

July 23, 2018
For Immediate Release

Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890
[Tanya Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315
En Español [Barbara Medina](#) (619) 531-3305

DA Receives Award for Innovative Work Supporting Domestic Violence Survivors

Kathy's Legacy Gives 'Inspiring Dreams' Award to DA Stephan

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) received the "Inspiring Dreams" Award on Sunday from [Kathy's Legacy](#), for her work in combatting domestic violence and focusing on reducing trauma to children of domestic violence homicides. The award was presented at the group's annual fundraising event by Ginny and Madison Scharbarth, whose respective daughter and mother was the victim of domestic violence homicide in 2011, leaving Kathy's daughter, Madison, orphaned.



Kathy's Legacy is a non-profit organization that supports victims and children of domestic violence homicide. It was founded five years ago as a way to keep Kathy's memory alive and to help children of domestic violence homicide through the program [Silver Lining](#).

"Summer has been a champion of domestic violence victims and children whose parents have been murdered," said Ginny Scharbarth, co-founder and executive director of Kathy's Legacy. "She has been supportive of all we do for victims of domestic violence and she provides justice to the voiceless."

The District Attorney's Office partnered with Kathy's Legacy in its Silver Lining program as a way to expand victim advocacy. The program helps fulfill the needs of children experiencing the devastating murder of a parent from intimate partner violence. Silver Lining assists children and their guardians with needs that would otherwise go unmet. The program provides support for guardianships or adoption; therapy; dental and medical needs; and opportunities for normalcy that otherwise would be unaffordable, such as tutoring, recreation, sporting fees, dance classes, and gym passes. Silver Lining sees to the basic yet critical needs of the silent, under-served victims of domestic violence homicide.

“Children who are orphaned to domestic violence murder have angels like Ginny and Kathy’s legacy to help them thrive and to give them hope,” DA Summer Stephan said. “Already the program has helped families with financial support to purchase braces, pay for summer camp or provide items on a child’s wish list.”

The District Attorney’s Family Protection Division prosecutes crimes such as murder, domestic violence, stalking, crimes against children, and elder abuse. The division strongly supports victims of crime and works closely with criminal justice agencies and community partners. In 2017, the division received 8,546 defendants for review. There were 2,225 defendants charged with domestic violence, of which 705 were felonies and 1,520 were misdemeanors. In San Diego County every year, there are on average 16,000 domestic violence calls for service to local law enforcement.

###

About the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office

The San Diego County DA’s Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue justice and support victims daily across San Diego County. DA Summer Stephan has devoted her life to protecting children and families and providing justice to the voiceless and most vulnerable. She is a national leader in the fight against sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and has served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego County for 28 years.

Follow the District Attorney’s Office on

