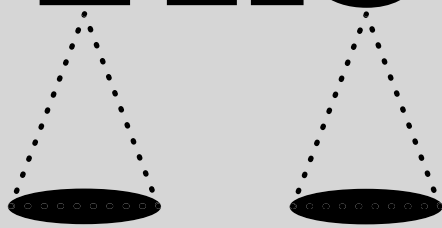


The



Journey

VICTIM ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Winter 2004, Volume 3, Issue 3

Restoration, like healing, is a *journey* that we all must make together. We lean on, support, learn from, give ideas, encourage, and grow in the attempt to heal, make whole again, and restore that which was taken during the commission of a crime. As correctional professionals, advocates, victims, community members and offenders, we are on a *journey* that will change our lives forever as well as those lives that we touch along the path of our *journey*.

Inside this edition:

- Visiting Rockwell City
- Bullying/Mobbing Training held...
- One Chance in a Lifetime
- The Hiding Glass
- AVP: *The Participants Speak*
- Restorative Justice Coloring/Activing Book
- S.A.V.E. in Anamosa



A Victim's voice . . .

Submitted by Andrea, Homicide Survivor

Waterloo Courier
Opinions/Letters Editor
PO Box #540
Waterloo, Iowa 50704

To The Editor:

One year ago today (March 11th), on an unseasonably warm, balmy evening that was filled with the promise of things to come – spring; longer, warmer days; out-door activity; new life; renewed hopes and dreams; and the fulfillment of plans made in seasons past – Jeff Wood was coldly stalked, confronted, assaulted, and then murdered while on a walk with his fiancée, within earshot of her childhood home. The entire community seemed stunned, outraged, beyond belief of what had happened. Jeff's family and ours were shaken to our foundations, ripped up and set back down in strange and frightening surroundings. The last year has been textured with a confusing and sometimes fatiguing number of events and emotions for his family and my own. The year has brought healing, yes. Yet the best that can most often be said is "life goes on."

Jeff's didn't. His life was tragically, stupidly, uselessly, carelessly stopped in a flash, and he died in Andrea's arms, my 13-year old son and I beside them. Jeff valiantly tried to live, but the force and damage from the invasion of a bullet fired point blank was too great. Jeff was a kind, beautiful, sweet young man who knew that hard work and commitment was all about. He was loving and caring towards his parents Betty and Neal, and a source of pride and inspiration to his sisters, and brothers, and good friends. He may have been at his best when he was with Andrea – showing his love and concern for her in so many ways, and accepting her help and her love in return. They were literally celebrating their mutual love that night, walking hand in hand, voices intense with excitement, light of heart, eyes sparkling with the language of love, when he was randomly chosen as the victim of an act whose sole intent was to gain notoriety for a gang of misfits.

What have we learned from all this? What lessons are more firmly driven into our lives? What did we make of an innocent man's killing? There are some obvious lessons. Like murder hurts. >>

>> It doesn't stop with the primary victim. It swirls and slashes and stabs at the heart and soul and essence of the loved ones as well. Young lives are ruined – prison is an awful place to spend your life. Sudden loss has the power to shake you and rumble through your routine doings making them meaningless. Sounds, visions, fragrances turn from gentle reminders of the past into hammering nightmares. Our justice system works, but slowly and with frustratingly light regard for the victim, and an almost manic focus on the rights of the accused. Home, family, spouse, and good friends are often the only sustenance you need, or can count on. People forget, go on with their own traumas and triumphs. At the same time there are people who personify the best of the human condition by their continued support, prayer, and acts of love. I wonder, though, if Jeff's death had any impact on our community in terms of lowering the incidents of violence, bloodshed, anger, abuse, and apathy. We'd like to think so, but too many murders, assaults, drug arrests, robberies and other act of violence have occurred in this community since March 11 last year to hope much otherwise. What a shame. What a waste. Perhaps the allure of gang membership is tarnished for awhile, but we haven't halted the perpetuation of ignorance that is so key to the attractiveness of gangs in the first place. We seem well prepared to deal with the kinds of problems that were instrumental in Jeff's death, but we are pitifully, dangerously inadequate at preventing them. I write this without having any of the answers I'm looking for; I've just begun to ask the questions.

