



**16th  
Annual  
International  
Training  
Institute  
& Conference**

September 14- 18, 1999  
Holiday Inn Harrisburg East ♦ Harrisburg ♦ Pennsylvania

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**Victim Offender Mediation Association**

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# WELCOME

The VOMA Board of Directors invites you to join us for the 16th Annual International VOMA Conference and Training Institute in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as we explore “Innovative Practices in Restorative Justice and Victim Offender Mediation.” We believe our slate of presenters in both the Training Institute and Conference will challenge us with new ideas that will live up to that theme. During the Conference, we’ll celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) in Kitchener, Ontario. We look forward to seeing you all in September!

- Howard Zehr will join us for our Opening Plenary as we look at what’s happening across the globe. We will also hear specifically about what is happening in Pennsylvania from Mary Achilles, Governor-appointed Victim Advocate for the Commonwealth, who has been instrumental in bringing Pennsylvania to the forefront of Victim Offender Conferencing.
- John Paul Lederach, founding Director of the Conflict Transformation Program at Eastern Mennonite University will be our keynote speaker on Friday evening. John Paul brings extensive experience as a peace building practitioner, trainer and consultant throughout the world.
- Finally, we are honored to have Mark Yantzi (who along with Dave Worth started the first VORP) join us in Harrisburg as a workshop trainer and Closing Plenary Moderator.
- On Monday evening, September 13, the VOMA Board will host an informal gathering in the hotel lounge after you register to welcome those arriving for the Training Institute (which begins on Tuesday). On Thursday evening, September 16, the Conference Site Committee will host a welcome reception and celebration of 25 years of victim offender mediation.

## TRAINING INSTITUTE

### Monday, September 13th

7:00-9:00pm Registration in the hotel lobby

### Tuesday, September 14th

7:15            Registration  
8:00-8:30    Welcome  
8:30-4:30    Workshops

### Three-day Training (Tuesday-Thursday)

#### Training A      Basic Training for Victim Offender Mediation (3 days)

An interactive foundation for basic victim-offender mediation training. Covers principles of restorative justice, benefits and risks of victim offender mediation, basic mediation skills, styles of communication, and an understanding of victims and offenders. This experiential training will involve role play practice. Participants are expected to obtain additional skills training within their local programs before mediating cases.

**Trainer:** Eric Gilman, Training and Education Coordinator, Community Justice Initiatives, Langley, British Columbia.

### One Day Training (Tuesday)

#### Training B      Starting A Victim Offender Program (1 day)

This training will cover basic steps and issues in organizing a VOM program and will offer strategies for involving the community and gaining support. Program design, public relations, funding issues, case criteria, referral sources and training opportunities will be discussed.

**Trainers:** Sue Wiese, Coordinator, Mediation Services of La Crosse, WI, VOMA Board member; Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Director, Mennonite Central Committee, Office on Crime and Justice, VOMA Board Co-chair.

#### Training C      Incorporating Transformative Mediation Theory in VOM Practice (1 day)

This training will focus on fostering empowerment and recognition in the mediation process using the transformative mediation model and how that theory translates to practice with emphasis on moment-to-moment communication and interaction.

**Trainers:** Jane Riese, Director, Victim Offender Mediation Program, Mediation Services for Conflict Resolution, Inc., York, PA; Dorothy Della Noce, Doctoral Candidate at Temple University, Past President of the Academy of Family Mediators, member of the editing board of Mediation Quarterly.

# TRAINING INSTITUTE

Tuesday, September 14th

## Two-day Training (Tuesday - Wednesday)

### Training D Dealing with Sexual Abuse Restoratively (2 days)

This training will explore approaches that can be utilized in addressing sexual abuse in a manner that brings healing to victims of sexual abuse, those who offend, and their respective communities. A model that provides for facilitated dialogue between victim and offender and others will be developed drawing on the presenter's experience in using this model over the past 10 years.

**Trainers:** Mark Yantzi, Coordinator of the Sexual Abuse Treatment Program of Community Justice Initiatives. In 1976, Mark was involved in starting the first VORP in North America. He is author of the recent book, *Sexual Offending and Restoration* (1998); Deborah Ingraham, activist for restorative justice, former incest survivor litigant.

