

Building the Foundation to Help Rebuild Lives

**VICTIM
SERVICE
CENTER**





The purpose of this KLA White Paper Project is to work with the Victim Service Center to create a Public Service Announcement (PSA) to help raise awareness for the existence of the current center and for the need of a more extensive one stop center.

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KLA Members Lorna Ladd and Katie Jones



National Statistics are *Staggering*

- An average of 67 women are **victimized** by an intimate partner every hour...1,612 a day ... 588,490 women a year
- An average of 526 people are **assaulted** each hour ... 12,621 a day ... 4.6 million a year
- An average of 23 people are **raped** each hour ... 545 a day ... 198,850 a year
- An average of 2 people are **murdered** every hour ... over 16,000 a year
- An average of 157 people are **stalked** every hour ... 3,775 a day ... 1.4 million a year
- An average of 102 cases of **child abuse or neglect** every hour ... 2,455 a day ... 896,000 a year
- An average of 54 reports of **elder abuse** in domestic and institutional settings an hour ... 1,295 a day ... 472,813 a year



Kosciusko County is NOT Immune.

The Warsaw Police Department (excluding Kosciusko County Sheriff's Dept.) receives close to 400 reports each year relating to family violence and sexual abuse crimes.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Crimes cut across ALL races and socioeconomic classes.

The Victim Service Center Mission Statement



The mission of the Victim Service Center is, “to provide help, hope, and healing, along with individualized options that will give support to victims of physical, verbal, emotional and sexual violence as they regain self-esteem and control of their lives. To encourage better treatment, specialized counseling, and more respect for victims of violent crime. To provide education and increase awareness about violent crime victimization and its impact on our lives and our community, and to specifically target domestic violence in an effort to help break the intergenerational cycle of abuse.”

Current Services Offered at Victim Service Center



To Victims of Violent Crimes and their Families:

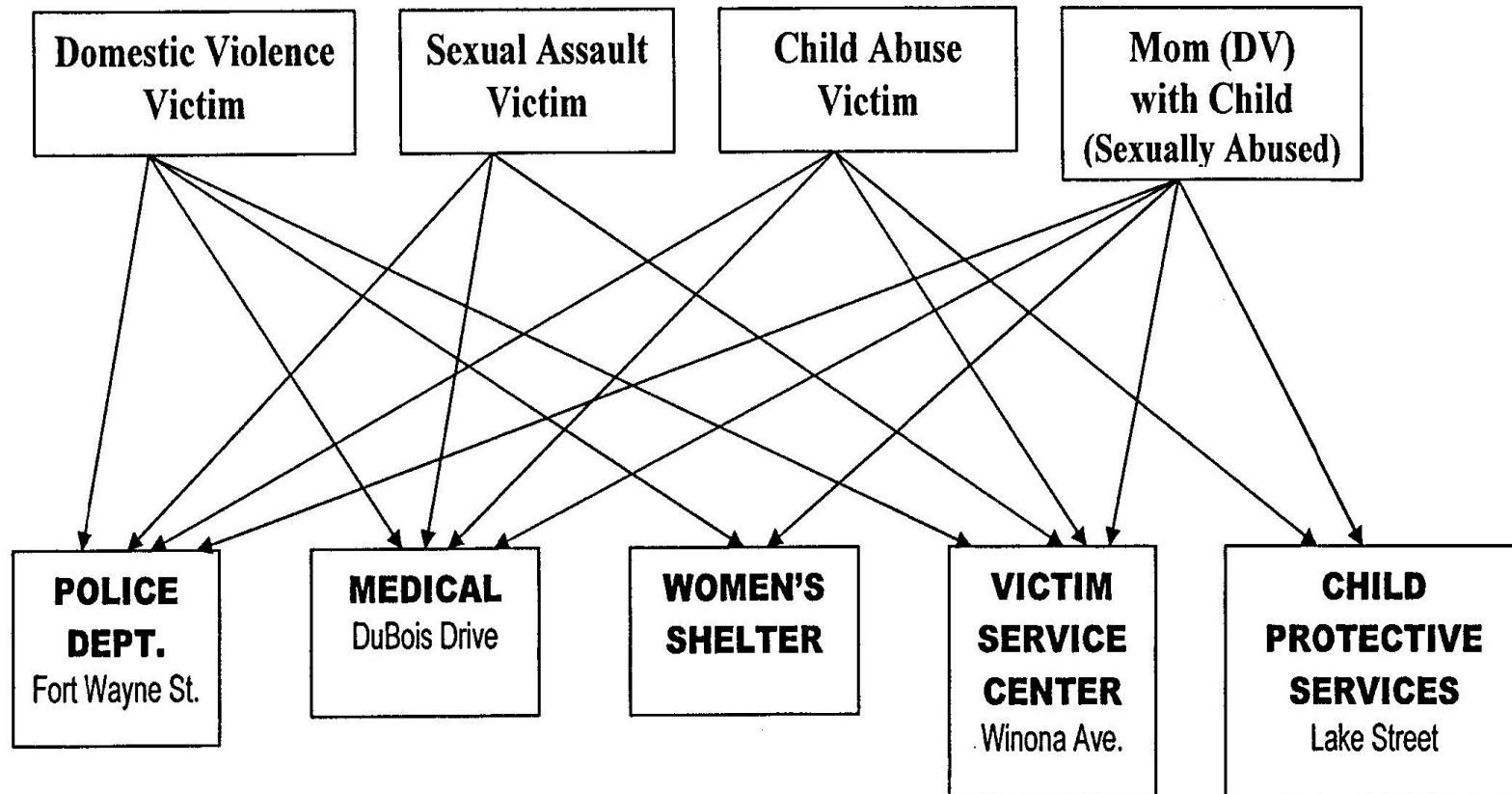
- Crisis Counseling
- Information & Referral
- Personal Advocacy
- Criminal Justice Advocacy
- Assistance in Filing Compensation Claims
- Assistance in Filing Protective Orders
- Support in Court Proceedings
- 24 – Hour On-Call Advocacy (Police or ER referral)

