



2018-028 Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."*

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Inmates STRIDE Toward Success

Flagler County Sheriff Rick Staly spoke this morning on the progress of the STRIDE (Skills, Transitional Support, Respect, Integrity, Direction, and Employment) initiative that began in 2017 under the leadership of the Offender Rehabilitation & Inmate Services Director Becky Quintieri at the Flagler County Detention Facility. STRIDE includes a multitude of programs for inmates booked or sentenced to the county jail. The goal of STRIDE is to rehabilitate offenders and turn them into productive members of society by giving them the tools to be successful once released from jail.

During STRIDE orientation meetings, personnel meet with the inmates and discuss what their personal goals are and what barriers they are facing. The inmates each receive a "STRIDE to Success" booklet that helps them create a plan for success once they are released. STRIDE in partnership with the Sheltering Tree helps inmates apply for Social Security cards and obtain copies of their birth certificates while they are in jail so that they will have an easier time applying for jobs when they are released. STRIDE also offers inmates courses to obtain their General Education Development (G.E.D.) diploma from the Flagler Technical Institute with assistance from the Volusia Literacy Council and the Social Justice Committee at Santa Maria Del Mar Catholic Church.



Photos from a STRIDE orientation meeting at the Flagler County Detention Center.

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In addition to G.E.D. courses, STRIDE also offers Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and Christian-based Anger Management classes for inmates to attend. These classes teach inmates to deal with stressors and coaches them on how to overcome addictions.

Non-denominational ministry services are offered at least weekly for inmates. A faith-based recovery program is offered by Open Door Ministries in the jail to both men and women and after release to help rehabilitate male offenders. The county jail also works with the Family Life Center to offer domestic violence counseling each month to female inmates.

As a result of Sheriff Staly's Domestic Violence Task Force, an 8-week program is being added to STRIDE titled "Choices and Changes" beginning March 19<sup>th</sup>. STRIDE also provides men and women the opportunity to take parenting classes while in jail and also after they are released to satisfy court-ordered requirements.



The STRIDE public meeting on Monday at the Flagler County Detention Administrative Building.

"I can't say enough about the efforts that have been made by Director Quintieri and our jail personnel along with our committed community partners who have worked with us to make my vision of STRIDE possible," Sheriff Staly said. "Crime is not an uncommon problem for any community. However, what is uncommon is having a community whose leaders and volunteers come together and try to tackle crime to make real change. Not only in the lives of law-abiding citizens by locking up criminals, but by trying to reform them while they are serving out their sentences."

The Flagler County Detention Facility hopes STRIDE can offer even more programs for Flagler County's inmates in the future to ensure that they leave the jail with the tools and skills needed to become productive members of society and not return to the Green Roof Inn.

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