### Training E Restorative Justice in Communities of Color: Theory, Practice and Evaluation (2 days)

The theory and application of the restorative justice concept specifically in the African American community will be covered. The role of both Critical Race Theory and Afrocentric Theory in Restorative Justice will also be explored. Techniques and approaches to involve the community in the process will also be examined as well as an overview of VOM strategies. Various role plays will take place to illustrate the strategies. An examination of evaluation methods will also take place.

**Trainers:** Dr. Morris Jenkins, Assistant Professor, Penn State University, Abington College, Abington, PA; David Trevaskis, Esq., Executive Director, Temple Law School, Philadelphia, PA; Dr. William Geary, Assistant Professor, Penn State University, Abington College, Abington, PA.

Wednesday, September 15th

7:15 Registration in the hotel lobby

8:00-4:30 Workshops

Training A Basic Training for Victim Offender Mediation (con't from Tues.)

Training D: Dealing with Sexual Abuse Restoratively (con't from Tues.)

Training E: RJ in Communities of Color (con't from Tues.)

## One-day Training (Wednesday)

### Training F: Implementing Restorative Justice in Corrections

Restorative Justice initiatives in correctional contexts are still the exception rather than the norm nationwide. Implementation requires that restorative advocates and corrections professionals identify common language and shared goals. This training will assist both in doing that by providing an overview of restorative justice and corrections, identifying common ground and examining sample partnerships and implementation strategies.

**Training Facilitator:** Jan Bellard, Restorative Justice Projects Director for Mediation Network of North Carolina, VOMA Board member, Brevard, NC, along with other presenters.

# TRAINING INSTITUTE

Wednesday, September 15th

## Two-day Training (Wednesday - Thursday)

### Training G Impact of Crime Class (2 days)

The Impact of Crime Class is an educational program taught to inmates in state correctional institutions on the short and long term effects crime has on victims. This is done through a curriculum developed by DOC Victim Services Advisory Committee comprised of victim advocates throughout PA, videos, and guest speakers. This training will provide participants with a 16-hour overview of a course that is designed to be used within a 40-hour curriculum.

**Trainers:** Kathy Buckley, Director, Victim Services for the Office of the Victim Advocate in the Dept. of Corrections, Harrisburg, PA; Dorothy McDormand, Facility Chaplain Program Director, SCI-Greensburg, PA; John Thomas, Acting Drug & Alcohol Treatment Specialist Manager, SCI-Graterford, PA.

Thursday, September 16th

7:15 Registration in the hotel lobby

8:00-4:30 Workshops

Training A: Basic VOM (con't from Wed.)

Training G Impact of Crime Class (con't from Wed.)

## One-Day Training (Thursday)

### Training H: Training for Trainers

This training will consist of two components. First, participants will be engaged in a dialogue about their own experiences and making the VOM process more sensitive to the needs of crime victims. Second, specific training materials and strategies will be presented that have developed over the past two years by the Center for Restorative & Mediation at the University of Minnesota, through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**Trainers:** Ellen Halbert has served on the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, is a victim of a violent crime, and has testified on victims' needs across the nation; Mark Umbreit, Ph.D., Director, Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.

### Training I: Working Sensitively and Effectively with Victims and Offenders (2 half-day sessions)

**Victim Sensitivity Training (1/2 Day - morning)** This training will focus on the trauma of the various types of victimization, including crimes of severe violence. Participants will increase their understanding of the victim's experience and their ability to work sensitively with crime victims. Will also incorporate how the victim/offender mediation process can assist victims in the adaptation process.

**Trainer:** Jane Riese, Director, Victim Offender Mediation Program, Mediation Services for Conflict Resolution, Inc., York, PA.

**Offender Sensitivity Training (1/2 day - afternoon)** This training will focus on understanding offender issues and experiences focusing on factors that contribute to harm-causing behavior.

**Trainer:** Howard Zehr, Professor of Sociology and Restorative Justice, Eastern Mennonite University. Howard is regarded as a pioneer in the victim offender and restorative justice movements; Joe Ingle, Director of The Neighborhood Justice Center, Nashville, TN.

