***Harris County Drug***

***Treatment Court
District Courts – Criminal Division***

***Harris County, Texas***

**1201 Franklin, 14th Floor**

**Houston, Texas 77002**

**Tel. No. (713) 755-4610**

**Fax No. (713) 398-3941**

***Judge Mike Anderson***

***Judge Caprice Cosper***

***Judge Vanessa Velasquez***

***Judge J. Michael Wilkinson***

***Mary Covington***

 **Special Programs Manager**

***Laura McCarty***

 **Program Manager**

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News Release

Contact: Mary Covington

713-755-4610

**Luncheon Today to Honor STAR Drug Court with Grant, Award**

Houston, Tx – The STAR Drug Court program today (Thursday) will receive the Houston Rotary Club’s Public Service Award and a $30,000 grant from the Harris County Drug Court Foundation to help in freeing more defendants from the cycle of addiction and incarceration.

 Program officials will receive the honors at a noon Rotary Club luncheon. It will be held at the Junior League of Houston, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane.

The featured speaker will be Harris County District Attorney Patricia Lykos.

 STAR – Success Through Addiction Recovery – serves as an alternative diversion program for qualified, non-violent repeat offenders who want to end their drug dependency.

 To reach that goal, participants undertake an intense regimen of counseling, therapy, court supervision, life skills training and related assistance.

 The $30,000 grant will help fund motivational incentives and provide for basics such as transitional housing, dental and vision care and transportation.

 Thursday’s event follows the latest graduation ceremonies for 14 participants on Tuesday. They received standing ovations from the overflow crowd gathered at the Harris County Criminal Justice Center Ceremonial Courtroom.

 STAR, which began with two clients in 2003, now has 140 active participants. Almost 200 others have successfully completed the program.

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