

## 2008 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Observance: “Justice for Victims. Jus- tice for All”

April 13 – 19, 2008 is National Crime Victims' Rights Week – a time that calls on us to consider the life-changing impact that crime has on victims and their loved ones, and to make justice for all victims an urgent priority for our community.

The theme this year is “Justice for Victims. Justice for All.” Americans believe in justice for all. Yet to achieve justice for all, we must seek justice for victims of crime. Victims want juvenile offenders held accountable for their delinquent behavior. Victims want our courts to honor their rights, protect their safety and help them rebuild their lives.

The U.S. Department of Justice will launch National Crime Victims' Rights Week in Washington D.C., with its fifth annual National Candlelight Observance Ceremony on April 10, and its Awards Ceremony on April 11, to honor extraordinary individuals and programs that provide services to victims of crime.

Here in Pennsylvania, there will be many special events to commemorate 2008 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. [The Coalition of Pennsylvania Crime Victims Organization](#) will be hosting their annual Crime Victims' Rights Week Rally on Monday April 14, 2008 at the Capital Building in Harrisburg, PA.

A comprehensive resource guide that can assist you in your efforts to develop activities around the theme “Justice for Victims. Justice for All” can be obtained at the [Office for Victims of Crime](#).

Additionally, a publication entitled Institutional and Community Corrections-sponsored Community Service Projects to Benefit Crime Victims In Conjunction With National Crime Victims' Rights Week, developed by Justice Solutions is available on the [web](#). Numerous events both community and institutional based are featured in this publication.

*Crime Victims' Rights Week cont'd on page 2*

## Juvenile Enforcement Team Piloted in Philadelphia

The Juvenile Enforcement Team, better known as JET, was recently initiated in Philadelphia by Family Court Administrative Judge Kevin M. Dougherty and Captain Kevin Bethel of the 17<sup>th</sup> Police District of Philadelphia. This intensive gang intervention program is a collaborative effort between the Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Department and the 17<sup>th</sup> Police District; and was developed to combat and prevent juvenile crime and violence in targeted neighborhoods.

Since its inception in December 2007, the goal of JET has been the provision of supervision, surveillance and community protection to the southwest region of Philadelphia based upon the utilization of shared criminal intelligence and the combined effort to address the juvenile violence in this sector of the city. Each partner agency is committed to provide staff and other resources necessary to ensure efficacy.

The accomplishments of the JET program include the recovery of drug paraphernalia during police/probation search and seizures, an increased flow of intelligence information regarding high profile wanted persons, and group members linked to shooting incidents in the city. This combined effort has allowed for the establishment of greater connections between known juvenile shooters and recent gun violence.

For questions or more information regarding the JET initiative, please contact [James Sharp](#).

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs.

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*Crime Victims' Rights Week cont'd from page 1*

During the past three decades, the United States has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime. On paper, victims have ample access to justice. All 50 states and the federal government have "victims' rights laws" that prescribe how to treat victims. Thirty-three states have amended their constitutions to protect victims' rights. All states have programs to compensate victims for crime-related losses, and legislatures are passing new victims' rights laws every year. The 2004 Justice for All Act, for example, bolsters the rights of victims in federal court and offers the states a model to continue expanding victims' rights.

Victims' rights vary from state to state. Not all protections are enforced. Services are sometimes not available, or they may not meet the physical, financial, and psychological needs of victims or their families. Particularly vulnerable populations – the elderly, persons with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities, or residents of rural areas – may not receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

"Injustice to victims weakens public safety," said John W. Gillis, director of the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. "If victims are too discouraged to report crimes or serve as witnesses, our justice system grinds to a halt. Every American has a stake in victims' rights."

Members of our communities are encouraged to promote and/or join in the week's activities and get involved in helping victims of crime. For additional information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week and ideas on how to serve victims in your community, please contact your local Victims' Services Organization.



