

Judge, FDTC members celebrate program's success

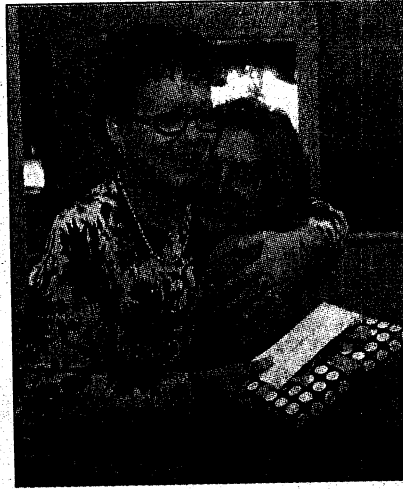
By Erin J. Murrin
Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

Last week, some familiar faces were spotted at a tea hosted by juvenile court of Cobb County Judge Juanita Stedman. But those familiar faces had an unfamiliar glow about them since last time we saw them when they were beginning a rollercoaster journey in family drug court.

The tea, held at the Stanley House in Marietta, was a Christmas celebration for women in Judge Stedman's nearly one-year-old Family Dependency Treatment Court collaborative effort by the Cobb Juvenile Court, the Cobb and Douglas Community Services Board and Department of Family and Children Services.

"Judge Stedman decided she wanted to do something very special for the women because we had this group with almost a flawless record in terms of perfect behavior and performance," said Gina Cogswell with the Cobb and Douglas County Community Services Board, which includes the residential treatment program, Mothers Making a Change.

FDTC is an unconventional type of court that focuses on helping women clean up their lives, stay off drugs and regain custody



of their children.

Since the Marietta Daily Journal published a story about FDTC in May, the program has swelled from six women participants to 14 and is one of the most successful programs under the CSB, according to executive director, Tod Citron.

Much like she does in court sessions, Judge Stedman presided over the tea with warm sentiments for the ladies and satisfaction in her voice.

Dressed in their finest, the women enjoyed an elegant tea service and light fare as gifts for their children were handed out. Judge Stedman also hosted a raffle



Staff photos by Todd R. McQueen

Above: Juvenile court of Cobb County Judge Juanita Stedman, far right, speaks with Family Dependency Treatment Court program members, from left, Aimee Holland, Meisa Bates, Tequila Doty and Christina Ramsey during a get together at The Stanley House. Left: Judge Stedman hugs program member Christina Ramsey after giving her a Christmas gift.

with gifts for the women.

"This is just a time for them to get together and do what my family gets to do and what Gina and her family have gotten to do over the holidays, that (these women) don't get to do," Judge Stedman said.

"... They really sustain each

other and we wanted this to focus on the women and their relationships with each other," Ms. Cogswell adds.

Judging by the smiles on the women's faces and the laughter erupting from the dining room of The Stanley House, holiday mission accomplished.

12-25-06

Senior Center (770) 975-7740
Senior Exercise 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free East Cobb

Center (770) 801-5320
Walk-in's (Walking class) free from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. West Cobb Senior Center

Woodcarvers Club, 1 p.m., West Cobb Senior Center, 4915 Dallas Highway, Powder Springs. (770) 528-8200

degree through the Community College of the Air Force.