

Alternative Sentencing Options that “Work”

Monday, September 10, 2018
*Males/Violence: Engaging Survivors,
Advocates & Change Agents*

- Presented By:

C.H. “Chuck” Slemple III

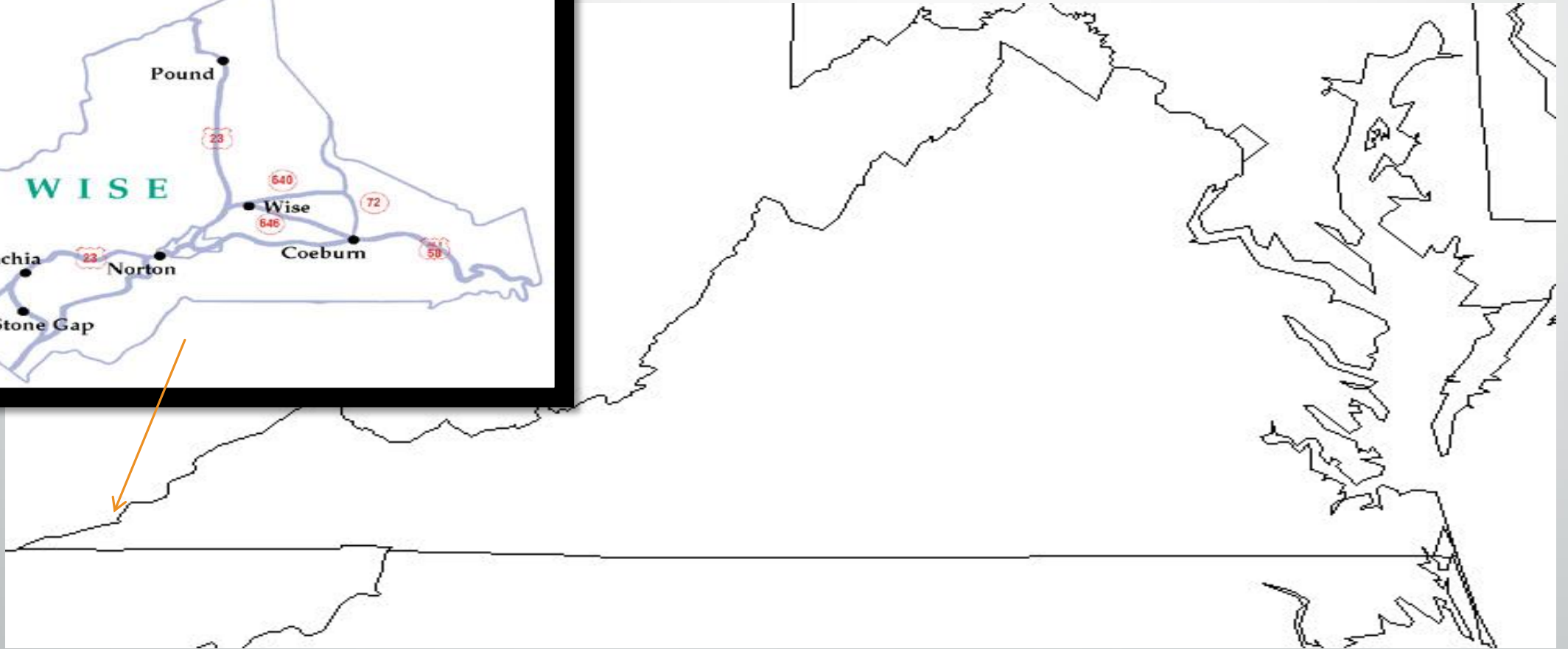
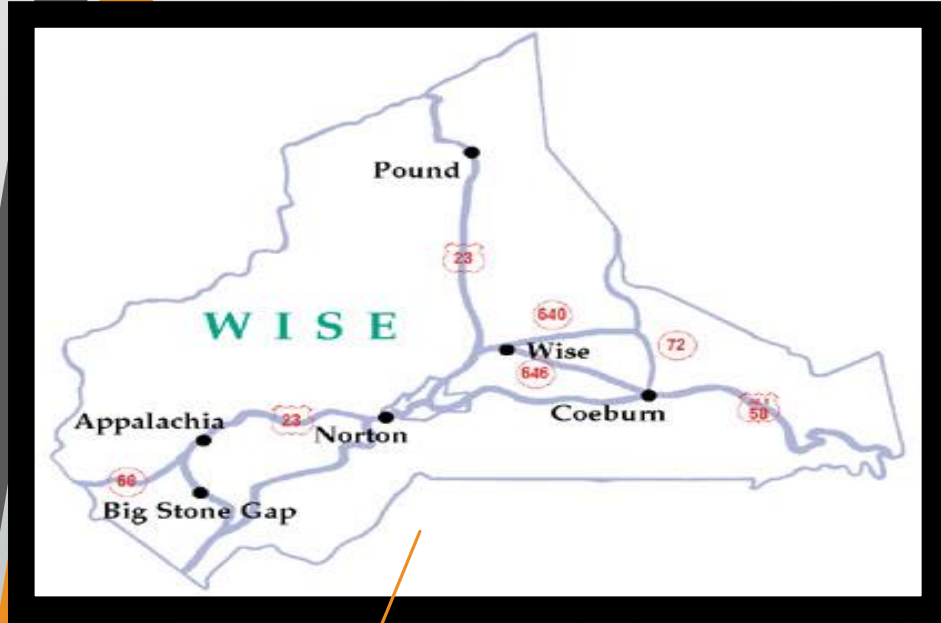
Commonwealth’s Attorney for Wise County & the City of Norton



Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney
Wise County & the City of Norton



Wise County / Norton City






Males and Violence:

Engaging Survivors, Advocates & Change Agents



- 
- One person can make a difference and everyone should try.

~ John F. Kennedy

Role of the Commonwealth's Attorney




STATUTORY DUTIES

“The attorney for the Commonwealth . . . shall be a part of the department of law enforcement of the county or city in which he is elected or appointed, and shall have the duties and powers imposed upon him by general law, including the duty of **prosecuting** all warrants, indictments or informations charging a felony, and he may in his discretion, prosecute Class 1, 2 and 3 misdemeanors, or any other violation, the conviction of which carries a penalty of confinement in jail, or a fine of \$500 or more, or both such confinement and fine. He shall enforce all forfeitures, and carry out all duties imposed upon him by § 2.2-3126.”

Virginia Code § 15.2-1627

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY DUTIES

- Enforce Conflict of Interest Act Violations
- Give Advisory Opinions on Conflict of Interest Act
- A myriad of other duties; such as
 - Prosecute violations of the seed potato law,
 - Prosecute violations of the Virginia Sheep Board law, and
 - Be notified if purse nets for taking menhaden have been seized.

- 
- Prosecution of crime
 - Advocacy for public safety
 - Prevention Strategies
 - Pursuing Alternative Sentencing Options





W I S E
WORKS



community
Service

Alternative Sentencing Programs

Commonwealth's Attorney Office Of Wise County and City of Norton Virginia

Sentencing options?

Our Story



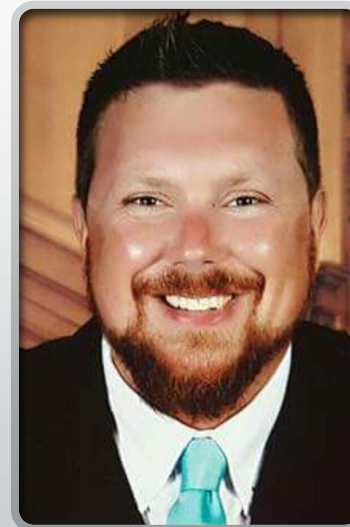
W I S E
WORKS

W I S E WORKS

Meet the Director
of the Wise Works
Program



Brian Caldwell



Experience of the Director:



W I S E
WORKS

- 10 years experience as a Correctional Officer
 - Certified through DCJS as a :
 - ✓ Jailer/Correctional officer
 - ✓ General Instructor
 - ✓ Field Training Officer
 - ✓ Crisis Intervention
 - ✓ Drug Testing
 - ✓ Etc.
- 2 years experience as a Probation Officer
 - Certified through the VADOC:
 - ✓ Probation and Parole Officer
 - ✓ Represented Probation and Parole as a member of the 31st Judicial Drug Court team

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING PROGRAMS?

