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★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

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May 9, 2014

Two Days in May 2014 Awards Winners
Hyatt Regency Columbus
350 North High Street
Third Floor Ballroom

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

2014 Robert Denton Special Achievement Award: Sharon Ann Nolan

Sharon Ann “Sherry” Nolan’s response to a heartbreaking tragedy in her own life was a commitment to make a positive difference for others. Her daughter Shannon was five months pregnant with her first child, a baby girl to be named Alexandra, when Shannon’s husband beat her to death on Sept. 7, 2001. Many groups provided support and gave Nolan the strength to share her assistance and her story. An advocate, mentor, and friend to victims of domestic violence and other crimes throughout the Hamilton County area, Nolan works at the national office of Parents of Murdered Children in Cincinnati. She is available 24/7 to help victims find resources, navigate court appearances, and share their burdens. She presents at events that aid and honor crime victims, speaks to police recruits and college students, and has testified before Congress. Through the YWCA of Cincinnati, she works on several programs that assist victims. She is also involved with LIVE, a juvenile violence prevention initiative, and earned a USA Freedom Corps Award for Volunteerism in 2007. Forever connected to her initial motivation, Nolan spends every Sept. 7 serving meals at domestic violence shelters and sharing the story of Shannon and Alexandra. Nolan was selected for this Robert Denton Special Achievement Award based on her dedication to serving crime victims and educating the public on victim rights and services.

2014 Promising Practice Award: Buckeye Ranch Common Ground Program

The Buckeye Ranch’s Common Ground Program brings peace of mind and increased safety to victims of domestic violence in Franklin County. For victims, seeing an abuser again can prompt stress and sometimes violence, especially when children are involved. Buckeye Ranch created Common Ground in 2009 to fill a significant service gap in Central Ohio and offer an alternative to visits at fast-food restaurants or exchanges in parking lots. Common Ground follows the Safe Haven Model’s principles of ensuring the safety of children and victims equally, valuing diversity, emphasizing understanding and awareness, ensuring fairness and respect in interactions between the victim and abuser, and locating services with community partners to better assist victims. Buckeye Ranch uses a trauma-informed care approach and therapeutic environment to minimize stress and triggers for victims. Common Ground places a huge emphasis on providing a safe, stress-free environment, an on-site police officer, supervised visitation by a neutral third party, and no contact between abuser and victim. No incidents or confrontations have been reported, and participants say they have an increased sense of safety and greater awareness of community resources. This Promising Practice Award recognizes the Buckeye Ranch’s Common Ground Program for preventing revictimization and providing an avenue for healing.