

THE VICTIM'S INFORMER

TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE

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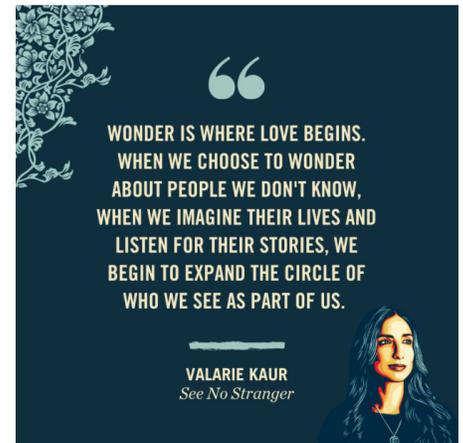
Revolutionary Love

By Angie McCown

"The passion to change the world flickers in you like a flame, and if you let that light go out, you will be robbing the world of your greatest gift. Your task today is not to know what the future holds; your task is to vow to protect that flame." - Valarie Kaur

In this time of polarization and transition in our world, I attempt to continue to educate myself and grow in order to engage in conversations that promote understanding, connection, and healing. This journey recently led me to read the book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur. The following are questions I would pose to all of us based on what this book has taught me:

- **Revolutionary Love:** What if we engaged in acts of empathy and compassion while choosing to be curious about others, instead of making assumptions based on outward appearances, labels, and perceived actions?
- **Shared Humanity:** What if instead of seeing others through a lens of difference and opposition, we opened the door to understanding and connection by seeing others as a part of our larger interconnected human family?
- **Healing Wounds:** What if we utilized compassion and understanding to explore that some individuals that we may label as evil may have their own internal wounds and scars?
- **Personal Transformation:** What if we called on our personal experiences of healing and feeling understood to illustrate the transformative power of love and empathy?
- **Social Justice and Activism:** What if we recognized that social justice and activism begins with collective action and solidarity for everyone?



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A Need for Post-Conviction Advocacy

By Sydney Zuiker, Victim Services Committee Chair
Texas Board of Criminal Justice



When people think about victim advocacy, they often picture courtrooms and pre-trial proceedings. However, for many victims, the most emotionally challenging part of the justice process comes long after a conviction. In Texas, when an offender

becomes eligible for parole—often years or decades later—victims are given the opportunity to submit a new statement or reappear before the parole board.

That is easier said than done.

This is the gap that my team and I at Crime Stoppers of Houston are trying to fill via a project we started in 2021 called the Victim Impact Statement Video Project.

Many victims and families are unable to participate due to trauma, health issues, distance, or age. Others have passed away, leaving their voices and stories in danger of being lost entirely. Without their presence, the crime can be reduced to paper records—cold facts without the emotional truth of the pain the crime has caused.

We developed this initiative to ensure no victim is ever silenced by time or circumstance. Their voices, their experiences, and their plea for justice are preserved in powerful, professionally recorded video statements that can be submitted to and viewed by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles during parole reviews.

How It Works: The Process Behind the Project

The success of the Victim Impact Statement Video Project lies in its thoughtfulness and care. It's more than just recording a message—it's about honoring someone's lived experience and equipping them with the tools to be heard.

1. Identifying Participants

We work closely with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and community partners to identify victims or surviving family members who may be eligible for parole-related advocacy. Some reach out to us directly, while others are referred by professionals who recognize the value of preserving their voice.

2. Supportive Preparation

Before filming, we guide participants through the process with empathy and sensitivity. These are often deeply emotional stories to tell, and we ensure they are prepared, supported, and empowered every step of the way. For many, this becomes part of their healing journey—a moment of reclaiming their voice after years of silence.

3. Recording the Statement

We film each statement with the utmost respect and professionalism. Whether it's a parent speaking about a child lost to violence or a survivor recounting the lasting effects of trauma, every video is a tribute to strength and resilience. The tone is dignified, the message clear, and the impact undeniable.

4. Review, Edit, and Submit

Once the statement is complete, we work with the participant to ensure they are comfortable with the final seven-to-ten minute version of their video. We assist the victim in submitting the video to the Board, and we maintain contact to confirm the statement has been received, logged, and reviewed.

5. Ongoing Advocacy

Once recorded, the videos can be used for all future parole reviews, minimizing the impact of re-traumatization that can result from the victim retelling their story to the Board. When families want to share a new message or additional insight, we can help them update their videos.

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Real Voices, Real Results

Since the program launched in 2021, we have produced and submitted over 50 Victim Impact Statement Videos. Each one has been viewed by parole board members during the respective parole review process for each victim’s offender—and each one has made a difference.

