

December 6, 2013

# Weekly Views

PEN Products partners from the U.S. Department of Labor John Delgado, Steve Steed and David Gray, were asked to meet with representatives of U.S. Senator Donnelly's staff. The Senator had been briefed that Indiana is a national leader in apprenticeship and was interested in learning more about all apprenticeship activities in Indiana, including those within the Indiana Department of Correction.

Staff Development and Training (SD&T) personnel provided their Presentation Skills program yesterday to seven Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) offender mentors who are currently participating in a Mental Health Mentor Training pilot program that was developed by staff at PCF

and SD&T. The Mental Health Mentor Training was developed from the Certified Treatment Specialist Training Curriculum currently being held at the Correctional Training Institute. There are 30 PCF offenders that have been identified as Mental Health Mentors who are being trained by instructors and staff from SD&T, PCF Mental Health Staff and PCF Unit Team Staff. (photo right)



IDOC Construction Services staff and offenders from Miami Correctional Facility have been assisting in the cleanup efforts in Kokomo, IN from a tornado that badly damaged parts of the city on November 17. Crews that include more than 20 offenders and staff spent days in Kokomo clearing piles of debris and fallen trees and brush. (photo left)



The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) food drive for the Pendleton Read & Feed program collected approximately 175 pounds of food and a total of \$40. The Read & Feed program is a unique program of the Pendleton Library which combines a bookmobile with a food pantry. The bookmobile/food pantry makes numerous stops in the south Madison County area, serving between 90-110 individuals each week and 60 percent of those being children. Clients are permitted to take up to 10 food items and books, CD's and other library material.

The offender organizations at the Indiana State Prison, the Northwestern Jaycees and American Legion Post 130, donated \$1000 for the purchase of toys to be given away to area children in the community. The toys were purchased at a local store by

staff. Offenders from both organizations wrapped approximately 105 toys for boys and girls, ages newborn to teenager. The toys were donated to the local Salvation Army. (photo right)

The fourth Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training class completed their final requirements and was honored in a ceremony at the Correctional Training Institute. This number of certified OWDS specialist in Indiana has now grown from one in 2009 to 135 with the completion of this class. The 180 hour accredited training equips graduates with new tools and resources designed to assist ex offenders in finding and maintaining meaningful employment. Represented in this class were IDOC, Parole, PEN, Department of Workforce Development, Community Corrections, Work One and Community faith-based and nonprofit agencies, including three participants from Texas.



Representatives of the Kentucky DOC Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program toured the composting operation at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Laura Wesley, Tammy Lou Wright, Zach Schadler and Eric Sizemore gathered information and photos for inclusion in their team project presentation on composting. The visitors were very complimentary of the receptiveness of staff, Putnamville's commitment to composting and generating compost revenue, and extended their gratitude to Superintendent Stanley Knight for allowing them the opportunity to visit the facility.

Pendleton Juvenile Correction Facility teacher Amanda DeHart organized an off-grounds field trip for five students. Staff and students went to Indiana Repertory

Theatre to see Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Mrs. DeHart's students will be studying the book during the month of December.

Employees at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) participated in a project to express holiday greetings to members of the military and their families. In connection with the American Red Cross "Holiday Cards for Heroes Campaign" PCF staff sent 244 Christmas Cards that will be forwarded to veterans, military families, and active duty service members at hospitals and installations around the world.



Wabash Valley has three new Correctional Sergeants! Shawn Coakley, Greg Sullivan and Steve Donaldson bring a combined total of 40 years of experience to their new supervisory roles. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Frank Littlejohn notes the trio has served on Emergency Squad, in segregation units and general population posts during their careers. "They are well prepared to lead and help prepare our offender population for release based on their corrections expertise."



The Reception Diagnostic Center held a two-day chili cook-off and raised over \$300! Proceeds will go towards the RDC holiday party, to help RDC staff in need and to local elementary school children. Congratulations to the winners of the cook-off Officers Antoine Stewart and Michelle Stith!

Congratulations and appreciation goes out to the staff at the Westville Correctional Facility who donated 52 pints of blood during the facility's recent Red Cross Blood drive. The Red Cross day is always a busy day at the facility, with schedules being rearranged and staff covering for others donating blood.

The Correctional Training Institute was pleased to have a visiting committee from the American Correctional Association auditing the facility for a standards compliance re-accreditation. Staff Development and Training (SD&T) received

100% compliance with mandatory standards and 98.8% on the non-mandatory standards. The auditors praised SD&T Staff on their enthusiasm for training and on the quality of training programs that are conducted for the Department.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility students in Ms. Amanda DeHart's English nine classes participated in the annual Santa Letter project. Students will respond to the letters from the point of view of Santa Claus, as they answer the children's questions about the North Pole, reindeer, elves and Mrs. Claus. This collaborative project is always a success for both the students of Providence Junior Senior High and the students who receive the letters.

Children in the North and South Putnam County School districts will have a brighter Christmas thanks to the efforts of offenders assigned to the Shifting Gears program at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Thirty bikes were repaired, spruced-up and delivered to Cloverdale High School for the annual Christmas Toy Drive, sponsored by the school's student council members. (photo left)



The 2013 Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS) Symposium was hosted by Putnamville Correctional Facility. Thirty-seven Offender Workforce Development Specialists certified through Indiana's Partnership with National Institute of Corrections were in attendance from the Department of Workforce Development, Community Non-profits, Community Corrections, and IDOC Facilities, Parole & Central Office. Commissioner Lemmon addressed the group discussing IDOC's progress, providing current IDOC statistical information pertaining offenders being released from IDOC and providing encouragement in the post-release employment movement taking place within Indiana.



The Pendleton Correctional Facility Offender American Legion Post #608 donated \$608 to the Toys for Tots Program that is sponsored by the White River Club and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. The money will be used by the charity to purchase two bicycles and toys.

Christmas Behind Bars founder Lemuel Vega along with approximately 26 of the organization's volunteers visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to fellowship with offenders. The organization provided gift bags to offenders and a variety of snack items were also provided to staff. (photo left)

Miami Correctional Facility hosted the annual PEN Products Board of Directors meeting. The PEN Board consists of nine members, six from state government and three from the private sector. The meeting included a tour of the industries operations at Miami

Correctional Facility, including the Miami Accessible Media Project, which provides nearly 500 offender jobs. Discussions included the mission and benefits of the Re-Entry Career Development Training, new products and engineering as well as the progress and updates on PEN's joint venture partnerships. PEN also discussed its goals and challenges for the future. Retiring PEN Board member Gerry Fankhauser from Purdue University was presented with a special gift by Commissioner Lemmon (pictured right). Members were also treated to lunch and a few gifts manufactured at PEN.



The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a job fair at the facility's Training Center that attracted 30 job applicants. On-site job interviews were conducted and qualified applicants were provided a job shadowing tour of the facility.