To the Community

- Informational Presentations
- Training
- Public Awareness Events
- Technical Assistance

The PROBLEM

TODAY: A victim's required travels for current program services.

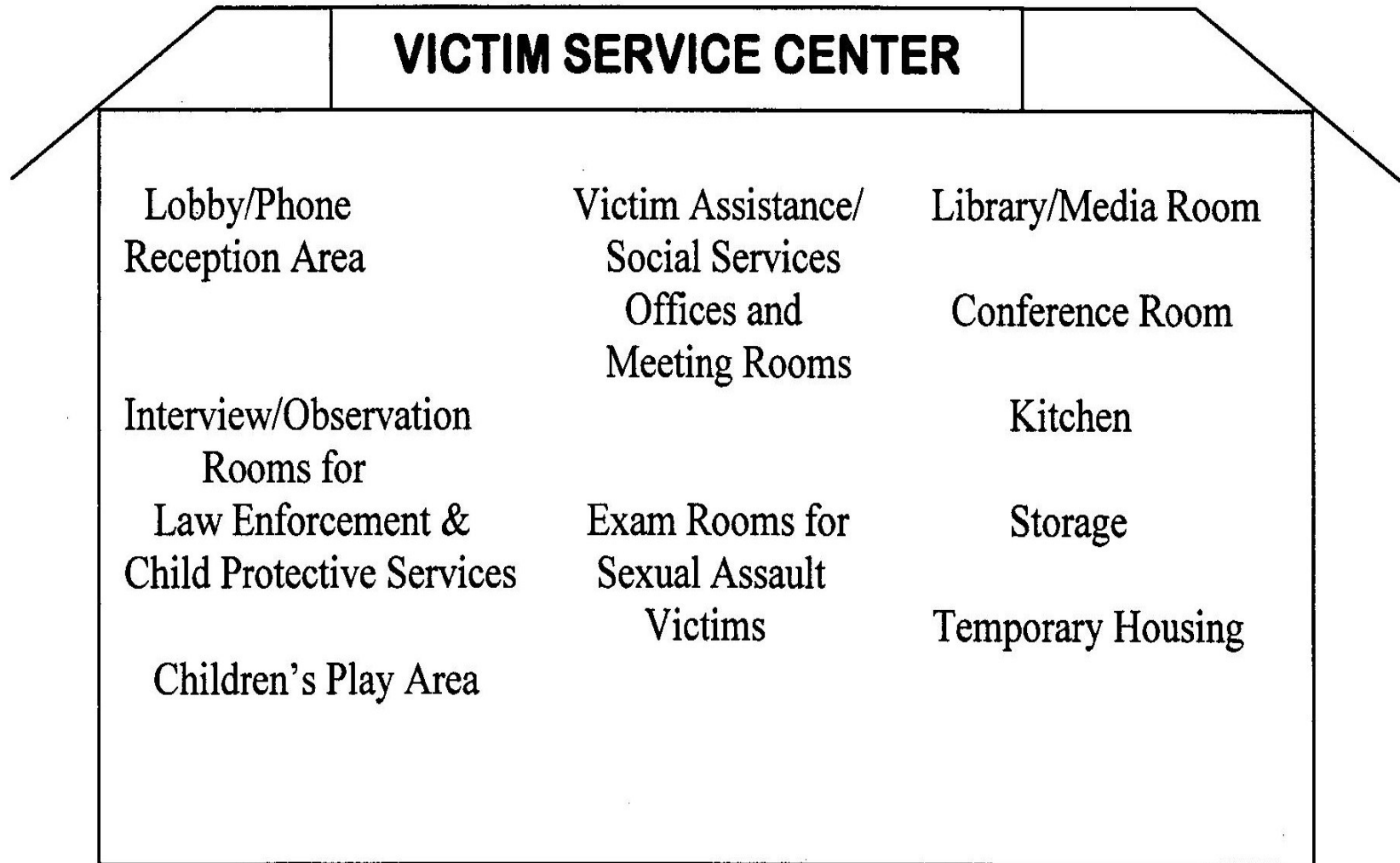


The PROBLEM in Depth

- Currently, victims of violent crime are required to travel to several different locations to receive full services.
- Although several agencies are able to serve victims of violence, not all agencies are aware of each other or the services provided; therefore, victims may not be referred to resources that are actually available to them.
- Whereas our community does offer several programs to assist victims, there are still gaps in these services and not all needs are being met.
- Services currently available to victims of violence are not easily accessible to everyone. The best way to get connected to services is by contacting the police, but many women are not ready to involve the police, so they are left on their own accord to locate resources.
- There is a lack of education/awareness regarding violent crime victimization as well as the resources available to assist crime victims.
- Violent crime victimization has a definite negative impact on an entire community – at home, at school, at church, and in the workplace.

The SOLUTION

FUTURE: Victims can receive all the assistance they need under one roof.



The SOLUTION in Depth

- **Bring current services together under one roof to create a “one-stop” full service facility.**
- **Collaboration will ensure that current agencies that serve victims of violence are aware of each other, hence providing a stronger referral list given to victims.**
- **After collaborating with other agencies, we will be able to identify gaps in services, then develop programs to better meet the needs of victims of violence.**
- **Through public awareness efforts and collaborating with organizations/businesses throughout the community, victims will be better informed about where to receive help.**
- **Create awareness/education and prevention programs that will be offered throughout the community, including schools, churches, social organizations, etc.**
- **Encourage strong community involvement to help reduce the negative impact of violent crime victimization through financial and time/service support.**

Victim Service Center

The following are just some of the services that should be considered to be part of the one-stop center approach:

