

ADVOCATE

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Point of View

Our focus on this month's newsletter is to expose the reality of gang violence. The following Point of View is an interview with a former Tri-City gang member who, for the sake of his safety, wished to have his name withheld. His answers are from the perspective as an active gang member and how gangs view their lifestyle. He no longer feels this way towards women and the gang life, but instead, has much regret for his past life, the pain he caused, and the crimes he committed as a gang member.

(Q) How did you get initiated?

(A) I was drunk, had just robbed a 7-11 and then I had to defend myself against 3-6 other gang members beating me up. I woke up in the middle of Memorial Park and had 2 fractured ribs, broken jaw, and a concussion.

(Q) How old were you?

(A) I was ten.

(Q) What would have prevented you from joining a gang?

(A) Maybe a father figure. But gangs were so prevalent in my neighborhood there was no way. Only a change in environment maybe.

(Q) What types of crimes did you and other gang members commit?

(A) Robbery, extortion, murder, car theft, assault, rape, any kind of crime and it was daily. In elementary, I used to get my backpack checked daily for drugs.

(Q) How do you get out of a gang?

(A) You don't. You can run away and leave. I'm not actively banging but I'll always be a gang member. It's who I am.

(Q) Do you live in the Tri-Cities now?

(A) No.

(Q) Would you commit a crime now if your gang asked you to?

(A) No. I'm a changed man.

(Q) What is the hardest thing you've been through?

(A) My best friend was killed in a drive by. He wasn't even a gang member. I carried his body a couple blocks until he expired. I was 14.

(Q) What do you think of gangs now?

(A) It's a myth that you can count on them, that they will be there for you. Lots of fine print joining a gang. I was 100% gang - they weren't. It was convenient for them, they get something out of it. They lack loyalty.

(Q) How do girls get initiated into a gang?

(A) Depends. If the girl is respected she gets beat up. Some girls get initiated by having sex.

(Q) What types of violence do gangs perpetrate against women?

(A) Guys beat up girls, rape them. I never did, but that's what happens in gangs. The girls don't care. They are attracted to the hustle and allure of the

lifestyle. We had money, cars, everything.

(Q) What are the gender roles in gang life?

(A) Depends on where you rate in the gang. We have a job to protect. Girls are sex objects. We are road rippers; we run the street, tear her up. Girls are used and discarded.

(Q) What kind of girls do gang members look for?

(A) They usually come to us. But we look for the "good girl" going to school. Straight "A" students then get them into a lifestyle of stealing, sex, and drugs.

Many gang members end up murdered or in prison. Even though this ex-gang member has turned his life around, he has spent most of his life in prison. He hopes to be an influence in others' lives by advocating against gang life.

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Gangs and Gender

We appreciate the courage it takes for the former gang member in the Point of View to be open and honest about his experiences in the gang. It also is helpful to shed some light on a topic that isn't always focused on and that is the role that women play in gangs. We want to ensure that in no way are we minimizing the impact that gang violence has on young men; however, it is also important to highlight the amount of trauma and victimization that girls experience in this type of lifestyle.

Gender Roles

An article entitled, "Violent Women and Violence Against Women" by Isabel Aguilar Umaña and Jeanne Ridders explain that the historical role of women in gangs is to serve the members as mothers, wives, girlfriends, etc and to be the bridge between the gang and the outside world. The article goes on to explain that the roles have evolved to women becoming more actively involved in the gang's criminal activities. It is difficult to explain whether or not this is due to a strategy of the gang or due to women attempting to claim more power within the gang. Women are generally less suspected of criminal activity and typically have less criminal history which can be helpful to the gang because consequences can be greatly reduced. Currently traditional roles of women in gangs are upheld as they are still seen as caregivers; however, in addition to being the caregiver they are also involved in the gang activity.

Gangs have a patriarchal design and are exaggerated by male domination. Aggression and violence are encouraged and built into the structure of the gang. Men often reinforce their domination and aggression through violence and especially violence against women. This violence, especially sexual violence, reinforces their role as a man and what it means to them to be a male gang member.

In addition to women's traditional maternal role in a gang they also often fall into the role where their bodies are used for sex; reproduction and domination. This objectification of women is a normal role for girls and gangs and not many rise to any level above this. Very few women will reach a high status in a gang where they are able to make decisions or have influence; however, they are still not seen in an equal capacity. Women often accept this role due to the normalization of it within their family and group of influence.



Women are also very isolated in the gang lifestyle because typically they view other women as rivals. Women may fight over a man or a position in the gang which leads to additional rivalries between female gang members. Women can also fall into a role of a victimizer. They might reach a certain level of status in a gang and/or have been tasked with "proving" their loyalty to the gang. This could mean, depending on the criminal activity of choice for the gang, that they will be responsible for recruiting other young women and involving them in crime. She could be involving other young girls in the drug trade, weapons, and/or prostitution. Often she will subject other young women to the same violence she was victimized by. This is difficult to explain because it is hard to understand for someone outside the gang culture that women are victimizing other young women and children. That is a perfect example of how society might stigmatize someone who is involved in the gang culture, because we are all programmed with our own ideas and biases about gender. In the gang culture women are part of maintaining loyalty and they play a role in the criminal enterprise. Violence and aggression are normal in the culture and it is expected that as an affiliate you participate in all aspects. Often members of the gang also have grown up in violent homes, have been victimized, or have poor role models that make the gang culture a "normal" lifestyle for them.

Violent Women and Violence Against Women: Gender Relations in the *Maras* and Other Street Gangs of Central America's Northern Triangle Region
By Isabel Aguilar Umaña and Jeanne Ridders, April 2012

Precipitating Factors for Gang Membership

A history of physical and sexual violence in the home is a very gender specific reason why girls join gangs. Girls will often equate the gang with a "safe place" or protection from their chaotic or dangerous home life. Some of the reasons that were listed in an article entitled, "It's About Time: Prevention and Intervention Services for Gang-Affiliated Girls" by Angela Wolf and Livier Gutierrez are: the gang provides friendship, care, love, and an escape from their broken homes. Unfortunately, many of the girls find that the same gang that offers these benefits are also responsible for their continued sexual objectification, victimization and exploitation.

http://www.nccdglobal.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdf/focus-its-about-time.pdf

Who are the GIRLS involved in gangs?

Three Groups of Gang-Affiliated Girls

- Girls in the prostitution “stable”; sometimes referred to as “homey-hoes”, “sleep-arounds”
- The female gang members (have more status than prior group)
- The “squares”; other girls who associate with gang members but are not actually in the gang (sister, cousin, girlfriend, gang groupie)

Areas of Recruitment

- Anywhere runaway/homeless youth frequent
- Malls, shopping areas, transit centers
- Schools, detention/juvy, at their job
- Online/Facebook

Briner, Leslie. “Project Respect Task Force and MDT Core Training”. Center for Children and Youth Justice. Columbia Basin College. Pasco, WA. 14 June 2013.