In one case, a father too ill to travel recorded a statement for the Board. Weeks later, he passed away. But because of this project, his voice will live on—his love for his child, his grief, and his plea for justice will be preserved forever.

In another instance, a mother shared how recording her video helped her regain a sense of peace. She knows her child’s memory would not be reduced to a forgotten file. Her story would be seen, her words would matter, and her pain would have a purpose.

These are not just anecdotes – they are testaments to the power of being heard.



A Call to Action

If you are a victim services professional, law enforcement leader, policymaker, or advocate— we invite you to learn more about how this project works and how you can be part of expanding its reach. You can refer any Texas victim to our FREE project by assisting them in filling out our application form at:

<https://crime-stoppers.org/victim-impact-statement-project>

If you are a survivor or family member of a victim, and you are worried about being heard during an upcoming parole review, we are here for you.

Every voice matters. Every story deserves to be told. And no one should have to fear being forgotten by a system that was meant to protect them!

If you would like further information about the project, please reach out to my team and me at scp@crime-stoppers.org!



Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division Announces New Feature

By Jenny Brantley, Manager IV - Notification
TDCJ Victim Services Division

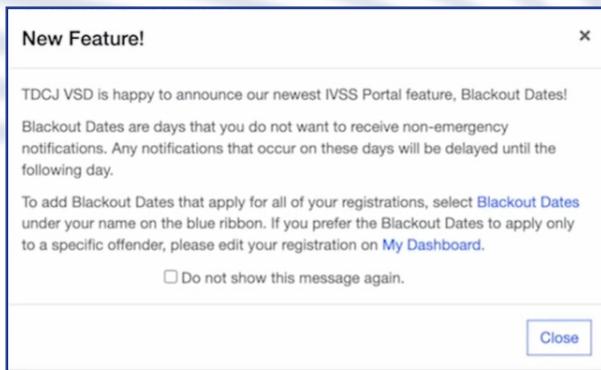


The Victim Services Division (VSD) is dedicated to continuing to improve and enhance our service to victims. In recognition of the alarm and distress that can be felt when receiving a notification during the middle of the night, we have recently updated our notification system to delay non-emergency notifications that process overnight to be sent the next morning. While emergency notifications, such as parole warrant actions, inmate

escapes, and recaptures are still sent to registrants in real-time, all other notifications are now being sent during the hours of 7 am – 8 pm.

Additionally, we recognize that receiving notifications on certain specific dates, like birthdays and anniversaries, can be difficult and unwanted. By adding these sensitive dates, which we call Blackout Dates, to your registration we will delay non-emergency notifications until the following day. Emergency notifications as described above will still be sent in real-time on these dates.

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Blackout Dates can be added on your Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) portal account at <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/>. To apply a Blackout Date to all your registrations, select Blackout Dates under your name on the blue ribbon or, if you prefer the Blackout Dates to apply only to a specific offender, you can edit your registration on My Dashboard. You can also contact our hotline at 1-800-848-4284 or email victim.svc@tdcj.texas.gov to request assistance with adding Blackout Dates.

On the IVSS portal you can search for limited offender information and helpful resources, register for notifications, see past notifications, and update your preferences for receiving information from the VSD. The portal is accessible through any device with internet capabilities including desktop computers, mobile phones, and tablets. You may choose how you receive information from the VSD regarding offender status changes; notifications are available by letter, email, and text message. Some notifications are also available by personal phone call.



TDCJ Victim Services Division Resources

Brochures

All Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) brochures are available for free to download from the Integrated Victim Services System (IVSS) portal by visiting: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/publication-list/>. You may also use the "Request Publication Hardcopy" to place an order to be mailed to you. You must be signed into your portal account to place an order.

IVSS Links Library

The TDCJ VSD maintains a Links Library on the IVSS website to provide links to helpful tools, information, brochures, and help lines for victims of crime covering topics ranging from Crime Victims' Compensation and safety planning to suicide and self-harm prevention. The Links Library is accessible through the IVSS portal under the Resources tab, you may click the following link as well: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/links-library/>.

Texas Victim Resource Directory

The Texas Victim Resource Directory is also located on the IVSS portal at: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/resource-search/>. This directory features a searchable database with over 1,100 service providers from governmental agencies and non-profit organizations that provide services to victims free of charge.

