

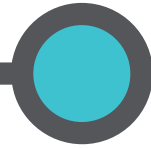
# VIRGINIA VICTIM ASSISTANCE NETWORK



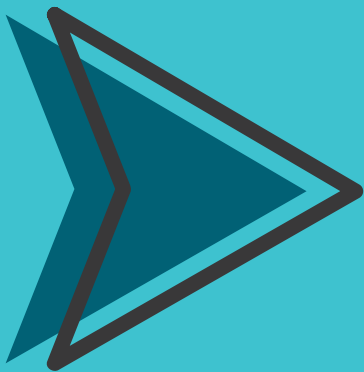
Moving  
**FORWARD** >>>

Annual Report 2018

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**I am prepared to go anywhere,  
provided it be forward.**

- DAVID LIVINGSTONE



# Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

**“Persistence – the ability to keep moving forward, in spite of difficulties” – Byron Pulsifer**

The theme of the Network’s first annual report, “Moving Forward”, is one that we think resonates. 2018 was a year of tremendous

momentum as our organization opened its first office, hired its first program staff, and launched new initiatives to serve victims of crime. What a massive undertaking! These activities were both exciting and at times, challenging. Change, even positive change and growth, can be hard. Persistence and perseverance are key.

All the while, we continued to offer several professional development trainings for victim advocates including our premier event: the 36th Annual Crime Victims’ Rights Conference. Toward the end of 2018, we were delighted to learn that VVAN was awarded funding to continue trainings and technical assistance over the next three years to victim advocates through a new Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) grant.

The Network’s growth is built on the foundation laid by our Board of Directors. Before the arrival of staff, the Board literally had to do most everything associated with running the organization. They had the vision and tenacity to seek and secure the funding that resulted in the Network’s expansion to provide more services to help both victim advocates and crime victims. They continue to provide critical leadership and governance functions and set a priority to diversify and expand the Board in the coming years.

Likewise, our membership is at the heart of what we do. The Network’s mission includes being a voice for victims of crime and those who serve them. Our membership has traditionally been systems-based victim advocates, most notably Victim Witness Programs. There is strength in numbers, and we hope to increase membership and expand member benefits. Our continued growth depends on your involvement and support.

Finally, and most importantly, our work is centered upon the ultimate outcome of helping crime victims move forward. In 2018 we assumed responsibility for the Victim Assist Helpline for any victim of any crime, established a specialized human trafficking infoline, launched seven regional crisis response teams to assist in the aftermath of significant crimes, and made plans for new homicide survivor support groups. We recognize and embrace the resilience of survivors and aim to provide needed services that help address critical service gaps.

In the next year and beyond, the Network will continue to move forward with the confidence that our best moments are ahead. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

In partnership,

*Robin Bostic*      *Cristi Lawton*

Robin Bostic  
Board President

Cristi Lawton  
Executive Director





**Victim Assist Helpline**  
**855-4-HELP-VA**

**352 Crime**  
**Victims Assisted.**



### Resources and referrals for any victim of any crime.

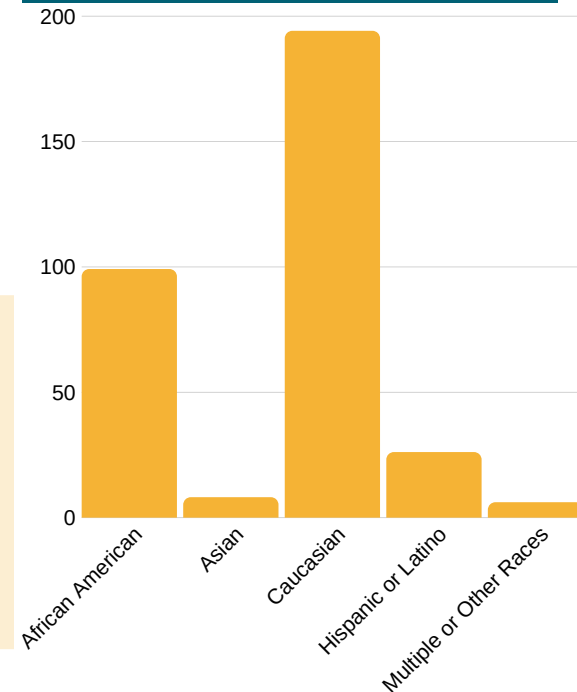
71% of callers were between the ages of 25 and 59.

42% of calls were related to domestic or family violence.

"When I called last Monday morning I felt scared for the safety of my family and powerless to do anything about it. A 45 minute phone call with [The Helpline Coordinator] turned all of that around. She was empathetic and encouraging, which enabled me to take action... [She] also did some research, made some calls, and followed up with me via multiple emails, which I greatly appreciate. Thank you for the work you and your team do everyday."

- Helpline Caller

### Callers by Race



**Human Trafficking Infoline**  
**833-INFO-4-HT**

**50+ Advocates**  
**Trained.**



The Human Trafficking Infoline was launched in late 2018.

A comprehensive resource list was compiled for those needing information and help.

A Victim Witness Program survey utilized to determine awareness, response, and needs.

**WVAN'S Human Trafficking Program**  
**is a 3-pronged statewide approach**  
**that focuses on:**

- Education
- Outreach
- Victim Services



WVAN's Human Trafficking Coordinator, Hayley Walczer, conducted numerous outreach, education, and training initiatives in 2018.