### Evening Special Event

The Conference Site Committee will host a welcome reception and celebration of 25 years of victim offender mediation.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, September 17th

**7:15-8:00 Registration in the hotel lobby**

**8:00-8:30 Welcome**

**8:30-10:00 Opening Plenary**

The conference kick-off will celebrate the 25 year anniversary of the first victim offender mediation in Kitchener, Ontario. Highlights in the plenary will include the emerging practices from PA's progressive statewide initiatives to the latest national and international VOM endeavors. Howard Zehr will provide us with an overview of where we've come from as well as his perspective on the future of the victim offender field.

**Moderated by:** Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz and Jane Riese

**Note:** Open Space Workshops: Have a topic you want to discuss that isn't offered as a workshop or training? Or maybe there's something you want to attend but can't, and yet you still want to talk about it? If so, come prepared to create an Open Space Workshop on the topic of your choice. During each workshop session time-slot, one breakout room will be left unassigned to a regular workshop. At the close of the Opening Plenary, a process will allow conference attendees to suggest a workshop or breakout session they would like to participate in. Topics will be posted. For each workshop time-slot, two Open Space Workshops may be assigned. Please don't feel pressured to know anything about the topic you suggest or want to discuss, or that you have to facilitate. Just an interest in the topic and a willingness to list it and attend is all you need.

**10:00-10:15 Break**

**10:15-11:45 Morning Workshops**

## **Workshop 1 — Volunteer Recruitment & Nurturing**

This workshop will focus on two juvenile VOM Programs working with volunteers: the New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution in Albuquerque, and Community Adolescent Programs in Madison, Wisconsin. Presenters will discuss strategies for recruitment of volunteers from diverse communities, coordination and development of ongoing training for volunteers, and recognition of their contributions.

**Presenters:** Rhonda Peterson, Director, Restorative Justice Programs, New Mexico Center for Dispute Resolution, Albuquerque, NM; Sheri Lynch Gatts, Coordinator, Victim Offender Conferencing Program, Community Adolescent Programs, Madison, WI.

## **Workshop 2 — Mobilizing the Faith Community**

This workshop will focus on how to mobilize and cultivate partnerships with the faith community for sustainable funding and other resources. It will look at how involving the faith community can impact a program.

**Presenters:** Duane Ruth-Heffebower, M.Div., JD., attorney and ordained Mennonite minister, Associate Director of the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies of Fresno Pacific University and a member of the graduate school faculty; Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Director, Mennonite Central Committee, Office on Crime and Justice, VOMA Board Co-chair.

## **Workshop 3 — Cultural Issues**

This workshop will discuss the implications of culture in victim-offender mediation. General issues of cultural awareness and implications that culture may have on mediation will be covered. An extended role-play will be used with participation and comments from the audience regarding the use of an interpreter in mediation.

**Presenter:** Jonathan Chaplan is a mediator in private practice in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, with 13 years experience as a criminal lawyer. Jonathan speaks French, Spanish and Vietnamese.

## **Workshop 4 — Utah Juvenile Court VOM**

This workshop will explore the types of programs that can be offered in conjunction with or as a follow-up to VOM. The Utah Juvenile Court model will be featured. This VOM Program is part of a continuum of services offered to both offenders and victims.

**Presenter:** Kathy Elton, Mediation Programs Coordinator, Victim-Offender Mediation Program, Utah State Juvenile Court, Salt Lake City, UT.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, September 17th

## **Workshop 5 — A Whole Systems Approach to Sexual Abuse**

This interactive dialogue will explore the question, “Is there a way to break the silence of childhood sexual abuse in a restorative way?” Issues to be explored include sex offender treatment, the restorative processes between victims and offenders of sexual abuse, and the prevalence and effects of the sexual abuse of children.

**Presenters:** Deborah Ingraham, activist for restorative justice, former incest survivor litigant; Wayne Bowers, recovering sex offender, director of CURE-SORT (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errant-Sex Offenders Restored through Treatment), Director of SATA (Sex Abuse Treatment Alliance).

## **Open Space Workshops**

Open Space Workshops will be facilitated by you and other conference attendees on a topic of your choice. Specific topics will be generated by conference attendees at the end of the Opening Plenary session. See complete description for Open Space Workshops on page 5.

