

the Green sheet



Philadelphia Reentry Program marks 1 year

In August the Board's court-based Philadelphia Reentry Program celebrated its one-year anniversary with the graduation of three parolees from its program.

Begun in 2014, and with 26 current participants, the program is led by parole Board Member Michael Green and Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. It includes parole board staff, court staff, representatives from local drug and alcohol and mental health services, and community-based providers.

"This program provides another chance for individuals battling addiction to lead a pro-social life," said Board Member Michael Green. "We hold them accountable while offering a helping hand as they re-enter society from incarceration."

Sammy is serving a sentence for DUI. He did well with his treatment program and is continuing to have a positive adjustment since his release. He studied for his GED

while in prison, has experience in buying and selling used cars with his father and has a future goal of starting his own business. He has close family relationships, which provide him with support, and is actively involved in his children's lives.

John is serving a sentence for aggravated assault. His counselor always spoke very highly of his interpersonal progress. He has been attending the Center for Literacy as he works toward obtaining his GED. He has aspirations to attend the Philabundance program in order to enter the culinary arts field.

Joseph has always maintained a positive attitude and focus. He gained employment early on and despite a frustrating commute and odd hours he continued to work hard, being rewarded with promotions. Joseph persevered through some obstacles in order to reconnect with his children and plays an active role in their lives. Overall, he is happy with his progress and shows a promising future.



*Pictured left to right front row are: Board Member Green, three reentry program graduates and Judge Woods-Skipper.
Back Row: Agent Andreas.*

The Reentry Program is based on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals model, and provides individually tailored continuity of service, maximizing each parolee's ability to succeed in the community. Participants undergo intensive supervision and treatment over four phases, lasting approximately 12-18 months.

The Board also established reentry programs in York (2005) Lackawanna (2008), Berks (2009), Dauphin (2013), and Allegheny (2014) counties.