

STELLAR SUCCESS

“When it is darkest, men see the stars.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

June 7, 2012

Volume 8, Issue 2



Inside this issue:

STAR Picnic	1
Announcements	2
STAR Wellness Walk	3
Thank you	3
Quarter in Review	4

Special Announcement

Congratulations to all of our June graduates! We are incredibly proud of you and all of your accomplishments. Good luck in your new lives—you have worked hard for them!

STAR Spring Picnic



Above: STAR Graduates James S. and David B. worked the pit, grilling fajita meat and sausages for STAR graduates, current clients, and staff.

Thank you to all attendees for your support of the seventh annual STAR Picnic. Once again, STAR clients, graduates, and staff joined together with family and friends to share a fun day in the hot Houston sun. While MacGregor Park may have been muddy, the STAR crowd gathered undaunted to join together in a yearly celebration of all clients' recovery.

This year's picnic would not have been possible without the generous donation from the Harris County Drug Court Foundation. The HCDCF is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 that supports the STAR Drug Court by raising money and awareness in the Houston community. This year the donation allowed the picnic to have an all-out feast of fajitas, sausages, hot dogs, and all the fixings.

STAR graduate James S. once again donated the use of his barbeque pit as

well as his services as a pit master. Graduate David B. also joined to man the grill, and both men showcased the impressive network of STAR Alumni who return yearly to give back to the program and the newcomers.

STAR Judge Bill Burke and

several STAR staff members joined the event, which serves as a way for current clients to experience fun, family-friendly activities while sober. With the

support of staff, graduates, and family, STAR clients learn that it is possible to enjoy their new-found sobriety.



Above: STAR Alumni President Rodney G. helps serves his peers at MacGregor Park.

STAR SUCCESS THROUGH ADDICTION RECOVERY

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Mission Statement:

To build the community's confidence in the criminal justice system through more effective judicial and public intervention based on changed perceptions of addiction.

The drug court will seek to more efficiently utilize all available resources to save money and to save lives.

Announcements

NADCP Conference

Several of the STAR team members and judges attended National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference in Nashville, Tennessee this May to discuss drug court issues and learn new methods in treatment recovery.

Thank you HCDCF!

The STAR Alumni would like to say thank you again to the Harris County Drug Court Foundation for making this year's Spring Picnic such a success. The money donated went directly to food and supply costs that allowed the STAR Program to have a wonderful event. Thank you for making this a highlight of the year!



Above STAR staff members in Nashville's Grand Ole Opry.

Goodbye Raymie!

The first STAR Drug Court case manager and recent CSCD supervisor Raymie Hairell-Sweat has left the STAR Program to become the new Special Programs Manager for Harris County Criminal Court at Law in the office of court management where she can continue the work she did in specialty courts.

Ms. Sweat says, "I started with STAR Drug Court in 2003. In my 20 year career as a probation officer, it was the most rewarding position I have ever held. To this day, I still have contact with some of my clients on my caseload and I am grateful for those relationships. My heart will always be with STAR as will my passion for the work that we continue to do."

STAR Welcomes Sonya Cobbin

STAR is excited to introduce Sonya Cobbin to our Drug Court team! Ms. Cobbin is the new supervisor over the STAR case managers. She says, "I am excited about this new opportunity to learn something new. I have past specialty court experience working with CTI-Mental Health Court and Veterans' Court. I really enjoy the structure of specialty courts because they are proven to work." Welcome Ms. Cobbin!

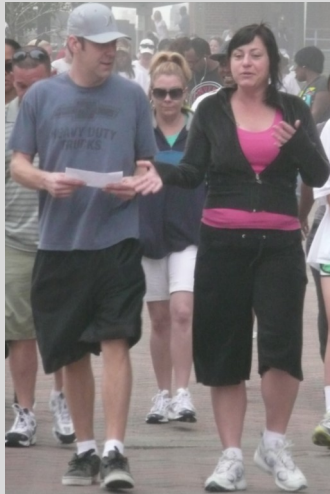


STAR Wellness Walk



The second STAR Wellness Walk was a success! Clients and graduates received credit for this event toward their community service requirement.

STAR clients and graduates gathered at 49 San Jacinto to start a walk for their health and wellness. Clients jogged or walked a nearly three mile circuit through downtown and Buffalo Bayou. Many participants brought their family or



other supporters with them, too.

STAR Judge Denise Bradley implemented the Wellness Walks as a way for STAR clients to get more involved in their overall health.

Thank you to the HCDCF who supplied water and snacks to the walkers. We hope to continue these walks on a quarterly basis.

Left STAR clients Maggie R and Brian D lead off the Spring Wellness Walk in downtown Houston.



NADCP

This year several Harris County proudly sent several representatives to present material at the National Association of Drug Court Professional Conference. Thank you to all those who gave such well-received presentations.

Former STAR Judge and current HCDCF president **Judge Brock Thomas** spoke about the importance of and challenges in building foundations to support drug courts.

Veterans' Court Judge Marc Carter, Assistant District Attorney Shannon Davis, and forensic psychologist Dr. Andrea Stolar of the Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center presented information on expanding admissions criteria for veterans' courts.

Judicial Resource Liaison Judge Mark Atkinson of the Texas Center for the Judiciary presented on ways to monitor alcohol sobriety for DWI offenders.

SAVE THE DATE

The Texas Association of Drug Court Professionals (TADCP) will host next year's training conference right here in Houston!

Mark your calendars now!

February 20-22, 2013
Hilton Americas



Quarter In Pictures

