



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
May 26, 2011

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GROUP OF EMERGENCY DISPATCHERS DONATES \$2,000 TO VICTIM/WITNESS EMERGENCY FUND

INDIO – This week, a \$2,000 donation was presented to the Riverside County District Attorney's Office by a group of emergency dispatchers from the desert to go toward the DA's Victim/Witness Emergency Fund.

In April, the 16th Annual Dispatcher Appreciation Banquet was held, hosted this year by Indio Police Department dispatchers. Each year the hosting agency chooses a program or charity to which to donate. This year, they chose the DA's Victim/Witness Emergency Fund.

The fund is used to provide emergency financial assistance to victims of crime who have no other source of reimbursement. Examples of when the fund is utilized include necessary medication or medical supplies, replacement of windows or locks and other urgently needed items to help provide safety and security. Recently the fund paid for the replacement of a mattress and sheets for an elderly victim who was stabbed in his bed.

"The dispatchers' generous gift of \$2,000 will benefit crime victims and help them weather the crisis in their lives brought on by criminals," said Lachelle Crivello, acting director of the DA's Division of Victim Services.

"The dispatchers in this valley have not only made a commitment to keep their community safer through their chosen profession, but they have gone out of their way to raise funds for various charities over the past 16 years," Crivello added. "Their commendable dedication is truly appreciated by the District Attorney's Division of Victim Services."

The dispatchers also raised an additional \$600 for the family of Cathedral City police Officer Jermaine Gibson who was recently killed in the line of duty when his patrol car crashed during a high-speed pursuit.

Along with dispatchers from the Indio Police Department, other agencies involved in the annual appreciation banquets are from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the California Highway Patrol, Cal Fire, American Medical Response ambulance service, the Cathedral City police and fire departments, the Palm Springs police and fire departments, and the police departments in Banning, Beaumont, Blythe and Desert Hot Springs.