

The Propeller



Superintendent Laurie Johnson



IREF Resident Runners Raise Funds for Back on My Feet Organization to Help the Homeless Community

Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) staff and residents, along with several Back on My Feet Indianapolis (BoMF) volunteers, veterans, and runners laced up their sneakers and participated in IREF's 5K mini half marathon. The 101 participants ran 13.1 miles or walked ___ distance to help Marion County's homeless get back on their feet.

BoMF is a local affiliate of a national nonprofit organization that was founded in 2007 and uses running as a means to building self-sufficiency, self-esteem, and independence of the homeless and underserved population. BoMF has several chapters across the country, including Washington DC, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, Boston, New York City, and Atlanta.

BoMF collaborates with local and national homeless service agencies, corporations and foundations, including the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation of Indiana (HVAF). Through preven-

tion, education, supportive services and advocacy, HVAF of Indiana provides homeless veterans and their families with the support and tools to eliminate homelessness. HVAF operates supportive housing units, apartment complexes, and an in-house employment and substance abuse treatment program.

Marathon participants began the brisk walk and run early Saturday morning, with the first runner crossing the finish line in 00:00. After the race, IREF staff presented BoMF Program Director Brian Meyer with a check for \$850.

Each of the 47 IREF residents who participated in the event paid a \$5.00 registration fee from their inmate trust accounts, and raised additional funds via sponsorship fees paid by staff.

Residents began training for the marathon this past summer, and increased the distance they ran each week until they were able to complete the 13.1-mile requirement.

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Back on My Feet Mini Marathon

From Riches to Rags to Back on My Feet by PIO/U5 Clerk Gregory McGhee



McGhee and Arthur B. catch up on old times and recall fond memories of growing up in their neighborhood.

On October 12, 2013, the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility held its second annual Back on My Feet 5K and mini marathon to raise money for homeless veterans. At the conclusion of the race, a check for \$850 was presented to the BoMF organization on behalf of the residents, staff and volunteers at IREF. While this event is worthy of all that it encompasses and holds a special place in my heart, being that I am a veteran, something very special happened to me at this event.

I grew up in the Butler Tarkington area, a neighborhood mixed with white collar and blue-collar workers. It was a prosperous pristine bastion filled with children who did not know hunger, homelessness, or crime. The dreams of most parents in this neighborhood was that their children would go to college and follow in the footsteps of their parents, run the family business, or make a decent living in their own way. Neighbors invested in the children's positive progress so that they could give back to the area. Nevertheless, I digress.

The day I committed an atrocious crime, I was with one of the residents from the community. This young man and his family were afforded the same opportunities as mine; however, we both became addicted to crack cocaine. On January 13, 1998, he agreed to purchase the drug for me, but chose not to get high with me. After taking him home, I smoked the crack, shot an innocent person, and took the police on a high-speed chase. I have been in prison ever since.

When the investigator that was hired by my mom to assist my attorney interviewed this friend of mine, he

was not very helpful to my defense. Rumor had it that when I was released from prison, I was going to do harm to him; however, I had no ill feelings toward my friend. On the contrary, he was one of the few people from my past that I wanted to reconnect with because I was told he was clean and sober and doing well.

The BoMF event, as I said, is near and dear to my heart. I had no idea I was going to experience something that day that made me choke back tears. As I was listening to the Runners Prayer and the Serenity Prayer, someone came up behind me and rubbed my shoulders. I thought it was someone who remembered me from last year's event. I turned around, shook his hand, and continued to listen to the prayer. A few minutes later, this gentleman looked me in the eye. This time I recognized him for who he was; it was my friend Arthur B.—the friend who purchased the crack cocaine for me and did nothing to help in my defense.

As I hugged him, I asked what his connection was to BoMF. His response literally made me lose my composure. He stated, "I'm homeless." Even I, who have been incarcerated for 16 years, am not homeless when I return to society. I did not know how to process his statement considering how we grew up. Up until that point in my life, I had not known any homeless people; I am still trying to understand how that happened.



Couples Participate in PREP Marriage Seminar



On Saturday, October 19, eleven IREF residents, together with their spouses or longtime significant others, participated in a Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program (PREP) seminar.

The PREP seminar is a component of the healthy marriage program Hoosier Commitment: Parents TWogether for Indiana Families, a federal grant initiative to bring marriage and relationship enhancement programming to Indiana communities.

Facilitated by Indiana Family Institute (IFI) Program Coordinator Susan L. Swayze, the PREP seminar is a full-day workshop designed to teach IREF participants to build trust, find solutions, and develop positive and

healthy communication skills.

The couples learned a number of exercises designed to increase the communication and love in their relationships. The couples learned how to work as a team, develop a game plan, know when to call a time-out, build trust, create their own rule book, and show respect towards their partners.

Residents and their wives discussed how lengthy incarceration periods strained their marriages and relationships, and participated in exercises designed to reintroduce them to each other and to help bridge the gap and build support with family after their release from prison.

“I really enjoyed this day,” said Andrea, wife of IREF Resident Lamaris E. “This seminar has helped me re-open avenues to communication I never knew were closed. Communication is a two-way street,” Lamaris said.”

“I got a lot out of the program,” said Woody S., a resident participant who has been locked up for several years. “Today, Leta and I learned communication skills that we will apply when we have conversations with each other. These, and other strengthening skills discussed in the PREP curriculum will benefit us throughout our relationship,” Woody said.

