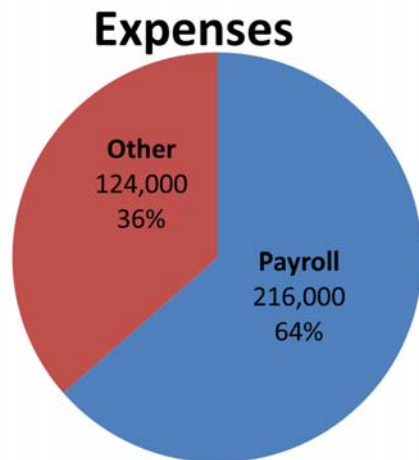
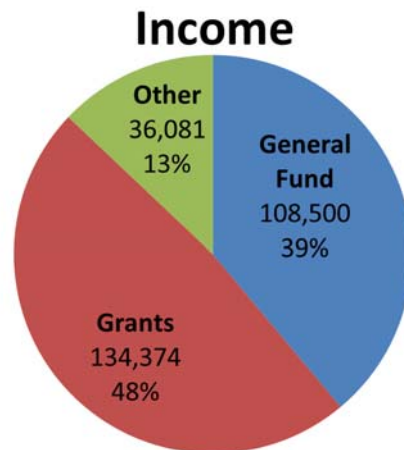


### **Briefing on the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network (NCVAN)**

- The North Carolina Victim Assistance Network (NCVAN) was founded in 1986 and is the only **statewide**, private non-profit group that serves **all types** of crime victims at **every stage** of their ordeal. We provide information, referrals, training, subsistence, outreach and advocacy for the innocent victims of murder, rape, burglary and other crimes.
- We have a statewide toll-free telephone number and each year we receive **400-500 calls** from crime victims or their relatives.
- In each of the last three years more than **40,000** people have visited our web site [nc-van.org](http://nc-van.org) to obtain information.
- Each year our Annual Training Conference and Victim Service Academies teach approximately **200** law enforcement officers and Victim/Witness Legal Assistants better ways to serve crime victims.
- Our **Directory of Victim Services** lists more than **1,500** state and local agencies scattered from Murphy to Manteo that provide help for crime victims. The **Directory** is now available as a CD, and we have sent copies to every sheriff, police chief, prosecutor, clerk of court, county DSS director and state legislator in North Carolina.
- Our annual operating budget is approximately **\$340,000**, but over the last two years our state General Fund appropriation has been cut from **\$150,000 to \$108,500**, a drop of 28%. Among other things, we use our state funds to provide the in-kind match for approximately \$135,000 in federal victim grant money administered through the Governor's Crime Commission. Though the sum is small, we could not operate without our state appropriation.



**Total Expenses: 340,000**



**Total Income: 278,955**

A closing thought: Our criminal justice system is not user friendly for crime victims. The system tends to focus on criminals and the accused. We should pay more heed to the words of President Ronald Reagan, who said, "**Justice isn't served until victims are.**"



The North Carolina Victim Assistance Network (NCVAN) is a 501 (c)(3) private, non-profit organization founded in 1986 to help all crime victims and make our communities safer places to live. In everything we do for those we serve, we will conduct ourselves with fairness, dignity and compassion.

## What exactly does NCVAN do?

### ▶ Crime Victim Subsistence Project

Provides mileage, meals and lodging so family members of homicide victims can attend the trials of those accused of committing the crime.

### ▶ Hispanic Outreach Program

Connects victims within the state's underserved Spanish-speaking communities with assistance. Provides bilingual materials to educate this population of victims' rights.

### ▶ Annual Training Conference

This three-day, continuing education series provides the opportunity for law enforcement, crime victims and victim advocates to remain informed about current legislation, trends and best practices in victim advocacy.

### ▶ NC Victim Service Practitioner Certification Academy

Our week-long Certification Academy trains law enforcement officers, Victim Witness Legal Assistants and other victim advocates in victims' services procedures. Each year we certify nearly 50 service providers through our Academy, which is offered twice a year.

