

November 21, 2014

# Weekly Views

Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Commissioner Donald Snemis and IDOC Inspector General Michael Osburn (pictured below) were on site at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) with the BMV mobile unit to issue state identification cards to offenders prior to their release. A total of 182 offenders acquired state ID cards during the three-day event. "The supportive effort on behalf of the BMV with the Department of Correction continues to be a key partnership and process improvement in reentry services provided to the offender population prior to release. We appreciate the valuable time and effort demonstrated by BMV staff in assisting our facility in providing services to our offenders," stated PCF Superintendent Zatecky.



Indiana State Senator Randy Head and Colonel Douglas J. Schwartz, Grissom Air Reserve Base 434th Air Refueling Wing commander, toured Miami Correctional Facility's CLIFF Unit and Miami Accessible Media Program. The two arrived early for a Community Advisory Board meeting for the opportunity to take a look at some of the facility's most touted programs. After the tour, the Advisory Board was treated to a taco bar for lunch and informed of some of the facility's newest technologies. The group was also treated to a short performance by the facility's band and choir.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its first graduation of the Bridges to Life Program. Originated in Texas, Bridges to Life program is a victim-based approach that works with incarcerated offenders that have been convicted of violent crimes and their victims. Its purpose is to foster healing and rehabilitation between the offender and their victim. 27 offenders graduated after 14 weeks of continued work under the direction of Indianapolis Regional Coordinator Misty Wallace. Plainfield and Bridges to Life are excited to offer this program again starting in January.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) hosted the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Apprenticeship Symposium in the Pam Cline Memorial Chapel. More than 70 Apprenticeship Supervisors and Coordinators from across the state attended the all day program. Commissioner Lemmon addressed the group thanking them for the valuable impact that is being made in offender's lives both during and after incarceration, and PEN staff Doug Evans and Kirsten Tisdale shared apprenticeship best practices. Aramark and the IN2WORK program provide a tasty home-style meatloaf dinner.

Members of the Lutheran Woman's Missionary and League (LWML) and 47 offenders in Madison Correctional Facility's Residential Reformatory Reentry Program (RRRPO) gathered in the visiting room to decorate stockings. The women of RRRP set at tables with markers, glitter, ribbons, glue, stickers and sang songs like "Silent Night" while decorating the stockings. 160 stockings will be filled by the Women of LWML and then returned to the facility on December 9 to be passed out to the offenders' children who visit throughout the holiday season. (photo left)

Providence Jr./Sr. High School at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held an Open House in which over 50 guests attended. Parents were able to spend time with their child while meeting with the students' teachers. Lunch was provided to the guests and students, allowing an opportunity for the families to spend time with their loved ones. Families also participated in games

provided by recreation such as, shooting baskets and ping-pong.

Miami Correctional Facility's Wellness Committee sponsored a Flu Shot Clinic with a total of 31 staff taking advantage of the free shots. The clinic was presented through an agreement between Kroger Pharmacy and the State Personnel Department. The shots were given free to staff carrying state insurance.

St. Mary of the Woods students interested in a career in corrections toured the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). Corizon Psychologist Dr. Brad Huffey, a Psychology Professor at the "Woods," sponsored the tour, giving students a closer look at the correctional environment. The class spoke with offenders in the facility PLUS unit and then took part in a group discussion with the WVCF unit team, custody and medical staff. Dr. Huffey said thanks to the help from the Wabash team his students will be able to make sound decisions about their career goals in the challenging field of corrections.

The American Legion Post 130 held a ceremony at the Indiana State Prison for Veteran's Day. At the ceremony, Post 130 donated \$5,950 to multiple organizations. Groups who received checks were the American Legion Post 365 for food for needy families and their annual Children's Christmas Party, Michigan City High School Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Michigan City Salvation Army for Thanksgiving turkeys, Caps For Kids, South Bend Homeless Shelter, Judge Miller's Vets, Michigan City Boys and Girls Club, and Stepping Stones Women's Shelter. The funds were raised from donations from the offenders and from offender food sales. The men work very hard to raise the money and feel this is one way they can give back to the community!

Thanks to the generation donations of its many volunteer organizations, Westville Correctional Facility has received over 10,000 Christmas Cards so each inmate can send out three cards to his family and friends. The Therapeutic Community Unit will again be wrapping the toys and gifts that were also donated so the inmates can give their children a present when they come to visit their father over the Christmas Holidays.