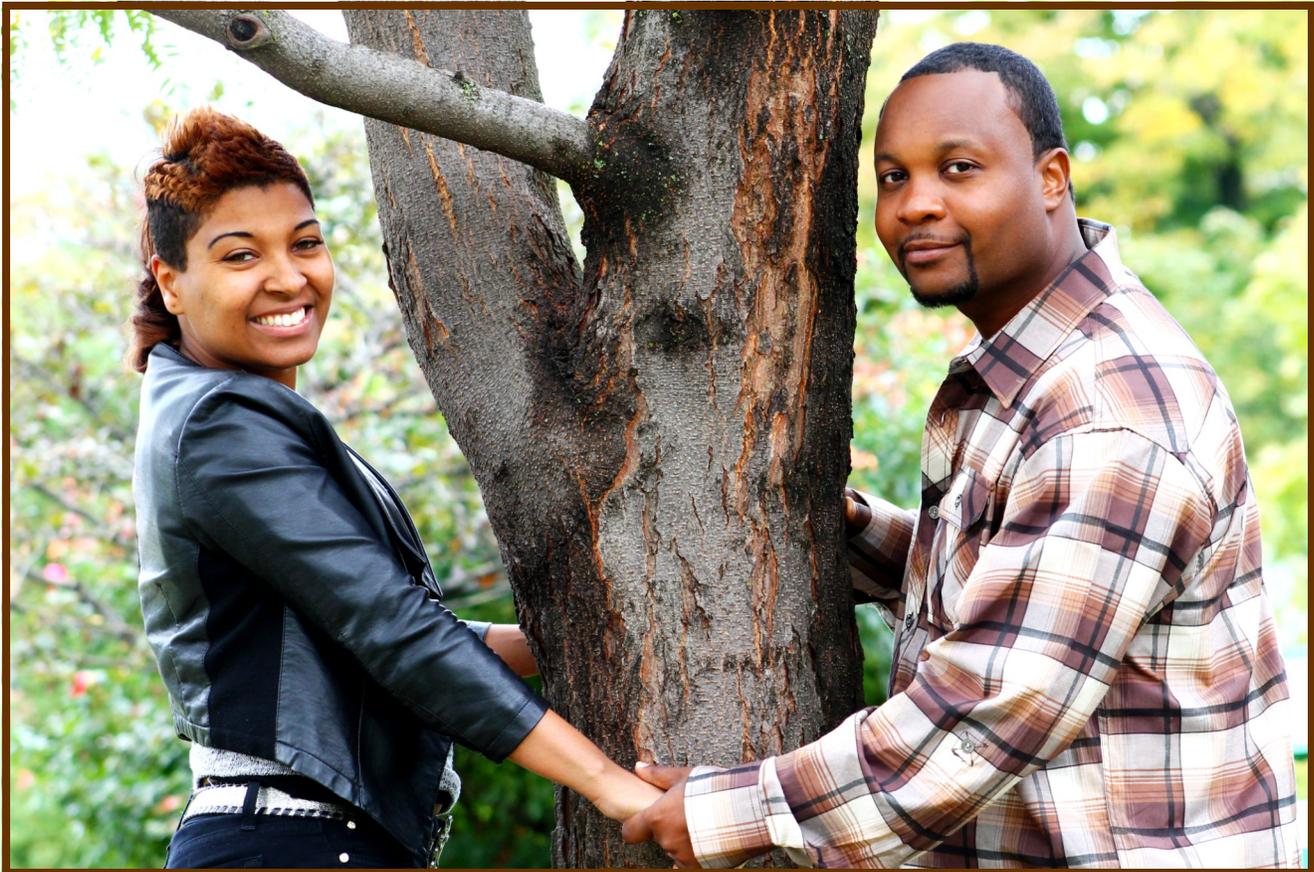
The PREP seminar was funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance. The couples were treated to a breakfast of bagels and coffee, lunch from Fazoli’s Restaurant, and a complimentary photo.

IREF residents were required to complete a variety of courses through the Religious Services Department in order to participate in PREP.

Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program



Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program



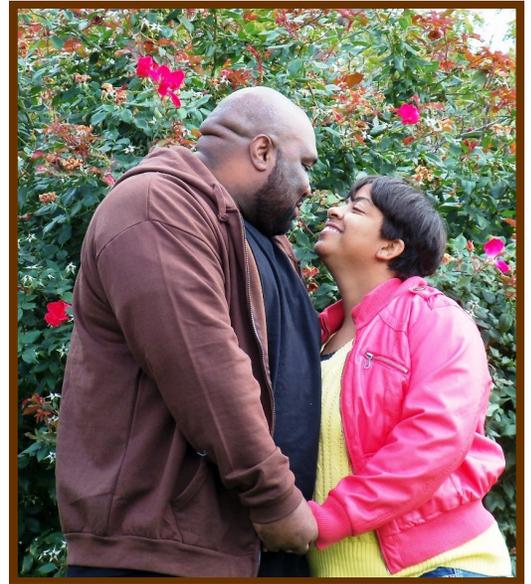
Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program



Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program



Contact Chaplain Blackburn or the Religious Services Clerk to sign up for the next PREP Seminar





While the BoMF event is a great thing to be a part of, and what it represents is beyond my comprehension. That day, it was deeper than homeless veterans, because I caught a glimpse of reality, and I learned that it is not how you start but how you finish. My friend, because of his choices, has gone from riches to rags. Because of the BoMF organization, he is getting back on his feet, thank God.

Arthur B's situation has not only humbled him, but seeing him in this position has humbled me as well. The good news is in a few months he will move from the mission into his own apartment, and learned on the day of the race that he landed an interview for an engineering position at a prestigious firm.

Arthur B. had always been very resourceful, and gained employment at some of Indy's highest paying jobs. His connection to the BoMF organization leads me to believe he will once again be a success story from the neighborhood of which I am so proud to be a part.

For those homeless veterans out there, you like Arthur, can get back on your feet and stay on your feet. I tip my hat to the BoMF organization, and look forward to participating in the next 5K mini half marathon, but as a free man!

IREF Shows Appreciation for Volunteers

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted their annual Volunteer Appreciation Day on September 28, 2013 to honor more than 215 active volunteers who provide over 42 different programs and services to the facility's resident population.

More than 40 volunteers and guests, along with facility staff and residents, enjoyed a buffet-style luncheon, prepared by ARAMARK Services, and a "Saturday Afternoon Live" show put on by IREF's Center for Performing Arts department.

In appreciation of their hard work and selfless giving, volunteers were presented with hand-sewn gift bags that included items from community-owned businesses and establishments near the Near East-side facility. An IREF Volunteer t-shirt, ink pen, water bottle and promotional items from local community agencies were among the items provided as gifts to the volunteers. Residents participating in the facility's recreation department crafted each volunteer a custom made plaque to honor their commitment and dedication.

The participation of registered volunteers enable IREF to offer quality programs and services, which include mentoring, substance abuse counseling, religious, re-entry, resident birthday celebrations, and other leisure and learning classes.



Community Services Coordinator Rick Rosales with Volunteer Kate Kiser.



IREF Center for the Performing Arts participants in the grand finale. Chapel volunteer, Vicki Bone, wins a raffle prize.

On September 28, approx. 40 volunteers and guests showed up for the 2013 Volunteer Appreciation Day. The first hour took place in the Chapel where volunteers and staff ate a meal together, catered by Aramark. After the meal, Community Liaison Mr. Rosales presented six awards to volunteers winning in different categories (see below) and gave each volunteer a book bag made by Resident Rick Annes at Dress for Re-entry. Each bag contained various gifts: an energy efficient light bulb donated by Indy-east Asset Development, an IREF volunteer pen and lanyard. Several volunteers won raffle prizes.

Then, perhaps the best event of the day, the IREF Center for Performing Arts put on their skit, "Saturday Afternoon Live—IREF Style." The skit took the form of a radio talk show interpolated with commercials for Mother Fletcher's tattoo removal crème, which featured Charles Manson and Mike Tyson, and for Acme Maximum Security Products' promotion for its two new cellblock scents—one smelling like Ramen Noodle Soups, the other like feet!

