

## **North Carolina Victims Assistance Network and Univision Join Together to Promote SAVAN**

In an effort to educate Spanish language-speaking crime victims about safe places to turn for help, the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission and an Hispanic television network teamed up for the second year to air public service announcements and host a talk show.

The PSA tells victims how to seek help from the North Carolina Statewide Automated Victims Assistance and Notification Program. NC SAVAN, operated through the Governor's Crime Commission, offers a central place where victims can learn about victims' rights, resources and how to register for automated notifications.

Hispanics who are impacted by violence are historically reluctant to turn to law enforcement agencies for help, according to Debbie Allen, Administrator of NC SAVAN. "Our goal is to help any victim negotiate the criminal justice system, find services and stay safe," Allen said.

Univision produced the PSA at no cost, and a federal grant is paying for air time to run the PSA 776 times statewide.

Through automated telephone and e-mail notifications in English or Spanish, NC SAVAN provides up-to-date information about an offender's custody status (jail or state prison) such as release, escapes, and capture. Live operator support is available around the clock. Translation services in 100 languages are offered. All NC SAVAN services are available to the user for free.

In addition to the PSA, Univision also waived the \$15,000 cost of a three-hour talk show that aired on Thursday, April 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Univision's Spanish-speaking television station, Channel 40 in Fayetteville and Raleigh. The purpose of the call-in show was to educate the Hispanic community about victims' rights, resources and services available to victims of crime.

Representatives from the Attorney General's Office, N.C. Department of Correction, N.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, N.C. Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Wake County District Attorney's Office, Victim's Compensation, El Pueblo, the Governor's Crime Commission and the N.C. Victims Assistance Network helped answer calls from victims of crime who have questions.

For additional information about this innovative public service partnership, please contact NC SAVAN Administrator Debbie Allen at 919.733.4564.