

E. INCLUDE AND/OR ATTACH ANECDOTAL INFORMATION AND INDIVIDUAL CASE HISTORIES ILLUSTRATING AT LEAST FOUR WAYS IN WHICH VOCA FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED TO ASSIST CRIME VICTIMS. (LETTERS FROM CRIME VICTIMS ARE HELPFUL.)

The following anecdotes were submitted by VOCA grantees in their Semi-annual Narrative Reports during this reporting period:

**Case History #1:
Services to a Survivor and Witness to Domestic Violence
Safe Harbors**

Enterprise, Oregon (Northeastern Oregon)

She came into the office with a 2 year old in her arms, a 2 year old struggling to get down and explore her surroundings. As “Sydney” sat down in a chair, her young daughter, “Sadie” found the toy box and started to play. She was very good at occupying herself, with only an occasional request for me or her mother. Sydney told of the violence she endured from her husband; physical bruising and arm twisting, running to lock herself in a room as her husband pounded on the door. Even worse were the things he would say to her, screaming and yelling the most insulting, degrading words, making sure Sydney knew she was worse than worthless. “Annie”, Sydney’s four year old daughter, had talked to her Head Start teacher about what was happening at home and her behavior at school was deteriorating. Sydney knew it was time to make some changes for her family. She wanted to petition the court for a restraining order and we made an appointment for the next day. She could not stay that afternoon to complete the paperwork; her husband would notice she was missing. We created a safety plan and as Sydney left I wondered, how would the evening go for the family and would I see her the next day? Victims often do not return; this might be one of several attempts to leave. She did come back, the judge issued the restraining order, and Sydney left town for the weekend; she and her daughters would stay with a relative. This was only the beginning. After modifications, pressures from family and clergy, Sydney is still attempting to disengage from the relationship. She has been torn down so much inside; are her parenting skills what they need to be? Child Protective Services is involved, watching out for the safety of the children. We continue to see Sydney on occasion and help her find resources, go to court with her, encourage her, and continue to safety plan as her living situation changes.

**Case History #2:
Services to a Survivor of Sexual Assault
Umatilla County District Attorney Victim Assistance Program
Pendleton, Oregon (Northeastern Oregon)**

One of our Victim Assistance Program’s advocates was made aware by law-enforcement of a woman that had just been raped. The advocate, once notified, immediately responded to her home and provided on-scene crisis counseling and support. They talked about her rights as a victim and explained the criminal justice process as it related to her case. The advocate assisted her with a restraining order application and provided court accompaniment at the restraining order hearing. The advocate called our local county jail providing them with contact information of the victim for notification purposes if the

offenders release status changed. The advocate talked to the victim about safety concerns if he was released. She explained about the Victim Information & Notification Everyday program (This program provides information of the offender's custody status twenty-four hours a day), The advocate assisted her in filling out an Oregon Crime Victim Compensation Program application through the Department of Justice to help with the financial piece of the medical and/or counseling services provided. With the victims consent the advocate worked with her small support group of friends and neighbors making sure she was receiving essential support The advocate assisted the victim through the Grand Jury process and provided court accompaniment for court hearings the victim attended The victim was provided contact names and information for the Domestic Violence Services program in our area. The victim worked with Domestic Violence Services when she first came to our community. The victim built a special bond with one of the counselors at our mental health center and preferred working with them instead. The victim was extremely frightened and was having a difficult time coping with the traumatizing event that had just occurred. The District Attorney and advocate from our office went to the mental health center and met with the victim and her mental health counselor, attempting to eliminate confusion of the criminal justice process, and to build trust in the people that were helping her. The victim is disabled she is legally blind and suffers from cerebral palsy. Her rapist was an acquaintance that she had met in her support group through mental health in our county. She attended support group sessions through mental health, because she had been abused as a child (raped multiple times by her father and brother) which followed her to adulthood. The abuse stopped for awhile when she moved out of her family home and got married. Until one night, when her husband was out of town and her father and brother went to her home and raped her, once again. She never felt safe when her abusers knew other residency. She moved to Umatilla County, to get away from her abusers, not telling anyone where she was residing. She found a nice place and met some wonderful friends and started to feel safe with an outlook of a 'beginning'. She was attending our local community college to achieve a degree, so she could work with children of abuse. When she participated in the local support groups through mental health the staff would pick her up for group and then drop her off after the sessions. The offender that she met at her support group sessions was receiving the same transport services. That is how the offender knew where she lived and that is where the rape happened, at her "new beginning", at her "new home". The offender, before this offense, was a designated predatory sex offender. He already had two forcible sexual assaults on his record. Shortly after this incident she tried to kill herself. The same advocate was called by the victims request to meet her at the hospital. The advocate stayed with her for several hours. With the collaborating efforts between partnering agencies a Mental Health crisis counselor relieved our advocate at the hospital and provided her with the specialized services warranted. We continue to coordinate with law enforcement throughout the investigation striving to make sure an advocate is present when interviewing her. This case hasn't made it to trial yet. The offender is facing life in prison due to this current crime and his past history. We continue to support the victim and advocate for her. This incident has been devastating to the victim and it continues to haunt her. The Victim Assistance Program staff continues to provide case status and services whenever needed.

