



Faith and Community Based Approaches to Victim Services

November 15, 2012





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Transforming Pain and Anger Into Power and Action Survivor Based Tools and Techniques



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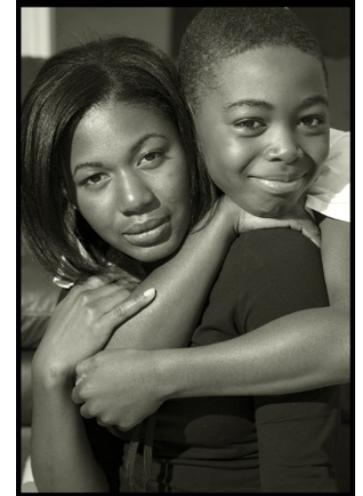




Rise in Survivors of Homicide Victims (Co-Victims) Population



- **The impact of homicide survivorship**
- **The physical and psychological impacts**
- **The response of the community to survivors (co-victims) is often so inadequate that it has been called “secondary victimization.”**





OVC TTAC



Transforming Pain and Anger Into Power and Action Survivor Based Tools and Techniques

Our Mission: To create and support an environment where families can live in peace and unity.

Our Guiding Principles: Love, unity, faith, hope, courage, justice, and forgiveness.

Our Approach: Acknowledge. Listen. Collaborate. Mobilize.

Our Foundation: Is built upon **peace**. Strong commitment to work with both victims' and offenders' families.

Our Philosophy: Reach people where they are on their journey in order to assist them and their family to become more involved in the change process.

Our Belief: Peace is possible.





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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES | Our Methodology

- **Schools:** To develop programs and activities that teach and instill the values of peace and enrich the lives of young people.
- **Families:** To assist and empower survivors of homicide victims with the tools that help to rebuild not only their lives but also their communities through education, collaboration, and advocacy.
- **Community:** To inform and educate the public about the causes and consequences of violence within an individual, the family, and the community, while transforming the community into an environment where young people are valued by adults and by their peers for their peacemaking efforts.





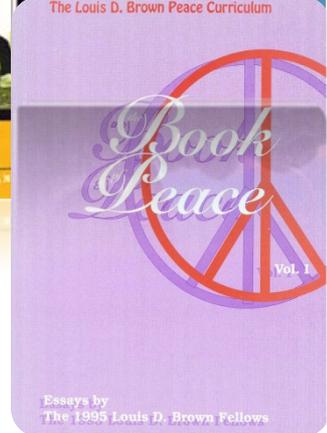
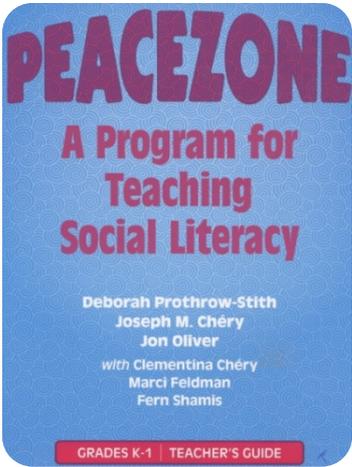
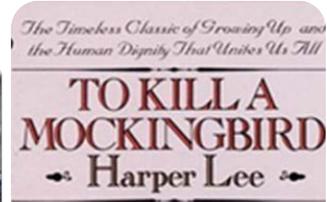
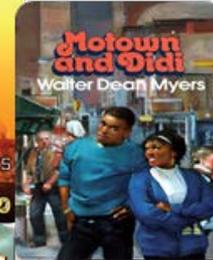
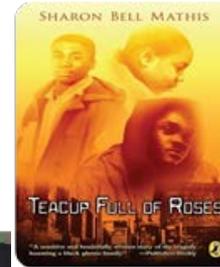
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SURVIVOR BASED TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES



- Louis D. Brown Peace Curriculum Middle and High School ELA Classes
- Survivor Leadership Group
- PEACEZONE Elementary K-5

"If we are to reach real peace in this world...
we shall have to begin with children"
– Mahatma Gandhi





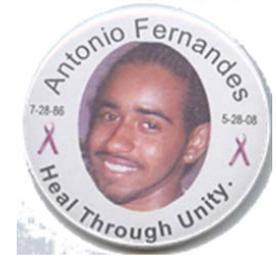
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SURVIVOR BASED TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES



- Our Survivors Toolkit
 - Step-by-Step Burial & Resource Guide
 - Always In My Heart: A Workbook for Grieving Children
- SandTray / Worldplay



