

# The Recovery Voice



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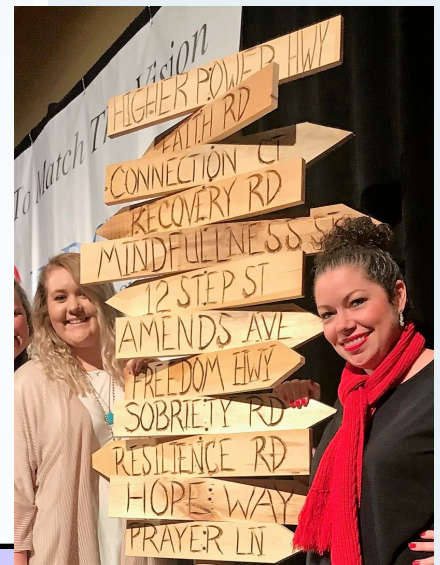
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## We Have a New Name!



At the annual conference on December 6th, Ron Bailey, our Board President, announced the change of our name from the Tennessee Association of Drug Court Professionals (TADCP) to the Tennessee Association of Recovery Court Professionals (TARCP).

In case you missed it, here's the awesome sign that was up on the stage at the conference, made by a Dekalb County Recovery Court graduate!



While it may not seem like much- after all, our acronym only changes by one letter- we hope it's plain that the statement is significant. We want recovery courts in all their different forms in Tennessee to know we are here to support them. In recent years we have added liaisons for juvenile drug courts and veterans treatment courts to the board. New in 2018, the board added a liaison for mental health courts. And there are more changes to come.

*We want recovery courts in all their different forms in Tennessee to know we are here to support them.*

We continue to add training opportunities that are free or very cost effective specifically for recovery courts. Look for webinar and other opportunities this year. We have started discussions with our web developer about adding a Tennessee-specific resource center to the website, creating toolkits for new programs or new team members, and providing more opportunity for programs to connect and share information faster and easier. TARCP has also received funds through state grants for additional training and resource opportunities over the next few years, so there's more to come.

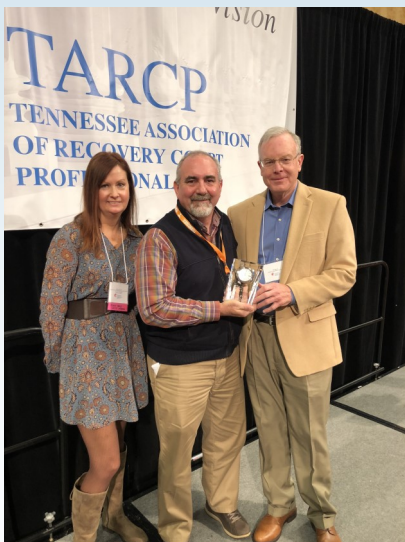
If you want to be involved in any of these opportunities, give us a call!

## SAVE THE DATE!

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Recovery Court Conference  
December 10-12, 2018  
Embassy Suites and  
Conference Center  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



## 13th Annual Recovery Court Conference Awards Luncheon



From left: Angela Parkerson, Director of Shelby County Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court, and TARCP Board VP, Mike Lewis, Director for Coffee County Recovery Courts, and Judge Timothy Brock.

There were two recipients for the 2017 Christy Vernon Spirit Award. The recovery court judges for each of the recipients presented the awards. Nan Casey, with the Davidson County General Sessions Treatment Court and Mike Lewis with the Coffee County Recovery Courts were both given plaques to commemorate their awards.



Judge Gale Robinson presented the Christy Vernon Spirit Award to Nan Casey

There were also two recipients of the 2017 Making A Difference Award, which is the third year for TARCP to present this award. The Making A Difference Award is for recovery court judges who are champions for recovery and are making contributions to the recovery court system in Tennessee. The Board chose to recognize a judge at the felony level and a judge at the general sessions level each year.