## Berks County Community Prevention Partnership Receives National Award



**Pictured left to right: Carlton Hall, CADCA, Cheryl Guthier, Community Prevention Partnership Executive Director, Yvonne Stroman, Director of Community Partnership Programs, Kristen Stubblebine, Drug Free Communities Program Manager, Eliana Serrano, Communities Empowering Youth Program Coordinator, SFC Michael Zimmerman, PA National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Specialist.**

**T**he National Coalition Academy is a year-long innovative training program that combines three-weeks of classroom experience, distance learning and web-support to help communities sustain a highly effective anti-drug coalition. Through a comprehensive approach of integrating core competencies and essential processes with the Strategic Prevention Framework, the goal of the academy is to create teams of change agents skilled at community problem solving. The Academy is operated by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) National Coalition Institute through partnerships with the National Guard Bureau of Counterdrug Training Centers.

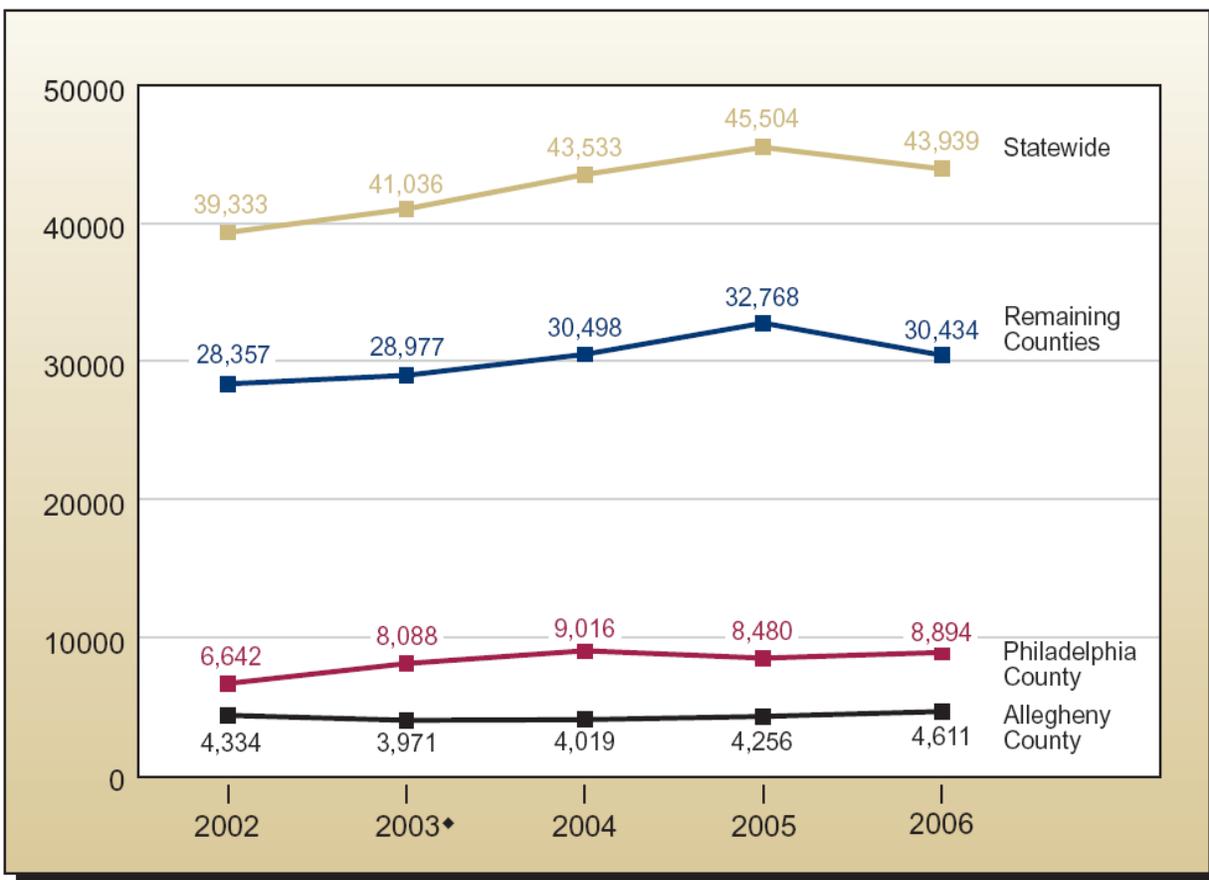
Among the outstanding National Coalition Academy coalition graduates, CADCA recently selected the Berks County Community Prevention Partnership for taking the learning, tools and experience of the Academy a step further by providing their youth leaders with the same tools through CADCA's National Youth Leadership Initiative (NYLI). Equipped with the strategies learned during the National Coalition Academy and NYLI, both adults and young people of Berks County have assumed significant leadership roles designing and implementing programs, practices and policies to address issues ranging from underage drinking to gang involvement.

