

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM EXPANDS**

(Tucson, Arizona) – Barbara LaWall, Pima County Attorney, is pleased to announce that the County Attorney’s Victim Witness Program is expanding its advocacy and education services for victims of crime in Sahuarita, Green Valley, and surrounding areas in Southern Pima County. Thanks to a grant provided by the Office for Violence Against Women, and with the collaboration of the Sahuarita Police Department and the Pima County Sheriff’s Office, the Victim Witness Program will now have a stronger presence and will help alleviate the challenges of crime victims who have traditionally been underserved in Southern Pima County.

Since 1975, Victim Witness Advocates have worked with crime victims by providing crisis intervention, resources, and information about the criminal justice system. Currently, Victim Witness is working in Sahuarita and Green Valley assessing the needs of the community in order to provide the services that will best meet the needs of crime victims in this area. Victim Witness is housed in the Sahuarita Police Department and is recruiting volunteers who live in the area to work with crime victims. Volunteers must complete a comprehensive training program, which will be offered this fall in Sahuarita.

LaWall said: “I am excited to partner with the Sahuarita/Green Valley community to develop better services for victims of crime. Part of my mission as County Attorney has always been to ensure that victims’ voices are heard and that victims receive the support they need to recover from the trauma of being victimized.”

For information about the Victim Witness Program, contact Kent Burbank, Victim Witness Director, at (520) 740-5525. To volunteer, call the same number and speak with Vanessa Helms.

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