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Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations
2022 Annual Report

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MISSION

The Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board pledges to serve the needs of eligible victims of crime, and their dependents, who have suffered personal injury or death as the result of a violent crime. The Board and its staff recognize the special needs of those victimized by violent crime and accept the responsibility to provide financial assistance to victims who qualify under program guidelines. In this way, the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board and staff are committed to restoring the lives that have been impacted by violence.



GOALS

The goal of the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations program is to provide compensation for victims' unexpected expenses, such as medical treatment, mental-health counseling, rehabilitation, lost wages, replacement services, and funeral expenses.

ARKANSAS CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

On behalf of the entire Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board (ACVRB) and its staff members, it is my humble honor and great privilege to present the ACVRB 2022 Annual Report. This report covers the activities of the ACVRB from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. The Board and staff strive to provide timely and much-needed financial assistance to the citizens of Arkansas who have suffered personal injury or loss as a result of a violent crime.

This report overviews the ACVRB mission and goals, identifies Board members and staff, provides a summary of claims received and awarded, and covers total compensation paid out to Crime Victims and Sexual Assault Victims. The report also provides a county-by-county breakdown of the number of awarded claims and compensation received by citizens of each Arkansas county, some examples of types of financial assistance paid out by the ACVRB, and highlights and special activities of the year.

The ACVRB continues to be housed administratively under the Arkansas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and we are very grateful for continued DPS leadership and support! In particular, we want to thank Jami Cook and A.J. Gary, both of whom served this past year in the position of DPS Secretary; Lt. Colonel Timothy K'Nuckles, former and retired Deputy Director, Administrative Operations, Arkansas State Police; Lester Hankins, DPS former Chief of Staff; Cody Hiland, DPS former Attorney/Chief Legal Counsel; John Smith, DPS Chief Financial Officer; and Phillip Warriner, DPS Human Resources Administrator. Amanda Yarbrough continues to serve very capable as our DPS Staff Attorney and has been assisted by DPS Legal Services Specialist Kreasha Williams.

2022 saw some significant changes as well as accomplishments for the ACVRB!! Effective 1/1/22, the ACVRB was operating under newly promulgated rules that included the specific management of Sexual Assault Claims. As of 8/1/22, ACVRB claims are being filed electronically. Long-time ACVRB Administrator, Lynette Parham, retired on 10/31/22; she is thanked for her many years of service to the ACVRB!! Col. (Retired) USAF Steve Eggensperger has been appointed as Interim ACVRB Administrator, and he has been working efficiently to get approval for some part-time workers to assist ACVRB staff with working through a backlog of claims, particularly as regards to Sexual Assault. The ACVRB has been short-staffed for quite some time, but we recently added an additional full-time employee, which should also help speed up the processing of regular ACVRB claims. On another positive note, the ACVRB financial picture remains stable, with AOJ and VOCA grant funds, as well as general revenue funds committed annually to us by former Governor Asa Hutchinson.

Finally, the ACVRB is very proud of each and every one of the staff (Tonya Hooks, Gary McGee, Varnell Messer, Melinda Perkins, & Michaela Thomas) who work very diligently to serve the citizens of Arkansas!! And I would personally like to thank my fellow Board members (Bryce Brewer, Molly

Shepherd, Paula Steinsiek, and Lt. Eugene Tyree) for their tireless service and commitment to the ACVRB!

If you have any questions about the information contained in this report, or about the operations of the ACVRB, please contact the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board at 501-682-1020 or 501-682-1323.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Church, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters of the first name.

Janice K. Church, Ph.D., Chairman of the ACVRB

ARKANSAS CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD



Dr. Janice Church

Chairman

Little Rock

The Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Board was created by the legislature in 1987 in order to help minimize the financial burden realized by victims of violent crime. Since its inception, the Board has disbursed millions of dollars to crime victims. Although this financial assistance did not erase the scars left by violent crime, it did help many people to rebuild their lives.

ARKANSAS CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD



Molly Shepherd
Member
Attorney at Law



Bryce Brewer
Member
Attorney at Law



Lt. Eugene Tyree
Member
Victim Advocate



Paula Steinsiek
Member
Victim Advocate

ARKANSAS CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS BOARD

PAID AMOUNT

2022			
	<i>Received</i>	<i>Awarded</i>	<i>Amount Paid</i>
<i>Crime Victims</i>	630	259	\$1,048,853.19
<i>Sexual Assault</i>	1176	1,505	\$1,029,804.37
<i>Total Claims</i>	1806	*1,764	\$2,078,657.56

*THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS PROCESSED INCLUDES CLAIMS RECEIVED FROM THE PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR-DUE TO THE TURNAROUND PROCESS.



ARKANSAS CRIME VICTIMS REPARATIONS STAFF



Steve Eggenperger
Interim Administrator



Gary McGee
Investigator



Michaela Thomas
Investigator



Varnell Messer
Investigator



Tonya Hooks
Investigator



Melinda Perkins
Investigator

AWARDS BY COUNTY

	Claims	Total
Arkansas	22	\$21,697.76
Ashley	7	\$5,025.43
Baxter	52	\$33,246.57
Benton	176	\$163,000.47
Boone	39	\$27,006.41
Bradley	3	\$1,606.71
Calhoun	2	\$1,536.88
Carroll	19	\$13,123.62
Chicot	5	\$2,804.53
Clark	7	\$5,021.76
Clay	9	\$5,799.89
Cleburne	12	\$7,255.24
Cleveland	2	\$1,061.66
Columbia	4	\$12,744.63
Conway	4	\$4,607.68
Craighead	46	\$51,885.33
Crawford	42	\$44,739.84
Crittenden	42	\$107,109.20
Cross	4	\$1,849.16
Dallas	2	1,540.28
Desha	3	\$8,561.40
Drew	8	\$17,733.81
Faulkner	27	\$34,858.56
Franklin	7	\$7,862.26
Fulton	1	\$0
Garland	55	\$37,346.42
Grant	4	\$2,580.92
Greene	33	\$19,085.96
Hempstead	7	\$3,810.88
Hot Springs	14	\$9,855.66

