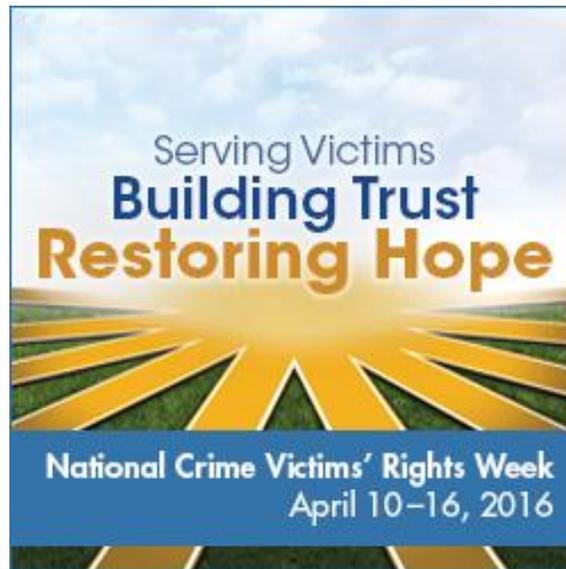




Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed**  
DYS Recognizes National Crime Victims' Rights Week  
April 8, 2016



On Sunday, National Crime Victims' Rights Week begins - a time to recognize and honor crime victims and to express appreciation to those individuals working to assist crime victims. This year's theme, *Serving Victims, Building Trust, Restoring Hope*, captures our intention for efforts to serve victims of youth crime.

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 provides a focused opportunity to engage our youth and one another in the importance of assisting those who have been impacted by crime.

DYS has an Office of Victim Services (OVS) that is responsible for ensuring that the rights of crime victims of DYS youth are recognized and honored. OVS currently has a caseload of 965 crime victims who have signed up to receive services including written notification of potential or actual status changes of youth, information and support, victim-offender dialogue opportunities, victim advocacy through linking victims with the Release Authority and referrals. The office also provides support to DYS staff in cases when they have been victimized by youth. OVS also provides a support hotline that victims can call for free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 872-3132.

OVS designed the Victim Awareness Curriculum to help youth understand the impact of their criminal behavior upon their victims and community. It is intended to provide a consistent tool

through which youth can address their victimizing behavior. Twelve different sessions provided by trained facility program staff examine a variety of topics including remorse, empathy, hate, bias, punishment and justice. The curriculum looks at the dynamics of each crime and the effect crime has on its victims. The program uses written exercises and victim impact panels to bring the youth face to face with victims, community members and other stakeholders affected by their crime.

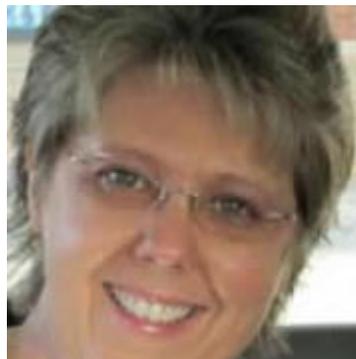
### **Victim Services in 2015**

OVS provided 3,980 written notices of potential or actual status changes of youth  
OVS managed 1,504 victim-related phone calls  
120 youth successfully completed the Victim Awareness Curriculum  
23 staff were trained to facilitate the Victim Awareness Curriculum



*Rev. Dr. Johannes Christian*

In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the [Rev. Dr. Johannes Christian](#) will be presenting to youth at Indian River and Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facilities. Rev. Christian was severely injured when a youth threw a rock from a freeway. Despite severe head trauma and blindness, Dr. Christian has forgiven the youth who harmed him and shares a powerful message of compassion and understanding.



*Ms. Lorraine Whoberry*

Ms. Lorraine Whoberry, founder and executive director of the [S.T.A.C.I.E. Foundation](#) presented to youth at Circleville JCF. Ms. Whoberry's daughter Stacie was murdered, and her daughter Kristie was brutally attacked and left for dead. With a strong faith, Ms. Whoberry has shared in

venues across the country about offering forgiveness. Further, she has been a passionate advocate for improving services for victims.

Thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for their efforts in helping our youth become more aware of the impact of crime on victims, take responsibility for their actions and begin to make amends. For additional information about our OVS, please contact Kate Foulke, Victim Services Administrator, at (800) 872-3132.