Informational Video Library

The Informational Video Library connects victims of crime to information they may need to navigate the criminal justice system, exercise their rights, and access support and assistance. The library also serves as a resource for victim services and criminal justice professionals who wish to receive training and information on specific subjects related to serving victims of crime. To access the library, click the following link: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/video>.

Texas Victim Services Association Provides Support, Education, and Recognition to Victim Services Providers

By Jeni Pirtle, Executive Director
Texas Victim Services Association



In November 2024, I began onboarding as the new Executive Director at the Texas Victim Services Association (TVSA), where I have been a member since 2018 and served as Curriculum Facilitator in 2021. TVSA is fortunate to have retained my predecessor, Natacha Peláez-

Wagner, Executive Director for the last 11 years, in the role of Program Specialist during this transition.

Reflecting on Natacha's legacy as Executive Director, I am profoundly grateful for her leadership and the standards she has advanced for TVSA moving forward. TVSA has truly thrived, thanks to her integrity, commitment, and expertise. Her continuing dedication to TVSA's mission of support, education, and recognition for victim services providers is nothing short of inspiring!

My own dedication to TVSA's mission comes from my experience working in victim services, a significant part of my 20 years in the non-profit sector. I became a TVSA member during my tenure at United Tissue Resources, where I developed the organization's first grief support program for the families of organ, eye, and tissue donors. As I learned about TVSA's programs through my volunteer role producing the newsletter, I found myself wishing I had known about such an important resource earlier in my career.

While employed at the National Domestic Violence Hotline, I was among the first cohort of advocates to launch and deliver The Hotline's expanded digital services, offering 24/7 chat and text services to victims and survivors of intimate partner violence. In my work at Integral Care, the local mental health authority for Austin and Travis County, I coordinated cross-sector services and emergency response for individuals experiencing psychiatric crisis. My experience in roles such as these has made me passionate about supporting victim services providers. The quality of services that victims receive is directly tied to the level of support that providers receive, equipping them to engage in this critical healing work ethically and sustainably.

About TVSA

Established in 1997, TVSA began as a dream hatched by two victim services professionals who envisioned creating an organization where victim services providers could learn, share, and network with peers across all disciplines. TVSA's achievements since then include the promulgation and 2020 revision of a Code of Ethics for victim services providers, which forms the foundation of all our education efforts for victim services professionals in Texas.

Our mission is support, education, and recognition for victim services providers. Our vision promotes the delivery of a full range of consistent, high-quality, professional services to crime victims, their families, and communities.

While TVSA serves all victim services providers, there are many benefits to becoming a member. TVSA members have the distinction of belonging to the only statewide professional organization for all victim services providers in Texas, across region, discipline, and victim population(s) served. Association membership helps to elevate the victim services provider profession as a vital part of the justice systems professions. Membership also provides the opportunity to exercise and enhance leadership skills through serving on committees, working groups, and the board of directors. Opportunities such as these, as well as networking events, help foster camaraderie with peers who understand the issues, trials, heartaches, and joys of crime victim services work. Members receive an invitation to the annual statewide membership meeting to review the past year's accomplishments, plan for the next year, and discuss how to advance victim services in the state. Additionally, TVSA members also receive members-only discounted registrations at all TVSA-sponsored training.



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TVSA offers multiple levels of membership to include individuals and agencies who provide direct services to crime victims, as well as individuals and agencies or companies who do not work directly with crime victims but support the mission and work of TVSA.

For questions about becoming a TVSA member, please email tvfi@txvsa.org. You may also visit our website at txvsa.org/why-join-tvsa for more information and to complete a membership application online.

Texas Advanced Academy for Victim Assistance

In February 2025, TVSA welcomed its ninth class of students to our annual Texas Advanced Academy for Victim Assistance (TAAVA). TAAVA provides leadership and management training for established and aspiring leaders in victim services. This training builds on foundational trainings such as those provided by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) – Victim Services Division, who hold the [Texas Victim Assistance Training Academy](#) each year and provide invaluable support to TVSA's staff at our academy.

In 2020, TVSA created a standardized curriculum, built around model standards by the Office for Victims of Crime, with significant contributions from subject matter experts who have served as TAAVA faculty. While there are many resources for leadership and management training, TVSA's curriculum has been specifically designed to meet the needs of those serving in a trauma-based profession, with instructional modules in areas such as program development, emotional intelligence, trauma-informed supervision, and ethics.

TAAVA is open to current victim services professionals with at least three years of experience in the field of victim assistance, in systems-based or community-based agencies. Applications will open in late fall this year. For more information on applying for TAAVA, please email director@txvsa.org.

