



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Specialized Training for Those in Helping Professions**

The Summit Victim Assistance Academy, an educational service provided by the historic Victim Assistance Program of Summit County, is now accepting registration for the Essentials of Victim Advocacy. The class will be held January 7<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup> and is one of only 2 nationally approved prerequisite classes, offered in the state of Ohio, that meets the requirements for national accreditation. The 44-hour week-long training is a dynamic mix of classroom and online learning and is open to all those in helping professions including, but not limited to: law enforcement, social workers, counselors, attorneys, medical personnel, first responders, and clergy.

Participants who complete the course will learn the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) crisis intervention model that assists those affected by victimization or traumatic events. In addition, participants will gain knowledge about the judicial system, victims' rights, and current available community resources. Some topics covered include but are not limited to: the history of the victims' rights movement, individualized crisis intervention, human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, identity theft, missing persons, stalking, homicide, suicide, sudden death, crime scene response, and court advocacy. The trainers consist of the specialized team from Victim Assistance Program, Akron Police Department, Barberton Police Department, Summit County Collaborative Against Human Trafficking, Summit County Prosecutor's Office, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

Tuition is \$275 and includes professional materials, refreshments, certification of completion, and information on the accreditation process. To register, visit [victimassistanceprogram.org/the-essentials](http://victimassistanceprogram.org/the-essentials) or call Dana Zedak, Sr. Director of Education at 330.376.0040.

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

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