

OUTREACH

The Board continues to work with law enforcement, victim assistance agencies, prosecuting officials, service providers and other persons and agencies to ensure crime victims are informed of their rights to compensation under Alaskan law. In 2007, outreach efforts focused upon the formation of the Helping Hands – Healing Hearts Victim Recovery Project Working Committee.

HELPING HANDS - HEALING HEARTS VICTIM RECOVERY PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Mission: The mission of the **Helping Hands-Healing Hearts Victim Recovery Working Group** is to facilitate communication and cooperation between government, secular victim service, faith based and community organizations to promote crime victim advocacy by faith based and community organizations while ensuring crime victims have informed and complete access to victim recovery services.

Partners: The **Alaska Office of Victims' Rights (OVR)** is a state government agency of the Alaska Legislature. The mission of OVR is to provide legal service and advocacy to protect the legal rights of crime victims during the criminal process. When a victim believes a legal right has been or may be denied, the OVR provides legal services free of charge, upon request, to a victim of a felony crime and to victims of Class A misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence and crimes against a person. For more information contact the OVR at 1 (866) 274-2620 (toll-free within Alaska) or go to www.ovr.legis.state.ak.us

The mission of the **Alaska Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI)** created by Administrative Order in 2004 and housed in Department of Health and Social Services is to foster partnerships between and among government, faith and community Groups, build the capacity of faith-based and community organizations, and to expand awareness by educating government agencies, faith-based and community organizations and the public about FBCI contributions, opportunities and issues that impact Alaskans in need.

The mission of the **State of Alaska, Department of Administration, Violent Crimes Compensation Board (VCCB)**

established by legislative act in 1973 is to assist crime victims and their families in the recovery process through the restoration of stability and the mitigation of financial loss. The VCCB can be contacted toll free at 1-800-764-3040, on-line at state.ak.us/local/akpages/ADMIN/vccb/ or by mail at PO Box 110230, Juneau, AK. 99811-0230.

The mission of the **Municipal (Anchorage) Department of Health and Human Services' Interpersonal Violence Prevention Program (DHHS/IVP)** is to coordinate with the community to develop prevention and intervention strategies in the areas of interpersonal violence, which includes domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse and neglect. The program is housed in the Administration Division, under the direction of the Deputy Director.

The mission of **Victims for Justice (VFJ)** is to serve victims of violent crime and the survivors of homicide victims. VFJ is a non-profit organization that provides services and advocacy to victims of violent crime, such as grief support, court accompaniment, assistance with Victim Impact Statements and more.

In April, 2007, during Alaska's Crime Victims' Rights' Week, the committee hosted the first annual Helping Hands – Healing Hearts Victim Recovery Project conference. The Board distributed information to a wide variety of audiences and provided specialized training to Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault programs.

The Board continued to spearhead efforts to highlight victims' rights by sponsoring several events during Crime Victims' Rights Week.

To obtain program brochures, order posters for display or a copy of the program's training video, call the Board at 800-764-3040, or from Juneau call 465-3040. In addition, the State of Alaska Violent Crimes Compensation Board Mental Health Treatment Guidelines publication is also available at no charge.