



# Progress Report '05

Vol. 6 Issue 1

June 2005

## CENTER MOVES TO NEW OFFICES, EXPANDS RESOURCES

On one of the hottest days of the year, the Center achieved a major milestone. We moved from our donated space in a house in South Minneapolis into larger, more accessible space. The move culminates a six-month search for safe and affordable offices to make room for the Center's growth.

The move to larger space was greatly needed to accommodate the increasing number of community volunteers, interns and service learning students who are actively involved in the identification and analysis of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender homicide cases since 1969 in the United States. In addition, the Center's nationally recognized homicide resources and GLBT homicide databases simply outgrew the space available.

The new office located on the edge of Prospect Park on University Avenue in Minneapolis provides a secure and accessible setting for the Center activities. The 500-square-foot space provides room for a state-of-the-art computer research area, convenient access to the Center's case files, and a research library of hard-to-find books, research literature, and peer-reviewed journals. The Center's offices are located in a building owned by Genesis II, a Twin Cities-based nonprofit organization that promotes social change by strengthening families and the community. The building offers many amenities, including access to meeting and training space, is located near several colleges and universities, is handicap accessible, and is on several bus lines.

The need for more space became critical during the spring when as many as eight student and community volunteer researchers were cramped in the two small rooms of the Center's old offices in South Minneapolis. Limited access to electronic databases, PCs and desk space forced interns to creatively use the floor and other surfaces to conduct their research.

With nearly a dozen interns and volunteer researchers slated to conduct research during the summer months (see related stories), the move was critical. The Center greatly appreciates

co-founder Dallas Drake and Joe Shulka for their generous use of the second story of their home for the last six years to house the Center. Approximately one-third of the Drake-Shulka house had been used for Center activities free of charge.

"We are so glad that we could provide the first home for this groundbreaking work," said Dallas Drake. "But the Center has simply outgrown the space we have available." Joe Shulka added "The new space is perfect. Plus, it's nice to have our house back."

An open house for the community is being planned for late summer to dedicate the new facilities. 



Interns (right to left) Kaitlin Keith, Emily Babcock, Erin Lease and Scott Rasmussen conduct homicide research online using four of the Center's six workstations at the new offices on University Avenue.

### NEW ADDRESS & TELEPHONE

Center for Homicide Research  
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Minneapolis, MN 55414  
☎ (612) 331-4820  
[www.CHROnline.org](http://www.CHROnline.org)

## INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS LEARN SKILLS AND ADVANCE MISSION

As a volunteer-driven organization, the Center depends on volunteers to conduct research and analysis, and to represent the Center and its mission in the community. The Center provides these individuals with a unique learning opportunity to put their skills to use to understand and prevent GLBT homicides. The Center wishes to acknowledge these researchers and service learning students for their service.



**Erin Schneider** attends Metropolitan State University and is enrolled in its law enforcement program. Erin is participating in a challenging 8-month internship at the Center. She is involved in the collection and analysis of GLBT homicide cases.

**Scott Rasmussen** is a 2005 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a BIS degree in Cultural Studies, Political Science and Economics. Scott has been very involved in development of the national homicide database and recently attended the Homicide Research Working Group's annual meeting.



**Melissa Fisher** is a junior at the University of Minnesota pursuing a degree in sociology with an emphasis in crime, law and deviance and a minor in religious studies. She has been very involved in development of the national homicide database and attended the Midwest Sociology Society annual meeting.

**Heather Leyse** is a senior at the University of Minnesota pursuing a degree in sociology with an emphasis in crime, law and deviance. She has also volunteered for Hennepin County Juvenile Probation. Heather worked on locating and analyzing cases for the national GLBT homicide database.



**Scott Kaiser** is a Lakeville High School honors graduate with a strong interest in social-interactionist theories, especially in the areas of crime and deviance. Most recently he was employed as a civilian employee with Hennepin County Adult Corrections. Scott attended the Midwest Sociology Society annual meeting and is developing a research paper on criminal communication.