- Prison/Jail Incarceration?
- Drug Court?
- Treatment?
- Work Release?
- Weekend Jail?
- Community Service?

Alternative Sentencing Programs include community service programs that allow low-level, low-risk offenders the opportunity to complete community service in lieu of incarceration and give back to the communities they have harmed.



What Offenders Qualify?

- Low-Level Offenders with petty crimes. These crimes can include simple drug possession, Driving Under the Influence(1st offense), probation violations, low-level distribution offenses, etc.
- Low-Risk Offenders with no violent criminal charges or any violent criminal history.
- Offenders must be in good health and able to complete physical labor requirements.
- Offenders must also remain drug free.



What types of community service that will be completed?

Participants will complete:

- Litter Pick Up
- Mowing (all types of grounds work)
- Painting
- Construction
- Soup kitchen
- Animal care
- Food Banks
- Etc.



Where will this community service work be completed?

- Local Litter Control
- Local Housing Authorities
- Local Habitat for Humanity
- Local Churches
- Local Animal Shelters
- Local Towns and Cities
- Any Non-Profit Organization





Worksites in Wise County That Have Benefited

- Wise Co. Litter Control
- Wise Co. Animal Shelter
- Wise Co. Justice Center
- Wise Co. Housing Authority (11 sites)
- Wise Co. Fair Grounds
- Wise Primary School
- Habitat for Humanity
- PAWS of SWVA
- Clinch River Cleanup
- Family Crisis Support Services (3 sites)
- Town of Coeburn
- Town of Appalachia
- Town of St. Paul
- Town of Big Stone Gap
- City of Norton
- Pound Little league
- Health Wagon
- Remote Area Medical Event (RAM)
- 4 Local Churches
- Community Helpers



Benefits to the Participants

- Participants learn new job skills that will allow them to gain employment
- Participants have access to recovery related treatment that gives them the tools to get sober and remain drug free
- Participants give back to their communities by completing hours of community service throughout the community that would otherwise not get done



Benefits to the Participants (continued)

- Participants get to remain out of jail and with their families
- Participants that have children get to continue providing care for those children that would otherwise fall on family members or the Department of Social Services
- Participants are given structure and held accountable for their actions
- Participants can complete extra community service work to pay off court costs and fines
- The Court system works with participants to help them regain their driver's license
- Participants learn the skills it takes to become a productive citizens in their communities



Participant Feed Back

Don't just take my word for it.
Hear from one of our
participants!!

- Obtain Prescription By Fraud
- Forgery
- Uttering
- Grand Larceny
- Ordered to complete 6 Months (1,440 hours)
- Completed Community Service at Mountain Empire Community College

Jessica Shuler





<https://youtu.be/gDeBZ3lvJtQ>



- 10 Graduates have gone on to obtain full time employment.
- 8 current participants have obtained full time employment along with their community service requirements.
- 4 are being considered for employment opportunities at their current worksites, once they have completed their program requirements.

Benefits of having an Alternative Sentencing Program



COUNTIES THAT UTILIZE AN
ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING
PROGRAM SAVE TAX PAYERS
MONEY, BY NOT HAVING TO
PAY DAILY INCARCERATION
FEES.



COUNTIES SAVE THOUSANDS
OF TAX DOLLARS ON THE
COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK
THAT IS COMPLETED.



STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT
PARTICIPANTS THAT
COMPLETE THESE PROGRAMS
ARE FAR LESS LIKELY TO
COMMIT NEW CRIMES, AND
REMAIN DRUG FREE LONGER,
THUS CUTTING DOWN ON
RECIDIVISM.

