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National Center Releases New Videos to Help Local Communities Improve Response to Stalking, Teen Victims

Washington, DC – The National Center for Victims of Crime announced today the availability of new educational video programs designed to help improve community responses to two largely neglected groups of victims: stalking victims and teenage victims of crime.

Produced under a grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice, *Links in the Chain: Two Communities Respond to Stalking* and *Because Things Happen Every Day: Responding to Teenage Victims of Crime* will help build awareness about and motivate communities to take steps to address the growing problems of stalking and teenage victimization.

“We are certain that these top-quality products will be highly effective in helping local communities respond more effectively to stalking victims and teen victims of crime,” said Carl Peed, director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Produced in a compelling documentary, story-telling style, the videos profile collaborative community-based programs through “day-in-the-life” scenes of practitioners from multiple disciplines, and interviews with victims who describe the impact of their victimization, the kind of support they received, and how that support helped rebuild their lives. The videos also feature interviews with national experts.

Each video, approximately 20 minutes in length, comes with an accompanying discussion guide for facilitators and trainers to help ensure viewers understand core concepts. The discussion guide includes additional information and statistics about the issue; suggestions on ways to use the video; and a series of thought-provoking questions (and suggested responses) that can be used with audiences after viewing the video.

“We are very excited about being able to make these new video programs available to the field,” said Mary Lou Leary, executive director of the National Center for Victims of Crime. “These new programs are ideal for conference presentations, in-service trainings, introductory meetings with local law enforcement agencies and school systems – virtually any type of educational setting.”

New Video Programs from the National Center:

Links in the Chain: Two Communities Respond to Stalking. Produced by academy-award winning documentary filmmakers Citizen Film and Women's Educational Media, this video features two jurisdictions that successfully use multidisciplinary, collaborative responses to stalking: **The New York Anti-Stalking Task Force**, a completely volunteer initiative that provides a unique forum for a wide range of professionals from a six-county area to consult on individual stalking cases, and **The Family Violence Center**, a one-stop unit of the San Jose Police Department that stresses a victim-centric approach to policing and houses law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services under one roof. **Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton** stresses the importance of developing partnerships to address the problem of stalking.

Because Things Happen Every Day: Responding to Teenage Victims of Crime . Produced by CastleWorks Productions, the award-winning producers of the PBS teen program *In The Mix*, this video features two innovative victim assistance programs (**SafePlace** in Austin, Texas, and the **STAR** program in Westchester County, New York) that have been highly effective in reaching and responding to teen victims through the use of peer leadership, in-school support groups, one-on-one counseling, and hotlines. The voices of teens are prominent throughout the video, describing their experiences with crime, as well as what helped them recover their confidence and hope.

Available in VHS and DVD formats, video may be purchased at cost, for \$25 each plus shipping, through www.ncvc.org/store. Discounts are available for National Center members.

The National Center for Victims of Crime is dedicated to forging a national commitment to help victims of crime rebuild their lives. The National Center's toll-free Helpline, 1-800-FYI-CALL, offers supportive counseling, practical information about crime and victimization, referrals to local community resources, and skilled advocacy in the criminal justice and social service systems.