

The New Horizon



"...and thou shall be called, the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths"...

A quarterly victim's support newsletter brought to you by:
The Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance Network (PTMAN) Crisis Coalition
Addressing Victims of Crime in the Proviso/Leyden Area

WE BELIEVE THERE IS HOPE!

Helping Someone When a Loved One Has Been Murdered

Murder is like a violent thief in the night, causing great suffering. The funerals of murder victims often attract large crowds, but once the ceremonies are over, few remain with the bereaved to help dry tears or relieve the burden of their pain. Family members are encouraged to recover and heal from the violent wound in their emotional fabric, but no one tells them how to heal.

Be Open: to accept statements of pain and rage those who have experienced homicidal loss may express. Emotions include numb passivity to overwhelming rage. Listen carefully and respond compassionately to their needs.

Be Observant: to the things survivors say. They are secondary victims and it is important to keep a close watch. Without appropriate support, they may attempt or complete a tragic episode. Take them out to dinner or movie, hug them and encourage grief counseling.

Be Non-Judgmental. Murder is a mixture of pain and frustration that is not helped by judgment.

Be Respectful and Loving. Show the kind of respect and love to the bereaved that you would want to received under the same condition.

Be knowledgeable about available resources. Sometimes murder victim survivors report continual nightmares, suicidal or homicidal ideas; even excessive drinking or use of drugs. Contact your local victim's assistance program to discover the most appropriate intervention.

Be Supportive and Available. In the aftermath, it is common for the victim to feel alone. The amount of quality time you provide can make a major difference.

These steps are only suggestions for helping someone whose loved one was murdered. Simply **being there** could provide some comfort, compassion or consolation.

Source: 2006 Bereavement Magazine

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Elder Karl Rand:
Clergy

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The Proviso Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA)



“...every facet of the community voluntarily joins together in a partnership to address common concerns”

“Providing a hand up, but not a hand out.”

Mission Statement

The purpose of PLCCA is to promote community development and empower people with education, training and supportive services.

The goal of PLCCA continues to be the enhancement, development and implementation of practical approaches of serving the low-income residents and the total community.

As a community action agency, we recognize the results that can be achieved when every facet of the community voluntarily joins together in a partnership to address common concerns.

PLCCA provides over 30 service programs to communities having a high concentration of ethnic minorities including African-American, Hispanic and others.

PLCCA provides a wide range of programs for children, youth, adults and seniors. The program services are designed to move families toward self-sufficiency and provide a hand up, but not a hand out. We are anxious to provide information on individual programs and welcome the opportunity to have you tour our facilities. Please feel free to contact us to arrange a visit at (708) 450-3506.

Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance Network

A Coalition for Peace in Maywood



Vision

To bridge the gap within the community of faith for the better good of our communities.

The Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance Network or **PTMAN** is a non –for- profit corporation that is the Illinois division of IMAN (International Ministerial Alliance Network), which represents more than 300 faith-based organizations across the state of Illinois . PTMAN is committed to leveraging their respective resources for the purpose of assisting disadvantaged residents and communities in the Proviso Township area.

Maywood’s most recent increase in shooting, killings and other violent acts of violence prompted the PTMAN to form a violence crisis team to address ongoing violence and to seek solutions to prevent further violence from occurring. The PTMAN crisis team consists of approximately 20+ organizations made up of various backgrounds including representatives from local police departments, the Illinois Attorney’s Office, faith and community-based organizations as well as the Cook County health department. Meetings are held monthly and consist of several subcommittees.

Mothers of Murdered Sons (MOMS)

One Moms Story.....in her own words

Hi, my name is Phyllis Duncan, the founder and executive director of Mothers of Murdered Sons. I am the mother of five children: four daughters, one son and twelve grandchildren. My son, Dodavah Ben Joshua Duncan, died from a gun shot wound to the head, May 10, 2005 at the age of 21-years-old.

Dodavah loved his "Ema". That was what he called me. It means mother in Hebrew. Like many mothers who have sons, we had a very special relationship. Dodavah did well in school and in the community. As a youth he encountered some challenges which eventually led him to the Illinois Juvenile Detention Centers and was Michigan State Prison System. In 2001, I moved back to Illinois to escape a justice system that gave my son life time probation for possession of a controlled substance. Due to his ex-offender status, it became close to impossible to become and remain employed, so chose to sell drugs to again.

