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**NEWS RELEASE**

**MARCH 29, 2012**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Discovery Project gives voice to drug court participants' struggles and achievements.**

**DECATUR** – The DeKalb County Drug Court and artist Trace Taylor will introduce *The Discovery Project* this Friday from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Starbucks in downtown Decatur. Trace Taylor photographer and Criminal Justice student at the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University will be on site to showcase his work. *The Discovery Project* presents images and audio from drug court participants speaking about different concepts related to addiction.

In the United States 23.5 million persons aged 12 or older are in need of treatment for an illicit drug or alcohol abuse problem. *The Discovery Project* hopes to help people understand what addiction and recovery are in an effort to breakdown the stigmas that surround the disease. It is also an introduction for many to drug courts and highlights participants' recovery process.

Five addiction and recovery themes are explored through the photography, including “*unmanageability, surrender, relapse, accountability, and purpose.*” The accompanying audio portion provides intimate, often gripping testimonies from drug court participants, as they reflect on the themes. In the case of “unmanageability” the photograph depicts the conceptual reality of unmanageability by showing a man, an actual participant, attempting to maintain his grip on an impossible number of cardboard boxes. Collectively, the piece represents how the disease takes-over and consumes a person’s life.



The DeKalb County Drug Court (DCDC) is a program within the Superior Court. It is a two-year judicially-supervised drug treatment/alternative sentencing program. The program serves non-violent, felony-level offenders whose criminal behavior is driven by drug addiction. The DCDC is regarded as a model program by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) for its innovative services, use of evidence-based treatment practices, and outcomes. The presiding judges are the Honorable Cynthia J. Becker and the Honorable Robert J. Castellani (retired).

The exhibit will run March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Starbucks, 133 East Court Square Decatur, and GA 30030. From there it will travel to several Drug Court conferences, the Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, and will be part of the DeKalb County Drug Court's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration later this year.

For more information on "The Discovery Project" visit artist Trace Taylor's website at [www.tracetaylor.com](http://www.tracetaylor.com).

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