

The logo features a stylized sun with rays above the text "RESHAPING THE FUTURE".

RESHAPING  
THE FUTURE

HONORING  
THE PAST

# NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 10-16, 2011

Elbert County Joins in "Reshaping the Future, Honoring the Past" for Victims of Crime  
2011 National Crime Victims' Rights Week

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' 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 to bury a loved one or pay medical bills. They may want information on the criminal justice process, their rights to be present and heard in court, and to be notified about court proceedings and the offenders' whereabouts.

For 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 requires tenacity in meeting the present and emerging challenges of providing victim services.

To fully give the Victims' Rights movement the attention it deserves, we must also honor the many victims and advocates who confronted injustices of the not so distant past, such as when victims had no voice in the criminal justice system, or had to pay their own crime related medical bills. This year, The Elbert County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance program is proud to provide an opportunity for Elbert County residents to partner with us in reshaping the future for victims by honoring their past struggles and by acknowledging the vision that tomorrow's challenges will be matched, if not exceed, the legacy of past achievements in service to victims.

April 10-12, 2011 The Elbert County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program will be hosting an Art Exhibit and Silent Auction at the Carlson Building in Elizabeth, CO. Rebecca Gale, MSW, local artist and Therapist with the Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center has facilitated groups for both victims and local victim service providers as an opportunity to express why victims' rights matter to everyone.

“Using art as a tool is a very powerful way for victims to express the emotional, physical, psychological and financial toll that crime has had on their lives, and through this project, also gives service providers a unique way to celebrate the successful collaboration of local therapists, advocates, community businesses, health professionals

and the criminal justice system in the provision of services to victims”, says Sunni Ward, Victim Assistance Coordinator. “Coordinated efforts, allows for us to provide more comprehensive services and reduces duplication of services, which ultimately paves a way for victims to receive assistance more focused to their specific needs, which empowers them to move beyond the tragedy of the crime.”

Recently, the Elbert County Sheriff’s Office Victim Assistance Program collaborated with Buralli Towing & Recovery, Elbert County Coalition for Outreach and metro area agencies Catholic Charities and Interfaith Task Force to meet the needs of a victim of domestic violence. Because of the crime the victim was displaced from her place of residence. Pooling resources from local and metro area agencies allowed us to meet her specific need for transportation. By meeting that need, we also improved the victim’s ability to participate in the prosecution of the offender, increased her ability to become self-sufficient which in turn decreases the likelihood that she will return to the domestically abusive relationship. In essence through collaboration the ECSO victim assistance program was able to provide the victim with a tool, in this case transportation, which regardless of her past circumstance, empowers her to reshape her future.

***The National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Art Exhibit and Silent Auction will be held April 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Carlson Building.*** The opening show and silent auction will be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 5pm- 7pm and will feature a diverse selection of artwork created by local Elbert County residents who have been affected by crime and local victim service providers. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Elbert County Coalition for Outreach’s Hand Up program, which among many services, provides financial assistance to victims of crime in Elbert County. Community members will have additional opportunities to visit the exhibit on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm nightly.

The Elbert County Sheriff’s Office asks you, as concerned citizens of Elbert County, to join forces with its victim assistance program, the Women’s Crisis and Family Outreach Center, the Elbert County Department of Social Services, and the Elbert County Coalition for Outreach to raise awareness of victims’ rights by attending this year’s Art Exhibit and Silent Auction in observance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.