	Claims	Total
Howard	0	\$0
Independence	29	\$24,827.78
Izard	11	\$7,345.26
Jackson	10	\$18,610.84
Jefferson	73	\$161,297.73
Johnson	13	\$9,977.59
Lafayette	0	\$0
Lawrence	13	\$6,385.27
Lee	1	\$7,179.00
Lincoln	2	\$652.46
Little River	3	\$1,950.00
Logan	13	\$9,940.28
Lonoke	59	\$38,003.10
Madison	13	\$23,679.89
Marion	12	\$14,774.54
Miller	21	\$39,481.10
Mississippi	14	\$22,077.02
Monroe	3	\$12,693.03
Montgomery	8	\$4,451.20
Nevada	6	\$4,368.77
Newton	7	\$4,163.66
Other State	1	\$900.00
Ouachita	6	\$7,581.30
Perry	2	\$1,750.03
Phillips	10	\$38,527.81
Pike	7	\$21,022.14
Poinsett	23	\$26,764.25
Polk	14	\$9,527.52
Pope	30	\$23,557.45
Prairie	7	\$4,367.40
Pulaski	243	\$404,496.64
Randolph	10	\$7,014.66
Saline	24	\$32,489.46

	Claims	Total
Scott	6	\$17,657.15
Searcy	7	\$4,438.20
Sebastian	138	\$111,634.13
Sevier	5	\$3,582.53
Sharp	6	\$18,062.21
St. Francis	15	\$42,856.01
Stone	9	\$10,268.09
Union	18	\$32,077.92
Van Buren	1	\$876.47
Washington	121	\$117,728.15
White	79	\$65,467.35
Woodruff	2	\$1,883.52
Yell	10	\$7,909.73
TOTAL	1764	\$2,078,657.56

VICTIM PAYOUTS

- A 58-year-old Sharp County woman was shot in her right hip by her boyfriend and died a few days later as a result. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with funeral expenses.
- A 42-year-old Bentonville woman was suffocated and burned by her live-in boyfriend who then killed himself. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with funeral expenses for the woman.
- A 57-year-old Springdale man was crossing a marked crosswalk when he was struck by an unknown driver. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with work loss.
- A 24-year-old Pulaski County man was shot and found deceased in the trunk of a burning vehicle. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with funeral expenses.
- A 22-year-old Booneville woman was fatally strangled and beaten during a domestic situation. The 21-year-old sister of the victim attended court proceedings regarding this crime and the Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with work loss.
- A 19-year-old Crittenden County man was shot and killed during an altercation between his cousins and neighbors. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with funeral expenses.
- A Pulaski County tender aged child was an innocent by-stander in a shootout at a local community park. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with funeral expenses.
- A 19-year-old Hot Springs man sustained head trauma after being assaulted by 2 suspects with a beer bottle. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist the family with medical expenses.
- A 39-year-old Union County woman lost partial vision and lost the use of her left hand when she was shot by her ex-boyfriend. The Crime Victims' Program was able to assist with medical expenses and work loss.
- A 28-year-old Crawford County woman appeared to show symptoms of PTSD after the FBI went public requesting information concerning a named individual who may have had ties to the kidnapping of her sister from back in 1995. The Crime Victim's Program was able to assist with mental health expenses.

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW CHAPTER



Lynette Parham
Administrator – Retired 10/31/22

Althea Lynette Parham started her journey with the Arkansas Crime Victims Reparations Program under the Attorney General Winston Bryant Administration 29 years ago. Starting out as an investigator she worked her way up to become the Administrator of the program. She served as Administrator from January 2015 to October 2022. Aside from leading the Crime Victims Division, she regularly provided trainings on the ACVRB program to law enforcement officers, medical provider, and other audiences across the state. Lynette was an active member of the Crime Victims Assistance Association of Arkansas (CVAAA) and was elected Treasurer. Lynette also served on the steering committee of the Arkansas Victim Assistance Academy.

On her last day, she was surprised with a “Drop in” Retirement Celebration where family, friends and current/previous colleagues dropped in to offer congratulations. Under the previous administration, the DPS Secretary A.J. Gary presented Lynette with a certificate from Governor Asa Hutchinson honoring her 29 years of service to the State of Arkansas and to the ACVRB. Sad but sweet, Lynette cannot wait to spend more time with her mom, siblings, 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She will be missed dearly.



A GLIMPSE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



Melinda Perkins and Varnell Messer visited the Black River Technical College in Pocahontas, AR to give a presentation to the AR Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETa).



On December 21, 2022, the UAMS Department of Pediatrics (section for Children at Risk) held a drop-in reception to honor Dr. Church's career as a psychologist with the Family Treatment Program. She decided to retire at the end of December having over 31 years of impactful work as an individual and family therapist, academician, state/national trainer, mentor, educator, administrator, advocate, and a friend/colleague.

Pictured (from left to right): Varnell Messer, Lynette Parham, Dr. Church, Michaela Thomas, and Melinda Perkins.