Victim Assistance

Counseling

Support Services for Children

Law Enforcement Assistance

Spiritual Support

Food and clothing

Temporary Emergency Housing

Cell Phones

Support Groups

Job Training

Legal Services

Resume Writing and Interview Training

Pregnancy Counseling

Financial Counseling

Computer Training

Safety Planning

Career Counseling

Access to Adult and Child Protective Services

Parenting Programs

Mentoring Programs

Access to Child Care

Computer/Internet Access

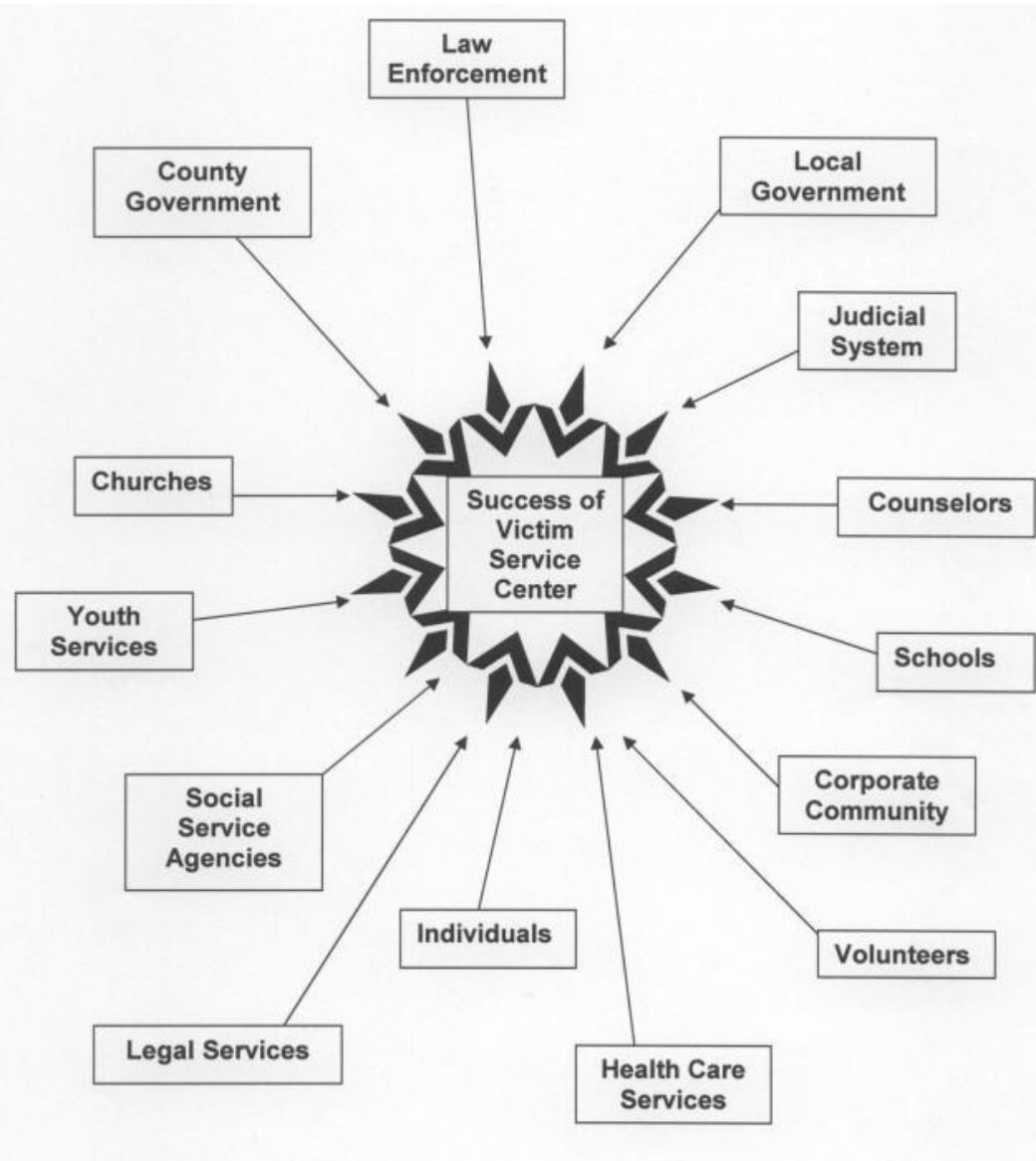
Where do we go from here?

Currently, there is a task force looking into bringing this one-stop center to Kosciusko County.

The Task Force is a community collaboration involving social service agencies, youth organizations, schools, churches, law enforcement, corporate entities, community leaders and individuals—all of whom wish to form a partnership to attack this problem.

We are currently in the introductory phase of this project. We are constantly looking for support, through both monetary means and community endorsement.

A Community – Wide Partnership



A Call to Action



Vision for a one – stop center: “A future where ALL the needs of victims are met, where children are protected, where violence fades, where economic justice increases, where families heal and thrive, where hope is realized, and where we ALL work together.”

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

This week (April 22 – 28) is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The Warsaw Police Department Victim Assistance Program has been selected as a recipient of a grant to raise awareness during this week. Please be on the lookout for the following opportunities to support this cause:

- Self – Defense Seminar: Caudill's ATA Black Belt Academy, 307 W. Market St., April 23, 7:45 – 8:45 PM
- Dramatic Presentation: Celebration Church, 1289 S. 250 E., Winona Lake, April 26 – 28, 7:00 PM. Topic will center on depicting the consequences to victims of sexual assault and rape.
- Flower Seed Distribution: All four Ace Hardware Stores in the County will be passing out Marigold flower seeds with the phrase "Planting the Seeds for a Safer Community" printed on the back.
- Coffee Cup Paper Wrap Distribution: Stop by a number of local coffee shops to get a specially designed paper wrap.
- Poster Displays: Posters with a strong Victims' Rights message will be displayed in all Ace Hardware Stores, Coffee Shops, and Libraries in the County, as well as in the halls of Tippecanoe Valley, Warsaw, and Wawasee High Schools.



Please consider supporting the Victim Service Center.

If you would like more information, or if someone you know is in need of assistance, please contact Becky Moreno at 574-372-9539 or visit

www.victimservicecenter.org

Thank you!

