

August 8, 2014

Weekly Views

The heartbreaking loss of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Officer Perry Renn still lingers over the City of Indianapolis. Reception Diagnostic Center staff came together to support IMPD and the Indianapolis community by purchasing 50 Officer Renn Memorial T-shirts. Their purchases mean hundreds of dollars will go to the Indianapolis Police Foundation. A fellow Officer that worked daily with Officer Renn designed the shirt to honor his fallen brother. Shirts are available at the FOP Lodge 86 (1525 S Shelby St) Mon-Fri 9-5 or they can be purchased online by visiting www.fop86.com. (photo below)

The Indiana Blood Center (IBC) visited the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) for a two-day blood drive, which allowed both custody shifts to participate. 62 potential donors volunteered, and 45 units of blood were successfully collected. IBC also brought their special machine that allows for double red cell donation, and four staff participated in that procedure. Superintendent Wendy Knight, one of the donors, said, "We had a great turnout for the drive and plan on doing another drive as soon as we can all give again. This is a need we are happy to help fill."



Someone needs blood every three seconds in Indiana and Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff rolled up their sleeves to help! Staffers like Correctional Officer Debra Moore (pictured below) took part in the most recent WVCF drive, in partnership with the Indiana Blood Center. 38 silent heroes donated blood, with 149 total so far for 2014! Each donation can potentially help save three lives. And if that doesn't make you feel great, consider that 25 percent of all blood products go to help people suffering from cancer or leukemia, or those who need bone marrow transplants.



Five residents from the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility spent a day working for the East 10th Street Civic Association in Indianapolis, helping the group prepare for their National Night Out. The residents worked on two different green areas, picking up trash and weeding. (photo below) They also helped decorate Legacy Plaza, a future green and park space at 10th and Oakland. They painted a larger-than-life "Twister" board on the pavement, along with a hop-scotch board in preparation for the event.



Parole Agents from the Terre Haute Parole District participated in the local National Night Out at Fairbanks Park. The Parole District was able to donate over 135 bags of school supplies to local children ranging from Kindergarten through sixth grade. The items included backpacks, lunchboxes, pencils, paper, scissors, glue, crayons, etc. Terre Haute Parole has been gathering items over the last month through donations from agents as well as local businesses in the community.

Artwork from paintings, pastels and even creations made from toilet paper were showcased during a gallery showing at the Pendleton Artists Society (PAS) featuring items from offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Connie Rector, PAS Member, volunteers at Pendleton and instructs courses on Mandalas and Meditation. Meditation in a male maximum-security prison would seem like an unusual combination to most outsiders and to many staff, but Ms. Rector is on a quest to change perceptions and enrich the lives of offenders at the facility. Offenders involved in the program participate in a six week class on the art of meditation, allowing the offenders to calm their minds and become more focused. After meditation exercises, the offenders express their experience through art. "We appreciate the time and effort dedicated to the art classes offered by volunteers from PAS. Art programs allow those offenders, who do not participate in religious or recreational activities, another avenue to focus their attention in a positive manner. Without the efforts of volunteers, many programs throughout the facility would not be available to the offender population," stated Superintendent Zatecky.



Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a 5K Color Run/Walk to culminate its successful Fitness month. The event was held on the grounds of the Logansport State Hospital and included staff from that facility. 39 participants competed in the event with everyone enjoying the wonderful weather at the time of the event.

Mike Barber's ministry program returned to the Westville Correctional Facility. Nearly 500 offenders attended one of the three daily sessions; 35 took part in the Christian Leadership Seminar, while 29 volunteers walked throughout the complexes talking and dining with the offenders.

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Chief of Staff Randall Koester presented Senators Tom Wyss and Lindel Hume (pictured below) with certificates, making them honorary correctional professionals. The awards were to commend over 30 years of continuous service and support of the IDOC in the General Assembly through passing legislation and forwarding the agency's agenda amongst lawmakers and their constituency.



Graduates of this year's Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COL) Master Gardener class have been working hard all spring, planting and caring for various fruits and vegetables in the facility's garden. The produce from the garden is donated to the Central Noble Food Pantry. Since the end of June, COL has made weekly donations every Friday, as the produce ripens. Donations have included snow peas, wax beans, turnips, potatoes, cucumbers, onions, zucchini, okra, green beans, jalapeno, bell and banana peppers. With over 170 tomato plants growing, recipients at the food pantry were asked if they would be interested in receiving green tomatoes, and the response was overwhelming as they shouted out different recipes they could make. Next week's delivery will include 75 lbs of green tomatoes. (photo right)

Madison Correctional Facility has donated over 2,500 pounds of produce to the River Valley Clearinghouse and the Salvation Army of Jefferson County. Offenders are harvesting green onions, yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, potatoes, green beans, and various other vegetables. One of the offenders stated, "It feels good to take care of the garden and to know that we are giving back to the community."

Carol Kornas (pictured right) from the Castleton United Methodist Church donated 75 backpacks with school supplies to the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP). The backpacks were donated to the facility for the offenders participating in the Family Preservation Program to give to their children during their special visits. "The offenders are very appreciative for the kindness displayed by Ms. Kornas and the Castleton United Methodist Church", stated Tammy Atwood, IWP Community Involvement Coordinator.



The Bureau of Motor Vehicles made a recent appearance with their mobile unit at the Putnamville Correctional Facility! In the goal of seeing as many as possible, approximately 279 offenders were processed for state identification or driver's licenses to aid their reentry into society. Thank you for coming out and helping our offenders in their path to success upon release! (photo right)

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) is pleased to announce the promotion of Wade Wargny to Correctional Lieutenant. Wade is a 28-year veteran of the Department of Correction having served in



various capacities in both custody and food service. Over the past 15 years, Wade has been a member of the Central Regional SITCON Team and currently serves as the Central Regional SITCON Team Leader. "Wade brings a wealth of expertise and experience to this position. We wish him the best as he assumes the duties and responsibilities of his new position," stated Superintendent Zatecky.



Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Superintendent Linda Commons announced the promotions of Youth Development Specialists Jake Berry and Eric Royal to Youth Development Sergeants. Superintendent Commons states, "We are excited about these promotions and the impact they will have on the culture of our facility." (photo right)

The Plainfield Correctional Facility (IYC) is pleased to announce the promotion of Allyson Lodics to the position of Correctional Caseworker 4. Allyson began her career on June 28, 2010 at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, where she worked on A and O dorm, assisting Unit Team with the orientation of new offenders. She transferred to

IYC in March 2011. In July 2011, she was trained as a back up Control Room Officer and within a few months she was trained for the Count Room where she predominantly works and does an outstanding job.

Staff Assembly was conducted at the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF). During the assembly, CIF Superintendent Knight was proud to announce the promotion Sergeant Lester Coats to the rank of Lieutenant. The program concluded with plaques being presented to Correctional Officer James Hunt for Officer of the Quarter, Caseworker Wesley Clark for Employee of the Quarter, Recreation Coordinator Bill Graham for Supervisor of the Quarter, Education Director Evelyn Hicks for contractual employee of the Quarter and Case Manager Dawn Rice for the Extra Mile Award.