



Contact: Crystina Dunehew, Court Coordinator

Phone: 541-957-2415

Email: crystina.c.dunehew@ojd.state.or.us

PRESS RELEASE

H.O.P.E. Drug Court Graduate Project “KickStart Smiles” Supports Children and Families Through KIC Housing

ROSEBURG, Ore., August 17, 2026 — H.O.P.E. Drug Court participant Lukas Allen is turning his graduation community project into an opportunity to support local children and families receiving housing assistance through KIC Housing.

Lukas’s project, KickStart Smiles, is collecting items for children from birth through age 10, including crayons, coloring books, books, small toys, age-appropriate games, backpacks, school supplies, and other fun and useful items that can help bring comfort, creativity, and a sense of normalcy to children during times of transition. The program is seeking washable items for markers, paints, etc. if donated.

KIC Housing works with local families who need housing assistance while participating in Adapt programs related to substance use disorder. Stable housing can be an important part of recovery by reducing barriers and helping parents focus on treatment, family responsibilities, and building a healthier future for themselves and their children.

For Lukas, the project is especially meaningful because of his own experience receiving housing assistance. “I want to help them better their program by providing items that assist with their process to help kids with fun and useful items the parents may not always have the opportunity to provide,” Lukas said. “I received housing assistance and am grateful for the help with my children.”

In addition to toys, books, and activities for younger children, Lukas is collecting backpacks and school supplies to support families with school-age children. The goal is to help ease some of the financial pressure families may experience while making sure children have supplies they need to participate in school and feel prepared alongside their peers.

Recovery Is About More Than One Person

An important part of treatment court is helping participants build stability in all areas of their lives. For parents, that often includes strengthening relationships with their children and working toward healthy and safe family reunification.

Substance use disorder can affect the entire family. As parents progress through treatment and recovery, rebuilding trust and strengthening the parent-child relationship can take time. Stable housing, consistent routines, access to treatment, and supportive community resources can help create an environment where families are able to heal together.

For children, reunification is about more than returning to the same household. It can mean rebuilding a sense of safety, consistency, trust, and connection with a parent who is working to make lasting changes. Providing families with basic resources and positive activities for their children can help reduce stress during that process and allow parents to focus more of their energy on recovery and parenting.

The Importance of H.O.P.E. Drug Court

The H.O.P.E. Drug Court Program provides participants with structured accountability, treatment, court supervision, and connections to community resources designed to address the underlying challenges associated with substance use disorder. Treatment courts recognize that long-term recovery often requires more than simply stopping substance use. Participants work toward improving housing stability, family relationships, employment, physical and behavioral health, and their connection to the community.

Community projects completed during the graduation phase give participants an opportunity to reflect on their own experiences while giving back to the community that supported their recovery. Projects such as KickStart Smiles allow participants to turn lessons learned through their own journey into something that can provide hope and encouragement to another family.

Lukas hopes the donated items will help parents feel supported while also giving children something of their own to enjoy during what can be an uncertain time.

How to Help

Items Needed:

- Washable toys for children birth through age 10
- Crayons
- Coloring books
- Children's books
- Small toys
- Fun, age-appropriate games and activities
- Backpacks
- School supplies

Donations will be collected until September 15, 2026.

Drop-Off Locations:**Clint Newell Motors**

1481 NE Stephens Street
Roseburg, Oregon

Douglas County Juvenile Department

First-floor lobby of the Douglas County Courthouse
1036 SE Douglas Avenue, Room 105A

Community members are encouraged to help Lukas complete his H.O.P.E. Drug Court graduation project and support local families working toward recovery, stability, and stronger futures for their children. Every backpack, book, box of crayons, toy, or school supply donated is a small reminder to a child and parent that their community is behind them as they move forward together.

Community Invited to Celebrate the 114th H.O.P.E. Drug Court Graduation

Community members are also invited to attend the 114th H.O.P.E. Drug Court Graduation on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Cascade Hall. The graduation ceremony recognizes participants who have worked diligently to overcome challenges, maintain their recovery, meet program expectations, and successfully complete the requirements of the H.O.P.E. Drug Court Program. Graduation represents much more than completion of a court program; it recognizes the determination, accountability, personal growth, and perseverance demonstrated by participants throughout their recovery journey.

The community is encouraged to attend, celebrate the graduates, and hear about the accomplishments, challenges, and hard work that brought each participant to this important milestone. Community support plays an important role in helping individuals in recovery recognize that their progress matters and that they have people encouraging them as they move forward into the next chapter of their lives.

Graduate flyers and additional information about the H.O.P.E. Drug Court Program are available through the Douglas County website via the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) at: <https://douglascountyor.gov/851/HOPE-Drug-Court>

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