

For Immediate Release

IDOC Staff Turnout Big for State-wide Blood Drive Challenge

Indianapolis, Indiana (August 9, 2010) – Throughout the month of July, staff from the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) rolled up their sleeves to help others during the Department's 2nd annual Blood Drive Challenge. IDOC facilities across the state hosted employee blood drives in a completion to see who can collect the most units.

Last year, IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss recognized that many facilities held blood drives separately throughout the year and challenged the facilities to work together, with a competitive spirit, to donate even more blood.

During the 2010 Blood Drive Challenge, the Department collected 669 units of blood. According to the American Red Cross, one unit of blood can be used to save three lives. With that the case, the IDOC staff touched the lives of more than 2,000 Hoosiers last year.

The facilities were divided by size based on the number of employees at each. The winner for the large facility category is Rockville with 14.7% of staff donating. The winner for the small facility category is Edinburgh with 40.3% of staff donating. The facility who donated the most units overall was Westville with 111 units.

The IDOC teamed up with the American Red Cross, the Indiana Blood Center, Correctional Medical Services (CMS), ARAMARK, and the Geo Group, Inc. to host the blood drive competition.

IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss commented, "Time and time again IDOC employees do what they can to give back to their communities in a variety of ways. In tough economic times, it is difficult for most people to give what little they have. Donating blood doesn't cost a dime, and it helps to save lives."

###

Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison

Chief Communications Officer

Phone: (317) 232-5780

dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov