

June 14, 2013

# Weekly Views

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility participated in the celebration of the City of Kendallville's Sesquicentennial Birthday by taking part in a public art project. Local artists were asked to decorate a 10 foot tall windmill that will be placed on display in downtown Kendallville June through September 14. Artists at Chain O' Lakes decorated two windmills from the Noble County Visitor's Bureau with the themes "Making a World of Differences" and "Birds of Nature". On November 9, the windmills will be moved to the Windmill Museum for the End of Summer Celebration and public auction. (see photo below)



The final figures are in, and this year the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI) Golf Tournament cleared \$6,000 more than last year for a total of \$24,500! Thank you to all who participated in or volunteered at this fun event. Since the CPAFI began, it has issued 49 emergency grants helping 123 people who have been displaced due to fire, flood, or tornado, or have experienced other catastrophic events. In addition, \$46,000 has been distributed in educational scholarships to staff and their families.

The Hendricks County Humane Society was on hand to receive a donation from Plainfield Correctional Facility (IYC) for \$1000. The donation came from proceeds from the annual IYC Golf Tournament held on June 7, 2013, as well as a contribution from offenders in the facility's PLUS Program. On hand to receive the donation was Ms. Merrily Nilles along with other volunteer staff. Ms. Nilles was very appreciative of the donation, indicating that the money would be put into immediate use. (see photo right)



A graduation ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to honor the most recent GED and Vocational Horticulture graduates housed at the facility's minimum security Outside Dorm (OSD). Pastor Demetrius Warren of the Everlasting Dominion Fellowship Church located in Kokomo, IN served as guest speaker for the event.

Wabash Valley (WVCF) and Putnamville Correctional Facility staff were all smiles as Special Olympic athletes filled the Terre Haute Hulman Civic Center for the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Games. Wabash Valley Superintendent Richard Brown, who also proudly carried the Olympic Torch during the morning torch run, said he was thrilled with staff help at the WVCF-built Bocce courts competition. "It was humbling, it was inspiring and we were proud to volunteer to work with these special athletes!" (see photo right, L to R: Superintendent Richard Brown, Putnamville Captain John Steckler, WVCF Utility Captain Vera Barnett, Sergeant Earl Brock, Kenneth Brock and Correctional Officer Barbie Brock)



Grace College held a commencement ceremony for honoring offenders earning their Associate and Bachelor Degrees at the Indiana State Prison. Fifteen students received an Associate Degree and five students earned their Bachelor's Degree. This was a very proud moment for the graduates, family members and staff. 2013 marks the 27<sup>th</sup> Year Grace College has been educating the men incarcerated at Indiana State Prison.

Thirty one individuals from an array of state agencies involved in the delivery of reentry services to offenders in Indiana graduated as certified Office of Workforce Development Specialist trainer after completing the intensive three week training course. This training will enable the certified individuals in helping offenders transition to the community by developing long term career plans and tools needed to compete in today's job market. Congratulations all!

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Recreation Department hosted its first Health Fair in which more than 150 residents and staff participated. Registered nurses and other healthcare professionals from the Marion County Health Department (MCHD) provided participants with free nutritional information, blood pressure checks, glucose, cholesterol, and other health screenings. MCHD Environmental Health Specialists were on hand to answer questions concerning neighborhood and housing health and provided information about food and consumer safety, mosquito control, water quality and hazardous materials management, housing codes, preventing and eradicating pest infestations, and how to maintain healthy living environments.

Camp Summit Boot Camp staff and students are participating in the LaPorte County Relay for Life to support The American Cancer Society. Students are not only helping with the set-up, clean-up, and maintenance at the event itself, but they are also helping to make paracord bracelets to raise money for the cause. The students are all extremely energized and interested in doing what they can to give back. Camp Summit staff have also put together a team to walk at the Relay event, to include family friends and a few staff from neighboring facilities.

Rockville Correctional Facility's Promoting Positive Correctional Culture Committee selected Correctional Officer Paul R. Johnson as Employee of the Month for May 2013. Officer Johnson was chosen for the award because he routinely and consistently displays a positive attitude while maintaining a professional approach to his daily duties.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation for eight students. This was the 59<sup>th</sup> group of students who have graduated from CLIFF, with a total of 315 graduates.