



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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*****Media Release*****

CalVCP's Annual "Denim Day" Clothing Drive a Huge Success

Yearly Event to Benefit Local Crisis Center Expanded to Include Sister State Agencies

Sacramento, CA – The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) today announced the results of its second annual "Denim Day" clothing drive. Kicked -off during National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) and Sexual Assault Awareness month, the Denim Drive assists victims of sexual assault while bringing awareness to the cause.

Recognized in 1999 as part of an international protest of an Italian High Court's decision to overturn a rape conviction, "Denim Day" is recognized around the country and observed by many victims' rights groups in April each year. In the 1999 case, the judges ruled that because the 18-year-old victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her attacker remove them, thus implying consent.

This year, CalVCP expanded the clothing drive from three days to two weeks (April 13- 27), with all of the items being donated to WEAVE, Sacramento's crisis intervention service provider for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Also new this year, was an invitation to other State agencies to participate in the clothing drive sponsored by CalVCP.

The donation stations were available at the following locations, allowing staff, neighboring agencies and the community at large, to donate their "gently worn" denim clothing items:

- California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB)
- Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- Community Services & Development (CSD)
- California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA)

This year, with the additional participation from other state agencies, the donations nearly exceeded 200 pieces of denim clothing.

"Our staff continues to show their dedication to assist victims by going above and beyond with events like this one," said Julie Nauman, VCGCB Executive Officer. "This clothing drive is another example of how committed our staff is to helping victims and their families recover from acts of violent crime."

Nearly a third of all CalVCP victim assistance applications involve domestic violence and sexual assault related claims, underlining the importance of partnering with community crisis centers like WEAVE. Last year, CalVCP paid out over \$97 million in financial assistance to victims of violent crime, covering the costs of doctors' bills, mental health counseling, burial, and emergency relocation.

For more information about CalVCP and National Crime Victims' Rights Week, visit www.calvcp.ca.gov.

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The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. Among the crimes covered are domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and physical assault, homicide, robbery, drunk driving and vehicular manslaughter.

If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCP will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. Eligible services include medical and dental care, mental health services, income loss, funeral expenses, rehabilitation and relocation. Funding for CalVCP comes from restitution fines and orders, penalty assessments levied on persons convicted of crimes and traffic offenses, and federal matching funds.