



# SUSSEX CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Victim Impact: Listen and Learn** is a voluntary program that facilitates discussion regarding types of offenses, known victims versus stranger victims, whether or not the offender feels he has victimized someone or has, himself, been victimized and the impact their actions have had, and will continue to have, on those affected by their crime.

Program goals consist of preventing violence, hate, bias, domestic violence and murder. Volunteers advise offenders on leading responsible lives and being responsible citizens. They teach about victims and the impact of crime on them. Victim Impact staff provide guidance and teach offenders to change their thinking and behavior and that they have an obligation to make amends to their victims directly or indirectly. Offenders are also taught that victims deserve to have their rights enforced and their voices heard.

During the 12-week sessions, participants must attend every class. On week 1 they are given a pre-test and sign a contract. On weeks 3, 7, and 10, guest speakers are scheduled. These volunteers give personal accounts of the effects of being victimized, or having had a friend or family member victimized, by criminal acts. This is followed by an open dialogue with class members to discuss their thoughts and feelings on the topic. On week 12 they are given a post-test to assess their progress. Also, on week 12 the participants are presented a “certificate of completion” and a copy is placed in the offender’s institutional file.

Volunteer Instructors: Ms. Kim Book and Mr. Doug Thompson

Maximum class size: 14

Course length: 12 weeks (24 hours)