



# COMMON GROUND

FALL 2023 ISSUE

## RICHARD P. PACITTI RE-ENTRY & TRANSITIONAL CENTER



# SCSD OPENS RICHARD P. PACITTI RE-ENTRY & TRANSITIONAL CENTER



# SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

FALL 2023

## Greetings,

As many of our readers already know, the primary mandate of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is to provide for the safe care and custody of individuals remanded to our facilities by the courts. However, in my time as the Sheriff of Suffolk County, I have endeavored to expand the meaning and scope of what it is to be a public service agency in the context of that mandate.

While a great deal of what we do in service of those efforts occurs within our facilities – the Suffolk County House of Correction, the Suffolk County Jail and the Correction Officer Training Academy – there is much that we do externally to provide the kinds of services and programming that can help to increase public health and safety within the neighborhoods of our shared community.

To illustrate just some of these efforts undertaken during the months of October and November, we highlight our recent partnership with the United States Department of Health and Human Services to hold the public forum, "Public Safety Through Public Health"; we showcase the collaboration between our Department and several organizations for the benefit of survivors of domestic violence; we celebrate our staff members in corrections for our community outreach and partnerships with stories about our work with the Boston Area Church League and the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association's inaugural Law Enforcement & Corrections Award Ceremony; in addition to other items of interest.

I hope that you'll enjoy reading these and other stories in this issue, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

-Steven W. Tompkins



## COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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## SCSD HOSTS HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FORUM

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined with the Department of Health and Human Services to host a forum titled, "Public Safety Through Public Health."



## DEPARTMENT DONATES PRODUCE TO SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The SCSD collaborated with multiple agencies to provide food supplies for survivors of domestic violence.



## RED SOX, BACL AWARD SCSD OFFICERS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sergeant Stacey Wood and Deputy Tom Maguire were presented with community service awards by the Boston Red Sox Foundation and the Boston Area Church League.



## SCSD EMPLOYEES AMONG HONOREES FOR MSA'S INAUGURAL AWARDS EVENT

Several members of the Department received honors at the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association's First-Annual awards ceremony.

# SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT LAUNCH REENTRY & TRANSITIONAL CENTER



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening for the new Richard P. Pacitti Re-entry and Transitional Center (RPRTC) at the Suffolk County House of Correction.

Named for the late former Deputy Director of External Affairs and Communications, the Pacitti Re-Entry Center was created with the purpose of providing critically needed re-entry, behavioral health, and employment services and diversionary programming to our returning citizens, both men and women, through a collaboration of community partners, private sector businesses and companies, and local area stakeholders. It offers complete wraparound re-entry and program services to the returning citizen population of the Boston

area, offering intake services, assessment and Re-Entry referrals to pre-release and post-release returning citizens in order to transition them into a position of self-sufficiency and independence in our community.

The RPRTC offers support and instruction through informational seminars, classes, community panels, workshops, and access to computers to facilitate job searches, as well as state-of-the-art virtual communication equipment and technology to better facilitate connecting participants to community resources. The Center primarily focuses on employment and healthcare for returning citizens and their families, and, in addition to providing a comprehensive employment readiness program during their incarceration, participants also receive pre- and post-release case management to assist with their career goals, health care services, and personal goals post-release.

Before a crowd that included several members of the Pacitti Family, State Representatives Christopher Worrell and John Moran, representatives for other elected officials, President of the New England Patriots Foundation Josh Kraft, several of the Department's community partners, and Department staff, Sheriff Tompkins spoke about the man for whom the center was named.

"As almost everyone here today knows, Richard P. Pacitti served as the Deputy Director of External Affairs and Communications until his untimely passing in January of 2006," Sheriff Tompkins began. "If you knew Richie, you loved Richie, and he was known and loved by so many, many people."

"But, As well-known as Richie was for his exemplary work here at the Department, he cut an even larger figure outside of it in his efforts to help make not only his own neighborhood better, but to improve the neighborhoods across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as both a community activist and a powerhouse behind-the-scenes of local politics. I am so very, completely and overwhelmingly overjoyed that Richie's family could be here for this event so that we could all, once again, remember the man that Richie was and so that we could express our gratitude as an organization to the family for sharing him with us even for the short time that we had him."





# SCSD TEAMS-UP WITH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR PUBLIC FORUM

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently held a forum in conjunction with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, with participation by a diverse array of community partners, service providers and public safety agencies.

Held on the campus of Roxbury Community College, the panel discussion focused on enhancing collaborations between public safety and public health organizations, and community partners in the delivery of care and services for those impacted by mental health and substance use disorders.

