



Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance

IOVA is a support organization for victims, survivors, witnesses, advocates, and professionals.
Our mission is to improve Iowa's response to crime and victimization in every community.

P.O. Box 6021

East Des Moines Station

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

April 1, 2009

Dear Colleague:

It is that time of the year again when we all gather to celebrate National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), April 26-May 2, 2009. This year's theme is "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act."

As a member of the Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance (IOVA) Memorial committee, I have volunteered to make one or two planters to be placed next to IOVA's benches on Capitol grounds. IOVA's "Place of Reflection" is located on the South side of the State Capitol in Des Moines, IA. Our plan is to dedicate the planters during NCVRW in 2010.

Enclosed with this letter are photographs depicting my artwork to help you visualize the type of items needed. The planters will serve as a reminder of the impact crime has on individuals and communities and will also serve as a lasting tribute to those who carry on the much needed work on behalf of crime victims.

This letter is to encourage you to help me gather memorabilia when you are celebrating National Crime Victim Rights Week by asking victims to bring items to your celebration. Perhaps you would consider hosting a glass, bowl, or plate breaking event in honor of all crime victims and send the broken pieces to me. The broken pieces will represent the broken lives impacted by crime that will adorn the cement planters. The planters will be surrounded by tile, glass and other colorful items to represent the beauty of recovery. NONE of the items will be returned and must be weatherproof; as the planters will be outside year round.



The items I am looking for are literally "pieces" that represent a victim's life. Items I have already received include: rocks with inspirational words, broken china and even a metal ring. Each item has a special meaning to those who donated the items and the pieces will serve as a memorial for their loved ones or symbolize the success of recovery.

Please forward this letter to those with whom you work, the groups you facilitate, the victims you assist, and share with other victim service providers. The abundance of items will clearly represent the success of our commitment to help crime victims in their healing process.

I look forward to receiving the broken pieces from the lives of crime victims you serve on a daily basis.

Please send items to the following address:

Karen P. Gale
FBI Victim Specialist
4401 Westown Parkway Ste 320
West Des Moines, IA 50266
(515) 224-7424

Thank you for your time and your commitment
Respectfully Yours,


Karen P. Gale





