

June 21, 2013

Weekly Views

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held community service events thanks to student assistance. Eleven students participated in preparing the Logansport High School Football field for the American Cancer Society Annual Relay for Life event. Students also worked the kitchen at the Salvation Army in preparing and serving food for the weekly soup kitchen conducted by the organization.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) raised \$2,425.74 for the American Cancer Society in its Mini Relay For Life and had more than 1,000 offenders contribute and walk in the event.

This was by far the largest Mini-Relay the facility has had since it began in 2007. In the six years MCF has held a Mini Relay For Life a total of \$9,279.60 has been donated to the American Cancer Society. (see photo right)



Offenders in the Rockville Correctional Facility PLUS program hand crocheted items for the Wabash Valley March of Dimes, including 50 preemie blankets, 14 baby blankets, 214 preemie hats, 60 baby hats, 19 booties and 44 child hats. The PLUS program also donated its first bountiful harvest of 210 radishes to the House of Hope in Brazil, IN. The offenders planted and have been tending the garden as a community service project.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) hosted its inaugural Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Indiana at Falls Park in Pendleton, IN. The event opened with a demonstration by the Anderson Police Department's K9 unit. This was followed by the Special Olympics Pledge and the singing of the national anthem.

The event drew over 45 participants from several local law enforcement agencies and IDOC correctional facilities. Over \$1500 was raised by the event. CIF's Operations Officer Megan McClain organized the event. (see photo left)



The Correctional Peace Officers Foundation (CPOF) presented "In The Line of Duty" honors to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF), in honor of fallen Officer Timothy Betts. CPOF member Randolph Deneau from the Montgomery County Jail made the presentation to WVCF Superintendent Richard Brown. The CPOF bestowed the tribute during their annual meeting in Reno, Nevada. Officer Betts, a 15 year Department veteran, suffered a fatal heart attack this past August while escorting an unruly offender to segregation. Superintendent Brown said the plaque will join a facility display paying tribute to "a consummate professional and true role model."

Three staff members from U.S. Senator Dan Coats' office, Virginia Cain, Charlie Chamness and Noah Patten, toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility to learn more about the daily operations of an all-male adult maximum security facility. Isaac Randolph, IDOC Deputy Director of Transition and Re-Entry, accompanied the group on the tour. The group has previously toured the Indiana Women's Prison and plans to visit the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility as part of an effort to engage in the criminal justice system.

The Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) celebrated the graduation of 143 U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program completers. The offenders were graduating from PEN Products operations, Aramark kitchens and the MCF Apprenticeship program. Friends and family members were able to attend and congratulate the offenders after a short program. Many of the MCF DOL apprenticeship programs require more than 1,000 hours of classroom work as well as on-the-job training to complete. "The recipients of the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program are learning new job skills and are preparing for a successful, career focused re-entry," stated IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. (see photo right)



The Venture Scouts at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a campout. Troop Leaders taught the students how to set up a tent. They also participated in the Rain Gutter Regatta and team building activities.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility celebrated their Correction's Week with a day of festivities. The morning began with a ceremonial flag raising and words of encouragement and appreciation from Superintendent Mark Levenhagen. The rest of the day was filled with friends and family who attended the facility's Annual Open House/Family Day. Guests could view the grounds, watch the Emergency Response units (E-Squad, SERT, K-9) in full gear, and enjoy lunch served by administrative staff. The highlight of the day was the youngsters who were overwhelmed with pride and excitement as they participate in special activities and walked the facility with their family members.

The weather was perfect in northern Indiana for the Indiana State Prison to celebrate Staff Appreciation Day. Staff and their family members were treated to a day of demonstrations by K-9, SERT, and E-Squad units. Everyone also enjoyed a free lunch, children's games and horse drawn carriage rides around the outside of the facility. Representatives from local health organizations hosted booths to promote awareness and education. The Michigan City Fire Department brought their traveling smoke house to the facility for the children to experience and enjoy. The Michigan City Police Department brought their new electric car for everyone to view. Superintendent Bill Wilson even took a turn in the Dunk Tank.