After this cram-packed hour, the volunteers were let out onto the yard where they mixed with the residents for the afternoon, playing horseshoes and cornhole. Our resident musicians, led by Truman Vinson, played live music in front of the chapel, setting a festival atmosphere for the day. Popcorn and ice cream cones were enjoyed by residents and volunteers alike.

Overall, it was a great day, a day to thank and honor

our many volunteers that keep our programs going. Thank you to all who made it happen.

Rookie Volunteer of the Year

Ms. Taylor Settles
Mr. Floyd Rimmel

Mentor of the Year

Mr. Gregory Peck

Program of the Year

Mr. Jeffrey Crabtree, IUPUI Occupational Therapy

Intern of the Year

Ms. Janel Rimmel

Volunteer of the Year

Ms. Kate Kiser



Volunteer



Appreciation Day Highlights



Thank You Resident Rick Annes



Special THANKS to IREF Resident & Commander of American Legion Post 311 at IREF Rick Annes for designing, crafting and sewing the commemorative IREF bags that were given to IREF Volunteers in appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

IREF and the Volunteers appreciate your artistry, skill, and talent.

INVET Resident Builds Doll House for a Sick Little Girl



Putnamville Correctional Facility (ISF) and Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) staff, along with Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit residents, coordinated their efforts to brighten the day of a local child stricken with cancer. ISF Program Coordinator Kelli Searing met four-year-old Parker this summer. Parker is currently fighting a cancerous tumor on her kidney, and this battle against renal cancer is not her first fight. Due to a rare disorder, one of Parker's legs was amputated after her birth.

After meeting such a brave little girl, Searing, familiar with the IREF INVET dollhouse program, contacted the facility and related Parker's story to Program Coordinator Jacinda Estle-Cronau. Upon hearing about

Parker, the residents decided they would build a dollhouse worthy of a beautiful princess. Resident David Snyder went to work on the project, combining three partial houses to make a large Princess Parker Mansion. When Parker's parents reported she was not feeling well, Resident Snyder spent several sleepless nights working on the house to fast-forward the project. Once complete, Ms. Searing picked up the dollhouse and delivered it to the Parker's home where her father helped load it into the garage. Because Parker was not feeling well that day and could not receive visitors, Searing did not get the opportunity to witness the excitement, but her parents reported that Princess Parker LOVES the dollhouse. She said, "I love it so much! What a great surprise!"

A Palace for a Princess by PIO Clerk Dale Lycan

Building a palace for a Princess, resident David Snyder asked no questions or for any help. He tirelessly worked on completing a palace for Princess Parker. When the call came in to Program Coordinator Mrs. Estle-Cronau about Princess Parker and her illness, everything else on the Indiana Veterans Education Transition (INVET) plate stopped. Mr. Snyder stayed up all night every night for three days working on the project. Even though there was a glitch or two about his regular job work schedule and an apparent lack of communications between the concerned parties. Everyone understood that the palace had a priority, due to Princess Parker's illness and her turn for the worst.

Constructing a dollhouse to look like a palace was no small feat for resident Snyder. He built the palace out of parts of three incomplete dollhouse kits that had been donated to the American Legion. By mixing and matching parts from each kit and by using what we like to call "prison ingenuity," Snyder took scrap pieces of wood, and anything else he could find and turned them into a palace for a very pretty and very ill little girl.

The INVET unit received an e-mail and a photo from the Princess's mother of her daughter playing with the palace telling us the dollhouse was perfect. As the clerk for the INVET Unit, I read announcements at the daily meeting held in unit six. This was the most moving announcement I have had the pleasure to read. Princess Parker's e-mail was so moving that the men in unit six sat quietly, and somberly listened to what her mother had sent to them. I say them because we are a "Unit" when something special like that dollhouse is in the building. We all are different, and hold different views about a lot of different subjects. This little girl and her illness bonded every man in the unit in some way or another, at least for the time during the construction. Normally, when there are projects being built, there are complaints about noise, dust or anything else that can be complained about. However, when the palace was being built there were no complaints and many offers to help.

One of those offers came from Resident Martin Moore who is the resident artisan and craftsman of the INVET Unit and the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). Resident Snyder refused the help. He was determined to build a palace for the princess without help or without sleep...and he did.

Life After IREF by Former Resident Derek Lane



One thing I can truly say is that IREF has prepared me for a successful reentry back into society. The road to retribution is paved with lessons; some are hard while some are easy. However, those lessons must be learned and the road must be travelled. I travelled a road that at first seemed to be rugged,

but as I look back, it was necessary and vital to my growth. Like a vision quest, the journey was a source of enlightenment and growth. Mistakes have been made along the way, but lessons were learned.

As I journeyed on the road of my life, I arrived at IREF, which was a pit-stop that gave me some very important tools to use for the rest of my journey. Honestly, I did not realize how much I actually learned from IREF until I left IREF. The programs that I attended really showed me the value of respect, honesty, tolerance, caring for others, and responsibility. I now understand how important it is to think for a change and think about the

risks of my choices and decisions. Learning how to be an Inside Out Dad, even though I am not a father, showed me that I am still in a role to be an example for the younger generation. The victims that I impacted due to my crimes are now important to me because I realize who my victims are and what I have done to them emotionally.

Life after IREF is positive. I am accountable for what I do and what I hope to achieve. It depends on what I hope to gain by taking what I learned and applying them with understanding in all areas in my life. I will not be a failure because I did not learn to fail. I was taught the ways of success and that means that I will succeed.

Failure only comes when no one wants to try, and I refuse to fail. There are many people that I have had the pleasure of meeting at IREF. It is important for me not to let them down at all. Everything that I have learned involves the people that I have met, and if I let them down it would truly do damage to all that I have worked for. I will not fail, because I know what is at stake.

Going to prison was a positive thing for me and my life will never be the same. Life after IREF is smooth because I am the man that I need to be.

Recovery at Re-Entry by PIO Clerk Dale Lycan

When you hear the word “recovery” at a re-entry facility, you probably think of rehabilitation—not re-upholstery. However, replacing the coverings on seat cushions is also a kind of rehabilitation. Just as with **personal** recovery, you need to assess the extent of abuse, and know exactly how to affect repair; only then you can decide what steps to take in order to realize a full recovery. At IREF, resident Rick Annes happens to be our furniture therapist

Rick is, essentially, the go-to-guy when you need an odd project assessed and properly completed. Some of his recent projects have run the gamut from script writing to this latest endeavor—the recovering of nearly every seat cushion in the IREF facility. Rick measured, counted, and estimated the material yardage required. He then back engineered the old covers, made the patterns out of cardboard boxes, cut material, and then sewed almost every piece individually. As I watched him cut the last pieces for the remaining 37 covers, he appeared to be dancing with the fabric. Every step looked choreographed and precise to the last snip of the scissors. (In some Eastern philosophy, you could say he was one with the fabric.) As corny as that sounds, that was the way it looked. Rick did this dance for over three hours, non-stop.

