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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** March 10, 2011  
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**Victim Witness Program Recognized by United Indian Health Services**

At their Annual Board and Staff Meeting on Wednesday, United Indian Health Services (UIHS) presented the Humboldt County District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program with the **Friends are Good Medicine Award**.

“We chose to present this very prestigious award to Victim Witness for their many years of support and numerous partnerships which have assisted UIHS in its journey to renewing health and wellness for the American Indian community,” noted Carol De Lorme Larsen, Governance and Corporate Affairs Coordinator for UIHS.

The District Attorney Victim Witness Assistance Program was created in 1982 to help reduce the severity of the psychological consequences experienced by victims of crime. Advocates and staff answer questions and help victims cope with the trauma caused by crimes such as domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, homicide, elder abuse, driving while intoxicated with injuries, hate crime and gang violence. The department also provides clients with Victim of Crime Applications, which may allow victims to receive reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred for medical or mental health treatment, funeral and burial expenses, loss wages or other support needed as a result of a criminal act.

Advocates can also connect victims with other community resources, provide court support and criminal case status and help victims address any obstacles that may prevent access to services and treatment.

“This award is really a reflection of the hard work and dedication exhibited every day by the entire DA Victim Witness staff,” noted Joyce Moser, Program Coordinator for the Victim Witness Program. “I really appreciate United Indian Health Service’s recognition of our department’s efforts regarding outreach, advocacy, and commitment to victims of crime and their families in the Native American community.”

“It is wonderful for Joyce and her department to be honored this way for their tireless work in advancing the cause of victims,” District Attorney Paul Gallegos added. “I hope it inspires all those who can to help those in need.” *For more information about Humboldt County District Attorney’s Victim Witness services, please call (707) 445-7417.*

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