

2012

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**Victim Assistance
Unit**

Prosecuting Attorney
Clark County, Washington

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



As a network of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and advocates, we are keenly aware of the pain, shock and devastation experienced by victims of crime. Crime can overwhelm and incapacitate those affected by it. On a daily basis, the Victim Assistance Unit works tirelessly to give a voice to all victims, arming them with information and helping them to regain the power they lost when they became victims of crime.

Advocacy for victims is an important part of the healing process. Outreach, support and education help victims deal with life-altering events. The Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is dedicated to ensuring crime victims in our community receive the help they need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Golik'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T'.

Tony Golik
Clark County
Prosecuting Attorney

Presented to
The Clark County Board of Commissioners

Steve Stuart, Chair
Tom Mielke, Commissioner
David Madore, Commissioner

Presented by
The Clark County Prosecuting Attorney

Anthony F. Golik

And Victim Advocates

Derin Gibson
Amy Harlan
Rosie Lundquist
Mary Todd

Annette Huss, *Legal Secretary*

Shari Jensen, *Supervisor*

The Victim Assistance Unit would like to express our gratitude to the Clark County Board of Commissioners and the community for their continued support of our program.

FAREWELL



In an interview with *FYI Online*, Commissioner Boldt said his values were shaped by his mother's service to others, whether it was the community, her church or the 50 foster children the family took in. "The natural drift for her was to relate to people, and I guess I've been a person who relates to individuals, too," he said.

"I learned a long time ago that governing is 10 percent knowledge and 90 percent relationships," he said. "We have wonderful people who work at the county. The advantage of being elected is you get to see so many people."

The Victim Assistance Unit has always been able to count on our County Commissioners to support our program. We would like to offer a special thank you to Commissioner Boldt who took an active interest in our services during his eight years on the Board. He lost a personal friend to crime many years ago and was appreciative of our Day of Remembrance ceremony honoring victims of homicide and their loved ones. Commissioner Boldt was also instrumental in shaping the current Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center, serving abused children and their families. It was evident Commissioner Boldt held services to victims in high regard and we are forever grateful.

THE VICTIM ADVOCATES



From left to right: Amy Harlan, Derin Gibson,
Rosie Lundquist, & Mary Todd

ADVOCATE SERVICES PROVIDED

The Prosecuting Attorney's Victim Assistance Unit responds to the needs of crime victims by providing them with the following services

Victim Advocates:

- Explain the criminal justice process
- Provide ongoing information on case status
- Accompany victims to court appearances and attorney interviews
- Assist with determination of restitution and return of property
- Provide information about the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVC) and assistance with applications
- Help with victim impact statements
- Notify victims of the offender's sentence
- Provide emotional support and referrals to supportive services within the community

In 2012 additional services were provided for parking passes and meal vouchers to victims. These services were funded through a VOCA grant and a generous donation from Robert Hampton in memory of his mother, Heather Young.

CLARK COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR HOMICIDE VICTIMS

September 24th, 2012



Scott Creager

Sergeant - VPD Major Crimes Unit

“In addition to being the voice for silenced victims, there is a profound duty and an awesome responsibility in dealing with the surviving family in a homicide case. Detectives, victim advocates, and prosecutors deal with the emotions and difficulties of their surviving loved ones, attempting to guide them through a complicated and confusing criminal justice system that can lack compassion and empathy. Although police officers and prosecutors are aware of the inequities of the criminal justice system, most people outside the law enforcement community are not prepared for a system that can feel like it punishes the innocent by protecting the guilty.”

“This is why it is important that detectives develop and maintain an understanding of the dynamics and principles of professional homicide investigation. In fact, the homicide detective, in addition to pursuing the case, becomes the advocate for both the deceased and the surviving family throughout the process.”

“It is common for detectives to build long-term connections with the surviving families. The sense of empathy and compassion that develops from trying to usher a family through the worst thing that will likely ever happen to them is overpowering. Many detectives keep mementos of cases in their work spaces, not as trophies for display but in significance of the moving experience of acting as their advocate and to honor the memory of that silenced voice.”

VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENTS

Victim of Malicious Mischief

"...he struck the hood of my truck with car battery jumper cables scratching the paint in several spots and leaving a huge dent on the driver side of the hood. My truck is a token of my hard work and is brand new and extremely well maintained, co-workers spotted my truck's damage in the parking lot causing them concern as to what happened at which time they saw my physical damage. I'm new to the Vancouver area and my job, being promoted from Pasco, WA. This incident was not only emotionally stressful and embarrassing but extremely humiliating to endure in front of my superiors."