The symbols of the gang create a visual attraction for youth. Parties are also very useful ways for recruiters to seduce young people into the gang. At the party they have fun, get high, and have the myth of a “glamorous life” reinforced.

2. Subterfuge: Subterfuge is a misrepresentation of what the gang really is and what it stands for. The recruiters may identify at-risk kids who may not have a good family life and convince them that they aren't loved and that the club is there for them, the “club” will love them.

3. Obligation: Gang members will do a favor or make a loan of something to a prospective recruit and demand they give loyalty as payback. Often, these favors come in the form of protection or money.

4. Coercion: Forced or manipulated recruitment is an age old technique. This type of recruitment technique is typically used during large gang conflicts, or when there is a need to

generate money. Gangs are becoming more and more involved in the sale of prostitution or sexual exploitation. This might be the way they build their “stables” or prostitution rings.

5. Self Recruitment: For many reasons, youth will make contact with gang members and ask to join the gang. The reason may be one of necessity, money, protection etc.. The range of reasons for a youth to join a gang is very wide and does not always mean that he or she has joined the gang openheartedly.

http://people.missouristate.edu/MichaelCarlie/what_i_learned_about/gangs/recruitment_techniques.htm

IN THE NEWS

QUEENS, NY: (Junior High School) the gangs were so powerful that one female student was compelled to have sex with 17 boys, sometimes at school, and become a member, safety agent Rosemary Scott testified. Safety agents and school staff were unable to stop the humiliating process that left the girl under the control of the Bloods, a gang that terrorized the school, Scott said.

“She’s part of the gang, and the only way to get out is if they beat her up bad,” Scott said. “That’s her family now.”

Read more: <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/prostitution-violent-gangs-weapons-city-school-halls-safety-agent-suit-article-1.1278515#ixzz2kYAEcFnt>
www.bishopoutreach.com

RECRUITMENT

The following methods of recruitment are common ways that gangs utilize; however, each gang is different and might use different methods depending on the situation and individual.

1. Seduction: For a long time gangs have used this technique to recruit new members. They create glorified myths about the gang that are very attractive to youth, and very often these myths become the foundation for young aspirations. The most powerful of these myths, however, are the promises of money, sex, and glamour.

INITIATION

Once recruited, the initiation process is a violent one. You have to be able to prove your loyalty to the gang either by committing a crime or being victimized by severe violence. Often this process can include a severe beating from multiple members of the gang for an agreed amount of time. For girls, often they are “sexed” into a gang, where essentially the girl is gang raped by multiple male members. Committing crimes can range from theft, drive-by’s, to killing a rival gang member. Another aspect that might be required for girls is by selling their bodies as a form of loyalty. If the gang “chooses” a girl to become a potential income source then their initiation is going to include some sort of exploitation or sexual assault. That girl might be unaware that she will be required to remain in that type of role because that is part of the recruitment process. Once she becomes a member, she will be forced to be profitable and/or useful. The initiation process serves as an introduction to a life of violence, crime and danger.

THE ROLES

Women are exploited, or used, as sex objects or drug mules. In other words, they are given the dangerous jobs, like delivering drugs, and are expected to have sex with other gang members even if they don't want to. Other jobs for girls in gangs include:

- ◆ Spying, or being on the look-out for police during crimes
- ◆ Stealing
- ◆ Stripping and prostitution

THE DANGER

Women in gangs are not free or safe. It is very difficult for women to leave once a gang leader has control over them. Women in gangs run the risk of:

- Getting beat up
- Being arrested
- Suffering sexual exploitation, such as assault, unwanted pregnancies, and sexually-transmitted infections and diseases

<http://www.kidshelpline.ca/teens/infobooth/Violence-and-Abuse/Gangs/Girls-in-Gangs.aspx>



Hanging with a gang....**count the cost!** They've been beaten, stabbed and shot. They've been hospitalized and jailed. They've watched friends and family die violent deaths.

Why have these terrifying events taken place?

Because a single decision was made that changed the course of their lives: a choice to join a gang (Brewer & R. M., 1997).

- ◆ **Most gang members are between the ages of 8-12 when they join**
 - ◆ Most all regret their decision to join
- ◆ Most all would NOT advise a younger brother or sister or someone they cared about to join

PREVENTION

Everyone can have an impact on the prevention of gang membership. First we need to understand the risk factors for gang involvement. On the previous page we briefly mentioned some of these factors; however, to highlight the main ones again they are: childhood experiences of abuse, familial gang involvement, unhealthy and/or no relationships with parents, no positive role models, lower socio-economic status, gang involved neighborhood/environment, peer relationships with gang affiliated youth, drug/alcohol abuse, and searching for purpose/impressionable.

There have been multiple prevention programs created for youth. Since the average age of initiation/recruitment for gangs in the age range of 8-12 it is important to target those ages for prevention. Major research supports the idea of building healthy competencies in youth, similar to the SARC Prevention Programs from the previous *Advocate* Newsletter. One particular program that was mentioned several times in the research was the G.R.E.A.T. Program (Gang Resistance Education and Training, <http://www.great-online.org/>). There is a version of this program for elementary and middle school children and they focus on building competencies in children to strengthen their resistance to gang involvement. In addition to prevention programming it is essential to also assist youth in strengthening healthy relationships with adults and peers, involvement in afterschool programs/sports, and help them look toward the future with goal setting and planning.

Tips for Girls to Avoid Gangs:

- ◆ Avoid association with gang members
- ◆ Avoid romantic relationships with gang members
- ◆ Educate yourself about the reality of gang involvement
- ◆ Travel in groups or with friends
- ◆ Do not wear "gang attire" or colors
- ◆ Do not use gang lingo or signs
- ◆ Get involved in extra-curricular activities e.g.; sports, clubs, volunteer work, a part-time job, etc
- ◆ Maintain an open and honest relationship with your parents
- ◆ Encourage involvement with a mentor or positive role model
- ◆ Educate youth about abuse and identify support systems for help
- ◆ Set life goals and aspirations (e.g. attending college, becoming an athlete, getting good grades, etc)
- ◆ Report gang violence and/ or activity to parents, school, mentor, or local police department



<http://www.ncpc.org/training/training-topics/project-safe-neighborhoods-1/girls-in-gangs-1/tips-for-girls-to-avoid-gangs>

If you do nothing, that just empowers the gangs.
—Curtis Sliwa, founder, Guardian

*The following was written by incarcerated boys with self proclaimed gang affiliation between the ages of **13-16** and represent seven different gangs in the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas:*

10 REASONS WHY GANG MEMBERS CHOOSE TO JOIN THEIR GANG

1. I grew up with gangs. My older brother and cousins are in it.
2. I never had a dad to do things with or tell me what to do.
3. So I'd have friends to watch my back.
4. It's an expression of art...the tagging, the clothes.
5. For the money, drugs, parties, and fights.
6. To gain respect.
7. To be somebody.
8. They're like my family...something to belong to.
9. My friends are in the gang.
10. For a sense of cultural pride.

