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WI Department of Corrections Holds Resource Fair in Recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

MILWAUKEE - Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Gary Hamblin and other state and local criminal justice officials joined crime victims, their families and groups that support them at a DOC-sponsored Crime Victims and Survivors Resource Fair today at the Tripoli Shrine Center in Milwaukee.

The resource fair was held in recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22-28, and in support of the work of Kids Matter, Inc., an agency that provides assistance to abused and neglected children and their caregivers. A program run by the agency includes Foster Healing, which is dedicated to children who are under protective order and live with relatives. Another program is Kids Matter Casa where volunteers advocate for abused and neglected children in Milwaukee County Children's Court.

"Wisconsin has a proud tradition of serving crime victims and the DOC is strongly committed to addressing the impact of crime on victims and the community," said Secretary Hamblin. "With initiatives like the expansion of the Wisconsin Victim Information and Notification Everyday system (WI-VINE), we can ensure all victims in Wisconsin have the means and opportunity to access information about the status of a defendant or offender as they move through the criminal justice process."

Hamblin added that today's fair and its participants help enhance Wisconsin's already strong framework to assist crime victims, including the crucial network of personal victim advocacy services currently provided by victim/witness coordinators and others.

The DOC has been hosting the fair since 2001 to increase victim awareness and to connect people with the vast array of agencies that assist victims of crimes.

National Crime Victim's Rights Week gives an opportunity to engage the public in the struggle for victim's rights and to collaborate with community partners. For three decades the National Crime Victim's Rights Week has promoted awareness of victim's rights and services and honored crime victims and survivors.

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