

May 9, 2014

Weekly Views

Staff at Westville Correctional Facility found a way to have fun on the job while helping out the Kingsford Heights Girl Scouts. As part of this year's Correctional Employees Week activities, staff had the opportunity to celebrate with some chocolate cream pie. Seven intrepid (or gullible) staff members volunteered to collect donations to support the Girl Scouts. Those who collected the most would get their own special pie – in the face! Staff and offenders donated a total of \$927.16. They then watched



Correctional Caseworker Jessica Linscott as the winner and Administrative Assistant David Leonard as the sit-in for runner up Assistant Superintendent Michael Scott receive their just rewards. (photo right)

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility honored staff during Correctional Employees Week with cookouts, daily drawings, staff awards and a two-day blood drive for the American Red Cross. During the festivities, Psychiatric Social Services Specialist Rick Hinkle was honored for a recent act of heroism. On his way to work, Mr. Hinkle witnessed a serious car accident involving a fellow coworker at the entrance of the facility. He tended to all the accident victims and assisted in evacuating three children from an overturned vehicle. He was presented with a super hero cape and a staff created caricature drawing. (photo left)



2014 marks the 22nd year of proud service for the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). The milestone was noted during Correctional Employees Week festivities at the facility. Superintendent Richard Brown also honored four staffers for outstanding achievements over the past year. Honorees included: Teresa Littlejohn (Employee of the Year), Lieutenant Christopher Nicholson (Supervisor of the Year), John Crusie (Officer of the Year) and Nathan Lyday (Rookie of the Year). Assistant Superintendent Kevin Gilmore received special recognition for 30 years of dedicated public service.

To promote health and wellness for National Wellness Month, staff on Miami Correctional Facility's K-Bracket completed in a Push-up/Sit-up Challenge during their weekend on duty. Each participant had to complete ten push-ups every half an hour from 10:00 pm until 4:30 pm each night. A total of 18 staff signed up the first night and completed 130 pushups per person for a combined 2,340 pushups. On the second night the challenge expanded to include sit-ups for those who couldn't do push-ups. The combined total of push-ups and sit-ups completed for the weekend was 4,360. Participants challenged each other by doing one-handed, leg-lift and cross-legged pushups. The competition boosted morale and was deemed a success by the K-Bracket supervisors. Participants were rewarded with a pop and a candy bar for their efforts. (photo right of Officer Bingaman)



The Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF), in collaboration with Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), hosted a graduation ceremony for the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. The IUPUI Inside-Out Program was launched at IREF during the summer of 2007 by the School of Public and Environmental and built around the premise that incarcerated individuals and college students might benefit from studying crime, justice, and related issues together as peers. Students met for 16 weeks inside IREF and focused on classical philosophers and contemporary thinkers, and the development of both theistic and non-theistic viewpoints of Western philosophy and its impact on modern life and living.

The Correctional Employees Week at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) was running full throttle including a Monday blood drive with participants receiving a walking taco. Tuesday and Thursday all staff have enjoyed an ice cream social and Wednesday was an IWP Italian Cafe Meal with spaghetti and garlic bread. Staff will close out the week with a health fair and cookout.



In conjunction with other Correctional Employees Week activities, the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a cookout to honor Pendleton retirees. Approximately 25 retired PCF employees participated in the event and those in attendance were presented with a facility coin by Superintendent Zatecky as a demonstration of appreciation for their years of dedicated service to the facility and to the Indiana Department of Correction. (photo left)

Offenders at the Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility have been busy volunteering in the community, assisting Habitat for Humanity, Central Noble Food Pantry, Noble County Fair Grounds, and many other area projects. In appreciation for their hard work, they were treated to a night of celebration. The offenders were entertained by the facility's choir and were treated to heartwarming testimony

and inspiring tale of change by Justin Massey. Mr. Massey spoke of his incarceration and personal struggles with addiction, his relationship with his wife and children and how faith in God helped him reach the total freedom he was seeking. The evening ended with all in attendance being served loaded baked potatoes and cupcakes.



