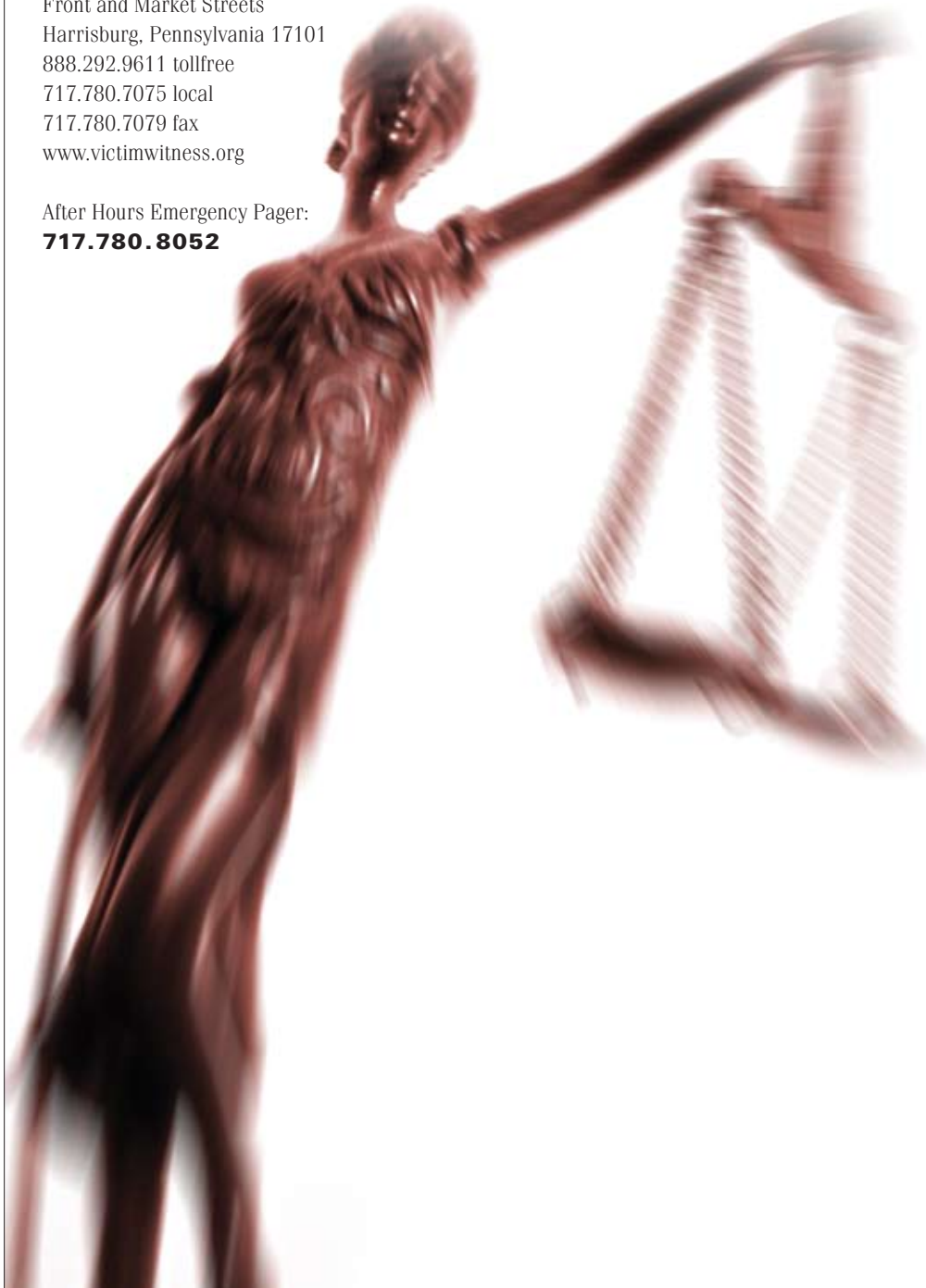




Victim / Witness Assistance Program
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
888.292.9611 tollfree
717.780.7075 local
717.780.7079 fax
www.victimwitness.org

After Hours Emergency Pager:
717.780.8052

Jennifer Storm
Executive Director



Beside you all the way.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program



Our Mission:

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program strives to reduce the trauma of a crime by empowering and assisting crime victims, witnesses and significant others in reconstructing their lives through advocacy, support, information and referrals.

VWAP believes in your right to privacy. You are important to us and we respect your privacy. You can be assured that your name and information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) strives to address problems that arise due to their involuntary involvement in the justice system. The staff of VWAP shall not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination based on age, gender or gender identity, marital status, political belief, religion, mental or physical disability and sexual orientation.