In the initial stages of this rehab process, Rick had a crew of four resident volunteers. The volunteers went to the units, holding a sort of intervention with the couches and chairs of the day rooms. They would go in and remove the old torn, stained, and smelly covers, and then replace each cushion with a new one. Every day room received its own intervention from the recovery team, starting in unit 6. At times, they were **not** one with the fabric, due to the age, condition, and individual nature of each cushion—it was more like a night at a rave, or 50-cent draft night at a biker bar.

I have taken liberties in the writing of this article, and I do not want to take away from the importance of re-entry or rehabilitation by comparing the process with re-upholstering. It was just a lot of fun writing this about a man I have known for almost twenty years. He can see the humor in what is essentially an important contribution made by him for this Facility, and the large sum of money saved by his and the resident volunteers efforts to improve the appearance and smell of the unit day rooms. Next on his agenda: Curtains!

Indiana Access to Recovery Discusses Reentry

Indiana Department of Correction Director of Community-based Programs and Transitional Facilities Michael Lloyd and Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility Assistant Superintendent Dalton Haney participated in an Indiana Access to Recovery sponsored panel discussion about how to serve ex-offenders and ways to prepare them for successful return to the community. The panel was facilitated by staff from the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration.

Panel members included Senator Greg Taylor, coauthor of the New Indiana Expungement Bill; Dr. Willie Jenkins, Reentry Administrator, Office of Mayor Greg Ballard; Rhiannon Edwards, Executive Director, Public Advocates in Community Reentry (PACE); Jeff Yanis, Program Coordinator, Marion County Alternative Court, Jerome Davis, ex-offender with X-tremely for Christ Ministry, and other reentry service providers.

To view a video about re-entry and service providers by the Mayor’s Office of Re-Entry, featuring Dr. Willie Jenkins and Dr. Roger Jarjoura, researcher for the American Institutes for Research, visit the following web address: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFOUL1aGXws&feature=youtu.be>



An audience member poses a question about re-entry help for female ex-felons.



Asst. Supt. Dalton Haney responds to a question about IREF programming. Dr. Willie Jenkins explains the First Day Out program.



Indiana Access to Recovery (INATR) is a four year federal grant awarded in October 2011 to the Division of Mental Health and Addiction by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. INATR assists clients who want to get in recovery from substance use problems and disorders or need assistance maintaining their recovery. INATR pilots a recovery-oriented approach to care and help clients gain access to a network of clinical, community and faith-based organizations who provide treatment and recovery support services to eligible individuals.

Visit INATR’s website for more information: www.in.gov/fssa/dmha.

IREF Straight Talk at Ben Davis Ninth Grade Center



Six Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) residents visited Ben Davis High School Ninth Grade Center (NGC) to speak with 1,300 ninth-graders about making positive choices. The residents, who are part of IREF's 'Straight Talk' program discussed the hardships and drawbacks of incarceration, and how their negative choices affected their lives as well as the lives of their families and loved ones. The group also talked about the repercussion of using illegal drugs, gangs and violence, and negative choices.

The IREF Straight Talk program was a part of Ben Davis High School's Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) efforts to educate students, parents, and teachers about current violence and drug trends as well as signs and symptoms of violence and drug use among teens. The presentations culminated in the NGC's Community Violence and Drug Awareness Night.

Representatives from several organizations, including the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) Gang Task Force, Wayne Township Schools Safety & Security, and Emberwood Center, educated parents about prevention and treatment services, and how to recognize and get help for students who may have issues concerning drugs and/or violence.

Straight Talk Experience by Resident Derek Lane

It was three days of life changing moments that will be remembered and treasured for residents, students, and parents. On the days of September 19th, the 20th, and the 25th; residents Bryan Lane, Joe Cosby, Robert Cottrell, and Derek Lane had the chance to share their life experiences with the ninth grade students of Ben Davis High School.

In total there were approximately 1,300 students that were able to participate in this experience of straight talk. The topic of discussion was what choices and decisions can lead up to in life. The students listened to the residents as they told about the choices that they had made in life, which contributed to a life of crime and a prison sentence.

This was more than just four men talking about themselves; it was about their passion about the youth and doing what they can to prevent them from making the mistakes that they made. The students were attentive to every word that was spoken to them. Some even cried and asked how they could prevent family members from going to prison.

This was a moving experience that not only for the students but for the residents as well. The impact

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of the Straight Talk on the children encouraged them to be more proactive in making better choices. Some even committed to bringing their parents to the final presentation. It was very powerful to watch the parents get involved with this event and the questions that were asked showed their concern and their love for their children.

Straight Talk helped some students to give thought to their choices before making decisions that could potentially affect their future.



Resident Derek Lane talks about negative affiliations in friends.

Straight Talk Experience
by Resident Joseph Cosby



Resident Joseph Cosby warns students and parents about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and negative associations.

The opportunity arose for me and three other members of Straight Talk to go to Ben Davis High School to speak with 1300 freshmen students over a two-day period. I did not know what to expect or exactly the message I would present, however I felt in my heart that the experience was going to be awesome. Little did I realize this was going to exceed the boundaries I had unconsciously set.

The format for the gathering involved Drug and Violence awareness. We were introduced as being experts in our fields. To begin, none of the students knew we are incarcerated. That set the stage for an eye-opening presentation. Once the students learned our status, a keen interest lit up their eyes.

One funny thing that automatically reared its head is that my fellow panelist Derek Lane and I found ourselves identifying the cliques as they strode into the gymnasium. We knew who held what status without even knowing them. The faculty started a separation process because they were already aware of who had an influence on the others. Some of them were not thrilled about the arrangements. We were instructed to callout anyone being disruptive as we spoke.

Many people see me around laughing and joking. What people may not realize and what I have come to understand is my defense mechanism against sadness kicks in to mask my pain. The majority of my life (30 years) has been spent incarcerated. I have been in some of the most secure institutions in the state of Indiana. Some people can identify with that and some cannot. For those of you who cannot, I pray you never go through something such as this in your life. For those of you who can, we are blessed to have survived the madness.

As I stood in front of a crowd of students (many of whom are younger than my granddaughter) something stirred inside of me. I knew at that moment that I was right where I was supposed to be. The mask came off and I started to deliver from my heart. When you take an in-depth look at your life to include all the broken promises, heartaches, absentee fatherhood, and not fulfilling your potential, you cannot help but tear up. When I took a seat after addressing the students, I was physically and emotionally drained. Being a part of this movement is therapeutic for me as well. I am learning to forgive myself for past failures. We all make mistakes. Some are more dire and the conse-

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quences more severe, but somehow we learn to survive.