Denial and anger have been close companions for us these twelve months since Jeff was murdered, but they are fleeting friends. Their very application defines and sharpens the same feelings and emotions they're intended to cover. It may sound trite, but Jeff will not be forgotten. We will hang on to memories of that smile, the soft hello, the shy way he entered a room, the blue eyes, and the hand always held out to help you. Jeff is a testimony to what is good in all of us. He will be remembered not for the horror and anguish of his dying, but for the sweetness and light of his living. ■

The Abused *by Anthony*

These articles are written by an inmate who completed Victim Impact Classes and participated in a Grief Workshop...He has written words we all need to hear.

We come into contact with people everyday who have been subjected to abuse: A co-worker, a friend, a neighbor, a child, or even those whom we least expect. Abuse doesn't mean physical, as we perceive it to be – a misperception. Abuse comes in many forms: verbal, physical, mental, sexual and domestic. Moreover, to say there are those of us that have suffered abuse. Because of our close associations to co-workers, neighbors, children and friends, we tend to ignore the signs or refuse to get involved. The situation requires immediate action, not when the victims become clients of the morgue. The issue at hand should be addressed! By who? Those that are victimized and those that are willing to help overcome this growing problem. Why be afraid to help? Because the next victim could be a loved one, a friend, a neighbor, a child, or the person you least expect. Your help is needed now. Stop the violence.

In Silence *by Anthony*

A child reaches out for help,
Pleading with their eyes,
Gaze upon those eyes and see
The cruel and unjust treatment heaped
Upon their innocent souls.
In silence they scream.
In silence they wonder, "Why?"
In silence they pray for an end.
A child reaches out for help.
Can't you see?
Or why can't you hear
Their cries in the dark?

Visiting Rockwell City

By Sam (Victim Impact Panel Speaker)

October 20004

>> My name is Sam. I am thirteen, and about a month ago went to speak on a Victim Impact Panel about drunk driving and the effects on kids at Rockwell City, because I know a lot about it, and think about it a lot. If I put my mind to it, I think I can impact people.

My father, Joe, was killed in a drunk driving “accident” when I was almost two years old. I have little memory of him at all, but I do know, if he were here, I would be a very different person. Sometimes, I just wonder what I would be like to have had him with me growing up. But, I didn’t.

I knew some about Victim impact Panels because my mom speaks on them. I knew that you sat down and talked with inmates – but, that was pretty much it. I wanted to have an opportunity to do this, too – to have an influence on people before they went back out into the world again. I wanted to be able to impact them so powerfully so it would prepare them, so every time they thought about doing something, they wouldn’t just think about the impact of crime on one person, but on children as well.

When I was invited to speak at Rockwell City, I definitely wanted to do it. I felt fairly comfortable at first, but I was unsure what to expect from inmates and I wasn’t sure I would be able to actually speak at all. But, once I got inside, I thought maybe I will. I listened to the other speaker, then my mom, and because I was already crying and the inmates really seemed to be paying attention, I felt inspired.

The main thing I wanted the inmates to hear was that drunk driving doesn’t affect you for just a few years after a crash – it affects you for your entire life. They have your life in the palm of their hands and they changed it, completely, entirely. It doesn’t matter if it was a glass of beer, a gun, a knife, a crash. You still killed somebody.

What I said that day may help them stay away from crimes for a while, but in the long-term, they might get themselves into a mess and maybe think, “I should

have listened to that kid.” The feedback I got from the inmates, though, made me feel that they paid attention because they could recall what I said – they noted me especially in their comments. And this experience gave me a new perspective on inmates – that they are not “animals” or kept in “cages.” They are human beings. They have feelings.

