



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Survivor of Kidnapping and Sexual Assault lends voice in support of Mardi Gras Gala

On Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Victim Assistance Program will host the annual Mardi Gras Gala, presented by Leppo Rents. After two years of virtual events and the sale of the flagship Tangier location, this sell-out event is ready to return to in-person fun. Over 400 guests will gather at the University of Akron’s Quaker Station to enjoy a gourmet meal, open bar, entertainment, and live & silent auctions.

With the increase in violence in our community over the last few years, services to assist victims in crisis have increased greatly. To support that growth, this year’s fundraising goal of \$150,000 will directly support individuals like Sarah Parmer, a survivor of kidnapping, sexual assault, and domestic violence and participant of Victim Assistance Program.

“I have always been passionate about helping others” Sarah explains, “For individuals to come forward and have Victim Assistance Program... it is very helpful in obtaining justice. So many are unable to do that for themselves.” Sarah desires to share her story of trauma and hope with the media and community. “Lending my voice. . . will encourage others to reach out, learn more, and help support Victim Assistance Program.”

The funds raised by the annual Mardi Gras Gala are pivotal in carrying out Victim Assistance Program’s mission: to empower our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy.

The Mardi Gras Gala also offers businesses the opportunity to share their support via sponsorship, purchasing program ads, or donating items to the auction. Individuals or smaller groups can support Victim Assistance Program by purchasing event tickets and 50/50 raffle tickets at www.victimassistanceprogram.org/mardigrasgala.

To learn more about these opportunities please 330.376.7022 ext. 212 or email mardigras@victimassistanceprogram.org.



General Information

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.

Credentialed Media are Invited to Attend

Media that wishes to attend and provide coverage of the event may request access by emailing Paul M. Henry with the following information:

News/Media Outlet

Full Name of the Reporter/Journalist/Camera

Contact Email

Contact Phone

Description of Story (i.e. "Importance of Victim Assistance Program's Access to Courts")

Upon Submission you will receive a media kit and pass for the event.

Additional media, quotes, and interview of staff and client/survivor upon request to:

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