



**ALLIANCE
AGAINST FAMILY
VIOLENCE AND
SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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**ALLIANCE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT WINS
NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL AWARD**

BAKERSFIELD, CA – The Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault has received the Congressional Victim’s Rights Caucus Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy.

The Alliance was nominated for the national award by Congressman Jim Costa (CA). The Congressional Victim’s Rights Caucus bestows the Ed Stout award to honor outstanding individuals, agencies and collaborative initiatives whose efforts directly benefit victims and survivors of crime, and promote individual and public safety. The award recognizes innovations in victim assistance and crime services in the areas of program development, public or agency policy development, community and public awareness, and collaboration among community and justice-based organizations that serve crime victims.

The Congressional Victim’s Rights Caucus, founded in 2005 by Rep. Ted Poe (TX) and Rep. Jim Costa (CA) takes the lead in protecting programs that advocate victim rights. Their mission is to elevate crime

victim issues in Congress in a bipartisan manner through legislation, advocacy and public education initiatives.

Co-chairs Costa and Poe presented the Ed Stout Award at the April 22nd, 2009 Awards Ceremony on Capitol Hill. Congressman Costa accepted the award on behalf of the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault. A local event, that will include the many collaborative partners and supporters of the Alliance, will be planned for May.

The award comes as the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault celebrates its 30th year of service. The Alliance is a non-profit organization committed to stopping domestic violence and sexual assault in Kern County. “We are thrilled to have been nominated by Congressman Costa and it is an honor to receive such recognition,” said Louis Gill, Executive Director of the Alliance.

The Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault began in 1979 with a group of volunteers operating a 24-hour crisis hotline to support victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Last year, the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault provided prevention, awareness education, crisis intervention, case management, individual and group counseling, advocacy, shelter, food and clothing to more than 17,800 women, children and men in Kern County. For more information contact Diana Campbell Rice at 661-322-0931.

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