

Sheriff Arpaio and MASH Celebrate New Dog Park



Alpha participants that painted the mural at the park.

On December 20, 2005, Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his Maricopa Animal Safe Hospice (MASH) staff welcomed the public and media to the Grand Opening of Sheriff Joe's Jail Tails Park, the new dog recreation park on the roof of the 1st Avenue Jail. It was the finality of a joint effort by the MASH staff, the Alpha Program graduates, and the female trustees assigned to MASH I. After months of cleaning and painting, as well as laying of the artificial grass, the dogs finally have a new and wonderful place to run, play, and enjoy the fresh air. Sheriff Joe's Jail Tails couldn't be happier!

Alpha participants are involved in an animal rehabilitation program that provides nurturing and recuperative care for abused and neglected animals whose owners are in court regarding animal abuse. The Alpha participants get the abused animals ready for adoption through obedience training, behavioral exercises, and give them a thorough grooming. Additionally, each animal is spayed or neutered prior to being adopted.

The program began at the request of Sheriff Arpaio when he recognized that there were many cases of animal abuse and neglect that were not being

prosecuted to the extent he felt appropriate. His concern led him to start the program that would give the animal victims a place to heal and regain strength, while experiencing the positive impact of loving and compassionate Alpha participant caretakers. In the process, he created a win-win situation for the Alpha participants and the pets each gained a loving relationship. Some of the inmates have returned, following release, to adopt one of their favorite animals and some have gone on to find jobs in the community taking care of animals.

Arpaio Park was possible because of generous donations from local companies. Thanks to Turf Paradise Race Track who donated the funds to purchase the artificial grass and to Turf Tech of the Valley (Waterless Grass, Inc.) who gave a vast discount on their synthetic grass and who donated their installation fees.



Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio with Alpha program participants.

Previous Substance Abuser Reinstates Relationships

Michelle, a participant of the Arizona Department of Corrections Addiction Treatment Program with a history of domestic violence and substance abuse graduated in February. While in the program, she made significant strides to improve her life: initiating and obtaining a divorce from her abusive husband and repairing family relationships that have been severely damaged due to her past choices. These good decisions by Michelle were particularly significant with the family member who had been serving as the caretaker for her child. Prior to Michelle's treatment, the caretaker was very hesitant about allowing any interaction between the offender and her child. In the months after release, Michelle obtained a job and further worked on her relationships with family. As of last report, Michelle's child regularly spends the weekends with her and there are plans for her to assume full custody very soon. Not only has Michelle cleaned up her own life, but has assumed a parental role for her child and has transitioned well into society.

Incarcerated Female Obtains Managerial Position upon Release

A participant of the Women in Recovery program at ASPC-Perryville, Jackie, wanted a head start on life once released from prison, so she began her job search while still incarcerated.

Within a month, Jackie received two job offerings for when she was back in the community. She took one position and is still working in a management capacity for the company. Jackie has remained clean and sober and even lives in her own apartment. She has done well on

parole and is scheduled to complete her full program soon.

Recovered Male Adapts Well Into Society

Daniel, a participant of Arizona Department of Corrections Addition Treatment Services, was released and went to a half-way house for three months to complete his program. He then moved into a three quarter house, taking his time before moving out on his own because he wanted to be ready to succeed. Daniel is doing very well in adapting to his new lifestyle, and even attends meetings and church on a regular basis. More importantly, Daniel has been able to remain drug and crime free. He has been very successful, and has even made the choice to refuse to interact with people he previously knew who are still engaged in a lifestyle of drugs and crime. This remarkable individual is very pleased to be achieving the lifestyle that he wants.

Former Catalina Mountain School Recovery Youth Finds Success

Former Catalina Mountain School Recovery youth, Javier, now age 23, has turned his life around since his run-in with Tucson Parole five years ago. He's proud to have obtained a respectable job, in which he works for a well-known plumbing company, drives a company truck, wears a uniform, and carries a company cell phone. Javier, not only has taken an active role in society, he has stayed clean and sober for the past five years. He is loving life and is very glad to have received help to make his turnaround!

Tucson Youth to Graduate Apollo College in February 2007

Mayra was committed to Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections on April 22, 2004 for armed robbery, probation violations, and buying alcohol. She appeared to be a misguided youth who lacked good role models in her life. Her siblings were in the system before her and this prompted Mayra to take the crucial step to change her life. Since Mayra made this decision, she has graduated the Recovery Program and earned her GED while at Black Canyon School.

She also successfully completed counseling requirements of her parole by meeting with AICC and Functional Family Therapy at the home. Mayra also participated in Sin Puertas, a girls' community drug program, meeting every Monday night. She loved going and they gave her a lot of support. Please with all her drastic changes, Mayra enrolled in the Medical Assistant training program at Apollo College with the help of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Mayra has really understood the importance of her sobriety and a life without drugs and crime. She made changes in her life so that she didn't turn into what she disliked most about her siblings and peers. Overall, she was on parole for a total of 20 months and it has put her life in the right direction. Mayra earned her absolute discharge from parole on September 14, 2006 and has been attending classes and working ever since. Mayra is very excited about graduating from Apollo College this February and she will then begin a related internship. She is an inspiration to other troubled youth and she has finally achieved a life of success.

Youth Makes Good Choices to Reunite with Brother

When Willy entered the Department of Juvenile Corrections program, he was having several issues with his family. His mother was a methamphetamine user on and off, and this factor put this youth in a bind as he was working on his own transition. Willy made the decision to be sober, despite his mother's choices, and worked very hard throughout the Seven Challenges program. He was released to a group home in November 2006, and his Parole Officer reported that he did well there and stayed out of trouble. WS continued substance abuse treatment and due to his successful lifestyle change has been placed with his brother.

Traumatized Youth Overcomes Own Addictions

Andy not only battled with his own recovery, but also faced trauma issues related to his parents being shot to death by police in a drug raid. He graduated the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Recovery Program in January 2006 and returned home to live with his grandmother in a rural area. Andy reentered the public school system and is very successful there. He attends AA meetings regularly and his Parole Officer reports that he is doing extremely well. This youth has really beaten the odds and has remained sober and clean.

Youth Takes Challenges in Stride

Alice has overcome all challenges posed to her and has reestablished a healthy, sober lifestyle. She finished the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT) successfully in early February and took the next step and entered family counseling. Alice

motivated herself to pass her GED, enroll in junior college, and maintain a part-time job in clothing retail, all while taking care for her infant son. Her Parole Officer reports that Alice is not only stable, but she is truly happy with her life changes. What a turnaround!

Youth's Good Behavior Allows an Early Release into Community

Chuck had been in the Adobe Mountain School Residential Program for almost a year and petitioned for an early release.

The three-month early release was granted, due to Chuck's hard work, progress in treatment, and the support of the treatment team, and he then began preparing for a transition home. His Parole Officer reports that he is following his parole plan and all drug tests have been negative. Chuck is also being helpful around his house with his younger siblings and has obtained a part-time job. Chuck attends school regularly and has made the school's football team. This youth is still reported as successful in the community.

These success stories are possible because of the federal funding that has been provided under the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant program. The proposed elimination of the RSAT program for FFY 2008 will dramatically impact the three Arizona institutions providing RSAT services. The lack of FFY 2004 funds resulted in a loss of 51 beds statewide. The reduction of federal funds in FFY 2005 and 2006 have further reduced that by 36 RSAT beds available. Without the continued federal support, the future of these programs and the positive results stemming from the program would no longer exist.