



# CLARK COUNTY THERAPEUTIC SPECIALTY COURTS 2010 YEAR END SUMMARY







## INTRODUCTION



For the Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts, two-thousand ten was not only a year of surviving, but thriving in difficult economic times.

The beginning of the year was marked by declining resources and looking at how to keep programs alive while those resources were becoming scarce. In early 2010, the Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts applied for three federal grants. The three grants, one for a new substance abuse treatment curriculum in Juvenile Recovery Court, one to establish a new District Court Veteran's Treatment Court, and one to treat methamphetamine affected children and families in Family Treatment Court, had the ability to not only provide a stop gap for eroding resources, but help bring new and innovative programs to the county. These three grant applications were on the back of two state grants received late in 2009 for DUI treatment courts and for juvenile drug court enhancements.

In late September, we received word from the federal government that Clark County received all three federal competitive grants that were applied for. These three grants will bring over 2.5 million dollars in funding for Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts over the next four years. The grants will be fully implemented in 2011 and will help for years to come.

The following report highlights the countless successes that Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts have had in 2010. We thank all the stakeholders in the community that support our programs. We especially want to thank our participants and alumni whose hard work make our Therapeutic Specialty Courts what they are, a success.

### DRUG COURTS WORK.

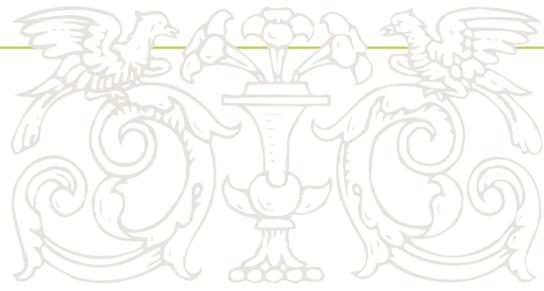
Brad Finegood  
Superior Court Coordinator

Shauna McCloskey  
District Court Coordinator





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# CLARK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT



## **DRUG COURT**

Court held Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Main Courthouse, Dept. 3, Fourth floor

1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

**HONORABLE DIANE WOOLARD PRESIDING  
THROUGH MARCH, 2011**

**HONORABLE JOHN NICHOLS PRESIDING  
STARTING APRIL, 2011**



## **FAMILY TREATMENT COURT—S.T.E.P.**

**(STRIDING TOWARDS EXCELLENT PARENTING)**

Court held Mondays at 2:45 p.m.

Family Law Annex, Courtroom 1

601 W Evergreen, Suite 102, Vancouver WA

**HONORABLE DANIEL STAHNKE PRESIDING  
THROUGH JANUARY, 2011,**

**HONORABLE CARIN SCHIENBERG PRESIDING  
STARTING FEBRUARY, 2011**



## **JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT**

Court held Fridays at 3:00 p.m.

Robert L. Harris Juvenile Justice Center, Courtroom 2

500 W 11th St., Vancouver WA

**HONORABLE JAMES RULLI PRESIDING**

# CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT



## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT**

Court held Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Main Courthouse, Dept. 1

1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

**HONORABLE RICHARD MELNICK PRESIDING,  
THROUGH JANUARY 2010,  
VERNON L. SCHREIBER PRESIDING  
STARTING FEBRUARY 2010**



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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THERAPEUTIC COURT**

Court held Mondays at 2:30 p.m.

Main Courthouse, Dept. 6

1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

**HONORABLE JOHN P. HAGENSEN PRESIDING**



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## **VETERANS THERAPEUTIC COURT**

Court held Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (Official start is March 16, 2011)

Main Courthouse, Dept. 3

1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

**HONORABLE DARVIN J. ZIMMERMAN PRESIDING**



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## **MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

Court held Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Main Courthouse, Dept. 2

1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA

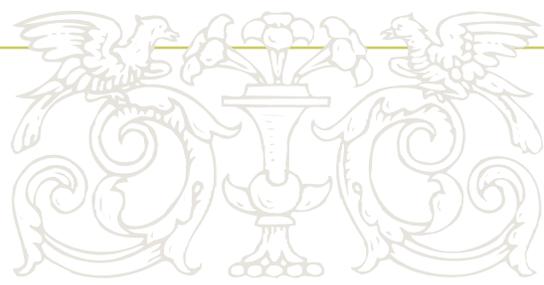
**HONORABLE JAMES P. SWANGER PRESIDING**



## 10 Key Components of Drug Court

- #1 Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice systems and case processing.
- #2 Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- #3 Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
- #4 Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- #5 Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- #6 A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- #7 Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential.
- #8 Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- #9 Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations.
- #10 Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

# SUPERIOR COURT DRUG COURT



Clark County Superior Court Drug Court continues to be the foundation of all Therapeutic Specialty Court programs. Established in May 1999 by Judge J. Rulli, Drug Court continues to make the community a safer place and provides a cost-effective solution to expensive alternatives for substance-abusing offenders. Judge D. Woolard took over the Drug Court program in January, 1996 and has provided tremendous leadership for the program both locally and statewide as the past president of the Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Across the State of Washington and around the nation, drug courts continue to provide opportunities for participants to rehabilitate their lives while improving community safety and saving tremendous amounts of money. The theme of the 2011 National Association of Drug Court Professionals is not only “Drug Courts Work,” but also, “Drug Courts: A Proven Budget Solution.” As you will see in the pages to come that not only do they work, but drug courts save money, lives, and families in Clark County and the State of Washington.

Active Caseload December 31, 2010	108
Opted In	81
Graduated	33
Drug-free Babies Born	2
Opted Out	17
Terminated	28
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	335
Value of Hours *	\$25,125
Number of Graduates to Date from Drug Court Program	346

\*For purposes of this summary, value of hours is equal to \$75 per 8 hour day; the amount of monetary credit given by Corrections for Work Crew /Community Service hours assigned.



# WHO'S COUNTING? WE ARE!

One way we measure the success of our programs is the amount of money saved by treating participant versus incarceration. At every Felony Drug Court graduation, the question, “What is it I want to hear?” is answered by a resounding, “How much did we save?” by the courtroom of participants. The answer is typically in the tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of dollars.

By keeping people in the community and treating their addiction, our programs save Washington State tax payers a considerable amount of money. Just how much money? The following is a snapshot of the amount saved by focusing on treatment rather than non-productive jail or prison time:

## Of the 33 Drug Court graduates in 2010

- 14 were facing probable state prison sentences.
  - ◇ The total number of days of prison incarceration saved by Drug Court was 8,237 days
  - ◇ 8,237 days would have cost the state prisons \$581,072.11
- 19 were facing probable county jail sentences
  - ◇ The total number of days of incarceration saved by Drug Court was 4,031 days
  - ◇ 4,031 days would have cost the Clark County community \$249,102.80



THE TOTAL COST SAVINGS FROM THE 2010 DRUG COURT’S 33 GRADUATES:

**\$961,684.86** (that’s almost \$1,000,000 in bed days alone)

Drug- and alcohol-free babies born to Therapeutic Specialty Court clients = 9

These drug and alcohol free babies save the community between \$6,750,000 and \$12,600,000 over the course of that child’s lifetime (Kalotra, March 2002).

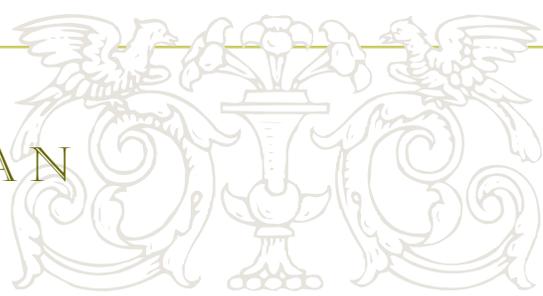
In 2010, the total incarceration savings from Drug Court graduates and drug- and alcohol-free babies is:

**\$7,711,684 and \$13,561,884 in savings**

Kalotra, C. J. (March, 2002). *Estimated cost related to the birth of a drug and/or an alcohol exposed baby*. OJP DRUG COURT CLEARINGHOUSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT.

Just one Drug Court graduate saved the community \$136,996.95 in prison bed days. That same graduate remains clean and sober and crime free today. We asked that graduate to write about how Drug Court saved so much more than money. The following is her story as she tells it:

# SUCCESS IS MORE THAN MONEY SAVED...



The question is always, “How much did we save?” My answer to that is, my life. I graduated from the Clark County Drug Court Program in September 2010. As many stories of addiction, mine started at a very young age. I was 12 years old the first time I drank, the first time I smoked pot, and the first time I used my drug of choice, meth. In the many years to follow I eventually dropped out of high school to get my GED and started working in grocery retail. For me, my addiction was very progressive; it took a long time for me to get to the point of knowing I needed help. I used meth on daily basis for the better part of 20 years. I had managed to hold down the same job for 10 years, get married, and have two sons. My addiction finally took its toll and I lost my job and was on the verge of a divorce, so off to treatment I went. While there, at a beautiful beach in Laguna, I learned I had a problem with Meth so I vowed never to do it again. I came home and got a new job and things at home were on the mend. Eventually I started drinking. I would get up to go to work then come home and get wasted and that was how it went over and over until my husband decided that we needed to stop drinking. I was 30 some years old and had not been sober since I was 12. I would sneak getting drunk but then I felt guilty and scared that my husband would smell it so I did what only made the most sense to me at the time, I went back to meth. All I can say is, “WOW,” there it was, worse than before. In no time I lost my job and didn't know how I was going to pay for my addiction. I began to steal to get meth. I was just about 31 years old the first time I was arrested, and in less than five years I was in custody more times than I can count and I was up to nine felony points. I would not come home for days at a time; the only time my family was ok was when I was in jail because they knew where I was. I was literally living in my car in the parking lots of the stores I stole from. I was in jail for my sons’ 15th & 16th birthdays. I missed my younger son’s games and when I was there all I wanted to do was leave so I could get high. I had tried to just quit a couple times on my own but never getting much clean time. I had managed to get just under a year not using when it all started over again. In less than three weeks I was back in custody on my ninth felony point and was looking at 5 1/2 years in prison. I remember sitting in jail completely broken and ready for something, anything different. I was ok with having to go to prison if that meant my family would not have to live in my chaos anymore. It was time for them to heal. I asked for the Drug Court program hoping that it would help me to find a new way to live. I was not sure if I was going to get to go home this time or not. I was scared but ready to get this thing called “recovery.”

