



Press Release

Date: February 26, 2007
For Immediate Release
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Inmates Contribute to Crime Victims *Earnings from "Joint Venture Program" Fund Local Provider*

The Joint Venture Program (JVP), a component of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Prison Industry Authority (PIA), has presented the Fresno County Victim/Witness Assistance Center with a check for \$20,746 to assist local victims of crime. The money is derived from the JVP local distribution of crime victim funds for fiscal year 2005-2006.

"The Joint Venture Program mandates that inmates pay 20 percent of their wages to victims of crime. The Prison Industry Authority is pleased to help support the work that Fresno County Victim/Witness Assistance Center provides to the community," said Joseph Armor, Prison Industry Administrator of the Joint Venture Program. "The program provides inmates with training and real-work job experience and offers inmates with opportunities to attain meaningful employment upon parole."

The JVP was created in 1990 with the passage of Proposition 139, the Inmate Labor Initiative, which established a program that authorized private companies to establish businesses within California adult institutions and employ inmates as their workforce. Inmates in the program earn a comparable wage and pay taxes, room and board, and family support. In addition, State and Federal laws require the deduction of 20 percent of the inmates' net wages to compensate victims of crime.

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