



Why Drug Courts Make Cents

- They Reduce Crime
 - They Save Tax \$\$\$\$\$
 - They Reclaim Lives
 - They Reunite Families
 - They Reduce Child Abuse
 - They Empower Communities
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Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts
is a 501c3 charitable trust.

If you would like to make a donation:

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Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts

Drug Courts Work – They Transform Lives

Reuniting Families
Saving Lives
&
Restoring Communities



Why Drug Courts

Need The Friends

Drug Courts provide the operational cost of intense treatment and supervision. The program functions on evidence based best practices that include the 10 Key Components of adult drug court to insure consistency among programs and to maximize the success of the program. Currently there are 6 drug courts operating in New Hampshire (Belknap, Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough-South, Rockingham and Strafford), the Friends were created to provide for the enhancement of the program through incentives for the drug court participants. The tenth component for the best practices is "Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness." The Friends will work to enhance the program by providing additional privately raised funding for incentives as well as related education and training.



Noteworthy Comments

Governor Maggie Hassan

"Expanding drug courts is a critical part of a comprehensive approach to combat the heroin and substance abuse crisis, and I applaud the Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts and their commitment to partnering with state and local governments to support drug courts; representing the best of the Granite State's collaborative spirit."

State Senator David Boutin

"The heroin epidemic and substance abuse problems in New Hampshire have reached proportions that none of us anticipated and it's time for us to work together across party lines to address the problem. We all want to maintain the New Hampshire advantage and make our state a safe place to live and work. Community efforts like the Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts demonstrate the commitment of our citizens and community leaders to tackle the heroin epidemic at all levels."

Chief Justice NH Superior Court Tina Nadeau

"If we want to reduce crime, save money and return people to the community as contributing members, then we need to be more creative about what we do with those offenders who have drug addiction and end up recycling through our jails and prisons. Drug Court is one of those options we can use to address the addiction crisis in our state and to make our state more safe. I am thrilled that this committed group of active community leaders wants to support a better way to address crime and addiction."

Edward Rajsteter, President, Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts

"It's just not enough to have state and county governments funding drug courts; we need to create an effective public-private partnership. The Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts is the bridge to involve all stakeholders in this beneficial statewide program."

Drug Court Is

Changing Lives

I was asked to write about my experience with the Grafton County Drug Court and it's proving to be more challenging task than I had anticipated. In Twelve Step Recovery meetings, we are asked to share our experience, strength, and hope...I think that is an excellent model to follow.

I started drinking alcohol as a young teenager and realized that alcohol was the first thing to ever quiet the anxiety and fear that seemed to be my constant companions. I went to college, graduated in 4 years, traveled and began my career. Alcohol then became my constant companion (though anxiety and fear were always waiting in the wings) and it was the glue that held me together. Fast forward a few years and drugs became a part of the equation as well. All of this worked for a while. On the outside I looked very put together, successful, happy. On the inside, was a house of cards!

My strength and hope---I never would have imagined that being sentenced to an 18 month drug court program would ever inspire me to write about strength and hope. But here I am growing stronger and becoming more hopeful with every passing day. I began this program absolutely terrified. Would I be able to complete the program successfully? Would I be able to establish any length of clean time? Would I be able to rebuild my business that I had almost destroyed? Would I ever be able to earn back the trust of the many people I had hurt? How could I possibly survive any of this? Those were my fears!

From the start, I realized that I could look at all of this in one of two ways. I could look at these 18 months as a punishment for all of the "bad" things I had ever done and the drug court team as my watch dog; or I could look at these 18 months as an opportunity to learn how to live life clean and sober, and know that the drug court team is made up of some pretty phenomenal people who want to see me succeed and are willing to help me as much as I am willing to help myself. I've chosen the latter view.

This is not an easy path, but it is not nearly as difficult as the alternative. This is a vital program. This is a program that not only saves lives, but encourages lives to be lived well. I am grateful to all the members of the drug court team who are helping me each day to become the person I know I was destined to be! Anonymous