

**First Judicial District
of Pennsylvania
Court of Common Pleas
Family Court of Philadelphia**

Victim and Community Service Unit
Family Court of Philadelphia
1801 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

*Victim
And
Community
Service Unit*

For more information on the Victim and Community Service Unit (VACS) in Juvenile Court or to ask about community service volunteers or assistance with special projects, contact us at the following address:

Victim and Community Service Unit
Family Court of Philadelphia
1801 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-686-4049

Honorable Paul P. Panepinto
Administrative Judge

Kenneth E. Hale
Chief Probation Officer

The Victim and Community Service Unit (VACS) started in July 1997 as a part of Philadelphia's response to the new mission in Juvenile Justice in Pennsylvania, that of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ). The VACS Unit emphasizes the importance of fostering accountability for the offenders in the juvenile justice system while engaging the community in its efforts to enable young people to become responsible and productive citizens.

What is VACS responsible for?

- ◆ *Community Service*
- ◆ *Restitution and Job Program*
- ◆ *Victim Services*

Community Service

- ◆ has placed over 2,100 offenders
- ◆ over 70,000 service hours completed in 1998
- ◆ working at 300 sites
- ◆ participated in over 200 special projects such as:

Habitat for Humanity

Special Olympics

Holiday Food Drive

Clean-up of vacant lots

Clean-ups at parks and recreation centers



Restitution

- ◆ emphasizing accountability of offenders
- ◆ collected and disbursed \$220,000 in 1998

Employment Specialist

- ◆ provide employability training for offenders
- ◆ place offenders in jobs to enable repayment of restitution

Victim Services

- ◆ recognizes the victim as an equal client in the system
- ◆ acts as a liaison between victims and the Probation Department
- ◆ responsible for victim notification
- ◆ provide impact of crime training for staff and offenders