



CITIZENS AGAINST METH

*"WORKING FOR A BETTER GENERATION,
OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON US"*

CAM Chronicles

Drug Court Marks One Year Anniversary

In honor of its one year anniversary, and consistent support of CAM, this month we decided to recognize the Gordon/Bartow County Drug Court Program and the Honorable Judge Scott Smith in our Community Partner Spotlight.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Drug Court, let me tell you a few things about it. The Cherokee Judicial Circuit Drug Intervention Program is a five-phase intervention program for adults who have pled guilty to one or more non-violent felony drug-related offenses, and who are having difficulty staying clean and sober. It is a collaborative effort between the Superior Court, District Attorney's Office, Probation Office, Public Defender, Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Substance Abuse Treatment Providers. The program involves frequent court appearances, random drug testing, and group and individual counseling. Participants must commit to at least 18 months to the program. Judge Scott Smith presides over the court and meets with the participants every Friday. He strikes a delicate balance of being firm, but fair; convicting, but compassionate; and most of all, he makes judgments without being judgmental. Consequently, as each participant appears before him they do so with humility, reverence, and respect and knowing that whatever ruling he makes, whether it be praise or punishment, it is well deserved. To date, there are a little more than 50 participants in the program, with more new people being inducted over the next few weeks. Fortunately, the program was recently awarded continuation funding, so it will be around for at least another year. Join us as we say--**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Volume 1, Issue 2 July 2009

Community Partner Spotlight



**Judge Scott Smith
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Superior Court Judge**

Drug Court is held every Friday, rotating between Gordon and Bartow Counties. For more information on the program, please visit our website at www.citizensagainstmeth.org or call the Program Coordinator, Melissa Knight at (770) 606-5751.

Teen Prescription Drug Abuse an Emerging Threat

Thanks to years of hard work on the national and community level, teen drug use is down overall; however, one category is actually on the rise. With the exception of marijuana, teens now abuse prescription drugs more than any other illicit drug; more than cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined. Teens believe abusing prescription drugs is safer than using illicit drugs, but these drugs can be addictive and dangerous. These medications are more readily available to teens, and many parents are not aware that teens are abusing them. According to the National Survey on Drugs and Health, more than 2.1 million teens ages 12 to 17 reported abusing prescription drugs in 2006. Among 12 and 13-year olds, prescription drugs are their drug of choice. Prescription painkillers like Vicodin and OxyContin are the most often abused prescription drugs. Over the next few weeks, CAM will be partnering with local Pharmacists and schools to raise the awareness about this growing problem. If you'd like to get involved or to learn more about this issue, contact us at (706) 624-8417 or citizensmeth@gmail.com.

CAM Board of Directors:

Larry Roye, Board Chair
Dawn Townsend, Board Secretary
Charles Hall, Board Treasurer
Suzanne Hutchinson-Smith
Randall Fox

Jan Hammond
Lynne Reese
Mary Czentnar
Ruby Crump
Melissa Knight

Dr. John Bledsoe
Catherine Schueman
Cathy Harrison

Questions or Comments? citizensmeth@gmail.com or call (706) 624-8417
Citizens Against Meth (and other addictive substances)
PO Box 1117, Calhoun, GA 30703-1117
Visit us online at www.citizensagainstmeth.org