



## Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

# News

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### **Putnam Juvenile Drug Court celebrates second anniversary**

For immediate release Monday, February 25, 2013

WINFIELD, W.Va. – The Putnam County Juvenile Drug Court will celebrate its second anniversary in a ceremony at 4 p.m. Thursday, February 28, in the courtroom of Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Phillip M. Stowers in the Putnam County Judicial Building, 3389 Winfield Road, Winfield.

The Putnam County Bar Association will donate \$500 to the drug court.

“Listening to some of the participants of the program, it is clear that they have been using the guidance and support of this new program to help them on their road to a drug-free life,” attorney James B. Atkins, president of the Putnam County Bar Association, wrote in a letter to Judge Stowers telling him of the donation.

“Our members have been witness to your efficient use of limited funds thus far and commend you on your stewardship,” the letter said. “We hope that our community will realize what kind of difference this program is making in the lives of our Putnam County children and consider making contributions as well.”

Twenty-six youths have graduated from the juvenile drug court since it began operating in 2011. Another twenty currently are enrolled.

**The program has saved the state nearly \$2 million on inpatient drug treatment costs, Judge Stowers said.**

Inpatient juvenile drug treatment for one youth costs about \$62,000 for nine months (270 days at \$230 per day). Each graduate of drug court was on course to be placed in treatment, he said. A portion of the graduates were looking at incarceration as the next step; one year of juvenile incarceration costs \$106,800 per child. By comparison, juvenile drug court costs about \$5,000 per participant.