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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COUNTY ATTORNEY'S VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION
HONORED BY GOVERNOR FOR OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO PIMA COUNTY**

TUCSON, ARIZONA - Pima County Attorney Barbara LaWall's Victim Services Division was honored Friday in Mesa with the Governor's Volunteer Service Award.

The annual award is given to organizations that display and promote volunteerism while recognizing the efforts that strengthen and improve the quality of life for Arizonans.

"The hard work and dedication of our volunteers is second to none," said LaWall. "They are the backbone of our Victim Services Division and the reason for its success."

The Victim Services Division was established in 1975 as one of the first programs in the country to provide comprehensive assistance to crime victims. Today, the Division has the largest pool of trained advocates in all of Arizona, with over 120 volunteers who provide service to Pima County twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

Prospective volunteers undergo an intensive, thirty-six hour program in basic Crisis Intervention Training. They are then required to attend thirty additional hours of Advanced Volunteer Training before they start working with the public.

In 2011 the Victim Services Division volunteers donated more than 13,000 hours, serving victims of all types of crime, including domestic violence, sexual assault, robbery, home invasion, and homicide.

"Volunteers donate their time and energy to empower victims of crime to seek justice and ultimately strengthen and rebuild their lives," said LaWall. "I am extremely grateful for the service they provide to our community."



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The Victim Services Division provided crisis support to the victims and witnesses of the mass shooting on January 8, 2011. For Suzy Burros, a volunteer who was on-scene January 8, 2011, this was not just a job. "I was having a hard time, but I found comfort knowing I was able to help others who needed assistance that day; this is a hard job but very rewarding."

The Victim Services Division holds volunteer training opportunities twice a year. Those who are interested in learning more about becoming a Victim Services Volunteer can visit the County Attorney's website at www.pcao.pima.gov/victimservices.aspx.

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