

November 1, 2013

Weekly Views

Indiana Governor Michael R. Pence visited the Branchville Correctional Facility to tour the grounds and learn more about the programming and activities going on throughout the facility. Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, staff from Branchville, Central Office and PEN Products joined the Governor and his staff on the tour, where the main focus was job training programs at Branchville and throughout the Department. The group was able to see the pallet shop, Career Development Training Center, and the recycling joint venture (pictured below).



Logansport Juvenile Correctional

Facility held an open house for its newly created Youth Transition Reentry Independent unit. The housing unit, which is set up like a college dormitory, allows for more freedom of movement within the unit, and students take responsibility for making their wake up times by utilizing alarm clocks. These students also assist with New Student Orientation by presenting during the orientation process that allows the new students to ask questions about how they can successfully complete the program and what pitfalls they need to avoid. In the near future, this unit will also be involved with New Employee Orientation to help new staff become familiar with student views and assist in fostering a more positive working relationship between staff and students.

With the full support of staff and offenders at the Indiana Women's Prison, an Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) client came into the facility for full access to Sally, her ICAN dog in-training. A "mini" team training session was held for the client with the purpose of having the client and dog bond as the client learned the cues and training techniques to enable the dog to assist her new partner to the fullest. Sally's assistance has given the client new found independence and freedom. Because of the ICAN program, IWP offenders are able to restore their purpose and value while making a positive impact on someone's life. (photo left)



Representatives from the Hamilton Center, Quest, AFLAC, United Way, Family Readiness Group, St Vincent/Clay County Hospital, All State, State Farm, PNC Bank and Hoosier S.T.A.R.T. handed out informational pamphlets, answered questions and gave away grab bag items during a Health Fair held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. In conjunction with the health fair, staff donned

orange t-shirts for a Fitness Walk, sponsored by the Promoting Positive Corrections Culture committee, to promote healthier life styles. Money from the t-shirt sales was donated to the Family Readiness Group, an organization that provides food to military families.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility had the honor of receiving a visit from Governor Pence's Chief of Staff Bill Smith, Indiana National Guard Adjunct General Major General Martin Umbarger and Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. Lunch was provided by Aramark, while Superintendent Frances Osburn gave a brief overview of the facility and its mission to support Camp Atterbury, surrounding communities and other state agencies by providing offender work crews. The visit ended with a tour of the facility and a brief explanation of facility programs, including substance abuse, Inside Out Dad and U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Programs. (photo right)



Deputy Commissioner of Operations James Basinger is pleased to report the success of a new step down program for offenders housed in segregation. STAND (Striving Toward a New Direction) consists of two 256 bed units at the New Castle Correctional Facility that houses segregation offenders in a general population environment. Offenders in both units are evaluated based on their programming and behavior needs and are assigned a variety of programs that include group activity, self study, and education. Each offender is reviewed once a month and is awarded additional privileges and recognition based on their success and remaining conduct free. Once the offender completes their programming and has maintained good conduct a graduation celebration honors the offender's success and they are transfer to an appropriate IDOC facility in the general population.

Internationally known speaker David Parnell visited Miami Correctional Facility to speak to offenders about his life of drug use, specifically methamphetamine. Parnell is a husband and father of seven from Tennessee as well as a methamphetamine and suicide survivor, recovering addict and alcoholic, former drug dealer and convicted felon. After spending 23 years addicted to drugs, he attempted suicide by shooting himself in the face with an SKS assault rifle. Since then he has devoted his life to educating others about the dangers of meth. The after affects of the attempted suicide are evident on Parnell's face. The rifle that he used to try and kill himself, destroyed most of his face, requiring more than 30 surgeries to repair. He has titanium plates and screws holding his cheekbones in place.





