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Crime Victims Get On-line Help Thanks to UNH

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DURHAM, N.H. - In conjunction with National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 6-12), Justiceworks at the University of New Hampshire announces a new resource for victims of crime in the Granite State.

A new Web site provides victims with an array of services to help them deal with the aftermath of victimization. This Victims Services Directory, a collaborative effort of the N.H. Department of Justice, Justiceworks at UNH, and the victim assistance community, is available on-line at www.justiceworks.unh.edu.

"Crime victims are traumatized by criminal offenses," says John T. Kirkpatrick, director of Justiceworks. "This new Web site makes getting the support they need to deal with the trauma a little easier."

The site offers victims a variety of ways to access services, which are cataloged by county, type of crime and agency. According to Sandra Matheson, director of the state Office of Victim and Witness Assistance in the N.H. Attorney General's Office, "this site provides an innovative way for victims of crime to access much needed community resources and services, in an effort to minimize the impact of their victimization."

"This is an important tool for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence," adds Grace Mattern, director of the N.H. Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. "We are using the Internet to make information and options available to victims, allowing them to choose how to best address the difficult crimes they have experienced."

Kirkpatrick invites victims to visit the directory at www.justiceworks.unh.edu or call project director Robyn Mantel at Justiceworks at 862-4748 for more information.

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