Today I am here with over two years clean and sober. The last two years have not been easy; however, they have been the best two years of my life. My family is like nothing I would have imagined, we get along today and we talk to each other. My youngest son struggled for years in school, he could not concentrate. Now we just got his report card and he has straight A's. We spend time together reading, going to the movies, and I am at all his games and love it. My oldest son was very angry at me for a long time and at times still is but we do not fight anymore today, we talk and work it out. He is attending the Clark County Vocational Skills Center for construction. He has been involved in the juvenile justice process a couple of times when I was out using, but now he is off probation and is staying out of trouble. My husband and I are still together, we get along today better that we have in years. I stay involved in my recovery program and try to the best of my ability to practice Step 10, "Continue to take personal inventory and when wrong promptly admit it." I am committed to service work; I am the GSR for my home group, I also speak at the Juvenile Justice Center every other Friday night. My goal in the future is to be a corrections chair and take meetings into the prisons. For the last two years I volunteered with Hands Across the Bridge were I help with fundraising. This year I will be sharing my story at the event. I work closely with my sponsor and have many women in my support group that I trust and count on. My church has blessed me with the opportunity to volunteer with the preschool Kids World. My youngest son also attends with me and we enjoy spending that time together teaching and learning about God. I have more jobs today than I know what to do with. I work at a print shop part time and I also work at PetCo as an assistant dog groomer. I would love to go back to school and eventually work in the drug and alcohol field. Right now I am concentrating on saving money in hopes that my husband and I can buy a house within the next few years while the house prices are so low, but my biggest accomplishment in the past two years has been that I have woke up clean and sober 748 days in a row. I can't even begin to thank this program enough for giving me that chance to be the woman I am today, and for allowing me to be part of my family's healing.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story with you all,

M.F., Drug Court Alumni

## OUTCOMES/BENEFITS



In community-based corrections programs there are many different ways that outcomes can be measured. Outcomes aim to measure a program's efficacy. If a program is not proven effective then the reason for their existence will and should be questioned.

Clark County's Drug Court and Therapeutic Specialty Courts Program is no exception to that rule. One of the most common ways that Drug Court programs are proven effective is through a cost-benefit analysis. From reading our monthly newsletter, the phrase, "How Much Did We Save?" has become familiar to many. Every month during our Drug Court graduations (please attend if you have not had the opportunity), the graduate's defense attorney will stand up and ask, "What is it I want to hear?" The whole gallery shouts, "HOW MUCH DID WE SAVE?" The number that is shown to the courtroom is a simple computation of jail or prison days saved by keeping the graduate in the community to rehabilitate them. We emphasize these cost savings in monthly newsletters because they are reflective of the benefits of therapeutic specialty courts.



At the end of December 2010, the Clark County Drug Court has had 346 graduates since its inception in 1999.

The second primary measure of success is recidivism. Recidivism, which is defined for the purpose contained here, is a new felony conviction within the State of Washington. At the end of December 2010, the Clark County Felony Drug Court has had 346 graduates since its inception in 1999. Recidivism was measured on Drug Court graduates at three different time intervals: six months, two years and five years post graduation. According to Washington State SCOMIS data, at six months post graduation only four people had recidivated out of 346 graduates (1.2%). After two and five years post graduation, 26 and 29 people respectively had new felony convictions. This brings the recidivism rate at five years post graduation to 17.6%. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Among nearly 300,000 prisoners released in 15 states in 1994, 67.5% were rearrested within 3 years. A study of prisoners released in 1983 estimated 62.5%." (Lagan & Levin, 2002). Additionally in the State of Washington, according to the Sentencing Guideline Commission Report of Adult Felony Offenders, Drug and Property crime offenders had a recidivism rate of 62.7 % and 66.4 % respectively.

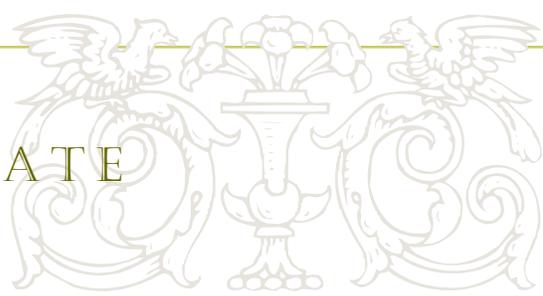
This brings the recidivism rate at five years post graduation to 17.6%.

The rate of recidivism of Clark County at five years post graduation to 17.6%. Drug court graduates are considerably lower than the rates reported in the state and national studies. These comparative recidivism data further underscore the benefits of drug courts.

Lagan, P. A., & Levin, D. J. (2002). *Recidivism of Prisoner Released in 1994*. Bureau of Justice Statistics

Sentencing Guideline Commission: State of Washington (2007). *Recidivism of Adult Offenders*. <http://www.sgc.wa.gov/Publications/Recidivism/>

# DRUG COURT GRADUATE COMES FULL CIRCLE



*In 2001, Dorie I. graduated from Clark County Felony Drug Court. Dorie just received word that she has been hired by the Multnomah County Drug Court as a counselor. Here is her story.*

I was a hopeless drug addict living many years in a life of crime. I was sent to prison when I was 23 years old and managed to stay clean while I was on community placement and then right back to the streets I went.

I believe it was the year 2000 when I was arrested with my next felony. I was booked and released in the county jail and as part of my release, I was to take drug tests. Of course I could not get clean and had no intention of it. So once again I found myself sitting in the county jail and to the best of my calculation, I was headed back to prison. I don't remember much of what happened but I do remember a lady coming to visit me that talked about a program called "Drug Court." I wanted out of jail real bad so that I did whatever was needed to make that happen. Next thing I knew I was out on the streets and had begun my journey. Still I had no intention of staying clean and I had heard about people in Drug Court that were still using so that was now my new plan.

Going to court every week was scary to say the least. The Judge didn't seem to be falling for very many stories and he was sending people to jail for the weekend, or to sit there and wait for a bed at inpatient treatment, on a regular basis. To be completely honest, I was so tired of going to jail and being stripped of any morals or values that I may have had left. So I got a new plan, I was going to stay clean long enough to finish the program so I could have my life back and go back to a life of drugs and crime. I cannot tell you exactly when I changed my mind but what I can say is that it was the entire Drug Court team, the process of being in court, the fear of returning to prison, and the drug treatment that was mandatory. The counselors that I had played just as big of part as the judge, probation officer, and my attorney.

My clean date is June 4, 2001 and I graduated from Drug Court August 15, 2002. Since then I have been actively involved in a 12-step program. I got a job during my time in Drug Court and stayed at that job for over seven years becoming a journeyman painter then a lead person of my department. In December 2009, the new economy caused hundreds of lay-offs with that company and I was one of them so I decided I was going to go back to Superior Court and ask to have my felonies vacated that way I could have a equal chance on the job market. Using the resources that were available to me, I found employment after about seven months and I was then employed as a recovery mentor working with transitional women getting released from prison. This was a huge reward for me to be able to pay forward what I had learned. But there is more to it; within months there was a new opportunity presented to me. There was a position opened with the Drug Court program in my office and they asked me if I would be willing to submit my resume.

October 28, 2010, I started my new career as a drug court counselor I. I sit here writing this and I am still in shock, with tears running down my face. Imagine me paying that kind of reward forward? I am the least likely to succeed, borderline career criminal, convicted felon, convict, and someone that Drug Court refused to give up on. Today I get to express tears of joy rather than fear.

I know that I am responsible for my recovery but it was the Judge, my attorney, and my treatment counselor that gave me the tools to get here and I am forever grateful. Most of the other counselors have their certificates from college sitting on their desks in frames, I have my Drug Court graduation certificate.

# 10 Guiding Principles of DWI Courts

- 1 Determine the Population**—Targeting is the process of identifying a subset of the DWI offender population for inclusion in the DWI court program. This is a complex task given that DWI courts, in comparison to traditional drug court programs, accept only one type of offender: the person who drives while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The DWI court target population, therefore, must be clearly defined, with eligibility criteria clearly documented.
- 2 Perform a Clinical Assessment**—A clinically competent objective assessment of the impaired-driving offender must address a number of bio-psychosocial domains including alcohol use severity and drug involvement, the level of needed care, medical and mental health status, extent of social support systems, and individual motivation to change. Without clearly identifying a client's needs, strengths, and resources along each of these important bio-psychosocial domains, the clinician will have considerable difficulty in developing a clinically sound treatment plan.
- 3 Develop the Treatment Plan**—Substance dependence is a chronic, relapsing condition that can be effectively treated with the right type and length of treatment regimen. In addition to having a substance abuse problem, a significant proportion of the DWI population also suffers from a variety of co-occurring mental health disorders. Therefore, DWI courts must carefully select and implement treatment practices demonstrated through research to be effective with the hard-core impaired driver to ensure long-term success.
- 4 Supervise the Offender**—Driving while intoxicated presents a significant danger to the public. Increased supervision and monitoring by the court, probation department, and treatment provider must occur as part of a coordinated strategy to intervene with repeat and high-risk DWI offenders and to protect against future impaired driving.
- 5 Forge Agency, Organization, and Community Partnerships**—Partnerships are an essential component of the DWI court model as they enhance credibility, bolster support, and broaden available resources. Because the DWI court model is built on and dependent upon a strong team approach, both within the court and beyond, the court should solicit the cooperation of other agencies, as well as community organizations to form a partnership in support of the goals of the DWI court program.
- 6 Take a Judicial Leadership Role**—Judges are a vital part of the DWI court team. As leader of this team, the judge's role is paramount to the success of the Drug court program. The judge must also possess recognizable leadership skills as well as the capability to motivate team members and elicit buy-in from various stakeholders. The selection of the judge to lead the DWI court team, therefore, is of utmost importance.
- 7 Develop Case Management Strategies**—Case management, the series of inter-related functions that provides for a coordinated team strategy and seamless collaboration across the treatment and justice systems, is essential for an integrated and effective DWI court program.
- 8 Address Transportation Issues**—Though nearly every state revokes or suspends a person's driving license upon conviction for a DUI offense, the loss of driving privileges poses a significant issue for those individuals involved in a DWI/Drug Court program. In many cases, the participant solves the transportation problem created by the loss of their driver's license by driving anyway and taking a chance that he or she will not be caught. With this knowledge, the court must caution the participant against taking such chances in the future and to alter their attitude about driving without a license.
- 9 Evaluate the Program**—To convince "stakeholders" about the power of DWI court, program designers must design a DWI court evaluation model capable of documenting behavioral change and linking that change to the program's existence. A credible evaluation is the only mechanism for mapping the road to program success or failure. To prove whether a program is efficient and effective requires the assistance of a competent evaluator, an understanding of and control over all relevant variables that can systematically contribute to behavioral change, and a commitment from the DWI court team to rigorously abide by the rules of the evaluation design.
- 10 Ensure a Sustainable Program**—The foundation for sustainability is laid, to a considerable degree, by careful and strategic planning. Such planning includes considerations of structure and scale, organization and participation and, of course, funding. Becoming an integral and proven approach to the DWI problem.

