

November 15, 2013

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The woman who was named the Burleson Police Department's 2012 Ofelia Blair Character Award winner earlier this year earned another honor in October. Wanda Page, the department's victim assistance coordinator, was named to the 2013 Women of Influence by the *Fort Worth Business Press*. The honor was for Page's passion, Disabled Crime Victims Assistance. She was one of more than two dozen women nominated for the Great Women of Texas 2013. To see who else was honored by the business magazine, go to <http://tinyurl.com/layhumv>.

Wanda and her family founded the non-profit organization in 1999 with the mission 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, her 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'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.

Page is considered a part-time employee of the police department, but she is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She addresses the financial, emotional and medical needs of those affected by crimes in Burleson's jurisdiction. 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.