

December 13, 2013

# Weekly Views

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) was honored by the Miami County Chamber of Commerce during their 2013 Annual Awards. The chamber gave the facility its "Community Involvement Award 2013" for all the work it's done in the past year in the Miami County area. At the award presentation, Chamber Director Sandy Chittum expressed her appreciation for the facility's contribution in maintaining the Nickel Plate Trail and the cleanup efforts after the" tornado hit in Peru. The facility was also instrumental in providing labor to paint the Broadway Underpass. The award is given



annually to chamber members who go above and beyond by volunteering and community involvement and demonstrate effectiveness in improving the environment and quality of life for Miami County and its citizens. Assistant Superintendent Daryl Walls accepted the plaque on behalf of MCF. (pictured right)

New Castle Correctional Facility contributed \$10,000 to purchase toys and clothes for the "Shop for a Tot" program for the Westminster Community Center. This donation will allow 83 children who would not have had a Christmas to enjoy the Holiday Season with presents from Santa.



Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COL) staff demonstrated the spirit of Christmas by donating money to help make a holiday dream come true for some local children. Superintendent Kathy Griffin and five staff member went with three children, one boy and two girls, at the Wal-Mart store in Fort Wayne, IN to take them on a shopping spree. The children were allowed to pick out their own gifts and left the store with a bike, touch screen tablet, coats, clothes, and various toys and gifts. The parents of the children were very appreciative for the gifts and the generosity of COL staff. One parent cried, stating that this show of caring meant a lot to her family. The children were selected by the Wayne Township trustee's office. Superintendent Griffin expressed how proud she was of the staff of the Chain O' Lakes for the contributions they made to make this happen. (photo left)

Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) Superintendent Wendy Knight is pleased to announce that American Legion Andrew J Cummins Post 503 has received its temporary charter from the American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Rob Burkhart, Paul Jones and Beverly Murray from the regional American Legion area joined the men at the initial meeting to instruct them on the rules and regulations on being a Post and what was expected from them. After the swearing-in ceremony of the 19 charter members, elections for Post officers were held. All of the officers then participated in another swearing-in ceremony performed by Mr. Burkhart.

Corrections and city government officials from Shelby County and the Memphis, TN Mayor's Office joined Tommy Norris, CEO of Greenprisons.org, for a tour at Plainfield and Pendleton Correctional Facilities to observe the facilities' recycling operations. Both facilities were excited to show the progress made by both staff and offenders. By hard work and behavioral changes, Plainfield Correctional Complex has recycled over 1,000,000 pounds this year. Executive Assistant Jack Binion showed off Pendleton's Bio-Mass Boiler, Aquaponics Program, and Recycling Center. (photo right)



A crew from Indigo Films that produces the TV show "I (Almost) Got Away With It" spent a long day at Westville Correctional Facility interviewing two inmates about two unrelated escapes. The crew repeatedly commented on how accommodating and friendly Indiana's DOC treated them compared to most other places they have filmed. The episodes are still in production and will be aired several months from now.

Using all the tools at his disposal to find unauthorized cell phones trafficked into the Putnamville Correctional Facility, Superintendent Stanley Knight enlisted the services of WVCF K-9 member Jarod Collenbaugh and his cell phone



detection dog Dixie (pictured left). Collenbaugh issued commands while Dixie sniffed offender bed areas and property. The team proved to be an invaluable resource when Dixie indicated a "hit" and a cell phone was recovered. Collenbaugh and Dixie completed an eight week class for certification in cell phone detection.

Mike Herron and Doug Evans of PEN Products were invited to Springfield, IL where they gave a detailed overview of the IDOC/PEN reentry initiatives. Illinois staff in attendance included their Deputy Commissioner, Parole Supervisor, Program Directors, Education, Industries Director and Industries Field Supervisors. Starting with Apprenticeship and Offender Workforce Development Specialist training, Illinois hopes to replicate many of the successful programs that are providing positive results in Indiana.