Always in My Heart
A Workbook for Grieving Children



Courage • Forgiveness • Unity

Love • Faith • Hope • Justice

What To Do After Leaving the Hospital 

A STEP-BY-STEP BURIAL GUIDE & STRATEGIES FOR FINDING PEACE AFTER THE MURDER OF A LOVED ONE



By CLEMENTINA M. CHÉRY

*"We are supposed to preach without preaching
Not by words, but by our example, by our actions.
All works of love are works of peace."
- Mother Teresa*

When You No Longer Feel God's Hand in Yours, We'll Hold It Until You Do.
With Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice & Forgiveness





TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



- Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month (November 20 – December 20)
- Annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace
- UMass Boston’s Public Academic Partnership
- Training, Workshops, and Seminars



Contact Rachel Fazzino
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Presenter Question and Answer

- Please submit questions via Chat Box.
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VICTIMS
to
VICTORY

Academic and Community Partnerships Enrich Faith Based Victim Services

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Center for
FAITH BASED and
NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS





Academic and Community Partners

University of Memphis Psychology Department

- Project Bravehearts & Project INSPIRIT

Playback Memphis

- Drama-based therapeutic intervention

University of Tennessee Academic Consortium of Applied Research

- Healing Homes – Family Violence Education Training





Project Bravehearts: Survivors

54 Homicidally-bereaved African-Americans

More
complicated grief
(*esp.* single
mothers)

