



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

**NATIONAL DRUG COURT MONTH**

WHEREAS, drug courts provide the focus and leadership for communitywide, anti-drug systems, bringing together criminal justice, treatment, education, and other community partners in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, drug courts combine intensive judicial supervision, mandatory substance abuse treatment and drug-testing with escalating sanctions and incentives in order to break the cycle of drug addiction and concomitant crime and turn defendants into productive, law-abiding members of our society; and

WHEREAS, drug courts not only reclaim lives lost to drug addiction and criminality but save the State of Florida substantial taxpayer dollars by reducing the number of incarcerated defendants; and

WHEREAS, the judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and corrections personnel, researchers and educators, national and community leaders, and others dedicated to the drug-court movement have had a profound impact through hard work and commitment to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the first drug court was established in Miami, Florida in 1989 and has served as a model for 106 drug courts currently in operation and another 7 planned in Florida and more than 1,000 drug courts currently in operation or being planned throughout the nation and world; and

WHEREAS, *National Drug Court Month* recognizes practitioners and participants who make drug courts work and the significant contributions drug courts have made, and continue to make, in reducing drug usage and crime in Florida and throughout the nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 2007 as *National Drug Court Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year two thousand seven.

  
Chief Justice, State of Florida

  
Governor