**Case History #3:
Culturally Specific Services to a Teen Survivor of Sexual Assault
The Next Door, Inc.**

Hood River, Oregon (Columbia River Gorge)

In October of 2007, program staff began working with a young lady in her junior year at Hood River Valley High School. Like most victims of abuse, this youth struggled with the idea of what could become of her and her family if she disclosed her painful secret. As the oldest of six, she feared the possibility of her family being separated or even deported. Most of all, she dreaded the idea of disappointing her parents. At the beginning of the school year, this very shy and reserved individual became a member of Inspiration Circle (girls support group). Within a short period of time, facilitators and students began to worry about her well being. She became noticeably withdrawn from school and the support group, and displayed severe signs of depression. Then the day came when she showed up to school with a cut on the inside of her lip. Her school counselor made the call to DHS and referred her to the Wrap-Around program of Youth and Family Services, a program of The Next Door. She received immediate crisis counseling and was connected to resources within the community. Once again, her fear of bringing more attention to her family increased her hesitation to seek professional help; however, she did agree to receive Wrap-Around services. There were several weeks of sharing horrific incidents of physical, verbal and emotional abuse before she would consider seeing a professional counselor. When given the okay, an immediate referral was made to the Mid-Columbia Center for Living (the County's Single Mental Health Agency) Systems of Care program. Within a very short period of time, counseling services began. Through the support of Inspiration Circle and Wrap-Around, partially funded by VOCA, this young lady has been able to see a light at the end of a very dark tunnel. She continues to struggle with the pain of what she has experienced; however, through counseling, she and her family are working towards developing positive communication. The invaluable connections this young lady made with students and staff has helped her to realize that she is not at fault for the abuse she has suffered.

**Case History #4:
Services to a Teen Victim of Sexual Assault
Clackamas County District Attorney Victim Assistance Program
Oregon City, Oregon (Tri-county Metropolitan Area)**

During May 2007, Krysti Bellmore accompanied a Detective to meet with a young woman at the local high school who was reporting to the school counselor that she had been raped the previous September. This victim was very scared to tell her parents about the rape due to their strong religious beliefs. After the initial interview with the victim, Krysti went with the Detective and the victim to her home where they spoke with her mother, explained the situation and what would be happening next in the investigation. Over the next three months, eight additional teenage victims emerged all naming the same person as the suspect. There were several individual meetings with the prosecutor, detective, victims and the advocate. These meetings were particularly challenging due to the strong opinions of some of the parents and victims. Just making sure that everyone understood the process and their rights became an advocates' challenge. Many of the girls were in their senior year of high school and had a very difficult time attending school and

