



For immediate release

IDOC Combats Hunger with Community Gardens

Indianapolis, IN – (October 3, 2016) – Three years ago the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon planted the seeds of encouragement for IDOC facilities to create gardens, as one way to help the less fortunate while instilling pride of accomplishment for offender workers.

Since that time gardens have sprouted behind the walls of almost all of IDOC facilities with year-to-date totals of approaching 100k pounds of produce (99,148.14 lbs), all of which is donated to local community food banks and kitchens. With a little less than two months to go before the end the 2016 harvest season, totals have already exceeded last year's production levels of 27,725 lbs., with a total of 29,010 lbs.

Captain Eric Brewer who oversees the program at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in southwestern Indiana stated that the group really takes pride in the garden project, adding, "This benefits the public and lets our offenders give back to the community in a very helpful and nutritional way." The gardens, located within the fences of the maximum-security prison, is in its third year of giving has produce to 6,435 pounds of produce for surrounding non-profits including food pantries in Greene, Knox, Sullivan and Vigo Counties.

According to the Bread of the World, an organization focused on alleviating hunger in Indiana, 14 percent of Hoosiers live below the poverty line, 12 percent of households in Indiana struggle to put food on the table and one of every six children in Indiana are at risk of hunger.

Other organizations benefitting IDOC donations from across Indiana include Putnam County Food Bank, Midwest Food Bank, Craine House of Indianapolis, Kokomo Rescue Mission, Pendleton United Methodist Church Food Bank, Salvation Army Clearinghouse of Madison-Jefferson County, Catholic Charities and Central Noble Food Pantry.

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