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PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday July 1, 2014

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SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO RECEIVE FIRST “CYCLE FOR CHANGE” SCHOLARSHIPS IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY

Last year the County Attorney’s Office in collaboration with Villa Maria, a local shelter for homeless women, ventured into a new form of advocacy in the realm of domestic violence by creating the cycling event titled “*Cycle for Change: From Surviving to Thriving.*” The cycling event was designed to shift the focus from *breaking* the cycle of violence, to *changing* the victim’s mindset once the cycle was broken. The purpose behind the event was to raise monies for local survivors of domestic violence so that they could partake in educational opportunities along with therapeutic services with the aspiration that they never again find themselves in the grip of an abusive relationship.

Last year, the inaugural event held on October 27, 2013 at Album Park, saw almost 300 cyclists and was able to raise more than \$5,000 in scholarship monies.

On Wednesday, July 2, 2014, El Paso County Attorney, Jo Anne Bernal, along with representatives from Villa Maria will award the first nine “Cycle for Change” scholarships of up to \$500. Each recipient was a victim of domestic violence who has demonstrated the ability to survive and the desire to thrive.

WHO: County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal and survivors of domestic violence

WHAT: “Cycle for Change” Scholarship Awards Ceremony

WHEN: Wednesday July 2, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: Villa Maria Shelter, 920 S. Oregon

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