staying focused on their studies. There was a significant period of time where the victims were being tormented at school and over the internet by the suspect's brother and his friends. All the victims applied for CVCP, however, only two elected to take advantage of counseling services. Over several months, different trial dates came and went. These resets were difficult for the girls and required a lot of listening on the advocate's part and explaining again and again the rights of the suspect and the court process. As the final trial date approached, Krysti attended several meetings with the DDA and the victims. Simply obtaining self-photos from the victims to use in trial turned into a major feat as the girls repeatedly brought in photos that were inappropriate and would most likely be found on their 'My Space' page. It then became the role of the advocate to convince both the victim and their parents that a close up picture of the victim with her tongue sticking out may not be the most favorable picture to show a jury. As the trial came about, Krysti was forced to have several conversations with the victims and parents regarding appropriate courtroom dress & behavior. The trial lasted 4 days and the jury returned a guilty on all counts for all victims. The courtroom was packed with both victims and the defendant's family. The defendant's father became very aggressive and had to be escorted out of the courthouse only to be found waiting across the street when the advocate and victims emerged from the courthouse which required a security response. Next, the advocate began the task of scheduling and coordinating the PSI interviews. This became a significant task due to the end of the school year and required a great deal of flexibility on everyone's part. During this time, the victim's emotions continued to be all over the board and in several cases began to affect their school grades and graduation. Krysti was able to coordinate with the sheriff's civil department to move the hearing to a larger courtroom and to bring victims into the courthouse through a side door rather than the main entrance. All victims and their families met at the Victim Assistance office and walked over in unity. Each victim and parent took the opportunity to make a Victim Impact Statement. Throughout this case, Krysti had more than 150 contacts with these victims. She continues to hear from some of them who have gone on to enroll in college, obtain jobs and mend relationships that were broken as a result of this crime.

Case History #5:

Services to a Relocated Victim of Domestic Violence with a Substance Abuse Problem

Womenspace

Eugene, Oregon (Willamette Valley)

"Marilyn" had been homeless and came to the shelter from a rural area. "Marilyn" had a history of drug and alcohol abuse and her children had been removed by Child Welfare services and she was pregnant again by her abusive partner. Her abuser was currently incarcerated. "Marilyn" came to the shelter because she needed a safe place to be after years of domestic violence, homelessness and drug and alcohol abuse. She wanted to insure that she was in a safe place when she gave birth to her baby. We helped her apply for available services so that she could afford to pay for her prenatal care in addition we helped her set up an assessment with a local drug and alcohol treatment facility. She attended shelter support groups but continued to have a connection with her abusive partner. After continuing in our support groups and encouragement from the women "Marilyn" started to realize how the dynamics of domestic violence had impacted her life

and ultimately resulted in the removal of her children. She finally understood how abusive her partner was and how isolated she had been. “Marilyn” told us that she had never had the kind of support that she was feeling from the strong women around her at the shelter and this was helping her to see that she was no longer alone. For the first time in her life she had a strong and healthy support system, prior to this her only support person had been her abusive partner. Ultimately Child Welfare still removed her baby; initially they were planning on putting the child up for adoption. “Marilyn” however, was determined to keep her child. She went to treatment and has turned her life around. She now sees regaining custody of her baby as her primary goal and will not let her abuser ruin her chances as he has in the past. She has graduated from a recovery program and is living in a recovery house; she is attending outpatient treatment, attending support group, and looking for a job. She and her lawyer are still working to have her child returned to her. She has signed up for school and feels her life has been turned around by the support of the strong women of Womenspace shelter.

**Case History #6:
Assistance to a Family of Domestic Violence Survivors
Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV)
Corvallis, Oregon (Willamette Valley)**

A 28 year old woman and her two young children (a 7 year old boy and a 9 year old girl) came into shelter following an incident of domestic violence perpetrated by the woman’s partner. The woman’s DHS Child Welfare case worker encouraged her to contact and work with CARDV. The woman came to CARDV very anxious about being in shelter. She struggled with wanting to return home and with wanting to communicate with her abuser. With support and encouragement from the Overnight Shelter Advocate, the Case Manager, and the Family Skills Advocate this client worked on decreasing her anxiety about leaving her abuser and what he might do to retaliate. Over a few weeks time, she was also able to repair her self-esteem somewhat and concentrate on rebuilding her life skills. Additionally, with staff assistance, the client worked on spending positive and less stressful family time with her children and on increasing her confidence in her parenting skills. Initially, the CARDV Case Manager and Family Skills Advocate provided transportation for the client and accompanied her to a number of her appointments with the courts, her mental health provider, and Department of Human Services self-sufficiency and child welfare case workers. Eventually, with guidance and support from CARDV staff, the client became comfortable with using the local public transit system. The CARDV Case Manager also connected the client to DHS case workers for assistance in accessing the Domestic Violence Grant and food stamps. The CARDV Legal Advocate also provided legal advocacy and assisted the client with obtaining a Family Abuse Prevention Act Temporary Restraining Order; she also connected the client to Legal Aid Services to obtain additional legal assistance with her divorce paperwork. The CARDV Family Skills Advocate connected the client to the local school district’s Homeless Education Advocate who assisted the family in organizing school transportation so that the children could attend the elementary school closest to shelter. The CARDV Case Manager also worked on behalf of the client with law enforcement to arrange a police stand-by for the client to retrieve her belongings from her home. While in shelter, the client was concerned about not having access to her car. CARDV