Panelists for the event included Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, Region 1 Director of New England for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Everett Handford; Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh; Chief of the Jails Division at the National Institute of Corrections within the U.S. Department of Justice Stephen Amos; and Executive Director of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association Carrie Hill.



Topics included current best practice strategies, local & national initiatives, and emerging trends with the goal of creating an ongoing partnership dialogue focused on linking criminal justice-involved individuals with critically needed services and a continuum of care.

Speaking about the assembly of more than one hundred participants, Sheriff Tompkins reiterated his appreciation for the people present, representing a wide variety of agencies and organizations.

“As many in this room are intimately aware from your own involvement in similar efforts here in Massachusetts and across the nation, this critically important work of rehabilitation and recovery is often as challenging as it is rewarding,” said Sheriff Tompkins.

“No single agency can do it alone, and we are thankful for the many important relationships that we have cultivated through the years with you – our community partners, private sector businesses and companies, and local area stakeholders – who have helped us to deliver greatly-needed re-entry, behavioral health, and employment services and diversionary programming to our returning citizens. We thank you for taking the time out to be here today, and we very enthusiastically look forward to continuing our work together.”



# SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CREATES COMMUNITY COLLABORATION TO AID SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, one local restaurant and three community organizations came together for a project created to help feed survivors of domestic violence.



Spearheaded by the Department's Senior Policy Analyst for Women and Senior Programs Marie Turley, the collaboration included Project Paulie (We Feed Each Other), an organization that works to help feed people in need; restaurant Chickadee, which is located in the Boston Design Center; and the recipient organization Casa Myrna, Boston's largest provider of domestic violence awareness efforts and of shelter and supportive services to survivors.

In conjunction with the New Garden Society – a community partner that has trained over 600 incarcerated and detained students in the art and science of plants – the men and women participating in the Sheriff's Department's Urban Farm Program raised crops that yielded the tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cucumbers, and variety of spices that were donated and delivered to Chickadee by members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

"We are so happy to be able to offer this produce that the women and men who are incarcerated helped to grow as part of the Department's Urban Farming Program," said Marie Turley. "And, we're especially proud that it's going to become food for victims of domestic violence. Partnerships like the ones that we have with Casa Myrna, Project Paulie, Chickadee and the New Garden Society are so important to us."

According to Chef and Chickadee Owner John DaSilva, this collaboration is a welcome continuation of relationships that were forged in the spirit of giving from previous events.

"We love being involved with Casa Myrna," said Chef DaSilva. "We've done some things in the past with them. Last Thanksgiving, we put together turkey, some vegetables, and some pantry items for the organization. We became involved this time around through Nicky Bandera of Project Paulie (We Feed Each Other) who herself was connected to the Sheriff's Department and she let us know that they were growing produce and had extra to donate. Nicky connected the dots with everyone."

As a member of the organization that will be receiving the finished products created through this effort, Director of Development & Communications for Casa Myrna Marc Davino expressed appreciation for both the collaboration and the donation.

"Marie has been a big supporter of our work here at Casa Myrna," said Marc Davino. "As you know, we work with survivors of domestic violence, including the work that we do with our shelters. We have a great relationship with John, and we learned through Marie that women who are incarcerated at the Department work on a program that teaches urban farming. The concept was to ask John to take the donation of this produce and make some things that we can bring to our shelters for our residents. This has been a wonderful partnership with all of these organizations and we're very, very grateful for it."

With respect to the products that will be created for consumption by the people in those shelters, Chef DaSilva said, "We're going to make some tomato sauce, pickles, pesto and some other sauces and then jar a bunch of this to pass it onto Casa Myrna to help give them the food, support, and care that they need."

For more information about the organizations that contributed to this collaboration, visit Project Paulie at: [www.projectpaulie.com/about](http://www.projectpaulie.com/about); Casa Myrna at: [www.casamyrna.org](http://www.casamyrna.org); Chickadee restaurant at: [www.chickadeerestaurant.com](http://www.chickadeerestaurant.com); and the New Garden Society at: [www.thenewgardensociety.org](http://www.thenewgardensociety.org).



# SCSD CUSTODY STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP BY BOSTON AREA CHURCH LEAGUE, RED SOX FOUNDATION



Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department were presented with special recognition for their efforts in community service by the Boston Red Sox Foundation and the Boston Area Church League at the 21st Annual Community Fellowship Luncheon.

Sergeant Stacey Wood and Deputy Thomas Maguire were each presented with awards during the ceremony, which placed them in good company alongside Ted Williams Home Run for Humanity Award-winner and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox, in addition to several other community leaders and luminaries. Commissioner Cox was also the keynote speaker for the event, which was led by Frank Jordan, Special Advisor to the Boston Red Sox, and included presenters

Dr. Charles Steinberg, President of the Worcester Red Sox, Boston Police Superintendent Nora Bastion, and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's own Special Sheriff Abiezer Ayuso.