## Delinquency Dispositions, 2002 - 2006

The accompanying graph displays the number of dispositions for delinquency referrals from 2002 to 2006. Disposition and placement reviews and dependency referrals are not included in the graph or data tables.

There was a 3.4% decrease in delinquency dispositions from 2005 to 2006. Dispositions involving new referrals in Philadelphia County increased by 4.9% and Allegheny County dispositions increased by 8.3%.

### DELINQUENCY DISPOSITIONS



◆ Please refer to the note on page 2 of the [2006 Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Dispositions](#) regarding Philadelphia Dispositions.

## Save the Date

Fourth and Final Forum on  
Restorative Community Justice  
to be held in Wilkes Barre, PA

The Juvenile Justice Enhancement Training Grant, funded through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, is supporting the fourth and final regional forum on Restorative and Community Justice, on Thursday, June 19, 2008. It will be held at the Genetti Hotel and Conference Center, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. The forum, "Building Bridges: Community Restorative Justice Forum," is based on the *Building Bridges* monograph which was developed by the Court and Community Collaboration Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

The forum will be conducted in an informal, retreat-like atmosphere to enable participants to become actively involved in exchanging information and ideas regarding services, programs and policies that encourage the involvement of business and community members in the implementation or enhancement of restorative community practices.

Due to the anticipated funding cuts at the federal level, we have opened this forum to any county teams that have not yet attended a Restorative Community Justice Forum. Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, in coordination with their local Communities That Care initiatives, are invited to participate and send a team of ten people representing multiple sectors of the community. Chief Probation Officers are asked to consider bringing representatives from businesses, schools, social services agencies, civic organizations, victim services, and faith communities, in addition to professionals from the juvenile court.

There will be no registration fee to attend this forum, as costs are covered through the System Enhancement Training grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. Although the grant does not cover travel costs for participants, a block of rooms has been made available for those traveling longer distances. Room reservations can be made through the hotel at 1-800-833-6152.

For additional information on the regional forum, please contact [Susan Blackburn](#) at 717-477-1411, or [Monica Iskric](#) at 717-477-1709.

## Weekend Master's Degree Program Accepting Applications for the Shippensburg University Class of 2011

Applications are now being accepted for the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored weekend Master's Degree program at Shippensburg University. Members of the class of 2011 will begin classes in the fall of 2009. **The deadline to apply is September 1, 2008.**

The Shippensburg University program offers students a Master of Science degree in the Administration of Justice. This is a 36-credit hour program that includes courses in research methods, theory, administration, and policy analysis. Also featured is a summer internship in which students have the opportunity to develop, implement, and evaluate a program in their home county, or evaluate an existing program that serves juvenile offenders.

Classes in this two-year program are scheduled every third weekend in the fall, spring, and summer, with no classes scheduled during the months of July and August. This program is available to county juvenile probation officers who will have at least two years of post-baccalaureate experience in the juvenile justice field prior to the start of classes. Applicants who have an undergraduate grade point average of less than 2.75 must take and pass the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination.

Additional information about the program is available on the [JCJC website](#). If you have any questions, or are interested in applying for the program, please contact [John Cookus](#) at 717-477-1188.

# Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program Announces Conference

The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program's Diversity Task Force is excited to present its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference titled ***You and I: The Effect of Child Welfare Outcomes for Diverse Cultures***. This all day conference held at the Child Welfare Training Center located in Mechanicsburg on April 30<sup>th</sup> will be a solution-focused event aimed at examining disproportionate numbers and poverty within the context of the child welfare system.

***You and I: The Effect of Child Welfare Outcomes for Diverse Cultures*** aims to answer three basic questions:

- Why are African-American children and other children of color represented in the foster care system at a much higher rate than their numbers in the general population?
- How do the middle class values of social workers and child welfare professionals affect practice with children and families involved in the foster care system from lower socioeconomic backgrounds?
- How can we improve outcomes for diverse cultures involved with Pennsylvania's child welfare system?

