



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OC Service Providers Come Together to Honor Victims of Crime

FULLERTON, CA – This month, during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a number of Orange County organizations are partnering to create an interactive art exhibit honoring victims who lost their lives because of crime.

From April 8th through April 14th, WTLC, Waymakers, The Muckenthaler, Mariposa, and Crime Survivors, Inc. will host a community awareness project that honors those victims who cannot come home to dinner because their lives were lost to crime. This weeklong event will be held at the Fullerton Transportation Center at 120 E Santa Fe Avenue, and will involve a standing art project that the community is encouraged to interact with and reflect upon throughout the week.

“Beyond drawing attention to the countless lives lost to crime, this project is an opportunity for us all to demonstrate our support for the survivors living in our community, and to make known our commitment to stand with them as we work towards an end to violence and crime,” WTLC CEO Gigi Tsontos says.

The event will begin on Sunday at 11:00 am with an Opening Ceremony that introduces the project and its message to the community, at which Senator Josh Newman and Fullerton Police Chief David Hendricks will speak. It will close Saturday at 11:00 am with a Continuation Ceremony that encourages the community to keep the message of the project in mind as they commit to a safer society. Between those ceremonies, the art exhibit will be available for the community to interact with and reflect upon at their own pace.

This project is supported by a National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Community Awareness Project subgrant awarded by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators under a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

Since 2004, the NCVRW Community Awareness Project has provided financial and technical assistance to more than 1,000 community projects that promote victim and public awareness activities, and innovative approaches to victim outreach and public education about victims’ rights and services during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. WTLC was one of 78 projects recommended by NAVAA and selected for funding by OVC for 2018 from the 185 applications that were submitted nationwide.

“Now more than ever, it is critical that communities come together to identify and meet the needs of victims and survivors of all types of crimes,” OVC Director Darlene Hutchinson said. “That’s why this year’s theme underscores the need to expand the circle to reach all victims, including those who need

help and may be unaware of the many victim assistance service providers and programs that are available to them and play such a critical role in the aftermath of a crime.”

About WTLC:

WTLC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families escape the depths of domestic violence and exploitation by providing the tools and resources to build self-esteem and empower people for independent living. If you or someone you know is the victim of abuse, contact our 24-hour bilingual hotline at (877) 531-5522 or love@wtlc.org. For more information about WTLC, visit www.wtlc.org

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