Over the years, I have witnessed the institutional population become younger. As I survey the news on a daily basis, there is an ongoing occurrence of senseless acts of violence. The bottom line is we are losing our youth to the streets and prisons. Not to mention how many young people are resting in cold graves. I may be an “OG” (older person who is given some degree of respect) in the system, but I have a passion for sharing a positive message with the younger generation. One thing I stay away from is preaching to them. My approach is when I point a finger it is at me. People never know when they may ignite a spark.

I implore each of you “OG’s” to offer words of encouragement. I am by no means a saint, and I am set in my ways, but I truly believe everyone can change. Sometimes all it takes is a little prodding or some insight about the pitfalls of this continued lifestyle. Each of you has the capacity to share that information.

It is truly an honor to be a part of Straight Talk. Thanks to Mr. Rosales of the Community Services Department on behalf of Brian Layne, Robert Cottrell, Derek Lane, and myself for allowing us to share our message. A special shout out to the staff at Ben Davis High School for opening the door and allowing us to enter. Also, to Ms. Sellers, Mrs. Cotton, Mr. Leisure, and the staff at PEN Products for your encouragement and support.

To the students, we pray we have somehow inspired you because whether you know it or not, you inspire us. Everyone has a test, which in turn becomes his or her testimony. I wish I could fully express in words how much it means to share. There is no depth to the euphoria. One day I hope everyone can experience this feeling. Now that is STRAIGHT TALK!



Dress For Re-Entry New Location, Same Old Need by INVET Clerk Dale Lycin



The IREF Dress for Re-Entry (DFR) program has moved to a new room in the Community Services area, located below the Chapel.

IREF Residents can wear street clothes instead of the standard correctional uniform as a part of their re-entry process, and DFR helps those residents who have no local family support to achieve that goal. DFR provides clothing for some of the work crews, and resident volunteer groups taken off the facility grounds to various job sites, and also tries to provide appropriate attire for residents who are fortunate enough to secure job interviews.

Resident Rick Annes, the Commander of the American Legion Post 311 located inside the IREF facility, is the Lead Clerk at DFR. Despite the limited amount of space in the new location, Annes was able to design the room’s layout to accommodate all of the shelving and cabinets from the old location—including the office equipment and sewing machines used to repair clothing, and complete other projects for the facility.

At this time the DFR program is in dire need of clothing donations. The limited supply of clothing on hand is overtaxed, as there are no clothing for any one who wears sizes 2X to 4X. DFR needs blue jeans for the outside work crews, casual pants for the residents who work inside the facility, and is in need of both casual, and t-shirts for the residents.

DFR cannot meet the growing needs of its residents without more donations. DFR Coordinator Jacinda Cronau does what she can with limited funding. If anyone would like to donate clothing, please contact her at IREF.

IREF Programs Graduation Ceremony



On September 17, a group of 77 residents at the Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) stood proudly before an audience of their peers, family and friends.

Dressed in caps and gowns, chefs jackets, suits and ties, the graduates marched in a procession leading to a tent pitched in the middle of the facility where IREF Superintendent Laurie Johnson presented them with diplomas and certificates for successfully completing work skills programs, GEDs, vocation classes, college credits, and specialized programs such as ARAMARK Services.

An audience of Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) executive staff, including Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, Michael Lloyd, Director of Community-based Programs and Transitional Facilities, Ted Pearson, Interim Director of Prison Education, and David Liebel, Director of Religious and Volunteer Services, were on hand to congratulate and inspire the graduates.

The men were celebrated for their educational achievements from ARAMARK, United States Department of Labor, Oakland City University (OCU), and the Reformatory Residential Reentry Program (RRRP).

“You all have worked hard and put in a lot of hours to reach this important milestone,” Superintendent Laurie Johnson said. “I want to congratulate all of you, and encourage you to use the skills you have acquired and to practice the core values you have learned once you leave incarceration.”

In his keynote address, Commissioner Bruce Lemmon congratulated the residents’ diligence in reaching this academic milestone, and urged them to continue this perseverance towards setting and accomplishing their goals beyond incarceration.

Education Programs

In August 2012, Oakland City University collaborated with the Department of Correction to provide adult education services, including GED, literacy, and vocational programs to adult offenders statewide. Fifty-four of the participating graduates completed requirements in courses offered by OCU, including Culinary Arts, Building Maintenance, Business Technology vocational programs, and Hospitality Management and Computer Application classes.

RRRP graduated 17 residents. RRRP is an IDOC curriculum that promotes four core values of honesty, tolerance, caring, and personal responsibility. It mirrors the concepts used in the Purposeful Living Units Serve program offered at higher-security level IDOC facilities, and was developed with the needs of offenders with shorter terms of incarceration at minimum-security level prisons in mind.

Three graduates completed United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Apprenticeship Programs, totaling 32 for 2013 thus far.

USDOL registered apprenticeship programs provide industry-specific hands-on training to incarcerated individuals that will enable them to become more competitive in the workforce and gainfully employed upon their reentry to society. DOL training at IREF and Prison Enterprise Network, a

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division of the IDOC, include Automotive Technician, Legal Secretary, Recovery Operator, Office Manager Business Administration, Landscape Management, Building Maintenance Repair, and Residential Commercial & Industrial Housekeeping.

An ARAMARK Correctional Services training component, IN2WORK teaches residents the fundamentals of working in a food service environment. IN2WORK provides structured classroom and on-the-job training. Eleven graduates earned ServSafe certificate after successfully completing IN2WORK. This certification is nationally recognized in the food service industry.

The graduation was the first combined recognition ceremony to take place at IREF. Graduates and their guests enjoyed a reception in their honor, were permitted to visit and take pictures with their guests to commemorate their recognition.



Program Coordinators Tabitha Gresham, Emily Gedig, and Danish Abbasi pose with their students.

IREF Staff Assembly & Quarterly Awards Recipients



Quarterly Award recipients:
Lonzo Eans
Keisha Keedy
Robert Flaherty.

On September 12, 2013, IREF Superintendent Laurie Johnson conducted a Staff Assembly to update employees on significant events occurring at the facility and within the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC). Superintendent Johnson, along with executive staff members, presented information about past events, and discussed IREF goals, direction, and mission.

During the assembly, several staff members were presented with service awards and certificates applauding their commitment of five to 30 years of excellent service. Also, four staff members received special quarterly award recognitions.

Reentry Specialist Keisha Keedy was awarded the Employee of the Quarter award. She began her career with the IDOC in October 2007, hiring on as a Specialist at Plainfield Reentry. Keedy was applauded for her continuous dedication to ensuring residents new to IREF are clear on the facility's rules and expectations, and are equipped with the knowledge of all programs and learning opportunities available to them.

Eighteen-year IDOC veteran Lonzo Eans was presented with the Officer of the Quarter award. He began his career with the IDOC as a Correctional Officer in 1995 at the Indiana Boys School. Officer Eans transferred to Indiana Girls School, where he worked in several capacities as an officer until his transfer to IREF in 2009. Officer Eans is looked upon by his coworkers as a standout officer at the facility. "He is constantly striving to do his job well," said one coworker. "He is effective in working with staff and residents, and is often the key person in ensuring safety and security of the facility on his shift," another staff said. "I am truly honored to receive this award," Eans said.