Judge O. Duane Slone, 4th Judicial District Recovery Court judge and Judge Timothy R. Brock presiding over the Coffee County Recovery Courts, were the 2017 recipients of the Making A Difference



Judge O. Duane Slone and Judge Timothy R. Brock



From left: Marie Crosson, TARCP Executive Director, Representative Courtney Rogers, Senator Janice Bowling, Deborah Tate, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Ron Bailey, Director, 12th Judicial District Recovery Court

New in 2017 was the TARCP Rod Bragg Recovery Hero Award! This award was presented to two legislators who were champions of recovery-related systems changes during the last legislative session and who are friends of recovery courts in Tennessee.

State Senator Janice Bowling, District 16, and State Representative Courtney Rogers, District 45 were the 2017 recipients of the Rod Bragg Recovery Hero Award.

## **Bitetto, Sissons, Watson Share Christmas Spirit at Preds Holiday Party:**

**Preds Players Host Deserving Families, Give Christmas Gifts During Holiday Party, Presented by Walmart**

By Brooks Bratten @brooksbratten

Printed with permission

A Christmas tree went up in the breakroom area of the Nashville Predators front offices at Bridgestone Arena just as the holiday season arrived, decorated with lights and ornaments - lots of ornaments - but not in the traditional sense.

These ornaments were constructed from colorful paper, strung with yarn and emblazoned with the names of boys and girls, ages ranging from toddlers to teens, with a Christmas wish included below. Everyday essentials like jackets and underwear were posted, but more playful wishes like bicycles and Barbie dolls also populated the lists of those whose names found their way to the tree.

Preds staffers plucked ornaments as they days and weeks went by, returning the neatly wrapped packages in preparation for the upcoming party. But as the big day approached, a few ornaments remained.

Anthony Bitetto, Colton Sissons and Austin Watson sported their jerseys as they stood in the Bridgestone Arena atrium along with dozens of children and their families.

A few days earlier, the Preds trio made a midday shopping trip to a local Walmart to collect the wishes on the remaining ornaments, doing what they could to make the season bright.

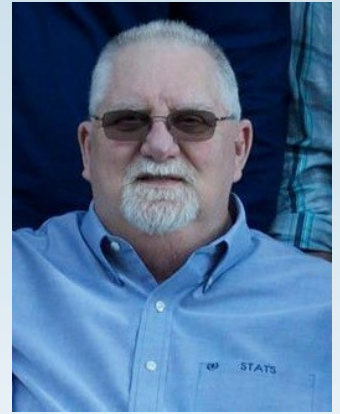
For the children in attendance, this night was the first time in a while - maybe ever - they have received the chance to experience the joys of Christmas.

Of the approximately 40 families in the room, each of them included at least one parent who participates in the 23rd District Judicial Advocates Drug Court program, an initiative that allows adults, who have a prison sentence due to substance abuse, take part in activities that provide them a chance to get back on their feet and enjoy a normal life, instead of incarceration.

For many, the party, presented by Walmart, was the first time in a very long while they've been able to see their children. And in this setting, the reunion was that much sweeter for all.

"The holiday spirit is a real thing," Sissons said. "It's really cool for us to be a part of something and provide some happiness into people's lives."

## **President's Corner**



**Well, here we go again,  
And I'm so glad.**

**I'm glad to be able to get back to a routine, to have a schedule that I can keep and to be able to get things accomplished. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy holidays.**

**Thanksgiving is a time I really appreciate because I'm reminded to express my thankfulness for all the blessings that I have been given. And Christmas, wow, the birth of my Savior, it doesn't get more important than that. Then comes the New Year, giving me a fresh start, a chance to reorganize, to review and to make plans to do better.**

**I hope you all are as excited as I am about the opportunities we are going to be presented in 2018. I look forward to each challenge, each problem and each success. I anticipate that there will be chances to serve and difficulties to deal with throughout the year. That's okay because if it was easy anybody could do it, because it's difficult, because it's a tough job I am required.**

**And you are required! Never forget the privilege you are given to make a difference in a human life. That change then impacts the future of many others. And it takes you to make that change. You have been given that challenge. And you look forward to the hard work involved, the ups and downs of the process and the disappointments and the rewards that this opportunity brings.**

**I hope you are as excited about 2018 as I am. I know we will not accomplish everything we would like to but our efforts will result in many successes and many positive changes in the future of those we touch.**

**I urge you to work hard, play big, be stubborn, be persistent and be positive. And as I must remind myself all the time, "Don't give up 5 minutes before the Miracle happens".**

**Happy New Year!**

Preds continued...

