



Riverside County District Attorney
NEWS RELEASE

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DA ROD PACHECO RECOGNIZES GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

CORONA: Earlier today, District Attorney Rod Pacheco held the 4th Annual Guardians of Justice awards luncheon. The luncheon honored seven people for their commitment to victims' rights in a multitude of different ways.

This year's honorees were:

- **Amanda Vickers**, volunteer: Amanda Vickers became an unpaid intern for the DA's Office in late 2007. After completing the 10-week College Academy program, she continued her internship, compiling more than 2,000 volunteer hours. Despite not being paid, Amanda shows up on weekends and evenings to ensure that critical jobs are done. Amanda has worked along side prosecutors helping them with very complex cases. She has volunteered for Victims' Rights Week events over the last three years and continues to give back to the community and to victims every chance she can.
- **Investigator Scott Parent**, California Highway Patrol: CHP Investigator Scott Parent supervised a complex, multi-victim vehicular homicide investigation. A DUI driver ran a red light and hit an SUV carrying a local mom and her two teen children. The woman died instantly, one child died months later and the third barely survived. The subsequent criminal case involved many obstacles which were overcome because of Scott's many accident reconstruction reports that left no doubt as to who was responsible for the fatal crash.
- **Roger "Randy" Lang & Theo Joseph**, good Samaritans: About a year ago, Theo Joseph was getting his taxes done at a Norco tax office by Randy Lang. The men heard a woman screaming from the tanning salon next door and ran to help. They saw a man with a knife on top of a woman and Randy and Theo pulled the assailant off the victim. During the struggle, Randy was cut on both hands and legs. The man dropped the knife and fled, but Theo caught him and put him in a choke hold. With the help of a passerby, Theo handcuffed the assailant with cuffs the attacker had in his pocket and he was kept there until deputies arrived.
- **Ruthanne Phillips**, good Samaritan: Karolina, a domestic violence victim, would be dead without the help of Ruthanne Phillips. Karolina was visiting a former boyfriend when he began stabbing her with a knife because she refused to have sex with him. Karolina was able to flee and was running down the street, covered in blood, when Ruthanne saw her. Ruthanne stopped her car,

got out and laid the victim on a sidewalk. She covered her with blankets to prevent shock and provided first aid until paramedics arrived.

- **Denise Pou**, grandmother of Kerianne Bradley: Denise Pou's 16-month-old granddaughter, Kerianne Bradley, was beaten to death in February 2006. The killer was the then-boyfriend of Denise's daughter. Though experiencing her own unspeakable pain, Denise found the strength to speak for Kerianne. Enduring years of courtroom delays, Denise, using the rights of all victims under the recently passed Marsy's Law, had enough and spoke to the judge at one of those many court hearings. She expressed her anger and frustration with the delays and the judge soon got the case moving. Kerianne's killer was convicted two months ago and is now serving 25 years to life in prison.
- **Laura Gardhouse**, mother of Sean Gardhouse: Laura Gardhouse's son, Sean, was murdered in 2006 by gang members simply because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Her son's senseless murder initially sent Laura reeling in despair. But now she has translated her pain into action and Laura is an inspiration to family, friends and many people in the District Attorney's Office. She is a board member volunteers with Parents of Murdered Children as a mentor and provides counseling for others who have lost loved ones to violence.

The Guardians of Justice luncheon was the concluding event for the District Attorney's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. It was held at Eagle Glen Golf Club in Corona.

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