

# Crime Victims Resource Center

Serving victims in Mower County since 1977

## Meet the Newest Member of Our Team



### BACKGROUND:

My name is Daniela Ochsenius Tornay, I come from Ecuador. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education at the Catholic University in Quito, and a Masters' degree in Early Childhood Education and Care from

Oslo University College in Norway. I worked at the Ministry of Social and Economical Inclusion in Quito, and also here in Austin at a day care, as a lead teacher.

### HOBBIES:

**Traveling:** I love to travel, to go to new places and learn from new cultures, new languages, and new food. I feel that I have learned a lot during all the traveling that I have been able to do. It has

enriched my experience about people and places, I feel like a different person after visiting a new place. I like to travel as much as I can, and to discover unique places. I love Natural Parks and try to visit them at least once a year.

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AUSTIN AND QUITO:

I come from Quito, the capital of the country, a city with almost three million inhabitants. When I first moved to Austin two years ago, I found interesting how everybody knows everybody. At the grocery store, at the church, to every place you go, it is likely that you will meet with someone you know. That was new for me, because in my city it's not that common to see people you know everywhere! People in Austin are very polite and friendly, when we walk around our neighborhood they always say hello, and neighbors are willing to help whenever they can.

## Community Partners 4th Annual Appreciation Luncheon

Crime Victims Resource Center held its 4th Annual Community Partners Appreciation Luncheon December 12, 2017. The event was held at the Hormel Historic Home with 46 attendees, including representatives from; human services, law enforcement, probation, court administration, county and city prosecution, and Mayo Clinic Health Systems administrators.

Holli Mayer, Assistant Mower County Attorney, was recognized for her exemplary service, compassion, and diligence in working with victims. Holli is very passionate about seeking justice for victims. We appreciate the collaboration with the Mower County Attorney's Office in upholding victim's rights.

Lindsay, a survivor of sex trafficking, shared her story of how she was forced into sex trafficking. Throughout her presentation, she highlighted how community partners led her through the challenges she faced in escaping her trafficker. With the help of law enforcement, advocates, and prosecutors she began her journey from a victim to a survivor.

We enjoy the opportunity to hold this event each year to recognize the community's most important asset – YOU!

Thank you to our donors:

- Thank you to the following donors:
- Austin Congregational Church
- Drs. Elrod, Green, and Heimer D.D.S
- LeRoy Lutheran Women of WELCA
- Royal Neighbors of America
- Sandy Jarvis
- St. John's WELCA of Elkton
- Trondhjem Lutheran Church
- Zonta Club of Austin



# SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2018

## WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

Sexual violence is any type of unwanted sexual contact – including sexual assault and rape.

This can include words and actions like sexual harassment, catcalling, and nonconsensual sharing of private images such as “revenge porn.”



## VICTIMS ARE NEVER TO BLAME

It doesn't matter what someone was wearing, how they were acting, if they were drinking, or what type of relationship they had with the person who abused them.



## 1 IN 6 BOYS

are sexually abused before age 16.

## Only 26.2% OF MEN

who experienced childhood sexual abuse disclosed at the time of the abuse.



## 1 IN 5 WOMEN

have experienced completed or attempted rape in their lives.

## HOW YOU TALK ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE MATTERS

The things you say every day send a message about your beliefs and values.

When you stand up for survivors of sexual violence, you send a powerful message that you believe and support them.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT IS OFTEN NOT REPORTED

A person may not report what happened for many reasons, including:

- Concern that they won't be believed
- Fear of retaliation
- Distrust of law enforcement
- Shame or fear of being blamed
- Pressure from others

## HOW YOUR WORDS CAN AFFECT OTHERS

A comment or joke based on assumptions or stereotypes might not seem like a big deal, but it could make someone feel unsafe about sharing personal or painful things with you.



#MeToo

#SAAM

# USE YOUR VOICE TO PREVENT IT

#TimesUp

♥ BELIEVE SURVIVORS    ✎ CHALLENGE VICTIM BLAMING    🔄 RESPECT BOUNDARIES

# April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

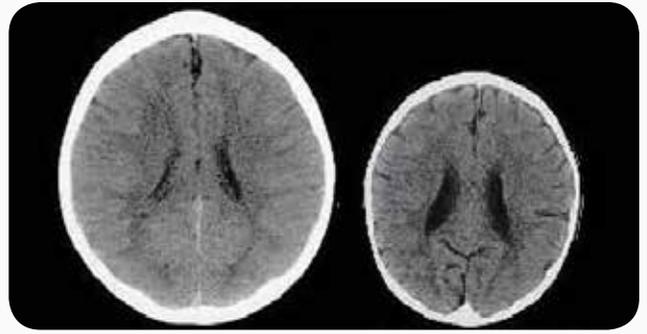
## What is child abuse?

The United States federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act defines child abuse as “any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation.”

Failure to take action to stop the harm, or failure to provide adequate food, shelter, affection, supervision, education or medical care is considered child neglect, which can disrupt brain and physical development, particularly when experienced in early childhood. The following graphic shows the difference between a child who has been raised in a healthy environment, and a child who has been neglected.