More than 60 children of residents incarcerated at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) enjoyed a Halloween Carnival sponsored by the facility's Family Education Department (FED) Inside Outside Dads Program and Children's Visitation Center (CVC). The 30 fathers and their children were treated to a fun time in a carnival-like atmosphere that included clowns, face painting, pumpkin painting, crafts, lots of games, prizes, and plenty of laughter. Oakland City University Culinary Arts students prepared the meal and themed cupcakes for the carnival. The Art and Recreation Department clerks transformed the Education and Recreation Building into Haunted Hallways, which included a live Dracula, a classroom with a Zombie teacher and students, a headless scarecrow, and other ghosts, ghouls, and goblins to spook the children. A bounce house provided plenty of fun for the little children. At the end of the carnival, each child walked away with a gold fish, a pumpkin, and a bag full of candy and treats. (photo left)

The Indiana Criminal Justice Association hosted its fall conference in Merrillville, Indiana where the annual ICJA Awards and IDOC Commissioner's Awards were announced. Among

ICJA Award winners were: Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Distinguished Service Award; Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, Program of the Year; Kathleen Sullivan, Judge of the Year; Steven Gray, Probation Officer of the Year; Preston Dry, Volunteer of the Year; Jackie Kolbert, Counselor of the Year; Ariene Gilbert, Parole Officer of the Year; Leslie Alexander, Support Services Staff of the Year; Judy Willis, Correctional Educator of the Year (pictured right); Dave Leonard and Erik Kruper, Correctional Managers of the Year; Paul Wilk, Community Corrections Line Staff; Walter "Tony" Wawok, Community Correctional Officer of the Year. The Commissioner's Award winners were Heather Blasingame, Reentry Employee of the Year; Jerome Thompson, Correctional Professional of the Year; Sharon Hawk, Correctional Supervisor of the Year; Dushan Zatecky, Distinguished Service Award; Matt Andrick, Employee of the Year; David Barr, Administrative Support Employee of the Year; Richard Hayes, Chaplain of the Year; Christopher Tanis, Parole Agent of the Year; Amber Hughes, Human Resources Employee of the Year; Carolyn Short, Industries Professional of the Year; Kevin Braun, Physical Plant Employee of the Year; Chuck Whallon, Rising Star Award.



The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COLCF) held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner with over 45 volunteers attending this year's event. Several Offenders gave personal testimonies to the group about the positive affect that volunteers have had on their lives. The Chain O' Lakes Choir provided live entertainment throughout the evening for all to enjoy. One Choir member performed a moving inspirational rap song that he had written just for this occasion. As a show of appreciation each volunteer received a lunch bag and salad shaker combo featuring Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility's name. At each dinner table a hand drawn picture of Governor Mike Pence on a wood plaque was placed as the centerpiece. The centerpiece was given as a door prize to selected guest. The plaques were made by COLCF offender artists. The meal was prepared and service by the facility's Aramark foodservice Department of Labor program participants.



Kevin Hunter (pictured left) has been promoted to Unit Team Manager at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Hunter brings 18 years of experience to the job. He began his career at Wabash as an Officer, advancing to Counselor before a stint with Evansville Parole, returning to WVCF as a Caseworker in 2012. His new assignment involves working closely with Unit Team Caseworkers, Casework Managers and Custody on the four housing unit 788 bed capacity WVCF North campus.

The Education Department at the Westville Correctional Facility hosted their first offender graduation ceremony as Grace College. Recognized were 380 graduates from GED, five career technical classes and Grace's college certificate program. Guest speaker Grace College Director of Correctional Education Dennis Duncan spoke of making the seemingly

impossible, possible through education. Proud smiles and nodding heads could be seen from the audience of offenders and their invited guests. The ceremony ended with refreshments provided the facility's Culinary Arts program.

"MCF goes PINK" was the theme at Miami Correctional Facility (MCF). The Wellness Committee decided to recognize and support the fight against Breast Cancer and all cancers by going PINK for two days. October has been named Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Non-custody staff were encouraged to dress in PINK and ribbons were available to custody staff to pin on their uniforms. (photo left)

CBS News 48 Hours correspondent Richard Schlesinger, Producer Shoshanah Wolfson, and a 48 Hours film crew visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to conduct an on-camera interview with offender Charles Boney #918815 in connection with the recent murder trial of former State Trooper David Camm. An air date for the interview has not yet been determined.



Logansport Juvenile held a family day where parents and guardians of the students were invited into the facility and welcomed by Superintendent Harshbarger. Everyone was given a facility overview and introduced to staff from treatment, education and recreation. A family council meeting was conducted and a tour was given of the school. The parents and students were able to interact with staff to get a clear picture of the facility and what programming opportunities are offered to the students. After the tour a questions and answers session was followed by a visitation period.