

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# A Year of Resilience and Impact at the Crime Survivors Resource Center

In 2024, the Crime Survivors Resource Center demonstrated significant progress in supporting victims of crime and their families. This year has been marked by resilience, community engagement, and a steadfast commitment to advocacy, reinforcing our mission to offer hope and healing to survivors.

Our efforts focused on fostering community healing through workshops and support groups that provided survivors with safe spaces to connect and share their experiences. These initiatives have built a strong, supportive network, ensuring no survivor has to navigate their healing journey alone.

Advocacy also took center stage in 2024. We launched awareness campaigns and collaborated with lawmakers to promote legislative changes that amplify victims' rights. This work has helped ensure that the voices of survivors are heard and acknowledged in our community.

Additionally, we invested in training law enforcement and community service providers to improve trauma-informed responses to victims. This training has equipped professionals with the skills necessary to offer compassionate and effective support, enhancing the overall quality of care for survivors.

The progress we've made this year is a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. Together, we are creating lasting change in the lives of crime survivors. Thank you for your continued support as we work to provide hope, healing, and empowerment to those who need it most.





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**YEAR 2025** 



# A Message From Patricia Wenskunas, Founder / CEO

As we reflect on the transformative year that was 2024, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible journey the Crime Survivors Resource Center has undertaken. This year serves as a poignant recap of our organization's growth and accomplishments, showcasing the impact we've had on the lives of countless individuals.

In 2024, Crime Survivors experienced significant progress, and it warms my heart to think about the collective achievements we've made together. Our organization has evolved dynamically, addressing the ever-growing need for high-quality resources and assistance for crime victims. We have been a constant source of stability and support where it matters most.

Our commitment to advocacy reached new heights through a variety of engaging events that united our community in unwavering support of victims' rights. From our Superhero Run/Walk Health and Safety Expo to self-care days and holiday gift distributions, these gatherings exemplify the strength of our collective commitment and the diverse ways we connect with and uplift survivors and their families.

The achievements of this year stand as a testament to the unwavering support of individuals like you, who have contributed to the Crime Survivors Resource Center throughout the year. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on our community to provide vital resources, including guides, materials, clothing, and supplies for families facing their most challenging times. I encourage you to share this recap with your network, spreading awareness of our journey and inspiring others to contribute, ensuring we can continue providing hope and healing.

Two decades ago, the vision of Crime Survivors was born, and today, we stand as a living testament to the positive change that collective dedication and support can bring. My heartfelt gratitude extends to every individual who has been part of this incredible journey.

As we move forward, let us remain steadfast in our mission of helping victims of crime recover mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially. Together, we will continue advocating for the respect, support, and protection they deserve from law enforcement, the judicial system, and the community.

As we look to the future, let us never forget—with faith, there is hope.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Patricia Wenskunas Founder & CEO Crime Survivors Resource Center

# YEAR IN REVIEW



# **Key Highlights & Achievements**

In 2024, we built on our legacy of service with a year full of meaningful milestones, impactful programs, and unwavering dedication to our mission. From hosting community-driven events to distributing essential resources, this year underscored the power of collective action and compassion. The following highlights capture the essence of our work in 2024, showcasing the breadth of our impact and the lives touched through our effort.



# **Community Milestones**

- Opened the Hope Rape Crisis Center at Chapman Global, directed and overseen by Forensic Nurse Specialists, Inc., expanding resources for survivors.
- Hosted Roundtables (weekly Zoom meetings):
  - Launched the first in-person roundtable in 2004; transitioned online in 2020 due to COVID-19.





The opening of the Hope Rape Crisis Center at Chapman Global Medical Center marks a pivotal moment in expanding care and support for survivors. This center provides a safe haven where individuals can find compassion, resources, and the tools they need to heal. We are honored to partner in this transformative effort to serve our community.

