offender's actions, restore the victim, and rehabilitate the offender. Obviously, this is a monumental task that is expected of us in the juvenile justice system to ensure that a proper balance is achieved.

The youth in our care have all harmed someone, be it a family member, friend or someone from their community. National Crime Victims' Rights Week gives us an annual opportunity to engage our youth and one another in the importance of assisting those who have been impacted by crime.

Harvey J. Reed, Director
Department of Youth Services