**11:45-1:00 Lunch**

**1:00 - 2:30 Afternoon Workshops**

## **Workshop 6 — International Dispute Resolution**

This presentation will create a forum for an interactive discussion on the potential of the Victim-Offender model to promote healing within international communities.

**Presenter:** Kelley Pendleton, CR Consultants, Davie, FL.

## **Workshop 7 — Starting a VOM: A To Do List**

This hands-on workshop is designed for those thinking about starting a victim-offender program or those in a dispute resolution agency thinking about expanding their program to include victim-offender mediation. Participants will leave the workshop with a “to do” list of activities necessary to start a program.

**Presenter:** Beverly Moore, Program Manager, Restorative Justice Program, Community Mediation Services, Eugene, Oregon, and VOMA Board Member. Beverly has an MS in Community and Regional Planning.

## **Workshop 8 — Recognizing our own Cultural Biases**

As practitioners and human beings, we bring our own history and cultural heritage into our work in restorative justice and victim offender conferencing. This experiential workshop encourages participants to open and explore their own baggage in a non-threatening setting, in order to gain more awareness of how our own issues affect our work.

**Presenter:** Sheri Lynch Gatts, Coordinator, Victim Offender Conferencing Program, Community Adolescent Programs, Madison, WI.

## **Workshop 9A — Restorative Justice & VOM Domestic Violence Cases (two-session Workshop)**

This workshop will begin with the assumption that participants are victim advocates or experienced in domestic violence intervention. The focus of the training will be on traumatic bonding, and will allow open discussion of the issues of mediating violent domestic abuse cases.

**Presenter:** Debra Dixon, Executive Director of the Victim’s Justice Center, Inc., author of The Medical Malpractice Journal, and for 15 years has worked with battered women, batterers, sex offenders and victims/survivors of other violent crimes.

## **Workshop 10A — Grant Writing (two-session Workshop)**

This workshop is designed for those individuals who have never written a grant, but are interested in pursuing grant funding. Participants will be provided with a general overview of philanthropy and how grant writing fits into an overall development plan. Each participant will conduct prospect research on a given topic before deciding whether or not to initiate contact with a prospective funding source.

**Presenter:** Barbara Hughes, Community Service Coordinator, Family Court of St. Louis County, Clayton, MO.

## **Open Space Workshops**

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, September 17th

**2:30 - 2:45 Break**

**2:45 - 4:15 Afternoon Workshops**

## **Workshop 9B — Restorative Justice and VOM Domestic Violence Cases (two-session Workshop)**

**Presenter:** Debra Dixon, See description for 9A on previous page.

## **Workshop 10B — Grant Writing (two-session Workshop)**

**Presenter:** Barbara Hughes, See description for 10A on previous page.

## **Workshop 11 — VOM in Denmark**

Demonstrations by role-plays of the directive/non-directive styles of mediation. Covers the difference between the active listening style and the systemic circular style, defining issues and creating options, bargaining versus negotiating, control versus autonomy. The philosophy behind the different strategies, and the different impact of interviewing styles will be covered.

**Presenter:** Hans Boserup, Attorney at Law (admitted to Supreme Court), Denmark. Trainer of mediation in USA, Ireland and Germany. Author of several books and articles. Adjunct professor, University of Aarhus, Denmark. Founding member of World Mediation Forum, founding member of Danish Mediation, Chairman of Nordic Forum of Mediation (Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland).

## **Workshop 12 — Media and Mediation**

This workshop will focus on how news is defined, assigned, covered, edited, and presented for public consumption. Other areas of concern include how media presence might affect the respective behaviors of victims, offenders and mediators alike, the integrity of the process, and ultimately, the public perception of mediation. This interactive workshop will also include an open discussion of actual high profile cases and a brainstorming session to develop effective strategies and criteria for working with the media.

**Presenter:** Chris Baker, Baker Mediations Services, Inc., in Ottumwa, IA, mediator for Youthful Offender Programs in the Iowa Eighth Judicial District. Chris holds a master's degree in journalism and is a former reporter and photojournalist.

## **Workshop 13 — Using the Internet**

Participants will learn how to use the web for research and advertising, including how to set up a web site. This workshop will discuss the use of e-mail, listserves, IRC, sharing documents, videoconferencing, etc.

