



PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FCSO NEW BEGINNINGS GRADUATION – THE DOOR PROGRAM

Atlanta, GA – In partnership with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office New Beginnings Initiative, 13 men consisting of nine current residents and four former residents of the Fulton County Jail were honored for completing STAND, Inc.'s signature 12-week program, The "DOOR," DeKalb Open Opportunities for Recovery. STAND, Inc. is a respected leader in behavioral health and reentry services, equipping justice-involved individuals with tools to overcome addiction, address mental health needs, and reenter society with a plan and a purpose. The Sheriff's Office extends a special thank you to the program coordinator, Ms. Susan Maxwell.

The ceremony featured keynote speaker Chef Darrin Ward, a celebrated chef and founder of *Invite a Chef to Dinner*. After overcoming his own battle with substance use, Ward has maintained 25 years of long-term recovery and now uses his culinary gifts to inspire and empower. "Today's situation does not have to define your future," Ward shared. "If you do the work and seek the support, it will get better."

One graduate, speaking on behalf of the class, shared, "This is the first time in my life I graduated from anything and it really lets me know what is possible to achieve. This program taught me so much and means so much to me." His remarks captured the emotional weight and personal significance of the journey each participant has taken.

"We are incredibly proud of these residents," said Fulton County Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat. "Today is a reminder that every person has the capacity to change, to heal, and to grow. These graduates are proof that when you provide the right support system, lives can be redirected."

To commemorate the occasion, each graduate received a certificate of completion, a hospitality package filled with personal care items and daily essentials, and a special meal prepared with love by Chef Ward.

ABOUT STAND, INC.: Founded in 1999, STAND, Inc. works to reduce recidivism, promote recovery, and empower individuals through a range of behavioral health, reentry, and support services. STAND, Inc. partners with justice systems, communities, and treatment providers to offer practical and transformative solutions that restore lives and build safer, stronger communities.

ABOUT THE FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE: The mission of the Fulton County Sheriff's Office is Service; through laser-focused efforts to protect the citizens of Fulton County with coordinated law enforcement operations, special strategic teams, and community outreach methods. The Sheriff's Office is constitutionally responsible for the security of all courtrooms, executing arrest warrants, and serving civil papers. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is responsible for the administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail.