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**“TREE OF ANGELS” LIGHTING TO BE HELD SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018**  
**Bronx DA’s Office Sponsors Annual Event To Honor Homicide Victims**

District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced the eighth annual lighting of the “Tree of Angels,” and invites family members and friends of homicide victims to memorialize their loved ones by placing an angel or other memento on a Christmas tree.

The ceremony, organized by the Crime Victims Assistance Unit of the Bronx District Attorney's Office, will take place on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at the CVAU’s satellite office, located at 4101 White Plains Road, Bronx, N.Y. Dozens of ornaments are expected to adorn the tree this year.

District Attorney Clark said, “The Office is proud to hold this annual event, which was started by a mother who was determined to keep her daughter’s memory alive. We hope this ceremony reminds families who have lost their loved ones to violence that they are not alone, that we all mourn the loss of those who were taken too soon, and we will not forget the victims.”

Beth Ann Holzhay, Director of the Crime Victims Assistance Unit, said, “This time of year can be particularly difficult for the loved ones of a homicide victim. This tradition brings Bronx families together to remember those they lost, and hopefully ease the pain.”

Seventeen years ago, Milagros Guzman placed an angel ornament on a Christmas tree in her Bronx home to commemorate her 10-year-old daughter, Jessica Guzman. In one of the most notorious crimes of 1990, the young girl was strangled by serial killer Alejandro Henriquez, who was convicted of killing Guzman, a young woman and a teenage girl.

In 2010, at the mother’s request, the tradition continued. An evergreen tree is set up in a courtyard outside the CVAU office every December and dozens of angels are placed on the branches in a poignant ceremony.

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