- THERESA BERTON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CHIEF NURSING OFFICER, CHAPMAN GLOBAL MEDICAL CENTER

# **Christmas Distribution Highlights**



\$26,500 in Gift Cards



6,000+



700 Christmas Stockings



\$10,000 for Healing Events



100 Food Boxes



8,750+



400+
Baby Wipe Packs



35 Christmas Trees & Stands



100+



**5U+** Pairs of Pajamas



200+
Pairs of Socks



250+
Blankets

Hygiene Baskets & Cases/Pallets of Individual Items

# **Holiday Highlights**

Monthly Survivors Support Group



**OCTOBER**Pumpkin Making



**NOVEMBER** Art Sessions



**DECEMBER**Holiday Potluck



# Impactful Efforts

In 2024, Founder & CEO
Patricia Wenskunas devoted
3,912 hours to advancing the
mission of Crime Survivors,
demonstrating unwavering
commitment to supporting
victims. Her dedication was
reinforced by additional
contributions from staff, board
members, and volunteers.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



# Mission, Vision, and Values

# **OUR MISSION**

To provide hope and healing to victims and survivors of crime through advocacy, resources, and empowerment.

#### **OUR VISION**

A world where every victim recovers mentally, physically, emotionally, and financially, receiving the respect and support they deserve.

#### **OUR VALUES**

- Compassion:
  Ensuring no one feels
  abandoned.
- Collaboration:
   Harnessing the power of community partnerships.
- Empowerment:
  Lifting each other out of darkness together.
- Hopeful Healing:
   Believing that every wound can heal with love and support.
- Integrity:
   Standing firm for victims' rights and dignity.

### SYMBOLISM OF OUR COLORS

### **COLOR 1 - AWARENESS**

Highlighting the importance of understanding victims' needs.

# **COLOR 2 - PREVENTION**

Emphasizing that education is key to crime prevention.

# – COLOR 3 - ADVOCACY

Translating victims' needs into actionable results.

# **COLOR 4 - HEALING**

Underlining the necessity of support for recovery and rebuilding lives.



# LEADERSHIP LETTERS Insights from Our Team

We are profoundly grateful to our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to our cause. This dedication has been instrumental in Crime Survivors' success over the past 21 years. Our organization is able to expand our reach, ensuring that essential resources, support, and hope are available to those in need. Thanks to their continuous efforts, advocacy, and strategic direction. Together, their dedication not only strengthens our organization but also proceeds to positively impact countless lives. We commend our Board of Directors for their outstanding contributions in championing victims' rights and extend our heartfelt thanks for their hard work and continuous support.



# A Message From Burton Brink, Board Chair

What a year it has been for the Crime Survivors Resource Center!

Our organization continues to make a significant impact on the lives of both victims and survivors. We have faced many challenges, from a persistently tough fundraising climate to discouraging public misperceptions about crime victims and the stigma surrounding their experiences. However, what has remained consistent is our unwavering commitment to helping victims reclaim their lives and thrive.

There are victims of crime every day who have nowhere to turn, have no voice, and feel helpless. Through our Crime Survivors team, we have changed this narrative for countless victims over the last twenty years. It is sad that an organization such as ours must exist, but in these times, it is needed more than ever! We are not supported by government funding due to restrictions from receiving those funds that would prevent us from being a voice for victims. Because of you, our generous donors and sponsors, we ARE the voice for victims, and we will continue for years to come.

Our team and volunteers work tirelessly to raise awareness and amplify the voices of victims of violent crime. Patricia, our Founder and CEO, has dedicated her time to helping victims—one phone call and one meeting at a time. She has conducted dozens of roundtables and training sessions in multiple counties, educating lawmakers and service providers about the resources available to assist victims in desperate need.

Crime Survivors has become a trusted resource for lawmakers, government officials, and law enforcement leaders seeking to help those victimized by violent crime. I am proud of what we accomplished in 2024 and excited about what lies ahead. With our partners, supporters, and donors, we will continue to be the go-to organization for providing exceptional, personalized assistance to those in need.

I am honored to be part of this incredible organization. I believe the next 20+ years will prove even more impactful with the support of our amazing team, sponsors, and donors, ensuring that victims not only survive but thrive.

Please join me in supporting and donating to support our programs.



# A Message From Janet Collins, Treasurer

As Crime Survivors celebrates another year of service, it is a time for reflection on the

organization's achievements and expression of gratitude for the tireless efforts and unwavering support of all individuals who have contributed to making a positive impact.

