

October 3, 2014

Weekly Views

The South Bend Community Reentry Center (SBCRC) saw a successful outcome for the facility's first "Meet Me at the Zoo" event. The event was held in partnership with SBCRC and the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend. Residents from the facility who previously worked at or are currently employed by the zoo had the opportunity to meet with friends and family in a wholesome family atmosphere. South Bend Reentry residents showed their friends and family the pride in workmanship, personal investment, and excellence in public service that they have provided to the community through their hard work and dedication. The Potawatomi Zoo has been in partnership with the SBCRC Center since 1995. In nearly 20 years, work crews have constructed, rebuilt, re-roofed, or painted nearly every structure in the zoo, saving taxpayers millions of dollars for maintenance and renovations.

Three Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) staff provided aid to victims of a motor vehicle accident. On September 4, Correctional Officers Mike Adams and William Jones along with Corizon Registered Nurse, Brenda Garibaldi were en route from the facility following the end of their respective shifts when they came upon an accident involving a motorcycle and two passengers. The passengers had been thrown from the motorcycle suffering injuries. The three staff members immediately began providing aid to the victims and assisting the responding emergency staff. It is thanks to their training, skills and experience that these RCF staff members were able to respond efficiently and without hesitation to assist those in need.

It's not every day you get to screen an Academy Award nominated documentary about a maximum-security hospice care program. Edgar Barens, the director of "Prison Terminal: The Last Days of Private Jack Hall", brought his film to staff and offenders at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Wabash Valley Compassionate Care Program participants had a front row seat for the documentary. They called it "Spot On!" Barens filmed the compelling and emotional documentary over a six month period at the Iowa State Penitentiary. Rockville Correctional Facility staff and offenders also hosted Barens and his award winning film. He is encouraging facilities around the country to adopt similar end-of-life programs. The documentary will be shown to WVCF offenders soon via the facility's cable TV system. (photo right)



The Correction Industrial Facility (CIF) held a ceremony to celebrate receiving their permanent charter from the National American Legion. The American Legion Andrew Cummins Post 503 was named for Indiana hero, Andrew Cummins who received the Medal of Honor for assisting in the rescue of wounded soldiers while under enemy fire during the Spanish-American War. Post 503 will focus on community service and assistance to veterans, in keeping with the over-90-year tradition of the American Legion by holding food sales and other fundraisers at the facility. Donations have already been made to several organizations including Champions League baseball teams, American Legion Sharpshooters program and the Veterans Stand Down which will be held in Anderson, IN on October 17.

Great Curve Films producer, writer and cinematographer conducted interviews at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) to gain a realistic perspective on prison life from the viewpoint of both offenders and staff. With information gained from the interviews, the film company will be writing an original screenplay featuring fictional characters, which highlights the story of an older offender who has been incarcerated since his teens or 20s and is expecting an imminent release date. The story will be of the character's final year(s) of incarceration, his hopes and fears before he returns to society. To encounter the full experience of prison life, the film crew was treated to an offender meal in the offender dining room, toured housing units and various areas throughout the facility during the day and evening hours.



Fourteen teams comprised of IDOC staff, friends and family came out to the former Indianapolis Airport to pull a Boeing 757 in the annual FedEx Plane Pull Challenge. Through this event, the Department raised almost \$35,000 for Special Olympics Indiana (SOI). Stephanie Stewart, Manager of Community Partnerships for SOI, stopped by the Awards Luncheon during the Indiana Criminal Justice Association Fall Conference to thank all of the teams for their support and announced this year's winner of the coveted Commissioner's Cup. (photo left) Taking it home for the second year in a row was New Castle Correctional Facility. Wabash Valley was also recognized as runner up, receiving Special Olympics Coins for their efforts.

The Naptown Knitters from the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) donated more than 30 knitted caps to the St. Vincent Peyton Manning Children's Hospital. The hats will be given to families of premature infants on their neonatology unit. Amber Neese, a representative from the hospital, thanked the knitters for the donation and assured them the caps will be put to good use.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) is opening up a new wellness workout room in the program building to benefit all staff to keep in line with the new wellness push for state employees in Indiana.