To the Residents of Dauphin County:

One of the most critical and fundamental rights as a human is to live in peace without the threat of violence and crime. Unfortunately, at times, our rights may be comprised. Too many of us have experienced ourselves or know a family member or friend that has been a victim of a violent crime.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program has a history of meeting the critical needs of these individuals. Our ongoing commitment to assist those involuntarily involved in the justice system can be seen everyday on the faces of those we have helped.

Through our dedicated and compassionate advocates, we strive to empower victims, witnesses and family members. We encourage those who have been involved in a violent crime to come forward and allow VWAP advocates to help. And, as a non-profit, our services are free to all those in need.

Although our clients may be a victim of a violent crime, they will not become a victim of the justice system—that is our promise.



Our Services:

Accompaniment: A VWAP advocate accompanies you to any and all court proceedings, meetings, and interviews with law enforcement, hospital visits, meetings with attorney/s, etc.

Advocacy: VWAP is your voice throughout the entire criminal justice system advocating on behalf of you and your rights every step of the way.

Case Status Update: VWAP updates you on every action that occurs in your case via written correspondence and telephone contact.

Courtroom Orientation: VWAP walks you through the courtroom experience with a training video, kid's court programs, and one-on-one sessions with an advocate.

Creditor/Employer/School Intercession: VWAP advocates on your behalf with creditors, employers, schools, or whomever else when needed.

Crisis Intervention: VWAP offers a 24-hour hotline for any and all clients in immediate need of assistance.

Early Outreach: VWAP makes every attempt to contact you within 10 days of the crime that was committed against you, providing we have the police report or information from the courts.

Child Care & Transportation: VWAP assists with childcare and transportation needs during your time at court proceedings when you are unable to find alternative means.

Information & Referral: VWAP provides you with all information regarding your rights, the criminal justice system and much more. VWAP will make appropriate referrals when necessary.

Separate Waiting Area: VWAP makes sure you have a separate place to sit while waiting for your court proceeding.

Supportive Counseling: VWAP advocates are not certified counselors however, they are trained to handle any and all crisis situations and are able to help you with the trauma and grief you are experiencing.

Victim Rights Notification: Upon your first encounter with VWAP, you will be informed of your rights as a victim of a crime in Pennsylvania.

Victim Witness Intimidation: If you are being intimidated because of your involuntary involvement in the criminal justice system, VWAP advocates on your behalf to ensure your safety. In addition, VWAP maintains the Witness Relocation Program which ensures the safety of our clients.

Our Programs:

VWAP also provides numerous informational and service oriented programs.

Homicide Support Group:

The Homicide Support Group meets monthly at various locations in Harrisburg. The goal of the support group is to provide a safe outlet for families and loved ones to share their experience, strength and hope in the spirit of compassion and justice.

Inmate Release Notification Program:

When you enroll in this program, the Victim/Witness Assistance Program will notify you when the inmate involved in your case is released from the Dauphin County Prison, the Dauphin County Work Release Center or if the inmate escapes.

Kid's Court Program:

The Kid's Court program helps acclimate children and family members to the specifics of the Court process. VWAP staff will explain what happens in court, show what a courtroom looks like, explain who will be in the courtroom, detail the courtroom rules, and show how children are involved in the case. This is a half-day program that occurs on a quarterly basis in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office.

Witness Relocation Program:

If you are a victim or witness to a violent crime in Dauphin County and your safety is at stake, VWAP will assist in the relocation and protection of all victims and witnesses. This program is a contract with the Attorney General's Office and is implemented on a case-by-case basis depending upon the need of the client. The District Attorney, lead detective, and victim/witness need to be in agreement before someone enters this program.

About Us:

In 1983, the Young Lawyer's Section of the Dauphin County Bar Association opted to develop a community project. These volunteers formed a steering committee to research the formation of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program by determining the needs and gaps that existed within the community.

In 1984, Martha Emerich, herself a victim of a DUI, was recruited as the coordinator of the project until the hiring of an Executive Director. Seed money was acquired through several local foundations and donors to provide for start up costs. During this year, the incorporated agency officially opened its doors with only a phone line and a filing cabinet at the Dauphin County Bar Association.

Later in 1984, VWAP received 501 c(3) tax-exempt status and began serving crime victims.

In 1985, VWAP received a grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency through Act 96 - the Bill of Rights for Crime Victims. In April of the same year, the first paid position was created—a part-time Executive Director—and the program relocated to the Dauphin County Courthouse.

