

# Muscogee County Juvenile Drug Court



Year 7: Sustaining Drug Court After  
Implementation

# Overview of Juvenile Drug Court

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Muscogee County Juvenile Drug Court is located in Columbus, GA which is a city of close to 200,000 people.

Muscogee County is a diverse community with a military base being important to its economy.

Juvenile drug court participants are diverse in socio-economic class, gender, and ethnicity.

# Funding Timeline

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- Training Grant: \$32,000 (1999 – 2000)
- Volunteer Pilot Program: 2000 - 2001
- Full Implementation date: October, 2001
- Federal grant of \$473,857  
October, 2001 - June, 2005
- July, 2005 - July, 2007: Funding for program reached a critical stage.
- July, 2007 – Majority of budget funded by local city government.

# Since January 2002 ...

- **Services offered to 510 participants:**
  - *51 are actively enrolled & participating now*
  - *250 have graduated*
  - *51% have successfully completed the program*
  - *Seven drug-free babies have been born*
  
- **Since the JDC inception, only 29 graduates have re-offended. This is a 15% recidivism rate – versus national averages of 16% for drug courts and 43% rate for juvenile offenders not involved in drug courts**

# Drug Court Focus Groups

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Obtaining input of community on funding

1. Drug court team worked with focus groups on funding issues.
2. Elicited opinions of people in the community on funding options for program.
3. Elicited feedback from government leaders and community leaders.

# Team approach to funding

1. Utilization of strengths of team members to obtain funding-convincing community of benefit.
2. Team members networking in community to obtain support for funding.
  - A. Making speeches in the community.
  - B. Trips to state legislature.
  - C. Discussions with members of City Council
  - D. Inviting media to graduations.
  - E. Networking around one goal-helping children

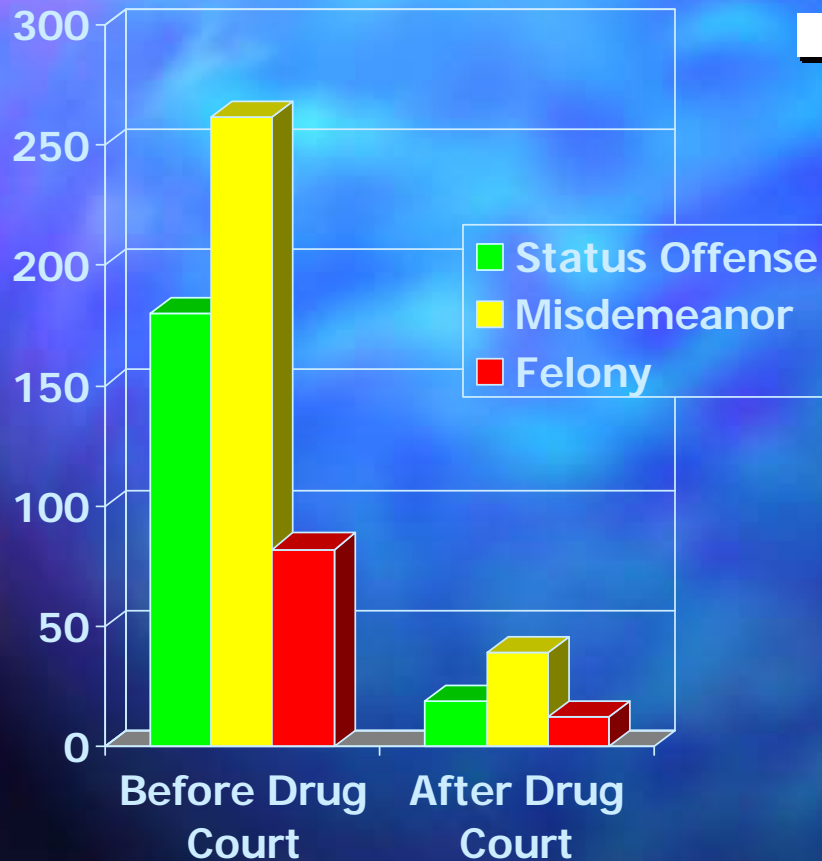


# Team approach

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3. Using team diversity to elicit support for funding.
  - a. Connecting to different cultural groups
  - b. Connecting to political figures.
  - c. Diverse board members from different parts of the community
  - d. Using community speakers at graduation.