10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD NOT JOIN A GANG

1. It may cost you your life.
2. It may cost the lives of your family or friends.
3. You may be permanently injured.
4. You may end up severely hurting or even killing someone.
5. You will most likely do lock-up time and end up with a criminal record.
6. Once you join, you always have to watch your back.
7. You'll be put in situations you don't want to be in. Too many risks.
8. It's a waste of time.
9. It will mess with your education, your job, your future.
10. The police know who you are and are always watching you.

(Brewer, Cap Rap, 1997)



Changing the Course of Young People's Future

CDC and NIJ Book Guides Gang-Joining Prevention Efforts: Stopping youth gang involvement requires public health and public safety professionals working together. *Changing Course: Preventing Gang Membership* provides insights into risk factors for kids joining gangs and offers principles for prevention to change the course of the future for young people. *Changing Course* explores the important nexus of public safety and public health in preventing kids from joining gangs. Community leaders and practitioners are invited to engage in a new way of thinking about this nexus — and to put into practice evidence-based principles and practices

that can halt the cascading impact of gangs on kids, families, neighborhoods, and society.

The book's goal is to help community leaders, police officers, teachers, and community-services providers to better understand what research says about keeping kids out of gangs and to make informed decisions about how to best use limited resources to prevent gang joining. To change the course, it is important to look beyond individual-level risk factors to consider factors within families, schools, and communities that influence joining a gang. Opportunities and principles for prevention are described at each level.

For more info visit: www.cdc.gov

Interested in Anti-Gang Training?

Check out the links below for dates and locations:

Training and Conferences

- ◆ <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/About/Other-Training-and-Conferences>

Law Enforcement Anti-Gang Training

- ◆ <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Training-and-Technical-Assistance/Law-Enforcement-Angels>

Where to go for help?

If you or someone you know is involved in a gang, talk to a trusted adult or call your local teen crisis hotline for help on getting out. The National Center for Victims of Crime Helpline: **800-FYI-CALL**

Local Response to Gangs: In Benton and Franklin Counties there is a coordinated effort among law enforcement to combat gang violence. Each individual agency has an officer/deputy or team focused on this issue and in addition, they also work together on a response unit that often collaborates when the need arises.

Apart from law enforcement, other efforts targeted to decrease gang violence in our community are; F.I.R.M.E. Outreach and the Pasco Discovery Coalition. The coalition is a multi-disciplinary team of professionals that are engaging the community to help reduce the violence in targeted neighborhoods. F.I.R.M.E. Outreach is a local organization that works directly with youth and adults who are gang affiliated or at-risk and provide individualized services to assist with their rehabilitation and mentorship. F.I.R.M.E. stands for Finding, Impacting, Redirecting gangs through Mentorship and Education. Lastly, the Kennewick Police Department is currently running a pilot test of the G.R.E.A.T. Program at Eastgate Elementary School with the hope that they will be able to continue longer term. For more information about this topic please call SARC at (509) 374-5391.



Crime Victim Service Center

The Vigilant Corner

Winter 2013

Crimes

- Assault
- Child Physical Abuse
- DUI/DWI Crashes
- Elder Abuse
- Fraud
- Hate Crimes
- Human Trafficking
- Identity Theft
- Kidnapping/Missing persons
- Property Crimes
- Robbery
- Survivors of Homicide or victims of Attempted Homicide
- Vehicular Assault

All crimes other than sexual assault or domestic violence.

Gang Violence

It is unfortunate but gang activity in the Tri-Cities is in fact true. Graffiti, you see it on our streets while driving or walking by. On the news with stories of stabbings and shootings caused by gang members, and in our local schools with students claiming a certain group dressing up in the color of their gang.

Gang activity affects our schools, streets, and neighborhoods each and every day. Gang members are part of violent and non-violent crimes. According to the FBI, there are an estimated 1.4 million active street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle gang members in more than 33,000 gangs operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. (Those numbers reflect an increase from 2009 figures, due primarily to more comprehensive reporting from law enforcement and enhanced gang recruiting efforts.)

FBI 2011 National Gang Threat Association. (2011, October 21). *The continuing gang threat*. Retrieved from <http://fbi.gov/new/stories/2011/october/gangs/102011>

Stories About Gang Violence

A Mother's Struggle (true story):

“My son was about 12 years old when he joined a local gang. My daughter was about 14. My kids would rarely come around, they would disappear for days. They would suddenly come home to eat, change their clothes and leave again. I begged them to stay but they had no respect for me. Sometimes they wouldn't even come home for weeks. I would wonder where they were, were they safe? Were they hurt or even worse, gone for good? Would I get a visit from the police giving me the worst news a parent could get? Were they hurting innocent people?... They began to drink alcohol and use drugs. People that knew me would inform me they would see my kids on the streets. Every day and night I prayed for God to protect them wherever they were, and hoped for them to come home and stay home where they belonged. The times he would come home, he would be injured. He would have abrasions all over his body. The injuries were obviously caused by other gang members, his rivals. He was in and out of juvy. While in juvy I knew he was safer there than on the streets. As soon as he would get out of juvy he would go back to his gang life. Once he was old enough, he was in and out of jail. My son never finished school. He finally got his GED while in prison. To this day, he struggles to get a good job because of his background. My daughter, however, finally made the decision of going to an alternative school to graduate. She realized the gang life was hurting me, but it was hurting her even more. She graduated and went off to the military.”

By: Local Pasco Resident

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Stories About Gang Violence (Continued)

A Sister's Story:

"When I was a little girl, I remember my mom always crying and praying for my brother. Praying for safety wherever he would find himself. My mom would go weeks without hearing from my brother. Not knowing if he was safe or killed by other game members was a daily wonder for her. Watching how much my mom hurt was a struggle for me and my siblings. The times our brother would come home he would disrespect our mom with negative comments all because she would beg him to get out of the gang life, and want him to live a peaceful and happy life with the rest of us. My mom was a single parent of six children! She did everything possible to spend time with all of us, but as a single parent she had to work to support us. Once my mom married our step dad it was too late for my older brother. He was 14 years old and already in the gang life. Having a dad in the picture didn't matter to our brother. He called his gang "his family". It came to the point where he was in and out of the juvenile center, then jail once he turned 18 in and out of jail, and finally the prison life, on and off."

