



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Victim Assistance Program Presents Crystal Baker from the
Summit County Prosecutor's Office with Victim Service Award**

Every Spring Victim Assistance Program recognizes outstanding dedication and care of one individual who has not only served victims in our community, but done so without restraint. This year, Victim Assistance Program has presented Crystal Baker, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office Director of Victim Services, with the "Dr. Bob Denton Outstanding Victim Service Award." Crystal Baker will be the 10th individual to receive this prestigious recognition.

For over 17 years, Crystal has engaged the Summit County community to ensure all people impacted by crime and violence have access to services to begin healing from their trauma. Crystal started her advocacy career with the Batter Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina Counties. In 2014, Crystal joined Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh's office as Director of Victim Services. Prosecutor Bevan Walsh commented, "Crystal constantly looks for new ways to make our community better. Thank you for all you do and for all the years and dedication you have given along the way."

"The energy put forth by Crystal exemplifies what all of us in the victim service field strive to bring to our work every day," Leanne Graham President & CEO of Victim Assistance Program shares. "It is a sincere pleasure to present Crystal Baker, my dear friend and colleague, the outstanding victim service award named after our agency's founder Dr. Bob Denton."

With regional and national tragedies taking center stage, it is important to remind the community that local law enforcement, the courts, the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, victim service agencies, and compassionate individuals like Crystal Baker are here to serve and empower victims, from hardship to healing.

The mission of Victim Assistance Program is to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. The purpose of the Agency is to provide 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and education to victims of crime and trauma and the professional community who serves this population. To learn more about Victim Assistance Program's services, and ways to get involved, visit victimassistanceprogram.org or call our 24-hour hotline, 330.376.0040.

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