

# **LAS CRUCES POLICE DEPARTMENT: VICTIM ASSISTANCE UNIT**

## **CRISIS INTERVENTION RESPONSE TEAM (CIRT) VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

In 1999 the Victim Assistance Unit established its Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) Volunteer Program. The CIRT was comprised of the Victim Assistance Unit's Crime Victim Advocates and trained volunteers from within the community. The volunteers receive training and learn how to assist crime victims, their families and friends on a very practical level and how police, courts and prosecutors function within the criminal justice system. They will learn about the other community agencies that assist victims of crime. **Volunteers are required to be on-call during the weekend hours, beginning on Fridays at 5:00 p.m. and until Monday mornings at 8:00 a.m., and the on-call time may occur during some holidays.** Volunteers must also make an effort to attend a monthly meeting and participate with community outreach events when possible.

When the need arises to replace those volunteers that have left the program, the Victim Assistance Unit will solicit for volunteers through public and social media websites. In order to apply to be a volunteer with the CIRT Volunteer Program, the following criteria must be met:

- Must be 18 years or older.
- Have a valid New Mexico Driver's License.
- Show proof of auto insurance,
- Have a reliable vehicle,
- Live within or very close to the city limits,
- Be able to pass a criminal background check,
- Must attend and complete a mandatory 40-hour training.

Because of the nature of this program in which volunteers may be entrusted with confidential information, all eligible applicants will be carefully screened.