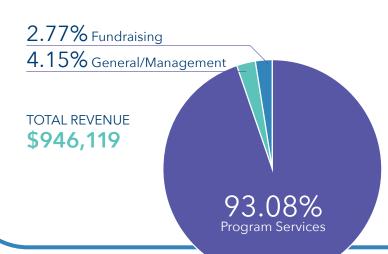
I am continually inspired by the resilience and determination of this organization, which have been instrumental in reaching this milestone.

Each year, it becomes increasingly challenging to secure donations and support, which are crucial to building our future success.

The organization's commitment to collaborate with law enforcement agencies, elected officials, and community stakeholders has been a cornerstone of its success.

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to everyone who has supported us on this journey, as your contributions are an integral part of our success story.

Thank you for your continued support. Here's to many more years of exceptional service to help those in greatest need.





# A Message From Terry Johnson, Secretary

Because of your compassion and generosity, two survivors of sexual

abuse were able to receive life-changing support through the Survivors Hope Scholarship Fund. Your contributions have provided them with the resources, care, and encouragement they need on their journey to healing. Thank you for making a meaningful difference in their lives.

One survivor was able to study abroad in Spain. Her father is an alcoholic who abandoned her, and her mother barely makes ends meet by cleaning homes.

The other survivor, who lives in a tiny home with about eight other people, was able to buy food, water, and other basic necessities with the gift card donations. She, too, was abandoned by her father, and her mother struggled to pay the bills due to irresponsibility.

I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Patricia for another successful Gala in Newport Beach!

I have been honored to serve as both a detective and the Secretary of Crime Survivors, where I've had the privilege of working alongside an incredible team to support survivors in their journey toward healing. While I've shared just a couple of their stories here, we have helped so many more through the generosity of donors like you. This mission is deeply personal to me, and I am grateful to be part of an organization that recognizes and uplifts survivors. In 2024, I was humbled to receive the Above and Beyond Award—an acknowledgment that truly belongs to the entire Crime Survivors community for the work we do together.

Thank you to all who continue to stand with us. Your kindness and generosity make all the difference.

See you in 2025!



# A Message From Randy Burba, Board Member

I am thrilled and honored to be back on the board of this incredible organization. After retiring from my main job and moving away, I had to step down from the board. However, the call to serve never left me, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to rejoin.

The people involved with Crime Survivors–from the volunteers and employees to my fellow board members and everyone who has ever contributed their time and talent–are truly remarkable. You won't find finer people anywhere in the world.

This past year, we set yet another record for the number of victims we were able to serve. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone committed to our mission. The support from our law enforcement partners and other service

providers continues to grow, strengthening the organization's ability to offer critical services.

Attending events, seeing families, witnessing the smiles of children, victims, and their loved ones, and knowing they feel cared for is an indescribable experience. Making a difference in the lives of those impacted by violent crime is truly a calling, and this organization answers that call in tremendous ways. Thank you to all our donors and everyone who helps make our work possible. We look forward to continuing this vital mission and achieving even greater milestones in the year ahead.



# A Message From Thomas Laing, Board Member

I must begin by acknowledging that if you are reading this message, I am thankful for your interest and inherent support for Crime Survivors, and our collective togetherness in providing support, healing, advocacy care and hope to those who have been traumatized and victimized by another.

I have been an active board member, serving as past chair, for a total of 12 years. After serving for 10 years, I returned after a two-year absence to the Board for a two-year tenure because of the transparent, care, personal attention, and hope I have often personally witnessed to the person(s) in need, coupled with the opportunity to serve alongside a compassionate, practical, and unselfish Board of Directors for Crime Survivors.

There are many exemplary victim advocacy organizations, and sadly, far more individuals in need of such services than resources available. However, Crime Survivors–founded by Patricia Wenskunas, a survivor herself–stands out as a uniquely impactful and dedicated organization.

Although my tenure as a board member has come to an end, my family, support, and contributions will continue, because we believe in Crime Survivors' vision and we know this organization is making a difference!



# A Message From Beverly Johnson, Board Member

2024 was an exceptional year for Crime Survivors!

We marked our organization's 21st year of providing services, support, and hope to thousands of survivors of crime by hosting an unforgettable Gala event in the Fall, where we had a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge our donors who provide life-giving support to our mission—the healing and survival of crime victims and their families.