To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Victims of Crime Act, the students at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility dedication of a Crime Victim's Rights memorial garden. The garden was created in the shape of heart with a Burr Oak tree in the center surrounded by flowers planted by the students. Each student was given a flag which they wrote a message to remember a victim of crime and their rights as a victim. Some wrote the names of a victim, some wrote about an incident but all were very touching and personal. Mr. Greathouse gave a dedication speech and a moment of silence was observed before each girl solemnly planted her flag around the perimeter of the heart.

Miami Correctional Facility celebrated Correctional Employees with all kinds of goodies for staff, including daily drawings, a baby picture contest, ice cream sandwiches, biscuit and gravy breakfast and chips and salsa. The week also was filled with recognitions of staff for years of service and perfect attendance. The facility also recognized the loss of two staffers and the retirement of several others. Three people were named Employee of the Year as well. Officer of the year went to Denver Nettifee; Supervisor of the Year went to Lieutenant Jason Tedder; and Employee of the Year went to Jennifer Fiscel.

Incarceration & the Family was the featured program topic for the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Advisory Board. Dr. Jacquelyn Frank of Eastern Illinois University discussed her extensive research about the impact of incarceration on families. Additional input was provided by Offender Jon Omstead and his parents, Robert and Patricia Omstead. Mrs. Omstead said her son's involvement in programs at WVCF turned his life around. With 16 years served and eight to go, Jon Omstead said he has gone from someone his late brother described as "sorry for the person he had become" to someone his mother said today she is "proud of." Omstead, now 34, said he is working with his parents support on his return to society in a world he knows has changed dramatically. (pictured right, L to R: Superintendent Richard Brown, Robert and Patricia Omstead, Jon Omstead and Dr. Jacquelyn Frank)



Rabbi Menachem Fellig from Miami, Florida (pictured below) came to the Indiana State Prison's Prisoner Dinning Area with a propane torch in hand, to make sure all was kosher through a process called torching. Torching is a common way to make stoves, pots, pans and other kitchen utensils kosher. The idea is to superheat the metal, burning away residue from non-kosher items that may have been cooked in them. "Preparing kosher meals in house will allow the Department to meet religious and nutritional needs in a financially responsible way," stated David Liebel, Director of Religious Services.



Several staff have been promoted at Westville Correctional Facility (WCC). Emily Kirk is leaving as the Director of the Therapeutic Community (TC) Unit to take over as the Department's Regional Substance Abuse Director. Allen Hines will take over as the WCC TC Director, assisted by Aleycia McCullough as the Assistant Director. Also, Matthew Pryor and Shawn Miller were promoted to Sergeant. Congratulations to all for recognition of their leadership and skills!

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a Christian Concert in the outside recreation yard. Students voluntarily signed up to participate in the event, with 99% of the population attending. The event, sponsored by Warriors for Christ Ministries, was the second concert held in as many years and included six performers including a Christian rapper. Students enjoyed a picnic style lunch during the event.

The Indiana Women's Prison held a Mother's Day Luncheon in the Jerome Brewer Gymnasium sponsored by Carol Kornas and the Castleton United Methodist Church. 21 incarcerated mothers were able to spend quality time with their children. There were 38 children in attendance. Some of the activities included making rubber band bracelets, mother's day cards and tissue paper flowers for mom. The church provided free family photos to commemorate the event. (photo right)



A six-man work crew from the Indianapolis Reentry Education Facility volunteered their time to clean murals on East 10th Street in downtown Indianapolis. The East 10th Street Civic Association, in partnership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. provided hoses, water, soap and brushes for the residents, who worked over three hours to clean four different murals underneath the Interstate 65 overpass. (photo left)



Members of the Pendleton Correctional Facility offender American Legion Post 608 presented a check for \$1216 to Pendleton American Legion Post 117 representative Monte Schneider in support of the "Wagons for Warriors Project". An additional donation of \$284 was presented by Superintendent Zatecky on behalf of the facility's Community Involvement Fund. Proceeds from the donations will be utilized by

Post 117 to purchase wagons and household items for wounded veterans receiving treatment for life altering injuries while housed at the Walter Reed Medical Facility.