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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of New Washington County Drug Court Program Facility

ABINGDON, VA (September 14, 2022) – Highlands Community Services (HCS) is proud to celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Washington County Drug Court program facility on Thursday, October 13, 2022, with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony from 10 a.m. – Noon. The Ribbon cutting ceremony will be hosted by the Washington County Chamber of Commerce.

The facility, located at 614 Campus Drive in Abingdon, is a generous partnership between HCS and Ballad Health who owns the building. The Highlands Community Services staff housed at the location consists of a Project Director, Enrollment Coordinator, Compliance Monitor and Driver.

A collaborative project of HCS with Washington County's Circuit Court, Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff's Office, Defense Bar, and Adult Probation and Parole, the program celebrates the 10th anniversary of its first graduate on September 7, 2012. The goal is to help troubled individuals discover truth, honesty and accountability in their own lives and ultimately break free of the addictions and behaviors that have resulted in their involvement in the criminal justice system and in a reduced overall quality of life.

The court is a four-phase program (18 to 24 months) for high-risk criminal offenders who are experiencing drug and/or alcohol dependence problems. The program requires frequent court appearances, random drug and alcohol screenings, individualized substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and intensive supervision including curfews.

"The data showing successful outcomes and the positive impact on the lives of Drug Court Program participants and their families is clear," says Rebecca Holmes, Executive Director of Highlands Community Services. "However, without the commitment and support of all partnering agencies, the program could not exist and would not have the opportunity to make the positive difference in our community that we see today. We not only celebrate the ten-year anniversary of our first program graduate, we celebrate over a decade of collaborative partnerships that have truly made a difference in our community."

Highlands Community Services is a multi-faceted Virginia Community Service Board providing mental health, substance use and developmental services to the residents of Washington County and the City of Bristol, Virginia. Serving thousands of individuals each year, their goal is to provide a full continuum of care and to increase access to innovative mental health services by "improving lives and discovering possibilities." To learn more, please call 276.525.1550 or visit HighlandsCSB.org.

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