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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DA Victim Services Program Receives Grant Funding

The \$5,000 grant will be used to promote community awareness during National Crime Victims' Rights Week

(Woodland/CA) – October 19, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that on September 28, 2012, the National Association of VOCA (Victims Of Crime Act) Assistance Administrators awarded the Yolo County District Attorney's Victim Services Program funding to promote community awareness of crime victims' rights and services during 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The \$5,000 grant comes from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) which is an agency within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

The week of April 21-27, 2013, is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This annual observance, first designated by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, seeks to increase general public awareness of, and knowledge about the wide range of rights and services available to people who have been victimized by crime. The theme for 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "*New Challenges. New Solutions.*"

Since 2004, the Community Awareness Project funding supports community collaboration on victim and public awareness activities, and innovative approaches to victim outreach and public education about victims' rights and services during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

The Yolo County District Attorney's Victim Services Program was one of the 77 projects recommended by the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators and selected for funding by OVC for 2013 from the 169 applications that were submitted nationwide. According to Joye Frost, Acting Director of OVC, the Community

Awareness Project helps generate widespread public awareness of crime victims' rights and needs, and the importance of engaging all Americans in victim assistance efforts.

"Recent studies show that too many crime victims and survivors do not avail themselves of the many services in our communities that can help them through very devastating experiences. National Crime Victims' Rights Week is our opportunity to support public awareness of crime victims' rights and the critical, often life-saving, services provided by thousands of programs across our Nation to help crime victims," Frost said.

According to Yolo County Victim Services Program Manager Laura Valdes, the Community Awareness Project that will be sponsored in Yolo County will include the Seventh Annual Victim Recognition Ceremony and first ever Victims' Rights Resource Fair. The Victim Recognition Ceremony is an annual event that highlights victims who have suffered through an often shocking and horrific crime and persevered. For the first time ever, the week's activities will also include an outreach fair to provide information to the public about victims' rights and available community resources.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated that the funding for Yolo County's 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities will help us help our crime victims. "Members of our community are encouraged to help promote justice through service to crime victims by joining our 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities and supporting victim assistance programs throughout the year," said Reisig.

For additional information about 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week activities or about victims' rights and services in Yolo County, please contact Laura Valdes, Program Manager of Victim Services at 530.666.8187, or visit our Website at www.yoloda.org. For information about national efforts to promote 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week, please visit the Office for Victims of Crime Web site at <http://www.ovc.gov>.

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