

# 2016

# ANNUAL REVIEW

## A MESSAGE FROM HON. OTIS D. WRIGHT, II STAR PROGRAM JUDICIAL OFFICER

Dear Friends,

In January 2016, STAR celebrated its sixth year of providing second chances to dozens of addicted felons newly released from prison. The risk of recidivism and relapse are high among this group and they need targeted supportive services to help them succeed. STAR focuses its efforts on reaching out to the most vulnerable members of that population and in so doing seeks to increase public safety and decrease the risk of recidivism. This is critically important work and an essential support for institutionalized felons who have spent the majority of their adult lives behind bars. Our participants are individuals who have little chance of remaining free of incarceration due to their criminal thinking and substance abuse issues.

STAR's target population typically presents with a 10<sup>th</sup> grade education, an alcohol or drug addiction, no marketable skills, numerous felony convictions and chronic unemployment. In fact, it isn't uncommon to discover that they have never held a traditional job, or that they lack a strong and stable support system. STAR by virtue of necessity, has become the centrifugal point by which their reintegration into society and recovery revolve. STAR provides a critical link to outside supports and services, including substance abuse treatment, mental health services, health care, and employment training.

The STAR team is comprised of members of each element of the criminal justice system. An institutional structure that has always been viewed by our participants as working against them. Therefore, it isn't surprising that there are trust issues, suspicion about the team, the program, and its mission. It takes months of patience and persistence during which we teach our participants how to succeed, how to navigate and cope with problems while sober, encourage them to challenge themselves show compassion, offer guidance and mentoring throughout the program. In many cases, STAR team members are the first example of a person who has ever shown faith in their ability to succeed and be a productive member of society. STAR program participants have repeatedly said that the team members are, "the only ones to have faith in me and believe in me, when I didn't believe in myself." Participation in STAR almost certainly represents the first time they have had federal prosecutors and bench officers advocate on their behalf or make themselves available to them seven days a week. Obviously, it takes a tremendous amount of trust for our participants to reach that degree of reliance and connection with the STAR team.

In 2016, we graduated nine participants in two formal ceremonies. Three of those graduates are currently enrolled in college. Not surprisingly, many who enroll in school have a declared goal of becoming drug counselors. STAR team members include prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers and drug counselors. It is the drug counselors on the team who have the greatest credibility with our participants. Only they have actually travelled the same roads as our participants. Only they-our drug counselors have suffered with addiction, experienced the horrors of separation, isolation and danger in our nation's prisons. Only they, among the team members, have faced the discrimination of potential employers who were reluctant to take a chance on a drug addicted ex-felon. They have shown that while the odds are certainly stacked against them and those like them, those odds can be beat. They are of incalculable value to our mission.

2016 was also the year we added the Midnight Mission as a permanent part of our program. On the last Thursday of each month we serve lunch to the homeless at the Midnight Mission. The experience has had a profound impact on our participants, in ways we could not have imagined.

Give me 90 days, and we'll change your life. That is the admonition that I give to all prospective STAR participants. I know that if I can challenge these folks to do it "our way" for 90 days, they'll see the results. They will begin to transform their lives and rebuild relationships with their families and friends.

*Judge Wright*

### STAR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of STAR is to increase community safety by providing a Court team approach that provides accountability, treatment, recovery services and other resources to individuals on federal supervision and to assist them in changing their behaviors so that they live sober, law-abiding and productive lives.

# RESULTS THAT CHANGE LIVES

## STAR EXPANDS TO RIVERSIDE

STAR is pleased to announce the expansion of the program to Riverside (Eastern Division). The launch is set for February 22, 2017. Magistrate Judges Hon. Kenly Kiya Kato and Hon. Sheri Pym will oversee the program in collaboration U.S. District Judge Hon. Otis D. Wright, II. Please send your Riverside referrals to USPO Sherry Harrison at [Sherry.Harrison@cacp.uscourts.gov](mailto:Sherry.Harrison@cacp.uscourts.gov).

## STAR TEAM MEMBER UPDATES

The STAR team welcomed back Deputy Federal Public Defender, **Raul Ayala**. Mr. Ayala spent much of 2016 in Washington, D.C., on a temporary duty assignment. STAR also welcomed new team member Assistant U.S. Attorney, **Timothy J. Searight**. Mr. Searight is the USAO's STAR and CASA coordinator.