I want to thank the staff at Rockwell City. They made me feel like the place was, basically, normal, not uptight, just right. Especially Officer Bill at Rockwell. He said, “Anybody gives you any trouble, I’ll take care of them.” I felt safe the whole time there.

I want to be able to speak on a panel again because I realize that, after it’s over, it takes a lot off my shoulders, and gives them, the inmates, something to think about. I’m taking something bad that happened to me and doing something good. ■

When one door closes another door opens; but we often look so longingly and so regretfully upon the door that closed, that we fail to see the one that has opened for us.

—Helen Keller

Bullying/Mobbing Training held...

>> Staff Victimization and Support Services Coordinators, Alternates, and several other DOC staff from institutions and community based corrections, participated in an excellent, informative training on Bullying/Mobbing in the workplace on Nov. 5th in Des Moines.

Dr. Noa Davenport provided the training and had the group focusing on understanding what bullying/mobbing is and creating solutions so that DOC maintains a healthy and respectful work climate for all staff.

Noa describes “Workplace bullying/mobbing as an emotional assault. It begins when an individual becomes the target of disrespectful, harmful and harassing behavior. Through innuendo, rumors, and public discrediting, a hostile work environment is created in which one individual gather others to willingly or unwillingly, participate in continuous malevolent actions...”

In a book that Noa co-authored with two others, *Mobbing, Emotional Abuse in the American Workplace*, is a list of ten key factors that occur in various combinations, systematically, and frequently. The impact of these factors on the targeted person then becomes the major element of the mobbing syndrome.

- ① Assaults on the dignity, integrity, credibility, and professional competence of employees.
- ② Negative, humiliating, intimidating, abusive, malicious and controlling communication.

- ③ Committed directly or indirectly, in subtle or obvious ways.
- ④ Perpetuated by one or more staff members---‘vulturing’.
- ⑤ Occurring in a continual, multiple, and systematic fashion, over some time.
- ⑥ Portraying the victimized person as being at fault.
- ⑦ Engineered to discredit, confuse, intimidate, isolate and force the person into submission.
- ⑧ Committed with the intent to force the person out.
- ⑨ Representing the removal from the workplace as the victim’s choice.
- ⑩ Not recognized, misinterpreted, ignored, tolerated, encouraged or even instigated by the management of the organization.

Impact of Bullying/Mobbing on Targets

Feeling confused, isolated	Demotivated, stressed
Physically ill	Sleep difficulties
Low morale, depression	Fear, anger
Loss of efficiency	Staff turnover
Higher sick leave	Personal relationships suffer

In a sense, we all pay!!

Bullying/mobbing is not about job performance, which is the boss’ responsibility to address.....Bullying/mobbing IS about demeaning, personal, thoughtless attacks.

Prevention remains the best means of combating bullying/mobbing. It is the employer’s responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent this behavior and to put a stop to such behavior when it is brought to the employer’s attention. Bullying/mobbing needs to be addressed promptly and in accordance with DOC’s Mission, Vision, and Values, AND, available resources must be offered to assist employees. This behavior will not be tolerated in Department of Corrections.

For more information, please see your Staff Victimization and Support Services representatives for a brochure or contact Betty Brown, Victim and Restorative Justice Programs, Iowa Department of Corrections at (515) 242-5742.

A Work Environment Free From Bullying ■

One Chance in a Lifetime

Claudia Atkinson, October 2004

>> As a member of the Iowa Crisis Response team I was able to respond when Florida requested help. Four other women from Iowa and myself departed Sunday October 10th for Orlando, Florida. On Monday morning I went to the Disaster Relief Center in FT. Pierce where I was assigned. The center was set up in a community college gym, so the area was big. The room was set up with a line of greeting tables where FEMA workers gave direction to victims depending on the kind of help they were requested. If you looked to the left of the greeting table you would see a line of phones where victims could call and register for FEMA, which had to be done before they could be helped. A little way from the phones were more tables where the SBA workers sat. These people helped the victims if they wanted to apply for a low interest loan. As you walked on further there were more tables where people offered different services to the victims such as unemployment and social security. More FEMA workers reviewed applications. There were lots of chairs in front where the victims sat, waiting to be seen. Over to the left of those chairs was a small table where I was directed to take victims if they wanted to talk.

