

FRIENDS OF NH DRUG COURTS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The past two years have been an exceptionally stressful time for non-profits and the New Hampshire citizens whom they serve. Like most New Hampshire non-profits, the Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts struggled to survive and meet its mission. With the help of many volunteers and supporters, our organization re-tooled and doubled down to sustain itself and to support the participants of drug courts throughout the Granite State.

During this time, the Friends were fortunate to partner with New Futures, which now provides critical administrative support as our fiscal manager. And we were pleased to co-sponsor the New Hampshire Treatment Court Conference held last September in Waterville Valley. We look forward to co-sponsoring the 2022 New Hampshire Treatment Court Conference, to be held Sept. 21-22 at the Summit Hotel at Attitash in Bartlett.

Emerging from the pandemic, we are now positioned to expand our support of drug court participants and to continue to educate the public about the important work being done by the professionals who serve our citizens through the drug courts: judges, court personnel, drug court coordinators, law enforcement, probation and counseling personnel. We thank them for the fine work they do every day to support drug court participants.

As a wholly volunteer-driven organization, I am proudest of the work of our board members who have stayed the course through these trying times and remain committed to the mission of the Friends. As citizen servants, they bring out the best in each other and are fine examples of our Granite State volunteer spirit. Thank you to them and all who are joined with us in combatting New Hampshire's addiction crisis through our drug courts.

-Ovide Lamontagne, President

OUR MISSION

The Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts is the first in the nation statewide drug court support organization. As a statewide non-profit, the Friends is dedicated to supporting the activities and participants of New Hampshire's drug courts. The Friends, which first formed in the early 2000s as the Friends of the Grafton County Drug Court, officially expanded into a statewide organization in 2015. Since that time, the Friends has raised and contributed more than \$150,000 to participants in New Hampshire's ten drug courts operating in nine counties. With your support, the Friends will continue to support these critical diversion programs and help their participants complete the drug court program and maintain long-term recovery.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ovide Lamontagne (President), Kathryn Marchocki (Vice President), Edward O'Reilly (Treasurer), Jake Berry (Secretary), Tom Andrew, M.D., Kyle Farrell, Jon Morgan, Jennifer Jones, M.D., Ed Rajsteter, Dan Goonan, Tony Naro, Rick St. Hilaire, Peggy Gilmour, Lynn Fuller.



IMPACT STORY

“I am forever grateful (to the Friends of NH Drug Courts). Without them, I never would have been able to afford to do anything with my teeth. My health would have been declining. Who knows where I would be because of that. ... Thanks to the Friends, I’ve been able to get healthy. It’s changing my life.”



Surrounded by friends and family, Tanya wasn’t able to smile quite as wide as she would have liked in April as she celebrated her graduation from the Hillsborough County North Drug Court. After three years and several tries to complete the diversion program, the day was filled with joy and triumph. But, with teeth worn down from years of drug use, Tanya, of Manchester, wasn’t comfortable grinning ear-to-ear.

For years, Tanya, who is missing most of her back teeth, has had to avoid cold and tough foods, including her favorite steak, due to sensitivity and difficulty chewing. Tanya first started using opiates more than 25 years ago after breaking her arm playing softball as a teenager. And, over the years, her substance misuse led her to lose most of her back teeth, which has contributed to other health problems.


But, after she began drug court in 2020, things began to turn around. The diversion program connected her to substance use treatment, counseling and other supports and services. This winter, Tanya received a grant from the Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts to help cover costs to repair and restore her teeth.

Now graduated from the drug court program, Tanya is looking forward to sharing meals with friends and family – pain free with her teeth restored.

“Since being sober I tend to laugh a lot more. ... It’s going to be great not to have to worry about (my teeth),” she said.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts
100 North Main Street, Suite 400, Concord, NH 03301
www.friendsofnhdrugcourts.org  @FNHDC

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