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Nancy Chavez, mother of murder victim Randi Trimble, honored as Harrisburg Volunteer Citizen of the Year

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By Joe Elias, The Patriot-News (http://connect.pennlive.com/user/jelias/index.html)

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Turning personal pain and tragedy into a way to help others has become a way of life for Nancy Chavez.

"The pain never goes away. I continue to heal," the Camp Hill resident said. "I know I will do that the rest of my life."

Chavez, whose daughter Randi Trimble, 28, was murdered in her East Pennsboro Twp. home in 2003, was named the 2012 Harrisburg Volunteer Citizen of the Year at a ceremony Monday night at the Capitol Rotunda.

The inaugural award was sponsored by Direct Energy and The Patriot-News.

Her former son-in-law, Brian Trimble, and his friend Blaine Norris are serving life prison terms after pleading guilty to killing Randi Trimble for \$100,000 in life insurance.

After her daughter's death, Chavez created "Randi's Race," (http://topics.pennlive.com/tag/randi's%20race/index.html) a 5k event that has raised more than \$245,000 for Domestic Violence Services in Cumberland and Perry counties.

She also created "Randi's House of Angels" in 2011 to provide a place for those who are victims of, or exposed to, domestic violence. Randi's House offers support, therapy and counseling to victims.

Chavez received a \$1,000 prize and a \$5,000 donation to Randi's House.



MIRANDA HARPLE, For The Patriot-News

Nancy Chavez, center, was honored at the Capitol Monday night.



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The money will be used for licensed therapists who specialize in working with children who are victims of domestic violence or who have had a family member killed as a result of domestic violence.

The money will also be used to provide legal representation in custody and divorce hearings.

"She has reached out and used her sorrow to help many, many people in the community," said state Sen. Pat Vance, R-Cumberland County.

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