# DISTRICT COURT SUBSTANCE ABUSE/DUI COURT



Substance Abuse Court, the longest standing specialty court in District Court, continues to help our participants change their lives and watch the victories of gaining back family, jobs, trust, and self-worth. In July, The Honorable Vernon L. Schreiber took over the program and now sits at the helm navigating through the rough waters of difficult budget decisions and through the smooth sailing waters of seeing the program help save lives.

Many of our participants are very talented in the creative arts and can represent or depict their struggles and accomplishments through other expressions. We ask our participants to present some form of art in the first month of the program that describes their addiction/alcoholism and how they “got here” to our alternative treatment court. In contrast, we also ask our participants to present us a second piece of artistic expression at their graduation to represent their recovery. With permission, some of our participants’ initial assignments, expressing their own representation

Active Caseload December 31, 2010	49
Opted In	26
Graduated	17
Drug-free Babies Born	2
Opted Out	15
Terminated	17
Active Caseload January 1, 2009	59
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	312.50
Value of Hours	\$23,437.50
Number of Graduates to Date from SAC program	101

Many of the SAC participants mention several accomplishments during their journey:

- ◆ Returning back to union work
- ◆ Reinstating nursing license
- ◆ Reunification with children becoming a mother
- ◆ Getting married
- ◆ Enrolling in college
- ◆ Reinstating driving privileges
- ◆ Attending national recovery conferences
- ◆ Ending their chronic homelessness



Above: A painting done to depict the grief, shame, despair expressed by the client.



Above: Model car created by a participant who related it to his DUI.

**“FOR I AM MY WORST ENEMY”**

Wearing a helmet.  
The image of confidence.  
Concealing the insecurities within.  
Armor that cloaks emotions.  
Holding a shield made of glass.  
Keeping others at bay and yet they see through the ploy.  
A sword made of liquid, giving the Knight liquid courage.

Now, ready for the Garden of Eden, the Knight just has to get rid of the ominous judgmental eyes and the Sorcerer that controls them.

With every swing of the sword the Sorcerer seems to grow stronger, keeping the Knight in the stagnant water.

The eyes saying, “This is where you belong.”

The Sorcerer keeps the Knight out of the garden. “You don’t deserve happiness so you shall not pass” the Sorcerer tattoos this though in the Knight’s brain. “No way the noble one can win.”

If only the Knight can segregate himself from the liquid sword. He would definitely prevail.

Feeling hopeless and at a loss, the Knight pleads to the dominating Sorcerer, “Before I disappear, I must look upon your face so I may know to whom I was defeated”. The Sorcerer’s eerie laugh surrounded the Knight as if it was a hug from one’s mother. As the Sorcerer begins to lift his head the judgmental eyes disappear when the light hits the face of the sorcerer. The Knight falls to his knees and weeps in his palms.

For you see, I’m the Knight and the image I see is not one of a Sorcerer but a reflection of me. I must segregate myself from the liquid swords.

**“For I am my worst enemy”**

~By SAC Participant, K.C.L.





# GOV. GREGOIRE APPOINTS NEW SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE JANUARY 15, 2010

OLYMPIA – Gov. Chris Gregoire today announced the appointment of Judge Richard Melnick to the Clark County Superior Court. Melnick now serves as a Clark County District Court judge, and replaces Judge Robert Harris, who left office in December.

“I am truly impressed with Judge Melnick’s contributions to his community, not only in the courtroom, but as a volunteer,” Gregoire said. “It is clear that Judge Melnick deeply cares about the people he serves. I am confident that he will bring a high level of integrity to this position, and serve the citizens of Clark County well.”

“I thank Governor Gregoire for her confidence in me to serve in this role,” Melnick said. “I appreciate this opportunity, and am honored to serve the citizens of Clark County in this new capacity. I fully understand that my rulings have a real impact on people’s lives, and will continue to keep that in mind as I make decisions.”

Melnick, a District Court judge since 2004, currently is the presiding judge for Clark County’s Substance Abuse Court. Prior to this position, Melnick spent more than 20 years working in the county’s Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, most recently as a senior deputy prosecutor.

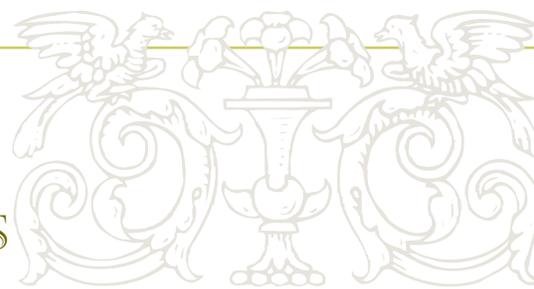
“Judge Melnick will be an excellent addition to the Clark County Superior Court bench,” said county Prosecuting Attorney Art Curtis. “It has been a pleasure working with him in the District Court, and I look forward to working with him in this new capacity.”

Melnick, a tireless volunteer, has made serving holiday meals to the area’s homeless an annual tradition. As a board member of the TODAY Foundation — which supports youth athletes — Melnick is active in youth sports, coaching soccer and basketball teams and raising funds to support local teams. Judge Melnick also helps high school students prepare for mock trial competitions.

Melnick earned a bachelor’s degree in history and political science from Northwestern University in Chicago and a juris doctorate from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College in Portland. Melnick’s appointment is effective February 1.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=1418&newsType=1>

Judge Melnick has been a long-standing champion in the Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts from his days in the prosecutors’ office in Felony Drug Court, to being the Substance Abuse Court Judge, to paving the way to expand the drug court concept in the creation of additional programs in District Court. Thank you Judge Melnick.



## DISTRICT COURT DUI COURT EMPHASIS

Some people ask, “**What is a DUI Court Emphasis?**” Rather than over-apply any one policy, the goal is to match individuals to specific programs and services that are *most likely* to improve their outcomes in the most cost-efficient and safety-conscious manner. Because District Court already has Substance Abuse Court (traditional drug court), a Mental Health Court (which has a large percentage of co-occurring individuals at any given time), a DV Therapeutic Court and now a Veterans Court, it made more sense to handle DUI/Physical Control charges in the most suitable specialty court that matched the offenders’ needs based on diagnoses, court mandates and/or eligibility factors.

Alcohol and drug impaired drivers pose a significant risk to our community. Clark County District Court processes a high number of DUI/Physical Control criminal traffic case filings each year. In 2009, District Court processed a total of 1,853 filings (*Source: AOC, Cases Filed Report*). Since budget cuts continue to severely threaten our justice system’s response to impaired drivers, choices must be made regarding enforcement, prosecution, incarceration as well as educational and effective interventions. In the fall of 2009, District Court obtained a grant from The Washington Traffic Safety Commission to enhance our Therapeutic Specialty Courts with a DUI Court emphasis. The majority of the grant funding is for a probation officer to be a committed team member in all of these specialty courts. Supervision of the DUI offenders includes conducting risk/needs assessments using a comprehensive management tool, office reporting requirements, field work with a uniformed police officer and compliance with program and probation conditions. In 2010, we were fortunate to receive the grant for a second year to continue our efforts to reduce impaired driving in Clark County. Across the state and across the nation, DUI/DWI Courts prove to be a highly effective supervision strategy.

**National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators Endorses DWI Courts**

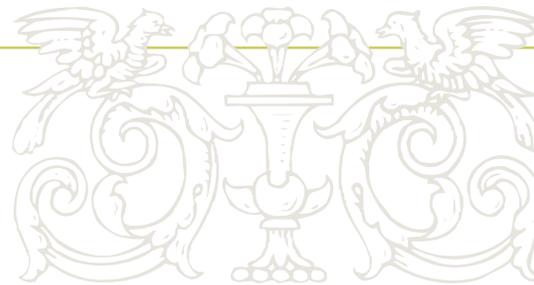
National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators    DUI    DWI

“*The National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC) is the latest national organization to officially endorse DWI Courts. NAPC is the nation’s only national organization of prosecutor coordinators and promotes the exchange of ideas and information and the development of programs and services for the mutual benefit of prosecutor coordinators and prosecutors.*

*In endorsing DWI Courts, NAPC released a resolution which strongly supports the establishment of DWI Courts for hardcore DWI offenders.*

*“Prosecutors have always been committed to removing the impaired driver from the nation’s roadways and we now know that DWI Courts are one of the most effective tools we have to meet this goal,” said NAPC President Rob Kepple. “Hardcore drunk drivers are not impacted by the same general deterrence methods as most impaired drivers. DWI Courts ensure accountability for these individuals while providing the structure, supervision and treatment to permanently change their behavior. We are honored to work with the National Center for DWI Courts on the important work of expanding the reach of these courts”*

See: <http://www.dwicourts.org/sites/default/files/nadcp/DWI%20Court%20Resolut...>



## YEAR 1 STATISTICS FOR THE DUI COURT EMPHASIS

(OCT. 2009 – SEPT. 2010):

- SAC:** averaged 50% of offenders in the program had DUI/Physical Control charges
- DVTC:** averaged 33% of offender in the program had DUI/Physical Control charges + a DV charge.
- MHC:** averaged 10% of offenders in the program had DUI/Physical Control charges

Within all of the above listed courts in Year One of the Grant, the DUI emphasis track served a total of **71** voluntary participants who were charged with DUI/Physical Control. Of **44** new referrals, **19** participants opted out or did not meet eligibility criteria. We had **13** participants graduate, **1** participant was placed on ICE detainer and **16** were terminated. The DUI Court Probation Officer (PO) attempted **92** field visits with **72** successful contacts made. Our PO accomplished **51** one-on-one counseling sessions using evidence-based practices, including offender risk assessment and motivational interviewing.