My days were spent visiting with victims who came to the center. I made it a goal that everyone who entered the center would be contacted. I worked with a local person and one other Iowa team member. There were hundreds of victims who came to the center daily but everyone was greeted by one of us. Sometimes one of the FEMA workers would call us to their table if they had a victim who was having a rough time. This is what happened when I met Eric. Eric was a 69-year old man who was literally lost in spirit. I asked him if he would like to go to my table so we could visit and he agreed. On 9/11, Eric buried one of his sons and lost his wife to cancer earlier this year. He took care of her for nine months before she passed. He explained how his only daughter disowned him after her mother passed and he didn't understand why, except he thought he was too much of a burden to her. Then later on this year he had a heart attack and had to give up his second job. He told how he and his wife were able to make it on both their social security incomes with his part time job but now all he had was \$740.00 to keep him going and then came the hurricanes and he lost everything and didn't have anywhere to stay. He found out that he didn't have any friends, just acquaintances. He said I should learn from his experience. That's how it is. At one point he told me he would be just fine once his heart stopped working. I then asked him if he was going to kill himself and he said yes. I asked if he knew how he was going to do it and he told me pills and booze. We talked for a little while longer and then I called the local person (Ted) I was working with over and asked him to call 911. Eric needed help. Ted worked in the mental health field before the hurricanes destroyed the facility he worked in so he knew the procedure. Ted walked Eric outside to talk to the police. The police decided after they interviewed Eric that he needed to be taken to a hospital where he would be kept for two days for a mental health evaluation.

This is one of my experiences while in Florida. I also have happy stories to share and am very grateful to have met so many wonderful people. Even in a time of crisis they made us feel welcome. That's what it is all about—people helping people. ■

**Claudia Atkinson is a counselor at the Newton Correctional Facility*

The Hiding Glass *by Linda Sorenson*

>> Have you ever thought of how often you look into the same mirror that hangs on your wall or dresser in a year's time? Have you ever examined the glass or wondered how it was made to show the many reflections of your image back to you? Or, have you ever thought of how that mirror seems to know you better than you know yourself?

One day a few months after the violent death of my daughter, as I looked into my mirror for what must have been a billionth time, it seemed to want to speak to me. That big, old worn maple framed mirror knew me quite well. It watched me each day as my life unfolded. It would show me a new wrinkle, a gray hair or notice my revealing weight change over the twenty plus years that I have lived in my house. It's seen me at my best as a young mother after the births of my precious new babies and it would see me at the worst times during my life over the years while my husband and I faced job changes in our lives. It saw me even after the losses of family members when my world would turn upside down with grief and agony.

That mirror that I came to trust and know so well was totally too honest and would tell me the truth of what it saw in me. Nothing could have prepared me for the jolt I received from this old familiar mirror one day after I so graciously washed its

face. The image I saw everyday as I cleaned my own face and put on my makeup to liven my pale complexion and frame my eyes had changed. There was something about the image that I've grown to know so well over the past thirty nine-years that was different.

As I moved closer to the mirror and glared deeper into my green, hazel colored eyes, I hardly recognized what I was seeing. As if for the first time in my life I could see the sole within. It screamed of agony and pain like none other I have ever seen or heard. There was a shell of a person with a spirit that was broken. A spirit that told of deep despair. Could anyone else see what I just had?

I had recently experienced the greatest loss of my life. My oldest daughter had been violently raped and murdered. I knew how I felt, but was unaware that the trauma would reveal itself by just a look in my direction and into my eyes.

How could this trusting old mirror be so unfair to me and how dare it mock me. I was the one in control, not the mirror just hanging on the wall. Yet, it said nothing and left me alone to examine this unfamiliar image.