Founded in April of 2002, the Boston Area Church League (BACL) was designed to give Boston area faith-based, civic organizations and concerned citizens, the resources and opportunity to provide mentorship and leadership to youth at risk, through the disciplines of athletics, education, health and nutrition, life enrichment training and the arts. The BACL incorporates the traditions of fair play, competitive sportsmanship, leadership development, and good will. The organization's leaders demonstrate through their hard work and efforts, the promotion of self-esteem, self-pride and positive community involvement with the ultimate goal of reaching out to the young people of Boston and surrounding communities.

Along with several other deserving recipients, the list of honorees was headlined by former Massachusetts State Representative of the 9th Suffolk District Byron Rushing and former Boston City Councilor and Register of Probate Felix Arroyo, Sr. The event also showcased the 2004, 2007, 2013 and 2018 Red Sox Championship Trophies and a surprise visit from Wally the Green Monster.

For their roles as community service officers and their ongoing work with the Boston Area Church League, Sergeant Wood received the Jackie Robinson Community Leadership Award and Deputy Maguire received the Luis Tiant Courage and Leadership Award, with both joining the other honorees later that night on-field at Fenway Park, where they threw out the ceremonial first pitch for the Red Sox game against the Chicago White Sox.

In the accompanying Question and Answer segment, Sgt. Wood and Dep. Maguire reflect upon the honor of receiving such special recognition and about the work for which they were honored:

*What did it mean to you personally and professionally to receive this recognition from the Red Sox and BACL?*

**SERGEANT STACEY WOOD:** I was truly honored. Sometimes, unfortunately, we get so wrapped up in the day to day that we might not pause to think about or realize the impact (positive or negative) we have on others. I grew up going to Red Sox games with my dad, so it was definitely a proud moment. After receiving the award I couldn't help but think of how fortunate I am that my position within the Department gives me so many opportunities to connect and work with such great organizations with the same focus on empowering our youth. I also get to work alongside some outstanding officers.

**DEPUTY TOM MAGUIRE:** It was an honor to be recognized by the Red Sox and the Boston Area Church League for my community service. My job in External Affairs introduced me to the importance of working in the community. I am so fortunate to be mentored by Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso, who has been doing this for thirty years.



***What is your best memory of the work you've done with the BACL/Red Sox?***

**DEP. MAGUIRE:** My most memorable experience happened last year. Frank Jordan organized a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the children of the Boston Area Church League to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. My work schedule is technically weekends “off” but I attend events almost every weekend from May to October for several hours at a time, but am always home for dinner. This one was an all-day event on a Sunday. We met at the Back Bay Hilton at 6:00am and did not return until 10pm that night. I had to get up at 5:00am the next day, so, selfishly I wondered “why am I doing this on my day off?” But, seeing the joy and excitement on these kids’ faces made it worth it. They definitely experienced a thrill of a lifetime on that outing. Their enthusiasm was so contagious I forgot about the long ride to Cooperstown and getting up early the next day, and felt blessed to have been part of their experience.

**SGT. WOOD:** I remember a girl, about 6 or 7, who had never played before. It was clear that she was very shy and nervous. We worked together on the side going over the basic mechanics of throwing and catching. The excitement and light in her eyes the first time she caught the ball and threw it back is something that I will never forget. She yelled to the sidelines, “Mom!!! I did it!!! It worked!!!” We also went over batting. She was so determined and wouldn’t give up. I was so happy for her when she was able to connect with the ball. She did run to third instead of first, but I told her we would work on that next season and she laughed instead of being embarrassed.

***Why do you think it's important to be involved in the community?***

**SGT. WOOD:** “This is difficult to say, but I think that as a country we have seen some terrible tragedies that resulted in a lot of people in the community viewing those that wear a badge in a negative way – some, unfortunately, even harboring hatred or fear. Growing up, I was always taught that, “if you get lost, look for an officer,” and “if you need help, dial 911.” To think that there are people that can’t feel the comfort in that is another tragedy in itself. I believe it is important to be out in the community working on these relationships and being a positive presence.

**DEP. MAGUIRE:** I realize how important it is to establish trust in the community between law enforcement and the people of Boston. The goal of External Affairs and Communications is to be a good influence and project a positive image of law enforcement. I take this very seriously, always conscious of how I’m representing SCSD in the community.