The program demonstrates an **87.08%** rate of negative drug tests during the rating period. Most notable, **ZERO** participants were charged with subsequent DUI/Physical Control within the rating period.

### 2010 CLARK COUNTY SPECIALTY COURT PARTICIPANTS WEARING SCRAM BRACELET

<b>Total Monitored</b>	10	Number of <b>Clark County</b> offenders who were monitored by SCRAM in 2010	<b>Nationwide</b> , nearly 53,796 offenders were monitored by SCRAM in 2010
<b>Total Readings</b>	30,773	Total number of alcohol tests the SCRAM system performed on all <b>Clark County</b> monitored offenders	The SCRAM system takes, stores, transmits, and analyzes <b>48 test readings/day</b> for <b>each offender</b>

“My role as the Probation Officer within the specialty courts/DUI emphasis has been to provide intensive supervision of the participants by monitoring program compliance and other probation conditions/court orders. Using motivational interviewing techniques, I work closely with the participants to build a working relationship and assess their risks, needs, barriers and strengths in order for them to succeed. The new risk assessment tool probation uses has given the team new insight on behaviors and backgrounds of clients providing a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the population we are serving. Office visits are scheduled based on the participants’ needs and community supervision/safety standards. This individual time with clients ensures case plans are being followed as well as an opportunity to assist in making referrals to other community-based services to provide a stronger foundation of recovery and chance for success (i.e. employment, educational, housing, transportation, support groups, etc). The field visits Deputy Mike Polen and I conduct on the participants also allow a different type of community supervision that offers an inside view into a participant’s environment, lifestyle and any support system.”

~ Amber Lutes

## COURT EFFORT HELPS ONE-TIME DRUNK DRIVER

**EMBRACE SOBRIETY** by Stephanie Rice

The name Elizabeth Anne Svaricek might not ring a bell, but you might remember her arrest.

She made news in January 2007 as a drunk mom, one whose kids used her cell phone to call their dad from the car, crying and saying something wasn't right.

Her ex-husband called 911, then picked up his son and daughter, leaving his ex-wife passed out in her car to be found by a deputy from the Clark County Sheriff's Office.

Her blood-alcohol content was more than four times the legal limit of .08.

The 34-year-old Vancouver resident, now using her maiden name Kosko, reflected on that night Tuesday during her graduation from Clark County's Substance Abuse Court. "That was just a normal day of drinking for me," Kosko said.

Judge Rich Melnick told a crowded courtroom Tuesday that Kosko's story was no secret. "It's public record," he said. "She was driving drunk with her kids."

Her 2007 arrest was the third time she'd been busted driving drunk. Melnick was so upset when she went on to be arrested a fourth time (before her third case was resolved) that he kept Kosko in the Clark County Jail for five months. She has been sober since March 3, 2009, when she entered a treatment facility in Spokane.

"I couldn't be prouder of you," Melnick told Kosko, who came to court with her parents, boyfriend, daughter and other supporters.

The January 2007 incident "was a horrible circumstance that I think happened for a reason," Melnick said.

It started Kosko on a path that led her to the treat-

ment court, where defendants plead guilty but then are monitored and given resources and support to stay sober.

Kosko's defense attorney, Brooke Vitasovic, said Kosko was despondent when she first came to court.

Not all the members of the Substance Abuse Team agreed to even give Kosko a chance, with a deputy prosecutor arguing it was too big of a risk to the public to let Kosko out of custody. But Vitasovic argued to give Kosko a chance. She said she was worried Kosko would kill herself, or, if she didn't get help, her jail sentence would eventually end and she'd drive drunk and kill someone else.

Melnick, who was a District Court judge when Kosko was arrested, has since moved to Superior

Court. District Court Judge Vernon Schreiber took over Substance Abuse Court, which Melnick started in 1999.

Melnick returned for Kosko's graduation Tuesday, which was also the graduation for Jacob Brooks, a welder and a father of four who said it took him a few tries before he took Substance Abuse Court seriously but now credits it with getting his life back on track. Kosko was equally grateful.

"This means the world to me," she said of her certificate presented to her by Melnick and Schreiber. "I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, for being here and fighting for me."

"I can be a good mother"

When she was arrested in 2007, the arresting deputy wrote in his report that he knocked on the window of



Photo by Troy Wayrynen

Vancouver resident Elizabeth Anne Kosko celebrates Tuesday with her certificate of completion from Clark County District Court's Substance Abuse Court. Superior Court Judge Rich Melnick, left, and District Court Judge Vernon Schreiber presided over the graduation ceremony.



the vehicle to wake up the driver.

“The female looked in my general direction but could not focus on my person,” Deputy Robert Alexander reported, adding that her eyes were glassy and blood-shot. He said when the door opened, he smelled an overwhelming odor of alcohol.

She was too unstable on her feet to perform sobriety tests, and when two breath tests at the Clark County Jail showed alcohol levels of .38, a jail nurse said Kosko would have to go to Southwest Washington Medical Center.

After her release from the hospital, Kosko returned to jail. She said her mother posted bail. Then she started drinking again. Kosko, who grew up in Monmouth, Ore., said she started drinking at age 16.

As an adult, she was drinking so heavily her hand would shake when she tried to swipe her debit card at liquor stores in the morning. While in jail she had grand mal seizures, which she said doctors attributed to her alcoholism.

She hasn’t had to be on anti-seizure medicine in more than a year, she said Tuesday. She lives in an Oxford house with eight other women and works cleaning houses and in a church nursery.

Her daughter, Cecelia, 12, and son Julian, 13, live in Camas with their father. “I’m happy that I have a mommy, and that she’s OK,” Cecelia said Tuesday. Kosko said her son didn’t come to court because he didn’t want to miss school.

After court, she said she knew she could find the strength to stop drinking when she was on a plane to the treatment facility in Spokane.

The words of a counselor from Lifeline Connections kept ringing in her ears: If she didn’t sober up, she would die. “I walked in those doors (of the facility) and I made a commitment,” she said. “I can be a good mother, and a good girlfriend and a good daughter and a good friend.”

When Melnick gave her copies of her booking photos, she gasped and clasped her hand over her mouth.

The woman in the photographs has hunched shoulders, messy hair and no expression. “I don’t even recognize that person,” she said later. “When I look in the mirror, I see a strong woman in recovery.”



Photo by Troy Wayrynen



Elizabeth Kosko embraces her daughter, Cecilia Svaricek, 12, as Elizabeth's mom, Fran Kosko, shares stories about her daughter at a Clark County Substance Abuse Court graduation ceremony.

**In Memory of Elizabeth Kosko who passed away in April 2011.**

## 16 Key Elements of a Juvenile Drug Court

- #1 **Collaborative Planning**—Engage all stakeholders in creating an interdisciplinary, coordinated, and well documented systemic approach to working with youth and their families. Develop and maintain written policies and procedures for the implementation and operation of the juvenile drug court.
- #2 **Teamwork**—Develop and maintain an interdisciplinary, non-adversarial work team.
- #3 **Clearly Define Target Population and Eligibility Criteria**—Define a target population and eligibility criteria that are aligned with the program’s goals and objectives.
- #4 **Judicial Involvement and Supervision**—Schedule frequent judicial reviews and be sensitive to the effect that court proceedings can have on youth and their families.
- #5 **Monitoring and Evaluation**—Establish a system for program monitoring and evaluation to maintain quality of service, assess program impact, and contribute to knowledge in the field.
- #6 **Community Partnerships**—Build partners with community organizations to expand the range of opportunities available to youth and their families.
- #7 **Comprehensive Treatment Planning**—Tailor interventions to the complex and varied needs of youth and their families.
- #8 **Developmentally Appropriate Services**—Tailor treatment to the developmental needs of adolescents.
- #9 **Gender-Appropriate Services**—Design treatment to address the unique needs of each gender.
- #10 **Cultural Competence**—Create policies and procedures that are responsive to cultural differences and train personnel to be culturally competent.
- #11 **Focus on Strengths**—Maintain a focus on the strengths of youth and their families during program planning and in every interaction between the court and those it serves.
- #12 **Family Engagement**—Recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.
- #13 **Educational Linkages**—Coordinate with the school system to ensure that each participant enrolls in and attends an educational program that is appropriate to his or her needs.
- #14 **Drug Testing**—Design drug testing to be frequent, random, and observed. Document testing policies and procedures in writing.
- #15 **Goal-Oriented Incentives and Sanctions**—Respond to compliance and noncompliance with incentives and sanctions that are designed to reinforce or modify the behavior of youth and their families.
- #16 **Confidentiality**—Establish a confidentiality policy and procedures that guard the privacy of the youth while allowing the drug court team to access key information.

# SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT



In 2010, the Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC), in conjunction with the Department of Community Services, applied for and received The Assertive Adolescent and Family Treatment grant from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). The grant provides \$900,000. to the Juvenile Recovery Court program over three years to fund substance abuse treatment and evaluation. The substance abuse treatment program is a new evidence-based, innovative treatment protocol working with substance abusing juveniles and their families. The program emphasizes an assertive care model working with participants using the Stages of Change Model.

This grant allows for the JRC to move forward into the future utilizing the most effective substance abuse treatment protocol that exists. We look forward to 2011 and beyond combining the SAMHSA grant with state Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) grant that continues to provided the highest level of comprehensive services to JRC participants and their families.

Active Caseload December 31, 2010	36
Opted In	24
Graduated	14
Drug-free Babies Born	1
Opted Out	15
Terminated	5
Restorative Community Service Assigned (In days)	245
Value of Hours	\$18,375

# JRC RECEIVES WASHINGTON STATE GRANT



Digital Storytelling workshop- December 2010

The Clark County Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) received a Washington State Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) grant received in October, 2009. The grant, which saw its first full year of service in 2010, aimed to fill holes that existed in the JRC program. The major three areas of need were based on key elements in successful Juvenile Drug Courts. Community engagement through pro-social activities, educational and vocational linkages, and family therapy (engagement) were identified as necessary elements to address through this grant. As a Juvenile Court manager stated, “This takes our program from a good program to an outstanding program.”

## PRO-SOCIAL

Juvenile Recovery Court offers “pro-social” activities several times during the year for JRC youth and families. The purpose of pro-social activities is to provide youth a fun, sober and positive environment. It allows youth to interact with each other and members of the JRC team in a meaningful way outside of court. Attendance may be mandatory or voluntary. The number of youth participating depends on the activity, some accommodate a small group and others are program-wide.

