

February 18, 2010

Contact: Evelyn Marez

For Immediate Release

(928)524-4015,

[evelyn.marez@navajocountyaz.gov](mailto:evelyn.marez@navajocountyaz.gov)

## Press Release

### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

#### “NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS’ RIGHTS WEEK,” APRIL 18-24

*Events made possible by federal Community Awareness*

*Project grant to Navajo County Attorney*

HOLBROOK, AZ – The Navajo County Attorney’s Office received federal funding to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> annual National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, April 18-24. A conference, focusing on the many services available to victims of child abuse and neglect, is planned April 23 in Holbrook. Navajo County Attorney Brad Carlyon said the conference, is of interest to all victims of crime and the general public. Other events include a “Meet and Greet” event, sponsored by the County Attorney’s Victim Services Division on April 21 and a poster contest for area high school students. Winners of the poster contest will be announced at the conference on April 23. The conference is co-sponsored by the national Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Navajo County Attorney. Other sponsors include the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

Carlyon’s office received Community Awareness Project funding from the National Association of Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Assistance Administrators to promote community awareness of crime victims’ rights and services during Victims’ Rights Week. The Association is a non-profit organization comprising 56 state agencies that distribute funds from the federal VOCA to more than 4,300 providers of victim assistance services.

“Community Awareness Project funding encourages public agencies and service organizations to work together to increase public understanding of victims’ rights and services during Victims’ Rights Week and

throughout the year,” Carlyon said. “We’re proud that our project for Victim Rights’ Week was one of only 70 to be recommended for this funding, out of 142 applicants nationally.

According to Carlyon, VOCA program funding comes from criminal fines and penalties paid by federal offenders, not from taxpayer dollars. More information about VOCA and the national efforts to promote Victims’ Rights Week is available at from the Office for Victims of Crime at [ovc.gov](http://ovc.gov).

Victims’ Rights Week was established by President Ronald Reagan in 1981 to increase public awareness of the legal rights of crime victims and the wide range of services available to them and their families. The theme for 2010 is “Crime Victims’ Rights: Fairness. Dignity. Respect.”

More information about Victims’ Rights Week events—and about victims’ rights and services available from Navajo County Victim Services Director Evelyn Marez at 524-4015 or [evelyn.marez@navajocountyaz.gov](mailto:evelyn.marez@navajocountyaz.gov)

Online conference registration opens March 1. Go to [navajocountydrugproject.com](http://navajocountydrugproject.com)

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