



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HONORS PUERTO RICAN ORGANIZATION FOR MOBILE CRIME REDUCTION APP

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today recognized non-profit charitable foundation BastaYaPR, Inc. with the Volunteer for Victims Award for its efforts to fight crime in Puerto Rico. The award goes to individuals or organizations who provide extraordinary service to crime victims without compensation. The organization was honored during the annual National Crime Victims’ Service Awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

BastaYaPR was created by Marie and Luis Romero after their son, Julian, was murdered on his 20th birthday. Luis used his background in telecommunications to create a free mobile phone app that allows community members to send anonymous crime reports directly to law enforcement.

Since 2011, the app has been downloaded by more than 47,000 users, who have sent the Puerto Rico police department over 6,800 crime tips. BastaYaPR also worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to create a boating safety mobile app that recreational boaters can use to review regulations, report suspicious activity and in emergencies connect to the closest Coast Guard search and rescue station.

“BastaYaPR honors the memory of Julian Romero through its selfless and innovative spirit, giving the people of Puerto Rico an invaluable tool to protect their homes and communities,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan R. Hanson. “The Department of Justice is proud to recognize this outstanding organization for its exceptional service and for its unflinching pursuit of justice on behalf of the injured and aggrieved.”

During the ceremony, the Justice Department also recognized 11 other individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts on behalf of crime victims. Awardees were selected from public nominations in nine categories, including federal service, special courage, public policy and victim services.

The Department’s Office for Victims of Crime leads communities across the country in observing National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first Victims’ Rights Week in 1981, calling for greater sensitivity to the rights and needs of victims.

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This year’s observance takes place April 2-8, with the theme *Strength. Resilience. Justice.*

The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Acting Assistant Attorney General Alan R. Hanson, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six bureaus and offices: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov.

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