

## Who and what are *New Mexico Survivors of Homicide?*

A survivor of homicide is a mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, aunt, uncle, cousin, fiancé, best friend, coworker, schoolmate, church member, and/or the next-door neighbor of a victim of a deliberate and pre-mediated act - a killing without lawful justification. Therefore, for every one murder death, there are at least ten persons are directly and continually affected and grieved by the crime of murder. Survivors of homicide in New Mexico comprise a unique group of New Mexico citizens who, when evaluated by statistics since 1993 could entirely populate some cities in New Mexico. \*

**2,283** loved ones were **murdered in New Mexico** from 1993 to 2005

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
188	198	189	210	199	185	193	184	157	190	187	193	179

Source: *Overview – Manner of Death – Homicide Deaths OMI Annual Reports*

Since 1995, New Mexico Survivors of Homicide – NMSOH – a group of people who have lost a loved-one to murder formed together to provided help during the grieving and recovery process - a process that is unique because it is extended and compounded by the criminal justice process or because the murder remains unsolved and there is no justice to be obtained.

NMSOH has chapters in various cities through out the state where survivors and volunteers provide no-cost in-person peer support at weekly/monthly meetings, offer information and assistance in victim/survivor rights/compensation available through the NM Crime Victims Reparation Commission and other sources , make available information, referral, and criminal justice advocacy , provides telephone support services to those who cannot attend meetings, NMSOH maintains a website where families can place memorials for murdered loved-ones, list unsolved cases, and as a resource for public awareness about homicides in New Mexico..

A 2006 survey conducted by New Mexico Highlands University-Roswell School of Social Work students of NMSOH families shows that after attending a support group meeting for one year or more respondents answered the question, “At this point in time, would you say you have accepted the lost of a love one” those responding answering “somewhat accepted” (fifty-five percent). Thirty-five percent answered “very much so”. These results shows supports groups like NMSOH provide a positive outcome to this abnormal event. Comments from survivors of homicide members at our 2006 annual meeting:

“Because NMSOH has helped our family I want to help other families.”

“ NMSOH offers a different kind of help with our grief that is available at traditional grief counseling groups.”

NMSOH works together with and interfaces with OMI, the criminal justice system (DA's office, police investigators, courts, etc), schools, the business community, and other agencies that come into contact with survivors of homicides (list some of our associations)

NMSOH has provided information that helped change laws in New Mexico which have decreased the amount of "good time" served by convicted murderers from 50% to 85%; insured families of murder victims with the right to attend parole hearings, and increased time served for tampering with evidence in homicides.

To date, NMSOH has have served approximately \_\_\_\_\_ survivors of homicide

Our ultimate goal is to provide the information, education, and awareness of the impact of homicide to help reduce the number of murders.

*- To see the day when we do not have to add a new member - .*

\* Population Carlsbad, NM – 23,303 Population of Gallup, NM – 19,378

Source: www.City Populations USA.NM (2005)