advocates brainstormed various plans with her until she was successful in safely retrieving her car from her abuser. In addition, the Case Manager facilitated and supported the client by searching the newspapers housing ads with her, providing materials regarding low income housing options in the area, performing internet searches with her for available apartments, and driving her to view apartments at different locations. The Family Skills Advocate assisted the client in finding boarding for her pets and, when the first location did not work out, assisted the client in finding a second placement for her pets. The client and her children stayed in shelter for 6 weeks before the client contacted a safe family friend and made the decision to relocate out of state.

Case History #7:

Services to a Pregnant Survivor of Physical Abuse Volunteers of America – Home Free Portland, Oregon (Tri-county Metropolitan Area)

Sandy (not her real name) was referred to Home Free by a hospital social worker in November. While pregnant, Sandy experienced severe physical abuse which required hospitalization and frequent ongoing medical attention until she gave birth a few months later. Sandy's newborn baby has had medical complications that continue to drain Sandy's personal and financial resources. Sandy has also experienced post partum depression. Nancy, Home Free's VOCA-funded advocate, has supported Sandy throughout this time. Though Sandy's abuser was arrested, he has since been released, and Nancy helped Sandy access TA-DVS so that she could move to a location that is unknown to her abuser (who continues to look for her). One of Sandy's barriers to finding safe housing was her dog - who had also been abused by Sandy's former partner. Home Free provided advocacy with Sandy's landlord to help her obtain her apartment, as well as rental assistance and referrals for energy assistance and weatherization assistance to keep Sandy's utilities manageable. In addition to her newborn, Sandy cares for her two-year-old son, and Nancy helped link her to community resources for ongoing parenting support and respite care. Nancy has also referred Sandy for legal assistance in obtaining full legal custody of her newborn son. Sandy is working with the district attorney to pursue charges against her abuser, but the trial has been set over on numerous occasions. Nancy provides support in communicating with the DA and will accompany Sandy to court appearances. As well, Nancy provided Sandy with info about Crime Victims Rights and Crime Victims Compensation to in order to receive help with the tremendous medical expenses incurred due to the abuse, and perhaps counseling for Sandy and her toddler son. Sandy is a student at the local community college, and Home Free has helped her purchase supplies necessary for her education. Due to Sandy's inability to attend classes while the violence was at its height and then the baby's health complications, Sandy was put on academic probation. She filed an appeal about the financial aid office's decision to withdraw financial aid, and Home Free wrote a letter on her behalf. Thankfully, her financial aid was reinstated. Home Free is sponsoring Sandy for scholarships that will allow her to continue her education and her dream of being an engineer. Sandy has been offered a position by the college to be a key player in setting up and running a Women's Resource Center on her campus. Nancy continues to provide monthly home visits, during which she and Sandy together break down her goals into manageable pieces, revisit her budget, update her safety plan, discuss potential

community resources and talk about the ongoing impacts of the domestic violence Sandy experienced.

