

A New Approach to Transitional Housing for SCDC Clients

Shelby County Drug Court clients now have access to a new transitional housing facility in Midtown, thanks to a unique collaboration between the three treatment courts in Shelby County. The facility, officially called Judicare, is a renovated 38-bed residential facility servicing clients from all three programs. Judicare is located at 300 N. Bellevue in the heart of Midtown.

Judicare short for "Judicial Care," is an entirely new treatment concept. "This collaboration of all three Shelby County recovery courts in the Judicare program is the first such collaboration of its kind in the United States and is expected to become a national model," said executive director, Walter Williams. "All three Shelby County recovery courts are working together to ensure that with Judicare, their participants have immediate access to safe, stable housing and necessary treatment services."

Judicare is staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Treatment, counseling, and certified peer recovery support services are available at the facility, which is being funded through existing grants through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS).

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Pictures: (Top) Front view of Judicare (Bottom) Judicare lobby

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Drug Court Dashes to the Finish

On April 2nd, over 150 participants geared up for the Shelby County Drug Court Foundation's 4th Annual Race for Recovery 5k in Overton Park. SCDCF board members, Drug Court participants, employees, families, friends and supporters of all ages united at the Overton Park East Parkway Pavilion before starting their midday run/walk for recovery.

The top male and female finishers were Drug Court participant, Cody Peters, who finished at 22 minutes 41 seconds, and American Addiction Center's Angela Quadrani, who finished at 25 minutes 28 seconds, respectively.

Drug Court Manager, Angie Stephen, participated in the event, this year running alongside her mother, Daniela Vernon. "I really enjoy participating in the race because it gives me an opportunity to not only meet people who support the program, but it also allows me a chance to see Drug Court participants in a neutral setting," stated Angie. "The courtroom can be a tense place, but on race day we're all there for the same reason, and that's a great feeling."



Pictures: (Left) Overall Female Winner: Angela Quadrani (Right) Overall Male Winner: Cody Peters

JUDICARE CONTINUED

Residents have access to food and cooking facilities at meal times, an outdoor courtyard, recreation rooms, and exercise areas. The facility is ideally located to serve all three courts and their participants., situated 1.5 miles from all three treatment courts at 201 Poplar Avenue and 0.5 miles from the Veterans Administration hospital. The MATA bus line on Poplar Avenue is one half block from the building. Executive Director Walter Williams is optimistic about the future of the facility, saying “Judicare is expected to result in greater effectiveness of the courts, thus improving public health and public safety in Shelby County, and saving taxpayers money.”

Celebrating Recovery, Memphis in May Style

The Memphis recovery community celebrates Memphis in May with their own BBQ competition, allowing individuals in the recovery community to enjoy the hustle and bustle similar to BBQ fest but in a sober environment amongst family and friends who are able to support them and see them in a healthy environment.

The event started 7 years ago after home group, WAAGL, held an annual gathering for families in May. After the first 2 years, the event transformed into a BBQ competition now known as AA in May, which invited other AA home groups to participate in the challenge. This year, 17 home groups entered the competition.

The event takes place over 2 days and includes prep work, cooking and official judging. Trophies are awarded to the top teams. Live music, keynote speakers and activities for the kids are also a part of the event. Planning begins 4 to 5 months prior, with a 90 day kick off countdown.

Shelby County Drug Court Foundation (SCDCF) participated in the cook off this year, submitting a variety of meats including ribs and brisket. Last year, SCDCF took first place in the BBQ competition. This year, they fell short from taking first place. Chris Moore, coordinator of the event, found AA in May to be an opportunity to celebrate without dealing with the stressors of the drinking environment of barbeque fest. “The coming together and formation of the event similarly models individual recovery in that each person of the committee must set goals and accomplish them despite the many stressors and obstacles that may come in the way.”



The Fight for a New Life

Kashiba Rogers is fighting for a new life. While it has taken a lot of time and effort, she is finally ready to graduate in July. But her journey was not easy; she had to put up a fight to recover and to also regain custody of her children.

3 months prior to landing in Judge Dwyer’s courtroom, Kashiba was involved with Department of Child Services (DCS). Her newborn child was placed in foster care after the baby tested positive for Cocaine. Two weeks later, her 6 children were also placed into foster care, while Kashiba was ordered to parenting classes and random drug testing.

After being detained on a warrant for an assault charge on her infant for having Cocaine in her system, Kashiba’s public defender recommended Drug Court. “I didn’t want to do it. [They] want you to do too much. I didn’t think I would even be able to get this far.” In October 2015, she entered Shelby County Drug Court’s *Drug Addicted Mother’s Program* (DAMP).

Certainly, there were bumps along the way. Kashiba faced sanctions for drinking alcohol. But in October 2016, after completing parenting classes, bouts with Juve-

nile Court and adhering to all requirements in Drug Court, Kashiba regained custody of 2 children. Every 30 days thereafter, she obtained custody of another 2 children until all 6 of her children were back in her care.

By March 2017, the DCS case was closed. She credits Judge Dwyer for getting her to where she is today. “Judge went to bat for me a lot. He helped me get my kids back; he wrote letters to Juvenile Court and even had a warrant lifted from Bartlett.”

Recovery involves changing people, places and things. Kashiba’s recovery involved moving her family out of Orange Mound into Cordova while she was in the program. “Being around someone else doing drugs and alcohol are my triggers so I had to move out of my neighborhood.”

Since being in Drug Court Kashiba has many accomplishments including obtaining a stable place to live, reliable transportation and, most importantly, regaining custody of her 6 children. “I’m doing [things] with the kids that I wasn’t able to do when I was high. I can spend the money I would have used on drugs on my children.”

After graduating Drug Court in July 2017, Kashiba plans to reunite with her biological father and his side of the family by moving to Indiana and starting over.