



City and County of Broomfield MEDIA ADVISORY

Broomfield Police Department

BROOMFIELD CO—Broomfield Police Department invites you to a ceremony in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 6-12, 2014. Community members are encouraged to attend and partake in the tradition of tying a commemorative ribbon to the tree planted in memory of victims. Ribbons will be provided to write down the name of a friend or loved one.

EVENT: National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2014

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Broomfield Police Department—Second Floor Lobby, 7 DesCombes Drive, Broomfield CO

This year's theme – 30 Years: Restoring the Balance of Justice – presents a perfect opportunity to salute the Broomfield Police Department's Victim Services Unit and their long-term commitment to aiding crime victims. As we celebrate three decades of defending victims' rights, we are reminded of how far we have come – and how much work is yet to be done.

Only 30 years ago, crime victims had virtually no rights and no assistance. The criminal justice system often seemed indifferent to their needs. Victims were commonly excluded from courtrooms and denied the chance to speak at sentencing. They had no access to victim compensation or services to help rebuild their lives. There were few avenues to deal with their emotional and physical wounds. Victims were on their own to recover their health, security, and dignity.

Today, the nation has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims. Every state has enacted victims' rights laws and all have victim compensation programs. More than 10,000 victim service agencies now help people throughout the country. In 1984, Congress passed the bipartisan Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), which created a national fund to ease victims' suffering. Financed not by taxpayers but by fines and penalties paid by offenders, the Crime Victims Fund supports victim services, such as rape crisis and domestic violence programs and victim compensation programs that pay many of victims' out-of-pocket expenses from the crime, such as counseling, funeral expenses, and lost wages.

Victims' rights advocates have scored remarkable victories over the last 30 years. But there is still a lot of work to be done. As we move forward, we are increasingly expanding our reach to previously underserved victim populations, including victims of color, American Indians and Alaska Natives, adults molested as children, victims of elder abuse, and LGBTQ victims. Over three decades, VOCA pioneered support efforts for victims of once-hidden crimes, like domestic and sexual violence. Today, we are shining a spotlight on other abuses that have long been unreported and often not prosecuted—hate and bias crimes, bullying, and sex and labor trafficking, among others.

"Our commitment to reaching every victim of crime is stronger than ever," said Joye E. Frost, Director, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), U.S. Department of Justice. "For 30 years, VOCA has represented hope, healing, and justice. Our message to all victims of crime is this: You are not alone." In Washington, DC, the U.S. Department of Justice will kick off the week with OVC's annual Service Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding individuals and programs that serve victims of crime.

For additional information about 2014 National Crime Victims' Rights Week and how to help victims in your community, please contact Broomfield Victim Services at 303-438-6471 or visit <http://www.broomfield.org/index.aspx?NID=304>. For more ideas on how to volunteer to help crime victims, visit the Office for Victims of Crime website, www.ovc.gov.