The New Castle Correctional Facility PLUS program began working on a quilt project in May 2013 and have since put over 4000 hours into making 200 quilts that were given to the Life Stream project. Life Stream coordinates a gift bag for 200 nursing home residents with non-perishable foods, toiletries, reading materials and this year a quilt. (photo below)



The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) was pleased to be able to help the South Madison School Corporation with their Holiday Helping Hands (HHH) Program. A \$250 donation was made to the program in time to help them finish Christmas shopping for needy children in the South Madison School District. Holiday Helping Hands is a community outreach project and special opportunity for needy families in the school district to receive additional assistance during the holidays. The HHH program will be spending up to \$50 on gifts for each child, so the CIF donation will allow them to help at least five children!

Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Nothing could stop the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Fatherhood Program from hosting its Winter Carnival. Offenders, guests and the kids enjoyed good food, crafts, and games. Each of the 59 children went home with a stocking full of goodies and

a quilt from the Purposeful Living Units Serve Unit. But the best present of all was quality time spent with dad during this most special time of the year! (photo right)



Miami Correctional Facility's offender choir hosted its annual Christmas concerts in the recreation buildings. The group performed on the Phase I side of the facility last week and completed their "tour" by hosting a performance on Phase II of the facility. Offenders sang a beautiful a Capella rendition of "Emmanuel" and gave the audience a chuckle during their singing of "Twelve Days of Christmas".

Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted a meeting of the IREF Community Advisory Board. The Advisory Board represents a broad range of community interest including members from local law enforcement, veteran affairs, neighborhood associations, business leaders, local and state government officials, and other stakeholders. Assistant Superintendent Dalton Haney and IREF department heads updated the group on significant events that recently occurred at the facility. Members of the board discussed and provided feedback on proposed new and current projects occurring at IREF and IREF's continued integration into and its impact on the surrounding communities.



The third annual IDOC Apprenticeship Symposium was held at Plainfield Correctional Facility where over 60 IDOC Apprenticeship Coordinators and Supervisors attended. Staff learned about the work release process and a variety of apprenticeship specific topics. This program assists offenders in learning valuable job skills and earning a U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) certificate. Commissioner Lemmon addressed the group, commending the continuing work that staff have done to improve the USDOL certification programming offered to offenders. (pictured left)

The 30th Class of LaPorte County Leadership visited the Indiana State Prison. The class appreciates the continued partnership and we thank you for your outstanding work in corrections. Monica L. Komaskinski, Executive Director Leadership LaPorte County stated, "The passion and commitment of the prison staff is commendable".

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held its quarterly Community Advisory Board. Topics discussed were Special Olympics Fire Truck Pull, the newly opened Youth Transition Reentry Independent unit, Facility Open House, IDOC Blood Drive Challenge medium facility winner, Warriors For Christ Fundraiser, Correctional Educator of the Year Ms. Judy Willis and Kairos ministries. In addition to several staff member in attendance were Senator William Friend, Logansport Mayor Ted Franklin and Acting Logansport State Hospital Superintendant Daryl Hall.

Offenders and family members attended a Family Reunification class at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Addiction Recovery Specialists Lauren Orme and David English instructed a module addressing Relapse Prevention and Reentry and awarded certificates for successful completion of the 20 week program.

Glendon Bender and approximately 70 volunteers with his Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry Organization visited the Putnamville and Pendleton Correctional Facilities to distribute delicious homemade cookies to offenders and staff. Volunteers visited the offender housing units to pass out the cookies, sing Christmas songs and offer prayers and spiritual counsel for the offenders and their families. (pictured left: Retired Superintendent Jack Duckworth, Pendleton Superintendent Dushan Zatecky and Glendon Bender).



The Pendleton Correctional Complex conducted the first annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament at the Staff Fitness Center. Correctional employees and their families attended and participated in the event which was organized by the Health and Wellness Committees at PCF, Pendleton Juvenile, and CIF. The Pendleton Complex Fitness Center continues to provide employees and their families the opportunity to exercise and pursue healthy lifestyles.