

# Breaking Great Times

A Publication of the TASTE<sup>®</sup> Program

“Crime has a harmful ripple effect on the community... Justice is about healing them.”



## TASTE Participants Show Strong Positive Growth

Psychological Restorative Solutions, P.C. is proud to announce that 97.5% of our TASTE program participants have desisted from crime. The TASTE program started as a program that was implemented by the Suffolk County's District Attorney, Thomas Spota, in October of 2012. Since that time, 300 participants have taken part in the TASTE program. Our staff has worked diligently to assist the participants in finding success. We have attended many court appearances where apology letters have been read. Support groups have been offered for those who have expressed their desire to continue with us. These services are of no additional cost to the participants. The participants have also joined us in attending pro-social activities such as the Salvation Army soup kitchen located in Riverhead and the Pit Bull Rescue in Bohemia.

Continued on the Reverse Side

### Recent Events

**Pit Bull Rescue** On May 25<sup>th</sup> several TASTE participants visited NY Bully Crew, a no-kill pit bull shelter. Participants cared for the dogs and played with them. We learned that many of these dogs were abused, and for this reason they have had difficulty finding owners.



**“We believe that with each crime committed comes with a teachable moment.”**

Desistance is a measure of how many participants have made a personal change and have not had further contact with the legal system. The TASTE team uses the term desistance rather than recidivism, because we choose to focus on positive human change rather than criminal labeling. We further feel that this labeling only leads to unintended consequences, and fails to reward the efforts of those that have succeeded. While recidivism measures the number of people who have not changed, desistance shows the number of people who have started the complex and difficult process of changing themselves.

We are proud of these numbers as they show the clear achievements of our participants, as well as their strong individual progression. We are confident that this rate will continue in the coming months and years, exemplifying the long-term improvements that the TASTE program has provided its participants. We hope that this strong level of desistance will lead to an increase in participants, allowing us to expand our healing of the community. We believe that with each crime committed comes with a teachable moment. It is our function to make sure that this opportunity does not become lost.



### **An Apology from the Heart**

“I know I cannot change what happened because the past is in the past, but what I can do is promise you that nothing like this is ever going to happen again. Over the last few months I have become stronger with each passing day, I finally accepted what happened and freed myself of anger and resentment towards the other people involved and I took responsibility for my actions and stopping blaming everyone else and I have accepted the consequences for my actions.



## **TASTE is not just for Kids**

We have noticed that having adults participate in the TASTE program has been mutually beneficial. Both teaching the younger participants about their own life mistakes, as well as helping the older participants realize the value of being a role model. All age groups have enjoyed participating in the group. Of our 300 participants to date, not a single one has expressed regret in attending the TASTE program.

-Dr. Goldman