**Presenter:** Duane Ruth-Heffelbower, Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies, Fresno Pacific University, Fresno, California.

## **Open Space Workshops**

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**4:15-4:30 Break**

**6:00-7:00 Join us for a mixer in the hospitality room.**

**7:00-9:00 Keynote Dinner**

## **Keynote Speaker: John Paul Lederach**

John Paul has spent the past 15 years providing support to peace-building in conflict-torn countries all over the world. As Director of Eastern Mennonite University's Conflict Transformation Program, he has conducted numerous research projects and published extensively, including his most recent book, "Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies." John Paul will provide us with some insights from his various travels and experiences on the topic of peacemaking and conflict resolution, and will offer some ideas on how VOM and restorative justice fit into the larger peace making effort.

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday, September 18th

**7:30-8:30 Registration in the Hotel Lobby**

**8:30-10:00 Morning Workshops**

## **Workshop 14 — Collaborating with Victim Services Programs**

This workshop will explore the unique differences between victim assistance programs and mediation programs and provide participants with effective collaboration strategies to enhance working relationships.

**Presenter:** Mary Achilles, Office of the Victim Advocate, Harrisburg, PA; Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, Director, Mennonite Central Committee, Office on Crime and Justice, VOMA Board Co-chair.

## **Workshops 15 — Spectrum of Restorative Justice Practices**

This workshop will explore various Conferencing models (multi-party VOM, SGC, LGC, FGC, New Zealand Model, Australian Model, and Minnesota Model). This workshop will not attempt to evaluate the merits of the models, rather it is designed to highlight the similarities and differences.

**Presenters:** Carolyn McLoed, Community Justice Coordinator, Washington County Court Services, Stillwater, MN; Ann Roberts, Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation, St. Paul, MN; Beverly Moore, Restorative Justice Program, Eugene, OR. All presenters are VOMA Board Members.

## **Workshops 16 — Restorative Justice and Corrections: How to begin and what to do.**

This workshop will focus on the different possibilities for the application of restorative justice in all areas of corrections, including VOC programs, case planning, victim panels, restorative case planning, and neighborhood supervision and community development.

**Presenter:** Bruce Kittle, J.D., M.Div., Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School and Director of the law school's Restorative Justice Project. Bruce works full time as a consultant with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections in the area of restorative justice and its application to all aspects of corrections.

## **Workshops 17 — Cross Cultural Issues in VOM**

While restorative justice has made significant changes to criminal justice, it has not yet made similar social, economic and political changes although it has the capability to do so. This workshop will present an overview of Oppression Theory and use it as a lens through which to evaluate restorative justice. We will focus on how restorative justice has made some changes and will identify pitfalls to avoid.

**Presenters:** Martha Weinstein, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Justice Center, Tallahassee, FL. Martha has a social work background and has worked on social justice issues for 25 years in a variety of social services settings; Dr. Bob Conners, Director of the Florida State University's Program in Multicultural Studies and Conflict Resolution and is a member of FSU's Black Studies faculty. During the 1980's, Bob worked in university-based outreach programs to more than 3,000 minority youth.

## **Workshops 18A — Advanced Violence VOM Panel (two-session Workshop)**

This will be a facilitated, interactive discussion forum for mediators who have worked with crimes of severe violence. Some likely topics include ethical issues, neutrality, access to participants, case funding, case screening, case preparation, training and use of volunteers, collaboration with victim advocates and the corrections system, and follow-up support for victims and offenders.

**Presenters:** Mark Umbreit, Ph.D., Director, Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN; David Doerfler, VOM/Dialogue Program, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, VOMA Board member; Mary Achilles, Office of the Victim Advocate, Harrisburg, PA; Karen Ho, Administrator of the Office of Victim Services for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, Columbus, OH; Marty Price, J.D., Director, VORP Information and Resource Center, Camas, WA, VOMA Board Member; Bruce Kittle, J.D. and M.Div., Director of the Restorative Justice Project at the University of Wisconsin Law School, VOMA Board Co-Chair.

## **Open Space Workshops**

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# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday, September 18th

**10:00-10:15 Break**

**10:15-11:45 Morning Workshops**

## **Workshop 18B — Advanced Violence VOM Panel (two-session Workshop)**

**Presenters:** Mark Umbreit, Dave Doerfler, Mary Achilles, Karin Ho, Marty Price, Bruce Kittle. (See description for 18A on previous page.)

