



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Friday, January 4, 2008

Beginning January 2, the Reception and Diagnostic Center and Rockville Intake Units are now processing Birth Certificate requests upon an offender's arrival to the Department. By moving this process to intake, all offenders now have the opportunity to obtain their birth record prior to release.

On Wednesday, January 2, 2008, the Indiana Women's Prison Yarn Workers Group donated 281 crocheted hats and scarves to the Lord's Locker food pantry in Trafalgar, IN just in time for the severe winter weather.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility's "WHEELS FOR THE WORLD" wheelchair refurbishing operation sent out its last refurbished wheelchair shipment for the year. In all, the program repaired and shipped 232 wheelchairs in calendar year 2007, for shipment around the world to individuals in need.

Offenders in WCC's Inside-Out Dads Program sent video taped messages to their families expressing their plans and commitment to improving their relationships in the coming year.

PEN Products Central Office staff donated new clothes, new toys and food items for two families during this holiday season. The items were contributed by staff and were wrapped by female work release offenders.

On January 1, 2008, the Plainfield Correctional Facility initiated the first ever SOCAP program. The facility will be the first to serve as a treatment center containing a therapeutic community to help rehabilitate convicted sex offenders from throughout the state. SOCAP stands for the Sex Offender Containment and Accountability Program.

All facilities made extra efforts to afford offenders the opportunity to observe the Holiday season. The Indiana State Prison, offered offenders a variety of programs, including a Kwanza celebration on 12-27 and 12-28, a Native American Wounded Knee Celebration on 12-29, Eastern Orthodox Celebration and Feast on 12-29, General Christian Celebration and Feast on 12-23, Gary Diocese Bishop Dave Melzcek performed Mass on 12-25, and the offenders performed a play with a special appearance from Reno Hype a comedian on 12-25.

Several offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility crocheted 228 stuffed bears. The bears were dressed in crocheted army vests and hats of desert camouflage for presentation to the families of the local National Guard Armory. Many members of the unit will soon be deployed with the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion.

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*Every man ought to be inquisitive through every hour of his great adventure down to the day when he shall no longer cast a shadow in the sun. For if he dies without a question in his heart, what excuse is there for his continuance?*

**Frank Moore Colby 1865-1925**



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From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Friday, January 11, 2008

**"The unexamined life is not worth living."**

*Socrates, in Plato's Apology, c. 399 B.C.*

On Thursday, January 3, 2008, the staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) toured Wheeler Mission, the Indianapolis Community Re-Entry Center, and Volunteers of America to become familiar with the environments to which male offenders return.

Several offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility crocheted 228 stuffed bears. The bears were dressed in crocheted army vests and hats of desert camouflage for presentation to the families of the local National Guard Armory. Many members of the unit will soon be deployed with the 3<sup>rd</sup> battalion.

Rockville Correctional Facility celebrated its fourth CLIFF graduation on January 4, 2008 with 34 graduates. The guest speaker was Terry L. Jenkins and Director of the Adult and Juvenile programs for the Indiana Department of Correction.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) received a score in the green (90% range) on their monthly Progress Reports (PR's) and Re-Entry Accountability Plans (RAP's). These scores represent the hard work and dedication that the PREF Re-Entry Specialists have shown in their efforts to increase public safety and reduce recidivism.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Stanley Knight reports that the Facility's "Shifting Gears" bicycle refurbishing operation restored 944 bicycles in 2007. Bicycles restored by offenders assigned to the program are donated to a variety of charitable organizations in the community. Superintendent Knight also reports that the facility's "Wheels for the World" wheelchair refurbishing operation recently completed 200 wheelchairs that have been designated for shipment to Russia. A special baby stroller was also recently completed by offenders assigned to the program to meet the body specifications of a disabled baby in the Republic of Haiti.