After thinking of what I could do to hide what I saw from others, a thought occurred to me. I would wear my glasses, the ones that have hidden the pains before in my life. Just like when I was in the fourth grade and got my first pair of glasses. I was always shy

and the other kids used to pick on me. I remember feeling naked and all my heart wounds would show. I remember keeping my head down a lot. But not after I got my new glasses with the pretty pink rims and the shape of cat's eyes. No one could see what was inside of me then. They gave me a safe place.

As I grew older I tired of the glasses and knew they weren't so appealing. Especially as I was a young woman now and wanting to attract a young man. It was then that I lost those glasses and entered the world of contact lenses.

But now as the years creep by and all my life experiences and losses are more apparent, the glasses are not so bad. Maybe now would be a good time to reacquaint myself with another pair of glasses to cover the blemish on my sole like wearing makeup concealer on my face. This was but another step to camouflage what was really there.

Who can really see me or what's inside if I now hide behind my tortoise colored, oval frames. Surely, in time the mirror will reveal the old self once more. Maybe with a few patches here and there, or on the torn old heart, I can begin mending and trying to be whole again. Maybe, I will take off these glasses once again and the old mirror and I will be friends once more. ■

The Alternatives to Violence Project: Fort Dodge Correctional Facility *The Participants Speak*

by Listener Lolya, AVP facilitator

>> In November of 2003, a small group of us began offering monthly Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops at Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility. AVP is an international, nonprofit, educational initiative committed to reducing interpersonal violence through experiential conflict management workshops. The program is based on the fundamental belief that a power for peace exists in each person, and that power has the ability to transform one's tendency to react to a situation with violence.

There are three levels of AVP workshops; each level is an intensive three-day experience. Participation in AVP is entirely on a volunteer basis for both facilitators and for the inmates who attend the workshops.

The basic level deals with conflict management, communication and cooperation skills. The second level workshops focus on the underlying causes of violence. The experiential activities help participants and facilitators reach a deeper understanding of how conflict and violence arise. The third level is a training-for-facilitators workshop that develops leadership skills and practice in planning, presenting and processing workshop sessions. It is a deeply valuable aspect of AVP that each workshop offered inside a prison is led by a team made up of both "inside" and "outside" facilitators.

Now that we have had a year's worth of experience with AVP at FDCF, I'd like to share with you some of the reflections from several men who have participated in one or more of the workshops at that institution. During this year we have offered ten workshops: seven basic, two advanced and one training-for facilitators. Nine inmate facilitators were trained in April, and every workshop since then has been led by a team of inmate and community facilitators. It is an important and enriching collaboration for all of us and a powerful model for the inmates who come as participants.

AVP workshops offer the participants and the facilitators a very rare opportunity to be a part of a safe, respectful, affirming community, however temporary, and the tone of the comments reflects how hungry we all are for such settings and how grateful we feel when we find them.

Here are some of the things they have written about their AVP experiences:

"A few things I picked up from AVP are listening, respect everyone, and be willing to try new things in my own life instead of being foolish by being afraid to change myself for the better. I myself believe if you're looking for something strong to help you look at yourself, then AVP is what your are looking for....We can't hide forever behind our mask of not caring....So, friends who read this, come to AVP."

-Robert Millsap

"I initially participated in AVP for the purpose of receiving a certificate...so that when the Parole Board reviewed my case, it would look good on my behalf. Since I did volunteer to devote my weekend to the AVP workshop, I decided to take advantage of the opportunities before me....I can honestly say that now I do consider my options when I feel myself getting angry....If only the AVP workshop was offered to adolescents in school, perhaps there would be a decrease in violence."

