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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H.O.P.E. Drug Court Celebrates 114th Graduation, Recovery, and the Power of Second Chances

ROSEBURG, Ore., October 5, 2026 — The Douglas County H.O.P.E. Drug Court will celebrate its 114th graduation ceremony on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. in Cascade Hall at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

The community is invited to join the H.O.P.E. Drug Court team, families, community partners, and supporters in recognizing the graduates and the tremendous amount of work required to reach this milestone.

Drug Court graduation is about much more than completing a program. It is an opportunity to hear directly from graduates about their recovery journeys, recognize the challenges they have overcome, and see what can happen when accountability, treatment, opportunity, and community support come together.

For many participants, substance use is only one part of a much larger struggle. Participants may also enter the program facing mental health concerns, homelessness or unstable housing, limited income, unemployment, damaged family relationships, or interrupted education. Some are working toward reunification with their children. Others are earning a high school diploma or GED, finding employment, establishing stable housing, or learning how to manage responsibilities that addiction once made difficult.

That is why the wraparound approach of H.O.P.E. Drug Court is so important. Recovery is not addressed in isolation. Participants are connected to treatment, supervision, behavioral health services, housing and community resources, employment opportunities, educational support, family services, and other assistance based on their individual needs.

Treatment, Accountability and Community Safety

H.O.P.E. Drug Court provides a structured alternative for eligible individuals whose substance use has contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The program combines intensive treatment, frequent court appearances, drug testing, supervision, incentives and sanctions, and individualized support through a collaborative team approach.

The goal is not simply to keep someone out of prison. It is to address the issues contributing to criminal behavior, so participants have a greater opportunity to build long-term stability, maintain recovery, reduce future involvement in the justice system, and become productive members of the community.

The benefits reach beyond the individual participant. When recovery is successful, families can be reunited, children can regain a healthy parent in their lives, individuals can return to work, housing can become more stable, and communities can experience fewer cycles of addiction, crime and incarceration.

More Than \$2.3 Million in Prison Costs Avoided in 2026

The program also creates significant financial benefits. During the first two H.O.P.E. Drug Court graduations of 2026, participants collectively accounted for 433 months of downward-departed prison sentences and an estimated \$2,301,301.78 in avoided prison costs by remaining in the local treatment court program rather than serving those months in state prison.

Those savings demonstrate an important part of the value of treatment courts: eligible individuals can remain accountable to the criminal justice system while receiving intensive treatment locally and working toward lasting behavioral change. The impact is especially significant when the broader benefits of employment, family stability, housing, education, recovery and reduced future criminal justice involvement are considered.

A Team That Engages Participants Differently

The H.O.P.E. Drug Court is led by the Honorable Robert B. Johnson, whose leadership and engagement with participants are an important part of the program's collaborative approach. Drug Court operates differently from a traditional courtroom setting. Judge Johnson and the multidisciplinary team are actively engaged in each participant's progress. Successes are recognized, setbacks are addressed, expectations remain clear, and participants return to court regularly throughout the program.

That consistent interaction helps participants understand that the team is invested not only in accountability, but also in their ability to succeed. The H.O.P.E. Drug Court team brings together representatives from treatment, the courts, community corrections, prosecution, defense, law enforcement, human services, and local program coordination. Each team member brings a different perspective while working toward common goals: reducing recidivism, improving public safety, supporting recovery, strengthening families, and helping participants become self-sufficient.

Douglas County is also fortunate to have the support of its Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) and a strong network of community partners. That collaboration allows the program to look beyond the immediate criminal case and help address the real-world barriers that can interfere with recovery. The team wants to see participants succeed long after their final Drug Court appearance, reunited with their

families, employed, housed, educated, healthy, connected to their community, and using their experiences to make a difference for others.

Celebrating How Far They Have Come

Each graduate arrives at this milestone through a different path, but every graduation represents months, and often years, of treatment, testing, court appearances, accountability, personal growth, rebuilding relationships, and learning how to live differently. Graduation provides the community an opportunity to see those results firsthand.

The public is encouraged to attend the 114th H.O.P.E. Drug Court Graduation on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. at Cascade Hall at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to celebrate the graduates, hear their stories, learn more about the program, and recognize the families, treatment providers, justice partners and community organizations who have walked beside them throughout their recovery.

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