The Rockville Correctional Facility has been recommended for re-accreditation by ACA auditors following a comprehensive review of facility programs, services, and procedures. RCF achieved scores of 100% on mandatory, and 98.2% on non-mandatory standards. Audit Team Chairman Bruce Denny said, "We were extremely impressed with the professionalism and courtesies of the Rockville staff, and the availability and approachability of the Superintendent and her staff by both offenders and line staff. You have a very good facility here and you should all be very proud of the hard work you're doing."



Edinburgh Correctional Facility conducted its annual Thanksgiving Staff Call-Out dinner. The facility provided ham and turkey through the Employee Appreciation Fund, raised through facility fundraisers, and staff brought a covered dish to add to the celebration. Several employees were awarded certificates for outstanding performance and Superintendent Osburn answered any questions staff may have had and communicated future goals for the Department and the facility. A good time of fellowship was had by all. (photo left)

Plainfield Correctional Facility was on hand for a Shopping Tour with Susie's Place. With locations in Bloomington and Avon, Susie's Place has grown to become a well respected organization that works with child abuse victims during a

traumatic time. After receiving a tour and information about the organizations' collaboration with multiple agencies, the facility donated \$1000 to this worthy organization. (photo right)



The Indiana State Prison held their annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon. Approximately 40 volunteers attended along with staff. Volunteer Reverend Joel Taylor was given an appreciation award for his many years of service at the facility. A special program was performed for the volunteers by some of the talented offender singers. The program was very well received by all!

The Putnamville Correctional Facility in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor had 28 offenders participate in a graduation ceremony highlighting their hard work and dedication. Finishing programs centered on culinary arts, hospitality, housekeeping, and recycling were just a few of the opportunities successfully completed, as well as PEN being an avid part of their success. Congratulations!

The Pendleton Correctional Facility's (PCF) American Legion Post 608 hosted a Veteran's Day celebration. Post Representatives and Department Officers from the American Legion 5<sup>th</sup> District, along with family members joined the event to honor past and present veterans. During the ceremony Tom Francum, Tom Richardson and Wayne Scaife were presented with plaques in appreciation for their leadership as staff facilitators with the American Legion.



The Correction Industrial Facility (CIF) color guard and American Legion Post 503 joined together for a flag raising ceremony on Veterans Day. The color raised both the American and POW/MIA flag before a group of Legion members and staff while patriotic music played in the background throughout the camp. (photo left)

Camp Summit held a graduation ceremony to recognize students who passed the TASC (GED) test. The celebration included family members and facility staff. The students were issued diplomas and were congratulated by Superintendent Davis and Program Director Laura Gorbonosenko for their hard work and achievement. In addition to the TASC graduates, one other student was recognized for completing his High School diploma while at the facility. Camp Summit has a fully accredited school that provides juveniles with the opportunity to work on their high school credits or TASC depending upon their program eligibility.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its annual fall Kairos event, the 17<sup>th</sup> Kairos weekend Branchville has hosted. Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. is a Christian faith-based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of offenders. The Kairos program incorporates curriculum designed to build and encourage pro-social character and behavior. In all, 42 Branchville offenders and 48 volunteers participated in the event. As the state's only faith/character facility, Kairos is a fundamental part of Branchville's mission. (photo right)

The ninth consecutive Kairos three-day weekend at Putnamville Correctional Facility was a grand success! The Kairos weekend was led by volunteer Jim Soots. 39 volunteers ministered to 36 offender participants. During the closing ceremony, crosses and a Bible were given to all graduating participants. The participants were also given the opportunity to speak in front of the group and share how the Kairos weekend affected them. Thank you to all!



The Correctional Industrial Facility would like to congratulate the facility's three new sergeants, Aaron Olvey, Bradley Roberts and John Redick!

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted a Job Fair at the Pendleton Complex Training Center. During the three hour job fair, 15 eager applicants applied on-line, were interviewed and received a tour of the facility as part of the hiring process. In October alone, PCF staff took part of four separate job fairs to recruit potential Correctional Officer candidates.

Miami Correctional Facility sold out two days in a row after just an hour during its annual chicken, noodles and mashed potatoes fundraiser. Made by Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee members using real homemade noodles, the yummy comfort food couldn't have been served on two better days with temperatures dipping well-below freezing. The committee made more than \$250 to go towards its appreciation day's events.