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113-2016  
For Immediate Release  
December 7, 2016

**“TREE OF ANGELS” LIGHTING TO BE HELD FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016**  
**Bronx DA’s Office Sponsors Annual Event Commemorating Homicide Victims**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced the sixth annual lighting of the “Tree of Angels,” inviting family members and friends of homicide victims to commemorate their loved ones by placing an angelic ornament on a Christmas tree.

The event, organized by the Crime Victims Assistance Unit of the Bronx District Attorney's Office, will take place on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the CVAU’s satellite office, located at 4101 White Plains Road. Approximately 100 ornaments are expected to be hung this year.

District Attorney Clark said, “This special tradition, created by a mother determined to carry on the memory of her slain daughter, is a reminder to grieving families that you are not alone. We grieve with you. We have not forgotten these innocent lives cut short and we will continue to fight for justice in their memory.”

Beth Ann Holzhay, Director of the Crime Victims Assistance Unit, said, “The holidays can be particularly difficult for the loved ones of a homicide victim. We have been doing this event to acknowledge their pain and reduce the isolation they endure. It also helps them to remember their loved one in their living.”

Fifteen years ago, Milagros Guzman placed an angel ornament on a Christmas tree in her Bronx home in honor of her 10-year-old daughter, Jessica Guzman. In one of the most notorious crimes of 1990, Guzman was strangled by serial killer Alejandro Henriquez, who was later convicted of killing two other young women.

In 2010, at Guzman’s request, the tradition continued. A Christmas tree was erected in a courtyard outside the CVAU office and dozens of angels are hung on the branches each year in a poignant ceremony.

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