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State Victim Advocate

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY  
OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE  
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

*The Office of The Victim Advocate has compiled the information below from a variety of providers of all of the services and resources that are available to any and all who are looking for help or want to help in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy. If there are any resources you are aware of that are not listed below or may be listed in error please contact our office so we can update the information accordingly.*

**Condolences:**

The US Postal Service has established a unique Post Office Box to allow the public to send condolences to those affected by the tragedy in Newtown, CT.

Those who wish to send expressions of comfort should address them to:

Messages of Condolences for Newtown  
PO Box 3700  
Newtown, CT 06470

**How you can help:**

The **Connecticut chapter of the American Red Cross** has been providing food, water and emotional support for affected families and first responders in Newtown and supporting grief counseling centers for Newtown residents; it also has supplied thousands of meals and snacks in Newtown, and at Sunday night's interfaith vigil, handed out hot coffee, 900 blankets and 300 stuffed puppy dogs. To donate to the Red Cross, go to <http://www.redcross.org/charitable-donations>. However, the Red Cross is directing people who want to make a donation specifically to help the affected families to the **Sandy Hook School Support Fund**, <https://newtown.uwwesternct.org>.

The **211 InfoLine** has been taking calls from people who want to donate goods or volunteer services from grief counseling and catering to therapy dogs and floral arrangements for funerals. It provides that information to the Connecticut chapter of the Red Cross. Call 211 or 1-800-203-1234.

You can also email [newtownboe@gmail.com](mailto:newtownboe@gmail.com) regarding any non monetary donations.

**Monetary Donations:**

United Way of Western Connecticut is committed to providing support and resources where and when they become identified and needed. As people from our area and beyond respond to this heartbreaking tragedy, they are turning to United Way looking for ways to help. In response, United Way of Western Connecticut in partnership with Newtown Savings Bank has created the 'Sandy Hook School Support Fund' that will be able to provide support services to the families and community that has been affected.

Check donations may be mailed to:  
Sandy Hook School Support Fund  
c/o Newtown Savings Bank  
39 Main Street, Newtown CT 06470

For credit card donations please visit: <https://newtown.uwwesternct.org/>

# Vigils

## **Tuesday, December 18, 2012**

**Naugatuck:** Dec. 18th 6 p.m. the Borough of Naugatuck will hold a Vigil of Remembrance to honor Naugatuck native Dawn (Lafferty) Hochsprung and the others that lost their lives on Friday. The Rev. Gordon Rankin of the Congregational Church will leads us in prayer and healing. The vigil will take place on the Naugatuck Green.

## **Wednesday, December 19, 2012**

**Newington:** The Interfaith Council of Newington will hold an interfaith vigil Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Newington High School auditorium.

**Plainville:** Plainville Fire Department, at 6:30 p.m.

## **Thursday, December 20, 2012**

**Avon:** A “Blue Christmas” vigil will be held Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. Avon Congregational Church, 6 West Main St. Guest speakers will be Father David Cinquegrani of the Holy Family Retreat and soloist Ray Hardman, a professional singer and TV/radio host.

## **Sunday, December 23, 2012**

**Wethersfield:** The town will hold a vigil for the victims of the Newtown school shootings on Sunday, Dec. 23, Mayor Donna Hemmann announced Monday. The vigil will be from 6 to 7 p.m. at Cove Park with parking available at the nearby state Department of Motor Vehicles. Hemmann said that a committee was to meet Monday to discuss the event’s schedule. Town officials are holding the vigil to show support for Newtown, a town similar in size and character to **Wethersfield**, and to give townspeople the opportunity to come together.

**Bristol:** The city is planning a vigil for the victims and families of the Newtown shooting. The vigil is scheduled for Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. at Bristol Eastern High School's auditorium. Participants are invited to bring battery-operated candle or flashlights because fire code regulations prohibit using flammable objects in the school. The school is located at 632 King St.

# A message from Survivors of Homicide

*"There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." ~Elie Wiesel*

Any money that is donated to SOH during this time will continue to be used to purchase supportive materials for our families new or old. Please do not feel badly if you cannot attend vigils or do outreach at this time. This event has touched us all and it is completely normal for memories and feelings to return. Please do only what you feel comfortable doing. Our help and support will be most needed in the upcoming days. If you do wish to attend please utilize other members and the Victim Advocate for support. This is what we are here for and it is ok to reach out to others. We will be trying to list upcoming vigils and memorial services on our Facebook and website page as we receive the information.

We will be setting up a support group in Danbury or Newtown area when we feel it is appropriate. We will be looking for volunteers to help us set up and run this group. If we can answer any questions or speak with anyone please contact us at 1.888.833.4764.