-John Keil >>

**We cannot go back and make a new start,
but we can start now to make a new ending.**

>> "...I learned how a man should carry himself in a responsible way. In the role play, I played a good guy that was helping a man who just got released from prison....I just wanted him to direct his negative energies into positive things so he wouldn't return to prison. This particular presentation at the AVP workshop really touched my heart because I remembered the mistakes I made before coming to prison. The program has helped change my life and my way of thinking...."

-Lamont Richard

"My experience with AVP was a shock. I was thinking it would just be a class, and I was wrong. I learned that we are all different inside, and that sometimes if we just open up and talk to others, we may find out that this person is not as we may have assumed."

-Michael Koontz

"...I thought that this kind of program just wasn't for me. Eventually...it all started to make sense....My participation gave me a chance to interact with other inmates versus trying to do so in a hostile yard environment....I learned how to prevent situations from turning violent...."

-Melvin Manning

"Being in AVP has had a big affect on my life....I now know why I make the choices I do. This class made me look deep into myself to help me find some inner peace....AVP helps bridge gaps in communication and builds friendships....These classes bring me joy and inner peace. I am very grateful...."

-Corey Hail

"I really enjoy the AVP classes that we have here. They are very inspiring and they give me the motivation I need to want to change. I have been in prison three times now....Before it was just about waiting until I am released, but now thanks to AVP I have learned that I need to focus on changing my life before I go home again so I can avoid a 4th return....Now I know what I need to do so I can go home to my son."

-Jake McMahon

"AVP was an experience I'll never forget....Learning is never going to hurt you, it can only help you."

-Finus Atwood ■

We are part of a whole which we call the universe, but it is an optical delusion of our mind that we think we are separate. This separateness is like a prison for us. Our job is to widen the circle of compassion so we feel connectedness to all people and all situations.

—Albert Einstein

Alternatives to Violence Program receives Governor's Award for Volunteering...

>>> Congratulations are in order for the Alternatives to Violence Program, now part of ICIW and FDCF, for being given the Governor's Award for Volunteering on October 22nd. This wonderful program allows 'those in prison to explore and practice nonviolent alternative responses to conflict situations in an atmosphere of trust, respect and support.' In the Governor's opening remarks he mentioned that a volunteer program in Iowa was involved in working with inmates to try to help make a difference in some lives. Indeed they have! Congratulations Lolya, Marian, and the caring group of volunteers! ■

Restorative Justice based initiative... Coloring/Activity Book *by Megan Kruse-Ingledue*

>> Beginning in October, a group of inmates, ranging from published illustrators to first-time artists, have been gathering weekly to create a coloring/activity book for children who visit any one of the nine prisons in Iowa. This project is restorative in nature, with the idea that the men are able to give something back to their families, and the greater community, while helping to create a link to the outside world which most will soon return.

Each class begins with a restorative justice piece. Many times we read and briefly and discuss restorative based topics. We have read a letter from a victim to her son's murderer. One inmate in our group shared his own experience of contacting his victim and the process he went through to be even allowed the possible chance.

To bring about an atmosphere conducive with creating childlike things, within walls that can sometimes stifle creativity, the men were given access to many coloring books

and activity books in order to spark their imaginations. The men were asked to pick a picture from the coloring book and just color it. Many of the men found this to be extremely relaxing and brought up some positive memories of their own childhoods. Some in the group sent their coloring pictures to their own children, while some hung them up in the library.

The last few weeks we have been viewing children's films while the men are working on their designs. We have watched Charlotte's Webb, ET, and Shrek 2. These films help lay a backdrop for the men to be creative and reconnect with their inner child.

When we are finished, the designs will be compiled into a book for publishing and distribution to the nine area prisons in Iowa. Similar projects have been successful in other states, allowing a small connection to be built between the lives of inmates, their families and the public, while giving them the satisfaction that they completed something positive. ■

How will your institution or district honor victims during National Crime Victim Rights Week April 10-17, 2005? For more information call or email Betty Brown, (515) 242-5742.

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make, which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

—Marian Wright Edelman

S.A.V.E.