Thanks also to other interns, service learning students and research volunteers for their efforts during the spring: Barb Hutchins, Nicole Kubista, Kris Larson, Kristen Oehler, Joe Riemann, Michael Ronn, and Heather Stocking.

For more information on becoming involved, contact CHR Principal Researcher Dallas Drake at 612/331-4821 or by e-mail at [dallas.drake@mindspring.com](mailto:dallas.drake@mindspring.com). College credit or stipends may be available. 

## COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND REACH OF CENTER

Core value of the Center for Homicide Research is to work in collaboration with other individuals and organizations to fulfill its mission. The Center knows that it cannot work in isolation and must involve a wide range of partners in its work. Many new partnerships and collaborations are underway.

### Higher Education Consortium of Urban Affairs (HECUA)

Through a grant from HECUA, the Center was able to hire its first full-time, paid undergraduate intern for the summer of 2005. HECUA is a Twin Cities-based educational collaboration that engages students, faculty and practitioners in partnerships for social transformation and community building. HECUA coordinates the Partners Internship Program that pairs exceptional undergraduate students with nonprofits. The HECUA grant will pay for an intern to focus on GLBT homicide cases in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

### Missing Children Minnesota

The Center is beginning a new partnership with Missing Children Minnesota (MCM) to explore the relationship between missing persons and GLBT and other homicide victims. MCM helps locate missing children; provides advocacy and support services to families of missing children and provides information and prevention education to the public regarding missing children and runaways. Carol Watson, MCM Executive Director, remarked that as many as one-third of their cases may involve GLBT people. MCM, like its sister organizations in other states, maintains a database of missing adults and children. The Center will begin analyzing this and other data to develop potential resources regarding both missing persons and homicide investigations.

### University of South Florida

The Center's principal research Dallas Drake and Dwayne Smith, former chair of the Department of Criminology and vice provost for faculty and program development at the University of South Florida, are beginning a collaboration to explore missing homicide cases. The collaboration will include the Missing Children Minnesota data as well as other resources.

### Minnesota University and College Partnerships

The Center has become a sought-after partner for many area universities and colleges for internship and service learning opportunities, and for education on homicide issues. During the spring 2005, the Center hosted an unprecedented 7 undergraduate interns and service learning students. This number climbs to 10 interns (both graduate and undergraduate) for the summer. The Center's principal researcher Dallas Drake also presented trainings and workshops in partnership with the University of Minnesota Undergraduate Sociology Association in the spring. 

## NEW RESEARCH BEGINS ON MISSING VICTIMS HOMICIDES

What do North Dakota college student Dru Sjodin, Iowa news anchorwoman Jodi Huisentrui, and many GLBT homicide victims have in common? Many of their bodies were missing for an extended period of time or remain missing following their presumed homicide.

A major challenge of the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study, a project of the Center for Homicide Research, was to uncover missing GLBT homicide victims and to determine which factors helped to conceal their existence and delayed their recovery. Many GLBT victims remain missing for a length of time before being discovered. This slow recovery may lead to a lower solve rate for gay homicide.

The topic of missing homicide victims is a current focus of work by CHR Principal Researcher Dallas Drake. Although missing homicide victims have been recognized as a research issue as early as 1958, no effort has ever been made to construct an analytical strategy that could shed light on the problem. Drake's research follows work done by criminologists Robert Keppel and Joseph Weis (1994) who revealed that the sooner the body is recovered, the more chance the homicide case can be solved since evidence would not continue to deteriorate.

At the Homicide Research Working Group annual meeting in June, Drake presented a strategy to begin analyzing and cataloging missing homicide victims. It was enthusiastically received by fellow researchers and a recommendation was made to categorize these homicide cases as "delayed recovery cases."

The strategy centers on defining a category of homicide victims whose discovery and recovery had been delayed for more than 24 hours. This interval was determined by examining a subset of Minnesota homicide cases that indicated most homicide incidents are detected within 24 hours.