Texas Advanced Academy for Victim Assistance Alumni Network

The TAAVA Alumni Network, the foundational design of which began in 2021, was launched in 2022,

servicing all TAAVA alumni since 2016. It was designed to help TAAVA alumni maintain the beneficial new professional relationships established over the brief course of the academy and to continue their growth in leadership and management. With those goals in mind, the TAAVA Alumni Network conducts four quarterly meetings per year. Each meeting includes a presentation on a topic identified as a priority by alumni and a featured alum segment, in which a TAAVA alum is invited to share the services and work of their agency, to advance collaboration and information sharing among the network.

Training topics in 2025 have included “Beyond Vision and Mission: Setting Organizational Values,” presented by Natacha Peláez-Wagner, and “Managing a Hybrid Workforce,” presented by Charlie Gilkey. Our featured alumni have included Jennifer Greene, who presented on the Sexual Assault Family Violence Instructor Course of the Texas Municipal Police Association, where she serves as Program Manager, and Kristi Thompson, who presented on mediation services for crime victims in Texas through the Dispute Resolution Center of Lubbock County, where she serves as Assistant Director.

For questions about the TAAVA Alumni Network, please email tvfi@txvsa.org.

Texas Victim Friendly Initiative

The Texas Victim Friendly Initiative (TVFI) is a year-long quality improvement program funded through the Governor's Public Safety Office. The program provides coaching and technical assistance to help victim services organizations become more trauma-informed. It is open to systems-based and community-based providers, including law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, and non-profit organizations. Agencies are selected as TVFI sites through an application process and choose their own personnel as the project team that will implement the action plan they develop with TVSA's facilitation.

Each site receives support throughout all stages of the program: conducting a baseline organizational self-assessment and staff survey, developing an action plan, regular check-ins on progress, a mid-term meeting for all sites to share their progress

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with one another, additional technical assistance and support as needed, site visits, and project year-end staff surveys and organizational self-assessments for measuring growth from the year's beginning. Upon completion of the program, TVFI sites are eligible to be awarded a gold, silver, or bronze Victim Friendly agency designation by TVSA.

While TVSA provides facilitation and support, TVFI is an agency self-directed program, meaning agencies have the freedom to identify their own priorities in which to work towards improvement. Many action plans include items in key areas from the self-assessment, which includes victim interventions and interactions, training and staff development, and physical environment.

Contingent upon continued funding for the next fiscal year, applications for a limited number of sites to participate will open in the fall. For more information on applying as a fiscal year 2026 TVFI site, please email tvfi@txvsa.org.

Biennial Training Conference

The Biennial Training Conference is our best known, longest-standing program, first held in 1999. At the time of this writing, TVSA is preparing for this year's conference, May 6-9 on South Padre Island. This conference brings together victim services professionals from a vast array of disciplines including law enforcement, prosecution, corrections, juvenile justice, social work, academia, and non-profit organizations. The training program for 2025 includes a three-hour pre-conference ethics session, opening and closing plenary sessions, and 28 workshops across four tracks: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Service Delivery, Cross-Sector Collaborations and Partnerships, Research and Promising Practices, and Management and Leadership in Victim Services. Attendees may receive up to 18.0 continuing education credits for the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement (TCOLE), Social Work, Licensed Professional Counseling (LPC), and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFT).

Conference attendees also get to enjoy networking opportunities with peers in a fun and relaxing setting, such as a welcome reception, an exhibitor space, and an annual meeting luncheon and board installation, where conference attendees are seated

by geographic region for the chance to meet fellow victim services providers.

TVSA's next Biennial Training Conference will be held in 2027. Staying connected

to TVSA through membership, subscription to our newsletter, and following us on social media are the best ways to stay informed about conference updates, other TVSA programs, and to receive information and training related to victim services. If you have questions about TVSA or simply want to connect, please feel free to reach out. You may email director@txvsa.org. TVSA welcomes your feedback, as we continue our mission of support, education, and recognition for victim services providers.



*[Speaking] Jeni Pirtle, Executive Director
Texas Victim Services Association (TVSA)*



*2025 Biennial Training
Conference Attendees*



*Rose Luna, Executive Director
Texas Association Against
Sexual Assault (TAASA)*

Victim Services Division (VSD) New Hire Spotlight



Roman Sanchez: Region IV, Regional Victim Services Coordinator (RVSC)



Roman, as a new RVSC, brings with him three years of valuable victim advocate experience he gained while working with Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office. Roman has witnessed the effects of domestic violence first-hand amongst family and friends, and wants to provide people with beneficial services as well as be a beacon of light to all victims of crime. Roman thoughtfully states, "As a male advocate, I do encourage other males to join the advocacy movement and together we can bring light to those in need." Roman attended Sam Houston State University from August 2023 to May 2025 when he graduated with his Masters in Victims Services Management.

