

May 24, 2013

Weekly Views

The Prison Greyhounds Pet Walk exceeded everyone's best expectations. Team DOC had 27 registered walkers, many of whom brought along their canine companions. Several greyhound graduates and their adoptive families also joined the walk. Preliminary figures indicate a total of nearly \$6000 was raised from this event! Of this fantastic figure, about \$4000 is from Team DOC, Madison Correctional Facility and Putnamville Correctional Facility. Thank you to all who participated. (see photo below)

More than 100 walkers and runners participated in Miami Correctional

Facility's 3rd annual Prison 5K Run/Walk and Fun Run.

T-shirts were given out as well as trophies to the first and second place winners in several age categories. The event is held in Bunker Hill near the prison and is an official 5K race. This year the facility was placed on the Club Kokomo Roadrunners official points calendar, which helped bring in more people. The club has members in several surrounding counties. The event raised more than \$1,000 for the facility's Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee.



The Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana received many good applications for the Spring 2013 scholarships and are pleased to announce the following winners: William Welch, employee at the Reception Diagnostic Facility, \$5000 Commissioner's Scholarship; Bridget Elston, daughter of Madison Correctional Facility employee, \$3000 Public Safety Scholarship; and Bradley Burton, employee at the Rockville Correctional Facility, \$2000 Public Service Scholarship. Four \$1000 scholarships were also awarded to Stephen Hancock, son of Wabash Valley Correctional Facility employee; Kayla Brennan, daughter of Westville Correctional Facility employees; Jason Underhill, Corizon contract employee at the Branchville Correctional Facility; and Naomi Whitaker, daughter of Corizon contract employee at the Correctional Industrial Facility.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility, along with seven community first response agencies, participated in the facility's annual disaster drill. Though it happens yearly, preparation for the mock emergency scenario is one of the best kept secrets and generated a quick response from everyone. The annual drill emphasizes and reinforces cohesion and teamwork among agencies. This year's scenario involved an explosion and fire in one of the facility's large biomass boilers. Four personnel were injured, with injuries moulaged in advance for realism. (see photo left) After the drill, everyone gathered to debrief and share refreshments offered by Aramark.

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility's Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit donated two dollhouses to The Emberwood Center, which offers adult and adolescent drug, alcohol and other addictive treatments.



Pre-release Re-entry coordinator Kelli Searing and staff processed 297 offenders for state IDs from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The mobile BMV unit issued over 238 pieces of identification to offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Members of the Pendleton Correctional Facility Honor Guard were selected to place a wreath during the unveiling of a new K-9 Memorial that was dedicated at The Gardens at Willowcrest Park in Anderson, IN. (pictured right) The memorial honors K-9 Officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and those who have faithfully served, retired, and passed on. Guest speakers at the event included Anderson Mayor Kevin Smith and Anderson Police Chief Larry Crenshaw.



Indianapolis Parole District #3 (PD3) is participating in 24 Hours of Booty, a fundraising event for national and local cancer initiatives. On June 28, staff from PD3 will take turns riding the bicycle course at Butler University's for 24 hours. The team's goal is to have someone riding at all times! If you would like to support PD3 in the fight against cancer, please click on the link below to help them reach their goal of \$2200. www.24hoursofbooty.org/goto/IDOC-PD3 24 Hours of Booty is the Official 24 Hour Cycling Event of the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) and benefits the IU Simon Cancer Center.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COL) participated in Noble County's Relay for Life fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Staff and offenders combined with a team for the event called "Butterflies from Heaven". Cheryl Kirchner, the nurse at COL, represented the facility by walking the track at the event. Ms. Kirchner collected donations by selling luminaries, which she decorated and placed around the track. The team collected a total of \$3,311.50, taking first place. The entire event brought in over \$40,900.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility conducted its annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, attended by approximately 40 volunteers. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the volunteers, and dinner was prepared and served by the Culinary Arts teacher and students. Entertainment consisted of a "Family Feud" game show skit by the Venture Scouts.

Offenders from the PLUS Program at New Castle Correctional Facility donated \$3,000 to the Henry County Sheriff's "Kids Camp."

