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WGNO

Crimes Victims Get A New Resource

By Maria Vallejo, Staff reporter

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NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS -- Victims of violent crime now have a new resource at their fingertips. The Victim Allies Project, an advocacy group helping homicide victims is implementing a new program. Volunteers will start showing victim's how to deal with the grieving process and what resources are available to them through the city's criminal justice system.

Crime victim Rose Preston wrote one of the books volunteers will use in their training sessions. Back in 2003 her husband and mother-in-law were murdered. Now her notes are a book she is calling a blue print for what she thinks the city of New Orleans needs to do when helping crime victims.

Preston and other volunteers will be in charge of letting crime victims know how the criminal justice system works, who is in charge,

and what resources are available. Volunteers will go through several training sessions.

Volunteers say they had a good turn out for their first meeting. At least ten volunteers showed up at the Latter Library in New Orleans. Volunteers will start working with crime victims as early as next week. Crime victims needing assistance can call program coordinator Troy Le Brane at 214-7542.

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