Guardian of Victim of Child Abuse

"I would like to be able to say that as time went on his fears abated...but some didn't. Long term trauma affects kids differently and has varying degrees on impact on the brain...and even 11 months later, these memories were still very present in this little boy. Even as he grew to feel safe in our home, he still carried the damage of where he came from. He did grow to know the difference between an unsafe house and a safe one. He will reach an age where he has a greater understanding of what he's been through and what he's survived ...and as he works through it in counseling and with his new family, he'll need to know that he counted. He'll need to know that he was worth more than 'minimum'. He'll need to know that his safety was important. He will need to know that the big people in his world saw his pain and took a stand for him...and knew he was worth more than minimum."

Victim of Theft

"Speaking directly to you both: These were **MY** possessions, in **MY** house and you had absolutely no right to do what you did. Frankly, there is no amount of time in jail or any amount of fines imposed upon you that would make me feel better about you being caught. While I would like you to never see the light of day, I know that is not realistic. I'll never get my possessions back, but more importantly, I will never get back the security and safety I felt in my home. That is gone. It won't matter that I have an alarm system. It won't matter that I live in a different house. None of that matters. You violated a basic right that all people have which is to feel safe in their own home."

Victim of Forgery

"We are a non-profit institution operating on behalf of a pool of members. Losses that we suffer due to fraud affect our membership as a whole, overall resulting in higher fees and lower share account interest being paid to our member base, as well as higher loan and interest rates."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTION CENTER

The Domestic Violence Prosecution Center, established and happy in their new office, did not skip a beat when it came to holding offenders accountable.

There were a number of personnel changes this last year, including the rotation of Sgt. Mike Davis back to patrol, after serving six years with the unit. He was replaced by Sgt. Andy Hamlin, who has done a great job getting up to speed.

We were also sad to say goodbye to our much appreciated volunteer, Laura Mulholland. Laura graciously and generously volunteered as an advocate working on both felony and misdemeanor cases. Laura proved to be an exceptional advocate, and an asset to the entire Unit. The DVPC is delighted for her as she prepares to begin law school.

This year, the DVPC saw a slight overall decrease in prosecuted cases. In 2012, a total of 1,995 cases were prosecuted. Of these, 330 cases were felonies and 1,616 were misdemeanors. Overall, the DVPC received and reviewed 7,113 incidents and 4,637 police reports.

KIDS AND COPS PROGRAM



On December 14, 2012 the Domestic Violence Prosecution Center (DVPC) held its annual Kids Shop with a Cop event. The NE 104th Ave Wal-Mart hosted the event. Thanks to generous donations from Wal-Mart and General Electric, 52 children were able to participate. Each child was selected by victim advocates from closed cases in the DVPC.

Many of these children not only witnessed domestic violence, but also had to participate in the criminal justice process; meeting with advocates and prosecutors, participating in interviews and sometimes testifying in trial. Not only are the kids dealing with the aftermath of a parent or loved one being removed from the home, they are faced with the many confusing, and often times intimidating facets of the criminal justice system. The shopping event helps strengthen and rebuild relationships with law enforcement.

The DVPC looks forward to the event all year. Advocates and staff assist with gift wrapping after their shopping is complete. The atmosphere is fun and happy, which is a dramatic contrast to the circumstances that began our initial relationship.

A MOTHER SPEAKS

“As one of seven siblings, I am often struck by how the lives of children growing up in the same family can turn out so differently. The same can be said about kids who grow up in the same town. The young men who participated in, and witnessed this incident are all strong, healthy, good looking young men with good minds. They come from various backgrounds within our community. But today, two of these young men have new labels. One is a defendant and the other a victim.

Any group of young men out looking for trouble at two in the morning can usually find it, which is why we, as parents, forbid such things. This is why parents talk to each other; coordinate efforts to protect and guide our children. Not to spoil the fun, but to prevent the very events that occurred on this occasion, when the judgment of young men is clouded by alcohol and other substances.

