



October 28, 2011

Dear Friends,

The Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation (MVFR) Board of Directors is excited to announce that Scott Bass, our current North Carolina Coordinator, will now become the Interim Executive Director of MVFR.

Scott has been effective at identifying, equipping and engaging family members of murder victims in the work of advocating for death penalty reforms and repeal and raising awareness of the needs of victims' families. He is well-versed in state and national strategy and has collaborated with groups on both levels in building and mobilizing MVFR members.

In his time with MVFR, Scott has worked tirelessly to create opportunities for murder victim family members to share their stories through speaking and writing. Through these efforts, they have educated media professionals, governmental officials and the general public about the needs of victims and the harms caused by the death penalty system. Scott's value to the state campaign in North Carolina has included helping the partner groups become more responsive to victims' families' needs.

Scott's record and history with MVFR and with partner organizations on the state and national levels allow him to provide much-needed continuity and stability that will enable MVFR's work to continue seamlessly.

Before coming to MVFR, Scott helped found and operate a hospitality house that provided room and board, emotional support and more to family members of persons facing capital prosecution and/or living on North Carolina's death row. His experience also includes assisting churches undergoing transitions in staff leadership.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Science from Campbell University, a Master of Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. We are confident Scott's experience, skill and talent, supported by the many gifts of the board and staff team, will serve MVFR and its members well as we move forward

Equally important to the mission and vision of MVFR will be our National Outreach Coordinator, Chris Castillo. Chris, whose mother Pilar was taken by murder in 1991, has been an invaluable member of the MVFR team for almost two years. He has served primarily in Texas, Arkansas and Colorado, developing relationships with other murder victim family members in those states and beyond. He transforms his tragic personal

experience in a way that enhances his other skills and enables him to help other family members develop their stories and communicate them effectively with media professionals and lawmakers. He has also made valuable contributions to MVFR's electronic and print materials. Chris has worked in a particularly close way with the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, developing a thoughtful and strategic role in that state's campaign. He has worked as the media contact for MVFR nationally and assisted with our communications throughout the country.

Marcelle Clowes, previously a committed volunteer for MVFR in North Carolina, will now serve as our Administrative/Program Assistant. Her responsibilities will include managing daily administrative tasks and providing other support to Scott and Chris as the team requires. She will also work closely with Scott to ensure MVFR's continued, active engagement with the local North Carolina movement. She brings a variety of administrative and creative skills to her role.

The MVFR Board of Directors, with the assistance of a search firm, will begin a nation-wide search for a permanent Executive Director and continue to be an effective voice in the movement to abolish the death penalty in the United States. During this time of transition, we will temporarily move the physical office to 405 Morson St., Raleigh, North Carolina 27601. All MVFR contact information will remain the same.

Friends, MVFR remains dedicated to our mission. Our vision remains salient and clear. Our commitment to our members, partners and the movement is stronger than ever before.

For MVFR to meet our full potential we must have a strong membership and base. Our Board of Directors is keenly aware of the numerous strategies and challenges of our respective state campaigns and the national movement. The MVFR staff team is experienced and equipped to continue MVFR's important role in continuing these efforts.

Thank you for your work toward ending capital punishment in the United States and for your continued support of MVFR.

With great expectation,

Jeremy Collins
Chair, MVFR Board of Directors

Scott Bass
Interim Executive Director

We invite you to contact any member of the team at the information below.

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