Our organization and its much-needed efforts in communities around Southern California are made possible only through the dedicated commitment of our donors, who fuel the remarkable insight, vision, and unrelenting hard work of Patricia Wenskunas, Crime Survivors'

founder and CEO. Patricia has led our organization through every obstacle, no matter how trying or difficult, with grace, love, and success beyond measure.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our tremendously generous donors and volunteers, our Council, and our many partners in law enforcement and public office who have allowed us to help so many crime victims with the support they need to heal and return to some sense of normalcy in their lives.

Thank you for your continued help and support. As we enter our third decade of providing hopeful healing to so many, we are just getting started in our mission and vision as a voice for the voiceless!

# **JOURNEY** TIME

# 21 Years of Crime Survivors

Explore the remarkable history and growth of Crime Survivors through our visual timeline. From our founding 21 years ago to the present day, this section highlights key milestones and the evolution of











# LEGACY OF IMPACT: 2003-2024

Over the past two decades, our organization has been dedicated to creating meaningful change in the lives of individuals and communities. From providing essential resources to hosting empowering events and educational programs, we have steadily expanded our reach and impact. This journey, built on collaboration, compassion, and resilience, reflects the collective effort of volunteers, donors, partners, and supporters. The following highlights showcase the legacy we've built together from 2003 to 2024—one of unwavering commitment to uplifting those in need and fostering hope for a brighter future.

# **Resource Distribution**

# **EMERGENCY AID**

672,147	Diapers & Pallets of Baby Wipes (2021-2024)	250	Domestic Violence Survivor Bags
3,025	Boxes of New Clothing, Shoes & Accessories	51,000	Holiday Gifts

10,225	Child & Adult Victim Emergency Bags	2,180	My Stuff Bags Distributed
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7,500 Pairs of Socks Distributed	2,500 Boxes of Clothing Distributed
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# **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

# **Community Engagement**

27,852 Roundtable Attendees (2020-2024)

5,685 Award Gala Attendees

Monthly Peer-to-Peer Survivor Support Groups (2020–2024)

350 Leadership Circle Participants

Monthly Peer-to-Peer Service Provider Support Groups (2020-2024) 75 Book Club Members

19,825 Superhero Run/Walk Health & Safety Expo Attendees

**75** Sound Bath Participants

4,250 Gratitude Baskets
Distributed to Law
Enforcement &
Service Providers



# **Education & Training**

560,000 Resource Guides Distributed

4,550 "Let's Meet Officer/ Deputy Frank" Books Distributed

8,650 "What's Happening in Court" Books Distributed

Self-Defense & Safety Classes for Survivors and Providers

# **Volunteer & Donor Engagement**

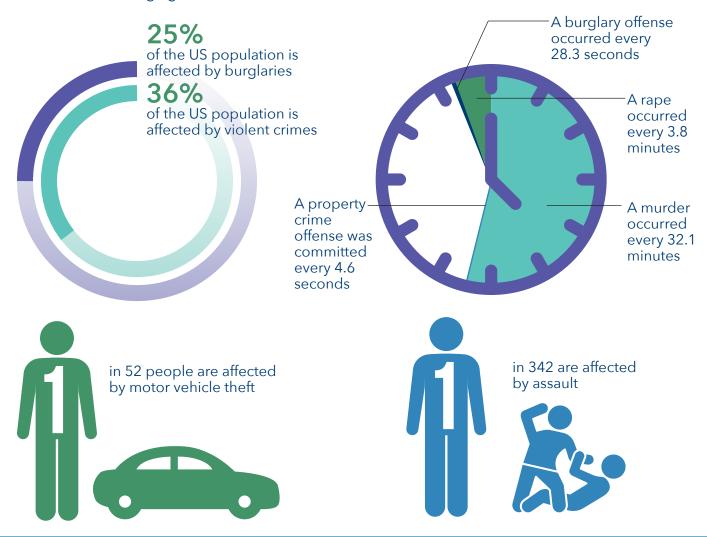
12,800 Individual Volunteers

Donors, Sponsors, and Supporters for Programs

# CHANGING LIVES

# The Need for Crime Survivors

In 2024, Crime Survivors has continued to transform lives, providing crucial support to those affected by crime. Through powerful stories of transformation, we illustrate how our services have made a life-changing difference for survivors. This year, we supported over 2,500 survivors, offering a range of services, including counseling, legal assistance, and emergency shelter. Our impact spans across diverse communities, showcasing the breadth of our reach and the depth of our commitment. As crime trends evolve, so do we. Our insights into the growing crime crisis have enabled us to adapt and meet the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve across the USA.