THE RESULTS

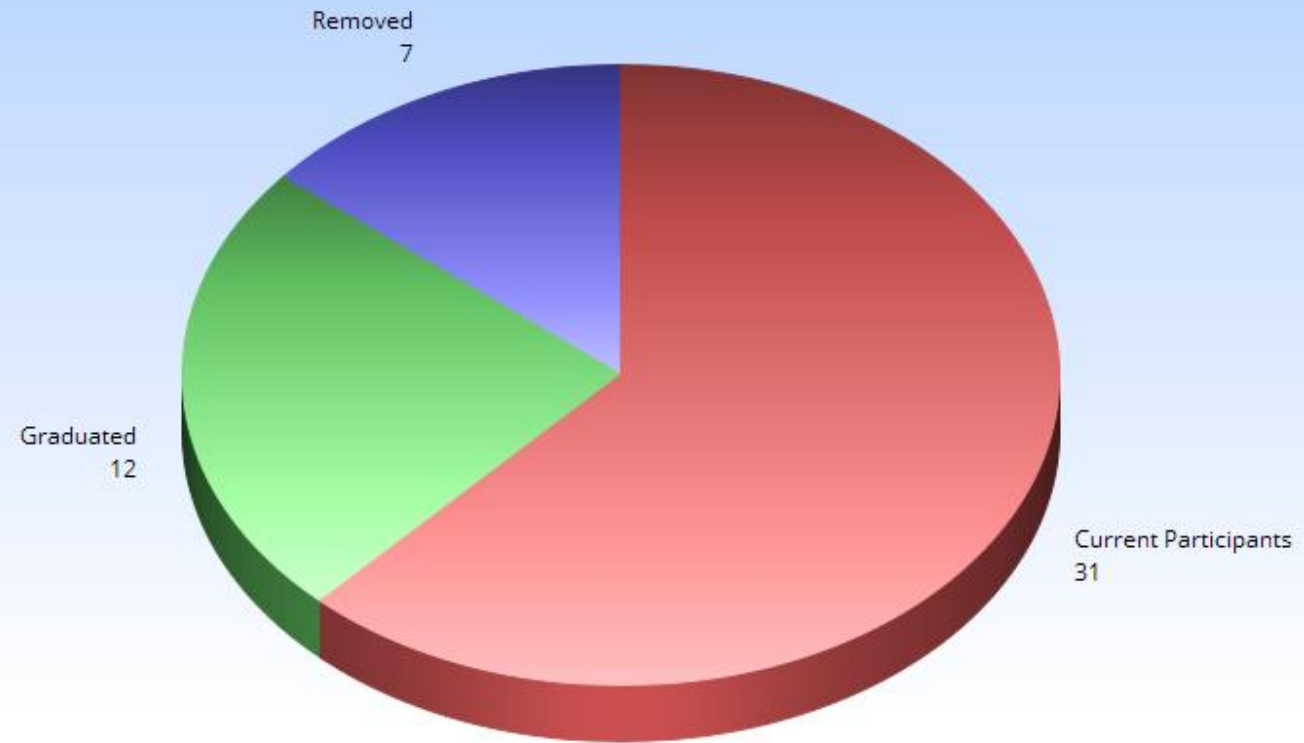
Current stats as of July 31st, 2018:

- 50 over all participants
- 12 graduates thus far
- 7 removed participants
- 31 current active participants



