



# ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Joey Buttitta  
Title: Communications Manager/PIO  
Phone: (805) 767-3400  
Email: [Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov)

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### District Attorney's 10th Annual Camp Hope Empowers Child Victims of Crime



VENTURA, Calif. – Last week child victims of domestic violence and abuse gathered at Camp Daley in Calabasas for the 10th annual Camp Hope. Nearly 60 Ventura County children spanning from ages seven to seventeen attended the five night and six day summer camp. Campers took part in classic camp activities including swimming, arts and crafts, archery, wall climbing, zip lining and singing camp songs around a campfire. In addition, campers engaged with materials created by the Alliance for HOPE International aimed at communicating to each child that there is hope for their future no matter what has happened in their past.

“Children deserve to laugh and play, but for many child victims of crime that gets stolen from them” said Acting Chief Deputy District Attorney Brent Nibecker, who leads the District Attorney’s Victim and Community Services Division. “At Camp Hope, that sense of play is given back to them with a reminder that they matter and they have a future.”

The entire Camp Hope experience is provided free of charge to campers through the generous support of the Ventura County Family Justice Center Foundation and their financial contributors.

“I wish all of our generous donors could see Camp Hope to fully understand what a difference they make for these young people,” said Foundation Board Chair, Dianne McKay. “The research-based camp activities are about breaking the trauma cycle and letting them be kids. We are so grateful for every donation.”

Young adults recruited from Ventura County serve as camp counselors while District Attorney staff and volunteers organize and staff the camp.

In addition, multiple non-profit partners invested in this year’s campers by providing the following:

- Childhood Matters – hosted an activity related to mental health wellness.
- Epic Foundation – hosted a BMX-style bicycle obstacle course.
- Freedom Youth Foundation – hosted a basketball clinic.
- Reins of Hope – provided equine therapy utilizing miniature horses.
- Artists for Trauma – hosted multiple art activities.

In addition to Camp Hope, District Attorney staff and non-profit partners engage campers in activities throughout the year to provide ongoing support.

Individuals or businesses interested in supporting Camp Hope are encouraged to contact the Ventura County Family Justice Center Foundation at (805) 652-7636 or [vcfjcfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:vcfjcfoundation@gmail.com).

