



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: February 15, 2011

DA Unveils its Camp Good Grief Video to Board

San Bernardino, CA – Today, in front of the Board of Supervisors, the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office and Loma Linda Children's Hospital unveiled a video entitled, "Camp Good Grief Special Victims' Program." The video, created by videographer Chris Lee, depicts life at the camp and visually demonstrates why this camp has become so critically important to children who have suffered the loss of a parent through violence.

Camp Good Grief Special Victims Program is a grief camp for children and teens whose lives have been shattered due to an act of murder or suicide of a member of their family. The camp provides a place for children to be with other children their own age to learn about and understand grief. The San Bernardino County District Attorney's office, in partnership with Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, offers this unique four day camp that provides a relaxed, supportive and safe environment for children to enjoy the typical activities of a summer camp, as well as to have opportunities to work with professionals to share their feelings related to their loss, learn new ways to cope, and interact with other children and teens in an atmosphere of love and acceptance. All camp staff including therapists, social workers, law enforcement officers and victim advocates donate their time to this Camp. The first Camp was held in March 2005, and has now expanded to two camps a year. Funding for the camp comes from unclaimed victim restitution money.

(MORE)

Camp Good Grief SVP is the brainchild of Chief of Victim Services Marilynn Kimball. Kimball stated, "I was familiar with the wonderful work done by Loma Linda Children's Hospital through its Camp Good Grief, which works with children who have suffered the loss of a family member due to an illness. I felt that the same theories would work with children who had suffered the loss of a family member due to violence and Camp Good Grief SVP was born."

District Attorney Michael A. Ramos stated, "We have been very fortunate to partner with Loma Linda Hospital and provide this very valuable service to our children. While nothing can replace the loss of a family member, helping a child understand that he or she is not alone can help them through a very bleak time in their life." A copy of the video is available upon request.

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