"The holiday spirit is a real thing," Sissons said. "It's really cool for us to be a part of something and provide some happiness into people's lives."

Doug Beecham couldn't wipe the grin from his face as he looked around at the piles of presents, some stacks 25 and 30 deep. One of the first graduates of the Drug Court program 15 years ago, Beecham has been clean and sober ever since and is now on the other side, serving as co-director of the program. He knows what it's like to be addicted, to see a life spiral out of control. But he also knows it's possible to turn things around and become a productive member of society, to use his experiences for good.

"This whole thing is a 10," Beecham said. "To see these kids getting to do something that they would never ever be able to do, to interact with their parents like they're interacting tonight, there's nothing like it. For the Preds to help us put these families back together, it's amazing. That's all I can say."

"The idea is to get them back on their feet as best we can," Drug Court Co-Director Kevin Batts said. "We appreciate the Predators so much in helping us because it's a holistic approach. We want these people to turn their entire lives around."

The bicycles and Barbie dolls that were once wishes on the tree were now being revealed as children tore away the red and green paper, their happiness revealed by the gleam in their eyes.

As Batts described, children are often the forgotten victims of the drug epidemic throughout the nation, suffering just as much as their parents do. Now, as their parents continue their journey back into society, their children are allowed back into their lives as well. The gift-giving comes with the holiday, but for many, simply being together would be more than enough.

The surprises that came along with the night may just provide that extra bit of motivation for those who are so often told that they don't matter and can't get better. People like Beecham are proof those stereotypes aren't always accurate, and perhaps the magic of the holiday season can bring back what was lost in the past.

"To be able to just take a step back and realize there's people out there that are in need of some help, it's important," Watson said. "For us to be able to do a small part to provide some gifts, some happiness into their lives in this holiday time, it's pretty special."



Austin Watson gives gifts to a young fan at the Preds Charity Holiday Party. John Russell



Colton Sissons unwraps an autographed hockey stick with a young fan at the Preds Charity Holiday Party. John Russell



Austin Watson distributes gifts at the Preds Charity Holiday Party. John Russell

## Lincoln County Launches Recovery Court

**FAYETTEVILLE, TN** – Through a grant awarded to South Central Human Resource Agency by the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the newly formed Lincoln County Recovery Court began accepting participants in November 2017.

Lincoln County, like many counties across the nation, has struggled to find the necessary resources to help address the rising tide of addiction and related crimes. “A recovery court is something I’ve wanted to do for a long time,” said General Sessions Judge N. Andrew Myrick, Jr. “It is our goal to end the terrible consequences of drug abuse in our community. I have witnessed drugs destroy lives, careers, and families, and I am very confident that recovery court is a big step in the right direction.”

Recovery courts have been growing across the country and in the state of Tennessee since the first drug court began in Miami-Dade County, Florida in 1989. Initially called drug courts, recovery courts provide an alternative to incarceration through intensive supervision combined with evidence-based treatment and holistic wrap-around services. Scientific research supports the efficacy of drug courts and their positive outcomes. When compared with similar studies regarding conventional probation, the difference is staggering. Those that complete conventional probation alone have a 60% chance of being arrested two years after they complete. Those graduating a recovery court are rearrested only 20% of the time two years after completion.

“Simply putting an individual with a drug and/or alcohol addiction in jail without treatment is costly and ineffective and usually results in the person re-offending after his or her release,” Myrick observes. “Recovery court combines treatment with intensive court supervision and sanctions to ensure compliance.” This creates costs savings for the community. The average cost of housing an inmate is approximately \$60 per day in the Lincoln County Jail. Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Recovery Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 alone in avoided criminal justice costs.

