



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 30, 2018

Contact: Kelly Kaufman, Director of Advancement

kkaufman@victimassistanceprogram.org

(330) 376-0040 x200

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN BARBERTON WITH
OPEN HOUSE**

Victim Assistance Program will be celebrating 20 years of victim advocacy services for the Barberton area this year. On Thursday, September 20th from 2 - 4 PM, the nonprofit will recognize this landmark by holding a celebration and open house at their Barberton Municipal Court office location. The celebration will include refreshments, a chance to see their new office space, and an opportunity to learn more about what they do for the community. The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP, visit: vapbarbertonopenhouse.eventbrite.com, or call at 330.376.0040.

In 1997, Victim Assistance Program first applied for additional grants to serve the needs of the community. Members of the community bound together to help make this service a reality. Letters in support of this program ranged from judges, members of the police force, as well as educators in the Barberton school system. As a result, the first full-time victim advocate for the Barberton Court would begin helping victims in 1998.

The impact the Barberton office has on the community today is significant. In 2017, the Barberton office alone assisted 505 clients. In total, Victim Assistance Program provided a total of 41,050 services to victims of crime and trauma.

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.

XXX

empowering our community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy