

SCDC Quarterly MARCH 2020-MARCH 2021



SAFER AT HOME SPECIAL EDITION

Honorable Judge Tim Dwyer
Division VIII, General Sessions Criminal Court

SHELBY COUNTY DRUG COURT

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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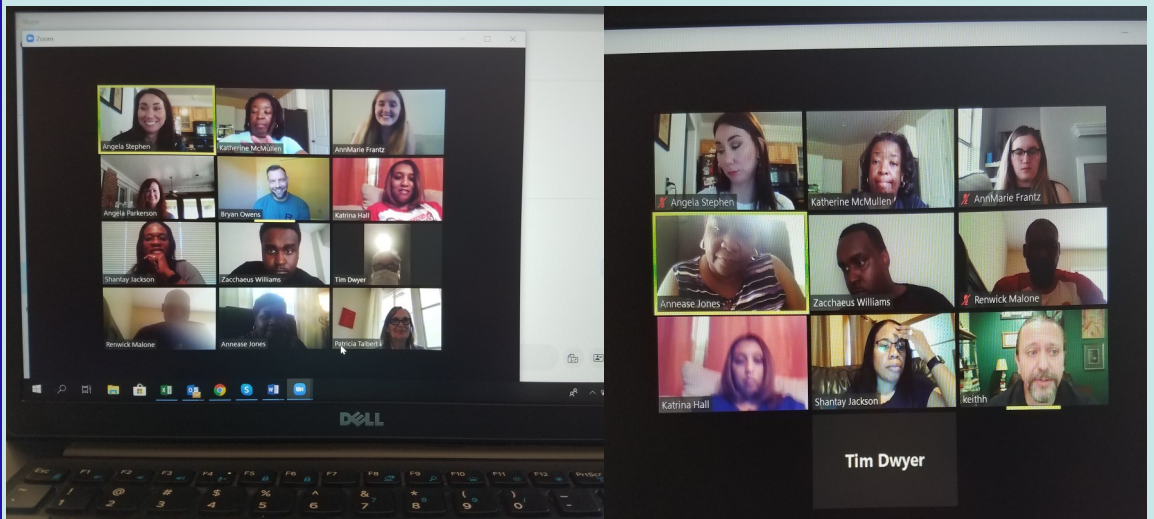


UPCOMING EVENTS

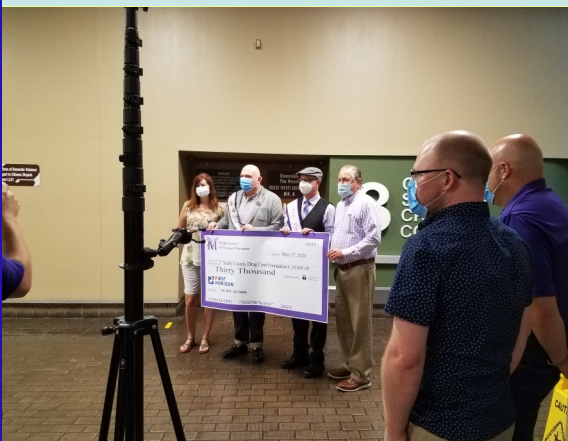
Shelby County Drug Court
275TH Graduation
Wednesday, April 28th @ 1:00pm
Online Zoom Invitation Only

COVID-19 HAS NOT STOPPED JUDGE DWYER AND SHELBY COUNTY DRUG COURT

March 23, 2020 is the day that Shelby County COVID-19 protocol called for Drug Court operations go online and virtual rather than in-person to reduce the spread of the virus. Among the many essential workers that kept our nation going was Judge Tim Dwyer, who continued to appear on the bench every day to conduct judicial business. Like most of the nation, Drug Court participants, staff, and treatment providers had to establish and execute a new way to coordinate addiction treatment remotely while adhering to the TN Supreme Court guidance and National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) best practices. Predictably, SCDC participants, staff, and treatment providers successfully transitioned into video calls, telehealth groups, zoom meetings, and limited court appearances with the requisite facial coverings and social distance. Many Drug Court participants continued working in essential job positions in grocery stores, carryout food service, warehouses, and as delivery workers; a proud moment for the Drug Court team and its participants to continue serving and improving their community.



Judge Dwyer and the Drug Court team continue weekly status meetings with treatment providers from Serenity and HART Center.



COVID-19 also did not stop the Mystic Krewe of Pegasus' donation presentation to SCDC on May 17, 2020. SCDC is honored to be the recipient of such a generous award. Visit their website for information about the organization and upcoming events at <https://www.pegasusmemphis.org/> And follow them on Facebook to learn about their happenings: <https://www.facebook.com/mystickreweofpegasusmemphis/>

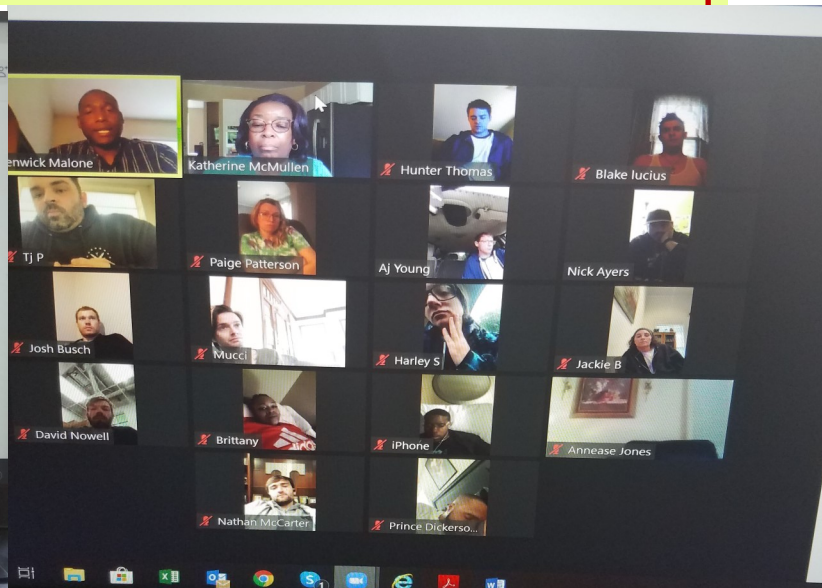
DRUG COURT TEAM STAYS CONNECTED...



The Reconnect Community App funded by the state of Tennessee, helped Drug Court case managers and participants stay connected with special features like video calling, text messaging, and group reminders, during Governor Bill Lee's Safer At Home order when in-person court sessions were suspended to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Reconnect Community App has proven itself an excellent resource for program participants to stay informed about court dates, schedule updates, group updates, and office visits with their assigned counselor. Technology like this app along with Zoom, and Skype kept face-to-face conversations going during the past year, along with traditional emails, text messaging, and phone calls.

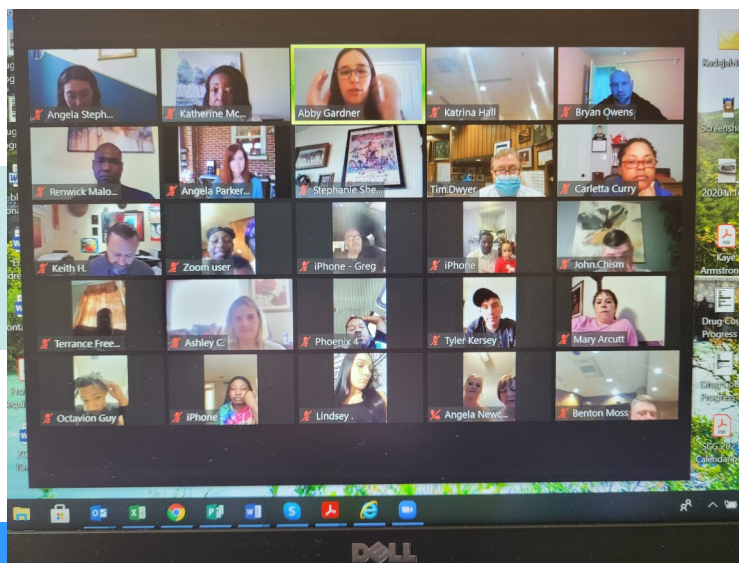


Weekly staffing on Zoom with Drug Court staff and Serenity in March 2020



Exit session on Zoom with Drug Court graduates in May 2020

March 2021 Graduation on Zoom featuring Drug Court graduates, HART Center, and new counselors Carletta Curry, Abby Gardner, and Benton Moss!



SCDC LIFE DURING COVID-19...

CrossFit Hit & Run has been offering physical and spiritual fitness to Drug Court participants free of charge. Membership at a CrossFit gym is on average \$150 monthly. Justin LaMance, owner, has been dedicating his free time and location to mentoring our people and fostering a strong community. Drug Court Board of Directors member and CrossFit Hit and Run co-owner Ian John has provided membership grants to Drug Court participants for 2 seasons. Justin LaMance, pays for yoga classes and teaches crossfit free of charge. Thank you Justin and Ian John!



YOGA



COMMUNITY OUTREACH
PROGRAM



Cash Saver employees, Veronica Moore (left) works the register and Dwayne Lee (right) works the grill at the store's Madison Avenue location.

151 GED CERTIFICATES EARNED WHILE IN DRUG COURT

Drug Court celebrates all the participants who completed their High School Diplomas, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tests and classes were completed online at HOPE WORKS and graduates with a high school diploma or equivalent increase employment earnings potential by almost 30% over their lifetime, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



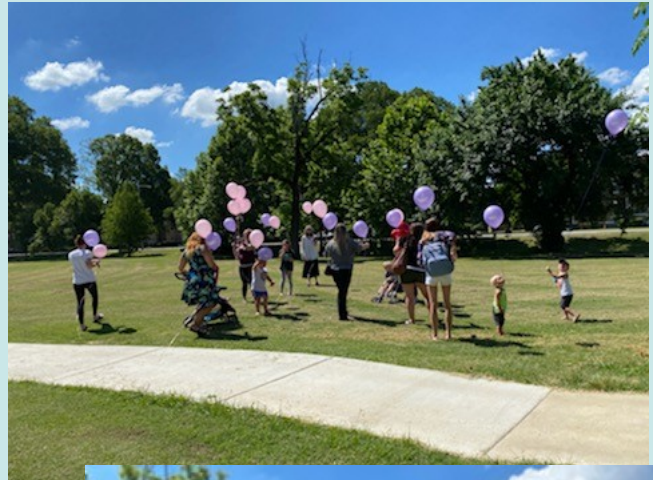
FRIDAY 13TH KAROKE NIGHT

Drug Court Alumi Association, Drug Court Board of Directors and participants got this fun time in right before COVID-19. Great food and a great time had by all...



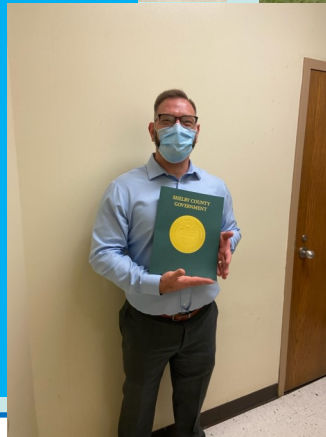
FOR ONE GONE TOO SOON

Friends gathered at Overton Park in Memphis for a memorial and balloon release to remember one of our own, Caren Goodman.



SCDC Counselor Corner

Bryan Owens received recognition for 10 years employment with Shelby County Government. Congratulations to our beloved team member! Well wishes to Annease Jones in her retirement and warm welcome to Carletta Curry, Abby Gardner, Benton Moss, and Alex Williams!



DRUG COURT GRADUATES AND OTHERS SAY HELLO TO JUDGE



Judge Dwyer,

Thank you for helping me when I was in your court. I was reflecting on my time in Drug Court with my wife and was jokingly telling her about all the times you locked me up. I know I did it to myself - I take full accountability. Thinking back, you gave me my first real wake up call that actions have consequences. I was too hard headed to get it at the time but I was ultimately able to turn things around before I did irreparable damage.

These days I'm living in the Philly suburbs in New Jersey. I've been married for 17 years and we have 3 wonderful kids. I have a successful career working in corporate real estate at a Fortune 15 company. I'm happy and healthy and life is good.

I hope all is well with you. Thank you again for showing me discipline and tough love.

Best,

Josh Kurtz