## STAR TEAM (LA) REFERRAL CONTACTS

Please send your STAR referrals to an LA team member listed below:

Kristie Rzonca, USPO  
[Kristie.Rzonca@cacp.uscourts.gov](mailto:Kristie.Rzonca@cacp.uscourts.gov)

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## IT'S HARD TO SAY GOODBYE

It is with a heavy heart that the STAR team says goodbye to original team member, Assistant U.S. Attorney, **Stephen G. Wolfe**. Mr. Wolfe is set to retire from the USAO in early 2017. His service and contribution to STAR is immeasurable.

Steve, you will be greatly missed!



Hon. Otis D. Wright, II and AUSA Steve Wolfe  
11/10/2016

## 2016 KEY STAR STATS

**3** Number of weekly self-help meetings attended by STAR participants.

**5** Average number of drug tests taken by STAR participants per month.

**9** Number of STAR graduates in 2016.

**20** Average number of active participants.

**32** Number of participant referrals in 2016.

**1,040** Total number of STAR court sessions attended by STAR participants in 2016.

**6,000** Number of meals served by STAR participants and team members at the Midnight Mission in 2016.

## STAR PROFILES



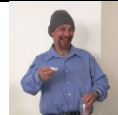
### KIRK LEWIS

- Mr. LEWIS CAME INTO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM IN 1993, FOLLOWING A BANK ROBBERY CONVICTION.
- WHILE ON SUPERVISED RELEASE, HE COMMITTED A SECOND ROBBERY AND TWO FRAUD CASES, AND SUSTAINED FEDERAL CONVICTIONS FOR EACH.
- HE COMMENCED STAR ON 3/4/2014 TO ADDRESS HIS CRIMINAL THINKING AND MARIJUANA DEPENDENCY.
- HE COMPLETED STAR ON 5/27/2015, AND WAS AWARDED THE DAVID CULOTTI AWARD IN 2016. THE CULOTTI AWARD IS GIVEN TO STAR GRADUATES WHO DEMONSTRATE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO STAR AND TO THEIR COMMUNITIES. MR. LEWIS IS ONLY THE THIRD RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD.
- CURRENTLY, MR. LEWIS IS A FULLTIME STUDENT AT LA FILM SCHOOL WORKING TOWARDS A B.S. IN ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS.
- HE HAS BEEN CLEAN AND SOBER FOR **3** YEARS.



### TRAVON MUSTIN

- Mr. MUSTIN CAME INTO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM IN 1999 FOR BANK ROBBERY.
- HE INCURRED TWO STATE CONVICTIONS, BOTH OF WHICH RESULTED IN FEDERAL REVOCATIONS, WHILE HE WAS ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION.
- Mr. MUSTIN CAME TO STAR ON 12/7/2015 TO ADDRESS HIS CRIMINAL THINKING AND MARIJUANA DEPENDENCY.
- HE COMPLETED STAR ON 11/10/2016.
- CURRENTLY, MR. MUSTIN IS A FULLTIME STUDENT AT EL CAMINO COLLEGE WORKING TOWARDS HIS ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN WELDING. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CARPENTERS UNION.
- HE WILL HAVE **5** YEARS CLEAN AND SOBER IN MARCH 2017.



### SOLOMON GOSLIN

- AFTER A LONG CUSTODY HISTORY IN THE STATE SYSTEM FOR NARCOTICS SALES, THEFT AND ADDICT-RELATED OFFENSES, MR. GOSLIN CAME TO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM IN 2011 FOR BANK ROBBERY.
- HE HAS SINCE INCURRED ONE REVOCATION BECAUSE OF HIS ADDICTION TO HEROIN.
- Mr. GOSLIN CAME TO STAR ON 3/24/2016 TO ADDRESS HIS CRIMINAL THINKING AND HEROIN ADDICTION.
- HE IS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN STAR AND HOPES TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM IN THE SPRING OF 2017.
- Mr. GOSLIN IS A FULLTIME STUDENT AT LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE MAJORING IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY. HE PLANS TO TRANSFER TO CAL STATE LONG BEACH IN 2017.
- HE CELEBRATED **1** YEAR CLEAN AND SOBER ON JANUARY 21, 2017.