## Regional Crisis Response Teams

7 Regional Teams Created.

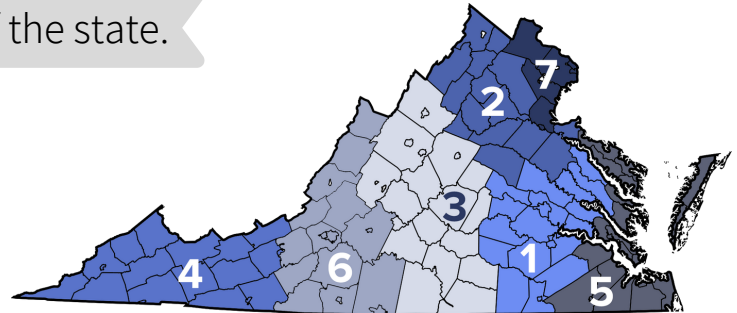


**Services in the aftermath of a mass violence or other significant crime that affects a community.**

Quarterly trainings provided for all teams.

Outreach about services provided to all areas of the state.

### CRT Regions



Allied professionals receive NOVA Basic Crisis Response training in order to be eligible to serve on WAN's CRTs.



## Homicide Survivor Support Groups

8 Pilot Regions Identified.



**Support for co-victims affected by the homicide of a loved one .**

Overwhelming interest and need expressed for support groups.

### Localities Planning Launches in 2019:

- Alexandria
- Amelia County
- Charlottesville/Albemarle County
- Fairfax County
- Franklin County
- Loudoun County
- Newport News
- Rockingham County

Partnerships with local Victim Witness programs.

Mental health professionals will facilitate groups.

Traumatic grief training to be offered in regions.



## Training & Technical Assistance

3 Trainings &  
1 Conference  
Conducted.



**Professional development opportunities for advocates who serve crime victims .**

Basic Victim Witness Academy.

Basic Intensive Advocacy Training.

Advanced Victim Witness Academy.



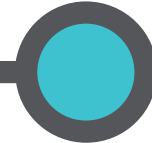
More than 40 localities were represented, and over 75 professionals attended VVAN trainings in 2018.

*"One of the best trainings I have been to."*

*"Every session was informative."*

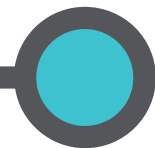
*"I learned a lot...presenters were great."*

## 36th Annual Crime Victims' Issues Conference



Over 100 professionals attended VVAN's premiere conference! Engaging speakers, timely topics, and numerous networking opportunities made for another very successful event.

# Active Committees and Membership



**Support and involvement opportunities for allied professionals serving victims of crime .**

## **Victim Compensation Committee:**

Monitors the Virginia Victims Fund (VVF) to keep membership informed of any changes in services to victims or policies made by VVF that may impact program service delivery and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for formal presentation to VVF.

2018 Chairperson: Patty Strathmann

## **Legislative Committee:**

Promotes and encourages laws in connection with the purposes of the organization by recommending and advising the Board of Directors as to the initiation of legislation, the support of legislation, and the status of laws and legislation, and to plan legislation in furtherance of the purposes of the organization and to monitor the effects of legislation.

2018 Chairperson: Robin Bostic

## **Program Committee:**

Plans the annual Virginia Crime Victims' Issues Conference, Crime Victims' Rights Week events and other VVAN-sponsored trainings and events.

2018 Chairperson: Laurie Crawford

## **Victims' Rights Committee:**

Monitors issues related to the provision of services to victims of crime and informs the membership of any changes in policies or programs that affect victims' rights; makes recommendations for the enhancement and successful delivery of these rights to crime victims; identifies education and training needs; and in collaboration with the Legislative Committee, makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for advocacy regarding legislative changes that promote victims' rights.

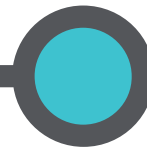
2018 Chairpersons: Kyanna Perkins and Judy Holl

## **Membership:**

Receives benefits, including access to VVAN events, conferences, committees, members only discussion forums about victims' issues, and many other resources. Over 200 members supported VVAN's mission to be a voice for victims of crime and those who serve them in 2018. **THANK YOU!**

**Together, we are a significant force to advocate for crime victims' rights and to advance professional development and collaboration in the victim services field.**

# Financials and Donors



## REVENUES

2018

Contributions and Grants	\$451,422
Program Services	\$173,624
Investment Income	\$24
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$625,070</b>

## EXPENSES

2018

Personnel for Programs	\$263,614
Other Program Expenses	\$193,101
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$456,715</b>

Revenue and Expense Information from VVAN's 2018 IRS 990 Tax Filing

## 2018 Conference Sponsors

### Platinum

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Virginia Victims Fund

### Gold

Wareheim Foundation

### Silver

Family & Children's Trust Fund  
Office of the Attorney General

### Bronze

Virginia Sheriff's Institute



THANK YOU



**VVAN's new programs and services in 2018 would not have been possible without the support of a VOCA Victim Services Grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. [THANK YOU!](#)**



# 2018 Board of Directors



Becky Sirles, President

Laurie Crawford, First Vice President

Robin Bostic, Second Vice President

Mindy Stell, Secretary

Joyce Walsh, Treasurer

## 2018 Staff



Cristi Lawton, Executive Director

Glenda Coefield, Finance & Office Manager

Kate Hanger, Victim Assist Helpline Coordinator

Hayley Walczel, Human Trafficking Specialist

Cindy Yadav, Community Crisis Response Team Coordinator

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Virginia Victim Assistance Network

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Go forward with joyful confidence.

- George Eliot