The day will start with a plenary session comprised of a culturally diverse group of foster parents, youth, and birth parents that have been involved with child welfare system. They will share their experiences, feelings, and recommendations for change and allow participants to hear directly from the experts; namely, the children and families that have received child welfare services in Pennsylvania.

Participants will engage each other in workshops throughout the day culminating with a facilitated strategy session. Strategies and recommendations will be solicited from participants to enhance Pennsylvania's practices related to diverse cultures and improving outcomes. These recommendations will be provided to the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Steering Committee to be included in Pennsylvania's Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The PIP is a result of the onsite review of Pennsylvania's child welfare services that is scheduled for August 2008 when the federal government will examine Pennsylvania's outcomes for children and families in three areas: safety, permanency, and well-being.

Please join us in discussing these important topics and planning for improvement in Pennsylvania's Child Welfare System. Registration materials will be available on the University of Pittsburgh PA Child Welfare Training Program [website](#) in March. Or, call Rachel Ickes at (717) 795-9048.

### ***Our Mission***

*The mission of the Diversity Task Force is to create, support and facilitate the understanding and valuing of human diversity for individuals and organizations affiliated with the PA Child Welfare Training Program. Through communication, advocacy and education, the taskforce will provide leadership, direction and accountability towards the goal of awareness and commitment to human competence.*

## Director Hired for Youth and Family Training Institute

The University of Pittsburgh/Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic and the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) are pleased to announce that Shannon Fagan has been appointed as director of the Youth and Family Training Institute. Ms. Fagan has a Master of Science degree in Child Development/Child Care from the University of Pittsburgh. For the past ten years, she has been the CASSP Coordinator for Westmoreland County where she was responsible for the organization and coordination of all aspects of care for children with behavioral health issues and their families. Shannon also has supervisory experience in family counseling, foster care and early intervention.

The Youth and Family Training Institute is the next stage in the evolution of the CASSP movement. Pennsylvania has made a commitment to transforming the children's behavioral health system and will build on the CASSP principles as Pennsylvania moves toward family driven and youth guided care through High Fidelity Wraparound.

Under the direction of Laurie Jones and Dr. Ken Nash of the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Stan Mrozowski (OMHSAS), Ms. Fagan will be responsible for the start-up and implementation of the Training Institute. Shannon will have offices in Mechanicsburg and at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. She can be reached at 412-648-6464, or by [email](#).



# Call for Presentations

## The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 5 - November 7, 2008

Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

The sponsors of The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice are requesting presentations for workshops to be offered on Thursday, November 6, 2008. Interested presenters should complete this form and return it by **May 19, 2008**. In order for your application to be considered, please submit a program description, a brief biography of the trainer and any supplementary materials.

- **Proposed title of workshop:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Brief description of presentation:** (50 words or less) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **Brief biography of the trainer(s):** (50 words or less) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **Please list a reference and contact information of someone who is familiar with the trainer/presentation:**  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_
- **This presentation is best suited as a:**
  - 90-minute workshop (presented in one 90-minute session)
  - 180-minute training (presented in two consecutive sessions)

Please Note: Two presenters from each selected workshop will be our guests during the course of the three-day conference with all registration fees waived. Presenters will be responsible for their own lodging and travel expenses.

• **This workshop is recommended for:** (check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Judges            | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court Masters            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential Program Providers    | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Prevention Specialists  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialized Probation Officers   | <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Juvenile Probation Officers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Probation Supervisors   | <input type="checkbox"/> Victim Services Representatives   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local and State Policy Officials |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____     |  |

**Name of principal contact person/trainer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency/organization and address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND ATTACH ALL  
SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAM DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS,  
TRAINER'S VITA, AND PARTICIPANT HANDOUTS BY  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008 TO:**

John Cookus, Director  
Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research  
Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main Drive  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

Phone: 717-477-1188  
Fax: 717-477-1236  
E-mail: [jcookus@state.pa.us](mailto:jcookus@state.pa.us)