By: Local Pasco Resident



Ex-Gang member's Story:

"I was very anti-authority. I didn't want people to tell me what to do. Because I had a very bad upbringing from my parents, you see, and if my parents couldn't tell me what to do, nobody was gonna tell me what to do. So I just made it with my law. I didn't care about nothing, really. I didn't know the value of life. I wasn't taught it. I was kicked out of school when I was 14, no other school would accept me. I was a really bad person. They gave me homing tuition and I flung that out the window. They put me into a special school, I refused to go. They put me in a school for bad behaved boys, I went there for a few weeks, I thought wow, this is a load of crap and I walked out. You know sometimes, at the age I am now I wish I could turn back the hand of time and just do things again. Obviously you can't but what I can do now is make my future better."

"Nowadays it's all about stature, right. They like to be recognized. They need to be noticed. They need to have power over other people. It's not about who's making more money, it's about. 'You come near me, I'm going to hurt you'. Who's badder than who. They will pull out a knife, stab you. They will shoot you. I don't know where they're getting their guns from. These little boys, it's unbelievable what kind of weapons they've got now."

"I'm not proud of what I've done in my past, but I'm not ashamed of what I done because it makes me the man I am now. I can stand now and talk with a history of what I've done and show them, look, it does not pay off. It doesn't pay off. The only way I could have gone was death."

Retrieved from: Little Boys With Guns:An- Interview With An Ex-gang Member. May 14, 2013. By Bella Reid
<http://www.litro.co.uk/2013/05/little-boys-with-guns-an-interview-with-an-ex-gang-member/>



WHAT IS A GANG?

According to the Department of Justice the term GANG is defined as an association of three or more individuals whose members collectively identify themselves by adopting a group identity, which they use to create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation, frequently by employing one or more of the following: a common name, slogan, identifying sign, symbol, tattoo or other physical marking, style or color of clothing, hairstyle, hand sign or graffiti; whose purpose in part is to engage in criminal activity and which uses violence or intimidation to further its criminal objectives.

<http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/gangs-organized/gangs/definitions.htm>

Identifying Gangs

Identifying a Gang Member

- Gang members can be identified by the colors they wear.
- Graffiti is used to either communicate with each other or to send messages to rivals, and provoke fear amongst community members.
- Tattoos are placed on their bodies as a representation of their group.
- Symbols and Numbers are of high importance and can be found on clothing, jewelry, tattoos, and graffiti.
- Hand signs are used for representation.
- Slang is used to either communicate within their group, or to insult rivals.
- Nicknames are given to members once they are part of the group.

Gang Facts. <http://www.gangfree.org/gangfree/>

Below are three gangs that are known to be in the Tri-Cities with some more detailed information. In addition, there is also a list of documented gangs and cliques that are also in the Tri-Cities. The list is generated from an organization called Northwest Gangs and the detailed information is generated from a presentation created by Jesse Campos, Director of FIRME Gang Outreach.

Norteños



Race: Mostly Hispanic, Caucasian
 Colors: Red
 Symbols: Norte, 14, X4, XIV, Huelga Bird, 4 Dots
 Largest Cliques/Sets: La Raza, North Side Locos, North Side Villains
 Territory: Found all over the Northwest. Very strong in Eastern Washington, Vancouver WA, Nampa Idaho and Medford Oregon

Sureños



Race: Mostly Hispanic, Caucasian
 Colors: Blue
 Symbols: SUR, 13, X3, XIII, La Eme, 3 dots
 Largest Cliques/Sets: Little Valley Locos, Florencia 13 (F-13), Pocos Locos, Vatos Locos and Varrio Locos
 Territory: Found all over the Northwest. Very strong in Eastern Washington, Skagit County and the Portland Area

18th Street



Race: Mostly Hispanic, but open to any race.
 Colors: Black & Blue
 Symbols: XV3, XVIII, 666, B.E.S.T. (Barrio Eighteenth STreet), Dieciocho (18)
 Largest Cliques/Sets: Shatto Park Locos, Wicked Gangsters, Tokers, 54th Tiny Locos, Tiny Winos, 7th & Broadway
 Territory: Found all over the Northwest. Very strong in Walla Walla Washington, Grant County WA, Ontario Oregon, and the Portland-Salem Area

Local Gangs and Cliques

- | | |
|---|---|
| Bell Gardens Lokotes 13
Florencia 13
Los Malos
Gangster Disciple Nation
East Side Folks
Little Valley Lokotes 13
Los Cholitos Chingones 13
Mexicans Pride Surenos 13
Mexicans Stand Proud 13
Norte Reales 14
Tokers | Original Loko Boyz 44 Block (Asian Bloods)
Proud Surenos Lokotes 13
Rollin' 60s Neighborhood Crips
Rollin' 90s Neighborhood Crips
South Side Locos 13
Surenos Por Vida 13
Varrio Sur Trece 13
Varrio Ratt Pack 13
West Side 18th Street |
|---|---|

Information retrieved from: Eastern Washington Gangs: <http://nwgangs.com/eastern-wa-gangs.html>

Local Facts

In the Tri-City area there are 1,000 + gang members and 30+ separate gangs.

Benton/Franklin County statistics from 2010:

- ◆ 9-35% of calls for service to law enforcement were gang related (percentage depended on location).
- ◆ One substantiated gang-related homicide
- ◆ Law enforcement responded to 15 Drive-By Shootings
- ◆ Police responded to 306 gang-related Vehicle Thefts

(Information Derived from a report provided by the Benton County Sheriff's Department)



Kennewick Police Department Gang-Related Crimes

Crime Type	2011	2012
Aggravated Assault	5	8
Drive-By	3	6
Firearm	1	6
Assault	3	2
Weapon	2	5
Riot	3	5
Other	0	4
Total	17	36

These statistics represent all of the gang related crimes that police responded to within Kennewick City limits for the years listed. Total gang related crimes for the Kennewick Police Department have increased by 53% from 2011 to 2012. We did obtain statistics from other jurisdictions; however, from our general understanding gang-related crime statistics are increasing throughout the Tri-Cities and impacting all the police agencies.

