



Press Release

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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 Lassen County District Attorney Victim/Witness Assistance Program with a check for \$1,591 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 the inmates pay 20 percent of their wages to victims of crime. The Prison Industry Authority is pleased to help support the work that the Lassen County District Attorney Victim/Witness Assistance Program provides to the community," said Joseph Armor, Prison Industry Administrator of the Joint Venture Program. "Inmates learn valuable work skills in this program that will assist them to obtain 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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