The US Department of Justice published an article entitled: “Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice” in March 2003. The article outlines 16 key elements to effectiveness. Strategy 6 focuses on Community Partnerships, “In many jurisdictions, community organizations offer an array of support services, recreational opportunities, and treatment and educational programs for youth and their families” (p. 26). Anecdotally, many youth report that they “don’t know how to have fun when they are not high” or that they do not “have any clean friends.” Pro-social activities expose youth to a variety of agencies and community programs while promoting positive relationships.



Pumpkin patch at Bi-Zi Farms- October 2010

During 2009, Juvenile Recovery Court offered many pro-social activities. In 2010, JRC offered twice as many while including food and transportation support.



## PRO-SOCIAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED:

- 8 youth- Clark College Scholarship Night in January 2010
- 37 youth- bowling at Green Meadows in February 2010
- 32 youth- Silver Buckle Youth Equestrian Center in April 2010
- 6 youth- Youth Achievement Awards in May 2010
- 5 youth- presented a workshop at TC2: Teens Care Too! Youth Prevention Summit in May 2010
- 40 youth- JRC End of School Year Award Celebration in June 2010. Previous JRC graduates, family, friends and community members were also invited, total attendance 150+.
- 2 youth- George R Marshall Youth Leadership Training in July 2010
- 32 youth- Bi-Zi Farms in October 2010



Silver Buckle Youth Equestrian Center- April 2010



JRC Youth Bowling night- February 2010

- 35 youth- All Therapeutic Specialty Courts' Holiday Party in December 2010
- 8 youth- participated in Digital Storytelling in December 2010

JRC also piloted a summer program focusing on post-secondary education and employment readiness skills. Youth participated in a six-class series which covered job search, resumes, and interviewing. Youth also toured post-secondary education facilities such as Clark College, WSU-Vancouver, Portland Art Institute, Coast Guard, and Job Corps.

Many youth graduating from JRC during 2010 have mentioned the pro-social activities as their “favorite times” because they “got to have fun” and “not be so serious like in court.” Youth selected activities for the year based on an interest survey. They often ask JRC team members “what are we doing next?”



# JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT ADDS A RESOURCE COORDINATOR AND FAMILY THERAPIST

The Resource Coordinator was added November 30, 2009 and was created to provide additional educational, vocational, and employment support to JRC clients. The position has evolved to include the planning of pro-social activities and community engagement opportunities.

In the U.S. Department of Justice’s published article, “Juvenile Drug Courts: Strategies in Practice,” which outlines key elements to effectiveness, Strategy 13 focuses on Educational Linkages:

“Educational programs—whether they are schools, alternative schools, vocational centers, special education programs, or GED programs—play a significant role in the lives of youth who are served by the juvenile drug court. Unless a juvenile drug court participant successfully engages in an educational program, he or she will not be adequately prepared for life after the drug court or for adulthood” (p. 46).



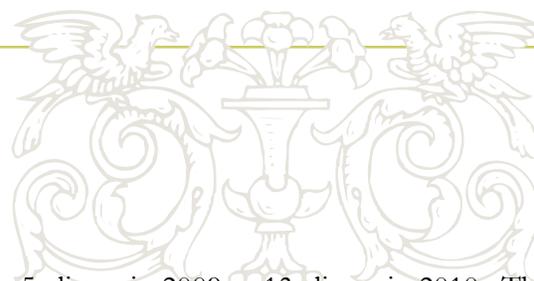
Youth Achievement Award 2010- Award recipients

## From November 30, 2009 to November 30, 2010:

- 28.0 high school credits were saved;
- 53 probation meetings were collaborated on with the resource coordinator to address educational issues with the youth and probation counselor
- 27 meetings with clients, parents and other school and/or Juvenile Recovery Court staff to address educational issues were facilitated
- 69 individual appointments to refer to educational programs, help with employment (job searching, resumes, etc), assist with post-secondary education or provide support around other needs occurred
- 26 appointments were attended to provide academic support and tutoring
- Took 8 individual trips to Clark College with clients to help with financial aid, registration, etc
- 7 participants attended summer school credit recovery programs in 2009



Youth presenters at TC2: Teens Care Too! Workshop in May 2010



The JRC graduations have almost tripled from 5 clients in 2009 to 13 clients in 2010. The coming year, 2011, promises even more. Youth must be attending an educational program or be employed to graduate. The Resource Coordinator collaborates with the JRC team to ensure that happens.

JRC youth have always been required to attend an educational program or be employed while in the program. Recently, the JRC team added career interest screening and completion of a resume to program requirements. Although these areas are covered in traditional high schools, most JRC youth missed the materials due to absences, alternative education or attendance in a GED program. Addition to required activities ensures all youth in Juvenile Recovery Court will receive exposure to this basic and important information. The role of the Resource Coordinator will continue to grow and evolve in 2011.

## **FAMILY THERAPIST**

As anyone knows that has worked with youth, engaging the family as a whole as part of recovery is integral to success. Strategy B of the fore mentioned, “Juvenile Drug Court: Strategies in Practice.” discusses family engagement—”recognize and engage the family as a valued partner in all components of the program.“ In the second half of last year June, 2010 through December, 2010, the family therapist saw:

- 11 families in family treatment services
- 22 families attended family education group

Although families are not required to attend these services, they are highly encouraged. Family counseling is available based upon a families request or they may be referred based upon family need. Family education group is held twice per month for parents and other family member’s needs. They are required to attend prior to their youth phasing up in each of the four programmatic phases.

## **2010 JRC SUCCESS**

There is not doubt that the addition of pro-social activities, educational and vocational engagement and family services has contributed the following success:

**In 2010, the Juvenile Recovery Court has seen an increase in:**

- Attendance in school/educational programs
- Participation in vocational and work training programs
- Increase in youth employment
- Increase in postsecondary attendance i.e., college
- Client participation in GED programs has remained consistent

# JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Juvenile Recovery Court celebrated its first Annual End of the (School) Year Awards Celebration in June 2010. The purpose of the event was to recognize the significant accomplishments of youth in Juvenile Recovery Court during the 2009-2010 school year. As most JRC youth are in the process of making healthier life choices, many had never before received community recognition.

The event was held at ESD 112 for current JRC participants, JRC graduates, families, friends, stakeholders and community members. All youth received an award in at least one area, some received multiple honors. Awards included:

- 7 youth graduated high school in 2010
- 4 youth received GEDs in 2010
- 10 youth graduated from JRC
- 7 youth were 2010 Youth Achievement Award recipients
- 5 youth currently attending college
- 21 youth demonstrated academic improvement
- 11 youth obtained employment

Awards were also given for treatment-related successes and significant personal growth. Judge James Rulli, County Commissioner Mark Boldt, and many JRC participants spoke about the value and impact of Therapeutic Specialty Courts at the ceremony. After the event, many youth and parents expressed gratitude. In the words of one teen “I’ve never received an award before... I’ve always been in trouble. Nobody ever seemed to notice when I got things right.” JRC plans to have the celebration again at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.



Many Clark County staff, JRC participants, parents, and community members attended.

**Clark County Juvenile Recovery Court**

.....☆☆☆.....  
**End of Year  
Award Celebration**  
.....☆☆☆.....

**Award Categories**

**Probation**

JRC Graduates  
Clark County Youth Achievement Awards 2010  
Significant Personal Growth on Probation

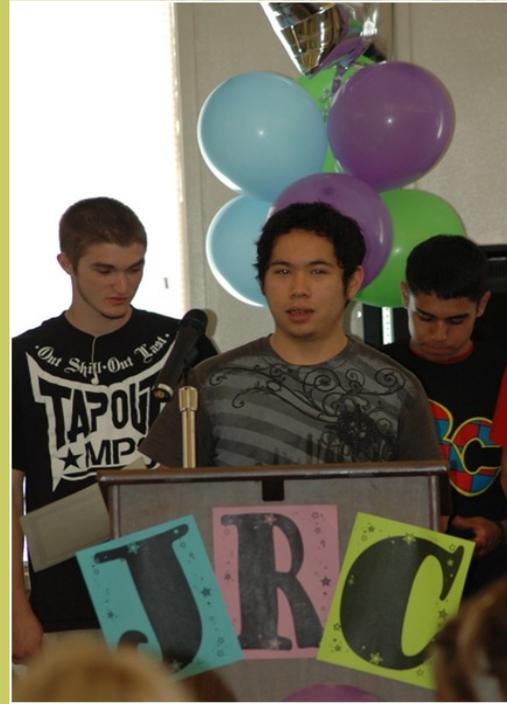
**Treatment**

Successful Completion of Inpatient  
Completion of MRT  
Significant Personal Growth in Treatment

**Academics & Employment**

High School Graduates 2010  
Obtained GED 2010  
Testing for GED  
Academic Improvement  
Obtained Employment  
Attending Post Secondary Education

.....☆☆☆.....  
**Thank You for Supporting  
Youth in Recovery Court!**



JRC youth speak about their accomplishments

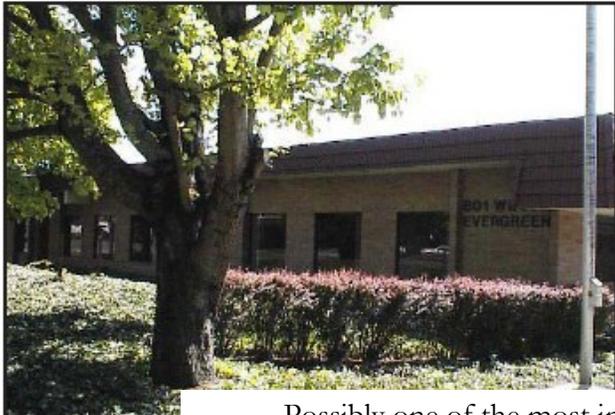


## 11 Key Elements of a Family Treatment Drug Court

- #1** A Steering Committee composed of key stakeholders to provide advice in the design and operation of the Family Treatment Drug Court.
- #2** Alcohol and other drug treatment services that are integrated with justice system case processing.
- #3** Use of a non-adversarial approach, with prosecution and defense counsel promoting public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- #4** Early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants.
- #5** Access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- #6** Frequent staffings (team meetings), where each client's progress, strengths, obstacles, and options are discussed individually, and case plans are updated as needed.
- #7** Frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- #8** A coordinated strategy that governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- #9** Judicial interaction that is ongoing with each drug court participant.
- #10** Interdisciplinary education that promotes effective planning, implementation, and operations.
- #11** Partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations.

