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NAME: News Editors/News Directors

FROM: Sheriff J. Grayson Robinson

DATE: December 1, 2003

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Phone: (720) 874-4165

M E D I A R E L E A S E

SHERIFF NEEDS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program provides necessary support to victims of violent crime and other traumatic experiences. Each year the group helps hundreds of families through on-scene crisis intervention, emergency services and referrals to other community agencies. These services help restore a sense of control to victims by giving support and providing appropriate resources for ongoing assistance. Dedicated volunteers are critical to the effective delivery of this service.

Volunteers are required to complete 50 hours of Victim Assistance Program training. The training involves crisis intervention techniques, information regarding victimization and the criminal justice system. The volunteers provide on call assistance to citizens of unincorporated Arapahoe County and municipalities whose law enforcement is also provided by the Sheriff's Office. Victim Assistance responds to citizens who have been victimized by crime, death of a loved one or other traumatic events, on a 24 hours a day basis. The Victim Assistance Program also provides community presentations regarding issues of personal safety and victimization prevention.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office is currently accepting applications for individuals interested in being considered as a volunteer to the Victim Assistance Program. The required program training is scheduled to begin in mid- January, 2004.

For information, please contact Program Director, Barbara Bell, at (720) 874-4190.

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