Seriously Acknowledging Victim's Emotions Anamosa State Penitentiary

>> On July 23, 2004, S.A.V.E., Seriously Acknowledging Victim's Emotions, was founded by a group of determined inmates, as an offspring of the many Victim Impact groups held in Anamosa prison. The group enables inmates to reflect on the many levels of feelings and emotions of their victims and all those affected by their crime or crimes that were committed. We learn about the impact from victims coming to tell their powerful stories in Victim Impact classes.

This aftercare group, that strictly requires all its participants to have successfully completed a mandatory Victim Impact group and panel session, is voluntary and is intended to offer continual support, by maintaining an ongoing understanding how victimizing someone creates the 'ripple effect'. It also enables us as inmates to take a deeper assessment of ourselves and what factors have influenced and contributed to the way we think and act, in hopes of breaking that pattern of behavior so not to victimize again.

Use of this group in our everyday lives brings an understanding how people make decisions; thus we have made the decision to come together for one cause—to Seriously Acknowledge Victim's Emotions.

All who attend must come to the conclusion within ourselves that we must accept responsibility for our actions. This is not an easy thing to do; yet in order to learn from our mistakes, it must be done. The group lives by one code, "What is said here, stays here."

By trusting each other with very personal information, we aim to express our innermost thoughts and

Here we have chosen not to run and hide from what we have done, but stand firm and face our actions and hope for forgiveness from our victims and ourselves, because our victim's lives were devastated by our actions

believe that conversing deeply with each other leads to rehabilitation. Here we have chosen not to run and hide from what we have done, but stand firm and face our actions and hope for forgiveness from our victims and ourselves, because our victim's lives were devastated by our actions.

By being human we manifest emotions, and the purpose of this group is to express those emotions, which had led us astray, and by addressing them, finding a solution to turn a wrong to a right.

All of us wish we could turn back the hands of time on poor decisions and terrible mistakes, but we know that is impossible. The memory remains, but by Seriously Acknowledging our Victim's Emotions, we stand and dare to believe we can achieve the impossible. ■

**Written by the group members of S.A.V.E., Anamosa State Penitentiary, 11-04*

I could use a hundred people who don't know there is such a word as impossible.

—Henry Ford

Victim Advisory Council Goals

- Expand victim outreach programs and services.
- Assist judicial districts in providing victim services in community corrections agencies and other related community agencies.
- Enhance public awareness concerning victim rights and services through public education programs.
- Assist other agencies in the development of victim education efforts and assist in cross-training programs with allied criminal justice and victim service professionals.
- Develop legislative and Department proposals to enhance victim rights, services, and programs.



Front row: Mary McCoy, Teri Gillenwater, Candis Lockard, Luann Smith;
Second row: Leanne Buell, Betty Brown, Mary Roche, Shannon Federer;
Third row: Cyndi Ruzicka, Chris Baker, Claudia Atkinson

DOC is fortunate to have the enthusiastic participation of the victim, community and corrections representatives on the Victim Advisory Council to ensure the victims' voices are heard.

We fear things in proportion to our ignorance of them.

—Christian Nestell Bovee

Victims' stories needed....

The Iowa Department of Corrections Victim Advisory Council is eliciting interest in producing an anthology of stories by Iowa crime victims and survivors. The stories will be written by the victims and survivors of any crime and will underscore the impact of crime on their lives.

If preferable, authors are free to use pseudonyms and every effort will be made to maintain that confidentiality. An editor will work closely with each writer to make sure the stories are professionally edited and presented.

This project is very much in the brainstorming stage; so related ideas are also welcome. The project will not proceed without adequate interest. If you would like to contribute a story, or if you know someone who might, please contact Chris Baker at chris.baker@iowa.gov or (641) 472-4242 Ext. 109.

Editors of *The Journey*:

Cyndi Ruzicka, ICIW
Erin McGee, Volunteer

Iowa Department of Corrections
Victim and Restorative Justice Programs
420 Watson Powell Way
Des Moines, Iowa 50309