During the next few years, VWAP operated with a small paid staff, assisted by volunteers and interns from local colleges. Gradually, VWAP added additional part-time positions that developed into full-time staff.

As Pennsylvania allotted more victim service funding, VWAP expanded staff and services based upon victim's needs.

Today, VWAP serves over 6,000 victims and witnesses annually.

VWAP staff includes: Executive Director, Assistant Director, Executive Administrative Assistant, Homicide Support Advocate, Emergency Support Advocate, Protection from Abuse Coordinators, Child Abuse Victim Advocate, Juvenile Crime Victim Advocates, Juvenile System Manager, Post Disposition Advocate, Greater Harrisburg Area Advocate, Harrisburg City Crime Victim Advocate, and Certified Crime Victim Advocate of Northern Dauphin County.

Our Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

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ccourtney@mwn.com

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717.233.8461
ashes@mindspring.com

Jennifer Storm, Executive Director

In August 2002, Jennifer Storm joined VWAP as the organization's second Executive Director after Laurie Reiley, founding Executive Director, accepted a position in the US Attorney's Office after 18 years of dedicated service.

Before joining VWAP, Ms. Storm was the first full time director of the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition, a non-profit coalition dedicated to securing and defending fully inclusive civil rights in Pennsylvania. During her tenure at Pennsylvania Rights Coalition, Ms. Storm worked diligently on obtaining inclusive hate crime legislation. In 2002, the Pennsylvania legislature passed one of the most inclusive hate crime statutes in the country.

In 2002, Governor Edward G. Rendell appointed Ms. Storm as a commissioner to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. She was later appointed to the Homeland Security, Law Enforcement and Justice Systems Advisory committees where she also serves on the Terrorism Prevention and Local Law Enforcement Subcommittee.

Ms. Storm is active in many local committees and boards such as: The Greater Harrisburg Foundation's EGAL Board, Dauphin County Domestic Violence Taskforce, Joint Investigative Taskforce, Dauphin County Elder Abuse Taskforce, Northern Dauphin Human Services Advisory Panel and Criminal Justice Advisory Board of Dauphin County.

Ms. Storm was born and raised near Allentown, PA and attended Northampton High School. She graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services and a Master's Degree in Organizational Management from The University of Phoenix.

Funding:

In addition to donations and contributions, VWAP operates through several federal, state and local grants including: the Victims of Crime Act federal grant, the Victims of Juvenile Offenders state grant, the Rights and Services Act state grant, and a Dauphin County grant funding the Protection from Abuse Unit and Juvenile Victims Service Unit.

Contributions:

As a non-profit, VWAP relies upon the generosity of local foundations and donors. Without the kindness of the community, VWAP would be unable to provide quality services to those in their most desperate time of need.

As a non-profit 501 (c)3, a contribution to VWAP is tax deductible.

If you would like to help, please send a check or money order to:

Victim/Witness Assistance Program
Dauphin County Courthouse
Front and Market Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

For more information, please contact Jennifer Storm at 717.780.7075.

Past and current contributors include:

Cornell Abraxas
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Resorts
Fox's Market
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
Giant
Harrisburg Rotary Foundation
Members 1st Federal Credit Union
The May Department Stores
The Greater Harrisburg Foundation
The Pennsylvania Bakery
Radio Shack Corporation
Walmart
Weis Market
Zonta International



VWAP Overview

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program strives to reduce the trauma of a crime by empowering and assisting crime victims, witnesses and significant others in reconstructing their lives.

VWAP services include:

- Advocacy.
- Case status updates.
- Courtroom orientation.
- Creditor/employer/school intercession.
- Victim communication with offender.
- Crisis intervention.
- Early outreach.
- Childcare information and transportation options.
- Referrals to other social service agencies.
- Supportive counseling.
- Victim rights notification.
- Inmate release notification.
- Intimidation intercession.
- HIV/AIDS information.
- Witness management.
- Collaboration with community agencies.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Adult Probation Office	717-780-6900
ChildLine	800-932-0313
Children & Youth	717-780-7200
Children's Resource Center	717-782-6800
Communities That Care	717-232-9757
CONTACT (24 hour help-line)	717-652-4400
Crime Victim Compensation	800-233-2339
Crisis Intervention	717-232-7511
District Attorney's Office	717-780-6767
Juvenile Probation Office	717-780-7100
Juvenile System Victim Services Unit	717-780-7080
Protection from Abuse Unit	717-780-7077
Public Defender's Office	717-780-6371
YWCA Rape Crisis/Domestic Violence	800-654-1211

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