Data for this research is hard to come by. Following Drake's HRWG presentation, FBI Senior Crime Analyst John Jarvis offered to make an argument to obtain data from the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) to conduct this analysis. If successful, this would be the first such use of this data by an independent research agency in the United States. Jarvis hopes the FBI's new openness about sharing information will make this analysis possible.

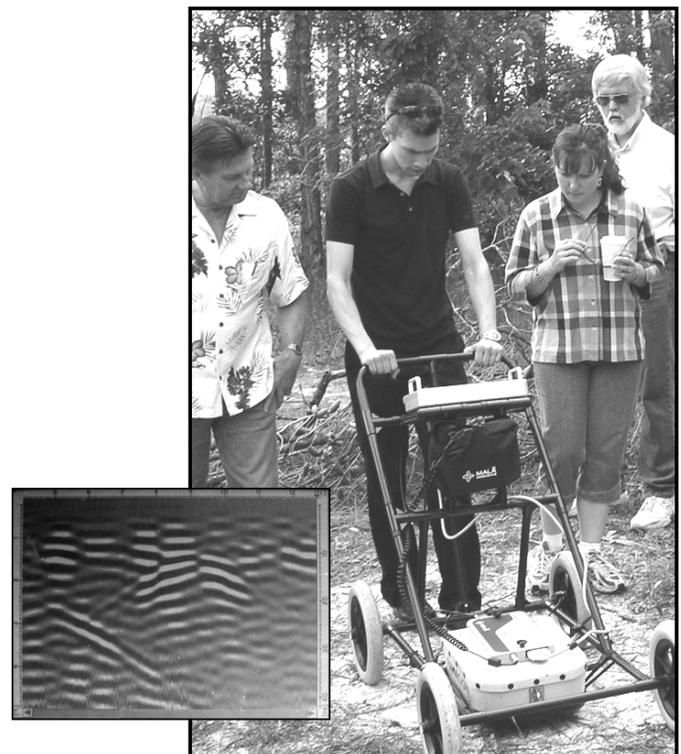
Drake is collaborating with two other researchers in this work, including M. Dwayne Smith, former chair of the Department of Criminology and vice provost for faculty and program development, University of South Florida, and John Schultz, a forensic anthropologist at University of Central Florida. In addition, a collaboration began in the spring with Missing Children Minnesota to evaluate their data for this research topic. 

## GLBT HOMICIDE CASES IN MIDWEST TO BE SUMMER FOCUS

A team of volunteer researchers and interns will focus their attention during the summer on locating and cataloging gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender homicide cases in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota. Researchers will use public records, online databases, GLBT archives in Minnesota and elsewhere, and other sources in an effort to expand the Center's understanding of homicide in the Midwest.

The Center's knowledge of GLBT homicide in these four states varies. Minnesota homicides are well documented, having been the focus of the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study for several years. Given the low homicide rate in the Dakotas, GLBT homicides research in these states will likely be relatively short. GLBT homicide research in Wisconsin, however, will be a significant effort as that state has a large GLBT population and many unidentified GLBT homicides.

The activities are funded, in part, by grants from the Minnesota State Bar Foundation, the Higher Education Consortium of Urban Affairs, and PFund (Philanthrofund Foundation). 



CHR intern Scott Rasmussen operates a ground penetrating radar machine during a demonstration at the Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting. The GPR is used by forensic anthropologist John Schultz, University of Central Florida, (not pictured) to detect underground anomalies and to locate possible body disposal sites. Changes in the patterns on the display (inset) indicate anomalies in the soil structure. Dwayne Smith (left), University of South Florida, Candice Batton (right), University of Nebraska, and Jay Corzine (far right), University of Central Florida look on. As the group learned, interpreting the data requires many hours of advanced training.