# Advocacy for Change

# **Support from Community Leaders**

Over the past year, Crime Survivors has gained overwhelming support from community leaders who deeply understand the critical need to stand with victims of crime. Their voices have been instrumental in amplifying our message, advocating for change, and providing vital resources. With their partnership, we have been able to expand our reach and impact, raising awareness and driving real change for those in need. This collaboration has not only strengthened our voice but also created opportunities for deeper engagement with the broader community, ensuring that survivors receive the recognition and support they deserve.

# Leadership Advocacy

Our legislative efforts have focused on strengthening policies and advocating for victim rights in partnership with lawmakers. By working closely with local lawmakers and policymakers, Crime Survivors has successfully advocated for changes in legislation that ensure more comprehensive support. Some of the key achievements include Piqui's Law and Proposition 36—the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act—both representing significant steps forward in creating a safer, more responsive system for survivors. These victories highlight the power of collective action and the importance of survivors' voices in shaping policies that affect their lives. Through these initiatives, we continue to advocate for a future where survivors are prioritized in both law and practice.



# Sheriff Don Barnes, Orange County Sheriff's Department

"Becoming a victim of crime is a life-altering event. Victimhood, however, is not a permanent state. Together, as a community, we can ensure that the victims of crime have the resources they need to restore and rebuild their lives."



# Sheriff Chad Bianco, Riverside County Sheriff's Department

"As first responders in Riverside County's communities, we depend on our partnership with victim advocates. Through this relationship, we foster trust and communication and uphold victims' rights, empowering all victims toward a path of healing, justice, and reclaiming control in the aftermath of trauma."



# Sheriff Jim Fryhoff, Ventura County Sheriff's Office

"Survivors of violent crime can and often do experience a myriad of injuries that are not always physical in nature. Crime Survivors is an incredible resource in Ventura County, providing vital support during the most challenging times. I encourage victims to use the resources in this guide as a first step toward healing and empowerment."

# SURVIVOR STORIES & TESTIMONIALS



# **Outcomes of Support**

Through our wide-ranging programs, countless survivors have found not only healing but also empowerment, reclaiming their strength and rebuilding their lives. Crime Survivors takes immense pride in the resilience of those we support, and this section will showcase the real-life stories behind the numbers—stories of courage, renewal, and transformation. The true impact is best captured in the words of survivors themselves.

#### **SURVIVOR QUOTES & STORIES**



My name is M, just want to thank you for the help you have provided my family. I was able to buy my children clothes and shoes for the new school year. Thank you so much and may God bless you.



Thank You, Crime Survivors. My list was shampoo, pampers, eggs, waters, juice, ham, tangerines, watermelon, bread and many other things. Also, from part of my family, we wanted to thank you for your great help and support for us in these difficult times. God bless you.

# **Human Trafficking Survivor**

"I hereby send my heartfelt gratitude to you and the entire family of Crime Survivors, Inc. for choosing me to be a beneficiary of Hope Scholarship. It came at the time I was struggling to make ends meet with meagre resources. I can now concentrate on reading for better grades because the scholarship has covered my major costs. I promise to have value for the scholarship at the end of my Paralegal course by using the skills learned to help other victims like me. I am writing a memoir about what happened to me because I want to share with the world about the reality of human trafficking although I don't know processes involved in publishing. I am going to be an ambassador of Crime Survivors. Don't hesitate to approach me if you want me to share my experience as a Human Trafficking survivor. Thank you again!"



I just wanted to let you know that this client received her laptop and is beyond grateful to you and your organization. This is going to be so helpful to her with starting a new life without her partner and removing herself from a very unhealthy relationship. I cannot thank you enough!!



The Women's and Children Crisis Shelter, Inc. (WCCS) send their sincere appreciation for your recent in-kind donation for socks for women and children. Your generous giving will help further our commitment to provide hope, a safe place, and greatly needed support services daily to the victims and survivors of domestic violence who come to us for help.

