

## Information – Drug Court of Champaign County



Champaign County Drug Court is a specially designed court which integrates substance abuse treatment services with justice system processing. Our participants are persons diagnosed with the disease of addiction that have been found guilty of felony offenses. Their offenses are often property crimes committed to gain the funds necessary to support their addictions.

These participants must learn strategies to cope with their addiction by receiving substance abuse treatment through Prairie Center and by submitting to monitoring by the Champaign County Court Services Department (Probation). The offenders initially come to court weekly, are randomly drug tested, are required to complete treatment and must find employment and/or advance their education. The average length of treatment in the program is 15 to 18 months. Since our first graduation in June 2000, the program has successfully graduated 166 individuals. To graduate from Drug Court a client must remain sober for a minimum of one full year.

Drug Court has proven to be an effective method that allows participants to make meaningful changes in their lives. Research has shown that a system of incentives and sanctions produces the best results. Incentives have been shown to increase the success rate by up to 65%. The Drug Court depends on revenue generated from a \$5 court fee and the generosity of individuals like you to make these incentives available. In addition, Drug Court uses this money to help our participants obtain necessary medical, dental and other critical services. It is our hope in the future to develop a sustainable revenue stream to hire additional support personnel and pay for the ever increasing costs of more sophisticated drug screening procedures.

Our program is cost effective. The cost of housing someone in the Illinois Department of Corrections is approximately \$24,500 per year. The treatment cost of someone participating in the Drug Court program is \$4,000 per year. The savings amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

We understand that you receive requests for financial assistance from many worthy organizations. We hope that you will recognize the contribution that Drug Court is making to the community by either making a donation in person or by sending a check payable to the **Champaign County Drug Court Fund** to:

Champaign County Mental Health Board  
Attn: Champaign County Drug Court Fund  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington Street  
Urbana, Illinois 61802

Your donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for your records. You can find additional information about Drug Court at [www.co.champaign.il.us/cirect/DrugCourt/Info.htm](http://www.co.champaign.il.us/cirect/DrugCourt/Info.htm).

Many of us know someone who could benefit from a program like Drug Court. Please help us continue to restore lives, reunite families, and improve our community.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with your organization today! For additional information, please contact:

Del Ryan  
Drug Court Coordinator of Champaign County  
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