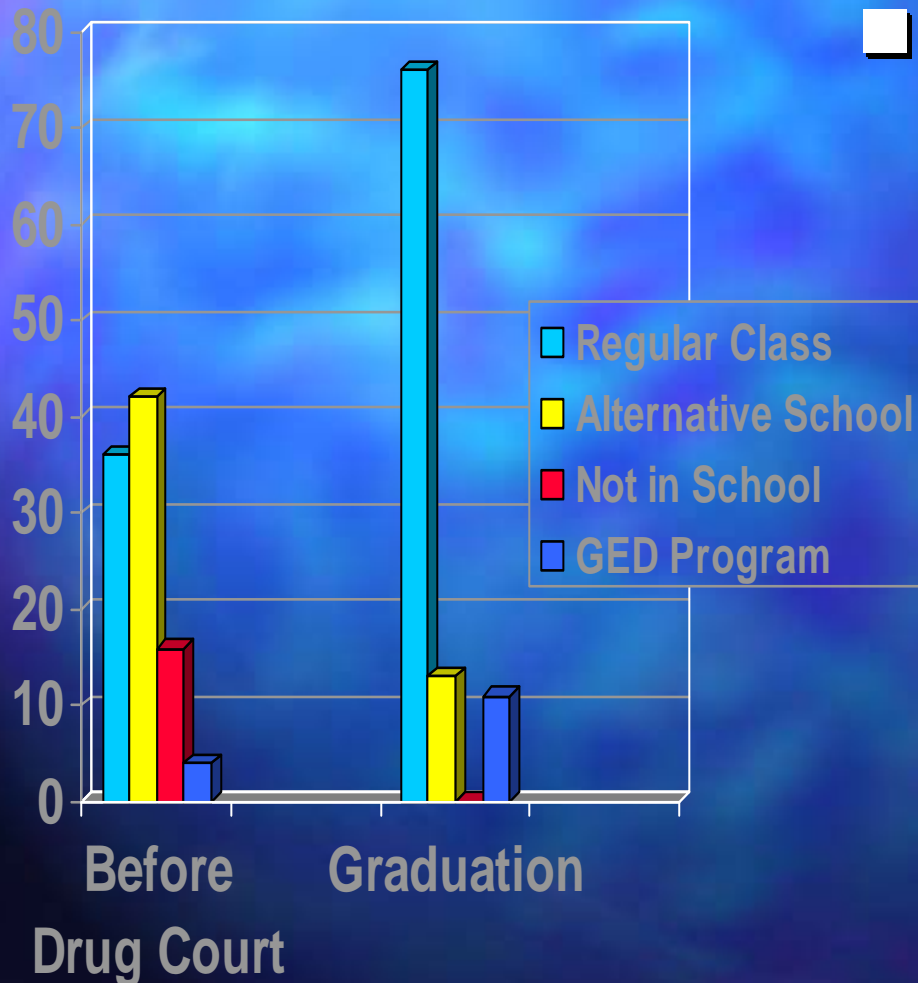
# Community Impact



## ■ Reduction in Delinquency

- ***Prior to Drug Court, graduates had committed 552 delinquent acts***
- ***After enrollment and graduation, 91 delinquent acts were committed***
- ***A reduction of 84% or 461 offenses***

# Educational Impact



## ■ Participants are re-engaged in education

- *At admission, only 43% of participants were attending regular classes*
- *13% were not attending school and 41% were in alternative school*
- *At graduation, only 1% were not attending school, 5% were in alternative school and 75% were attending regular school*

# Community Economic Impact

- **According to the annual Corporate Survey regarding expansion of new and existing markets:**
  - ***85% rated skilled labor as “very important” or “important”***
  - ***71% rated low crime rate as “very important” or “important”***
  - ***64.4% rated the ratings of public schools as “very important” or “important”***
- ***The above three criteria were considered more important than housing costs, climate, and recreational and cultural opportunities.***

# Capital Investment New/Expanding Businesses

- Each new project averages 243 new jobs/ investment per project of \$42 million
- Annual average payroll at \$30,000 per job
- Yields \$18,235,976 in economic impact
- Annual Average Local Tax proceeds of \$547,079
- Loss of one project due to high crime and lack of skilled workforce represents a loss of 250 jobs, \$20-\$25 million out of local economy and a loss of \$500,000 of sales tax.
- **Tax revenue alone is enough money to fund program for 28 months**

