



FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PATRICK "PAT" LABAT
FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF

185 CENTRAL AVENUE, S. W. 9TH FLOOR
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303
(404) 612-5100

WWW.FCSOGA.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2026

Contact Information:

FCSO.Communications@fultoncountyga.gov

New Beginnings Graduation Highlights Rehabilitation and Hope

Atlanta, GA – In partnership with the Fulton County Sheriff's Office New Beginnings Initiative, 14 Fulton County Jail Female residents were honored for completing STAND, Inc.'s signature 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 ceremony featured keynote speaker Ms. Unique Dixon, a substance abuse survivor who experienced repeat incarceration before finding lasting recovery. Ms. Dixon is the creator of The Recovering H.O.T. Gyr!™ — Healing, Overcoming, and Thriving. With nearly a decade in long-term recovery, she uses both her lived experience and professional background to empower women navigating trauma, addiction, mental health challenges, and life transitions. After losing both of her parents to addiction, dropping out of school in the ninth grade, and experiencing her own struggles with incarceration, homelessness, addiction, and mental health, Unique made the decision in 2016 to change the trajectory of her life. Today, she holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Georgia State University and has dedicated her life to helping others heal, overcome, and thrive.

One resident graduate, speaking on behalf of the class shared, "This moment has so much meaning for us. For some, this is their first graduation. For others, it's a reminder that there is hope and there is a future that we can be proud of and that is so inspiring." Her heartfelt remarks captured the meaningful journey each participant has taken.

“This is truly what our facilities should be all about.” said Fulton County Sheriff Patrick “Pat” Labat. “Beautiful occasions such as this are the bright and hopeful reminder that we can inspire change within our facilities. I am thankful to our incredible staff and our partners who work diligently with these participants to motivate them towards a lasting recovery.”

###

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.