



# THE HOPE DEALER

Newsletter of the Faith-Based Initiative

By Sarah Mays and Jennifer Street

## A Look at the 2023 Tennessee Day of Hope

This year's Day of Hope was a huge success and we wanted to share some of the special moments from the day and weekend with everyone!



## Faith-Based Initiative Goals:

- Connect individuals struggling with mental health issues and/or substance use to treatment.
- Facilitate understanding of what treatment and recovery are.
- Increase knowledge of what mental health issues and substance use are.
- Spread awareness of the Faith-Based Initiative certification and its requirements.
- Understand the continuum of care and collaborate with it.
- Help groups understand and implement the best practice model.
- Promote and improve effectiveness of the faith-based initiative and how it connects the community with recovery and support services.

## Coordinator Q&A

Thanks to Lydia Price, Region 5N Lifeline Coordinator for answering this month’s questions!

### Questions:

What is the most rewarding part of your recovery? What is the most rewarding part of your work as a Lifeline Coordinator?

### Answers:

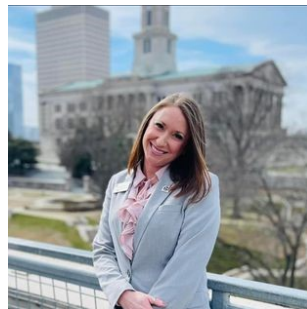
“The most rewarding part of my recovery is having my family back and finding my recovery family. Everyone works together in recovery for the greater good and I love it”

“The most rewarding part of my work is seeing and hearing the change in people. I love seeing people discover who they really are. I love it when I get those messages that they have 90 days clean, they are getting more visits with their children, and that they didn’t use today. That is what I love to do—see the change!”



## Coordinator Spotlight

Lydia Price, CPRS  
Region 5N  
Lifeline Coordinator



Lydia serves as the Lifeline Coordinator for Region 5 North and covers 13 counties. In this position, Lydia works to break stigma associated with behavioral health and to provide individuals with resources and access to recovery support services. She works closely with prevention coalitions, health councils, and the judicial system to make sure everyone has the opportunity to find recovery. Lydia is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, a certified Question Persuade Refer (QPR) trainer, and a certified Building Strong Brains (ACES) trainer. Lydia is a person in long-term recovery from co-occurring disorders and is passionate about helping others. She shares her experience, strength, and hope with the goal of fostering resilience within those who may be struggling.

Fun Fact: Lydia did gymnastics in high school, was a Vet Tech for 7 years, and loves music! She also collects fountain pens!

Monty Burks, Ph.D., CPRS  
Director of Faith Based Initiatives  
monty.burks@tn.gov

Jaime Harper, MS, NCC, CPRS  
Assistant Director of Faith Based Initiatives  
james.a.harper@tn.gov

## Upcoming Events

### West Tennessee

- Re-Entry Simulation Hosted by the American Job Center, April 5th from 2p-4p, 1124 Whitehall Street, St 100, Jackson, TN –Register on Eventbrite
- Shelby County ATOD Summit, April 21st, 2023 Contact Lincoln Coffman for details

### Middle Tennessee

- April 8th– Recovery Concert, Rare of Breed, 5p-9p, Crossroads Fellowship Church
- TN Certified Recovery Congregation Information Meeting—Drug Free Dickson—April 20th, Dickson YMCA 6pm—Will Taylor is Speaking
- Hope, Change, Heal—June 7th 2023, 8a-5p, South Central Human Resource Agency, Fayetteville, TN—Will Taylor is speaking

### East Tennessee

- Expungement Clinic—Friday March 31st, 8:30am-4:30pm, 401 W Main Street, Mountain City, TN 37683—For more information: <https://www.tn.gov/expunction/>
- April 15th—DEA Drug Take Back Day 10a-2p, Fountain City Food City

