

# Weekly Views

January 20, 2012

The Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) is pleased to announce that it will again be offering educational scholarships to staff and their families. Information will be coming soon, so watch your email and SCOOP for more details!

For the second year, Parole Services Division has conducted Operation GRIN (Giving Resources to Indiana's Needy). The project is a competition between Parole Districts to accumulate and acquire as many food, clothing and other items or services possible to provide to those less fortunate within the local communities. A traveling trophy was created to acknowledge the staff of the

district that was most successful in obtaining items for donation. The Indianapolis District Office won the initial contest in 2010. The winner for 2011 is the Fort Wayne District Office.

Congratulations to Supervisors Mia Kelsaw and Bobby Yarborough and the office staff for their generosity, commitment and spirit of giving to those less fortunate community members.

Staff from the Indiana State Prison (ISP) rolled up their sleeves for a blood drive hosted at the facility. Fifteen staff donated blood during the drive conducted by the American Red Cross. There were initially 27 ISP staff scheduled to donate, but due to staff illnesses and mandatory training not everyone was able to donate.

Two offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison, Wee One's Nursery (W.O.N.) Program gave birth to baby girls. The two babies increased the programs baby count to nine. Through the W.O.N. childhood development classes, the mothers learn the importance of bonding with their baby during the early stages of the baby's life.

Staff from Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Prison Tails program made a presentation to members of the Duneland Kiwanis Club. Program Supervisor Regan Dietz spoke at length about Mixed Up Mutts and WCC's Prison Tails program. He also performed a training demo with one of the program's graduates, JayJay. Regan was joined at the event by Mixed Up Mutts board member Linda Gurgel. The Kiwanis Club served the visitors lunch and presented a check for \$100 to Mixed Up Mutts.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Staff Assembly. Superintendent Butts and Assistant Superintendents Duane Alsip and Bruce Helming presented facility updates addressing recent events and activities that have impacted the facility. New staff members were introduced and other employees were recognized for promotions, years of service, retirements, and other achievements. Facility K-9 Field Commander Sergeant Donald Mockler also presented awards to Correctional Police Officers Jeremiah Norris and Sergeant Joseph McCutcheon in recognition of their contributions to the facility's K-9 Operation. Security Threat Group Coordinator Walter Peterson, who also serves as a Correctional Police Officer, was recognized as Employee of the Quarter and Mail Room employee Alberta Potter was named the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Linda Commons announced the promotions of two staff members. Sergeant Robert Runyon was promoted to Lieutenant and Officer Dewayne Sanders was promoted to Sergeant. Mr. Runyon has been working at PNJCF since September 2007. Mr. Sanders has been a correctional officer at PNJCF since September 2009. Congratulations!!

During a recent Red Cross blood drive, 13 Camp Summit staff showed up to donate blood with a total nine able to donate. This was a very good effort despite the fact the area was experiencing the worst snowstorm of the season. According to the American Red Cross the drive had the potential to save 27 lives. Blood donations are separated into three components, plasma, platelets and red cells, which get used by different patients. The facility is planning another drive in the summer.

The loyal volunteers of Friendship and Fellowship held a Birthday Bingo Party for 91 offenders at the Indiana Women's Prison with a birthday in December and January. The Volunteers served cake and ice cream while handing out prizes to the Bingo winners. The evening was enjoyed by all offenders and the prizes of shampoo, water bottles and food items helped to make the birthdays special.

Sixteen Offenders from the Westville Correctional Facility Level 1 Unit have been selected to participate in a college course along side with sixteen students from the University of Notre Dame. The college course, Rethinking Crime and Justice: Explorations from the Inside Out, is taught at the facility by two Notre Dame Professors. The intended goal is to allow the college students to observe, experience and participate with offender stakeholders in the Criminal Justice System. The offender/students were selected to participate in the class for their motivation, diversity and the possibility of completion. The once a week course will run until May.