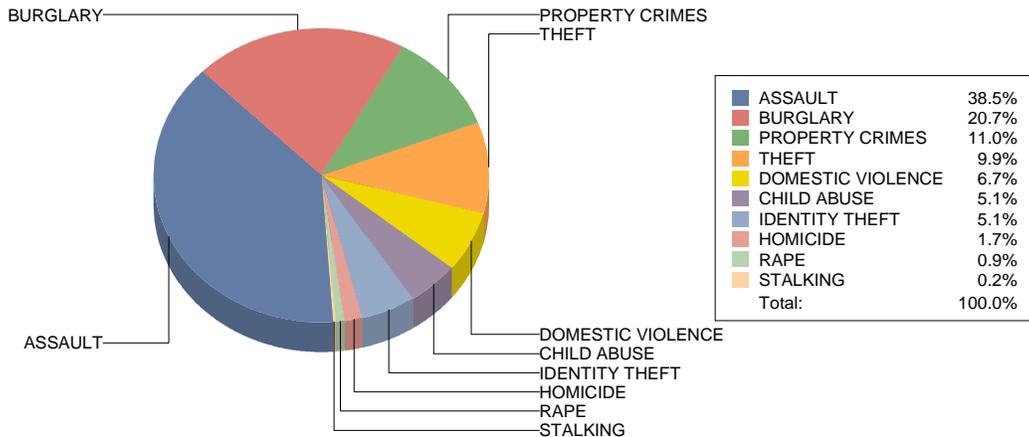
The effects of this crime on Daniel and our family haven't been drastic and devastating- they've been subtle and a little bit poisonous. I have become protective and less trusting which, I'm told has ruined Daniel's summer. Broken bones, lacerations, blood, hand injuries, all of those things will heal. It scared him,-it scared me in the middle of the night. No mother should ever have to answer the phone at four in the morning, go to the ER and find her son in the state that I found Daniel. But he is a strong young man who loves life and has an optimistic nature. More so than any other person I have ever met in my life. He is resilient, happy, and has a strong network of good people around him, supporting him and holding him accountable to live well. We've all lost the feeling of security that people should have-that we can go through our days and nights, and be safe. Now we have to weigh that against the foolhardy choice of being at the wrong place at the wrong time-doing the wrong things with the wrong people. If ignorance is bliss, then we have lost a little bit of that bliss, but are wiser for it. We've gone on with our lives because that's what you do. Daniel is still spending his summer at summer camp, at the gym, on vacation, and learning to drive.

I hope my son learned an important lesson that night-that you can't play with trouble. Play is play - and trouble is trouble, and they don't mix. Trouble will almost always take over. I hope the defendant can learn that lesson as well, and find a way to go through his life finding things to do that are healthy and safe. I hope he was taken by surprise at the damage he did. I hope for his sake, that he didn't mean to do this. I'm not a very good Christian. I have kind of a potty mouth, I never remember to pray and I don't follow the rules. But I'm trying to get better because it's worth doing, because I'm told I'm worth it, and that I'm not too far gone. I want to give that same message to the defendant because I think it's the best thing I've ever heard. Please do better than this. Please know that you are worth it, you are not too far gone, and it's worth doing.

So while the court considers the sentence today, please bear in mind only one person arrived at the late-night gathering already armed with a potentially deadly weapon, and only one person decided to chase Daniel until he was on the ground and club him in the face with it, breaking his nose and cheekbone. He definitely needs to be significantly punished for his serious conduct that night, but he also needs to be given the opportunity to rehabilitate himself, and then restored for his own sake, and for the sake of those he would encounter in the future. We don't need another young man walking around this world identifying with the label of “defendant”. The real crime would be if that label sticks.”

CLARK COUNTY STATISTICS

Crimes Charged in 2012



2,142 victims directly serviced by the Victim Assistance Unit in 2012

\$981,705.17 of restitution set in Superior Court Cases in 2012

NATIONAL CRIME CLOCK

Homicide One person is murdered every 31 minutes.

Rape One person is raped every 5.8 minutes.

Assault One person is assaulted every 36.8 seconds.

Theft One home is victimized by theft every 4.8 seconds.

Burglary One home is burglarized every 14.5 seconds.

Domestic Violence One woman is victimized by an intimate partner every 52 seconds. One man is victimized every 3.5 minutes.

Child Abuse and Neglect One child is reported abused or neglected every 35 seconds.

Drunk Driving One person is killed in an alcohol related traffic crash every 40 minutes.

Identity Theft One person becomes a victim of identity theft every 8.7 seconds.

Elder Abuse One elderly person is victimized every 4 minutes.

Hate Crime One hate crime is reported to the police every 73 minutes.

A LOOK AT 2013

January	February	March	April
National Stalking Awareness Month	National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention week 8th -12th	National Youth Violence Prevention Week 18th - 22nd	National CASA Conference 6th - 9th
			National Crime Victims Week 21st - 27th
May	June	July	August
National Police Week 12th - 18th	National D-Day Memorial June 6th	National Disabilities Awareness Day July 16th	National Conference of Parents of Murdered Children 15th - 18th
National Law Enforcement Memorial			
September	October	November	December
Homicide Victims National Day of Remembrance September 25th	National Domestic Violence Awareness Month		"Kids and Cops" Outreach project
	National Crime Prevention Month		Mothers Against Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month