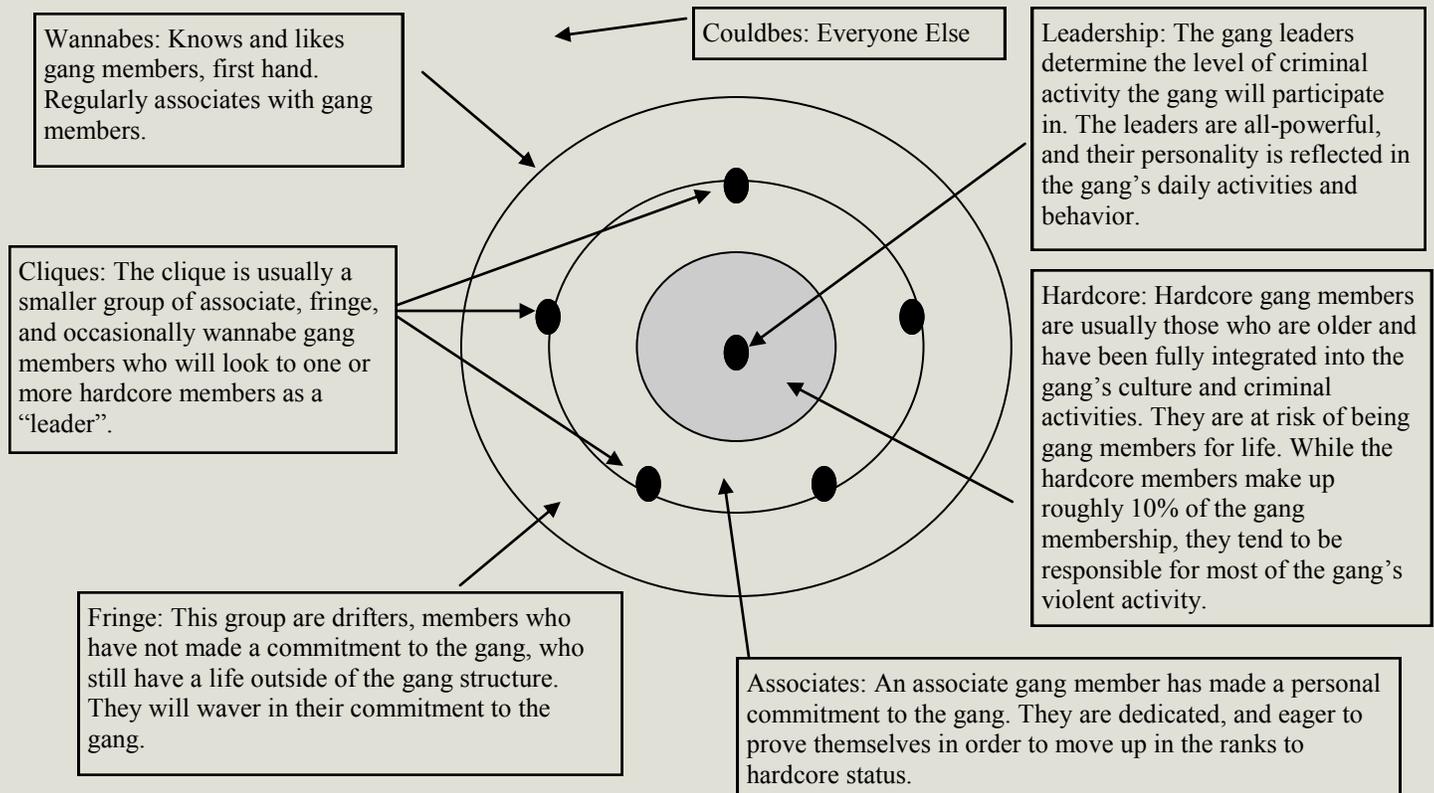
The Cost of Gangs

- ◆ According to our local Benton County Jail, in 2010 Benton County spent a total of \$1.25 million to house just 50 gang members.
 - ◆ 8% of the average daily population of the Benton County Jail are members of a gang. That percentage represents, on average, approximately 50 inmates. That does not calculate the amount of inmates that are contracted into the jail.
 - ◆ Prosecution: Average yearly cost for indigent gang defense in the court systems within Benton County is \$86,448 (misdemeanor & minor felony).
 - ◆ It is estimated that the cost of prosecuting a homicide is between \$250,000-\$450,000.
- (Information Derived from a report provided by the Benton County Sheriff's Dept.)

National Facts

- ◆ Gangs are responsible for an average of 48 percent of violent crime in most jurisdictions
 - ◆ Gangs are increasingly engaging in non-traditional gang related crimes like alien smuggling, human trafficking, and prostitution, as well as white-collar crimes like counterfeiting, identity theft, and mortgage fraud
 - ◆ Gangs are becoming increasingly adaptable and sophisticated, utilizing technology including social networking websites to carry out criminal activity and connect with other gang members, criminal organizations, and potential recruits
- (FBI 2011 National Gang Threat Association. (2011, October 21). *The continuing gang threat*. Retrieved from <http://fbi.gov/new/stories/2011/october/gangs/102011>)

Gang Structure



Information derived from: <http://www.criminaljusticedegree.net/resources/guide-to-gangs/>

GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES, AND CONCERNED ADULTS

- Be actively involved in your children's school life — attend school functions, keep in contact with teachers, find out about and use school support services (such as guidance counselors, social workers, school resource officers).
- Know where your children are at all times and schedule activities to occupy their free time.
- Do everything possible to involve children in supervised, positive activities, particularly while you are at work — school clubs, extra-curricular activities, after-school academic or cultural enrichment programs.
- Make sure you have a plan to communicate and touch base with your child when you are at work and a backup contact if you are unavailable.
- Plan family activities with your children whether it be simple ones at home like having meals together or trips.
- Praise your children for doing well and encourage them to do their

best.

- Teach children to set positive goals, to hold high standards and to prepare for a positive future.
- Get to know your children's friends and their parents.
- Set limits for your children and enforce them.
- Do not allow your children to dress in gang-style clothing, to practice gang hand signs or write gang graffiti on any surface, including their bodies.
- Explain to your child that a very small percentage of youth join gangs.
- Make sure your children understand that you are against gangs. Communicate openly with them about gangs. Read them articles and discuss the consequences of being part of a gang.
- Be a positive role model.



Retrieved from: April 17, 2013 . Gang Prevention: What Can I Do as a Parent or Concerned Adult? <http://ganginterventionconsulting.com/gang-prevention-what-can-i-do-as-a-parent-or-concerned-adult/>

Quote for this newsletter:

“Every person has free choice. Free to obey or disobey the Natural Laws. Your choice determines the consequences. Nobody ever did, or ever will, escape the consequences of his choices.”

-Alfred A. Montapert

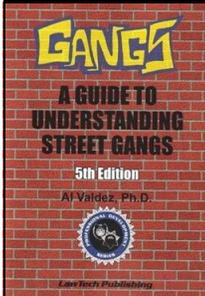
The Vigilant Corner

The Vigilant Corner

If you would like to know more about the topic addressed in this issue of The Vigilant, please don't hesitate to contact the Crime Victim Service Center (509)374-0130

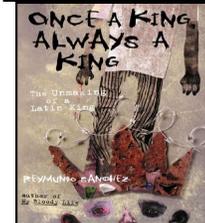


Recommended Books on Gang Violence



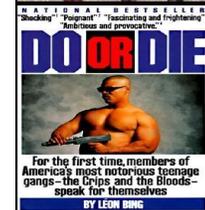
Gangs: A Guide To Understanding Street Gangs
By: Al Valdez

This popular text is a comprehensive guide for law enforcement and criminal justice-related professionals, mental health professionals, teachers and parents. It includes gang life style, sociology and characteristics of: Latino, Asian, African-American, White Supremacists, Prison, Outlaw Motorcycle, Occult and Hybrid gangs. The author, Al Valdez, had been in law enforcement for over 17 years and has presented formal gang training to hundreds of police officers, investigators and probation officers, as well as gang awareness classes for parents and teachers.