Sergeant Robert Flaherty received the Supervisor of the Quarter distinction. Flaherty began his career with IDOC at the Plainfield Reentry Educational Facility in 2006 and promoted to the rank of sergeant 18 months after relocating to IREF in 2009. Flaherty is lauded by both IREF offender population and his coworkers as being a true correctional professional and an excellent supervisor. "I enjoy working with the staff and coworkers," Flaherty said upon accepting the award.

The Enabling Others to Act recognition was awarded to Robin Pagley, a Corizon Correctional Healthcare contract staff. She is an administrative assistant and works in the Healthcare unit at IREF. The Enabling Others to Act award acknowledges staff members who exhibit a sense of teamwork and collegiality among fellow staff. "Robin is dependable, dedicated, and resourceful, and we can always count on her to play a big part in getting things done around here," her coworkers said.

Only One in the Nation by INVET Clerk Dale Lycan



Toastmasters Urban Unity Gavel Club has a new member: Andy Chandler. Normally, this information would never make any medium for public information. This new member may be a first in the Nation. Andy joined a Toastmasters Club located inside the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). He may own the distinction of being the only person in the Nation who belongs to a Corrections Toastmasters Club, and not incarcerated himself. Andy is a volunteer who donates his time to IREF residents, mentoring and volunteering at the facility Chapel through the Mt. Pleasant Worship services.

Attending IREF's Toastmasters meetings as a guest convinced Andy he wanted to be a member, and to be a member of our Club inside this facility. Joining a Toastmasters Club is not easy, current members must vote you into the club, and the vote must be of a majority. The members at IREF voted in Andy unanimously.

Toastmasters were the first officially established public speaking club to exist in America. Therefore, Andy fit right in as the first non-incarcerated member of a public speaking club located inside an American Correctional facility.

Toastmasters formed in a YMCA in Bloomington, Illinois in 1903. Currently there are 15 sitting U.S. Governors, 21 U.S. senators, 65 state representatives, and 5,216 active state and federal judges that are active Toastmasters. Two Nobel Prize winners were once active Toastmasters. Six NCAA National Championship winning football and basketball coaches were or still are active members of Toastmasters. Everyone of the Ivy league university's have at least one chartered Toastmaster's club on campus.

Toastmasters are the only elocutionary club to offer a structured course in the study of science. It is also the only club recognized by most U.S. and foreign employers as a continuing education course. 26.3% of Toastmasters are successful businesspersons. Of the Toastmasters who have made careers in middle to upper management positions they average 13% higher salaries than that of their peers.

Nine percent of U.S. colleges and universities require some form of Toastmasters involvement for students actively taking classes in communications, journalism, or public speaking.

Andy Chandler has joined Toastmasters under extraordinary circumstances. He is now a member of an International organization that host many unique and distinguished persons. The IREF Toastmasters Urban Unity Gavel Club members welcome Andy Chandler as a non-incarcerated member of Toastmasters International located inside a corrections facility.

“Six Minutes” editor Andrew Dlugan explains why one should join a Toastmasters group.

Become a Better Public Speaker

Members work through a series of educational programs (at their own pace) designed to improve their ability to write speeches, design presentations, and deliver them.

Overcome Public Speaking Fears

The most positive and supportive audience in the world is a Toastmasters club audience. Speaking regularly in front of a group helps you calm your nerves and communicate effectively.

“Practice” Presentations for Other Audiences

Everyone has different motivations for wanting to speak better. Maybe you want to hone your presentation skills for your career. Perhaps you want to be able to speak out in your volunteer organization. Maybe you want to complement your portfolio as an author, manager, or other professional with speaking gigs? Whatever the case, Toastmasters is a wonderful laboratory for you to practice your presentations and gain valuable feedback.

Gain the Confidence and Courage to Lead

Leadership and communication skills are intimately bound. Some might argue that leadership is nothing more than the ability to effectively communicate a vision. As your communication skills improve, your ability to lead will improve as well.

Toastmasters with IUPUI by Community Services Clerk Jarrod Wall



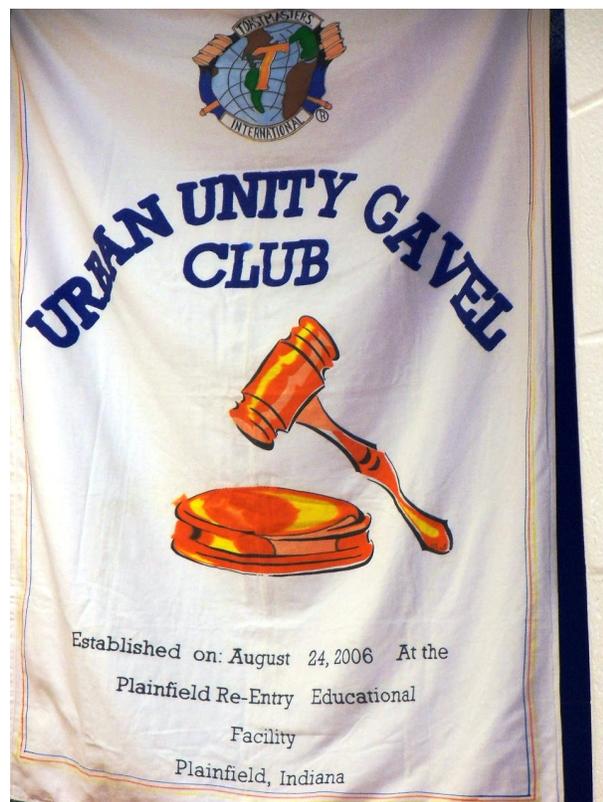
On September 14th nineteen IUPUI freshmen in the Bridges Program and their professors attended Toastmasters at IREF for a two-hour meeting. This was the second of six Toastmasters meetings they will attend.

IUPUI Instructors Ms. Thredwall and Mr. Eckerty with IUPUI students and IREF Toastmasters

For this night, the students were assigned two to three minute introductory speeches, while two of our veteran Toastmasters, Michael Ousley and Devin Elliott, gave their usual seasoned performances, for ten total speeches.

The evening was everything Toastmasters should be: great speeches, several occasions for impromptu presentations led by Brian Layne (with even Michael Coffy singing Lionel Richie’s “Lady”), and evaluations of all formal speeches—evaluations being the heart of every Toastmasters Club, for well-intentioned criticism is how we get better.

Dale Lycan performed a short stand-up comedy routine, while I, Jarrod Wall, had the honor of emceeing as Toastmaster. The students held their own all the way through, giving great speeches, leading impromptu sessions, and helping evaluate as well. Bridges—what a perfect title for the event too. For we bridged age groups, genders, the inside and the out. Thank you to Mr. Eckerty, Ms. Thedwall, and all the IUPUI students.



