

Weekly Views

December 19, 2014

Staff from Governor Mike Pence's office, including Deputy Chief of Staff John Hill, joined Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and members of his Executive Staff at the Indiana State Prison for a tour and to get a firsthand look at facility operations and offender programs. (Pictured below (L to R) John Hill, Allison Karns, Steve Simcox and Superintendent Ron Neal).

Edinburgh Correctional Facility donated 200 food items and \$700 to the Edinburgh Fire Department. The donations were provided by staff, offenders and the Aramark Community

Involvement Fund, to assist in preparation of food baskets that are delivered to less fortunate families during the holiday season through the annual Johnson County Good Cheer Fund.



Plainfield Correctional Facility (IYC) and Santa Claus made the rounds to local Hendricks County Schools to deliver presents again this year. For the past 17 years, IYC has paired with schools in Avon, Brownsburg, Clayton, Danville, and Plainfield to provide presents to some of the children. Through donations from staff, offenders, the facility sponsored 197 students from 19 schools. Plainfield would like to give a special thanks to Meijer and the Plainfield Wal-Mart Supercenter for their financial contribution and continued support to the facility and community as a whole. (photo left)



The Shifting Gears program at Putnamville Correctional Facility donated 30 refurbished bicycles to Cloverdale High School for assistance with the Future Farmers of America's 2014 toy drive for all Putnam county residents. Receiving the donated bikes was Chelsey Meluch the agriculture teacher at both the high school and middle school. (photo right)

The long awaited cookie pass out by members of the Gospel Echoes took place at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF). 42 Gospel Echoes volunteers delivered 2760 bags containing five to six cookies each, a handwritten message on greeting cards and a scripture address booklet. Inside the housing units, Gospel Echoes volunteers passed out cookies, sang Christmas carols and



participated in prayer with many of the offenders. Each year, Gospel Echoes volunteers from the Goshen, Indiana area deliver the cookie packages to both the offender population and staff bringing extra joy during the holiday season.

Miami Correctional Facility stepped into Santa Claus' shoes this season by 66 children from 37 families for Christmas. Staff took ornaments off the "Shine the Light" tree for each child that told what their sizes, wants and needs were and then went shopping. The end result - a total of 461 packages were wrapped and set under the tree. The gifts were delivered by MCF staff to Healthy Families of Miami County which will then deliver them to the needy families. Each child received multiple gifts. Instead of exchanging gifts some of the departments chipped in and spent their money on the kids. Next year the facility is hoping to double the amount of children it adopts. Staff also chipped in more than \$450 in one day to make Christmas especially wonderful for a local 14 year-old-girl. (photo left)



Every child should feel special at Christmastime and be able to enjoy the festivities of the holiday season. That is why offenders at the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility donated \$1500 to the Riley Children's Foundation Child Life Program, which will be used for a holiday celebration. The Riley Child Life Program uses therapeutic activities to engage kids and minimize the stress and anxiety they often feel during their hospital stay. (photo below)

The final 2014 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) blood drive ended on a high note. 43 donations from giving staff like Officer Helen Corne (pictured left) are helping to supply the critical need for blood during the holiday season. Each unit of blood can help save up to three lives. The 2014 IDOC Blood Drive Challenge is also drawing to a close and WVCF is hoping to remain the large facility champion with 232 donations for the year.



The Correction Industrial Facility (CIF) American Legion Post 503 donated \$250 to both the Read & Feed Program in Pendleton and the Methodist Church Food Pantry in Ingalls. Using funds from their most recent food sale with Nelson's BBQ, the Post voted to help with the increased strain put on food banks during the holidays.



A food drive was held at the Indiana State Prison with the goal to collect 1000 non-perishable food items. Staff surpassed that number by collecting 1174 items. Hats, gloves scarves and books were also collected to be donated to the Community. All the items were given to the local Salvation Army who serves approximately 800 families each month.