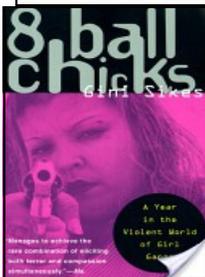
Once A King Always A King: The Unmaking Of A King
By: Reymundo Sánchez

Reymundo Sánchez talks about his struggle to create a “normal” life outside the Latin Kings, one of the nation's most notorious street gangs, and to move beyond his past. Sanchez illustrates how the Latin King motto “once a king, always a king” rings true and details the difficulty and danger of leaving that life behind.



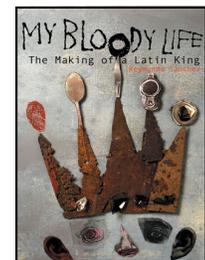
Do or Die
By: Leon Bing

Do or Die is the first insider account of teenage gangs--the lives, loves, and battles of children who kill--from the only journalist ever allowed inside this closed and dangerous world.



8 Ball Chicks
By: Gini Sikes

Dismissed by the police as mere adjuncts to or gofers for male gangs, girl gang members are in fact often as emotionally closed off and dangerous as their male counterparts. Carrying razor blades in their mouths and guns in their jackets for defense, they initiate drive-by shootings, carry out car jacking, stomp outsiders who stumble onto or dare to enter the neighborhood, viciously retaliate against other gangs and ferociously guard their home turf.



My Bloody Life: The Making of a Latin King
By: Reymundo Sánchez

Looking for an escape from childhood abuse, Reymundo Sanchez turned away from school and baseball to drugs, alcohol, and then sex, and was left to fend for himself before age 14. The Latin Kings, one of the largest and most notorious street gangs in America, became his refuge and his world, but its violence cost him friends, freedom, self-respect, and nearly his life.

REMINDER: All CVSC library books and videos are free to checkout.

Crime Victim Service Center

The Crime Victim Service Center (CVSC) is designed to offer services to crime victims and their non-offending family members, friends, secondary victims, and witnesses to crime. CVSC provides services to victims of crime including; assault, homicide, burglary, robbery, kidnapping, elder abuse, child abuse, identity theft, trafficking, and gang violence. CVSC is a program of the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center of Benton/Franklin Counties in Collaboration with the YWCA of Lewiston/Clarkston and the Walla Walla Police Department. The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center (SARC) is a non-profit United Way Community Partner. SARC

has served Benton and Franklin Counties since 1977. SARC's mission is to provide crisis services, support, and advocacy to victims of all non-domestic violence crimes, non-offending family members, and others who are impacted by crime. We strive to create and maintain a community without violence through prevention-based education. The YWCA of Lewiston/Clarkston is a private, non-profit social service organization that operates a comprehensive crisis intervention program serving residents of Asotin, Garfield, and Columbia Counties. The YWCA is committed to providing direct services for victims, educating the public and advo-

cating for social change to improve the quality of life in our communities. The Walla Walla County Crime Victim Service Center is located within the Walla Walla Police Department. You do not need to file a police report to contact one of the victim advocates. The Walla Walla CVSC handles all crimes except sexual assault and domestic violence.

24-Hour Crisis
Line
Benton,
Franklin,
Columbia,
Garfield and
Asotin
Counties

1-888-9-VICTIM

WE'RE ON THE WEB
CRIMEVICTIMSERVICECENTER.ORG

The Crime Victim Service Center (CVSC) is here to help you. CVSC is available 24-hours a day to assist anyone who has questions or concerns about crime and the confusion that comes along with being a victim of a crime. CVSC services are free of charge and are confidential. Please contact CVSC at (509) 374-0130 for information or to access the following services.

Services

Legal and Medical Advocacy

Our agency staff respond to hospital calls to provide medical advocacy to victims of crime. We also provide legal advocacy at police interviews and court proceedings. Moral support and information is given to victims, family, friends, and witnesses to crime.

Crisis Intervention

Our staff provides short-term crisis intervention to clients. Advocates provide information, support, and validation for the client's feelings. We often recommend that clients seek additional therapy to assist in the healing process.

Library Resources

Some CVSC Programs have a wide collection of books on the topic of crime and issues surrounding crime victimization. These resources are available for CVSC clients and the general public.

Crisis Line

CVSC advocates are available 24-hours a day to answer questions, or simply provide support if you just need someone to listen. This line also serves as a point of contact for clients who may need immediate emergency assistance.

Referral Services

Our staff is able to assist clients in finding resources and information related to their victimization.

Therapy Referrals

Referrals are available for longer

term counseling or if another counselor would better meet the needs of the client. We have information regarding payment options; sliding fee scales, Provider One ("medical coupon"), and Crime Victims Compensation; a program through Washington State Labor & Industries.



RCW 7.69.030

Right of victims, survivors, and witnesses

(9) "To have a crime victim advocate from a crime victim/witness program present at any prosecutorial or defense interviews with the victim, and at any judicial proceedings related to criminal acts committed against the victim..."

SARC Program Reports

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

First Quarter Program Statistics

SARC's Crisis Program started the year off fairly busy. We ended the first quarter with 108 new clients, a 22% increase. The increase in clients appears to have impacted our teenage clients because we have jumped up 32% and all other age groups stayed fairly close to the amount from last year. The locations that the clients are coming from have stayed fairly constant, with the exception of Pasco and West Richland. Clients from Pasco increased 42% during the first quarter and clients from West Richland went from 1 during last year's first quarter to 5 this year. Our intake appointments with clients have been more productive with services this year as we have ended the quarter with 303 services compared to 230 for last year. There have also been increases across the board with client follow-up; the total follow-up services for 1st quarter were 1,814 compared to 1,172 for last year (35% increase). Since there was such a large increase for follow-up services I would expect that the time invested into follow-up would increase or be at least comparable to last year; however, we had a decrease of 12%. That means that the services we are providing we are doing so in an efficient, time saving manner. The advocates have done an amazing job during the first quarter keeping up with the client work and maintaining a positive attitude!

Ages of Victims	2012-13 1st Qtr	2013-14 1st Qtr
Age 0-5	20	21
Age 6-11	18	22
Age 12-18	23	34
Age 19+	23	30
Age 65+	0	1
Total	84	108

The **Crime Victim Service Center** saw 49 new clients a 43% increase from last year. The crime types that increased this year were assault (36%), vehicular assault (30%), and homicide (90%). The decreased crime types were child physical abuse (54%) and property crimes (75%). The clients from Pasco increased by 52% and in Kennewick by 47%. Total services offered to clients during the 1st quarter were 1,261 a 21% increase and a 9% increase on total contacts made on behalf of clients.

