



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO HONOR DECEASED VICTIMS
DURING ITS 29th ANNUAL ANGEL TREE CEREMONY**

Victim Assistance Program (VAP) is proud to host its 29th annual Angel Tree Ceremony, on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The event will be held at the Akron Public Library, with the High St. entrance doors opening at 5:30 PM. As of today, the ceremony is dedicated to honoring 1,395 Summit County victims who tragically lost their lives due to various circumstances, including but not limited to homicide and DWI/DUI incidents. It is important to note that VAP will continue to add victims' names to the program until December 1, 2023.

Upon arrival at the event, guests will receive an angel bearing the name of their loved one to be placed on one of the six trees that will grace the venue throughout December. The ceremony promises to be a memorable experience, featuring a keynote address by Mar-quetta Boddie, the Executive Director of Summit County Continuum of Care. Additionally, attendees will be treated to a musical performance by the Akron Freedom Recovery Choir.

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be accessible through a live stream on VAP's Facebook page: facebook.com/victimassistanceprogram, as well as on their YouTube channel: youtube.com/@VictimAssistanceProgram. VAP extends a warm invitation to those joining virtually to download a copy of the event program on 12.04.23 on VAP's website: victimassistanceprogram.org/angel-tree.

Prior to the event, family members and friends are encouraged to contribute a photo of their loved one for the memorial video and wall of remembrance by emailing their photo with their loved one's name to outreach@victimassistanceprogram.org prior to 12.1.23.

The Angel Trees and the Wall of Remembrance will be displayed at the Akron Public Library, 60 South High Street, throughout the month of December. The community is encouraged to visit the tree displays and the 20-foot wall of remembrance prior to 12.27.23

ABOUT VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The mission of Victim Assistance Program is to empower the community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. To learn more about Victim Assistance Program's services, ways to get involved, or donate, visit victimassistanceprogram.org or call our 24-hour hotline, 330.376.0040.

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