Wise Works

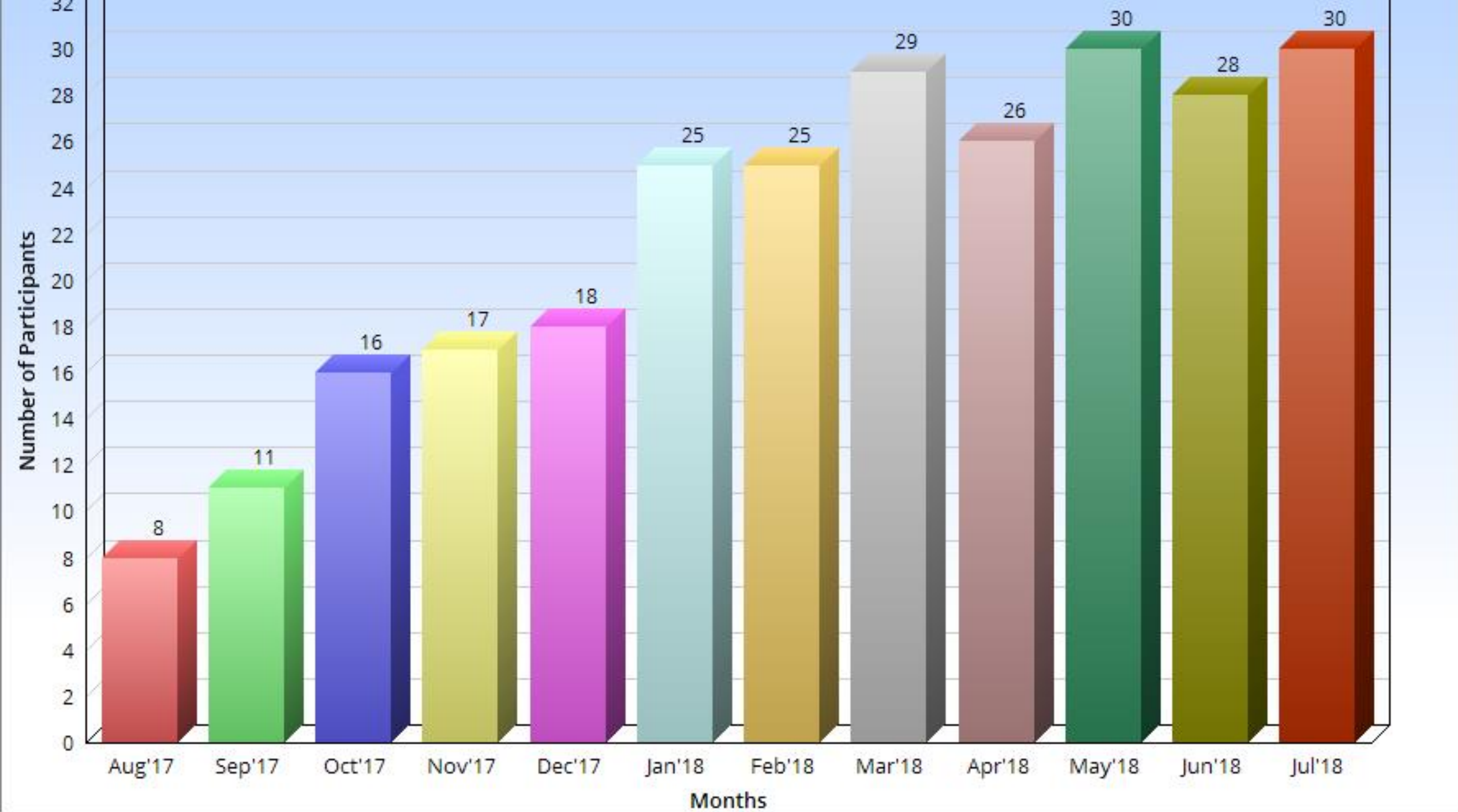
Current Participant Breakdown



Successful completion rate:

