

October 25, 2013

Weekly Views

The Pbs Learning Institute announced the winners of the 2013 Pbs Barbara Allen-Hagen Award. Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was selected as the correction facility winner for increasing family involvement and visits. "The 2013 winners created reforms that resulted in culture changes and implementation of research-based practices," said Pbs Learning Institute Executive Director Kim Godfrey. According to IDOC Division of Youth Services Executive Director Mike Dempsey, "Pbs has provided Pendleton with the tools to target specific areas of improvement, which has ultimately led to better long-term outcomes for youths and their families." (photo below)

The excitement of daytime television came to the Reception Diagnostic Center (RDC). A film crew for "The Dr. Phil Show" was at RDC to tape a segment on "The Elkhart Four." Three of the four offenders were interviewed at RDC by Dr. Phil via satellite feed and will appear on national TV.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Community Advisory Board members, including State Representative Kreg Battles, got a firsthand look at the facility's new DVD Recycle Shop, which created 50 new offender jobs. The group also took a tour of the newly renovated Laundry building nearly 18 months after it was destroyed by fire. Superintendent Richard Brown also told the board the first ever Wabash garden yielded over 750 pounds of food for area food banks. The board was enlightened by a security lighting update. Wabash is brighter thanks to newly installed prototype LED lights,

providing twice the security lighting for half the cost of the old system. The spotlight also shined on another pilot program, Adult Based Standards (ABS) and how it can help reduce prison issues with input from staff, offenders and their families.

Putnamville Correctional Facility staff gave the gift of life by donating blood to the Indiana Blood Center during a blood drive sponsored by the facility's Promoting Positive Corrections Culture committee. (photo left of blood mobile)

Miami Correctional Facility's American Legion Post 555 was honored with the second visit in just a few weeks from a national commander. Daniel Dellinger, who was recently elected as National Commander, made a trip to Indiana to visit with members of Post 555. Dellinger was the second National Commander to visit with the post. In

August, outgoing National Commander James Koutz visited MCF to accept a \$1,000 check for Operation Comfort Warriors. It was one of his last post visits before leaving office. Both were treated to a banquet meal. (photo right of Superintendent Mark Sevier with National Commander Daniel Dillinger)

Indianapolis Parole District#3 and Reentry Parole District#1, in conjunction with the Marion County Sheriff's Department Sex and Violent Offender Unit (INSORCE), kicked off Operation Safe Halloween 2013 in Marion County, conducting unannounced home visits during non-traditional hours to confirm compliance with sex offender registration responsibilities and special sex offender parole stipulations. This week-long activity was a preemptive measure in reviewing expectations for parolees with a responsibility to also register as a sex offender prior to their annual meeting on October 31. Results included many positive contacts finding 87% of offenders checked in compliance will all expectations and also resulted in six parolee arrests, five investigations for non-compliance with registration, and others intermediate sanctions for lesser offenses.

The basketball team from Ancilla College located outside of Plymouth, Indiana came to the Indiana State Prison to play against the offender basketball team. Both teams showed their speed and athleticism scoring from everywhere on the court. The offender team won the game with a score of 109-87.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) held their Annual Breast Cancer Walk. The event was supported by 257 participants and 40 volunteers. IWP offenders raised \$1044 that was donated to the Indianapolis Pink Ribbon Connection where

Dora Sparks was the guest speaker. Additionally, the Community Outreach program donated several quilts, hat and scarves sets to be auctioned off to both Pink Ribbon Connection and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The participants enjoyed a lunch provided by Victory Group and The National Council of Negro Women.

Huntington University Assistant Professor of English Herbert Jack Heller visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) to initiate a new program. Dr. Heller has established a program that will focus on the study and analysis of the works of English poet and playwright William Shakespeare. Approximately 15 PCF offenders have signed up to participate in the program. (photo left)



The first frost has officially ended the garden season at the Westville Correctional Facility and what a productive season it has been. The facility's team effort created five gardens on WCC grounds, each garden concentrating on specific vegetables. The gardens which included potatoes, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, cabbage and melons produced over 6000 lbs of fresh vegetables. The vegetables were distributed to various food banks and shelters around Northwest Indiana.