# **Domestic Violence Survivor**

"I just wanted to thank you for all of your support for not just me but my family. When we first were referred to you, A was still struggling with her suicide attempt and bullying, P was still struggling with PTSD and pretty crazy behaviors, and I was still in flight or fight mode trying to protect us from that monster. Your events gave us a safe space to spend quality time with our kids without any worry. Personal Empowerment with your self-defense classes for all of us. I love your support groups. It helps not to feel so alone. Thank you for always listening and letting me feel heard. One of the things I appreciate most is your honesty. Because of you, I didn't have unrealistic expectations of the outcome of the criminal court process. You saved me a lot of hurt and disappointment."

# **Domestic Violence Survivor**

"I just want to thank you so much for what you do, and I am so grateful for all of the donors who contribute to Crime Survivors so that you are able to provide for survivors like myself. My abuser had changed my life back in 2021, and I was so lost and so very broken until I found your organization. It was like a light in what was a very dark world at the time. I've fought so hard to find myself again and put my life back together after I had experienced violence at the hands of someone who I trusted to love and protect me. As much as I owe it to myself for my healing, I owe so much thanks to you and all of the donors. If it wasn't for Crime Survivors, I wouldn't have met other survivors like me or have gotten to attend so many wonderful healing events."

These testimonials represent just a few of the many journeys we've had the privilege to witness. Each story serves as a testament to the dedication and support provided by Crime Survivors, showcasing the profound difference that advocacy, resources, and community can make in the lives of those who have endured traumatic experiences.

# **YEAR** 2025



# Goals and New Initiatives for the Year Ahead

As we look to 2025, we are inspired to expand our reach, deepen our impact, and introduce innovative programs that address the evolving needs of our communities. With a strong foundation built over two decades, our focus remains on empowerment, education, and healing. Here are the goals and initiatives that will guide our work in the year ahead:



# **Empowering Support Groups**

# **MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP**

Launching a dedicated support group tailored to the unique experiences and needs of male survivors, fostering a safe space for healing and resilience.



# **GRIEF CIRCLE**

Providing a compassionate space for survivors coping with loss, the Grief Circle offers support, connection, and healing for those navigating the emotional impact of grief and trauma.



# **Comprehensive Training Programs**

# 8-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING

Equipping advocates and service providers with the knowledge and tools to address domestic violence effectively.



#### 8-HOUR HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING

A deep dive into understanding, identifying, and combating human trafficking in our communities.



# 8-HOUR ADVOCATE TRAINING

Preparing individuals to become effective advocates for survivors, ensuring compassionate and informed support.

# **Community Education and Awareness**



#### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

Hosting engaging panels featuring experts, survivors, and advocates to educate and inspire action against human trafficking.



#### MARSY'S LAW TRAININGS

Providing critical information on victims' rights under Marsy's Law to ensure survivors are empowered and informed.



# **Empowerment and Healing Programs**

#### **NEW YEAR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT - HEART & SOUL JOURNEY**

Kickstarting the year with an inspiring event aimed at empowering women to embrace their strength and potential.



# **HEALING DAYS & RETREATS**

Offering restorative retreats designed to promote self-care, emotional well-being, and connection for survivors and service providers alike.



# **Infrastructure Expansion**

# **HOPE DISTRIBUTION CENTER**

Establishing a centralized hub for organizing and distributing essential resources to meet the growing needs of our programs and communities.

Through these goals and initiatives, 2025 promises to be a transformative year as we continue supporting survivors, engaging communities, and inspiring change. Together, we will pave the way for a brighter future, one step at a time.



# **HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Crime Survivors cannot achieve its mission alone. We rely on the support of passionate individuals like you to continue making a difference. Here's how you can get involved:



# **VOLUNTEER**

Join us in our outreach efforts and events. Your time and dedication can help us reach more survivors and raise awareness within your community.

# **DONATE**

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us provide essential resources to survivors. Your donation ensures that we can continue offering life-changing services, from emergency shelter to longterm counseling.

## SPREAD THE WORD

Use your voice to amplify ours. Share our message on social media, attend our events, and talk to your friends and family about the needs of Crime Survivors. Raising awareness is key to creating a more supportive environment for survivors.



Learn more about how you can make a difference by scanning the QR Code