# SUPERIOR COURT FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

S.T.E.P.—STRIDING TOWARD EXCELLENT PARENTING



Possibly one of the most innovative grants that Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts received was the grant for children affected by methamphetamine for Family Treatment Court. This grant was applied for in conjunction with the Department of Community Services. It is a four-year grant totaling 1.48 million dollars. Funding is being provided for neuro-psychological testing and treatment with children that have been affected by the methamphetamine use of their parent(s), and conjointly hands-on parent coaching for the parent(s). Services for the grant are being provided by The Children’s Center and Children’s Home Society with program evaluation conducted by NPC Research, Dr. Shannon Carey.

Active Caseload December 31, 2010	20
Opted In	27
Graduated	8
Drug-free Babies Born	1
Opted Out	4
Terminated	15
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	81
Value of Hours	\$6,075
Number of Graduates to Date from the FTC Program	31

# TREATMENT PROGRAMS FACE CUTS

Excerpts from Columbian article dated May 4, 2010 by Stephanie Rice, Columbian staff writer



In 2006, Clark County had drug court for non-violent offenders but added Family Treatment Court for addicts who had temporarily lost custody of their children.

For these addicts, it wasn't about staying out of prison. If they didn't sober up, they'd lose their children for good.

That same year, the Board of Clark County Commissioners approved a 0.1 percent sales tax increase. The so-called "meth tax" was estimated to bring in as much as \$6 million to pay for treatment services and "therapeutic courts" that could help addicts piece their lives back together.

On Monday, (May 3, 2010), Heather Jacoby, a 25-year-old mother of six and former methamphetamine user, became the 25th graduate of Family Treatment Court.

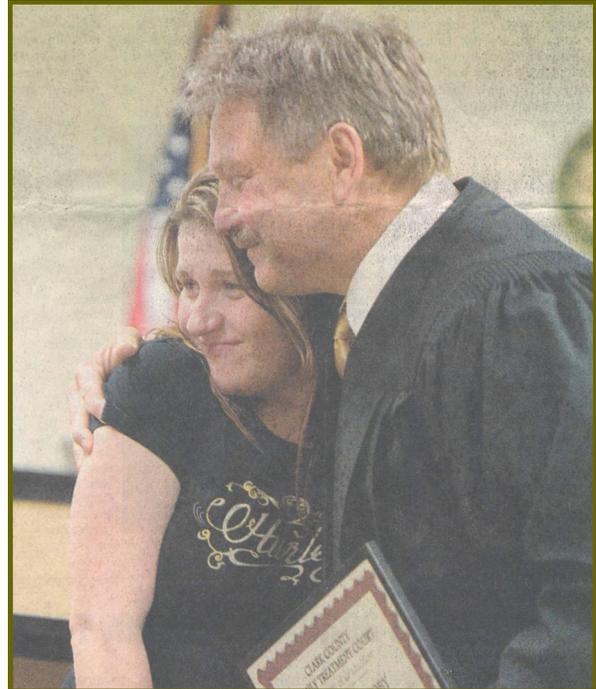


Photo by Steven Lane/The Columbian

Advocates argue the programs make financial sense because keeping people healthy and out of jail saves money. At a work session last week, commissioners were told that one of the brightest spots in the budget was that fewer people have been in jail and criminal filings were down.

Advocates also point to success stories such as Jacoby.

Jacoby was met with applause when she walked into court on Monday. She received flowers, balloons, and a hug from court Commissioner Dan Stahnke.

Jacoby started Family Treatment Court in March 2009. She has been clean for six months, works at a telemarketing company and has custody of three of her children. She regularly sees the other three children, who live with a relative.

The father of five of her children has also graduated from Family Treatment Court.

Addressing new court participants, Jacoby said, "If you want to get clean and you want to get your kids back, this is the best program there is."

# FAMILY TREATMENT COURT GRADUATIONS OFTEN MEAN REUNIFICATION



## **A FAMILY TREATMENT COURT GRADUATE SPEAKS FROM THE HEART AND SHARES HIS STORY BELOW.**

My name is Jordan and I am an FTC graduate. I freely opted into the Family Treatment Court program in November of 2009 under the impression I would get my kids back faster than not opting in at all. At first I was a little skeptical because I am an addict and I have never put my trust in anything, especially the “system.” So I went against my own judgment and stuck with the program.

My visitation with my child started with two hour visits in a small room at Innovative Services, then went to unsupervised visits, and then eventually visits in the community. Ultimately, I had visits at my house which led to over night visits. My daughter was returned home to me November 2010. It took exactly one year for me. It’s different for everyone. Some people get their kids back in a matter of months. It all depends on their living situation and their sobriety; Are they really committed to being a parent? Are they abusive? Are they in an abusive relationship? Etc.

I graduated FTC in December 2010, one month after my daughter was returned home. By the time I graduated I received certificates for parenting classes, inpatient and outpatient treatment, after care treatment, hands on parenting (PPP), certificates from CASA, Parent partner programs and one from FTC. I ended up with eight certificates total. For a loser like me, that's pretty good. Don't give up. Life is only as good as you say it is... Livin' the Dream, baby, Livin' the dream!!!



Post Script: As a result of Jordan’s hard work, his daughter’s half-brother now has a permanent home with Jordan and his daughter.

# DISTRICT COURT VETERANS THERAPEUTIC COURT



Clark County District Court has received a \$350,000, three-year federal grant for a new Veterans Therapeutic Court. It will be the fourth such court in Washington and joins over 60 similar courts nationwide totaling seven therapeutic specialty courts in Clark County.

The Veterans Court will assist those who have faced challenges in addressing combat-related trauma, and as a result, have entered the criminal justice system for low-level offenses. Approximately 1.7 million American troops have served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and one in five has returned with a mental health issue, the Department of Defense has estimated. Approximately half of those affected have sought help, and about half of them have received suitable care. War-related illnesses can contribute to escalated suicide attempts, arrests, incarceration, divorce, domestic violence, homelessness and despair. The court's specialized treatment program will meet the particular needs of these veterans.

Clark County's Veterans Court will start upon receiving the federal grant funds (to be released Feb. 1, 2011). The Department of Justice grant will allow the court to serve 50 veterans. To be eligible, a veteran must be charged with a misdemeanor crime in Clark County. He or she must have received a general or honorable discharge, live in Clark County, have a substance abuse and/or mental health disorder and want treatment for it. The veteran must plead guilty to the charge, but instead of going to jail\*, he or she will receive intense supervision and court-ordered treatment for a minimum of 12 months (\*defendants must serve all mandatory jail sentences for a select few crimes such as Driving While Under the Influence). The program aims to, through education, treatment, monitoring and counseling, reduce the chance the veteran would offend in the future. This court also employs a Vet-to-Vet Peer Mentoring component that helps coach, guide and assist the veterans to navigate through both VA and court systems as only a vet can relate to a vet.





“We have a long, successful history of operating therapeutic courts in Clark County, and I can’t think of a more deserving group to help than those who have served our country,” said District Court Judge Darvin Zimmerman, who will oversee the Veterans’ court. Judge Zimmerman said, “The grant is thanks to Shauna McCloskey, Therapeutic Specialty Courts Coordinator, who wrote the grant application alongside Tim Podhora, District Court/Corrections Finance Manager; Sheriff Garry Lucas, who assigned a deputy to the program, and other law enforcement officials; other elected officials who wrote letters of support; the Prosecutor’s Office and Vancouver City Attorney’s Office, which agreed to share the grant prosecution money.”

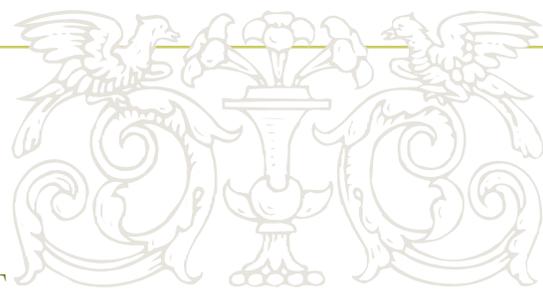
## LOCAL STATISTICS

- Clark County = estimated 38,700 veterans and counting.
- 540 Veterans in our jail from April 2008 - December 2010.  
89% admitted to having a substance abuse problem
- The cost to house ***one*** offender in jail is approx \$69/day.
- In 2010 alone, The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs – Incarcerated Veterans Project (Mike Willbur) reported a cost-savings of **\$135,600** by re-routing eligible veterans from serving **2190 jail days** and instead into appropriate treatment programs.

By connecting veterans to the VA for benefits/services, they are less likely to drain Local and state dollars (housing, unemployment, medical, other treatment agencies, etc).

- An average Vet needing mental health and substance abuse treatment including UA’s, assessments, case management, etc. = **\$16,582** w/out hospitalization or inpatient treatment. If we don’t connect them to the VA, these people go to DSHS and apply for Local funding. Veterans account for approximately ten percent of our other specialty court participants.

# DISTRICT COURT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THERAPEUTIC COURT



Clark County's Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court (DVTC) uses the drug court/problem-solving court approach that specifically aims to address the challenging problems of drug addiction/alcoholism and domestic violence that clog court dockets every day. With a strong emphasis on judicial oversight and a comprehensive treatment and probation team approach, this court works towards increasing safety of victims and the community, rehabilitation of its participants and holding the offender accountable for their behaviors. Over the course of 15 months, our DVTC program addresses the Chemical Dependency/Domestic Violence connection often found in conflicted and violent relationships. Asking individuals to remain clean and sober increases learning capabilities and retention of information learned.

In 2010, our program contracted with two Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Agencies to partner specifically with our Therapeutic Court. The Domestic Violence Treatment is progress linked, rather than time linked. Change must be observed in order to progress in the program; time in place is not enough. This allows clients to apply learning and increased coping skills in all of their interpersonal relationships. Gender specific treatment groups are available as well.

Judge James Swanger started the program in April 2008 with the help of the enhanced sales tax dollars. In July 2010, the District Court Judges go through a natural rotation and the Honorable John P. Hagensen now presides over the Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court.

