



PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 25, 2026

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Fulton County Jail New Beginnings Program Graduation

ATLANTA, GA – In partnership with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office New Beginnings Initiative, 15 Fulton County Jail residents 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 Michael Strozier, a substance abuse survivor who experienced repeat incarceration before finding lasting recovery. Now 17 years clean, he has rebuilt his life with purpose and hope. Michael is a newly Certified Addiction Recovery Specialist, committed to helping others break cycles of addiction and rediscover their worth, freedom, and future. Secondary speaker, Nelson Ammons discussed his 30+ year sobriety, and involvement in the program.

One resident graduate, speaking on behalf of the class shared, "We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this program which has given us a safe space to explore the 12 steps of sobriety, learn from shared experiences, and foster bonds of brotherhood." His remarks captured the meaningful journey each participant has taken.

"We are incredibly proud of these residents and the incredible partnership with STAND, our chaplains, program coordinators and staff," said Fulton County Sheriff Patrick "Pat" Labat. "This program creates opportunities to make a difference in the lives of residents we serve. 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.

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