Miami Correctional Facility assisted the Miami County Emergency Management Agency Tuesday with filling sandbags to use to reduce flooding in Miami County. Twenty-one offenders used sand from two dump trucks to fill nearly 1,500 bags in about 90 minutes. The sandbags were used to help flood victims in Mexico, IN.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Maintenance Department along with an offender work crew manufactured 200 cutting boards for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources the Department of Agriculture. The cutting boards highlight and promote the different species of Indiana hard woods.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center teamed up with the Indiana Blood Center to host a blood drive on January 8, 2008. Twenty-four staff members took the time to donate blood to help save lives. In addition, RDC began the implementation of TABE testing for all adult male offenders on January 9, 2008.



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# Weekly Views

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*Many people fail in life, not for lack of ability or brains or even courage but simply because they have never organized their energies around a goal.*

-Elbert Hubbard -

Friday, January 17, 2008

Thanks to the quick response and professionalism of Officer Max Williams and LPN Peggy Wells from the Putnamville Correctional Facility for providing potentially life saving medical aid to a collapsed visitor.

Twelve offenders from Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility, supervised by Officer Steve Yann, completed remodeling on Friday, Jan 11th of the I-69 Weigh Station. New tile was laid, rooms painted, lights installed, outside trim repaired and painted and landscaping was renewed. Over 3,000 hours were spent on this project.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility began its second Inside-Out class collaborative with IUPUI this week. The class combines fourteen residents, eight IUPUI students, and one IUPUI professor in a School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) course concentrating on the topic of Punishment and Reformation. Participants interact and exchange topical opinions of the readings.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received a letter of appreciation from Villages President and CEO Sharon Pierce and the organization's Director of Development Linda Adams expressing thanks for the recent donation of winter clothing items and \$190.75 in cash that was collected to benefit the children served by their agency. Ms. Pierce and Ms. Adams indicated that the facility's gifts "will make an everlasting imprint on the life of a child sustaining HOPE for a brighter future". The facility also hosted a Region 4 Job Fair on Wednesday January 16th.

Volunteer recruitment was the topic of the Wednesday meeting of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Citizens Advisory Board. Board members learned that volunteers in such programs as Inside Out Dad's can make a positive difference an offender's life as he prepares to re-enter society.

KUDOS to the following facilities for receiving National ACA Accreditation by an accreditation panel in Grapevine, Texas, on Saturday, January 12, 2008: Camp Summit, Correctional Training Institute, Edinburgh Correctional Facility, Westville Correctional Facility, Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, and Madison Correctional Facility.

The Ready Built Company has started stage one of its training at the Correctional Industrial Facility. This preliminary training will aid in evaluation and job placement of the initial 150 offenders enrolled in the program.



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***Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase. Just take the first step."***  
***-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)***

Friday, January 25, 2008

Sgt. Shon Bex, Putnamville Correctional Facility, exemplified Correctional staffs' commitment to civic duty and the community when he provided life saving assistance by rescuing a young child from the icy waters of VanBibber Lake.

A number of facilities celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with special events. The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility enjoyed a visit from the Unitarian Universalist Church and Choir along with the African American Indiana University Choral Ensemble. The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Service that was attended by a number of outside volunteers and 128 offenders.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles partnered with the Department's Re-entry Division to install identification equipment at RDC. This will allow RDC to begin creating the necessary State Identification necessary for offenders' successful re-entry into society. In addition, RDC has begun releasing "walk-thru" offenders directly from the facility.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility CLIFF Unit held a family day. Fourteen family members, that included parents and siblings, attended the session that included family reunification group activities, re-entry planning and a Narcotics Anonymous group.

UN-Chained Ministries held a two-day revival at the Rockville Correctional Facility. Those attending enjoyed music by the Soul Patrol Band, messages, and testimonies.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility administrative staff conducted a rewards ceremony to recognize Cash Spot Bonus recipients, SECC Champions, and "Years of Service" pin recipients.