Bruna McDonald: Customer Service Representative III



Bruna is another face fresh to victim services. She has been quick to pick up her new role and is excited to keep learning more. Brunna brings her previous customer service experience to the Notification section of VSD, working on the hotline. She is "eager to help the victims [by] empowering them with the knowledge of their rights and how the criminal justice system works."

Matthew Benishek: Region VI, RVSC



Matthew might be new to TDCJ, but he is no stranger to the field of victim services. His background is in homeless veteran reintegration as well as psychiatric case management, and he will be a vital asset to the Direct Services team. Matthew says he wants "to work with those who feel like

they don't have a voice or had their voice taken from them. [To] show them they still have a voice and can use it."

Alecia Dudley: Region I, Crisis Response Intervention Support Program (CRISP) Coordinator



Alecia joins Employee Support Services (ESS) after transferring from her previous role in the Correctional Institutions Division as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director. She felt led to victim services because she wanted to have a purposeful job helping people in their time of need. Alecia says, "What better way to live life than work in a job that brings positive change to people's lives, especially when they're hurting. I love being my peer's support, [it is] such a blessing!" In her life outside TDCJ, Alecia is a children's ministry leader and worship singer as well as a mother to three adopted children. ESS is thankful to have Alecia on board!

Alex Judd: Program Specialist II, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse



Alex joins the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse team after graduating with a degree in psychology and a minor in literature, which ended up being a perfect match for the TxCVC. Ten years of various service industry and management positions left Alex seeking more meaningful

and compassionate work, and they already feel like they have found a new home with TDCJ Victim Services. Alex has lived experiences they want to use as fuel to help others as well as a profound interest in psychology and trauma-informed care. "I never expected to end up within the Department of Criminal Justice, but I love a good surprise and am excited to grow here."



Stephanie Madu: Special Projects Coordinator



Stephanie comes to TDCJ VSD after going back to school inspired a newly-found interest in criminal justice. She made a pivot from her previous job working at FedEx, saying that “victim services work is indescribable and the assistance that we provide is necessary. I’m very

thankful I was given an opportunity to be a part of such a compassionate division.” One fun fact about Stephanie is that *Matilda* is her favorite movie of all time.

Amanda Inlow: Administrative Assistant IV



Amanda is a welcome addition to the Notification section, working on the Correspondence Team to send out vital letter notifications. After pivoting from her last job as a registered nurse, it should come as no surprise that Amanda is passionate about helping people and

“doing anything I can to make their lives better.” One interesting fact about Amanda is that she is left-handed.

Samantha Jones: Administrative Assistant IV



Sam re-joins TDCJ VSD after a brief hiatus, and the TDCJ VSD is glad to have her back. She brings previous customer service and hotline experience with her to her new position as the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Director of TDCJ VSD. Sam says that “the positive impact of advocating

[for] and supporting victims and their rights, as well as working in a challenging and rewarding place” influenced her return. A fun fact about Sam is that she absolutely loves reading.

National Victim Awareness Dates

July 2025

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

The United Nations (UN) recognizes July 30th as a day to raise awareness of the worldwide problem that is human trafficking. Nearly every country on earth faces this crisis, and there is a critical need to address the root problems causing this epidemic. For more information, please visit the UN page on [trafficking awareness](#).

September 2025

September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

Not a single American has forgotten the horror that struck on September 11, 2001. Every year on the anniversary of the attack, 30 million people across the country give back by volunteering their time and re-igniting the spirit of community that carried us through the 9/11 tragedy together. To learn how to help or for more information, please go to the [9/11 Day webpage](#).

National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims

September 25th is designated by Congress as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. This day allows an opportunity to honor the lives of all those lost each year to senseless violent crime, as well as the impact those people had on their loved ones and community. For more information and free resources, please visit the [National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children](#).

October 2025

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

According to the Texas Advocacy Project, one in three Texans will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives. Throughout the month of October, advocates across the nation come together to raise awareness for domestic violence victims. For news, events, and resources, please visit the [Texas Council on Family Violence](#).

Training Opportunities

The TxCVC provides training statewide for our partners in the criminal justice and victim assistance fields.