Survivors of Homicide, Inc.  
530 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 380  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
**Phone:** 860.257.7388 **Toll Free:** 1.888.833.4764 **Fax:** 860-529-0891  
[www.survivorsofhomicide.com](http://www.survivorsofhomicide.com)

Survivors of Homicide, Inc. was founded in 1983 by a group of families who were trying to cope with the murder of a family member or someone else close to them. They met to support each other, and to share information about the criminal justice system. As time went on, membership grew and the mission expanded. We have become outspoken advocates for all victims of violent crime, for fair compensation to victims, and for public policy and understanding that reduces the senseless violence sweeping our communities. Our organization is based in Connecticut, but it is open to anyone who needs our help or shares our goals.

All our services are offered to our members free of charge. These include support group meetings, planning and business meetings to further our advocacy and educational goals, a member newsletter, and personal advocacy and support throughout the judicial process and beyond. Survivors of Homicide provides equal services without regard to race, color, religious creed, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, developmental disability/mental retardation, learning disability, or physical disability..

# Crisis Services

**The Office of Victim Services (OVS)**, Connecticut Judicial Branch, is the state's lead agency established to provide services to victims of violent crime. OVS is located at 225 Spring St., Fourth Floor, Wethersfield, Connecticut and can be reached via e-mail at [OVS@jud.ct.gov](mailto:OVS@jud.ct.gov) or by calling 1-800-822-8428.

**The 211 Info Line** is administered by United Way of Connecticut. It's a suicide and crisis line with links to all adult and child crisis units and also provides information and referrals, including on mental health and grief counseling. The 211 call specialists are all trained to make appropriate referrals, and staffing has been increased since Friday's shootings. Call 211 or 1-800-203-1234.

The state **Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)** at <http://www.ct.gov/dmhas> has a 24-hour crisis link to service providers town by town. However, spokesman James Siemianowski recommends people call 211 first for information on mental health issues and crisis care. "That's the primary place to call."

DMHAS also sponsors the **Network of Care** website at <http://www.ct.gov/DMHAS/cwp/view.asp?a=2911&q=515568> with links to a broad variety of topics, including "Helping Children Deal With Tragedies: In Response to Connecticut School Shooting," with information on what parents should talk about with children, behavioral signs to watch for in children, and other resources.

The **Wheeler Clinic** in Plainville collaborates with DMHAS and the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) on the **Connecticut Clearinghouse** program, offering youth suicide prevention services and offering web resources on topics such as parenting and stress. [www.ctclearinghouse.org](http://www.ctclearinghouse.org).

The Danbury office of the **Western Connecticut Mental Health Network** (part of DMHAS) provides mental health services in the Greater Danbury area. The office is at 78 Triangle St., Building I-4 in Danbury. Call 203-448-3200.

**Family and Children's Aid** in Danbury is working on crisis response in conjunction with Danbury Hospital Behavioral Health. Through its Child Guidance Clinic, Family and Children's Aid offers child psychiatric services and in-home therapy. Call 203-748-5689 or go to <http://www.fcaweb.org>.

**Wellmore Behavioral Health**, based in Waterbury and with offices in Danbury and elsewhere, has been providing crisis services, referrals and grief counseling to any families affected by the shootings. Call 203-574-9000 or go to [wellmore.org](http://wellmore.org). For Child & Adolescent Services, call 203-756-7287 or 1-855-WELLMORE. For Adult Services, call 203-755-1143.

**Newtown Youth & Family Services**, 15 Berkshire Road, Sandy Hook, has been providing emergency counseling for families, community members and staff involved in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. No appointment is necessary; walk-ins are welcome. Call 203-270-4335 or go to <http://www.newtownyouthandfamilyservices.org>.

The **Connecticut chapter of the American Red Cross** at <http://www.redcross.org/find-help/disaster-recovery/recovering-emotionally> offers resources in a variety of languages on taking care of yourself emotionally and on helping children cope with disaster.

**Mental Health Association of Connecticut** at 61 Main St. in West Hartford provides crisis information and helps people in need of mental health professionals. Call 1-800-842-1501 or 860-529-1970 or go to <http://www.mhact.org>.

**Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield** in Connecticut is making its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) resources available to anyone who needs help coping with the Newtown shootings. Resources include telephone-based counseling, online resources focused on dealing with grief, and help finding needed services. Call 1-877-208-8240 or go to <http://www.anthemeap.com>, and use the login name "Newtown."

