

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.



Joe Guttierrez, Drug Court Services Officer

Joe Guttierrez was honored by Wellspring, Family Based Programs, "We Believe in Kids" event for his work with kids in the community.

CONGRATULATIONS JOE!!



Achievement seems to be connected with action. Successful men and women keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don't quit. –Conrad Hilton

Three participants graduated from the Northern Hills Drug Court program in the fall of 2008. One participant recently graduated the program on January 13, 2009 and three additional participants are working hard in hopes of graduating this spring. With tenacious resolve to stay clean, rigorous treatment requirements and intensive supervision, the participants realize positive changes in their lives.

Graduation doesn't come easy. The earliest a participant graduates from the program is one year but it can go as long as three years. It all depends on the participant's willingness to make positive life changes. Everyone is required to maintain a stable living environment, which includes fulltime employment or being a fulltime student, residential stability, paying off debts, attending regular AA/NA meetings as well as fulfilling their treatment requirements.

Northern Hills Drug Court (NHDC) welcomes family and friends to the courtroom. Their very presence offers support to the participants. Drug Court also welcomes visitors who would like to observe the process of Judicial—Participant interaction. Drug Court convenes every Tuesday at 1p.m. All participant identities are to remain confidential.

NHDC Participants are off to a great start and we are anticipating more success stories and renewed lives in 2009.

THANK YOU!!

The Northern Hills Drug Court extends a special **THANK YOU** to Sturgis Rally Charities Foundation and Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, for their monetary support of the drug court program. NHDC was awarded \$1,000 to be utilized to sponsor family oriented activities for the participants and their families, as well as provide opportunities for participants to attend beneficial seminars or classes. The funding is also used for graduation receptions.

- Northern Hills Drug Court saved the South Dakota taxpayers over \$65,000 last year by supervising the participants in the community versus the costs for sending them to the penitentiary.
- A Phase IV participant registered for the 2009 Spring semester at BHSU and is a ³/₄ time student. She is also celebrating one year of sobriety since relapsing last January.
- One participant, currently on disability, is taking a medical coding course in hopes she will become more financially independent.
- One participant obtained fulltime employment and became a daddy for the first time.
- One participant reports making repairs on his long neglected farm equipment and states that it feels good because he remembers abandoning his chores when

**For the reporting quarter,
September 1 through December,
2008:**

- 280 drug tests given to 12 participants
- 100% of the tests were negative for all substances
- 2,937 contacts with 13 participants
- 82% of the participants are employed, are students or are performing community service
- 1 participant completed inpatient treatment
- 1 participant was incarcerated in the Meade County Jail serving a 45-day jail sentence

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TEAM MEMBERS

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SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Bernie Lungren, Circuit Court Administrator
4th Judicial Circuit