

# Northern Hills Drug Court

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## Northern Hills Drug Court

### Mission Statement

The Northern Hills Drug Court's mission is to increase community safety, foster healthy families, and proficiently utilize public funds. This will be accomplished by streamlining and coordinating services to felony offenders whose crimes are substantially related to the abuse or dependence upon a controlled substance with a primary consideration given to methamphetamine abuse or dependence. The Northern Hills Drug Court will increase long term abstinence by holding offenders accountable and ultimately reducing drug-related crimes.

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### *Penny for your Thoughts:*

#### Success

Success does not consist in never making mistakes, but in never making the same one a second time. -George Bernard Shaw

I am sure in my own mind that the one business of life is to succeed, that God did not give us these magnificent brains, these miraculous personalities, and these wonderful physical qualities and then expect us to waste our lives in failure. -Sterling W. Sill

Nothing worthwhile comes easily. Half effort does not produce half results. It produces no results. Work, continuous work and hard work, is the only way to accomplish results that last. -Hamilton Holt

## *Welcomes Chief Justice David Gilbertson*



Northern Hills Drug Court and all the participants were very honored to have Chief Justice Gilbertson here as our Keynote Speaker. Chief Justice spoke of the benefits of the program. "It's an absolute bargain, plus it provides a permanent solution rather than the revolving door of incarceration," South Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice David Gilbertson said.

Currently serving more than 16 participants the Northern Hills Drug Court continually grows and strives to help these participants with their addictions. Together they have a combine total of 93 years of suspended prison time and more than 15 years of sobriety.

The graduates speak of addiction and the hold it once had on all aspects of their lives. Each individual take us through a journey of addiction, loss, courage and triumph. Each graduate is joined by their fellow participants as they walk away from the program today sober, employed and contributing citizens of their communities.

# Thanks

*SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING  
FOR ALL OF THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT:*

*Sturgis W&VI Shelter  
Crisis Intervention Shelter  
Meade County Housing  
Sturgis Rally Charities  
First Interstate Bank  
Wal-Mart of Spearfish  
ZONTA Club  
Pennington County 24/7 Program  
Meade County Jail*

*... And the many others that support the  
Northern Hills Drug Court.*

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## Northern Hills Drug Court Team

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Judge Michelle Percy  
Chris Pankratz, Court Services  
Nicole Drew, Court Services  
Jeanne Mann, Court Services  
Jesse Sondreal, Meade State's Attorney  
Ron Merwin, Meade County Sheriff  
Bruce Hubbard, Defense Attorney  
Mary Wood Fossen, NHDA Treatment Director  
Nicci Havemeier, Court Reporter  
Carrie Greenaway, Assistant

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## **NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH**

### **Drug Courts Are Smart Investments**

President Obama issued a message commemorating National Drug Court Month. The message also underscores the important role that drug courts play in helping to break the cycle of drug use and crime. Drug courts, which provide alternatives to incarceration for non-violent, drug-involved offenders, have been making a difference since they were first established in 1988.

Drug courts are specialized courts that promote collaboration among the judiciary, community corrections agencies, drug treatment providers, and other community groups and are a critical tool in the Administration's National Drug Control Strategy. Through these local courts, non-violent offenders with substance abuse problems are not incarcerated but rather given resources, including substance abuse treatment, to help them on the road to recovery from addiction. By increasing access to treatment and recovery services, drug courts prevent future criminal activity while also reducing the financial burden of repeatedly processing low-level, non-violent offenders through the Nation's courts, jails, and prisons.