



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2011

We are pleased to announce that the 23rd Judicial Drug Court Program worked with Painted Wings Production to create and produce a Drug Court Documentary that has won five national awards. "The Arrest is only the Beginning" was submitted for recognition and has received the following prestigious awards from three national film competitions.

In the fourteen years since its inception, the Drug Court Program has successfully graduated 1729 participants, saving the citizens of Virginia cost of their incarceration and restoring them as production members of society. In this video, eight graduates share their stories about struggles with addiction, recovery, and reconnection with family, friends and community.

The Telly Awards honor outstanding local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions, and web commercials, videos and films. The Telly Awards annually showcase the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television station, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world. The Telly Awards receives over 11, 000 entries annually from all 50 states and many foreign countries.

The documentary was awarded the Telly Award for the *Television Documentary Category*, on February 10, 2011.



The Aurora Awards is an international competition designed to recognize excellence in film and video industries. It specifically targets products, programs and commercials that would not normally have the opportunity to compete on a national level. Programs are judged in the areas of creativity, message effectiveness and technical excellence.

The documentary received a Gold Award in the category of *Documentary Issue* and a Gold Award in the category of *Social Issue/Report/Documentary*, on March 3, 2011.



Now in its 47th year, the Chicago International Film Festival is the longest-running competitive film festival in North America. Included in the wide array of awards given at this festival is the Hugo Television Award that honors the most innovative and outstanding members of the television community. In the Division of Television and the category of *Public Access Program* the program was awarded a silver plaque. In the Special Achievement Division in the category of *Low Budget* the program was also awarded a gold plaque on April 20, 2011.

The 47th Chicago International Film Festival

This an important recognition of the quality of the project which has served to educate both the public and criminal justice community about the effectiveness of the Drug Court Program.

Please join us in recognizing all those who made this project possible and clearly successful. The video can be viewed on the Virginia Judicial System website under Drug Treatment Court, Instructional Video "How Virginia Drug Courts Succeed".