



# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

January 16, 2015

Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) Chaplain Keith Blackburn participated in a panel discussion on the Indiana Youth Institute's (IYI) Kids Count Radio Show, hosted by IYI President and CEO Bill Stanczkiewics. Kids Count Radio Show is a 30-minute public affairs program that brings a compelling look at issues affecting Hoosier kids and families. Chaplain Blackburn, along with Rachel Halleck, Director of Behavioral Services at Volunteers of America: Healing Families, and David Powel, Executive Director for the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, were part of the discussion about the issues of Hoosier children with parents behind bars. The program is slated to air on March 8, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. on WIBC Radio locally. (photo right)



Quinn Fox, daughter of Corizon nurse Sally Fox at Westville Correctional Facility (WCC), is the inaugural recipient of the Correctional Professional Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) Rose Vaisvilas Public Service Scholarship for \$2000. Since Quinn had already left to start her spring semester at Indiana State University as a criminology major, her mother gratefully accept the check from Commissioner Bruce Lemmon on her behalf. (photo left)



South Bend Community Reentry Facility Administrative Assistant Larry Dickens was awarded the Commissioner's Scholarship. The \$5000 CPAFI Scholarship was presented to Mr. Dickens by IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. Mr. Dickens is currently completing a PhD in Global Leadership at Indiana Tech in Ft. Wayne.

The Correctional Industrial Facility also received a visit from Commissioner Lemmon who presented two CPAFI Scholarships to Sergeant Pat Gibson for \$3000 and Officer Sammy Mena, accepting on behalf of his daughter, for \$1000. Sergeant Pat Gibson is working toward a Criminal Justice degree, and Officer Mena's daughter is attending school for engineering.

Miami Correctional Facility Recreation Department hosted the Indiana Wesleyan University Basketball Team on New Year's Eve, working with the offender All-Star team on shooting drills. The college team also gave their testimonies and positive encouragement to the offender team. It was a positive experience for everyone. (photo right)



The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) welcomed Senator, Renn, Emma and Oakley as the newest additions to the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) program. All four puppies will complete their first phase of training to becoming assistance dogs for individuals with disabilities throughout the State of Indiana. The ICAN program not only benefits those persons who are placed with an ICAN dog, but also has a tremendous impact on the offenders who train the dogs. (Renn pictured left)



Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Alison Yancey is pleased to announce the promotion of Eric Courtney to Assistant Superintendent. Superintendent Yancey stated, "Eric brings a passion for corrections and has already proven to be a leader. I look forward to seeing his growth in this new position."

The Putnamville Correctional Facility and Casework Manager James Bennett hosted a Christmas with Dad event for seven offenders and visitors in the Inside Out Dads program. Children were allowed to play games, eat, and visit with their fathers in a relaxed setting. This was an excellent opportunity for the bonding of the graduated dads and the children that have been affected by their incarceration!

The Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Camp Summit Boot Camp over the holidays and collected 16 units of blood from employees. According to the American Red Cross the drive has the potential to save 48 lives. The bloodmobile visit, coordinated by Camp Summit staffer Pat Kimmel, was part of the Indiana Department of Correction's Blood Drive Challenge which ended in December.

Since 1997 the staff at Branchville Correctional Facility have collected and donated to Toys for Tots. As a result of the staff's generosity and kindness, this year 35 children from Perry, Crawford and Spencer counties were able to have a much happier holiday season.

Every Christmas for 23 years, Bishop Dale Melczek has celebrated Christmas morning Mass at the Indiana State Prison. At age 76, he retired at the end of the year. This year's mass was well attended by Catholic offenders as well as numerous volunteers from the Northwest Indiana Catholic community.

While working on a heating problem at WCC, one of the steam lines failed. Mark Wilson, Heat and Vent Foreman, pushed fellow engineer Roger Jeffers out of the way from the sudden spray of hot steam, saving Jeffers by placing himself in harm's way. Jeffers then administered first aid for the burns Wilson suffered.