Kid's Haven interviews are up 8% for the first quarter this year. Several law enforcement agencies are seeing the benefit of interviewing witnesses at Kid's Haven and that shows in the 1st quarter stats; we saw 11 interviews compared to 0 for last year. In addition to witnesses, another area that stands out is the interviews of children ages 13-18 those have expanded by 61%.

Prevention Program: The first quarter started out great this fiscal year. We ended September facilitating a total of 127 programs, just a few below last year. The total audience for the first quarter increased 16% compared to last year. More specifically, we saw a 44% increase in the K-2nd grade audience, 50% increase in the 3rd-5th grade audience, and 56% increase in the 9th-12th grade audience. The decreases for first quarter generated from the 6th-8th grade audience and the Harassment and Bullying Prevention Program (35% decrease). We did have a difference in school requests this year compared to last; last September we facilitated the HBP Program to Desert Hills Middle School which generated a large number of presentations and audience number. This year we have been presenting Ochoa Middle School, less presentations, larger classroom sizes. Even though the total amount of presentations reduced, it is great to see that we are reaching so many more audience members. We have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of new events and new schools starting out this year.

Some of the opportunities include:

- Lewis & Clark Elementary School
- Lamb Weston Employee Resource Fair
- Boys & Girls Teen Center
- 9/11 Memorial Event
- Reach Out! Resource Event for Those in Recovery
- Educational Edge Booth

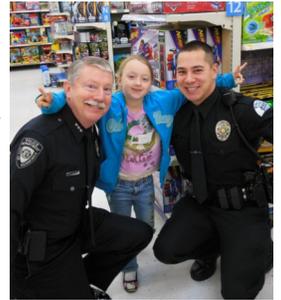
Program Name	1st Qtr
Safe Bodies, Healthy Minds	30
Personal Body Safety	7
Technology Safety	4
Harassment and Bullying Prevention	55
Creating Healthy Relationships	4
Other	0
SARC Services	22
United Way	5
Total	127

Volunteers Needed: If you or someone you know are looking for an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life or to give to your community, here is your chance. The Winter 2014 Volunteer Advocate Training for the Support, Advocacy & Resource Center (SARC) will be held from January 27th, 2014 through February 12th, 2014 for a total of 32 hours. SARC is in great need for volunteers at this time, especially bilingual, Spanish speaking, volunteers! SARC relies on community volunteers to help run its 24-hour hotline. It's easy and you can do it from the comforts of your own home. To be an on-call crisis advocate, all you need is a cell or home phone number and the answering service connects you to the caller. Or, if you are able and willing to meet with clients face to face, you can sign up to be an on-call hospital advocate. This 32-hour training is designed to give volunteers the tools they need to work with victims and their families. For more information on the many ways you can volunteer, please call Renee Blackman at (509) 374-5391 or email rblackman@myfrontiermail.com to find out how you can make a difference.



Christmas Programs

The holiday season is especially difficult for SARC's clients. Many of the families that are connected to SARC are having extreme financial difficulties as a result of the sexual abuse and often covering basic needs is difficult for the non-offending family members to fulfill. There are two ways that clients are connected to help during the holiday season; The Cops & Kids Program and through Christmas Sponsors.



The Cops and Kids Program is a very unique experience for the children we work with. Kids are paired up with an officer and given a Wal-Mart gift card to shop for Christmas presents for their family members. After they choose all the gifts, with the help from the officer, they are wrapped and labeled. Finally all the children get to visit Santa and they also receive a gift for themselves. This year the event was held on December 7th and 20 of SARC's clients participated!



Christmas Sponsorships: Every year we have exceptional community members volunteer to sponsor a SARC family for Christmas.



Sponsorships can include Christmas dinner, presents for the children, household items, up to items such as furniture or housework. It is so special to see what an impact that makes for the families that SARC works with because it is likely that without the sponsorship they wouldn't be having Christmas. This year our sponsors have supported a total of 21 families!

Thank You!

We would like to extend thanks to both the Christmas Sponsors and the Cops and Kids Organizers: Sgt. Mark Weber, KPD, Fraternal Order of Police, Wal-Mart, Parish of the Holy Spirit, The

Douglas Family, The Littrell Family, The Moore Family, The Dress Family, The Sanchez Family, Envirocon (Mike Savage & Whitney Sexsmith), The Tejada Family, Desert Hills Middle School (Leslie Sievers), MSA & URS Craft, Calvary Faith Walk Church, Tribe of Judah Motorcycle Ministries (Carrie Kever).

Happy Holidays!

This year, SARC invites our readers and supporters to participate in an effort against sexual assault by asking for holiday season and Sexual Assault Awareness Week donations. These donations can include everything from a monetary donation to donating your time. Your dollars and time are extremely important in providing crisis and prevention services within Benton and Franklin Counties. Please take a moment to consider how meaningful a contribution will be to our agency and send your gift to:

Support, Advocacy & Resource Center
830 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Suite H
Kennewick, WA 99336

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

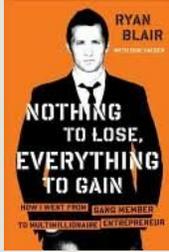
Please accept my donation of:
\$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$ _____

To go toward: (circle one) Crisis Program Prevention Program Kids Haven Program

Please accept my donation of time for the event I would like to be a part of:
(We will call closer to March for exact days)
Strides of Strength Little People Project Kids Haven Benefit Auction

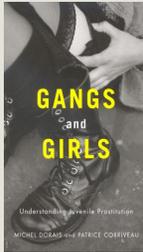
Please detach and return with your donation, Thank You!

Resources for Adults



Nothing to Lose, Everything to Gain
By: Ryan Blair

The incredible story of a gang member who became a multimillionaire CEO. Ryan Blair's middle-class upbringing came to an abrupt end when his father succumbed to drug addiction and abandoned his family. Blair and his mother moved to a dangerous neighborhood, and soon he was in and out of juvenile detention, joining a gang just to survive. Then his mother fell in love with a successful entrepreneur who took Ryan under his wing. With his mentor's help, Blair turned himself into a wildly successful multimillionaire, starting and selling three companies worth hundreds of millions of dollars. This book will inspire and guide people who are willing to do whatever necessary-hard work, long hours, sweat equity-to take their vision from paper to pavement. Blair gives readers a road map for successful entrepreneurship.