## Consequences later in life

Children who are abused or neglected, including those who witness domestic violence, may experience devastating consequences later in life. They are more likely to have cognitive, emotional, and behavioral problems, such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, delinquency, difficulty in school, and early sexual activity. Children may also be at a higher risk of developing mental health problems and substance abuse. Unresolved emotional scars could contribute to engaging in unhealthy relationships and even repeating the cycle of abuse with their own children. The following graphic shows the effect of adverse childhood experiences throughout the lifespan.



Neurologists say that the sizeable difference between these two brains of two different 3-year-olds has one primary cause: the way that their mothers treated them. Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D./Ch

[www.medicaldaily.com/chilling-brain-scans-show-impact-mothers-love-childs-brain-size-243328](http://www.medicaldaily.com/chilling-brain-scans-show-impact-mothers-love-childs-brain-size-243328)

## Warning signs for child abuse

A child who has been abused may present different signs and symptoms, which may include feelings of guilt, shame or confusion. Depression, anxiety, hostility, unexplained injuries, poor personal hygiene, substandard school performance and frequent absences from school, could also be signs of child abuse. The child may be afraid to tell anyone about the abuse, especially if the abuser is a parent, other relative or family friend. It is important to recognize any red flags in order to take action immediately.

## Children at risk of maltreatment or neglect

There are some environmental risks for child abuse, such as living under the line of poverty, incidents of domestic violence, parental substance abuse or mental health problems, parents who have been victims of child abuse or neglect themselves, and families isolated from the community. There is also an increased risk in children with disabilities.

## Statistics of child abuse in Minnesota

In 2015, there were 5,120 children who were victims of abuse or neglect in Minnesota, a rate of 4 x 1,000 children. Neglect constituted the vast majority of cases (2/3) of child maltreatment. Most of the deaths in early childhood are a consequence of neglect (Minnesota Child Maltreatment Report, 2015).

## Reporting child abuse

Families, caretakers and teachers should know the warning signs of child abuse for early detection. Report abuse or neglect caused by a child’s parent(s), guardian(s), or caretaker(s) to the local law enforcement, as well as Mower County Social Services, who can be reached at 507-437-9700.



Possible ways for adverse childhood experiences such as abuse or neglect to influence health and well-being throughout the lifespan, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2017 Crime Victims Resource Center  
provided 4,414 services to  
534 victims of crime

## Mower County Sheriff's Department Presentations

In February we had the privilege of presenting to the Mower County Sheriff's Department. We provided information on the many services that CVRC provides and offered ways in which we can collaboratively work together to enhance the overall response and services provided to victims. Many officers indicated, "It was helpful to know what they actually do", as many officers were only aware of us assisting with Order for Protection and Harassment Restraining Order petitions. A big thank you to Sheriff Terese Amazi for supporting this collaboration and committing the time for officers to attend - We had a great time facilitating this training.

## New Opportunities for Community Education and Outreach



This year we decided to branch out and implement prevention programs to older students, previously we have focused on sexual abuse prevention for 2nd graders in Mower County. We have started this initiative with the Southland School District. In March we had our first sessions with the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to address: Sexting, Social Media Safety, Sexual Harassment, and Healthy Friendships/Boundaries. We will address similar topics with grades 9-12 this fall at Southland. We are hoping that our new prevention efforts can reach the remaining schools in Mower County.

### SAFETY FOR SENIORS:

We were invited by the Hormel Historic Home to speak to a group of seniors about ways to keep themselves safe within their homes and the community. It was a very interactive and successful presentation, with 22 participants. We are always looking for speaking engagements within the community to educate on various crime topics and the services we provide.

# Looking for a speaker for your service/civic or professional organization?

CVRC offers education/information presentations on the nature and scope of victimization, prevention strategies, and the services we provide.

All services of Crime Victims Resource Center are provided free of charge.



## Crime Victims Resource Center

101 14th Street NW, Austin • 507-437-6680

Any person, regardless of age, gender or life circumstances can be a victim of crime.

The Crime Victims Resource Center (CVRC) is here to serve you and those close to you with support and options. Growth and recovery are encouraged by caring and skilled people in a nonjudgmental setting.

Our job is to work for changes which will enable all citizens to live in a community free of fear and violence through advocacy, actions and education.

The Crime Victims Resource Center will help individuals who have been victims of many different types of crime. Some of the specific crimes we work with are:

- *Accidents involving intoxicated driver*
- *Assault*
- *Burglary*
- *Child Abuse*
- *Domestic Abuse/Assault*
- *Elder Abuse*
- *Harassment*
- *Sexual Abuse/Assault*
- *Stalking*
- *Terroristic Threats*
- *Theft*



Tori Miller, Director



Linnea Garness,  
Victim Advocate



Daniela Ochsnius Tornay,  
Victim/Outreach Advocate

## Victim Support Services

- 24 hour crisis hotline
- Crisis counseling
- Safety planning
- Arranging emergency shelter
- Support groups
- Referrals to other agencies
- Emergency transportation
- Support during hospital examinations
- Support during police reporting
- Assistance with Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders
- Assistance with understanding the criminal justice system
- Accompaniment to court proceedings for support
- Updates on the progress of court proceedings
- Notification of victims' rights

Crime Victims Resource Center is a free and confidential service funded by The Hormel Foundation, Minnesota Department of Public Safety-Office of Justice Programs, and United Way of Mower County.

Find us Online:  
[crimevictimsresourcecenter.org](http://crimevictimsresourcecenter.org)

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