***What was it like being out on the field throwing out the ceremonial first pitch(es) at Fenway Park?***

**DEP. MAGUIRE:** It was literally an awesome and nerve-racking experience; however, it’s one that I’ll remember the rest of my life. My wife and our three children were there to support me that night, and they were all so excited for me. I truly felt blessed; never did I think that I would be warming up at Fenway, spotlighted on the Jumbotron, throwing a strike down the middle. I’ve been playing catch and pretending to pitch at Fenway since my oldest was born about 25 years ago. It was a great feeling and I am so thankful that I had that opportunity.

**SGT. WOOD:** Nerve racking! Anyone who knows me knows I overthink and stress about how a situation could play out. I didn’t want to be that person on Youtube hitting Wally! In all seriousness though, it was surreal. I kept thinking, “I hope my dad is looking down and seeing it.”



# SCSD ANNOUNCES OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER



SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS &  
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## CONGRATULATIONS! TO THE OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

To recognize the exemplary performance of our custody staff, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department has instituted the Officer of the Month award. This award is granted to staff members who consistently demonstrate excellence, professionalism, and integrity while carrying out their duties.

Recognized for exemplifying this standard by their peers at the Suffolk County Jail for the months of October and November, respectively, were Officer Esteban Acosta and Officer Baldwin Ihenacho.

"Officer Esteban Acosta has shown an exceedingly positive attitude towards the population and his peers," said Suffolk County Jail Superintendent Michael Colwell. "He is consistently willing to share his Department knowledge with new officers to help them succeed in their careers and he excels in every assignment he is given. He is an asset to the Department and we are pleased to support his nomination."

"Officer Baldwin Ihenacho has consistently maintained an exceedingly positive and kind attitude throughout his time with the Department," Superintendent Colwell continued. "He is always willing to help where needed and assist fellow officers in any way. He is an asset to the Department and we are pleased to support his nomination"

The Officer of the Month Award is also given to recognize custody staff members who, when faced with situations that surpass the everyday challenges already inherent within the corrections profession, rise to the occasion and go above and beyond in the delivery of critically-needed care or services.

For the month of October, the following custody staff members at the House of Correction were awarded for their roles in assisting a detainee in distress: Officer Jonathan Corey, along with Captain Tony Lee; Lieutenant Michael Coakley; Sergeant Alison Crowley, Officer Eric Hester, and Officer Paul Ferringo.

"You activated an emergency medical response, assessed the detainee, and assisted him into the recovery position while awaiting the medical response," said House of Correction Superintendent William Sweeney, in a letter of commendation. "Once the detainee stopped breathing, you immediately activated Advanced Life Support and initiated chest compressions. Your quick action gave the detainee a chance. Although the detainee passed away after apparently suffering another medical episode at the hospital later that evening, your efforts were heroic."

"While serving as a first responder is a basic function of a correction officer's daily duties, situations like these reinforce the important role you serve in protecting the men and women confined to our custody," Superintendent Sweeney continued. "Your actions are a testament to your training and dedication to public service. You have honored the Department with your service, and you have distinguished yourself among your peers."

Officer of the Month was initiated to recognize and appreciate the diligence and commitment of our staff. The Command Staff and peers play a crucial role in the selection process, which involves nominations and evaluations. We encourage all of our employees to actively participate in the program by nominating their deserving colleagues.



# MASSACHUSETTS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION HONORS INDIVIDUALS AT INAUGURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONS AWARD CEREMONY



SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS &  
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## *Congratulations* **MSA AWARD WINNERS**



**CHRISTOPHER ELLIS**  
DEPUTY SHERIFF OF THE YEAR



**RACHELLE STEINBERG**  
JAIL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



**NEW ENGLAND CULINARY  
ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM**  
STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE YEAR



**MICHAEL COLWELL**  
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



**MICHAEL COLWELL**  
SHERIFF MICHAEL J. ASHE AWARD

**JONATHAN MANOLAKIS**  
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**INTERNAL PERIMETER SECURITY**  
INNOVATION OF THE YEAR

**DR. THOMAS LINCOLN**  
SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

**GINA WALTERS**  
CORRECTIONAL TRAINING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**SERGEANT JAMES RIDLEY**  
CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

**SUPPORTING TRANSITIONS &  
REENTRY PROGRAM**  
PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

**JOHN BIRTWELL**  
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) proudly celebrated the outstanding achievements and unwavering commitment of law enforcement and corrections professionals at its inaugural Law Enforcement & Corrections Award Ceremony on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. The event, held at The Great Hall in the Massachusetts State House, honored recipients in 12 award categories for their exceptional dedication and service.