Those participating in the program are required to acquire and maintain gainful employment, pay court costs and fees, and complete a community service project to give back to the community. Participants are held accountable for their actions and are expected to demonstrate the ability to live a sober and productive lifestyle.

“Those that choose to take this intensive path are taught the three aspects of our motto,” said the court coordinator Tony Patterson. “Accountability, responsibility, and achievability are the building blocks of the program. By transforming their character to include these three key traits, our graduates can achieve anything they set their mind to.”



*Judge N. Andy Myrick and members of Lincoln Co. Recovery Court Team*

### Tennessee Recovery Courts on Twitter



**@TNCourts tweeted:**

Congrats to Judge Slone on his recognition by [@tadcptn](#) for work on drug courts, regional opioid task force, reduced NAS babies, and more! [#makingadifference](#)



**@greenercovery tweeted:**

Our Recovery Court team with Marie Williams - Commissioner of TN Dept. Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services. We are missing 2 team members but 11 are here! [#TreatmentWorks @tadcptn](#)



**@\_ALLRISE\_ tweeted:**

One highlight of Conasauga [#drugcourt](#) graduation is the chance for grads to tear up old booking photos, symbolizing how much their lives have changed for the better. [#recovery #cireform @tadcptn](#) <http://foxchattanooga.com/news/local/5-women-graduate-from-conasauga-drug-court...> \



# TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RECOVERY COURT PROFESSIONALS **DAY ON THE HILL**

**February 7, 2018**

Cordell Hull Building  
9:00am to 3:00pm



Join us:

- To meet with your legislators
- To add your voice to the conversation this legislative season
- To show that TARCP has a strong voice
- To support TARCP Initiatives
- To support our partners
- To network with your recovery court peers



**TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RECOVERY COURT PROFESSIONALS**

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**Hope**  
As long as there is life, there is hope.

**ACCESS**  
Staying informed will be helpful  
when services are necessary.

**RECOVERY**  
is real!

- Keep up with current co-occurring disorder events/ trends
- Access the latest perspectives related to the impact of co-occurring disorders on: 1) families, 2) communities; 3) local and state level policy and legislative matters, 4) judicial and criminal justice systems; and, 5) business and workforce
- Order educational and awareness materials
- Sign up with TNCODC to stay current on co-occurring disorder updates
- Request educational presentations
- Download a TNCODC link banner to place on your agency or organization website and so much more!



The TNCODC is funded by a grant from the State of Tennessee, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS). No person in the United States shall on the basis of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal funding assistance. Civil Rights Act of 1964.

## Trainings Around Tennessee

### TAADAS

Recovery Roundtable: Incorporating

Supports into Recovery Supports

March 23, 2018

9:00am to 3:00pm

Kingston, TN

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recovery-roundtable-kingston-incorporating-supports-into-recovery-supports-tickets-42019858528?ref=ecal>

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
It's the TAADAS Annual  
**CARNIVAL**

**When:**  
Saturday, June 2nd, 2018 from 10am-2pm

**Where:**  
Coleman Park - 384 Thompson Lane, Nashville TN 37211

**Details:**  
Admission is free for children and adults. There will be food, games, rides, prizes, entertainment and crafts!

TAADAS

# TADCP Membership Information

TADCP membership is annual from July 1 to June 30.

- ◆ \$25.00 for Individuals
- ◆ \$10.00 for Students (with current ID)
- ◆ \$200.00 for Recovery Courts up to 10 members and \$10.00 for each additional members

**NOTE: Please make sure a correct email is provided for each individual. TADCP Quarterly Newsletters are emailed to each member and will not be received without a correct email address**

**Make checks payable to TADCP and send to the address at the bottom of this form.**

You may also email [marie.crossson@tadcptn.org](mailto:marie.crossson@tadcptn.org) for an invoice.

Name

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Title

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Organization

---

Recovery Court

---

Phone Number

---

E-Mail Address

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**Special thanks to these supporting organizations!**