Branchville Correctional Facility's INshape committee has begun its annual "Biggest Loser" contest. Contestants will be provided weekly tips and encouragement by the committee.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility held its first staff assembly of the New Year, which included a guest speaker from the administration of the Plainfield Aquatic Center who offered words of encouragement for INShape Indiana program.

The world's largest corn boiler was delivered to the Westville Correctional Facility as part of Governor Mitch Daniels' initiative to reduce Indiana's reliance on non-renewable energy sources.



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# Weekly Views

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*"If you can dream it, you can do it."*

*Walt Disney*

*-submitted by Mike Rupe of Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility*

Friday, February 1, 2008

Branchville Correctional Facility was selected for the BEST DOG TRAINER EXCELLENCE AWARD. The Second Chance at Life greyhound program CEO presented commendations to Branchville SCAL dog handlers and staff for their hard work and participation.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a "closing out" auction of the PEN Product's Food Industry Plant. The proceeds, totaling more than \$240,000, will go to the Department of Administration. Clearing out this food processing equipment will allow for the start-up of the new joint venture with Ready Built Transmissions, which will provide jobs for up to 300 offenders providing marketable skills and increasing post-release employment opportunities.

The Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility conducted its first Inmate-to-Workmate congratulatory event. Two students who completed the first module received certificates.

Rockville Correctional Facility conducted a GED Graduation Ceremony, with refreshments provided by the Vocational Culinary Arts class.

Thirteen 13 female students from the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility graduated from the Purposeful Living Unit Served. The evening consisted of a ceremony and a reception that followed with the students and their family.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility INShape committee hosted Healthy Sandwich Day and posted exercise tips along with healthy recipes for staff working to lose 10 pounds in 10 weeks.

Sixty (60) bicycles refurbished by offenders at Pendleton Correctional Facility were donated to the Cathedral Kitchen Breakfast Program and Pantry in Indianapolis.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently made a donation to the local shelter out of Anderson, Indiana known as "The Bridge". Items donated included TV's, cell phones, fans, and tennis shoes.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility donated over 600 of non-perishable food items to St. Mark's Food Bank to help replenish their shelves after a very busy holiday season. Both state and contractual employees donated the items.

The Division of Construction Services received commendations from J.R. Kelly Company for their partnership in preconstruction efforts for a Purdue University project. In addition, dorm furniture was salvaged that will be reutilized by DOC.



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***"There are no secrets to success—don't waste time looking for them. Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty to those for whom you work, and persistence."***

***Colin Powell, US General***

***-submitted by Tim Brown of Central Office and SERT***

Friday, February 8, 2008

The Northwest Indiana Community Advisory Board for WCC, ISP and Camp Summit met at WCC. A primary topic was how to better publicize the **ALERT** program locally.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation ceremony on for seven juvenile offenders. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> graduation from the unit since its December 2005 inception. There have been a total of 84 juveniles that have graduated from the program.

Putnamville Correctional Facility staff represented the facility's and IDOC's "green" efforts by displaying literature and video at a "Sustainability Expo" held at DePauw University. The Expo was a component of the university's participation in Focus the Nation, a nationwide dialogue and education forum focusing on global warming and its impact on our communities, economy and ecosystems.

Through a partnership between the Department of Correction and the Department of Transportation (INDOT), four residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility have completed on-the-job training with INDOT and upon release have been hired as full-time State employees. This opportunity is paving the way for future offenders to successfully re-enter society with gainful employment.

Indiana State Prison sent seven (7) care packages this week to staff deployed in the military.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility assisted Workforce, Inc. with their Annual Post-Holiday Recycling Extravaganza. Donating recyclables allows Workforce, Inc. to continue to provide employment opportunities to men with felony convictions who have been released from the Indiana Department of Correction.

The Indiana State Prison Shifting Gears Program donated 23 bikes: 14 bikes to Elston Middle School, five to needy children, and four to Stepping Stones Shelter, which also received two bike racks.

