



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SHASTA

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**Shasta County Joins in “Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past” for
Victims of Crime 2011 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Redding, CA - April 10, 2011 marks the beginning of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, a time to honor victims and the advocates of victims’ rights. This year’s theme, *Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past*, evokes victims’ past struggles and our nation’s duty to help them rebuild stronger lives.

For victims, reshaping the future means confronting many challenges. After a crime, victims need to know what rights and resources they can count on. They may need funds to bury a loved one or pay medical bills. They may want information on the criminal justice process, their rights to be present or heard in court, and to be notified about court proceedings and offenders’ whereabouts. Yet many victims do not find the help they need.

For victim advocates, reshaping the future, particularly in these financially stressed times, means finding ways to do more with less. It means locating resources for victims who want them and helping new victims, such as the families harmed by family violence in Shasta County. “Reshaping the future requires meeting present and emerging challenges. It also requires community collaboration and thinking outside the box, just as the combined efforts of the representatives at the Shasta Family Justice Center have done,” according to Angela Fitzgerald, SFJC project lead.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we honor the memory of the victims and their families’ struggles to rebuild a future despite their grief. We also remember the thousands of homicide victims in our nation in recent years, and the millions who live each day in fear of violence. Honoring the past also means recalling a time, not too many years ago, when victims had no voice in the criminal justice system; when murder victims’ families were excluded from courtrooms and assault victims paid all their own medical bills.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week honors the victims and advocates who confronted such injustices and helped produce a nationwide system of victim compensation and victims' rights. It also reminds us that failures to enforce these laws or to fund programs for victims jeopardize the success of these reforms.

“Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past” captures the spirit and mission of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The past that we honor points to a future when all victims are respected, the laws to protect them are enforced, and the resources they need are in place and accessible to them. Justice demands no less.

Shasta County will observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week with special events and programs from April 10–April 16. These activities will include Board of Supervisors Proclamation on April 5, 2011 and **Take Back the Night** public family safety fair held at North end of the Market Street Promenade on April 12, 2010 beginning at 5:00 pm.

Each community can encourage its members to participate in the week's events and find ways to help victims of crime. For additional information about National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and how to help victims in your community, please contact *Shasta County DA – Crime Victims Assistance Center* at (530) 225-5220 and ask for Angela Fitzgerald or the *Shasta Family Justice Center* at (530) 243-8868 and ask for Michael Burke or visit www.shastafjc.org