



the Green sheet

Reentry Program graduates five

"I am not the person today that I was when I started this program," said parolee Turner. "These men right here never quit on me and never stopped believing in me."

This was the recurring theme for each of the five offenders who graduated from the Philadelphia Reentry Program on Tuesday, April 5, in Courtroom 504 in the Philadelphia Judicial Center.



Parole Manager Stephens addresses the graduating class.

guys...they worked with me...they gave me a new way of looking at life. And I'm looking now at what is most important to me, my wife and my children."

The men offender Turner referred to comprise the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole's Philadelphia Reentry Program: Agent Andreas, Supervisor Collier, ASCRA Agent Cintron, Parole Manager Stephens and Deputy District Director Willis.

"I have a new focus in life," said parolee Aponte. "This program...these

"I am young and these guys right here helped me and I am looking forward to much better opportunities for me down the road," said parolee Montalvo.

"I am so happy today," said parolee Hall. "I wouldn't be here today without these guys caring about me and wanting to help me."

"We have too many demons in society," said parolee Gunter. "With all of their help, I am not a demon anymore and I have worked hard to overcome many things and to stay focused and positive."

"The Philadelphia State Parole Reentry Program was designed as an intensive parole supervision program for at risk parolees. It provides practical assistance to overcome barriers to successful reentry and reintegration back into society by providing referrals in areas such as education, employment and substance abuse," stated the Honorable Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper. This is an excellent opportunity to partner together to reduce recidivism, produce individuals who are law abiding, productive members of society and to improve our criminal justice system while balancing the need to ensure public safety."

"The program provides intensive supervision for offenders at medium to high risk of re-offending," Board Member Michael C. Potteiger stated. "These are



Graduates of the Philadelphia Reentry Program pose with the Board's Reentry staff and Board Members Potteiger and Green and Judge Woods-Skipper.

not easy cases, drug and alcohol addictions are not easy to kick. I commend them for their hard work and success in the program.”

“I offer my congratulations to these five individuals for their successful completion of the program,” said Board Chairman Leo L. Dunn. “They have demonstrated that they are serious about changing their lives and we were pleased to be able to offer them assistance as they return home.”

In addition to recognizing the graduates of the reentry program, the ceremony also honored former Board Chairman Michael Green, who retired on March 15, 2016. Green, who had 12 years of service with the board and more than 40 years of experience in community corrections, probation/parole, and court administration, including the establishment of Juvenile and Adult Drug Courts, was honored for his commitment and dedication to the reentry program.

“Chairman Green was an essential ingredient of the program. He was always there to provide encouragement, support and direction,” said Judge Woods-Skipper added. “We really learn a lot about the participants, their lives and their families through our monthly status listings. Chairman Green was effective in relating to each of the participants and recalling their individual circumstances.”

Green was the assigned Board Member to the Philadelphia Reentry Program since it began in 2014. Green presided over each of the five graduates' cases and knows each of their personal stories. He shared particularly kind words for parolee Turner. “I have seen you from the beginning to the end of this program. You have stood strong, but have overcome so many obstacles in your life (Turner's son was murdered and her mother passed away during her program enrollment). You are an example to others of how this program is here to help and support you.”

The reentry program is one of the several initiatives the board collaborates on with other partners for the successful reintegration of offenders into the community.

The board also has four additional reentry programs established: York County (2005), Lackawanna (2008), Dauphin County (2013) and Allegheny County (2014).