



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Victim Assistance Program Commemorates National Crime Victims' Rights Week
(April 18 – 24, 2021)**

Beginning on Sunday, April 18, 2021, Victim Assistance Program will commemorate National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRRW) to help raise awareness about victims' issues, rights, resources, and services available. According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report's most recent data (2018), someone in Summit County is murdered every 11.5 days, raped every 3.3 hours, assaulted every 13 hours, and every 26 hours, someone is burglarized. This equates to thousands of crime victims who must overcome the life altering effects of victimization. These crimes affect victims emotionally, financially, physically, and spiritually on various levels.

Victim Assistance Program will commemorate the advancement of victims' rights and highlight issues surrounding victimization by presenting the 2021 Rev. Dr. Robert A. Denton Outstanding Victim Service Award, named in honor of Bob Denton, agency founder. What began as a grassroots movement to fill the gaps in social services available within the criminal justice system, specifically for victims, soon evolved, laying the foundation for what would become Victim Assistance Program. "We started the advocacy services early on," said Denton. "And we watched that grow. We took our resources and developed a program that makes sure you don't forget anybody."

Victim Assistance Program nominated Akron Municipal Court Judge Ron Cable in recognition of his faithfulness, dedication, and commitment to victims of crime and trauma. VAP presented the award to Judge Cable during a one-on-one interview, which will be released on Monday, April 19, 2021 on VAP's website and social media pages. Judge Ron Cable was first elected to the Akron Municipal Court bench in 2017 and was selected to be the Administrative/Presiding Judge beginning January 1, 2021. Judge Cable, who presides over the Court's Family Intervention Court specialized docket, started RISE (Restore Individual Self-Empowerment) Court to help adult female victims of human trafficking. RISE first began as a court-sponsored program and transitioned into a certified specialized docket in November 2020. "The true heroes are the victims that are in the [RISE Court] program because after what they've been through in their lives, they're still able to move on and to rebuild," said Judge Cable. "They're just very strong human beings." Judge Cable is an incredible advocate for victims in Summit County and his efforts have helped countless individuals transition from hardship to healing.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) leads communities throughout the country in their annual observances of NCVRRW by promoting victims' rights and honoring crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. This year's theme – *Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities.* – emphasizes the importance of cultivating community support to help victims of crime.

The vision of Victim Assistance Program is a world where all victims are healed. The mission 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 330-376-7022.

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