In 2005, two months after his 21st birthday, Dodavah had a son. The birth of his son became the primary reason for wanting to rid himself of his past lifestyle and he confided in his older sister and best friend Yehudiyah that he also wanted to go to trade school.

On May 8, 2005, my oldest daughter, Nekesha had a Mother's Day celebration at her house. Dodavah and I got the chance to talk and he gave me my Mother's Day gift, a big kiss on the lips and told me how much he loved me. That was the day I saw him alive. The next day Dodavah was at his sister's house when he received a telephone call from his cousins asking him to come down the street to a neighbor's house. I believe my nephews were in some kind of trouble. I was not there but it has been reported that out of no where gun shots rang out, one striking Dodavah in the head. My son lay in the parking lot bleeding; dying in his own blood. One of my nephews left the scene and one was taken to Sherman Hospital in Elgin along with my son. A witness later reported seeing a dark van riding away from the scene. My nephew had a gun shot wound to his forearm, but Dodavah died the next day.

My nightmare began that night. I never thought I would lose my only son. But like many mothers around the Illinois and in the nation, I too became a mother of a murdered son. My son became another statistic. He was one of the 429 African Americans that died from firearm-related injuries in 2005 in Illinois. He was one of the 429 African Americans that have been taken from the lives of 429 mothers, families and friends.

Mothers of Murdered Sons (M.O.M.S.) is a direct result of my son's death as well as the need to support mothers individually and collectively who were also dealing with the violent gun deaths of their children. So I started the first support group for Mothers Of Murdered Sons in Bellwood, IL. On the second Saturday of the month, you can find me and other mothers sharing stories of survival, strength and healing. The groups are diverse in that some stories of pain and triumph come from those that have recently lost a son to those living with several years of hurt. I provide information on grieving and healing and we all make the choice to support each other with a fiery courage that's required to transition to a life without our sons. I am very passionate about my calling and the responsibility that has been put before me. My desire for Mothers of Murdered Sons is to support the healing process through a collective spirit of courage and empowerment. "*There is Life after Death*" is my message to you.



"My nightmare began that night."

Illinois Victims Support Resources

Crime Victim Assistance/Domestic Violence/Grief Counseling

411 Madison Maywood, 60153; Maxine Johnson, 708.450.3500; 708.450.0797 (f); Email: mjohnson@plcca.org; website: www.plcca.org

Julius Lee Burdine Foundation

5950 S. Fairfield Ave, Chicago, IL.; 312.339.5409 or 708.848.5966; email: jlbirdinefoundation@yahoo.com, website: www.juliusleeburdinefoundation.com

Mothers of Murdered Sons

Bellwood Library, 600 Bohland Ave, Bellwood, IL. 708.547.0154, Phyllis Duncan, moms_murderedsons@yahoo.com

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) Chapter of Little Company of Mary Hospital

2800 W. 95th St. (@ California Ave) Evergreen Park, IL; 773.660.9659 or 773.847.1613; Melvin & Patricia Nicholas or Maria Ramirez; <http://www.pomc.com/chicago/index.htm>

Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) West Side Chapter

Mount Sinai Hospital; California @ 15th St., Chicago, IL; Samantha Glover, 708.576.8326 or Emma Davison, 773.521.7329

Sarah's Inn – Freedom from Domestic Violence

101 Madison Street, Oak Park, IL. 60301; crisis hotline: 708.386.4225; Chris Ptak 708.386.3305; www.sarahsinn.org

Victim Witness Assistance Program of Cook County States Attorney of Cook County

2650 S. California, B1-Level Chicago IL. 60608; 773.869.7200

If you want your Victim's Assistance resource listed in future publications, please contact: Phyllis Duncan @ 708.547.0154

Reflections from the Editor

When we think of a NEW HORIZON, we must think of hope, a brighter day, even the ability to transform the future. In order for a new horizon to work in one's life or community, something of the old must be released. Previous experiences do have meaning and should be used in ways that helps motivate a new awakening; a new beginning; a better way of life. It takes incredible strength, a new mind- set, a paradigm shift, commitment and much prayer for this to happen. The NEW HORIZON newsletter is a voice that will speak to victims of domestic crimes as a beacon of hope. This newsletter's aim is to revive, repair and restore the feelings of despair and encourage survivors to use their unfortunate experiences to shine a light of hope and spirit of courage in the lives of others.

