

Dear Friends of CVC,

The last year has reminded all of us how unpredictable life can be. As human beings, we most often grow through difficult times, not through the easy times. Suffering, although painful, can make us better, stronger people. Being lonely and shut in reminds us that many are lonely and shut in when there is not a pandemic. Hopefully this time will make us more empathic, more likely to take the time to stop in on neighbors, friends, and loved ones who are alone. Suffering financial and job loss reminds us that many folks struggle financially when there is not a pandemic. Hopefully this will make us more generous, more aware, and more willing to share what we have with others. Losing a loved one to the pandemic reminds us that life is precious and hopefully will help us value the time we have with those we love and comfort those who are grieving. Here at the Crime Victims Council, we are privileged to walk with people who have suffered as the victims of crime. We provide comfort, presence, information, and resources. But in that process, we have a front row seat to witness the courage, strength, and resilience of ordinary people going through extraordinary difficulties.

Throughout this pandemic, our mission and work have not changed. Yes, the way we are doing our work may have changed to accommodate the situation, but we are continuing to provide an essential service to victims of crime. We continue to provide counseling via telehealth platforms that provide a “face to face” experience while reducing in-person exposure. We continue to provide in-person court accompaniment as court procedures have taken place and phone or internet support at other times. Our prevention education and outreach specialists have creatively provided educational programming via internet and social media platforms. We have continued to provide hospital accompaniment to victims of sexual assault either in person or remotely. And, of course, our 24-hour hotline continues to be available for anyone to call at any time.

Yes, during this time, CVC has continued to work hard and move forward. During the pandemic we hired a Bilingual Spanish counselor and are thrilled to have her on our staff. In addition, we have been looking for new office space as the lease on our current building is ending. Stay tuned for information about our move to a new office in the next few months! We value you, our friends, family, and supporters.

With hope for the future,
Lois Keller

