



RICHMOND CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
RICHMOND CITY JUSTICE CENTER
1701 FAIRFIELD WAY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223
C.T. WOODY, JR., SHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Monday, March 16, 2015

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SHERIFF HOSTS INAUGURAL CELEBRATION AND GRADUATION

What: REAL Program and New Beginnings to Fatherhood Graduation Ceremony

Where: Richmond City Justice Center

When: Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 10 a.m.

On Wednesday, March 18, 2015, Sheriff C.T. Woody, Jr. will host the inaugural celebration and graduation of the REAL Program and New Beginnings to Fatherhood. Over 20 men will graduate from the REAL Program and 13 men from New Beginnings to Fatherhood.

Members of the New Beginnings to Fatherhood class, sponsored and facilitated by the Richmond Family and Fatherhood Initiative, were selected through an application and vetting process. The goal is for these fathers to learn new and/or different skills to being a positive parent and be an example for their child(ren). A strong focus is to reverse old behaviors and successfully move through the pains of change and various situations. The apex of the achievements of these 13 men will be the Father Daughter Dance, co-sponsored by Camp Diva and Girls for a Change, which will be held later in the week.

Residents in the RCJC have the opportunity to participate in the REAL (Recovery from Everyday Addictive Lifestyles) Program, which has a purpose of reducing recidivism through ensuring the individual is prepared for re-entry into society. This is done by assisting residents to positively and comprehensively address their addictions and behaviors, while appropriately modifying their thinking. Social learning models and cognitive-behavioral interventions are utilized to help participants restructure and reframe destructive thought patterns while developing healthy coping skills. The focus on behavioral modification inspires members to face their problems and overcome their addictive lifestyles. Graduates have completed several months of classes such as anger management, job preparation, responsibility, life skills, parenting, addiction recovery, and re-entry preparation. Additionally, participants must complete four-phases, which are aimed toward influencing cognitive self-change and consists of over 500 pages of reading and writing. The last

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criterion to graduate is having at least 60 days of no behavioral infractions, which displays their behavior has been appropriately modified.

A special performance during graduation will be performed by George Dennehy. Dennehy is a survivor of early childhood in an orphanage in Rominia and basically being left for dead because he was born with no arms and was thought to be cursed. Dennehy's performance will include a couple guitar and singing selections, as well as sharing motivation and inspiration.

All media is invited and encouraged to attend.

Media must arrive at 9:30 a.m. in order to be escorted to the secure ceremony location. Please RSVP to Dr. Scarbrough by Tuesday, March 17 at 5 p.m. if you plan to attend.

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