



**STATE OF INDIANA
Department of Correction**

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IDOC DONATES OVER 1,300 CELL PHONES TO HOPELINE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

Indianapolis – Back in September Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon accepted the challenge from First Lady Karen Pence to exceed last year's contribution of 1,300 cell phones to Hopeline, a domestic violence prevention program. This year they were successful in logging an official total of 1,367 individual units.

Hopeline, sponsored by Verizon, collects no-longer used wireless phones, batteries, chargers and accessories in any condition from any service provider to benefit victims and survivors of domestic violence. Donated phones are then turned into valuable resources for nonprofit organizations and agencies that support domestic violence victims and survivors nationwide.

"We are proud to do our part to support domestic violence prevention in our community and welcome the chance to participate again next year," commented Bruce Lemmon on hearing the results.

According to the Department's Intelligence and Investigations Division, sixty-six percent of the donated cell phones (914) were confiscated by facility custody officers from offenders or visitors attempting to smuggle them into our facilities for offender use. Cell phones, like drugs, alcohol and tobacco are considered contraband and prohibited in all IDOC facilities.

"The IDOC averages approximately 43 cell phone confiscations per month," noted Deputy Commissioner of Operations James Basinger. "Donating these phones to Hopeline adds a positive outcome to the serious threat to safety and security these phones contribute to within our facilities."

Nicolas Salmon, the IDOC project leader for the Hopeline project was equally enthused. "It was a great feeling to be a part of this partnership with Verizon and the First Lady on such a worthy cause. Anything

that can be done to stem the tide of domestic violence should be and is a cause that we can all get behind.”

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