

**Substance Abuse Coalition Seeks End-of Year Donations**  
*Coalition Highlights Need to Help Drug Court Participants*

**WINCHESTER** – As 2016 comes to an end, many people will be making charitable donations. Leaders with the Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition (NSVSAC) want to remind residents that the organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax deductible.

This year, 160 people in our area have suffered from overdoses, including 27 cases that resulted in death. Drug overdoses don't just impact the people who use narcotics; they impact family members, friends, co-workers, pastors, and our whole community.

Since launching in August, nine people – hoping to change their lives and end their fight with addiction - have enrolled in the Northwest Regional Adult Drug Treatment Court. Coalition leaders have noticed that members often leave incarceration without adequate clothing, food or lodging. Without these basic necessities, it's difficult for them to focus on treatment and recovery.

The nonprofit hopes community members will come forward this holiday season and provide donations so the NSVSAC can better support members during the first several months of recovery, until they can get on their feet.

“The community has been incredibly supportive of the creation of the Drug Treatment Court,” said Lauren Cummings, Executive Director. “This is an opportunity to support the individuals who are working hard to change their lives and be productive members of our community,” she said.

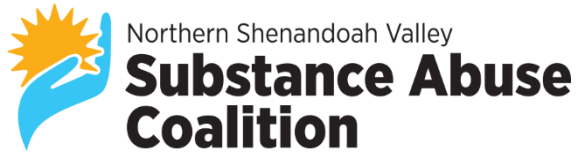
A gift to the Substance Abuse Coalition would help ensure the participants have their basic needs covered so they can focus on what matters most – overcoming their addiction.

Cash or checks can be mailed to:  
Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition  
301 North Cameron St., Suite 202  
Winchester, VA 22601

**About the Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition**

*The Northern Shenandoah Valley Substance Abuse Coalition (NSVSAC) is a coalition of law enforcement, health care, substance abuse treatment and youth advocacy organizations and families impacted by substance abuse and addiction in the Winchester region. The group formed in May 2014 following a community heroin summit in Winchester convened by the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force.*

The NSVSAC operates the Northwest Regional Adult Drug Treatment Court, a program which serves as a treatment-based alternative to jail. The team consists of judges, prosecutors,



301 North Cameron Street  
Winchester, Virginia 22601  
(540) 536-5000  
[www.roadtorecovery.info](http://www.roadtorecovery.info)

defense counsel, a substance-abuse treatment specialist, probation officers, law enforcement, and the drug court coordinator.

The NSVSAC works closely with local law enforcement, drug task force agents, and members of the local recovery community to increase awareness about the stigmas and provide resources to help people overcome the disease of addiction.

Some of this year's highlights include:

- The Addicted to Hope Rally, held on September 17th, drew hundreds of supporters to help the community overcome the stigma of addiction.
- In October, the NSVSAC partnered with Shenandoah University and Concern Hotline for a week-long addiction call center to help connect people and their loved ones with treatment providers.
- Community forums on heroin and addiction.
- Series of Public Service Announcements, in partnership with local Rotary Clubs.