OCU Honors Top Ten Instructors in IDOC



IREF served as the host site for Oakland City University (OCU) Grace College recognition ceremony to recognize and honor the top ten teachers in Indiana Department of Correction facilities. Facility Superintendents and IDOC Executive Staff attended the luncheon in support and celebration of the recipients. OCU and IREF's very own Mr. Dennis Brady ranked second in the state for vocational completions in his Culinary Arts program. Mr. Brady, along with his current Culinary Arts students, prepared the delicious meal served at luncheon.

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Director of Education Dr. John Nally presented commemorative coins to all of the instructors and honorees: Kathy Taylor – Branchville, Tom Hogan – Putnamville, Shawn Hughes – Putnamville, Katherine Wallace – Madison, Amanda Harden – Madison, Erica Ketner – Rockville, Bob Short – Miami, Kara Burgess – Rockville, and Jeffrey McNeely – Wabash Valley.



In observance of Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, eight IREF Indiana Veteran Education and Transition (INVET) Unit residents, along with Re-Entry Specialist Babacar Diouf, spent the day working on a Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis house, which will soon become home to a Hoosier family in need.

The work crew is composed of graduates of the Building and Trades Vocation, which is facilitated over by Oakland City University at IREF.

INVET Dispatch

INVET Unit has Another Tool in the Bag by PIO INVET Clerk Dale Lycan

A modest Patrick Mobley describes himself as “just another tool in the bag.” Mobley works for Easter Seals through a Grant for Veterans as the Homeless Veterans Re-Integration Program (HVRP) Coordinator. His job is to help homeless or near-homeless veterans with transitioning from unemployment to employment, living quarters, referrals to support systems, services for vocational training and job placement.

That tool bag had better be a big one...because with all he does for Easter Seals he still comes to IREF, and was here on August 26 at a graduation celebration as two more IN.V.E.T residents received their Certificates of Participation in the Veterans Job Readiness Series Workshops through the DWD program. Part of the grant stipulation requires Mobley to partner with the DWD team of Tom Reust, Eugene Anderson, and Christopher Schneider, helping prepare veterans in the INVET Units with employment skills.

Mobley stated that he is using a pre-existing relationship with the Indiana Department of Correction to help him attain his goal of surpassing the minimum requirement of the grant in a meaningful way, possibly building the process better than the grant’s standard benchmarks. This in turn gives him an opportunity to build a program that will affect the rate of the homeless in a positive way. Most systems currently in place have limitations and restraints. Mobley wants to build a system on a process that the grant allows him to be restraint free.

With the current Government in place, there has been a large push to ensure no Vets get left behind, either on the battlefield or back home. Mobley says that he just another tool in the bag. He is a retired veteran himself, with twenty-one years in the armed forces. He wants to make a difference in the lives of those returning vets, and for the thousands of incarcerated veterans in the state’s correctional systems.



INVET Artist Adds Patriotic Theme to Bike Path by PIO Clerk Dale Lycan

Unit 5 Resident Denver Claywell spent two days adding a patriotic theme to the entrance of the B&O Train Tunnel Bike and Walking Path in Clermont. With the assistance of Retired Art Teacher Gordon Joslin, who has painted several murals in the tunnel as well, Claywell designed and painted a bald eagle in flight, carrying an American flag behind it.

“I dedicated this work to my son, who has served for over 14 years in the Army, and plans to retire,” Claywell said. Denver Claywell II served three tours in Afghanistan, is a Sgt. 1st Class, and now lives stateside with his wife and two daughters.

Resident Claywell served in the Army from 1978-79.



INVET NEWS



Unit 5 Resident Donald Tener and Unit 6 Resident Steven Gniadek received their 12-Week certificate from DWD for completing the *Veteran's Job Readiness Series Workshop*. Both Residents attended classes weekly to improve their employment chances upon re-entry.

They worked on skills such as resume writing, interviewing, and how to introduce themselves to prospective employers using a "30 second elevator speech."



American Legion INVET Post #311 purchased an American Flag and a State of Indiana Flag to use in a Legion Color Guard. Along with the POW/MIA flag, the Legion used funds raised with greeting card sales, wrist band sales, and cap sales to purchase the flags.

The Color Guard will participate in Legion Meetings, Memorial Ceremonies, and other facility events, such as the upcoming multi-program Graduation Ceremony. Legion members Shawn Weddle, Willie Clariett, and Ronald Sistrunk volunteered for service in the Color Guard.



INVET Residents help prepare for the Feast of Lanterns, and help with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful projects.

Career Day at IREF by PIO/U5 Clerk Gregory McGhee



Every year Prison Enterprise Network (PEN Products) offers a Career Path Planning Workshop for its resident workers. This year they offered this information-packed workshop to other IREF residents and staff, as well as representatives from Workforce Development.

The day began with an introduction overview. Participants were tasked to describe what the buttons spread on the table represented in their life or what they reminded them of. One very interesting description of a castle button came from Nan Girtton who is a staff member at PEN. She explained that the castle reminded her of the kingdom of God and that she was a child of the King. Sgt. Flaherty described a teddy bear button as something that

reminded him of his grandkids who call him teddy bear papa. One resident described a button that was rough on one side and smooth on the other as being a lot like himself; he is learning how to accept that smooth side of him and become a better person. The buttons reminded participants of their dogs, trees and their spouses. The introduction exercise was a unique way to get the participants to open up.

PEN staff, Lisa Williams and Doug Evans discussed the personality types and career theory: Realistic (R), Investigative (I), Artistic (A), Social (S), Enterprising (E), and Conventional (C). These personality types describe which type of jobs may best fit the jobseeker.

After the morning break, facilitators discussed job retention and how to maintain current levels of service and/or pay. Facilitators presented participants with a scenario in which they had to arrive at a new job in 30 minutes. Participants were also tasked with taking a friend to work. On the way, the tire goes flat and there is no spare. What should they do? The different decision making styles were applied to the scenario. Each one was discussed to determine the benefits and hindrances of each.

The Time Management exercise was based on a former resident and what he had to experience based on The 120 hour scenario. Part of the scenario was reporting to court every Friday evening, scheduling fun time with the family everyday, getting seven hours of sleep every night and networking at Work One for the purposes of gaining employment. In the scenario, the resident had to take care of his kids while his wife worked nights, he had to help with the household duties, and attend counseling on the other side of town on Wednesdays and Thursdays. There was so much to be done such as job searching, getting the kids ready for school, church every Sunday, keeping track of his bus pass that expired on Wednesday, commute time allowance and family dinner at his mother-in-laws every Sunday.