Case History #8:
Services to a Victim of Elder Abuse
Washington County Department of Aging and Veteran's Services
Elder Safe Program
Hillsboro, Oregon (Tri-County Metropolitan Area)

On 01/10/08 Elder Safe received a law enforcement incident report regarding alleged fraudulent activity on a senior's bank and credit card accounts. The report was also sent to Adult Protective Services. The victim's daughter stated that while her mother who has some dementia was in a rehabilitation center someone took her checks and cashed a check for \$800.00. The check was written to a Gene Smith. The daughter remembers hiding her mother's wallet with checks and other credit/bank cards in a coat in her mother's closet at the retirement residence. After discovering the fraudulent charges, the daughter contacted the managers at the retirement center and was told that Gene Smith had worked there as a fill-in temporary hair dresser for a short period of time, but was let go due to some "shady" dealings. Smith befriended and maintained contact with several of the elderly women especially those in wheelchairs or unable to move about well by themselves. Management could not stop this because some of the women living there have consented to his continual visiting. Our Elder Safe victim advocate made several contacts and met with the elder victim and her daughter. Upon her visit she learned that several of the other elderly residents living at the retirement center also had suspect financial dealing with Mr. Smith. The son of another elderly resident learned from his mother's bank that she has been providing Smith money in excess of \$100,000.00. Our Elder Safe victim advocate assigned to the case again contacted the Adult Protective Services caseworker, law enforcement officer, and deputy district attorney who is preparing the case for grand jury. She also assisted the senior victim in obtaining a restraining order so Mr. Smith would cease his unwanted contact.

Case History #9:
Services to a Homeless, Pregnant Teen
Bradley Angle House
Portland, Oregon (Tri-County Metropolitan Area)

Summer came to Bradley Angle House at the beginning of May 2008. She called the crisis line the night before after having walked out of her home a month prior.' She had been homeless staying with friends for a month. She was also eight months pregnant with the baby due the 4 of June. Due to the abuse from her partner, Summer's other three children Cloud 5 years old, Hope 2, and Jeremy 1, had been taken into state custody and placed in foster care. Since having had the children taken away, in her words, she "put on her coat and walked out. The abuse Summer suffered was extensive and extremely violent. She disclosed during the phone screen that she was experiencing ongoing daily physical abuse. He 'had knocked out her teeth and made them into earrings, held her prisoner, woke her up at 2 in the morning and hit her with a lighter, hollered and yelled at the kids telling them they weren't his. They had been together for 7 years. She later shared that she had bruises cuts and scars on her face and shoulders, was threatened with

death often, that the abuse was emotional, verbal, and physical. He performed undesired sexual practices and forced sex when she did not want it. The police had been called by others, but Summer stated that he would later be released and the abuse would get worse. The children were being abused emotionally, verbally and physically. He would push them down, hit them and yell at them. Summer identified having been emotionally abused as a child and that her parents would fight. Her mother had drug and alcohol issues. Summer had been in previous abusive relationships. The abuser that she knew of had no history of abuse other than that his father abused alcohol; The abuser was also using drugs and alcohol. She stated that he would use methamphetamine, but would take anything and collected knives. During Summer's stay she went into labor and delivered her baby at a local hospital. Child Protective Services took the newborn into custody and required that Summer follow a case plan in order to recover her children. She worked diligently attending several meetings a day despite the grief of losing her children. She Was accepted into housing that would allow for DHS to return the children to her. Summer moved out of Bradley Angle and via follow up we understand that the newborn was returned to her custody with in the week of her exit.

**Case History #10:
Services to a Victim of Child Sexual Abuse
Wasco County District Attorney Victim Assistance Program
The Dalles, Oregon (Columbia River Gorge)**

We have filed a sex abuse case that involves a 31 year old man having sex with a 16 year old girl. The victim and her mother live in Hood River but the crime occurred in The Dalles. I made contact with the mother and she was very apprehensive and suspicious of this office. I tried everything to convey that we are doing everything we can to protect her daughter and hold the offender accountable. In the meantime, Gloria, the Hood River Victim Assistance Program Director [in the neighboring county] had also had contact with mom and victim and she had dealt with mom in the past so they trusted her. Gloria helped me tremendously with this case. When our DDA met with the victim, Gloria drove her and her mom here and sat with mom while our DDA talked to the victim. She also brought both of them for grand jury and now that we have an indictment they are a little more trusting of this office. I do not know if I would have been able to get there without Gloria's help. It made me realize that as VAP's we can help each other out and really make a difference in a case.