



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Annual Fundraiser Hopes to Raise \$130,000 to Help Victims of Crime and Trauma in Summit County**

On Saturday, March 2, 2019 over 450 guests will once again turn The Tangier in Akron into a night out on Bourbon Street. This year's presenting sponsor is Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Guests will enjoy a gourmet meal, an open bar, live & silent auctions while helping to reach the fundraising goal of \$130,000. For the last 25+ years proceeds from the agency's signature Mardi Gras Gala have directly impacted victims of crime and trauma in Summit County. The generous support of the community allows victim advocates to provide 24-hour crime scene response, crisis intervention and advocacy services to over 5,000 victims each year.

There are many ways to help. Victim Assistance is currently seeking sponsors and donations for the Gala. If interested in sponsoring this incredible event, there are many options available beginning at \$500 which include event tickets, advertising, and more. Other opportunities to help include donating an item or experience for the live and silent auctions or purchasing a program advertisement.

Discounted early bird tickets are available now through February 1, 2019 for \$100.00 per person after which the price increases to \$115.00. To learn more about the event and make your reservations visit [victimassistanceprogram.org/mardigrasgala/](http://victimassistanceprogram.org/mardigrasgala/) or phone Victim Assistance Program at 330.376.7022.

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 response, advocacy services, 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](http://victimassistanceprogram.org) or call our 24-hour hotline, 330.376.0040.

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