### ▶ Information & Referral

NCVAN operates a referral service for crime victims and maintains a **Directory** of 1,500 victim service agencies spread across the state's 100 counties. The **Directory** is widely regarded as the "Bible" for victims' services. It links crime victims with direct assistance available in their communities.

NCVAN also maintains a toll-free (800) phone number to provide statewide access for crime victims.

### ▶ Directory & Publications

We provide educational publications to crime victims, including a well-regarded booklet entitled **Surviving Violent Crime**, which informs victims of their rights and what they might expect from the criminal justice process, and can also provide emotional validation. This publication is also available in English and Spanish.

Our Web site, [www.nc-van.org](http://www.nc-van.org), offers a wealth of training and victim assistance information for the public and service providers. We receive approximately 500 distinct "visits" a month.

### ▶ Memorial

NCVAN promotes and honors National Crime Victims' Rights Week every year with a Crime Victim Memorial Garden Ceremony held in Raleigh, NC. Our 1st Annual 5K Memorial Walk/Run for Crime Victims is scheduled for April 9, 2011.

The bricks in our crime victim memorial garden display the names of victims being honored by loved ones.

### ▶ Advocacy

NCVAN serves as an advocate for crime victims at the General Assembly and in various state and private agencies such as the Sentencing Commission and the non-profit Interagency Coalition on Victims' Services.

We educate public policy leaders about crime's devastating effects on our society.





# The North Carolina Victim Assistance Network

## Violent Crime Victim Subsistence Project

Subsistence assists surviving loved ones of homicide victims by offsetting some, if not all of the financial burden they experience as a result of attending criminal justice proceedings of the accused. Assistance is provided to those victims who are NOT serving as a witness.



### Eligibility & Requirements

- Maximum of three qualifying family members
- Must be attending a criminal justice proceeding
- For cases in which there has been a loss of life
- Witnesses for the state cannot be reimbursed under this program
- Applications made on behalf of surviving family members by prosecuting agency
- Reimbursement for lodging, mileage OR rental car/ air/train/bus tickets and meals according to federal rates.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Wexler at (919) 831-2857 or email [elizabeth@nc-van.org](mailto:elizabeth@nc-van.org)

## Hispanic Outreach Program



NCVAN's Hispanic Outreach Program serves the needs of the victims within North Carolina's Spanish-speaking population.

- Connects Spanish-speaking crime victims with direct assistance available in their area of the state
- Works to educate the Hispanic/Latino community about rights of all crime victims, the impact of crime, crime prevention and safety
- Collaborates with organizations within the Hispanic/Latino community, the victim services field and in the criminal justice system to ensure

that Spanish-speaking crime victims receive necessary services.

With this program, NCVAN hopes to be able to address many of the issues facing crime victims within this population and educate the community.

For information, please contact Juliana Cabrales at (919) 831-2857 or email [juliana@nc-van.org](mailto:juliana@nc-van.org).

## Victim Assistance in Law Enforcement (VALE)

An NCVAN sub-committee

### Mission

To promote and strengthen NC law enforcement agencies response to victims of crime by, creating a network of law enforcement professionals working in the area of victim services and advocacy, that will seek to create or enhance victim's services by law enforcement agencies across NC through advocacy, training and support.



### Goals

- Provide a network of victim's services practitioners/ advocates available to assist and support one another in the advocacy and service of victims of crime
- Create a vehicle for the voices of victim's services practitioners/ advocates in law enforcement agencies to be heard on issues
- Promote/ provide victim's services training for sworn law enforcement officers
- Promote/provide training specifically for law enforcement victim's services personnel
- Work to create victim's services units/advocates in NC law enforcement agencies
- Be a resource for law enforcement agencies developing a victim's services program

If you or your agency would like to be a part of VALE, please contact Robin Baker at NCVAN for more information (919) 831-2857 or [robin.baker@nc-van.org](mailto:robin.baker@nc-van.org).



