



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO HONOR JUDGE KATARINA COOK
AMIDST NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

Victim Assistance Program is awarding the “Rev. Dr. Robert A. Denton Outstanding Victim Services Award” to Summit County Domestic Relations Court Administrative Judge, Katarina Cook on April 28, 2023. According to Leanne Graham, Victim Assistance Program’s President & CEO, “in celebration of National Crime Victim Rights’ Week, Victim Assistance will honor Judge Cook’s leadership which has been foundationally instrumental for Summit County victims.”

Victim Assistance Program’s new location within the Summit County Domestic Relations Courthouse has Judge Cook to thank. Cook stated, “I am honored to be this year’s award recipient. This pioneering partnership has increased access to services and removed a large barrier of childcare for families seeking domestic relations court services, with the addition of the Children Who Witness Violence (CWWV) Drop-In Center. The synergy between the Summit County Domestic Relations Court and the Victims Assistance Program has provided a more trauma-informed approach and continuity of services for those persons seeking protection orders.” Both the provision of in-court advocacy services and the new childcare option would not be possible without Judge Cook’s personal and professional advocacy.

The public is welcome to join Victim Assistance Program in celebrating victim services and victims’ rights, on Friday, April 28 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. The agency is holding a small gathering with food, generously donated by Brubaker’s Pub, at 4141 Bridgewater Parkway in Stow. Registration is required and can be reserved by calling 330-376-7022 or online at victimassistanceprogram.org/NCVRW. Together, they will honor Judge Cook and offer a learning session about victim rights and Victim Assistance Program’s services.

This year’s National Crime Victim Rights Week theme is “Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.” As such, Victim Assistance Program will briefly discuss some of the legislative changes that are taking place to support more robust victim rights in Ohio.

ABOUT VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The mission of Victim Assistance Program is to empower the community to restore lives impacted by crisis, violence, and tragedy. The purpose of the Agency is to provide 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and education to victims of crime and trauma and the professional community who serves this population. To learn more, call their 24/7 hotline at 330.376.0040 or visit victimassistanceprogram.org.

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