



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF MURDER VICTIMS OPENS A CHAPTER IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY

INDIO, CA: Friends and Family of Murder Victims has opened a Coachella Valley chapter to serve the needs of the friends and family of murder victims living in the desert. The Coachella Valley chapter was started this month with the assistance of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

Friends and Family of Murder Victims is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information, support and friendship to persons who have experienced the death of a loved one through the violent act of murder. The organization holds regular meetings in which victims may attend to seek support, obtain information, and become involved in the victims' rights process. The new Coachella Valley chapter joins already existing chapters in Colton, Riverside and Oakland.

The first meeting will be held in the Palm Desert Public Library at 6 p.m. this Wednesday, July 21, 2010, and on every third Wednesday of the month thereafter. Meetings are attended by representatives of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office to offer assistance and provide information on the criminal justice system. Anyone who is dealing with the devastating impacts of violent crime is welcome to attend the meetings.

"Dealing with the loss of my son Carlos wouldn't be the same without the emotional support and friendship of others who have been forced to deal with the same kind of loss," said Lily Centino, the mother of Carlos Centino. "Being a part of this group helps victims know that they are not alone and that there is a place for them to turn for help."

On December 12, 2000, Lily Centino reported her 24-year-old son, Carlos Centino, missing and his whereabouts remained unknown until January 2, 2001, when his body was found in a rural area in Riverside County just outside of Hemet. Riverside County District Attorney Rod Pacheco requested and received a \$50,000 reward from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

To contact Friends and Family of Murder Victims or obtain additional information, contact Lily Centino at (760) 218-0002 or email her at DesertLeeLee@gmail.com.

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