



PALM BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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VICTIM SERVICES SUPERVISOR NAMED BREVARD COUNTY "ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR" (Palm Bay)--Palm Bay Police Department's Victim Services Supervisor Dana Packard was recognized as Brevard County's Victim Advocate of the Year by the Brevard-Seminole State Attorney's Office which represents the 18th Judicial Circuit in the State of Florida. Packard was recognized at an annual awards ceremony and Victim's Rights Week luncheon hosted by the State Attorney's Office.

Packard, who has been with the Palm Bay Police Department since 1998 and is credited for starting one of the first and most successful victim advocate programs in law enforcement, was recognized for her tireless service to victims of crime. State Attorney Norm Wolfinger praised Packard for her dedicated service and described her as "someone who does not think twice before putting a victim of crime ahead of herself in every way". Wolfinger highlighted the case of a young woman who suffered serious burns as a result of a domestic violence incident in which a former boyfriend threw acid on her and her teenage son. While the teen was not seriously injured, the woman was hospitalized in Orlando for months. Packard made weekly visits to Orlando from Palm Bay, keeping the victim informed about the criminal case against the suspect and helping the victim recover from the emotional and physical trauma of what occurred. "To hear the victim tell it, and believe me she has told us, she had one shining light to keep her strong," Wolfinger said in describing how the victim felt about Packard. "It was the weekly visit from her victim advocate."

In 2010, Packard managed more than 1500 cases where crime victims needed assistance either through counseling services, transportation to and from court hearings, protection from domestic violence, grief support and recovery and a host of other services many crime victims are simply not aware of or don't know they have access to. "Dana has always gone above and beyond to help anyone in need," said Chief Doug Muldoon. "We are very proud of her efforts and she is extremely deserving of this award."

In addition to her duties as supervisor of the Victims Services Unit, Packard also manages the Police Athletic League, the Police Explorer Post both of which provide positive programs from young teens. She also manages the Volunteers in Police Service Program which is more than 100 members strong and is used as a model program around the State.

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