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## Network for Victim Recovery of DC Receives Do Good Institute Grant

**Washington, DC (December 13, 2019)** - Today, students from the University of Maryland's Do Good Institute will present the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) with a \$7,500 grant award to address sexual assault among vulnerable populations in the D.C. area.

The Do Good Institute serves as the catalyst to inspire University of Maryland students to take action to support innovations and solutions that tackle today's social issues. The Institute, housed in the School of Public Policy, provides opportunities for all University of Maryland students to immerse themselves with and address significant social issues through hands-on learning opportunities. Undergraduate students enrolled in the Leading and Investing in Social Change: Redefining and Experimenting with Philanthropy iGive course had the opportunity to develop and run a grant making process this semester. Students in the class were given the opportunity to not only study the art of philanthropy but also provide an actual \$7,500 grant to a local organization of their choosing.

This semester, students researched and chose the topic area of service to survivors of sexual assault, and awarded NVRDC funds to create trauma-informed trainings for Obstetricians and Gynecologists and a referral tool for survivors to know which providers have been trained on trauma informed practices for responding to and supporting survivors of sexual assault. Currently, there is no standard training requirement or on-going educational requirements for OBGYN doctors, nurses, or staff regarding trauma informed care for sexual assault survivors. A 2018 study found that 72% of sexual assault survivors surveyed have avoided or delayed accessing vital gynecological screening because of their trauma experience, placing them at an increased risk for exposure to Sexual Transmitted Infections and HIV and preventing them from being connected to supportive resources that can help in recovery.

Thanks to iGive funding, NVRDC will be able to survey current OBGYN offices' knowledge and practices for sexual assault survivors, and use findings to develop a trauma-informed training that will educate OBGYN doctors, nurses, and staff on how to refer survivors into acute crisis services for forensic medical care and incorporate trauma-informed care into how they and their staff interact with and provide a safe environment for survivors. Additionally, NVRDC will develop an online referral tool that will help survivors find OBGYN offices that have received this training.

"These funds will help us increase the number of people who receive treatment and support quickly after an assault as well as improve the quality of their experience seeking services," said NVRDC's Director of Advocacy, Lindsey Silverberg. "Ultimately, we want to provide survivors with the confidence that they can access trauma-informed providers in the DC area."

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reach out. rise up.

**About Network for Victim Recovery of DC:** The Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC) provides free, holistic, and comprehensive advocacy and legal services to victims of all types of crime regardless of income. We believe that victims deserve respect for their dignity in the aftermath of a crime. NVRDC seeks to empower crime victims in our nation's capital by meeting them where they are and, in doing so, provide vital services in order to achieve justice and encourage self-determination.