Depressive
symptoms

Intense PTSD

Large social
support networks

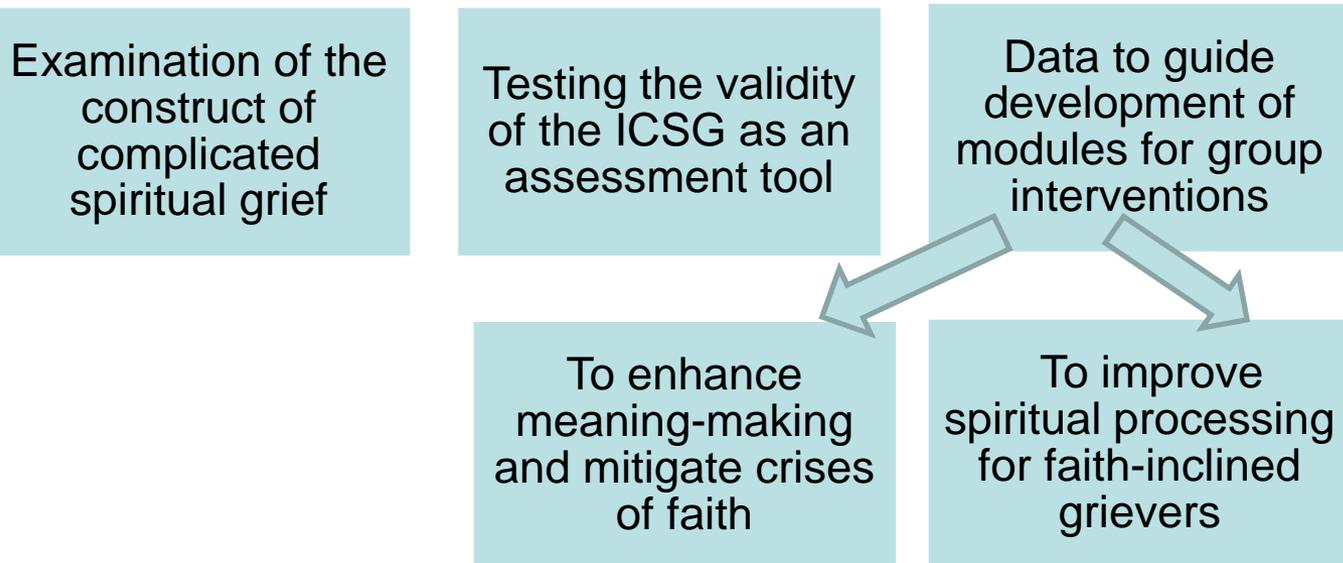
Faith-oriented
social support
important





Project INSPIRIT

Investigating Natural Spiritual Processes in Response to Incidents of Trauma





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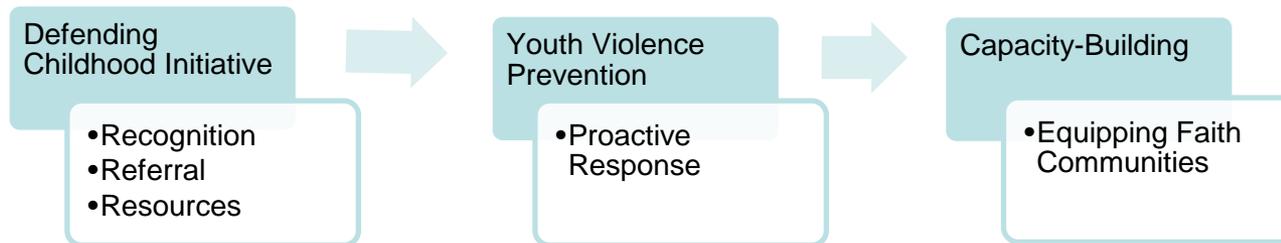
Playback Memphis: Drama

- Is drama-based intervention to aid restorative retelling.
- Engages co-victims in creating trauma narratives.
- Gives voice to those reluctant to talk about loss and issues.
- Helps co-victims take a perspective outside of their pain.
- Portrays strengths and resiliencies.



Healing Homes Training

- Faith-based Family Violence Education for faith leaders serving African-American congregations in areas of high incidence of domestic violence.
- Faith-based survey data → applied training.





Best Practices and Partnerships



- Utilizing research initiatives to inform service delivery to target population.
- Incorporating drama-based techniques for therapeutic intervention.
- Educating and developing skills of faith leaders through local data-driven curriculum.



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Presenter Question and Answer

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The Vera Institute of Justice Common Justice Project

Using Participatory Justice To Support Victims of Violent Crime



Danielle Sered





Surviving Trauma: What Victims Need

- The literature in the field about trauma teaches us that the following things can be crucial to victims healing through what occurred and overcoming symptoms of posttraumatic stress:
 - **Having one's voice heard**
 - Expressing the impact
 - Having one's experience validated, recognized, and taken seriously
 - Assembling a coherent narrative
 - Asking questions and getting answers
 - **Developing a sense of control relative to the event**
 - Shaping the outcome
 - Developing a safety plan
 - Integrating the experience sustainably into one's world view
 - **Receiving restitution**
 - Direct/financial restitution
 - Restoration in the form of community service and other actions
 - **Seeing defendants held accountable**
 - Some victims prefer jail or prison sentences for those who harmed them
 - For others, participatory alternatives align more closely with their needs for justice and safety
- All too often for all too many victims, these needs are not met in traditional court processes.



Expanding the Range of Services

- In the victim services field, it is our responsibility and role continually to ask the question: Who is being hurt by crime and what do they need?
- In developing Common Justice, Vera set out to serve victims of crimes such as robbery and assault equitably and effectively.
- Contrary to a great deal of popular perception, the person most likely to be harmed by violent crime both nationally and in New York City is a 16- to 24-year-old black man. According to the 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey, black men in New York, for example, are six times more likely than white women, three times more likely than black women, and more than twice as likely as white men to become victims of robbery.
- Very few young men of color receive services when they are victims of crime.
- What are some of the barriers?
 - Popular conceptions about who victims are impact how young men see themselves and how they are seen.
 - Young men of color rarely seek services from traditional victim service agencies, many of which primarily serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
 - Even when young men do seek services, often the services offered are not those they want or need. Anecdotally, far more young male victims of crime in Common Justice were interested in help with employment and education than in referrals to mental health counseling.



Facing the Challenge: The Common Justice Demonstration Project

- The Vera Institute of Justice works to make the justice system fairer and more efficient through research and innovation. Since 1961, Vera has launched demonstration projects as a way to test solutions to some of the most intractable challenges facing our justice system and communities. These projects are informed by existing best practices and evaluated to determine whether they achieve their intended impact. Common Justice is one such project.
- Common Justice is a restorative justice-based victim services and alternative to incarceration program being piloted in Brooklyn, New York, in partnership with the District Attorney's office. We work with cases:
 - Involving felonies such as robbery and assault.
 - Only when the victims want to participate.
 - With defendants who are 16-24 and facing at least a year in jail or prison for the crimes they committed.
 - With victims of any age: many, but not all, are young men of color.