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

**National Hopeline Network:** 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)

**YALE CHILD STUDY CENTER**

TRAUMA SECTION - NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE (NCCEV)

230 South Frontage Road

New Haven, CT 06520

(203) 785-7047 Voice

(877) 496-2238 Voice 877-49NCCEV

<http://medicine.yale.edu/childstudy/services/ncccev.aspx>

[ncccev@info.med.yale.edu](mailto:ncccev@info.med.yale.edu)

**Newtown Youth and Family Services:** Newtown Youth & Family Services, Inc., a nonprofit mental health clinic, will be open this weekend from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to provide emergency counseling to families, community members or staff. All donations made to the organization will benefit those affected. Find out how you can help by visiting <http://www.newtownyouthandfamilyservices.org/donate.php>

**Newtown Parent Connection:** The Newtown Parent Connection, a nonprofit that addresses issues of substance abuse, also offers bereavement group counseling and will try to bring in additional counselors to accommodate the needs of those affected by the shooting. Visit:

<http://www.newtownparentconnection.org/money.html>

**Parents of Murdered Children:** The Mission of POMC: POMC makes the difference through on-going emotional support, education, prevention, advocacy, and awareness. POMC Vision Statement: To provide support and assistance to all survivors of homicide victims while working to create a world free of murder. Membership is open to those who have been cruelly bereaved by the murder of a loved one. Professionals who are in frequent contact with grieving families are also welcome to join.

National POMC

4960 Ridge Avenue, Suite # 2

Cincinnati, Ohio 45209

E-mail: [natlpomc@pomc.org](mailto:natlpomc@pomc.org)

Phone: (513) 721-5683

Fax: (513) 345-4489

Toll Free: (888) 818-7662

Visit: <http://www.pomc.com/>

**Commission on Children:**

The Commission on Children has added to its website a resource center that you may find useful: "Helping children and adults cope with events like the Newtown school shootings"

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/newtown.htm>, you'll find an array of advice and contact information, all from acknowledged experts.

## **Related Reading Material**

*"What to do when the Police leave" A guide to the First Days of Traumatic Loss.* Author: Bill Jenkins

Author Bill Jenkins is offering free books to immediate family members of the Sandy Hook Tragedy. Please call the Office of The Victim Advocate for more information: 860-550-6632.

## **The Office of The Victim Advocate**

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA), as an independent state agency, works to protect and promote the Constitutional rights of crime victims in Connecticut. The OVA monitors and evaluates the provision of services to crime victims and works to advance policies throughout the state that promote the fair and just treatment of crime victims throughout the criminal justice system. The existence of the OVA provides oversight and advocacy when the criminal justice system fails crime victims. The OVA remains committed to ensuring that the voices of crime victims play a central role in Connecticut's response to violence and to those victimized by crime. Further, the OVA is dedicated to promoting awareness to Connecticut citizens as to the services available to crime victims through outreach, education and public service events.

Office of the Victim Advocate  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
Telephone (860)550-6632  
Toll Free (CT) 1-888-771-3126  
Fax (860)560-7065

Please Address Emails to: [ova.info@ct.gov](mailto:ova.info@ct.gov)

# Sandy Hook School Memorial Scholarship

## Established at UConn

Donations accepted online, via text message or by mail

In the aftermath of Friday's tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, the University of Connecticut has established a scholarship fund for those most directly affected.

With a leading gift of \$80,000 from UConn Women's Basketball Coach Geno Auriemma and his wife, Kathy, the University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. has established the [Sandy Hook School Memorial Scholarship Fund](#).

The scholarship will cover college costs for any students who currently attend the elementary school, as well as siblings of those killed in the assault and dependents of teachers and other adults who also lost their lives, who are accepted to attend the University in the future. If any funds remain once the needs of the groups above have been met, they will be used to benefit any future student from Newtown who attends UConn.

You may contribute in any of three ways:

**Text message.** Please text **50555** with **uconn newtown** to make a gift. ***UConn alumni should add their name and graduation year.*** For example: **uconn newtown John Smith 88**. \$10.00 donation to support the University of Connecticut Foundation through the mGive Foundation. Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. All purchases must be authorized by account holder. Must be 18 years of age or have parental permission to participate. Message and Data Rates May Apply. **Text STOP to 50555 to STOP. Text HELP to 50555 for HELP.** Full Terms and Privacy Policy: [s.uconn.edu/txt](http://s.uconn.edu/txt).

**Online.** Please visit [www.friends.uconn.edu/sandyhook](http://www.friends.uconn.edu/sandyhook) to make a gift on our secure online giving site.

**Mail.** Please mail a check to the UConn Foundation at the address below and note on your check that the gift is for the Sandy Hook School Memorial Scholarship.

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*The University of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. will not assess any additional fee on donations to this fund. Standard bank credit card, or fees from the mGive Foundation, will apply.*

*We know and appreciate that everyone grieves and mourns this horrible event in their own manner, and the number of ways to support the victims and the community are countless. We are honored by Coach Auriemma's generosity and hope you will consider making a gift to support the victims of Friday's shootings. Together, we can show the community of support from alumni, students and friends of Connecticut's Flagship University.*

*We wish you and your family peace and comfort in this holiday season.*