



Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2018

Newsletter

### What is FMV?

The Families of Murder Victims (FMV) is an organization that is dedicated to supporting the families and friends of homicide victims. It a program under the auspices of the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia. The mission of the program is to, “help lessen the suffering and trauma of family members following the violent death of a loved one.” Through its partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office, FMV provides assistance to family and friends, “co-victims” through comprehensive services, including counseling, support groups, court accompaniment, case status updates, and assistance filing for crime victim’s compensation.

Family members are welcome to call the FMV office to obtain service referrals and information, case updates or other criminal justice information, even if an arrest has not been made in the case. FMV can be reached by calling (215) 686-8033 or via email: [fmv@avpphila.org](mailto:fmv@avpphila.org).

“A KIND  
GESTURE CAN  
REACH  
A WOUND  
THAT ONLY  
COMPASSION  
CAN HEAL.”

STEVE MARABOLI:  
LIFE, THE TRUTH, AND  
BEING FREE

### *Kathleen Hess—Program Director*

*“You never know what someone is experiencing. Be kind. Always.”*



Kathleen was born in Philadelphia and now lives in Havertown, PA. Kathleen is a graduate of West Chester University. She has a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Psychology and a Master’s degree in Social Work. She has worked for the organization in different capacities including intern and Trial Coordinator. She recently became the program director for FMV. Kathleen strives to provide victim advocacy and treatment to individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system and are affected by traumatic experiences.

Kathleen has a vibrant spirit, with an inviting and supportive disposition. She is compassionate and hardworking. She loves dogs and volunteering at Saved Me Animal Shelter. She enjoys relaxing on the beach, reading and sketching. Her greatest memory at FMV is when she was an intern and it was her first time ever working with a family. She formed a close bond with the victim’s wife. After the trial was over the victim’s wife expressed tremendous gratitude towards Kathleen for making the process a little easier. For Kathleen working at FMV is rewarding because it feels so good to make such a difference during a tragic and overwhelming couple of days.



*“Grief never ends... But it changes.  
It’s a passage, not a place to stay.  
Grief is not a sign of weakness,  
nor a lack of faith...  
It is the price of love.”*

— Unknown

## Pamela Diaz

*Trial Coordinator*

***“Life is too short and you never know when it’s your last day on earth. You need to appreciate what you have and tell the people you love, that you love them.”***

Pamela was born in New York. Her family is originally from the Dominican Republic (DR), where she spent part of her childhood. She completed her high school education in DR and went to complete four years of college at Unibe/Universidad Iberoamericana where she studied Psychology. Pam plans to return to school to study history.



Pam is dedicated and friendly. Being at FMV has taught Pam teamwork, communication and how to exercise patience. She has also learned a lot about death and grief. She believes that being at FMV is a “very eye-opening experience.” Pam has come to realize that real life is very different from television. She is proud of the work that she does at FMV and expressed how good it feels when a family thanks her.

## Jordan Washington

*Preliminary Hearing Coordinator*

***We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give!”- Winston Churchill***

Jordan hails from Philadelphia. She is a graduate of Bishop McDevitt High School and West Chester University. She has an artistic soul and has interest in photography and music. She has a green thumb and loves plants. Reading a good book is one her favorite pastimes.



Jordan is resourceful and charitable, always ready to help out the team. She plans to continue her education and obtain a masters degree. Her goal is become an Executive Director of an organization and do international social work. Jordan is a dynamic individual who has a passion for helping others. She worked as a volunteer for FMV for two before becoming a full-time staff member. For Jordan a good day is when “a family gets justice.” Working at this organization has taught her that a little can go a long way.

***Dedication***    **SUPPORT**    **Patience**    **HOPE**  
**Confidentiality**    **EMPOWERMENT**    **TRUST**

**Cintia Isles—Intern Victim Advocate**

***“Love hard, laugh loud, and live free”***



Tia, lives in Delaware County. She is originally from West Philadelphia. She is currently a senior at West Chester University. She will be graduating in December 2018 and beginning graduate school in January 2019 to study public administration. Tia loves school and plans to attend law school. Her hope is to work in non-profits or government as an advocate and policy maker. Her goal is to be an agent of social change through advocacy and activism.

Tia is energetic and outgoing. She loves serving others and helping those in need. She runs GEMS, a mentor program for girls. She loves her experience at FMV. “Each day at FMV I witness the amazing resilience of the human spirit and it inspires me.” Tia is learning not to sweat small things and to be purposeful with her time.

**Tyeisha Watson—Intern Victim Advocate**

***“Live life to the fullest, laughter is the best medicine and everybody deserves peace.”***

Tyeisha is a Philadelphia native and a graduate of West Chester University. She plans to continue her education in either social work or law. She is ambitious and caring. She enjoys dancing, travelling and outdoor activities. She is passionate about juvenile justice and social change. She is inspired by two of her criminal justice professors who helped change her perspective on the field.

Tyeisha is passionate and motivated. FMV has been a unique experience for her. In her criminal justice classes the victim experience was rarely discussed. Working as a trial advocate allows her to see and experience the victim’s and their families struggles. Her most memorable experience at FMV was forming a bond with the first family she went through the trial process with.



**Megan Wissert—Volunteer**

***“Just keep going...”***



Megan, a resident of Lansdale, PA, is currently a senior at Bloomsburg University, majoring in Sociology and minoring in Criminal Justice. She is smart and compassionate. She loves to travel and has visited several countries in Europe including Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Austria. She loves theater and teaches children acting and singing. Megan plans to obtain her PhD and to teach on the college level. She is currently working on research about the mental health of LGBTQ female prisoners.

Megan is smart and kind. She was drawn to FMV because of her interest in advocacy, working with families and her curiosity about the courtroom experience. Her best memory working at FMV was assisting a family that loss two daughters and feeling like she was actually helping them. Being at FMV has taught Megan that anything can happen and to be thankful for what she has.