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She is considered a part-time employee but Wanda Page is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and she never refuses to respond. Page is the Burleson Police Department's Victim Assistance coordinator, and the 2012 Ofelia Blair Character Award winner.

"I was shocked," Page said of receiving the award.

The Ofelia Blair Outstanding Character Award is named in honor of the former clerk for the department's criminal investigations section who lost her battle to cancer in 2003.

"Wanda never refuses to respond," according to the nomination. "She will put aside her personal needs to be there for others. While most of us deal with the initial offense and some are involved in the prosecution, Wanda continues to work with victims for years. She addresses the financial, emotional and medical needs of those affected by crimes in our jurisdiction. This can entail a lifetime of treatment. Wanda's strong faith, determination and devotion make her the type of person the Ofelia Blair Character Award was established for."

Page started Burleson's Victim Assistance program in 1989, as a volunteer, and served until 1990. When the department secured a grant for the program, she returned, 1991-1993, as a paid employee. She returned again in May 2005 and has been serving Burleson ever since as the program's coordinator. She has two volunteers, Sheila Wakeman (volunteering since 2006) and Karen Penner, who started in January.

Page is a liaison with the prosecutor's office. She keeps victims informed of the status of the prosecution and scheduled hearings. She attends the hearings with the victims or, when a victim is unable to attend, she is there to represent them.

According to the nomination, Page "is an employee of the Burleson Police Department, but Wanda has never refused to assist a victim from another jurisdiction. In 2011 when the Johnson County Sheriff's Office experienced the tragic death of a deputy in the line of duty, Wanda immediately responded and met with the sheriff's office staff and county representatives to ensure that all benefits and assistance that were available was obtained."

In addition to her work-related efforts, Wanda and her family founded a non-profit organization, Disabled Crime Victims Assistance, Inc., in 1999. The mission is to assist disabled crime victims and their families and promote awareness of their specialized needs to those who serve victims and the community. Two kinds of victims are served – those who become disabled as a result of a crime and those who are already disabled and become a victim of a crime.

Page knows what it is like to be a victim of a violent crime. In 1988, Page's daughter Elizabeth was shot three or four times in the chest and back by a client at the Johnson County Mental Health Mental Retardation facility. Elizabeth had graduated from college 10 days earlier. Elizabeth's spinal cord was injured, leaving her paralyzed from the chest down.

"We discovered the lack of services for disabled crime victims," Page said. "When the ripple effect hit our family, we had to find information on the best medical care, deal with the financial strain on the family, adjust to Elizabeth's life-changing disability caused by the shooting, and learn how the criminal justice system worked. The hardships experienced by disabled crime victims include the psychological, social, legal and economical struggles, which are overwhelming."

Wanda and her daughter speak at national and state conferences as well as to local civic organizations to educate crime victim advocates and law enforcement about the needs of disabled crime victims.