Active Caseload December 31, 2010	25
Opted In	21
Graduated	6
Drug-free Babies Born	1
Opted Out	7
Terminated	11
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	114.25
Value of Hours	\$8,568.75

"This has been a year of successes. Several of the clients who started our program in the beginning were very concerned about how many classes they would have to do. Now they are concerned about what things will be like when they complete. Our clients demonstrated a lot of accountability, learning new responses to intensity, and understanding the effects of abuse on their families. Some have chosen to look beyond the DV class and have attended our Attention Deficit Disorder and Aggression Control Classes. Others have chosen to do some individual counseling as an adjunct to their DV treatment."

~Robert Johnson & Debbie Tomasovic, A Better Way Counseling



**Below is an excerpt from a letter of accountability that all clients are asked to complete before moving into phase two of the program. This client gave us permission to share this letter and all personal identifying information has been removed.**

Dear *Victim*:

At least five or six times throughout our relationship I would grab your arm and hold you back from leaving the room until I was done with the conversation. One or two incidences I pushed you to the ground and held you there while I verbally abused you, calling you names like\*\*\* and crazy. At least once a week I called you crazy, and up to five times month I even called you a \*\*\*. On the night I was arrested for domestic violence, I destroyed your property by throwing your phone, I verbally assaulted you when I called you a \*\*\*, and physically tried to control the situation by wrestling you to the ground. One night I pushed you into my car and verbally assaulted you. I accused you of trying to take my car when in reality you were trying keep my keys from me because I was too drunk to drive.

My abusive and controlling behavior has left you with several emotional and psychological scars. As a result of me jeopardizing your friendships by cutting you off from your friends it was hard for you to build up enough confidence to make new ones. You began to feel that you were the abuser in the relationship as a result of my belittling and manipulation. It was also because you disconnected yourself with your friends that you began to feel lonely and depressed while sitting at the house alone. Over the time of our relationship and throughout the course of my abuse you lost the necessary amount self esteem and confidence needed to be social and do anything other than cater to the needs of my own selfishness.

I now take full responsibility of the abuse that I have unjustifiably exposed you to; the physical abuse along with the psychological, financial, verbal, and sexual. Along with the abuse I undeniably inflicted upon our animals. There is nobody else to blame for my actions but me and me alone.

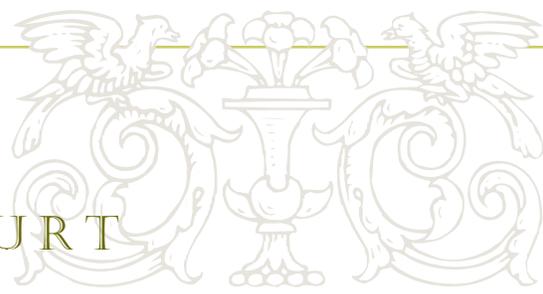
When I think about the abuse I have caused you it makes me feel ashamed. I am ashamed of my abuse and my lack of respect for the woman who I said I loved so much. I feel embarrassed to do the things that I would have never thought I would do. To do the things I would have been disgusted to watch any other man do to his woman. I feel angry for allowing myself to treat you in ways that defy my morals, beliefs and the man I want to become.

I am now willing to resolve problems and differences in a new matter. Instead of becoming violent and angry during argument, I will assess my intensity as it increases, take a time-out and come back in a calm state of mind ready to discuss the matter appropriately. During my time out I will begin positive self-talk and decrease my level of intensity. I am no longer going to control the argument with abusive behavior. I will state directly how the situation is making me feel and suggest an alternate solution for the future. I am also willing to build relationships based on equality and respect. As a result of my new beliefs, instead of trying to convince the other person that my way is right, I will state my position and listen to the response. Contrary to interrupting and being verbally abusive, I am willing to listen respectfully while the other person is talking and consider their views along with my own. I will check for physical and behavioral warning signs that commonly lead to my abuse. Some physical warning signs include sweaty palms and increased heart rate and facial temperature while some behavioral warning signs include pacing, tapping, and staring. To prevent probability of relapse I have dedicated myself to a life of sobriety. That will consist of absolutely no drugs or alcohol. To keep me sober I will continue to attend AA meetings at least once a week and carry a list of names in my wallet I can call when I feel an urge to drink. When I feel I am falling back into old behaviors and abuse in my relationships, I will commit myself to domestic violence classes at "A Better Way Counseling Service" until I am once again non-controlling and violence free.

To begin the amends process I am donating \$50.00 to help the YWCA of Clark County Safe Choice Domestic Violence Program and their efforts to advocate for, educate, and support those affected by domestic violence. In addition to my monetary donation to the YWCA, I have written and will be sending a letter to Congressman Brian Baird in support of the reauthorization of the Family Violence and Protection Services Act. This is an act that keeps domestic shelters open and provides advocacy, counseling and legal services for the families in need.

*Signed DVTC participant*

# DISTRICT COURT MENTAL HEALTH COURT



Mental Health Court has a specialized court docket for defendants with appropriate psychiatric disorders, providing a treatment and problem solving alternative to traditional criminal court processing. Participants are screened by a Regional Support Network Care Manager to determine if an Axis I Mental Health diagnosis is present and primary. This includes a review of past psychiatric and chemical abuse symptoms and treatment. Details of the person's current level of functioning, medical and personal stressors, social history, and resources for recovery (strengths, motivations) are also explored. A recommendation is made to the MH Court team, who also weighs the person's criminal record, before the final approval to become a participant in the Court.

Developed in response to the overrepresentation of people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system, Mental Health Courts divert defendants into community-based treatment. People voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed by mental health professionals with input from the Mental Health Court team.

Rapid access to services, coupled with a core team of professionals closely monitoring compliance helps the defendants stay committed to the 14-16 months of their involvement. This long-term participation works to break the cycle of repeated contacts with the criminal justice system.

In addition to substantial cost savings by diverting from jails, courts, and local hospitals- lives are changed. Success expands beyond the graduates when one considers the many others positively impacted by the program- family, friends, work associates, businesses, and other people in the community.

The Mental Health Court Team continued to revise and improve the procedures for the program over the course of 2010. Current challenges include several recent staff changes and on-

Active Caseload December 31, 2010	13
Opted In	10
Graduated	19
Drug-free Babies Born	2
Opted Out	3
Terminated	18
Work Crew/Community Service Assigned (In days)	48
Value of Hours	\$3,600

Recidivism from 2010 population: ZERO graduates have been charged and convicted on new crimes since graduation. Recidivism is defined by any new criminal *charges* filed in the State of Washington after program completion.

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT STATISTICS FOR 2010



Per the 2010 Clark County Jail Report, the average daily population of jail inmates was 685 with 220 of those inmates with reported special needs. There are several types of people who figure into this special needs classification, typically due to physical, mental or behavioral issues. Below is a table of other community agencies who see the mentally ill inmates in jail: (note: multiple inmates may be seen during each visit)

Jail Visits 2010	Number of Jail Staff	<b>Others who see the mentally ill inmates in jail</b>
71	8	Western State Hospital
514	9	Jail Contracted Mental Health Staff
111	21	Evaluations for MH Expert Testimony
66	16	Self Employed Psychiatrist/Psychologist
45	5	Vancouver Guidance Clinic
1034	65	Clark County Specialized Courts Authorized Programs
70	11	Clark County Crisis Services
117	15	Columbia River Mental Health Services
97	10	Crisis Services NW/Mental Health NW
575	26	Lifeline Connections/COMET
5	1	The Right Choice
168	1	Veterans Administration
2	1	Clark County Ombudsman

Washington's state funding for treating mental illnesses and/or substance abuse has and continues to take drastic cuts. A benefit of a defendant choosing Mental Health Court has been to have immediate access to services and a reduced sentence on their criminal charges. With decreased state funding, the ability to enter Mental Health Court will be affected and the courts may have to serve fewer people who do not qualify for Medicaid. This will have a serious negative impact on our already taxed local systems.

# MENTAL HEALTH COURT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS



Clark County's Mental Health Court celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Wednesday March 31, 2010 with a ceremony celebrating the graduation of eight clients. One of the first counties in the nation to open a specialty court, Clark County's program has successfully graduated nearly 400 people since its April 2000 opening. Newly-elected Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt joined the ceremony and congratulated each graduate announced by Judge Darvin Zimmerman. The therapeutic jurisprudence technique used in the courtroom encourages open communication, promotes the building of community service relationships, and provides needed follow-through.

Judge Darvin Zimmerman presided over Mental Health Court from July 2008-June 2010. The Honorable James P. Swanger currently presides over the Court since the District Court Judges made their rotation on July 1, 2010.



**(L-R)** Vancouver Mayor Tim Leavitt, Steve King, Mental Health Court Coordinator and Judge Darvin Zimmerman participate in graduation ceremonies held March 31.

## *Unspoken*

*The court of value is extraordinary,  
Standing firm it does not vary.  
The court of value, believes that you,  
Have no limits, to what you can do.  
Heroes they are, that go above and beyond,  
They give to us hope, they sing our song.  
The court of value gives to us,  
The gift of knowing we can trust.  
Unspoken, the most important part,  
The gifts we receive come from the heart.*

*Authored by a previous MHC graduate*

# THERAPEUTIC SPECIALTY COURTS' ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT



Approximately 400 Therapeutic Specialty Court participants and family members attended the 2010 Therapeutic Specialty Courts' Annual Holiday Event. With collaborative efforts, TSC staff offered all TSC participants and their families a memorable day.



The Rockaroos entertained during the Event.

Families enjoyed sub sandwiches, pizzas, chips, pop, cookies, fruit, veggies, and more. These were made possible by private donations and caring businesses in our community. Therapeutic Specialty Court Alumni did a great job generating donations from the community. We also had generous donors who enabled us to purchase additional needed items for the event such as and items for the raffle. We gave away several items including gift cards, board games, and two children's bicycles.

Families had the opportunity to have pictures taken with Santa and then to make an ornament for their picture at the craft tables. The

Rockaroos generously offered their talents and performed for the event and did an outstanding job entertaining all of us.

This event could not be successful year after year without the help of all the volunteers, those who helped pickup food the day of the event, helped with the craft tables, helped setup, served food, checked people in at the front door, Santa and his helpers, and those who stayed late to help clean up.

