

The goal of this training is to help create a network of community liaisons: trusted community members to whom people can turn for help and advice, should they or their loved ones become victims of crime.

We will also support community liaisons in conducting informational workshops about crime victimization in their local houses of worship, community centers and schools.

### In-Depth Training

Anyone who serves the refugee community or whose life or work brings them in contact with victims of crime is invited to attend the Vermont Victim Assistance Academy (VVAA), a free six-day course in victim services and victimology sponsored by the Center for Crime Victim Services. For more information or to register, contact Will Roberts at 241-1250, ext. 114.

We are excited about this project and encourage your participation! Please join us to welcome our new neighbors. Let's help them become informed and stay safe.

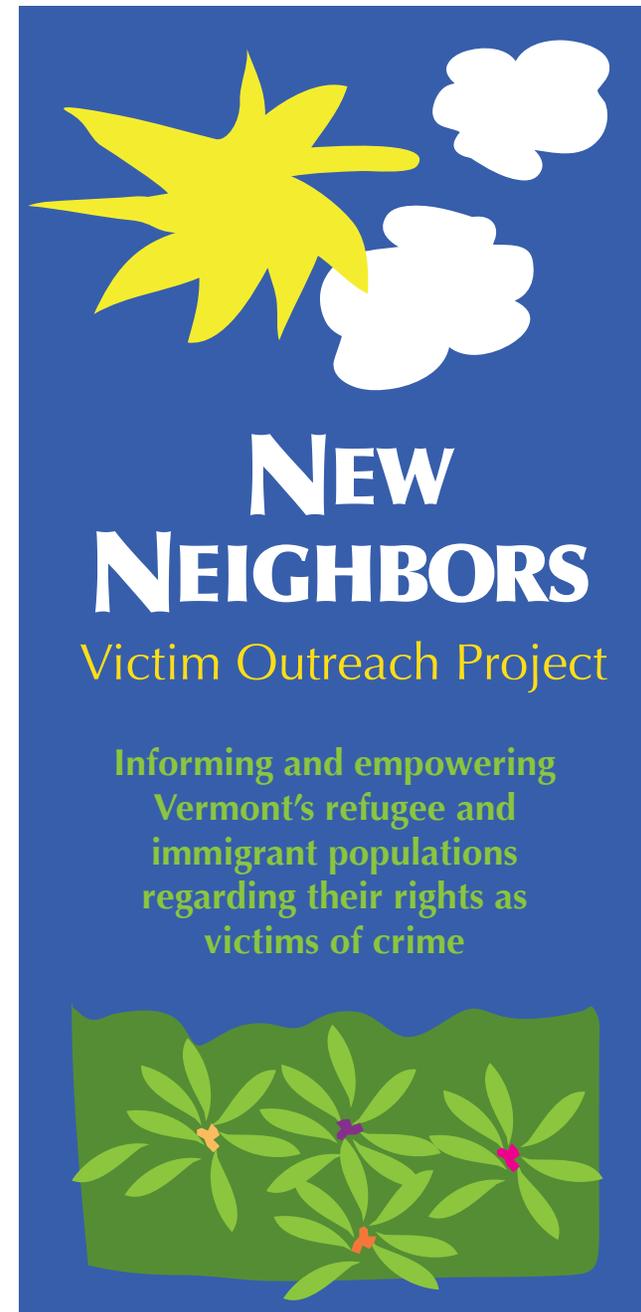


**NEW NEIGHBORS**  
Victim Outreach Project

## New Neighbors Victim Outreach Project Advisory Group

Vermont Migrant Education Program  
South Royalton Legal Clinic  
Vermont Human Rights Commission  
Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program  
Association of Africans Living in Vermont  
Somali Bantu Community Association  
Office of the State Refugee Coordinator,  
Agency of Human Services  
Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services  
Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates  
Awareness Theater Company, VSA Arts of Vermont  
Vermont Network Against Domestic and  
Sexual Violence  
WomenSafe  
Voices Against Violence  
Clarina Howard Nichols Center  
Women Helping Battered Women  
Women's Rape Crisis Center  
Central Vermont Farm Worker Coalition  
Addison County Migrant Workers Coalition  
Burlington Community Health Center  
Middlebury Police Department  
Burlington Police Department  
St. Albans Police Department  
Vermont State Police  
Addison County State's Attorney's Office  
Franklin County State's Attorney's Office  
Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office  
New England Survivors of Torture and Trauma  
Program

*This brochure was produced by the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services under Cooperative Agreement Award Number 2009-VF-GX-K013, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this brochure are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*



A project funded by the U.S. Dept. of Justice,  
Office for Victims of Crime

**Barbara Whitchurch, Project Director**  
bwhitchurch@ccvs.state.vt.us  
(802) 241-1250 ext.112  
[www.ccvs.state.vt.us/newneighbors](http://www.ccvs.state.vt.us/newneighbors)

Vermont has long encouraged tolerance, community support and citizen engagement. As a result, it has become a haven for oppressed people and those who serve them. In recent years, this has included a growing immigrant and refugee population – more per capita than any other northern border state.

For complex reasons, Vermont's immigrants and refugees are often afraid to seek assistance when they become victims of crime. Moreover, many are not aware of what constitutes a crime in this country, nor do they know that they have rights as victims of crime. Their need for specially adapted information about victims' rights and services has become urgent.

In October, 2009, the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services received funding from the federal Office for Victims of Crime to create a public awareness campaign addressing Vermont's immigrants, refugees and asylees: the New Neighbors Victim Outreach Project.

This project focuses on Chittenden, Addison and Franklin counties, which are home to nearly 80% of Vermont's immigrant and refugee population. The project timeline is October, 2009 through March, 2011.



## Goals of the New Neighbors Victim Outreach Project

- To provide culturally and linguistically accessible information to Vermont's immigrants, refugees and asylees, including:
  - their rights as victims of crime
  - basic immigration law
  - local resources and services
- To strengthen the existing network of programs who now serve Vermont's refugee and immigrant population by:
  - bringing these programs together as an Advisory Group to the project
  - forming a collaborative team to distribute information and enhance services to crime victims
- To train members of refugee and immigrant communities to participate as community advocates and liaisons to victim service programs

## New Neighbors Advisory Group

The project's Advisory Group consists of representatives from programs who assist immigrants at the state and local level, law enforcement, domestic and sexual violence programs, and both state- and community-based victim service programs (see back).

## Educational and Outreach Materials

With the assistance of our Advisory Group, the New Neighbors Victim Outreach Project will develop culturally and linguistically accessible materials in eight languages. We will distribute these materials through community centers, houses of worship, markets, schools, health centers, radio

stations, and other local venues. We will create printed materials in accessible formats, public service announcements, web-based videos, and articles in local foreign-language media.

## Theater

The Awareness Theater Company of VSA Arts of Vermont will create and perform a



traveling theater production and video in six languages! It will showcase performers from Vermont's immigrant and refugee communities, and will include music, dance and song from many cultures. The topics will include crime victimization, immigration issues, and where to get help. The play will be performed in 20 locations in Chittenden, Addison and Franklin counties. Copies of the performance video will be available to service providers and schools free of charge. Performance schedules will be posted at [www.ccvs.state.vt.us/newneighbors](http://www.ccvs.state.vt.us/newneighbors).

## Cross-training and local workshops

The New Neighbors Victim Outreach Project will offer a foundation-level training on victims' rights, victim services, cultural competency, and the criminal justice system.

Through this cross-training, refugee and immigrant service providers will learn the basics of victim services, while victim service providers will learn about how to best serve members of different cultural communities.