A visiting committee from the American Correctional Association, made up of the Chairman, Charles Albino, and members Kathy Montag and Greg Knowlin, has recommended the Indiana State Prison (ISP) for re-accreditation. After a thorough tour of the facility and detailed examination of electronic files, the committee gave ISP a 100% on mandatory and 98.4% on the non-mandatory standards..



The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility had 32 students and 12 staff members participate in a friendly competition by seeing who could pull an 8000 pound New Waverly Fire Department Grass Truck the fastest over a distance of 150 feet. At the end of the completion there was a pull off for the fastest student time and the fastest staff member time. This combined with other activities raised over \$1200 for Special Olympics Indiana.

Various Putnamville Correctional Facility offenders donated 19 drawings to the Pet Sitters International Charity Auction benefiting The Prison Greyhound Program and it was a HUGE success. The auction was held at the Alexander Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The Prison Greyhound sponsors shared their story with a nationwide audience of 225 pet sitters and vendors. A white binder containing the drawings was the highest bidding item and closed for \$7000 to an individual from the Carolinas! The total raised to help the program was \$21,000. (photo below)



Members of the Addiction Recovery staff from Miami Correctional Facility attended the annual Indiana Recovery Month Symposium (In-Arms Conference) on September 29 and 30, located at IUPUI, Indianapolis. Members of the addiction staff were able to attend several breakout sessions which included Substance Use Disorders & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: Working with Veterans, Intervention for Criminal Thinking and Substance Abuse, Supporting Recovery and Methamphetamine Labs, to name a few. Staff look forward to this each year, as the conference introduces the latest evidenced-based practices in the addiction field.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held its first 4H meeting of the 2014-2015 year. The Pendleton Clovers are starting out with 25 students and learned the 4H pledge, as well as the behavior expectations and the benefits of becoming a 4H member. During September, the students will be learning about rabbits. They are learning about the different breeds of rabbits, what the judges look for in the different breeds, and the proper care and maintenance. Students met and learned about "Sparky", an 8-year-old Netherland Dwarf rabbit. The students practiced showing him to a "judge."

The Indianapolis Parole District#3 Office participated with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's Southwest District and their Community Outreach Teams in a specialized training on the recognition of opiate overdose and proper protocol for safely administering intranasal Naloxone (Narcan). In the event of an overdose, Naloxone gradually reverses the symptoms compromising the victim's respiratory rate and level of consciousness. Each parole staff attending the training will receive a dose of Naloxone and is authorized to carry this drug in order to carry out life-saving measures in the event of an emergency until Emergency Medical Support arrives. Naloxone is currently being used by law enforcement officers and probation departments in other communities in the country experiencing a rapid increase in opiate overdose.



Camp Summit Boot Camp staff and students performed community service at the Salvation Army in LaPorte for the Back Pack Program, packing over 400 bags of food for needy students from four elementary schools in the LaPorte area. These bags of food go home with the students on Friday so that they have food to eat over the weekend as they may not eat if the bags are not sent home. The facility has been participating in this community service event every other week since March of this year. (photo left)

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) provided a unique backdrop for the Employee Appreciation Committee's (EAC) first ever Cruise In. The event, which was open to the public, showcased 55 vehicles from classics and muscle cars to GEO Metro converted into an alien spaceship. Participants were presented with a PCF dash plaque. The vehicles were judged and trophies presented for the Superintendent's Choice, EAC Choice and Kid's Choice Awards. All proceeds from the event will help fund future EAC functions. (photo right)



Author Rhonda Hunnel addressed members of the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility RRRP program as part of a panel of speakers of the Bridges to Life Program. Ms. Hunnel discussed the stories included in her book, *Snake in the Grass*, and also recalled her experiences of rape and molestation, physical abuse, and the molestation and murder of her sixteen-year-old daughter. The Bridges to Life Program focus is to bring healing to victims of crime, reduce recidivism among offender graduates of the program, and to help make communities a safer place. The Bridges to Life panel meets at IREF Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. IDOC staff are invited to attend.

Ashly Burmeister, a popular yoga instructor from A Peaceful Heart Yoga Studio, started a program called "Mommy & Me" yoga in the Wee One's Nursery (WON) at IWP. The sessions are for all WON moms, babies and nannies who are on the unit. They have found it to be a relaxing method of relieving stress and tension; it also provides a great opportunity for special bonding between mothers and babies. (photo left)

