



Crime Victims Advocacy Council

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Jessalyn Dorsey

Executive Director



Ms. Dorsey is the Executive Director for Crime Victims Advocacy Council, Inc. (CVAC) in Atlanta, Georgia. She is responsible for the overall management and operation of CVAC. She has been involved with CVAC, victims' rights, and victims' issues since 2001. Jessalyn lost her only child to a violent murder in 1999 outside a neighborhood teen party in Cobb County, Georgia. "This was a traumatic event that I was unprepared for, but has thus reshaped my life."

Ms. Dorsey has gone from despair over the murder of her only child to a commitment of service for crime victims and survivors. She is a Certified Victim Advocate and over the years has served in varied positions in the CVAC organization; Volunteer (2001-2004), Vice-President (2004), President (2005-2008), Advisory Board Member (2009-2012), Support Groups Facilitator/Volunteer Coordinator (2013-present), and most recently was appointed Executive Director. In addition, she facilitates two support groups each week to educate victims on their rights and to help them cope and heal from the grief after a homicide.

Under her direction as Executive Director, CVAC:

- lobbies for crime victim legislation
- administers a scholarship program for victims and/or surviving family members
- hosts an annual Memorial Service for crime victims across Georgia
- provides crime victim education
- hosts support groups for crime victims
- works closely with Prosecutors' Offices and Law Enforcement officials throughout the criminal justice system; and,
- partners with Victim Advocates and Agencies to help provide an expansive support system for victims.

During Ms. Dorsey's tenure as CVAC's President, she led the organization through many positive changes, helping over 7,500 crime victims, creating a Speakers Bureau, Victim Education Program, Crime Prevention Seminars for children and teens, and Co-Facilitators of Victim Support Groups. As President, she obtained a federal grant from the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) to promote crime victims' rights and a 30-second PSA which was produced and aired on the local WSB-TV station, subsequently seen by 1.5 million viewers.

Ms. Dorsey speaks to individuals, businesses, churches, and schools to educate the public about crime awareness, teen safety, victims' rights, and compassionate responses to victimization. As an advocate she has appeared on Atlanta's WSB-TV 'People 2 People' program, other local media, and spoken at several CVAC's Annual Memorial Services.

OUR VISION

That crime victims be few and that each be made whole.

OUR MISSION

CVAC is dedicated to preventing crime and assisting crime victims and their families and communities in Georgia through quality education, advocacy, counseling, and legislative initiatives.



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TOPICS & POINTS

Victims Rights

Crisis Intervention

Support Groups

Crime Awareness

Crime Victim Education

Crime Victim Legislation

Ms. Dorsey volunteers and supports several state and national organizations regarding crime victim rights and issues, such as:

- National Organization of Crime Victims Assistance (NOVA)
- Fight Crime and Invest in Kids (FCIK)
- National Coalition of Victims in Action (NCVIA)
- Million Moms March, Action Americans: Murder Must End Now (AAMMEN)
- Cobb County Georgia, District Attorney's Office Victim Impact Panel.

Previously, she facilitated a workshop at the annual NOVA conference on how to develop and facilitate a Crime Victim Support Group and will be conducting this program at the 2014 NOVA conference in Chicago.

Ms. Dorsey has testified before the Georgia Senate and House in favor of victims' rights legislation for Audio Victim Impact Statements, GA Crime Victims Bill of Rights, and Restitution – legislation that has been signed into law by former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue.

Most recently, Ms. Dorsey received the "2014 National Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award" in Washington, D.C., from the U.S. Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus. The Unsung Hero Award is presented to a crime victim or survivor, who has experienced a personal tragedy and found a way to triumph over adversity.

State/National Awards & Legislation for Victims:

- National Eva Murillo Unsung Hero Award, Washington D.C.: April 2014
- GA Crime Victim Bill of Rights: May 2010
- GA Victim Impact Law: April 2009
- GA "Victims Voice Award": April 2007
- GA Criminal Justice Coordinating Council "Eagle Award for Volunteerism": April 2007

Ms. Dorsey is an advocate supporter of gun control and safety, sentencing guidelines, legislative changes for state crime victims' laws, and changes for national crime victims' bill of rights. She has traveled to Washington, D.C. (Capitol Hill) to speak with Congress Representatives about the importance of gun control, crime prevention, and victims' rights, as well as traveled across the nation, participating in advocacy training programs and conducting seminars on grief and crime prevention.

Ms. Dorsey's impact on the community, justice system, and service delivery system has helped hundreds of teens and parents to be safe from child predatory attempts and to help hundreds of crime victims who are grieving over the loss of their loved one to murder or DUI, whether it is in a support group, memorial healing service, seminars, or speeches.