When we review the present state that we are in, we will see that the writer Isaiah wrote about a similar situation (in the book of Isaiah 58:12). He wrote from a position that would challenge all to hope again. He writes "and they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places"... Can you hear Isaiah speaking to the leadership of that city and communities? He's challenging them to be or become more constructive in that community. How? By focusing on the most significant component of a city; its community: the people. How? By making the infrastructure of that city or community more visible and available to the people. THE NEW HORIZON is focusing on providing information concerning the needs of victims of crime in our community. Leadership must minister from a spiritual, mental, and physical awareness into wholeness.

Isaiah's continues to challenge us as he writes, "thou shall raise up the foundations of many generations"... True enough we can admit that there's many hindrances that are plaguing our communities. A lack of jobs, gangs, drugs, etc. However, the true hindrances that we must be conscience of come from broken interpersonal relationships between husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and children. However, the greatest of all is the separation between the Creator and His Creations; us, His family. We must strive for relationships described in the scripture, "That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (Jo.13:34).

Isaiah concluded "and thou shall be called the repaired of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in." Granted leaders are to be in positions to lead, yet they still have the ability to repair the breach (infraction, standard, which are torn) and restore the paths (ways of life) to live in.

The NEW HORIZON newsletter will help strengthen the shoulders of many by supporting the foundation; the hopes and dreams of our people to live fulfilled lives. It is our goal to lift future generations to higher highs despite life difficulties. We believe this is strongly needed in order for our families, communities, and cities to be repaired.



About Us

The Victims of Crime Committee, a sub-committee of the Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance is a small group of individuals dedicated to providing victims support information and resources in the Proviso-Leyden Townships.

*Prayerfully Submitted,
Elder: Karl Rand*

Proviso Township Ministerial Alliance Network Coalition Partners

Contact Information

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Maywood, IL. 60153

PHONE: (708) 450-3506

FAX: (708) 236-5186

E-MAIL: plccarcp@aol.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.plcca.org

PTMAN

PLCCA

The Answer Inc. PO Box 6224, Broadview; 708.296.5651;
www.theanswerinc.org; Contact: Debra Vines

Bellwood Mayor Elect 2009, 232-32nd Ave Bellwood; 708.466.2513;
Contact: Officer Jeanette Johnson

Bellwood Police Dept, 3200 Washington Blvd; 708.547.3530;
rcollins@villageofbellwood.com; contact: Chief Collins

Cook County Dept. of Public Health; 1010 Lake St. ,Oak Park;
708.492.2000; Contact: April Tolbert (apitolbe@cookcountygov.com)
or Keith Winn (Kwinn@cookcountygov.com)

Illinois Attorney General, 100 W. Randolph Chicago; 312.814.1039;
Contact: Pam Moore

Juvenile Court of Cook County, 1500 Maybrook Square #244;
708.865.6145; Contact: Shanol Ginger

Loyola University, 2160 S. 1st Ave, Maywood; 708.327.9015; Contact:
Lena Hatchett, lhatchett@lumc.edu

Maywood Police Dept., 125 S. 5th Ave Maywood; 708.450.4409;
Contact: Officer P. Allen

Maywood Youth Mentoring, P.O. Box 65 – 840 S. 17th Ave.,
708.344.3577, Contact: Barbara Cole; bdowecole@sbcglobal.net

Mothers of Murdered Sons; 600 Bohland Ave (Bellwood Library);
708.547.0154; contact: Phyllis Duncan;
moms_ofmurderedsons@yahoo.com

Neighborhood United Methodist Church, 411 W. Madison Maywood;
708.450.3500; Contact: Pastor Jacques Conway

Operation Safe Child, P.O.Box 816 Maywood; 708.415.3897, Contact:
Dr. Wylmarie Sykes

PLCCA, 411 W. Madison, Maywood; 708.450.3506; contact: Marcel
Davis

Proviso East High School, 807 S. 1st Ave Maywood; 708.202.1611;
Contact: Milton Patch , principal

Proviso West High School, 4701 W. Harrison, Hillside; 708.202.6310;
Contact: Alexis Wallace

SAFER Foundation, 1221 Madison Maywood; 708.323.8292;
Raphael.ward@saferfoundation.org; contact: Raphael Ward

Proviso Community Church, 2205 S. Wolf Rd #191 Hillside;
708.449.1998; Contact: Pastor Demetrius Davis

Proviso District 209, 8601 W. Roosevelt Rd Forest Park;
708.338.4158 or 5912; Contact: Brandon Gale or Dr. Nellie Collins-Hart
(superintendent)

Youth on the Move, PO Box 285 Maywood; 708.299.9464; Contact:
Isiah Brandon