

Survivors Not Victims



2010-2011 | S.N.V Organization Media Kit
HelpingSurvivors.com

Learning more about Survivors Not Victims, Inc. (S.N.V)

S.N.V is an organization that is dedicated to those who have unfortunately, experienced being a victim of sexual abuse and helping to prevent our children from being victims of sexual abuse and protecting our/your children. It is the goal of S.N.V to provide men, women and children of sexual abuse with a place to turn to for listening, support, understanding and guidance towards the aspects of survival after this abuse. Victims of Sexual Abuse must be informed that they are empowered to make the choice of whether or not they wish to be Victims or Survivors.

S.N.V was founded by Veronica Thomas (*No Longer A Victim, But A Survivor!*) a survivor of the terror of childhood sexual abuse. Veronica did not allow her abuser to continue to control her life or supersede her ability to succeed. She made a choice to be a survivor. She was only a child when she was faced with the traumatic experiences of sexual abuse. Taken from the only home she knew as a child after her grandmother's murder, losing her brother to one of her abusers and raped at will by the hands of two men her great-grandmother trusted. Had it not been for the love and determination of two angels that came and rescued her and her brother, she had no idea where she'd be today or if she would have even survived her childhood.

Today Veronica, choose to turn her abuse into a movement by creating S.N.V, Inc. She was also inspired to write her story entitled "VISIONS FROM THE PAST" (A True Story). Veronica has worked at Social Services for 12 years, as a CASA Advocate speaking on behalf of children who are unable to speak for themselves and she also worked for WOAR (Women Organized Against Rape) in Philadelphia, PA.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network):
The nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization.

- 1 of 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted/or completed rape in her lifetime.
- 17.7 million American women have been victims of attempted or completed rape.
- 1 in 33 men has experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.
- 93% of juvenile sexual assault victims know their attacker.

Victims of sexual assault are: 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide.

About S.N.V's community services.

S.N.V, Inc. consists of three divisions:

Division I: Sexual Abuse Awareness and Support

Sexual abuse awareness and support is a sexual abuse awareness and support organization where we counsel and support victims of sexual abuse helping them to become survivors instead of remaining victims of this abuse. It also provides them with *Job Readiness & Life Skills* by providing victims of sexual abuse with the opportunity to explore personal ethics and values which impacts their job performance. While assisting victims in developing mental and emotional discipline necessary to achieve success in finding, and maintaining gainful employment.

Division II: Performing Arts and Mentoring Program

Our Performing Arts and Mentoring Program, where we teach children preventative and awareness measures of situations they may find themselves in such as sexual abuse, peer pressure, gang violence, online predators and much more. We teach them through the art of theatre where they learn how to be aware, how to prevent, how to recognize situations they face on a daily basis. It is our goal to empower our children through theatre and art to be aware and know how to respond to certain situations that could endanger them. Although it's learned in a fun environment but the techniques learned could eventually save their lives.

Division III: After School and Summer Feeding Program

Our Feeding Program. S.N.V, takes part in feeding thousands of children daily through our After School Feeding Program as well as our Summer Feeding Program. Our motto is ***“Providing Hope, Strengthening Minds, and nurturing bodies through Health and Nutrition”***. S.N.V, still believes that ***“It takes a village to raise a child”*** We intend on being a part of that village. We currently have 23 locations throughout Newport News, VA and Franklin, VA where we currently feed children. It is our goal to see that children who are in low to moderate income housing receive the nutritious food they deserve through our feeding program. It still takes a village to raise a child. S.N.V is a part of that village.

Past S.N.V Events

1st Annual Community Awareness Fun Fest

S.N.V., Inc.'s 1st Annual Community Awareness Fun Fest was held on June 22, 2008. The purpose of the event is to inform the community of the harmful effects of childhood sexual abuse. The event was to inform the community to be aware, prevent, and report sexual abuse. The featured performers were the late Mr. David Williams who performed for Michael Jackson for the past 30 years and other performers such as Madonna, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, The Dells, Brian Ferry and many other famous performers. Also a Master Detective from the Special Victims Unit, Mr. W. Verdaasdonk came to speak on the procedures for anyone who had experienced sexual abuse and the steps they should take in reporting the act.

2nd Annual Community Awareness Fun Fest

S.N.V., Inc.'s 2nd Annual Community Awareness Fun Fest was held Saturday, June 13, 2009 at King Lincoln Park and Sunday, June 14, 2009 at Buckroe Beach in Hampton. Guest speakers included Vice Detective Kim Harrison and Newport News North District Council Woman Sharon P. Scott.

3rd Annual Community Awareness Fun Fest

S.N.V., Inc.'s 3rd Annual Community Awareness Fun Fest held Saturday, June 13th at King Lincoln Park in Newport News with over 500 attendees and Sunday, June 14th 2009 at Buckroe Beach in Hampton with over 1,000 attendees. Special guests included Cicero and United Souls Band. They also had the inflatable rides and horseback rides for the kids.

Domestic Violence Awareness (Clothesline Project at the YWCA)

S.N.V., Inc.'s founder Veronica Thomas was asked to be a guest speaker at the Virginia Peninsula YMCA. Ms. Thomas was asked to speak about the awareness and effects of sexual abuse. During the event, participants made t-shirts to display for Domestic Violence Month.

