



2025 IMPACT REPORT

OHIO VICTIM WITNESS ASSOCIATION

ovwa.org

614-787-9000

info@ovwa.org



what we do:

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE



Dear partner,

Crime can happen to anyone, and when it does, it is essential that victims and survivors of crime have access to ethical, empathetic, and empowering victim advocacy. Ohio's victim advocates serve those who have experienced elder abuse, fraud or theft, sexual assault, drunk driving, stalking, a loved one's homicide, domestic violence, and much more.

Ohio's victim advocates provide crucial services to victims in their time of need—ensuring that their voices are heard, their constitutionally-mandated rights upheld, and that they are empowered to move from victimization to survivorship. Survivors experience physical, emotional, and financial impacts long after the crime, and victim advocates can assist them in navigating these challenges.

The victim advocate's role is incredibly important as a crime victim seeks justice, healing, and restitution—and that is why our organization exists.

Since 1978, the Ohio Victim Witness Association (OVWA) has been a leading resource for crime victim advocates in the state of Ohio. For 47 years, OVWA has sought to professionalize the field of victim advocacy by ensuring that advocates receive the highest quality training, technical assistance, best practices and research, and legislative leadership.

OVWA strives to ensure that advocates are well-trained and well-supported. To this end, OVWA continuously seeks to uplift the field of advocacy and ensure that victims receive consistent victim-centered and trauma-informed advocacy when they need it most.

We have accomplished so much, but we have more to do—join us!

In service,

Elyse McConnell, MBA
Executive Director

2025 in review:

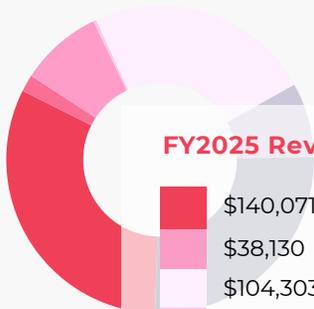
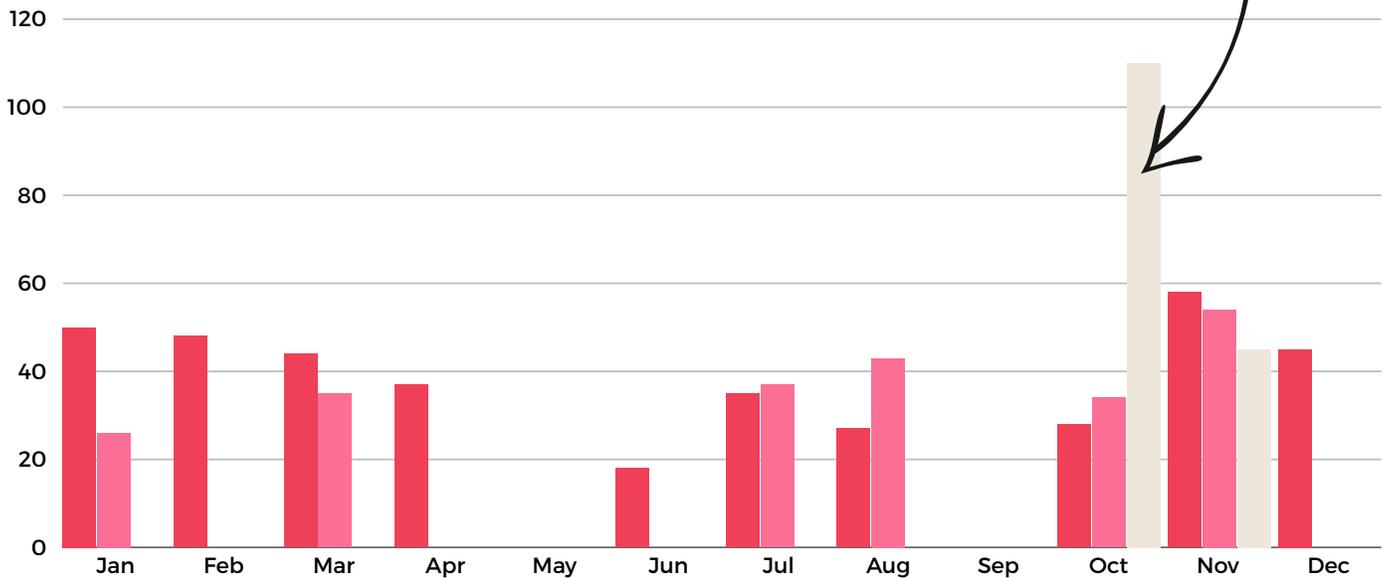
OUR IMPACT

Legislation: In 2025, we advocated in the Ohio legislature to set aside **additional funding for Ohio’s crime victim services**. We testified to preserve preliminary **counseling services to minors** without parental consent—essential when parents are abusive or neglectful.

At the national level, we supported the **Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act** to remedy funding insecurity for crime victim services.

18
training events

774
received training



FY2025 Revenue: \$439,673

\$140,071	VOCA Grant
\$38,130	JAG Grant
\$104,303	All-Star Gaming
\$7,912	Membership Dues
\$1,359	Donations
\$34,427	VAWA Grant
\$111,025	Rape Crisis Fund
\$2,446	Contracts, etc.

And more:

The **Marlene Young Outstanding Leadership Award** was proudly presented to **Michael Sheline**, Section Chief of the Crime Victims Services Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Michael’s commitment to the field of crime victim services has been unwavering. He is a truly Outstanding Leader.

During **National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**, we collaborated with the **Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center** to create educational social media posts. We taught **1,470,217** Ohioans about victims’ rights!

2026 and beyond:

OUR ROADMAP

There is so much that we plan to do. With over **590 active members**, OVWA continues to lead Ohio's crime victim advocates through our legislative work, development of best practices, timely trainings, and expert technical assistance. In 2026, we will launch a **helpline for co-victims of homicide** and a **new advocate training academy**. We will develop and deliver new trainings on ethical services for co-victims of homicide and best practices for prosecutor-based advocates. And, there is much more in the works!

Our Mission: To be an Ohio leader for crime victims, advocates, and allied professionals by promoting best practices that result in meaningful rights and quality services.

DONATE

At OVWA, your gift does more. In 2025, less than 10% of all revenue to our agency was used for agency administrative expenses. Please consider supporting our essential services by making a tax-deductible donation through our website at ovwa.org/donate/ or make checks payable to:

Ohio Victim Witness Association
90 Northwoods Blvd, Suite B-6
Columbus, OH 43235

Silver
Transparency
2025

Candid.

VOLUNTEER

Seeking dedicated, change-minded volunteers!

Utilize your strengths or develop new skills by volunteering with OVWA. We have opportunities that fit your interests and your time—from event planning to internships to ongoing tasks. We are especially seeking volunteers in several key areas: public policy; social media and marketing; fundraising; and law.

OVWA has a number of topical committees, and our Board of Directors is accepting applications.

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