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## Teens in drug court to show their photo talents

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Ten teens who participate in the county's juvenile drug court program were given disposable cameras and told to capture images of their hopes for America.

Their work will be unveiled tonight in the East Oakland Conference Room of the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford Township.

A reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the students' best photos will be unveiled at 6:15 p.m. Attendees will be able to bid on the photographs in a silent auction, with the proceeds going to the students.

Posters featuring all 10 images also will be for sale for \$20, with the money raised going to the RESTORE Foundation, a new nonprofit foundation that aims to raise funds for the adult and juvenile treatment courts.

The photographers, who range in age from 15 to 17, were chosen to participate in "My Hope for America: Reality, Hopes and Dreams" because they expressed an interest in art or photography. They worked with renowned photographer Linda Solomon.

Each teen is involved in the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court, also called "Options: The Power to Choose." The program helps young people struggling with substance abuse learn to make positive choices so they can stay on the right path.

Participants are referred by probation officers after having repeated run-ins with the court system for nonviolent offenses.

Teens take part in 12-step meetings and therapy sessions. They also meet regularly with Oakland Circuit Judge Edward Sosnick, who presides over the drug court.

Sosnick called the results of the photography project "amazing."

"This endeavor shows how talented our young people are when given a chance to express themselves," Sosnick said.

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