The Correctional Industrial Facility held their quarterly and yearly award ceremony to recognize employees for their contributions to the facility. Rookie of Year awards went to Officers Sarah Runyan and Meggan Smith and Caseworker Jennifer Matthews. Most Dedicated Employee of the Year went to Secretary Laura Rasmussen, while Employee of the Year went to Elmer Blevins, Physical Plant Manager/Maintenance Supervisor. The Yearly Extra Mile Award went to Officer Michael Tonuc and two Supervisors of the Year awards were given one to Capt. Charile Fox and the other to Lt. James Powell. Quarterly awards were given to Dr. Melissa Hurst, Lead Physiologist, Contractual Employee of the Quarter; James (Matt) Johnson, Employee of the Quarter; Manuel Diaz, Officer of the Quarter; and Sgt. Brian Stoner, Supervisor of the Quarter. The Extra Mile Quarterly Award went to Carleatta Wright, mailroom. Wendy Knight, Superintendent, expressed her gratitude to all the award winners saying, "Their hard work is appreciated and we are happy to have the opportunity to recognize those who perform at such a high level of excellence."



WJLT radio based in Evansville, broadcast LIVE from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS Unit, a first ever for a maximum-security facility! Show host Johnny Kincaid, a long time Kairos volunteer, wanted to showcase PLUS and its emphasis on community service. Johnny and co-host Julie Michaels let their audience know how the faith and character based unit helps prepare offenders for a successful return to society. They also talked about the need for volunteers in the unit and got input from PLUS participants noting how the program has positively impacted their lives. (see photo left)

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation for eight students who completed the program. Students and their parents celebrated that achievement together at the graduation ceremony. This was the facility's 58th CLIFF graduation to date. The program was implemented in October of 2005 and is the only CLIFF unit operating within a juvenile facility.

Playwright and Martin University Liberal Arts Professor Nicole Kearney Davis, along with an eight-member cast, presented her play entitled "re-Entry" to staff and residents at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility. The play centers around the life of George Jackson, as he struggles to rebuild his life, reposition himself within society, find employment and housing, and repair family relationships strained by his repeated incarcerations. After the play, Dr. Willie Jenkins, Re-entry Administrator for the Office of Mayor Greg Ballard, and cast members (pictured right) discussed ways residents can overcome some of the barriers to successful re-entry such as homelessness, drugs, and other causes of recidivism depicted in the play.



Kristine St. Martin, Correctional Lieutenant at the Indiana State Prison, graduated from the La Porte County Leadership Program. Throughout the nine month program, participants gain valuable exposure to community leaders, programs and service initiatives, while engaging in interactive assignments, which raise community awareness and action.

Miami Correctional Facility held its first-ever combined Clean Living is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) and Growth, Responsibility, Integrity, Purpose (GRIP) graduation ceremony for 83 graduates. Both programs are designed to provide intensive drug rehabilitation for methamphetamine/amphetamine users (CLIFF) and poly-substance users (GRIP). The first residential CLIFF program opened at Miami in April 2005. After the success of the CLIFF program, the state opened the GRIP program in May 2011. The programs have proven to be successful in that recidivism rates after leaving prison have been shown to be much lower among those who participated in the CLIFF program versus those who did not.

The Indianapolis Parole District has engaged in an innovative and strategic partnership with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Northwest District, to identify and more closely monitor offenders released to parole with a history of violent crime, burglary, or robbery. Specialized Parole Agent Ryan Matthys and dedicated police officers assigned to such paroled-offenders will routinely communicate and coordinate supervision activities in an effort to reduce recidivism by providing motivation and support to offenders to remain crime-free and become productive members of society. The available resource support for the offenders may include access to counseling, mentoring, employment referrals, financial assistance, and housing. The approach to public safety moving forward is an initiative hopeful to be duplicated in each IMPD District with IDOC Parole Agents in tandem situated in those District Offices.

On Mother's Day, 46 members of The Notre Dame Folk Choir were in the Indiana State Prison Chapel to put on a choral program for the offender population. There were approximately 180 offenders in attendance along with Catholic volunteers. ISP is one of many places the choir sings each year.



The Putnamville Correctional Facility's K-9 unit held a demonstration for 4th and 5th grade students on Career Exploration Day at Rio Grande Elementary School. The students were excited and captivated as handlers issued commands and canines performed tactical maneuvers. School administrators commended staff for giving an informative and professional presentation. (see photo left)

Pendleton Correctional Facility Payroll Department employee Joann Colvin was honored during a retirement celebration in recognition of her 23 years of dedicated service to the State of Indiana. Everyone at the facility will miss Joann and wish her the best as she begins her well deserved retirement.

The New Castle Correctional Facility hosted a golf tournament with players coming from across the state. The proceeds from the tournament, totaling \$1,884.48, were donated to the New Castle Animal Shelter.