The production "From Victim to Survivor"

On March 14, 2010, S.N.V., Inc. presented the production "From Victim to Survivor" which was based on a young lady who was a victim of sexual abuse and how being a victim effected her life in her job, relationships and family. It was written by Ms Rachel S. Thomas. They had choreographers that performed and the victims and abusers wore mask indicating the slogan "Don't hide behind the face of shame, Speak out, Because Silence and Sexual abuse is not the answer" and the Abusers wore masks also because you never know if the person sitting next to you could be an abuser. There were approx. 150 in attendance.

The Production Of One

On Oct. 17, 2010, S.N.V., Inc.'s partnered with BFA (BEAUTY FOR ASHES) in order to bring more awareness to the problems that sexual abuse and other factors that can affect our relationships through Artistic means. The production was also concluded with a performance with members of the original legendary 70's band the Funkadelic's.

S.N.V Board of Directors & Staff

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S.N.V Corporate Partnerships

BINCHMARK

Online: www.thebinchmark.com

BINCHMARK is a project and small business development firm. BINCHMARK offers comprehensive services in the areas of consultation, marketing, media, and management. BINCHMARK brings precision, innovation, and direction to various clients ranging from small startup businesses to golf courses to television show production projects.

Hampton Roads LIVE Network

Online: www.HamptonRoadsLiveNetwork.com

Hampton Roads LIVE Network (HRL) is a unique Multi-Media Network that uncovers the pulse of the Hampton Roads community, which are its people and its news. HRL takes an in-depth look at community issues, current developments, local and regional topics while allowing small businesses, government, city, and non-profit agencies to have a voice. HRL's innovative media distribution methods include a local television show (Hampton Roads LIVE *The TV Show*) currently aired on WSKY-TV Channel 4, a HRL Partner. With the strength of Channel 4, the HRL TV Show reaches the Hampton Roads region and several Northeastern counties of North Carolina including the Outer Banks (800,000 households). A hard copy publication (Hampton Roads LIVE *Magazine*) that is distributed using direct mail, distribution at special local events, mass e-mail marketing (Hampton Roads LIVE *E-Paper*) with 10,000+ recipients that are made up of primarily small business owners and entrepreneurs and thru social networking.

HRL connects and impacts the local community, its small businesses and agencies of Hampton Roads.

S.N.V gets adopted. (NPAP Press Release)

Hampton Roads, VA (November 2010) - BINCHMARK the innovative consulting, marketing, media, and management company and Hampton Roads LIVE Network announces its implementation of The Non-Profit Adoption Program (NPAP). NPAP is a vision of President, Chance Wilson. This program is designed to increase development support for local non-profit organizations and to create greater interaction and social awareness within the community. The NPAP is based on adopting non-profit organizations that are willing to invest in themselves, interested in building relevant and purposeful partnerships among other organizations, encourage diversity, and are actively seeking to engage their communities.

Through this adoption program the multitude of development, comprehensive marketing, training, and promotion campaign services of BINCHMARK and Hampton Roads LIVE Network are provided to these non-profit organizations. There are hopes that this program will attract other companies to join NAPA and eventually become available throughout the region and possibly the nation.

S.N.V Testimonials

“The Survivors Not victims of sexual abuse group have helped me in many ways. Before the program I had low self esteem and I felt like I was worthless an ugly because of all the things that my uncle had done to me. I used to cut myself a lot because I felt like what was the point when I was going to be hurt anyway. I was only 8 years old when I started getting abused. And for a long time I thought that it would last forever that I would never get out of this situation.

Talking to Ms. Thomas and the staff I learned that through it all I am somebody. I am stronger because I made it and that everything that happened to me is not my FAULT!!! That in the end I did what I had to do to survive. She was very real with me letting me know that the flashbacks and the fears wouldn't go away overnight that it would take a lot of time. I Learned that being strong is not hiding the Pain, Being strong is having strength enough to speak out about the situations that come around. I learned that dealing with the pain is hard but hiding it is even harder.

Most of all I learned that I Am a SURVIVOR AND NO LONGER A VICTIM!!!!!!”

- Mandy, Ohio

“I am a survivor of sexual abuse. It took a long time for me to find myself until I heard about Ms Thomas and read her book “Visions From The Past” (A True Story). But even then it was difficult for me to come out and speak of my abuse and share something so private. I always knew that it was difficult for a woman but for a man I believe it's even more difficult. I don't know if that's the right belief to have but being a man means certain things. Standing proud, Responsibilities, you're not supposed to cry but I found myself not living up to fit that particular idea of a man. When I started attending the SNV Support Group they taught me to open up and speak about what happened to me. They gave me the strength to confront all the demons that still plagued me and made me realize that what I had gone through as a child had not been my fault.

S.N.V. helped me to open my eyes and realize that I can still be the man I want to be. The group inspired me to cope with what happened and learn to stop being a victim. They taught me to speak out which is something I had never done before. But I realized that as I learned and began to speak out, not hiding anymore behind the face of my shame, the better I felt. Especially being surrounded by other men that had also experienced what I had experienced as well. I feel that I owe it all to God, and Ms Thomas for giving her the strength to start this organization because if it wasn't for her and her book, I would probably still be in hiding and still a victim of this abuse. But because of her, I know now that I am on the road of becoming a Survivor of sexual abuse.”

- Melvin G.

Contact Information

Please contact an S.N.V Representative or our office for more information.

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Online: www.HelpingSurvivors.com

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Don't Hide Behind The Face of Shame. We encourage you to SPEAK OUT. Silence and Sexual Abuse is not the answer.