Without the support of our community partners, our annual holiday event would not be possible. We would like to thank all of our volunteers, private donors, and the following for their generosity:

- Smokey's Pizza
- Subway
- Corwin Beverage
- Godfather's Pizza
- Pizza Paradise
- Beaches Restaurant
- Quiznos
- Frito Lay
- Trader Joe's
- Albertson's
- Fudge Fix
- Ulta
- Little Ceasar's
- Dave's Killer Bread
- Lapellah
- Lifeline Connections
- Costco
- Fred Meyer
- CASA
- Massage Envy
- Vayda's Vibes
- Walgreen's
- Hadassah Salon
- TSC Alumni

# HANDS ACROSS THE BRIDGE 2010

BY PATTY KATZ HATB FOUNDER AND ORGANIZER



There's going to be a very special event, September 6, 2010! The ninth annual gathering of Hands Across The Bridge will be part of this year's national Recovery Month celebration. This year the theme is "Now more than ever!" Folks from Oregon and Washington will meet on the I-5 Bridge to join hands to celebrate that they are no longer under the bridge in their addictions, but on top of the bridge to celebrate their recovery.

Nine years ago, two women in recovery read an article about National Recovery Month, and they realized people all over the United States were celebrating their recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. They decided they would stand on top of the bridge at daybreak. Patty Katz and Louise Wedge, along with the support of the Recovery Association Project and several people from the recovering community held the first Hands Across the Bridge celebration on the I-5 bridge in 2002 with about 200 people. The following year, the event grew to include 500 folks. Using the principles of grass



roots organizing and leadership development, Hands Across the Bridge has stirred the support of elected officials, faith-based leaders, community organizations and thousands of folks from the recovery community.

In 2009, this grand event saw almost 3,000 attendees, including Washington State Senator Craig Pridemore, Commissioner Mark Bolt, Mayor Pollard and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration's (SAMHSA) Robert Hendrix from Washington DC. As the years go on, others including a governor, mayors, commissioners, judges, representatives and senators have joined in this celebration.

## **My Story**

The path that led to the woman I am today is like most of the paths people take to the devastated lives we create. I drank until I couldn't drink without adding additives so I could drink "better" – I continued adding additives until I was strung out on cocaine and heroin—I used up my family, my career, my self-worth and finally my freedom. Breaking the law and ending up incar-



cerated repeatedly, I used up my hope and my ability to interact with others on any kind of a personal level. I think what I suffered from most was a soul-sickness. Filled with loneliness, shame, and humiliation, I did *anything* not to feel that lonely feeling that consumed me. Near the end of my addiction, my arms were so infected; the doctors were talking to me about amputation. That was the week I found a power greater than my addiction. And like anyone in recovery, it changed my life. This Higher Power thing held me back until I could find something that worked for me. For the first few years, I had this Power I called Dude. Dude and I walked through the twelve-steps – as I evolved so did Dude.

One of the things that really allowed me to become one with my community was to become of service. As I worked with my sponsor, I said, “What about all of the stuff I did that I didn’t get caught?” She and I worked to gather all of the information and put together a “pay” plan. She told me to take “\$25.00” per hour for each hour of community service that I did. It took me five years to get my “debt to society” paid off. Each time I volunteered in my community, I would come home and mark off how many hours I worked and each time I put that time sheet away I felt a little of the weight lift from my shoulders.

That was the best thing I ever did. Today I am a person among people; I no longer have to be ashamed of my past. Today my past benefits others and this is MY community. I vote, I believe in taxes, I know that I am my brother’s keeper and if I don’t like something, then work towards a solution.

—Patty Katz



Drug Court participants volunteer at the annual Hands Across the Bridge event.

# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SIGN PROCLAMATIONS



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August 31, 2010, Clark County Board of County Commissioners present a proclamation declaring September, *Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month, 2010*. Ken Jennings, Drug Court Alumni and Clark County Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB) Chairperson, accepts the proclamation.

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On May 11, 2010, the Clark County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation to the Clark County Therapeutic Specialty Courts proclaiming May, 2010, *Drug Court Month* in Clark County. Drug Court Judge Diane Woolard and Substance Abuse Court Judge Kelli Osler were in attendance. Clark County Substance Abuse Court Alumni accepts the proclamation from Commissioner Stuart.

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# PROCLAMATION DECLARING DRUG COURT MONTH



## *~PROCLAMATION~*

**WHEREAS,** Drug Courts are the most effective tool for reducing substance abuse, crime, and dependency in our court system; and

**WHEREAS,** for the past twenty-one years Drug Courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families and making communities across the nation safer; and

**WHEREAS,** Drug Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, with public safety and public health professionals to fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

**WHEREAS,** over 27, 000 judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, and treatment professionals nationwide are healing families and communities across the country; and

**WHEREAS,** Thursday, May 20, 2010 marks *National Drug Court Commencement Day*, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families.

**NOW THEREFORE,** this Clark County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May, 2010 as

## *~Drug Court Month~*

in Clark County Washington in recognition of the practitioners and participants who make Drug Courts work and in recognition of the significant contributions that Drug Courts make in reducing substance abuse and crime in our community.

### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Steve Stuart, Chair

Tom Mielke, Commissioner

Marc Boldt, Commissioner

# THE THERAPEUTIC SPECIALTY COURTS GRADUATION SCHEDULE



## **FAMILY TREATMENT COURT (S.T.E.P.)**

Day and Time: 1st Monday of each month at 2:45 p.m., as scheduled

Location: Family Law Annex, Courtroom 1

Address: 601 W Evergreen Blvd., Suite 102, Vancouver, WA 98666

## **JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT**

Day and Time: Friday at 3:00 p.m. (call Brad Finegood, Coordinator, for dates)

Location: Clark County Juvenile Justice Center, 2nd Floor, Courtroom 2

Address: 500 W 11th St., Vancouver WA 98666

## **FELONY DRUG COURT**

Day and Time: 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Location: Clark County Courthouse, 4rd Floor, Dept. 3

Address: 1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA 98666

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THERAPEUTIC COURT**

Day and Time: 2nd Monday of each month at 2:30 p.m., as scheduled

Location: Clark County Courthouse, Dept. 6

Address: 1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA 98666

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT**

Day and Time: 4th Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., as scheduled

Location: Clark County Courthouse, Dept. 1

Address: 1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA 98666

## **MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

Day and Time: 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m., specific dates vary

Location: Clark County Courthouse, Dept. 2

Address: 1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA 98666

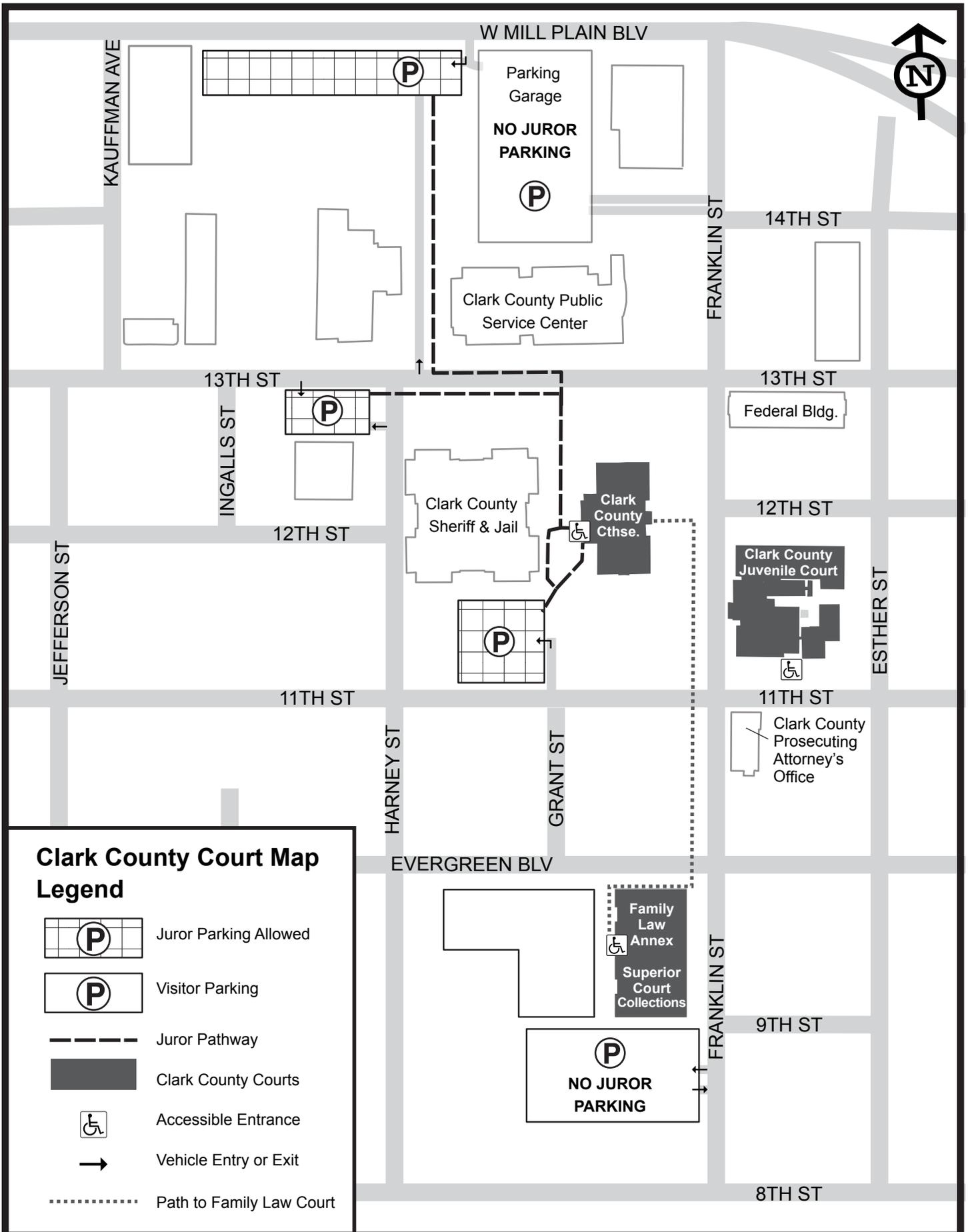
## **VETERANS COURT**

Day and Time: Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., specific dates vary

Location: Clark County Courthouse, Dept. 3

Address: 1200 Franklin, Vancouver WA 98666

# Clark County Courts



FOR MORE INFORMATION...



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Visit [www.clark.wa.gov/courts](http://www.clark.wa.gov/courts)

Or visit [www.allrise.org](http://www.allrise.org)