Texas Victim Assistance Training Online

The Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online is designed to provide a foundational-level training for new victim services professionals who routinely work with victims of crime. Topics include: crime victims' rights, ethics in victim services, stress management, compassion fatigue, crime victims' assistance standards, effective communication skills for working with victims of crime, and guiding principles and practices of the victim services field. For more information, please visit the TVAT Online web page: https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/tvat_online.html.

Webinars

The TxCVC hosts a webinar series designed to provide training on a wide range of topics for criminal justice and victim services professionals. Information regarding webinars and other victim services related trainings and events scheduled in Texas are provided through the search tool found here: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/search-training-event/>. The database includes trainings, conferences, memorial/remembrance events, webinar recordings, and other relevant events hosted in the state of Texas. To keep abreast on all upcoming TxCVC webinars, please refer to the Upcoming Webinars page on the TDCJ VSD website: <https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/vs/webinars.html>. If you would like to share ideas for future webinars or would be interested in presenting in our webinar series, please email the TxCVC with your contact information at tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov.

Resiliency Module

Working as a victim services professional can be incredibly fulfilling and rewarding. However, assisting people who have endured horrible criminal acts and continued exposure to all the malicious things people do to each other can lead to burnout. Information, preparation, and positive self-care practices can help victim services professionals moderate any adverse effects they may experience. The TVAT Online Resiliency Module explores strategies that can help you recognize, reduce, and transform those effects that may come from working with people who have suffered extreme trauma, grief, and loss. This module teaches coping practices, skills, and techniques that can help you build a resiliency program and prevent or mitigate vicarious trauma. To register for the Resiliency Module please go to [TVAT Online Resiliency Module](#) event registration page.

Other Trainings Available

The TxCVC can provide training to your agency or coalition. Training content and topics can be developed and integrated to meet your specific training needs and can vary in length. The TxCVC is committed to providing training to meet the individualized needs of communities working to enhance services provided to victims. Trainings provided by the TxCVC staff are free of charge. If you would like the TxCVC to present a training event for your organization, please go to the Event Training Request page found here: <https://ivss.tdcj.texas.gov/training-request/>.

60 Days in Victim Services

By Alex Judd, Program Specialist II
Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

If I had been told last year that I would be working for the State of Texas, much less within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), I likely would not have believed it. I was a bit of a late-bloomer when it came to deciding what direction to guide my life trajectory, when I stumbled upon the field of victim services as a not-so-fresh-faced 28-year-old psychology graduate with a passion for outreach and social sciences. While initially searching for opportunities within the non-profit sector, I decided to cast a wider metaphorical net. This led me to deep diving into the different small sectors of state government and finding out about the Victim Services Division (VSD) snuggled within TDCJ.

I strongly believe in the necessity of a criminal justice system; unfortunately, many of the multifaceted functions of the system are lesser-known amongst civilians, which left me curious. A position had opened within the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC), and as I learned about what all the TxCVC did, I realized it could be a perfect fit with my background. Thankfully, the TxCVC felt the same!

The more I learn, the more I am amazed at the amount of good being done within the field of victim services. I am still quite green regarding the complex processes of the criminal justice system and the world of crime victims' rights and advocacy, but the knowledge I have gained thus far has been illuminating. Decentering my perception of the criminal justice system from being solely offender-oriented to including the care of crime victims has helped broaden my understanding of TDCJ as an entity.

The TDCJ VSD is full of compassionate, people-oriented individuals with backgrounds encompassing a wide range of specialties and interests. In my brief time here, I have seen the staff effectively work together during some of the most stressful and potentially re-traumatizing moments in someone's life post-victimization. I believe I was led to this career at a perfect time in my own life, and the TDCJ VSD already feels like home. I am truly excited to continue building community here, and to be in a place where I can endlessly learn and apply my knowledge in a means conducive to the advocacy of victims and their rights.

**The opposite of love is not hate,
it's indifference.
The opposite of art is not ugliness,
it's indifference.
The opposite of faith is not heresy,
it's indifference.
And the opposite of life is not death,
it's indifference.**
Elie Weisel

Information about The Victim's Informer

The Victim's Informer newsletter is a quarterly electronic publication. Articles and other submissions should be emailed to tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov. For questions or comments, please call us at (512) 406-5931 or (800) 848-4284.

Please note: You may access this publication at the TDCJ VSD website by going to https://www.tdcj.texas.gov/publications/victim_informer_newsletter.html. If you wish, we can notify you via email each time The Victim's Informer becomes available on the TDCJ VSD website and provide an electronic link to current and past volumes and editions through the distribution list.

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