



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

301 SECOND STREET - WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA 95695 - 530.666.8180 - FAX 530.666.8185

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 13, 2012 **Contact:** Laura Valdes, Victim Services Program Manager
Phone: (530) 666-8207

**District Attorney Jeff Reisig Launches Survivors of Homicide Support Group
The Victim Services Program and the iCAN Foundation worked together to start
Yolo County's first homicide support group.**

(Woodland, CA) – June 13, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that Wednesday, June 6, 2012 marked the first ever Survivors of Homicide Support Group meeting in Yolo County. The District Attorney first announced the Support Group to the community at the 2012 Annual Victim Tribute on April 30, 2012.

The District Attorney's Victim Services Program, together with the iCAN Crime Victims Assistance Network Foundation, planned and organized this program which is unique to survivors of homicide in Yolo County.

Reisig stated that there is a great need for a homicide survivors group in Yolo County. "The number of survivors of homicide obtaining services from our victim advocates has remained steady for the past several years. When you add all those victims up - year after year, listen to their stories, see their strength and desire to persevere, it was abundantly clear to me that a support group like this was long over-due in our community," stated Reisig.

Laura Valdes, the program manager of the District Attorney's Victim Services Division helped spearhead the formation of the new Yolo County support group. "In the past, when the family and friends of a victim of homicide requested information on support groups, we had no choice but to refer them to neighboring counties. Now, we are prepared to help them right here at home," stated Valdes. "The process of healing is different for survivors of a sudden, unexpected death of a loved one...most of all when it is at the hands of another human being," continued Valdes.

The group is open to all survivors of homicide regardless of when the loss occurred, whether the death was prosecuted or if the incident occurred in another county or state. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at the Woodland Police Department from 6:00-7:30pm. Due to the 4th of July weekend, the support group's next meeting is scheduled for August 1.

For more information contact Laura Valdes at (530) 666-8187.

###