

The Responder

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Website Edition

Ginger Bankston Bailey Receives Crisis Responder of the Year Award

The George M. Donnelly award for Crisis Responder of the Year was created in 2002. While the award could have been named after a number of extraordinary individuals, the Board decided to create it in the name of Reverend Donnelly to commemorate his life and his service. After two tours of duty (over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, 2001) serving the victims of September 11, 2001, George died of a heart attack in his home in January, 2002. He had spent years of service in his hometown of Pittsburgh prior to becoming a member of NOVA's National Crisis Response



Team. Then, as a member of that team, he called upon his experience, compassion, and strength to respond to victims of disaster. Criteria for this award include being a part of a NOVA-affiliated state or local crisis response team or participation in NOVA's National Crisis Response Team, length of time of service, adherence to quality standards, and commitment to victims of crime, crises, terrorism, and disaster. Only one

award will be given in any year. The first award was accepted posthumously by Mr. Donnelly's widow.

NOVA was proud to award the 2003 George M. Donnelly Crisis Responder of the Year Award to Ginger Bankston Bailey, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, for her tireless efforts to create a statewide crisis team to serve the citizens of Arkansas in the aftermath of disasters. Bailey's efforts have paid off handsomely: the Arkansas Crisis Response Team is the first team in the United States to be "certified" as a NOVA-affiliated team. Bailey is a certified crisis responder and certified NOVA Basic Training Instructor.

NOVA National Award Winners
Monsignor Jack Harris, Pine Bluff
Ginger Bankston Bailey, North Little Rock



AR-CRT Board Members Monsignor Jack Harris and Ginger Bankston Bailey with NOVA Director of Victim Services Cheryl Guidry Tyiska after award ceremony

Monsignor Jack Harris Receives Volunteer of the Year Award

Many of NOVA's activities are dependent on volunteers who are based in Washington, D.C. and its volunteers who serve across the nation. In years



ending in even numbers, this award is given to one of NOVA's "national volunteers," and in odd-numbered years, to one of NOVA's "local volunteers." Volunteers are selected based on years of service, hours of service in any given year, as well as

the ability of the volunteer to meet the standards of victim service professionals. Volunteers who have been selected in the past made contributions in the fields of crisis response, worked on NOVA's national hotline, assisted with conference coordination, office support and administration, and/or advocated public policy.

The 2003 NOVA Volunteer of the Year Award went to Msgr. Jack Harris, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, a member of the Arkansas Crisis Response Team. Fr. Harris, formerly of Jonesboro, AR, donated his sabbatical time to NOVA to assist with the coordination

of NOVA's national victim assistance conference, and provided countless hours of service to victims and survivors of violent crime and disaster who contacted NOVA directly for help.

Msgr. Harris was the priest at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Jonesboro when the Westside Middle School shootings occurred. He was a special mentor to the children and families that were victims and survivors of this horrendous event. He also was a team leader during deployments to the New Jersey Family Assistance Center in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.