The award ceremony highlighted stories of heroism, dedication, and innovation within the law enforcement and corrections communities.

"So much of our work as corrections and law enforcement professionals happens away from the public and out of the spotlight. I'm happy that we're taking a statewide look at these amazing individuals and their stories of bravery, as they save and change lives," said Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey was the esteemed guest speaker at the ceremony, offering words of praise and gratitude for the award recipients.

"The law enforcement and corrections professionals celebrated today go above and beyond each and every day to keep our communities safe and strong. It is a privilege to honor their courage and compassion, and on behalf of Massachusetts, we thank them for their dedicated service to our communities," said Massachusetts Governor Maura T. Healey.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association commends these exemplary professionals for their dedication, professionalism, and service. Their efforts continue to inspire positive change, improving outcomes for those individuals returning to our communities, and making Massachusetts a safer and more resilient state.

"I am so very proud of the individuals from our organization for the work that they do, day-in and day-out," said Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins. "The work, which is both incredibly important and, ultimately, vital to the safety and vibrancy of our communities is largely unsung, and this event gives us that rare moment to celebrate their efforts. I also want to congratulate everyone from every county who has received recognition, but I also want to thank all of the workers in the corrections profession for their work, their sacrifice and their professionalism."

Please see a list of the award recipients below:

**Deputy Sheriff of the Year:** Christopher Ellis (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

Deputy Christopher Ellis exemplifies dedication, contributing to the United States Marshal Service Fugitive Task Force and more specifically the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (HIDTA). His contributions have helped apprehend high-risk fugitives, ensuring the safety and well-being of the community through his proactive approach and quick thinking.

**Jail Administrator of the Year:** Assistant Superintendent Rachelle Steinberg (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

Assistant Superintendent Rachelle Steinberg is a dedicated public servant, pioneering treatment and reentry initiatives, emphasizing equality and inclusivity, and overseeing medical services, ensuring uninterrupted medical care for justice-involved individuals.

**Strategic Partner of the Year:** New England Culinary Arts Training Program (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

The New England Culinary Arts Training Program, in partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, offers a comprehensive culinary training program to chronically unemployed individuals, empowering them with culinary expertise and employment skills.

**Employee of the Year:** Superintendent Michael Colwell (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

Superintendent Michael Colwell embodies public service and correctional professionalism, reshaping substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health care for justice-involved individuals, setting a new standard for care in the industry. In addition to his role in Suffolk County, Michael is a crucial leader and advocate for all of our sheriff's offices.

**Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Award:** Superintendent Michael Colwell (Suffolk County Sheriff's Office)

This award recognizes individuals who embody innovation, compassion, and professionalism, leading the way within the field of law enforcement and corrections. Each year the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association will choose and honoree as the recipient of the Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr. Award. This year, this prestigious award was presented to Superintendent Michael Colwell an individual most deserving for his legacy of collaborative spirit, enlightened approach to justice, and leadership.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association supports, promotes, and advocates for each of the 14 Sheriff's Offices in the Commonwealth. The MSA facilitates cooperative and collaborative relationships among the Sheriffs for the purpose of developing standardized training, providing governance over shared projects, discussing operational best practices, and evaluating research and data on matters of mutual interest and concern. The MSA improves public safety by promoting a greater understanding of issues impacting the Massachusetts Sheriffs and by bringing together law enforcement and criminal justice professionals.



# SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT CELEBRATE SEVENTH CYCLE OF CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM WITH SEVEN GRADUATES



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Department celebrated the graduation of the seventh cycle of the New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT) Program.

On November 9, 2023, seven participants successfully completed the 12-week program. During the program's training cycle, the men received culinary arts training from NECAT Instructor Chef Chris Faison, along with their Serve-Safe certifications. The graduates also received career services training from Director of Career Services, Lisette Williams, who helped the men to prepare resumes and prepare for re-entry back to the workforce.

At the graduation ceremony, Chef Faison presented the men with their own chef's coats and hats. Sheriff Tompkins also invited family members and friends of the graduates to attend and celebrate their accomplishments. Under the guidance of Sheriff Tompkins' Richard P. Pacitti Re-Entry and Transitional Center staff, graduates are trained for a confident return back to society, with better opportunities to succeed.

Through a grant from Commonwealth Corporation, New England Culinary Arts Training formed a partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in 2021. The class is structured as a six-week lecture and a six-week hands on training for four days a week with each class being 3 ½ hours long. Just 2 ½ years later NECAT has graduated over 50 returning citizens.

NECAT provides chronically unemployed adults with a pathway to stable, long-term employment in the food services industry through comprehensive technical and job readiness training and individualized support and employment services.



SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS  
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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