

Miami Correctional Facility Launches Braille Project

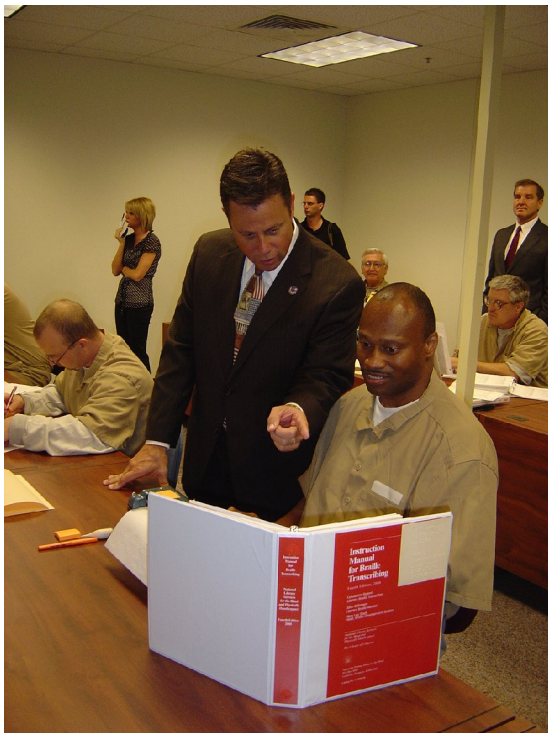
Bunker Hill, Indiana (June 30, 2008)--Miami Correctional Facility hosted an open house to feature the Miami Braille Project, a new collaborative effort between the Indiana Department of Correction, PEN Products, the Indiana Department of Education, the Center of Exceptional Learning, and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The mission of the project is to provide low-cost, quality Braille educational materials to Indiana's school-age children in a timely and efficient manner, while also providing a skill to the offenders at the Miami Correctional Facility. Offenders learn to transcribe textbooks into Braille textbooks. The skill will increase the offender's marketability in the job market upon release, with the goal that gainful employment will keep offenders from returning to prison.

"We have provided an environment for change, and the offenders will have the opportunity to change and succeed after release. The Miami Braille Project is really about people with great needs getting what they need," stated Commissioner J. David Donahue.

State Senator Teresa Lubbers of District #30, said, "This is the perfect example that government can work. Education and corrections working together, it doesn't get any better than this. The Miami Braille Project is the beginning of a great thing for the kids, the offenders and the State of Indiana."

Twenty offender workers are currently being trained in Braille transcription at the Miami Correctional Facility.



Commissioner Donahue with an offender involved in the project.



Senator Teresa Lubbers