## **Workshop 19 — Juvenile Offender Victim Offender Program (VOP)**

This workshop will discuss a new model that can be very useful to other centers and agencies interested in including an educational component to their programs. The goal of the VOP is to decrease the chance that juvenile offenders will re-offend and to provide them with the tools to make better decisions in the future. The program combines a mediation session with classes focusing on conflict resolution and criminal thinking error training.

**Presenters:** Maureen Holen, Executive Director, Mediation Works, A Community Dispute Resolution Center, Medford, OR; Joanne Lescher, Victim Offender Program Coordinator, Mediation Works, A Community Dispute Resolution Center, Medford, OR.

## **Workshop 20 — Helping Communities Cope With Crime**

This workshop is designed to introduce an intervention process which has been helpful for communities and neighborhoods following a serious crime. Healing begins as people come together to deal with the trauma by sharing their concerns and fears about safety. This interactive workshop will explore the application of this process in small towns and large cities.

**Presenters:** Carolyn McLeod, Community Justice Coordinator, Washington County Court Services, Stillwater, MN, VOMA Board Member; Kathy Hall, Iowa Mediation Services, West Des Moines, IA, VOMA Board Member.

## **Workshop 21 — VOM Swedish Style**

Public and political interest in VOM has been strong for a long time in the Scandinavian countries. Sweden is experiencing rapid development of new mediation projects. This workshop will focus on the practical experience of different styles of mediation as they are being discussed within the Swedish Association for V/O Mediation.

**Presenter:** Christina Nehlin, National Council for Crime Prevention, Stockholm, Sweden.

## **Workshop 22 — The Role of Truth-Telling in Healing and Restoration**

We will explore the questions: “Why do victims need to know and tell the truth of what happened to them?” “Why, for their own growth, do offenders need to tell the complete truth?” “Why do offenders lie, deny and evade the truth?” “How can we provide a forum that allows offenders to tell the truth?”

**Presenter:** Joy Helmer, MS, is a counselor, mediator, facilitator and trainer in Seattle, WA. She is a volunteer mediator and Board Member with the Northwest Institute of Restorative Justice.

## **Open Space Workshops**

Open Space Workshops will be facilitated by you and other conference attendees on a topic of your choice. Specific topics will be generated by conference attendees at the end of the Opening Plenary session. See complete description for Open Space Workshops on page 5.

**11:45 - 1:45 Lunch/Annual VOMA Membership Meeting**

**1:45 - 2:00 Break**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Saturday, September 18th

## 2:00 - 3:30 Afternoon Workshops

### Workshop 23 — Restorative Kinship Conferencing

This workshop will describe the KINnections Program sponsored by Kansas Children's Service League in Wichita, Kansas. KINnections uses Restorative Kinship Conferencing, which is similar to a small group conference, with juveniles and their family members. The program is for juveniles who are living with extended family rather than their family of origin.

**Presenter:** Barbara Schmidt, M.A.J., Coordinator of the KINnections program at KCSL and a VOMA Board member. She is certified as a mediator and trainer by the Kansas Supreme Court's Office of Judicial Administration and was the director of Victim Offender Mediation Services in Wichita.

### Workshop 24 — Spirituality

This workshop will examine the role of spirituality for people working in the field of RJ and VOM, with a focus on the harm caused by crime. For this workshop "spirituality" is not synonymous with dogma, creeds, or other aspects of major religions, although for some people religion may be a pathway to their own spirituality. Participation requires openness and acceptance of diverse religious and spiritual beliefs and practices.

**Presenter:** Mark Umbreit, Ph.D., Director, Center for Restorative Justice and Mediation, School of Social Work, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.

### Workshop 25 — Circles of Support and Accountability

This workshop details the development and progress of a Canadian pilot project designed to meet the safety needs of communities regarding the release of sex offenders. The Circles of Support and Accountability Project develops caring communities for individuals in the highest risk category of sex offenders. The underlying principles of this model are based in restorative justice and include development of a responsible community interface for the offender as well as a commitment that community safety not be compromised.