# The North Carolina Victim Assistance Network

## NC Victim Service Practitioner Certification Academy



### Purpose

The NC Victim Service Practitioner Program was created by the NC Victim Assistance Network, with collaboration from other agencies, to create a statewide standard in victim services. The goal of the Certification Program is a measurable level of professional recognition while ensuring appropriate services for crime victims across the state.

### Benefits of Certification

- Recognition of professional skills and competence
- Recognition of specialized victim service training and experience
- A demonstrated commitment to professional development
- Networking opportunities
- Increased value to employers and the community

Please email [robin.baker@nc-van.org](mailto:robin.baker@nc-van.org) for more information regarding applications for the certification academy.

## NCVAN Annual Training Conference

Every year NCVAN hosts a conference in North Carolina that trains those who work with and help victims of crime. Attendees include:

- Crime Victims and Survivors
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Criminal Justice Professionals
- Victim-Witness Assistants
- Crime Victim Service Providers
- Social Workers
- School Counselors
- Clergy, Lay Ministers and Chaplains
- Forensic Nurses
- Legal Aid



Our 2010 conference was held on September 22-24 in Chapel Hill, NC. The theme was "Victims' Voices: Listen. Learn. Act." Some of the topics included:

- Intimate Partner Violence; Why Victims Stay
- Trauma Evaluation: PTSD, Grief, Depression
- Assistance for Mentally Ill Crime Victims
- Military Crime Victims in North Carolina
- Coping with Homicide in Cold Cases
- Sexting, Cyberbullying & Safe Social Networking
- Crime & Healing Through Faith

Please email [elizabeth@nc-van.org](mailto:elizabeth@nc-van.org) or call our office at (919) 831-2857 for information on the 25th NCVAN Annual Training Conference, to be held Sept 21-23, 2011.





# The North Carolina Victim Assistance Network

## Our Accomplishments

NCVAN has been fighting for victims' rights since 1986. From direct advocacy to lobbying efforts in the State Capitol, NCVAN has been a pivotal, effective and caring voice for crime victims in North Carolina.

Among its achievements, NCVAN has:

- Developed, advocated for and passed into law the Crime Victim Rights Act of 1999.
- Developed a certification standard for Victim Service Practitioners.
- Developed protocols and procedures for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Crime Victims' Rights and Law Enforcement Victim Assistance Units.

## Become a Member

Join the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network to help crime victims in North Carolina.

### Benefits of Membership

As a member, you will receive:

- Quarterly issues of Network News
- Timely updates about victims' rights, services and public policy changes and
- A discounted rate to attend NCVAN's annual training conference.



To become a member of NCVAN, simply complete the form on this page, and send it with your payment to:

**NCVAN Membership**  
**PO Box 28557**  
**Raleigh, NC 27611**

## Join NCVAN Today!

Membership Levels	Cost
Individual Membership <i>*There is no charge for victims of crime for the first year.</i>	\$25.00
Agency Membership Up to three members.	\$75.00
Additional Members from same agency	\$10.00

### Your Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories

- ☐ Victim/Survivor
- ☐ Victim/Witness Assistant
- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Department of Justice
- ☐ Service Provider/Advocate
- ☐ District Attorney
- ☐ Concerned Citizen

### Support Activities

- ☐ I am willing to contact my local legislators. Please contact me when my assistance is needed.
- ☐ I am willing to travel to Raleigh to support NCVAN by testifying before legislative committees. Please contact me when my assistance is needed.
- ☐ I am willing to volunteer my time to NCVAN events/projects. Please contact me when my assistance is needed.
- ☐ I am interested in starting a local victim assistance network in my community. Please contact me to discuss this further.

### Suggested Donation Levels

___ Bronze	\$100.00
___ Silver	\$300.00
___ Gold	\$500.00
___ Platinum	\$1,000.00

**Thank you!**