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Monroe County Drug Treatment Court Receives National Award

Bloomington, Indiana - On December 16, 2009 the Monroe County Drug Treatment Court was awarded the prestigious National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Community Transformation Award "in recognition of its tireless efforts to foster community transformation through reducing drug addiction and crime, restoring hope and reuniting families."

Since 2007, only ten of the 2,369 Drug Courts that now exist nationwide have received the award. The award was presented during the court's tenth anniversary celebration, held today at the Monroe County Courthouse.

"The National Association of Drug Court Professionals is honored to present the Monroe County Drug Treatment Court with the Community Transformation award," said NADCP Chief Executive Officer West Huddleston. "What better time to recognize this exemplary Drug Court than on a day celebrating a decade of outstanding service to the citizens of Indiana. For the last ten years the Monroe County Drug Treatment Court has reduced substance abuse and crime in the community and saved millions of taxpayer dollars. This court is a shining example of the tremendous impact a Drug Court can have in restoring lives, reuniting families and protecting community safety."

The Monroe County Drug Treatment Court began as a pilot program in November of 1999 and is now partially funded by a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), funded by the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance and administered by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

The program admits drug and alcohol addicted offenders with lengthy criminal pasts who are not charged with dealing illegal substances. A 2006 independent study conducted by Northwest Professional Consortium (NPC) of Portland Oregon found that the Monroe Country Drug Treatment Court reduces recidivism by 67% and saves over \$7,000 per participant when compared with the traditional court process. To date, over 358 defendants have been admitted into the program and the program has grown to include 91 current participants.

The ceremony was held following a morning Drug Court session and was attended by approximately sixty guests, many of whom were Drug Court graduates. Also on hand for the event were past and present members of the Drug Court team, several area judges and treatment providers, Monroe County Prosecutor Chris Gaal, Bloomington Chief of Police Mike Diekhoff, Department of Correction Executive Liaison Kenny Whipker, Director of the Indiana

Judicial Center Jane Seigel, and all three County Commissioners Patrick Stoffers, Mark Stoops and Iris Kiesling.

"Drug Courts are collaborative efforts that bring together all elements of the criminal justice community for the betterment of the defendant," said Judge MaryEllen Diekhoff. "The Monroe County Drug Treatment Court has consistently provided opportunities for people who might otherwise get stuck in a cycle of jail, drug abuse and hopelessness. I am proud of the work of our Drug Court team and the participants. We are pleased and humbled to receive the NADCP Community Transformation Award."

Monroe County Drug Treatment Court Facts:

- 358 non-violent felony offenders accepted into Drug Court since its inception in 1999.
- In 10 years, there have been 31 drug free babies born to participants while participating in the program.
- 100% of the offenders are employed or attending classes when they graduate from the program.
- A 2006 independent evaluation by Northwest Professional Consortium (NPC) of Portland Oregon found:
 - Monroe County Drug Treatment Court reduces recidivism by 67%.
 - 11% of drug court graduates were arrested for new offenses over a two-year period after admission to the program, compared to a 33% arrest rate for non-participants.
 - Participation in the program, regardless of successful completion, had a significant impact on participants. Overall arrest rate for participants, including those who were terminated unsuccessfully, was 17%.
 - Drug Court participants serve 51% fewer days in jail than those offenders who decided not to participate in the program.
 - The study concluded that this local drug court saves taxpayers money. NPC found that the cost consequences associated with criminal justice outcomes was \$364 for each drug court participant and \$7,404 for each non-participant, a differential of approximately **2,000%**. When this per-participant savings is multiplied by the number of offenders who have enrolled in the program since its inception, the total current program cost savings (for outcomes over 24-month period from program entry) comes to more than \$1 million.

About the National Association of Drug Court Professionals:

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), a not-for-profit organization located in the Nation's Capital, was founded in 1994 by a group of judicial visionaries to reverse the growing impact of drug-related crime. They created a court model using a combination of accountability and treatment to compel and support drug-using offenders to change their lives. From that vision came the Drug Court movement and the NADCP. In 1997, NADCP and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy then partnered to create the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), the professional services branch NADCP.

Today, NADCP is the premier national membership, training and advocacy organization for Drug Courts, representing over 27,000 multi-disciplinary Drug Court professionals. NADCP hosts the largest annual training conference on drugs and crime in the nation and provides 130 Drug Court training and technical assistance events, each year. NADCP/NDCI continues to write, publish, and disseminate scholastic and practical publications that are critical to the ongoing growth and fidelity of the Drug Court model. The organization works tirelessly on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures to transform the American justice system through policy, legislation, and appropriations. Learn more online at www.AllRise.org.