Sunday night, millions tuned in to NBC’s *Dateline* for an hour long look inside Michigan’s Mercer County Drug Courts. The documentary style piece, which also aired on the *Today Show*, chronicled the year-long experience of three individuals whose addictions landed them in front of Adult and Juvenile Drug Court Judge Mary Chrzanowski. Throughout the riveting story, viewers got to see the judge known as ‘Scary Mary’ in action as she introduced participants to the rigors of Drug Court, worked with them through the difficult first months, fought to keep them on track when they stumbled, and rewarded their successes.

While the story is a profile of just one of over 2,800 Drug Courts in the United States, it underscores two important issues critical to the public’s understanding of all Drug Courts. First, the individuals profiled in the piece, no matter their original charge, were given the option of Drug Court because they were assessed and shown to meet the clinical criteria for drug-dependence. Once they were admitted, the Drug Court team worked tirelessly to keep them in the program and deal with relapse and other issues that arose along the way.

The *Dateline* Facebook and Twitter pages have already received hundreds of responses to the story. It is critical that the All Rise Army let NBC know how much we appreciate their outstanding coverage of Drug Courts. Click the icons to personally thank Dateline host Lester Holt and tell him why you support Drug Courts.

As Drug Courts continue to be recognized as the justice system’s most effective intervention for seriously addicted people, it is critical that the public understand how they operate and why they should support the further expansion of Drug Courts across the country. NADCP was honored to work the NBC on this important piece and thanks all members of the Mercer County Adult and Juvenile Drug Court teams for their participation. *Dateline* will post the full episode here later this week. For now you can watch and share select clips on NBC’s website.