The Common Justice Model

- Provide urgent and ongoing support to victims.
 - Including crime victim compensation, support with education and employment, referrals to mental health counseling, and safety planning.
- Supervise defendants and hold them accountable.
 - Defendants are seen 5 days per week one-on-one in the 3-month preparatory period and 3 days per week in the year following their dialogue with the victim.
- Prepare the victims, defendants, and support people for a dialogue.
 - Our emphasis with defendants is on violence cessation and accountability as the avenue to dignity.
 - Our emphasis with victims is on culturally responsive and appropriate healing and support.
- Convene a dialogue (“circle”) with the victim, defendant, and support people to reach agreements about what the defendants can do to make things as right as possible .
 - Agreements include restitution, community service, school, work, and other creative agreements unique to each circle.
- If those agreements are upheld, they replace prison or jail sentences the defendants would otherwise have served and the felonies are vacated from their records.
- Meanwhile, we work extensively with the victims for up to a year following the dialogue to help support them in their recovery and in their lives generally in the hopes of providing a process that can meet victims’ needs to be heard, to develop a sense of control relative to the event, to receive restitution, and to see the defendant held meaningfully accountable.



Why We Do the Work

- Vera's Common Justice project is among the emerging efforts – including those led by the Office for Victims of Crime, a number of hospital-violence intervention programs, and a small emerging group of other service providers – to rise to the challenge of providing effective and equitable services to young male victims of color.
- We do this for two primary reasons:
 - **It is the right thing to do.** All victims of crime—regardless of their race, class, gender, age, or ability—deserve culturally appropriate help and support when they have been harmed.
 - **It is the practical thing to do.** Evidence in the field suggests that people who are harmed and do not get well are more likely to go on to harm others, so providing effective support to victims of crime may help improve the public safety and the health of our communities.
- Our hope is that by offering victims more options we can make significant strides toward building a criminal justice system in which the greatest possible portion of victims experience a sense of justice and safety as a result of their decision to engage law enforcement.



Directions for Research

- As with all demonstration projects, Vera initiated a process evaluation for the first 3 years. This concluded in 2012.
- There is also an ongoing outcomes evaluation covering:
 - Client satisfaction with the program, specifically their sense of fairness, safety, utility of the process, and overall satisfaction.
 - Defendant recidivism for 2 years after graduation from Common Justice, compared to a group similar to Common Justice clients who exited the New York justice system but were not involved in Common Justice. (Criminal history data for both groups are obtained from DCJS, DOCS, and DOC.)
 - Victims' mental health, specifically depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress symptomatology. At this point, there are not enough victims to form a sample.
- The research design may be modified to help us better understand defendants' life histories, including their exposure to violence and trauma.



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Organizational Capacity Building Resources for Victim Service Programs

Lenna Reid

OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center



OVC TTAC helps to build the capacity of the field to serve crime victims by providing comprehensive, high quality training and technical assistance (TTA) to victim service providers and allied professionals.

www.ovcttac.gov





OVC TTAC Resources and Services

- In-person and online training.
- Customized training and technical assistance.
- Professional development scholarships.
- Consultant network.
- Legal assistance and human trafficking TTA.
- VictimLaw.



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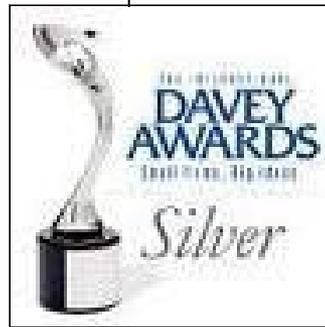


Downloadable and Online Trainings

Identity Theft: Supporting Victims' Financial & Emotional Recovery



The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is pleased to make the e-learning training, Identity Theft: Supporting Victims Financial and Emotional Recovery, available to victim service providers and allied professionals who serve victims of identity theft. Allen Interactions, working with OVC and the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC), created the e-learning version of the OVC instructor-led training of the same name to make the course more widely available. Much of the information in this training is based on the document, Assisting Victims of Identity Theft: A Resource Guide for Victim Services, prepared under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), and awarded to the Institute for Law and Justice.



OVC would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this project: Paula Pierce, Texas Legal Services Center; Joanna Crane, Federal Trade Commission; Kathleen Claffie, Federal Trade Commission; Debbie Deem, FBI; Linda and Jay Foley, Identity Theft Resource Center; Sue Shriner, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Donna Hatfield, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Frank Marion, U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Russell Butler and the MD Crime Victims Resource Center; Sharol Knope, US Attorneys Office, NY; Jamie Napp, Identity Theft Action Council of Nebraska; and Savannah Stephens, Atlanta Victim Assistance, Inc. OVC would like to especially acknowledge the victims' stories of identity theft as told by Vanessa Bustamante, Catherine Cole, Tom Kerr, Nicole Robinson and Andrew Sobanet. Their stories served as an inspirational groups' efforts to develop this training for victim assistance providers and allied professionals.

The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this training are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center

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General Question and Answer Session

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