**Presenters:** Hugh Kirkegaard, Baptist Minister, National Chaplaincy Coordinator of Circles of Support for released offenders with the Chaplaincy Division of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC); Evan Heise, Coordinator of Community Justice Ministries, Mennonite Central Committee, Ontario, Canada.

### Workshop 26 — Restorative Justice in Communities

This workshop will explore ways the community can become more involved and will highlight the Volusia County project for the Restorative Justice Institute which is engaging the community in unique ways.

**Presenter:** William T. Preston, Esq., Director, Restorative Justice Institute, member of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's Corrections and Sentencing Committee and a certified mediator of the Florida Supreme Court.

### Workshop 27 — Community Building & VOM at Universities

This presentation will introduce the role of community building as it relates to student involvement in determining norms and in creating and participating in discipline practices on a university campus. A multi-level victim offender conferencing model designed for use in a small university setting will be introduced.

**Presenter:** Barb Toews, mediation practitioner with the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of the Central Valley (Fresno, California), former Director of the Lancaster Area VORP in Lancaster, PA.

## Open Space Workshops

Open Space Workshops will be facilitated by you and other conference attendees on a topic of your choice. Specific topics will be generated by conference attendees at the end of the Opening Plenary session. See complete description for Open Space Workshops on page 5.

### 3:30 - 3:45 Break

### 3:45 - 5:00 Closing Plenary

"25 Years and Growing" - a facilitated discussion about where we are going, the future of victim offender mediation and the signposts to guide us on the journey.

**Moderated by:** Barb Toews and Mark Yantzi

# CONFERENCE LOCATION & HOTEL RESERVATIONS

**The Conference site**, the **Holiday Inn East of Harrisburg** is located 6 miles from Harrisburg International Airport with courtesy transfer service. The hotel features tennis on lighted courts, volleyball, basketball, indoor pool, 24-hour fitness center, 5-hole par 3 golf course as well as a year-round outside whirlpool.

The hotel is a multi-faceted hotel featuring 299 rooms which contain 2 telephones per room, hair dryer, ironing board, coffee-maker and whirlpool tub. The Seasons Restaurant provides a casual atmosphere where you can enjoy fine, regional cuisine in an unhurried setting.

The hotel is offering a special room rate of \$63.00 (same price for 1-4 in a room) plus 6% PA sales tax. In order to take advantage of rooms reserved at this special price you must register by August 13 and inform them that you are attending the VOMA conference. After that date, rooms will be provided on an as space is available basis and at a significantly higher rate.

To make reservations or for more information about the hotel, please contact:

Holiday Inn Harrisburg East  
4751 Lindle Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111  
Telephone: 717/939-7841 or 800/637-4817  
Fax: 717/939-9317  
Web site: <http://www.hieast.com>

## — Area Attractions

- “Ride the Pride” - Take a ride back in time on an authentic paddlewheel Riverboat...discover the beautiful Susquehanna River in Harrisburg - PA's historic capital.
- Visit historic Lancaster...
  - The Amish Village with a guided tour of an Old Order Amish farmhouse in Strasburg
  - Traintown with 17 operating trains and over 135 animated figures and vehicles. Lancaster Co. in miniature
  - Strasburg Rail Road - Journey to Paradise in wooden coaches on one of Americas oldest short line steam railways
- Experience Gettysburg and get a glimpse of American history.. Gettysburg is nestled in scenic Adams County with thousands of acres of colorful fruit orchards, covered bridges and mountain scenery.
- Hershey Park - Experience of thrill of Hershey with over 60 rides and attractions nestled in a pristine 110-acre setting. Also included is ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park with 200 animals from five North American regions.
- Lancaster County Outlet Shopping.

## — Airline Information

The airport provides convenient access and is well served by most major airlines.

## —Transportation

The Holiday Inn has offered to provide complimentary airport transportation for hotel guests from 5:30 a.m. until midnight. The hotel will also arrange complimentary taxi service if guests are arriving during a time no one is available to pick them up from midnight-5:30 a.m. Use the telephone by baggage claim to reach the hotel directly.

VOMA is very grateful to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for their significant contribution and support. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Victim Service Advisory Council have each provided VOMA with funds toward the costs for speakers and trainers at the Conference.