63.15%

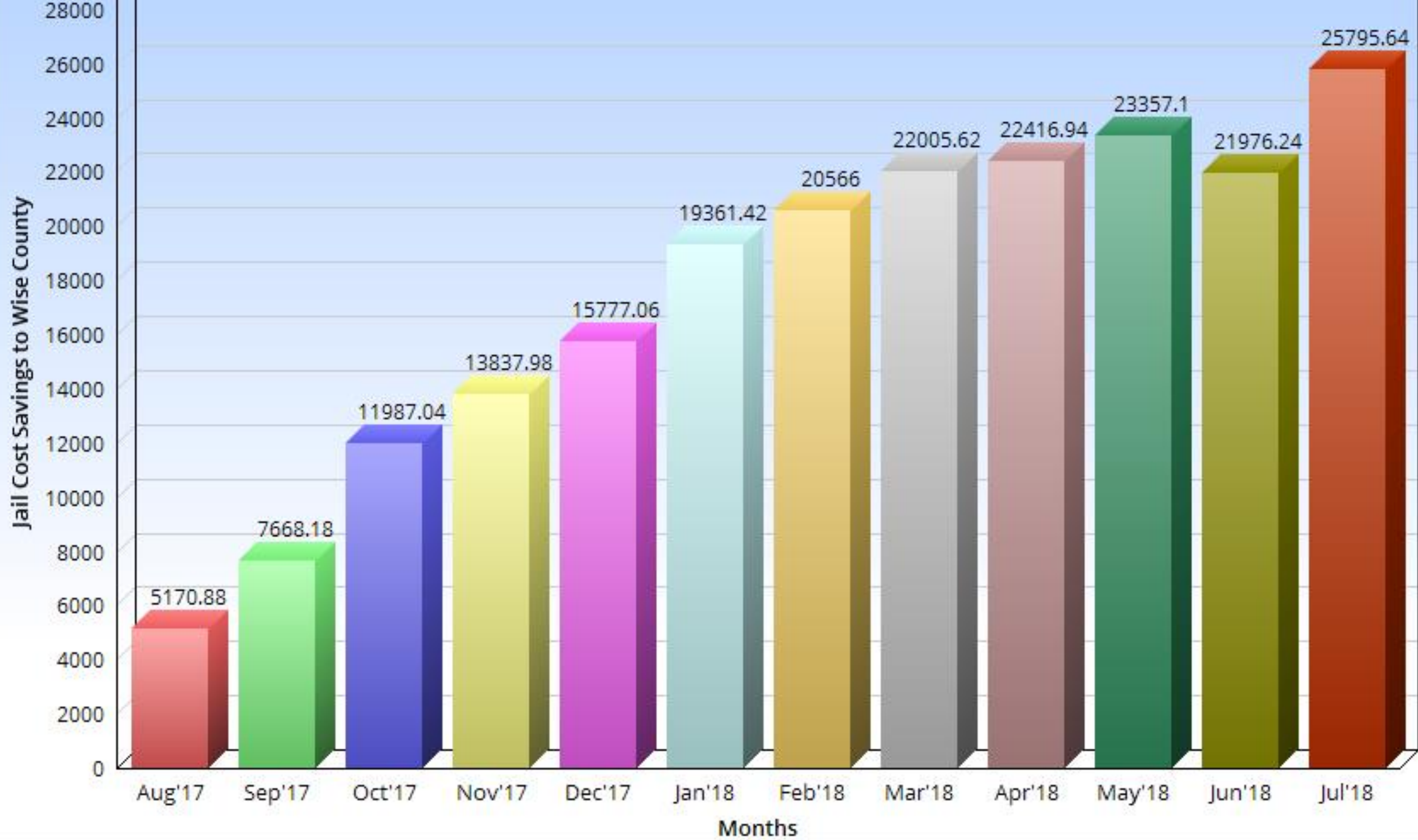




THE RESULTS

- **7,145** combined days out of jail for participants
- A total of **\$209,920.10** in jail cost savings to Wise County

