



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO MOVE FROM HISTORIC
FURNACE STREET LOCATION TO DOWNTOWN AKRON**

While responding to the needs of the community, Victim Assistance Program has sadly outgrown their historic home on Furnace Street. The agency's founder, the Rev. Dr. Bob Denton, law enforcement, and probation officials mapped out the current building in 1972. As a result, Victim Assistance Program became the first victim assistance agency in Ohio and a leader in the national victim advocacy movement. Programming led to state and federal laws to help victims across the country and since that time, their services have helped thousands of Summit County residents.

Recently, crisis intervention and advocacy services have nearly tripled, leaving the current location no longer adequate to serve the community. As a result, Victim Assistance Program is launching their Moving Forward Together Capital Campaign to support their move to a 10,000+ square foot facility located on 137 Main Street in Downtown Akron. They hope to achieve their goal of \$450,000 with pledges by December 31st. The funding will go towards renovations and construction of the facility, implementation of security and technology, along with the logistics and supplies to run the operations.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The new location will be more accessible to the public. Victim Assistance Program will now be located on a bus line, ADA compliant, and within walking distance from the Summit County Court of Common Pleas, Akron Municipal Court, and the Akron Police Department. In addition, a team of victim advocates currently housed at the Akron Police Department due to space constraints, will move to create one central location. Victim Advocates will remain at the agency's Barberton and Stow Municipal Court locations.

The move also helps increase safety and confidentiality for the victims they serve. There will be video surveillance, key card security access, and controlled entry/private exits for visitors. Additionally, the new offices will have four specifically designed private, confidential, and secure meeting rooms for victims.

With the larger building, the organization will have room to expand their Summit County Crisis Response Team. The additional space will help to organize and train a 100+ person team of on-call volunteers and therapy dogs to support victims in the event of a critical incident.

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



In addition, the Rev. Dr. Bob Denton Training Room, home of the Summit Victim Assistance Academy, will provide education and awareness to the community. The name is in honor of the Rev. Dr. Bob Denton, founder, and longtime Executive Director of Victim Assistance Program. The trainings provided by SVAA will be open to the community and customized for allied professionals, victim advocates, and residents.

HOW TO HELP

You can donate by visiting victimassistanceprogram.org/movingforward. You can also mail your donation to their current headquarters at 150 Furnace Street, Akron, Ohio 44304.

ABOUT VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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.

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