

DVDs AVAILABLE ON HOMICIDE/DEATH PENALTY

The Other Side of Death Row features victims involved in capital cases. Their ordeal does not end with a conviction and death sentence. In some states, the appeals process can take more than 20 years. Parents who have lost children to homicide share what it is like to wait while the appeals process drags on for years and years. They point out the injustice of a system that dedicates most of its resources to the offender. *21 minutes, 2006, \$70.00*

Voices of Victims Victims of DUI, homicide, domestic violence, and child sexual abuse share their stories. DVD is divided into 6 stand-alone segments.

Whitney was killed by a drunk driver the day before Mother's Day, 1996 after getting a ride home with a friend who had been drinking. Her father, Jack, shares regret that his normally responsible daughter made one bad decision. Even though the driver received a short sentence, Jack does not give in to bitterness, but instead chooses to honor his daughter's life by speaking out. Jeffrey was stuck by a drunk driver while getting out of his car. He landed about 50 feet from the car and died a short time later in the hospital. The driver had already had 3 DUIs before this incident.

Edward and his fiancé's sister were murdered in 1999 when a fight broke out at the home of a friend. He begged for his life before he was shot. The shooter replied, "I'm going to prison anyway." The gun jammed twice before he shot Edward in the face. Edward's sister, Tonya, shares the impact of this crime on her life and encourages the viewer to think about choices and consequences. Sarah, a high-school student, was an employee at a fast food restaurant. One day a man broke into the restaurant, stole several thousand dollars and forced Sarah and a co-worker into the cooler and shot them from behind. Sarah's dad, Jerry, initially avoided talking about the incident, but later realized he couldn't continue to keep it all inside.

Artie was sexually abused by an uncle when he was 10 years old. His parents had recently divorced and his mother mistakenly attributed his behavior problems to the breakup of the family. She had warned her children about "stranger danger," but Artie was confused because, in his case, the perpetrator was family. He did eventually tell, and his uncle is now in prison. Gail fell in love with who she thought was the man of her dreams. Soon after their marriage he began pushing, shoving, and pulling her hair. When the abused escalated to a brutal beating, she went to the hospital. The police and social worker told her that the abuse would happen again, but Gail chose to reunite with her husband. The violence continued for six more years. For Gail, the turning point was a story on the news about a woman being murdered by her husband. *42 minutes, 2001, \$70.00*

Voices of Survivors: Victims of Violent Crime Speak Out

Part one: Mary, a country music industry executive, was raped one night by a man who broke into her home. She helped the police capture him after he left a message on her answering machine. Her life was turned completely upside-down, but she found support from friends and hobbies. She

discusses the importance of participating in the criminal justice system.

Part two: Mary, a former victim of domestic violence, shares her story in victim impact classes to try to help incarcerated offenders understand the impact this crime had on her life. Her ordeal began with emotional and verbal abuse by her husband. Once she expressed a desire to leave, his behavior escalated to physical violence. She and her children were able to escape and she now sees herself as a survivor.

Part three: In 1984, Becky was raped by an early-released prisoner. He kidnapped her from her catering business, and drove her to 5 different locations, raping her repeatedly at each place. He drove her back to her office and said "You'd like to get out wouldn't you" and continued driving. Eventually the car got a flat tire and they went to a gas station. She convinced him to untie her and she ran into the station for help. The police captured him the next day. She had a lot support of a caring family, but she was grieved by having to share the difficult details of the crime in front of them in the courtroom. Becky got involved with a victims' rights group and helped get a truth in sentencing law passed in her state.

Part four: Sharon's daughter was murdered by four men who broke into her home. Their two children were at home at the time. The murderers were participating in a gang initiation and their instructions were to either kill someone they knew or a stranger. During the trial when asked why the children were spared one of the offenders said "they are our future members." Sharon has struggled to find peace since the tragedy. She has had trouble holding down a job and was forced to file bankruptcy. She is bitter because two of the offenders are already out of prison and, unlike her daughter, they get a second chance. *39 minutes, 2009, \$90.00*

Voices of Ex-Offenders: The Road to Restoration

Part one: Clemmie learned at an early age that she was not safe in her own home. She was sexually abused almost daily by men in the neighborhood. She got pregnant and had a child at age 13. Not knowing what to do with a baby, she left him with her mother and grandmother to raise and hit the streets to pursue a life of drugs and crime. Her son went on to join a gang which eventually led to this death. Clemmie takes full responsibility for her role in setting him up for a life of crime and is now on a mission to save other kids. She is also an advocate for the homeless and mentally-ill.

Part two: Ross grew up with an alcoholic father who would often leave for days or months at a time. When he would return he would expect to walk back in and have everything be the same. Ross hated his father's actions but eventually followed the same path. He also started drinking and eventually became addicted to cocaine. He lost custody of his son. To support his habit he began committing robberies. Eventually, he was caught and sent to prison and at that point he surrendered. He got involved with as many programs as possible. He is now out of prison and has been clean 5 years. Ross now serves as a mentor to inmates and teaches classes in the county jail.

Part three: Andrey's path to prison began in childhood. His father left the family and his mom to raise him

on her own. Because his mother had to work he was often left alone. He was sexually abused at age 8 by a friend in the neighborhood. He began a life of crime and drug use during his teenage years. Between 1989 and 1996 he was arrested 37 times. In 1997 he set out to rob a convenience store as he had done many times before, but this time a man tried to stop the robbery and was injured in the process. Andrey was apprehended by the police who told him the man would likely die and the charges would be changed from aggravated assault to murder. Andrey began praying the man would live, but he died two days later. He later felt convicted that his prayers were offered up out of his own self-interest, rather than for the man he had killed. It was at this point he saw himself for the first time. In prison he found support with others who wanted to change through an intensive reentry and aftercare program. He says he entered prison a child and left as a man. He is now in college and is pursuing certification in alcohol and drug counseling. *34 minutes, 2009, \$90.00*