The interest profiler was a valuable tool that informed participants about exploring careers. It helps outline what is important to the job seeker and their employment interests. The workshop proved beneficial and was enjoyed by all.



Former Unit Five Resident Lee Houseman began a project during his incarceration, which continues to give back to the community.

Over fifteen pounds of pop tabs were dropped off at the Circle in Indianapolis on August 9th during Riley's 9th Annual Pop Tab Drop. Riley expected over 10 million tabs to be dropped off to support the Ronald McDonald House at Riley Hospital, which is in its 30th year of serving families of children being treated at the hospital.

Resident Houseman's little sister was a former patient at Riley, and chose this fundraiser. The facility continues to collect tabs as a community service project.



Regaining Driving Privileges by PIO/U5 Clerk Gregory McGhee

IREF, in conjunction with Indiana Department of Correction Central Office, has found yet another way to assist residents transitioning back into their communities, by helping those who are eligible with retaining their driver's license.

Every ninety days, residents whose license has expired due to their incarceration are being given the opportunity to go to the local license branch and take the written test. Driver's license books are given to residents at the facility to study for the test. Residents, Anthony Bell, Sam Lacosta, Wilfredo Pasion were the first three residents to take advantage of this awesome opportunity. The cost for this service, which the residents paid for out of their trust fund, is \$17.50. Depending on the expiration date, there is a \$5.00 late charge.

In order for the residents to take advantage of this opportunity, they have to have a valid driver license. If their license have been expired one day to six months that's when the \$5.00 late charge is applied. For those whose license have been expired six months to three years they also have to take the written test and pay the late fee, however anything beyond that three year mark they have to take the driving part of the test as well.

At this point, no resident has had to take the driving test. Should there be such a situation the facility cannot and will not supply the vehicle. In a case such as that the resident will have to wait until he is released.

This is just another step in accomplishing the re-entry goal and according to Resident Bell taking the written test and passing was a burden removing situation." Bell said that he wants to go back to driving trucks, and that he is so grateful that IREF and Central Office put forth this very important opportunity to assist residents as they prepare to re-enter society.

As we prepare for the Holiday Season, IREF residents have developed the Inside Reaching Out, a program that is focused on making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Beginning October 4th through November 29th staff will have the opportunity to donate canned goods and other food items that will be given to Gleaners Food Bank. Residents will be donating food items from their commissary to this cause. Let's each do our part and contribute what we can to make a difference in a family's life. There will be a donation bin in the entry exit corridor to drop items off.

Here is a list food items that are especially in need:

- Canned meats like tuna and chicken
- Heat and serve meals such as soups & ravioli
- 100% Fruit Juices
- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Jars of Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Kid Friendly Foods - macaroni, cereal, applesauce cups & healthy snacks

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Black at extension 200.

IREF NEWS

Football season has begun and just at the right time IREF has upgraded to cable television. Among the many things happening here at IREF, this was something that was long awaited and is now finally appreciated. Although it may not seem to be much, this commodity offers more information to residents. With channels like the Discovery Channel and the History Channel, a person can gain insight on the new technologies that are taking place in society as well as be aware of things taking place in other countries. There are a lot of happy residents now that cable television has come to IREF.



The repaving of the basketball court is another upgrade that was recently under construction and completed. The replacement adds to the scenery of the facility and makes the basketball court more durable. A television was recently installed in the barber shop. Now residents can view worldly news and catch sport highlights while waiting for their turn to receive haircuts. It's something that adds comfort to this place whether people realize it or not.



ARAMARK dining staff, along with resident kitchen staff, prepared a wonderful meal for IREF residents in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Residents were treated to a lunch of barbecue chicken leg quarters, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, soda, and chocolate covered brownies.



IREF's Reformative Residential Re-Entry Program sponsored a Little Caesar's Pizza food sale in which the residents purchased a little over 300 pizzas. Funds from the sale will be used to sponsor other RRRP programs and events.

My Wedding Day by Chapel Clerk Calvin Tynes



September 13, 2013 was a special day for me; that was the day I married the love of my life in the IREF Chapel, which was really surprising for me. I was always the person who said they would never get married in prison, but after 22 years of incarceration things changed. GOD has blessed me to have a woman in my life who has been there for me and with me the whole 22 years; through the good and the bad. Even after I took her off my visiting list for a period of 3 years (because I didn't want her to put her life on hold for me), she still stayed by me. That alone let me know that she was the woman GOD blessed me to find.

While nervous at first, when I saw her walking down the aisle in the Chapel all my nervousness went away. After stating our vows and saying I do I officially became a married man; and at that moment it seemed like a burden had been lifted off of me. What made this moment even more special was I got to share it with my family and friends. My son was my best man and my sister was the



maid of honor.

Also in attendance were my mother, sisters, daughter, nieces, and nephews, along with residents and IREF staff. They made this a moment I will always remember.

I'd just like to tell everyone that if you have a special woman in your life that has weathered the storm of doing time with you, she might be the one GOD meant for you to find. GOD says "He who finds a wife finds a good thing" and to me getting married in the IREF Chapel is just as good as getting married in church on the street.

It's not about the place your in, it's about the love and commitment the two of you have for each other.



Congratulations!

HELP WANTED

Public Information Officer Clerk

Duties & Responsibilities

This writing-intensive position requires excellent writing skills that demonstrate across several disciplines, including news writing and writing for media and press releases. The Public Information Officer Clerk (PIO) produces and maintains a monthly newsletter and serves as the facility's tour guide.

The PIO Clerk:

- Acts as a reporter/liaison between residents and the facility
- Presents and interpret information to the public
- Researches information
- Produces and maintains monthly newsletter
- Covers events taking place in the facility
- Seeks out potential news stories
- Consults with staff and residents to identify newsworthy stories
- Maintains key contacts within other IREF departments, including: Community Service, Law Library, Recreation, Education, PEN Products, Culinary Arts & Family Education
- Leads student and other tour groups
- Public Speaking

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MRS. COTTON
Applicants should be prepared to present a writing sample upon receipt of application.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility

401 N. Randolph Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201 • (317) 639-2671

The Propeller



Stay connected to the Indiana Department of Correction: www.idoc.in.gov



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Your input is needed, wanted, and necessary. Please send feedback on ways in which you think this publication can be improved. Anyone interested in contributing articles, announcements, editorials, poetry, or jokes are encouraged to do so. Please email suggestions to gotton@idoc.in.gov.

The Propeller looks forward to hearing from you!!!

The **Community Service Department** is in need of any and all books, but specifically:

Non-fiction

Sciences – physical earth life sciences, social sciences, social behavioral sciences

Self-help

Fiction

Literally fiction – classics, contemporary

We are always looking for new volunteers to facilitate programming and mentor residents one-on-one. If you are interested in learning more about ways you can volunteer, please contact Mr. Rosales at Rrosales@idoc.in.gov, or (317) 639-2671 x214.