# 2004 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ending December 31, 2004

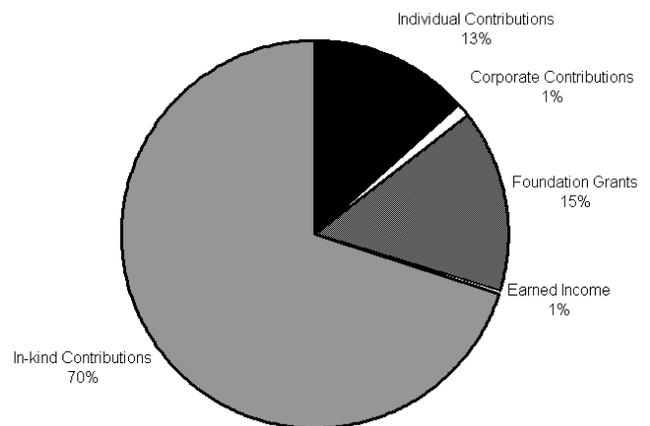
## Income

<b>Contributed Income</b>	
Individual Contributions	\$10,841.00
Corporate Contributions	\$1,000.00
Foundation Grants	\$12,500.00
Earned Income	\$300.00
In-kind Contributions	\$57,348.75
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$81,989.75</b>

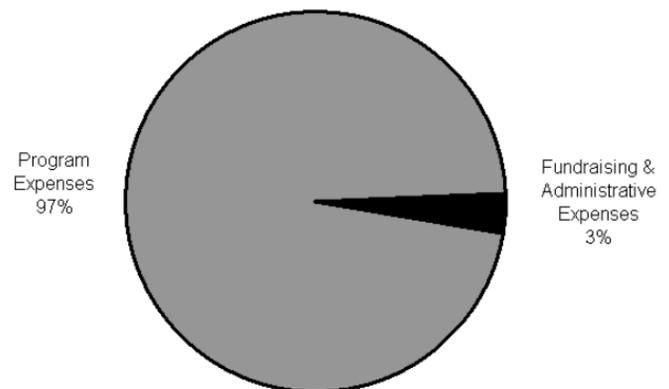
## Expenses

<b>Program Expenses</b>	
Staffing	
Volunteer Researchers (in-kind)	\$46,888.75
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$5,425.42
Telephone & Long Distance	\$111.67
Educational Resources & Research Materials	\$2,022.50
Professional Memberships	\$580.00
Workshops, Conferences & Seminars	\$840.00
Website and Internet Access	\$1,114.15
Travel, Mileage & Parking	\$4,251.75
Miscellaneous	\$133.84
Computer Hardware & Software	\$3,181.22
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	<b>\$597.67</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
Staffing	
Administrative Support (in-kind)	\$4,460.00
Office Space (in-kind)	\$6,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$75,606.97</b>
<b>Excess Revenue over Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,382.78 *</b>
Temporarily Restricted (grant restricted)	\$3,750.00
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$2,632.78</b>

## INCOME



## EXPENSES\*



\*expenses exclude in-kind activities

## CENTER FOR HOMICIDE RESEARCH WISH LIST

In-kind contributions are critical to the Center's abilities to identify, analyze and understand GLBT homicides in the United States.

The Center is in need of the following items and services:

- Laser Printer
- Pre-paid Long Distance Telephone Cards
- Office Max or Office Depot Gift Cards
- Amazon.com or Borders Books Gift Cards
- Access to WestLaw®
- Recordable DVDs
- Bookkeeping Services
- Web Design Services
- Frequent Flier Miles
- HammerMill Copy Plus Paper

## ABOUT THE CENTER FOR HOMICIDE RESEARCH

The Center for Homicide Research is an independent, volunteer-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the capacity of the GLBT community, criminal justice professionals, and law enforcement to become more effective in identifying, solving and preventing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender homicides.

Research began in 1992 and incorporated in 1999 as a nonprofit organization called the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study. In 2004, the name was changed to the Center for Homicide Research.

The mission of the Center for Homicide Research is to promote greater knowledge and understanding of the unique nature of LGBT homicide through sound empirical research, critical analysis and effective community partnerships.

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