# Benefits

## ■ What does it cost for one lost child?

INVOICE			
TO:	American Public		
For:	One Lost Youth		
DESCRIPTION			
<b>Crime:</b>			
Juvenile Career (4years @ 1-4 crimes/year)			
	Victim Costs		\$62,000 - \$250,000
	Criminal Justice Costs		\$21,000 - \$84,000
Adult Career ( 6 years @ 10.6 crimes /year)			
	Victim Costs		\$1,000,000
	Criminal Justice Costs		\$335,000
	Offender Productivity Costs		\$64,000
Total Crime Cost			\$1.5 - \$1.8 Million
Present Value*			\$1.3 - \$1.5 Million
<b>Drug Abuse:</b>			
	Resources Devoted to Drug Market		\$84,000 - \$168,000
	Reduced Productivity Costs		\$27,600
	Drug Treatment Costs		\$10,200
	Medical Treatment of Drug Related Illness		\$11,000
	Premature Death		\$31,800 - \$ 223,000
	Criminal Justice Costs Associated with Drug Crimes		\$40,500
Total Drug Abuse Costs			\$200,000 - \$480,000
Present Value*			\$150,000 - \$360,000
<b>Costs Imposed by High School Dropout</b>			
	Lost Wage Productivity		\$300,000
	Fringe Benefits		\$75,000
	Nonmarket Losses		\$95,000 - \$375,000
Total Dropout Cost			\$470,000 - \$750,000
Present Value*			\$243,000 - \$388,000
<b>Total Loss</b>			\$2.2 - \$3 Million
<b>The Costs of Juvenile Crime</b>			
In 1998, Vanderbilt University economist Mark A. Clark calculated the cost to American taxpayers when a young person drops out of high school to embrace a life of crime and drugs. Based on Cohen's analysis, the National Center for Juvenile Justice prepared this invoice			

# Advisory Board

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## Benefits of Having an Advisory Board

- Engages community involvement and collaboration
- Overall support for the Drug Court, especially politically and financially
- Increases credibility with grant RFP's, both government and non-profit

# Creating an Advisory Board

## 1. Go for the Gold!



Seek members that have a lot of financial knowledge and support.

# Creating an Advisory Board

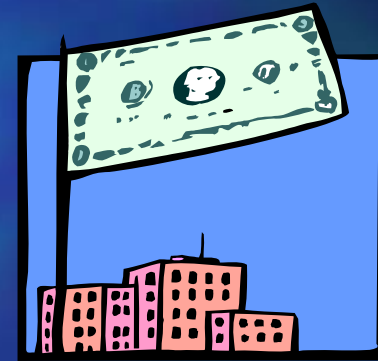
2. Seek members from all sectors of the community, both public and private.



Churches



Schools



Businesses

# Caution!

- When selecting board members, beware of hidden agendas.
  - a. Members competing for funds



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Develop a membership committee to determine what potential members will bring to the board.

- Money
- Support
- Connections
- Dedication to the Cause / Advocacy & Promotion

# Money

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# Support

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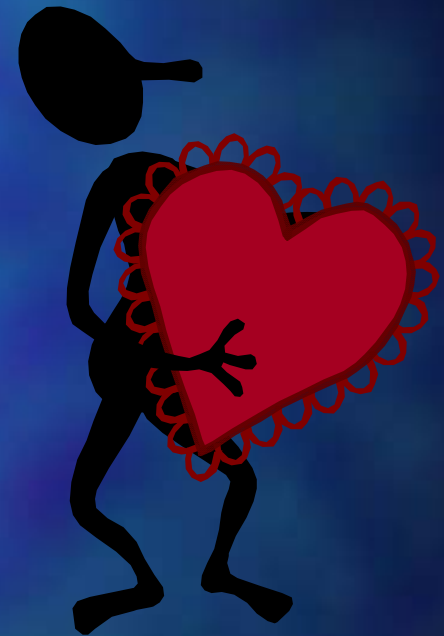
# Connections

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# Dedication / Advocacy

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# Strategies Used in Increasing Community Awareness

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- Invited media to Drug Court graduation programs. (All newspapers and television news stations)
- Family members of drug court participants gave interviews to local newspapers and television stations.
- Various team members and board members volunteer to speak at public events, radio and television talk shows.

# Strategies Used in Increasing Community Awareness

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- Team members made appearances on the local government sponsored television station.
- Drug Court shirts and pins increase public interest and awareness.
- Professional flyers also increase the public's interest in the program.
- Participation in business expos.

# Increasing State and Local Commitment

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- Never underestimate the power of the political process.
- March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – Drug Court Team went to Georgia General Assembly and met with local elected officials for gaining support for incorporating funding in the State Budget.
- State officials applied pressure to local city officials to incorporate partial funding in the city's annual budget.

# Increasing State and Local Commitment

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- The Drug Court team made several presentations at city council meetings.
- City council members and other elected officials are always sent personal invitations to Drug Court graduations.
- Past Drug Court graduation speakers have included a Superior Court judge, city council members, Columbus' mayor, Chamber of Commerce president, etc.

# Increasing State and Local Commitment

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- Support for Drug Court was addressed by candidates during the 2006 local elections.

# Realistic expectations and final remarks

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1. Utilizing strategic planning in implementation stage of drug court
  - a. Planning for future funding strategies
  - b. Utilizing the strengths of the team and political system to obtain stable funding.
2. Final remarks
  - a. How one might learn from Muscogee experience and use their strategies.

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# Questions & Answers