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ALERT TOP STORY

Community service board recognizes recovery program graduate

Monique Holland

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Piedmont Community Services recognized Jamie Lynn Elgin for graduating the Piedmont Adult Recovery Court program.

Elgin is the fourth graduate of the fairly new adult recovery court program, with the first participant graduating around two and a half years ago. Elgin has now joined over 600 other Virginia graduates statewide from the last year.

“I stand before you today different,” Elgin said. “Trauma, heartache and pain changes someone. That someone was me and I didn’t even know it.”

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After the ceremony, Elgin was congratulated by those in attendance.

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From the age of 13 and up to a little over a year and a half ago, Elgin said, she faced many traumas like losing her daughter, best friend and mother within months, and struggling with substance abuse.

In 2008 she was prescribed pain medication for health issues and was fine until 2013 when she hit what she thought at the time was rock bottom.

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“It wasn’t,” Elgin said. “My addiction went even further.”

“I became a liar, a thief, a manipulator,” she added. “I didn’t care who I hurt. I lost it all including my family that I had left.”

She said she justified it all by saying it was anyone else’s fault but her own.

“After being homeless, broken and addicted I was put on probation for about two years,” Elgin said. “In March of 2022, God showed up and he sent people in my path.”

“I can’t tell you how it happened, but it happened,” she added. “I surrendered my life to God and things started to change. I wasn’t a victim anymore.”

Elgin said she tried other pathways and avenues to achieve recovery but didn’t see success until she began participating in the Piedmont Adult Recovery Court program.

“I thank God every day for this program,” Elgin said. “The care team we have here today — I thank God for each and every one of you ... The one’s who prayed for met. The one’s who saw something I didn’t.”



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Leanne Martin (left) presented Jamie Lynn Elgin with her certificate with Judge G. Carter Greer.

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“Throughout your recovery you have demonstrated tremendous resilience, determination and strength of character,” Judge G. Carter Greer said. “The journey to recovery, as many of you know, is not easy and there are often obstacles that are unforeseen that are thrown in one’s path.”

“Jamie [Elgin] had some unforeseen obstacles,” Greer added. “But she overcame them and persevered to the point that she has been free of substance use for well over 365 days. That is truly a remarkable achievement.”

“I am honored to be asked to celebrate Jamie’s graduation here today and your success in the recovery court,” Virginia Statewide Specialty Dockets Coordinator Anna Powers said. “I’d like to recognize the incredible time and effort and hard work it took for you to get this far as well as those who supported you along the way to offer you structure and compassionate accountability.”



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Jamie Lynn Elgin graduated from the Piedmont Adult Recovery Court program.

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“We gather to celebrate a remarkable individual whose journey through recovery court has been nothing short of inspiring,” Leanne Martin of PCS said. “Jamie [Elgin] stands as a testament to the power of perseverance, faith and the unyielding human spirit.”

“From the very beginning, Jamie [Elgin] has demonstrated a servant’s heart,” Martin added. “Always willing to lend a hand and support others on their path to recovery.”

“Her unwavering commitment to helping others has not only uplifted those around her but has also reinforced her own resolve to stay the course,” Martin said.

“Throughout her time in recovery court, Jamie has epitomized what it means to be dedicated to recovery ... Her journey is a shining example of what can be achieved when one is committed to change and willing to put in hard work.”

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Reporter

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