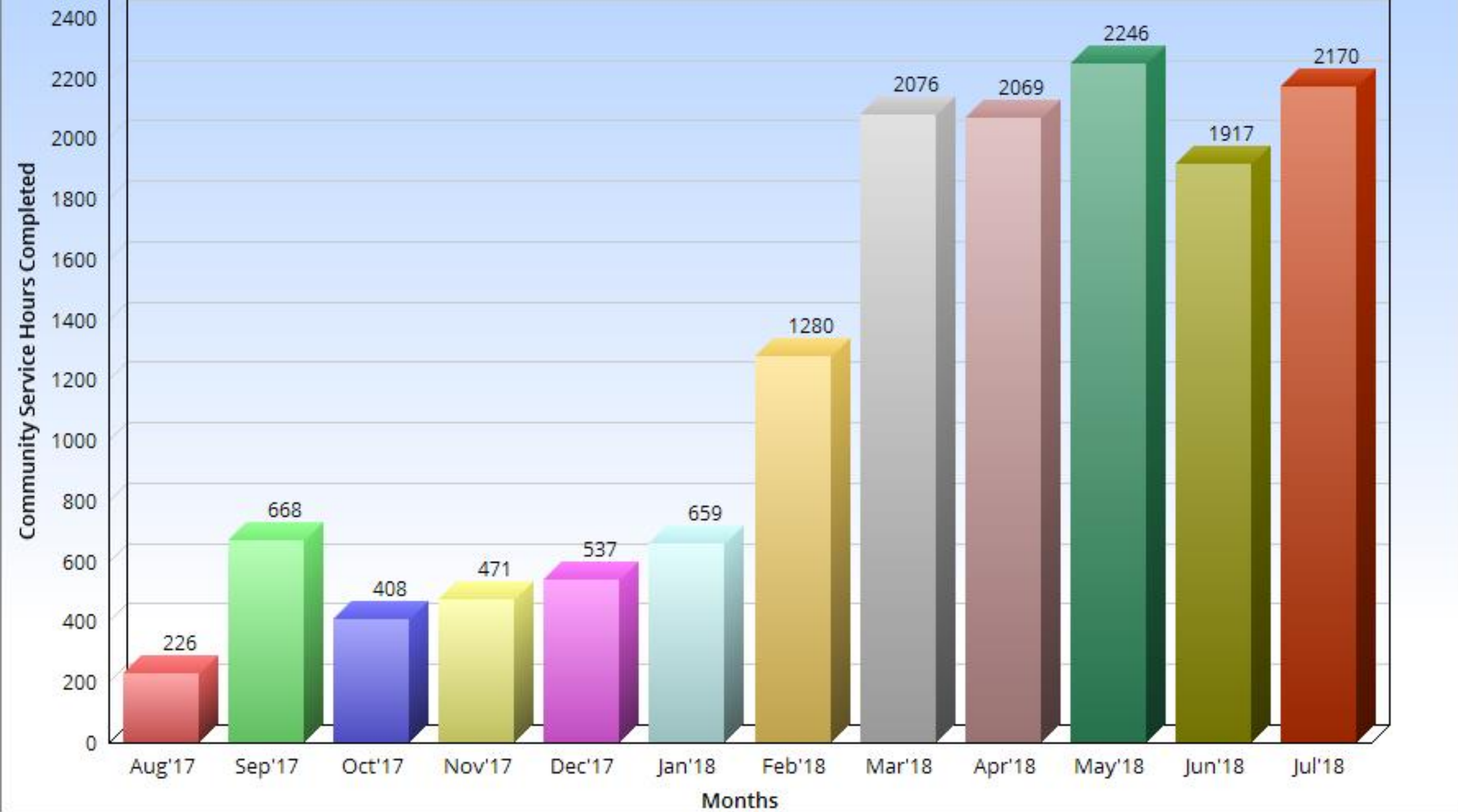




The Results

- A total of **16,202** hours of community service has been completed in Wise County.
- Those community service hours equate to a total of **\$117,464.50** in labor/cost savings for Wise County.





THE RESULTS

- Participants have also completed community service hours that have been applied to their court cost and fines in the amount of **\$2,262.00**
- Participants have paid additional program fees in the amount of **\$535.00**



TOTAL SAVINGS TO WISE COUNTY (YEAR ONE)

• JAIL COST SAVINGS:	\$ 209,920.10
• LABOR SAVINGS:	\$ 117,464.50
• COURT COST AND FINES PAID:	\$2,262.00
• PROGRAM FEES COLLECTED:	<u>\$535.00</u>
TOTAL COMBINED SAVINGS:	\$330,181.60



Other Accomplishments:



- The Wise Works Program was selected to take part in a lengthy series on the National Public Radio (NPR) Market Place, that will air later this year.
- The Wise Works Program has been the focus of many newspaper articles.
- The Wise Works Program has been contacted by several other localities throughout the state of Virginia about adding a similar alternative sentencing program to their counties.

Questions?

More info:

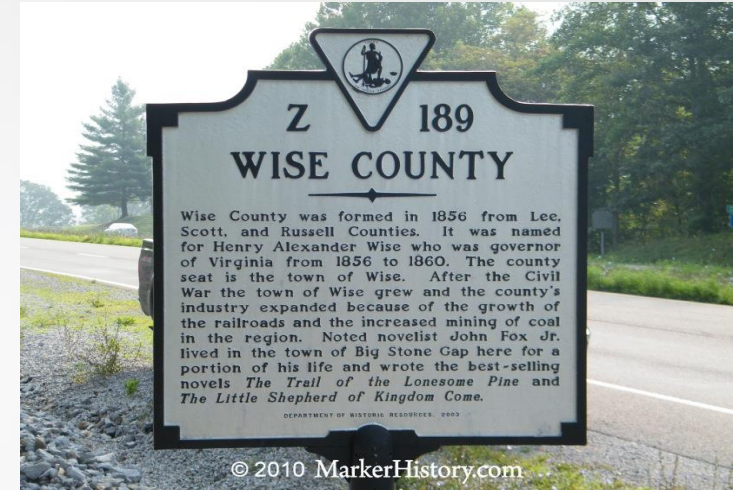
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