Camp Summit Boot Camp and both Logansport Juvenile Intake and Treatment Facilities have been awarded Level 4 by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators for PbS (Performance Based Standards). Level 4 is the highest level possible in PbS and represents that the facility staff has a high degree of commitment to improving the lives of the youth they serve. Akin Fadeyi, PbS National Director/Coach congratulated both facilities on this is highly remarkable and unprecedented recognition. (photos below)



The Third Annual Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Symposium was held at the Indiana Government Center. Francia Carter, OWDS National Program Director from the National Institute of Corrections was the keynote speaker for the event. Dr. Robert Huckabee from Indiana State University (ISU) also addressed the attendees. OWDS is accredited through ISU. A three day OWDS "Train the Trainer" session was also held at the Correctional Training Institute, facilitated by Director Francia Carter. 26 individuals from various agencies who work in the field of offender participated in the 22 hour certification process.



The sixth OWDS graduation ceremony also took place in New Castle, IN as 34 individuals completed all requirements to earn their OWDS certification. The PEN facilitated OWDS movement in Indiana has now grown from one to 200 Certified Specialists. OWDS is making a difference as we see the lives of former offenders being rebuilt with meaningful employment as the foundation of change.

Wayne Scaife, Community Involvement Coordinator, and Captain Jerry Gilley led a group of 21 students and faculty from IUPUI on a tour of the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF). During the tour, students and faculty visited housing units, recreation, the health care center and were given the opportunity to speak with offenders. The students and faculty are part of the IUPUI Criminal Justice program. "Although the students are looking at careers in Law Enforcement, the students gain knowledge of the corrections system, which could lead to a career in the department," stated Wayne Scaife.

Offenders from Madison Correctional Facility volunteered their time to the Salvation Army. They helped sort gifts that were donated to the Angel Tree program and then gathered the necessary gifts when families participating in the program came to get their items. Both the offenders and the officer supervising the crew said how great it felt to be able to give back and assist those in need this holiday season.

Students from the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility assisted the Salvation Army with their annual Christmas food basket and gift drive. The program puts together and provides food and gifts for families in need in the Cass County Indiana area. This year the program gave away frozen turkeys, chickens and dry goods along with dolls, games, bicycles, clothing and baby supplies to 240 needy families in the greater Cass County area. The student from the facility assisted in collecting and delivering the items to the selected families. (photo right)



It has been a busy and festive time of year at Miami Correctional Facility. Miami staff donated 20 units of blood during the annual Holiday blood Drive, and they were treated to Krispy Kreme donuts and milk as a thank you for all they do during the Christmas season and all year long. The



offender band and choir gave offenders and staff to a musical celebration during the annual Christmas concert, traveling to both sides of the facility. Offenders were also treated to cookies and pretzels from Gospel Echoes and Christmas Behind Bars. Each group sang hymns and Christmas carols to the offenders in the housing units while delivery the goodies. (photo left)

Check out the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) on Facebook! Wabash launched their page on December 10 the same date back in 1992 when the maximum-security facility received its first inmates. The page is designed to be fun, informational and timely. Throwback Thursday features a picture which included a certain deputy commissioner and our superintendent. Try to identify them at www.facebook.com/wvcf1992, enjoy!

Staff Development and Training has launched a Facebook page to provide program participants with the latest information on weather related notices affecting training at the five Regional Training sites. This site will also be used to share information about upcoming professional development programs and training opportunities available. Check them out at www.facebook.com/IDOCTraining!

The Guard One system to record rounds has been installed on all housing units and in the recreation areas of Westville Correctional Facility. The system is operational, and staff will be trained in its use over the coming weeks to improve security and automatically log rounds in all those areas.

Plainfield Correctional Facility was in the spirit of #GIVINGTUESDAY. Partnering with the national movement of giving, the Hendricks County Community Foundation set up six community funds for each school system in Hendricks County to raise money. The top three funds received matching donations from Hendricks County Community Foundation. Plainfield Correctional Facility made a donation of \$300 to each of the competing funds including Avon, Brownsburg, Cascade, Danville, Plainfield, and Tri-West.