The Putnamville Correctional Facility is ending the harvest season with impressive numbers. 15,807 lbs. of vegetables and pumpkin have been gathered with an additional 200-300 lbs. expected from the winter garden. Horticulture Instructor Brenda Gullett and crew expanded the garden establishing new standards for garden yields at the facility. The produce is donated to community organizations. Superintendent Stanley Knight thanks all involved for their efforts. (photo left)

a salsa garden, where there were 48 tomato plants, 48 pepper plants, onions, and cilantro. The students were able to enjoy some of the fruits of their hard work, and the rest was donated to the local Salvation Army Lord's Kitchen (pictured below with Sergeant Deveary). Students were able to learn about garden design and the different kinds of vegetables. Besides providing produce for the community the garden is a rehabilitative instrument for the students. It helps the students to de-stress and make them feel better by helping those in need. Sergeant Deveary has already developed a plan to expand the garden next year.

A group of students of Manchester College criminal justice class toured the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF). IREF was just one of three visits the group made to varying security level Indiana Department of Correction facilities. The goal of the tours was to provide for students an overview of the different types of communities found among the offender populations throughout IDOC prisons.

The Correctional Industrial Facility has taken off at a brisk walk with the Healthy Lifestyles initiative. Chairperson Bruce Helming has instituted facility programs such as healthy snack day and facility walk about. Healthy Snack day provides an opportunity to sample healthy delicious dishes prepared by coworkers. Participants at the facility have walked a total of almost 200 miles collectively and that equates to almost 32000 calories burned. Great job guys!



Special Olympics Indiana presented New Castle Correctional Facility with the traveling trophy (pictured left) for winning the IDOC Commissioner's Cup. During Torch Run season, IDOC facilities competed in the Fed Ex Plane Pull Challenge, each team vying to win the first-ever IDOC Commissioner's Cup. Facility teams were awarded points based on the team's Plane Pull time and the amount of money they raised for Special Olympics Indiana. Coming in a close second was the Madison Dream Team from Madison Correctional Facility and Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility. As a whole, the Department raised over \$44,000 for Special Olympics.

The Indiana State Prison had the privilege of giving a tour to the members of a Chinese delegation. The members of the delegation are in the United States for one year and affiliated with Purdue University. The tour was interesting due to the language barriers but was a complete success.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a staff assembly. During the program, Correctional Officer Randal Stamper was recognized as Employee of the Quarter and Unit Manager John Safford was recognized as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter. Correctional Officer Troy Ashby was recognized for receiving a letter of commendation in regard to an incident that occurred on October 12 when he administered CPR on a PCF offender which resulted in saving the offender's life. IDOC Director of Mental Health Craig Hanks spoke at the event and gave an informative presentation about the status of the new Mental Health Unit being established at the facility.

Miami Correctional Facility handed out several awards at its quarterly Staff Recall Meeting. Named Employee of the Quarter was Joyce Brantley, Caseworker; Supervisor of the Quarter was Sgt. Quentin Coppernoll; and Officer of the Quarter was Officer Denver Nettifee. Several other staff were given leadership awards. Those included Officer Danny Waller, Inspire a Shared Vision; Officer Shaun Dwyer, Model the Way; Sgt. Zachary Whann, Enabling Others to Act; Sean Moore, Challenge the Process; and Joyce Holland, Encourages the Heart.

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) staff has organized a facility Wellness Committee that meets biweekly. The committee is currently hosting a Biggest Loser contest and "Purge the Soda" club. The wellness committee offers a monthly Grief/Loss and Stress Management group, employee fitness wellness rivalry in the gymnasium with some Extreme Workout participation and daily motivational e-mails. They are currently planning a "Steps for Staff" pedometer (Bracket Buster) competition. They also are creating a wellness bulletin board to include weekly email tips and other helpful wellness information. What a wonderful way to combat weight gain through the upcoming holiday season!

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) held its Community Advisory Board with 11 members from the community. Superintendent Mark Sevier informed the group that MCF has given nearly \$50,000 back to the community in the past few years. Those programs that are generating the funds for this charity include the American Legion, which has donated more than \$18,000 to local charities; the PLUS Unit that has donated nearly \$25,000 and the Community Involvement Fund, which has given nearly \$15,000 away. The facility has also given away produce to local food pantries.