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Milwaukee Family Drug Treatment Court hosts special celebration honoring its 50th graduate during National Drug Court Month

Milwaukee, Wis. (May 24, 2018) -- In recognition of National Drug Court Month, the Milwaukee County Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTTC) will celebrate by acknowledging its fiftieth graduate on Friday, May 25, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. at the Vel R. Phillips Juvenile Justice Center, Jury Management room 1044.

Established in April, 2011, FDTTC was the first of its kind in the State of Wisconsin. Based on the success we have experienced in Milwaukee County, several other Wisconsin counties are now planning, piloting, or implementing their own FDTTC, joining the approximately 380 FDTTCs across the country. FDTTCs are designed to help break the cycle of substance use through family-centered treatment and support services with the ultimate goal of protecting children and creating more stable home environments. The FDTTC's approach represents an important system change, realigning formerly adversarial institutions, legal parties, child welfare and treatment systems, into partnerships to achieve the best possible outcome for children and families. The focus is on engaging parents in treatment, helping them learn to live life in recovery, improve their parenting skills and address the needs of their children impacted by their substance use disorders. The primary goal of the court is to achieve safety and permanency for the children and the healing of families.

Chief Judge Maxine Aldridge White celebrates the accomplishments of the FDTTC stating, "Our trauma-informed and committed Children's Court leadership, along with the systems-changing collaboration of community partners in the Milwaukee County FDTTC has been phenomenal and the work of the families and their teams have been inspiring."

After six years in operation FDTTC continues to see the results of its collaborative efforts in terms of positive outcomes for our families. Graduate Ivy Hayes said it so eloquently, "FDTTC loved me until I learned how to love myself, they gave me structure and held me accountable, in a loving, caring way. They are the most supportive, caring people I know. They helped me get my life and family back."

Nationally, between 60% and 80% of substantiated child welfare cases involve parental substance use disorder and more than 80% of these parents never complete substance abuse treatment. Participants in FDTTCs are 20-40% more likely to be reunified with their child. In Milwaukee County, FDTTC families were 43% more likely to be reunified after substantial participation in the Milwaukee County FDTTC. Long term, FDTTCs reduce child welfare and court costs significantly. Learn more about national treatment court research at AllRise.org, and about FDTTCs at Children and Family Futures, cffutures.org.