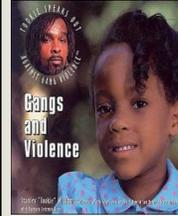


Gangs and Girls: Understanding Juvenile Prostitution
By: Michel Dorais & Patrice Corriveau

They discuss how young men are drawn to gang life, how young girls become attracted and attached to the gang members who eventually sell them into prostitution, and why it is so hard to infiltrate and dismantle the distinct but interrelated worlds of the procurer, victim, and client. Rooted firmly in first person testimony, this research deepens our understanding of juvenile prostitution by identifying and exploring the types of motivations and circumstances that lead teenagers into prostitution rings.

The ultimate focus is on prevention: the authors provide essential tools for parents and those trying to help adolescents in peril, support and intervention strategies for practitioners, and the tools and information necessary for policy makers to reflect on and design innovative social policy.

Resources for Children



GANGS AND VIOLENCE
By: Stanley Tookie Williams & Barbara Cottman Becnel
(Joint Author)

A founder of the Crips in Los Angeles introduces kids to the dangers of belonging to a gang.

Too many kids don't realize how destructive gangs are until it's too late. This book gives the very realistic picture children need to make good choices.

This unique series is written by Stanley "Tookie" Williams, the cofounder of the infamous Los Angeles gang the Crips. Mr. Williams is currently on death row in San Quentin State Prison. His greatest wish is to reach out to children with these books so that kids do not follow in his footsteps and make the same mistakes he did.

His authentic voice will be a powerful message to an audience that desperately needs to hear it.



Mid-Columbia Sex Offender Information

This Notice is For Information Only

Level II Sex Offender: Benton County, WA

NAME: Timothy John Sadlier
ADDRESS: 9000 Block of W Skagit Ave.,
Kennewick, WA



SEX: M
HAIR: Blonde
EYES: Blue
HEIGHT: 5'8"
WEIGHT: 200 lbs
DOB: 7/17/1982
CONVICTION DATA:
Rape of a child 3rd Degree.
History of failing to register as a sex offender. Extensive non-sexual criminal history. Currently on Federal Parole.

Level II Sex Offender: Benton County, WA

NAME: Daniel Scott Smith
ADDRESS: 10 Block of E. 13th Ave.,
Kennewick, WA



SEX: M
HAIR: Brown
EYES: Blue
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 160 lbs
DOB: 8/30/1970
CONVICTION DATA:
Voyeurism. Fail to register as a sex offender. Child molest 3rd degree. Is currently on DOC supervision.

Level III Sex Offender: Benton County, WA

NAME: Shane Thomas Stephens
ADDRESS: 700 Block of S. Garfield,
Kennewick, WA



SEX: M
HAIR: Brown
EYES: Blue
HEIGHT: 5'11"
WEIGHT: 160 lbs
DOB: 9/23/1977
CONVICTION DATA:
Rape of a child 2nd degree. 2 counts. Rape of a child 3rd degree.

This information is provided in accordance with RCW 4.24.550. The Police Departments have no legal authority to direct where a sex offender may live. Unless court ordered restrictions exist, the offender is constitutionally free to live wherever they choose. Citizen abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate or harass registered sex offenders will not be tolerated. Such abuse could end our ability to do community notifications.

SARC NEWS

Thank You!

Richland Rotary
Janie Gerrard
Ruth & George Raab
Janet Gideon
Terry & Charles Eagy
Phil McGuinness
Joyce Henton

PNNL: Carol John, Terri Aldridge, Victor Xuan, Carrie-Swafford-Bennett, Kimberly Williams, Melanie Fletcher, Larry & Terri Moore

A Special Thanks to...

The following donate to SARC regularly throughout the year and we want to express our sincere appreciation!

- * Tri-City Quilter's Guild
- * Project Linus
- * Sewing Sisters, Richland Church of Christ
- * Kristin Jarman
- * Duane Moe



Upcoming Events



- | | |
|----------|---|
| December | 25-31 - Holiday Office Closed |
| January | 1 - Holiday Office Closed |
| January | 16 - Brandi Ralston's Birthday |
| January | 20 - Holiday Office Closed |
| January | TBD - Board meeting 5:15 PM |
| February | 6 - Cindy Rochleua's Birthday |
| February | 17 - Holiday Office Closed |
| February | TBD - Board Meeting 5:15 PM |
| March | 8 - Mitzi Veng's 15-yr Anniversary |
| March | 17 - Board Meeting 5:15 PM |
| March | 26 - Adaya Gladstone's 13th Bday |



SARC & CVSC Board of Directors

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Cindy Rochleau
Vice President
Kevin Hartzke
Secretary
Marilyn Heasley
Treasurer
Craig Littrell
Member at Large
Jennifer Sifuentes
Members
Lara Vega
Leslie Sievers
Josh Bunten
Jim Raymond
Ernie Flowers
Janice Roach

SARC & CVSC Staff

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Executive Director
jgarretson@frontier.com

Renee Blackman
Program Director
rblackman@myfrontiermail.com

Mitzi Veng
Office Administrator
mveng@frontier.com

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Sexual Assault Advocate
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bralston@frontier.com

Denise Martin
Prevention Specialist
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Lindsay Gladstone
Prevention Specialist
lgladstone@frontier.com

Andrea Aldous
Program Assistant
sarceducator@gmail.com

Norma Chavez
General Crimes Advocate
n.torres@frontier.com



Contact
US

830 N Columbia
Center Blvd.
Suite H,
Kennewick, WA
99336

24-hour Hotline (509) 374-5391



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www.supportadvocacyresourcecenter.org

Support, Advocacy & Resource Center
830 North Columbia Center Blvd., Suite H
Kennewick, WA 99336

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Striving for a "Community without Victims"



about the program

The Support, Advocacy & Resource Center serves Benton and Franklin Counties with sexual assault crisis and education services. We provide free and confidential assistance for victims of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, dating violence and adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

SARC also provides prevention education for our schools, day cares and community groups on sexual abuse and safety issues. Our services are available to all people regardless of age, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or physical and mental ability.

The Washington State Office of Crime Victims Advocacy accredits SARC as a Community Sexual Assault Program. SARC is a member of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and

the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties.

Services are provided through grants from the state and federal government, local and regional foundations, and through donations from our generous community.

The opinions expressed in the "Point of View" section of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of staff, board of directors, volunteers and sponsors of SARC.

The SARC Advocate is designed to educate, inform and promote community awareness regarding sexual assault issues. Reader feedback and submissions are always welcome. Mail to: 830 North Columbia Center Blvd., Suite H, Kennewick, WA 99336 or contact us via e-mail.

Editors:

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n.torres@frontier.com

Lindsy Gladstone
l.gladstone@frontier.com

Renee Blackman
rblackman@myfrontiermail.com

Visit us on the web at

www.supportadvocacy&resourcecenter.org
www.crimevictimservicecenter.org

24-Hour Crisis line (509) 374-5391 Business Phone (509) 374-5391

Fax Number (509) 374-8743 Mailing Address: 830 North Columbia Center Blvd. Ste. H, Kennewick, WA 99336