Representatives from the Marion County Public Defenders Agency toured Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. Several information sessions were conducted throughout the facility where key personnel answered the attorneys' questions and concerns.

Camp Summit recognized five students for successfully completing the Aramark Inmate to Workmate vocational program for food service. This comprehensive program is designed with students in mind that have expressed interest in food service as a career. To date, Camp Summit has had a grand total of 21 students successfully complete the Program.

Ms. Emily Slavens, a Culinary Arts graduate, instructed offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility on food preparation and placement. Ms. Slavens served as a guest instructor for Ms. Clevenger's Culinary Arts Vocational Training class.



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*"A problem is a chance for you to do your best."*

*Duke Ellington (US jazz bandleader, musician & songwriter; 1899-1974)*

Friday, February 15, 2008

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was featured on MSNBC's "Lockup" series. The show featured the day-to-day challenges of a maximum security juvenile facility. The show will air again on February 22 at 9:00 p.m. CST.

Approximately 70 members of the Young Presidents' Organization visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Participants toured the facility and then partook in a meal served in the Offender Services Building. Superintendent Stanley Knight presented an overview of the facility. Two offenders discussed the incarceration experience from their perspective. The YPO is comprised of Presidents and CEO's of various Indiana companies and corporations.

Madison Correctional Facility graduated their first class for the pilot project of Master Student/Master Employee. The class of 13 took the WORK ONE WorkKeys test with a 92 percent pass rate, whereas the general population pass rate was only 59 percent. Graduates received a three-month time cut in addition to the WorkOne certificates they received to help them find good jobs upon re-entry.

Thursday was graduation day for 60 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders from the CLIFF program. Family and friends joined the celebration. Over 467 offenders have completed the WVCF program since its June 2005 launch.

Superintendent Jan Davis of the Madison Correctional Facility was arrested for the Muscular Dystrophy "Lock-Up" fundraising event. Her bail was \$1,300 and she raised a total of \$1,400! Staff and offenders from Madison donated \$1,220 and her former staff from Henryville Correctional Facility came up with the rest.

In recognition of Black History Month, renowned author Father Jerome Sanderson of the Greek Orthodox Church presented a lecture at the Putnamville Correctional Facility for the offender population. Father Sanderson highlighted the significant contributions of the "Saints of Africa" in the Greek Orthodox religion.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted the second in a series of programs celebrating Black History Month. The featured speaker for the program was the Rev. William McGhee, Pastor of the Ark of Deliverance Holiness Tabernacle Church in Anderson. In addition, the facility offender choir performed. Some offenders presented selected biographical readings. Approximately 100 offenders attended the program.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility was recognized by Gleaners Food Bank for the recent charitable donation. The \$200.50 donation was raised by the residents of PREF to assist with feeding the hungry of Indiana.

Madison Correctional Facility started the curriculum for their first Therapeutic Community. The GRIP unit (Growth, Responsibility, Integrity, and Purpose) opened last week with moving an initial 30 women into an existing building after minor renovations were completed. The unit will eventually hold up to 72 participants.

Offenders in the vocational program at the Indiana State Prison made 191 pine wood derby kits for the Boy Scouts of America.

The Employee Appreciation Committee at the Correctional Industrial Facility gave out over one thousand Candy Grams for Valentines Day collecting over \$700.00. Proceeds were donated to the employee appreciation fund. CIF is hosting a Coney dog/Nacho sale Thursday and Friday with the donations also going to the employee appreciation fund.



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*Seldom does an individual exceed his own expectations. - Anonymous*

Friday, February 22, 2008

IDOC will host a National Mental Health Conference, "Unlock the Mystery: Managing Mental Health from Corrections to Community," June 23-25, 2008. It will spotlight solutions for managing the growing number of mentally ill, substance abuse, and sex offender populations. For information, visit [www.idoc.in.gov](http://www.idoc.in.gov) then click on 2008 National Mental Health Conference on left column, or visit <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/unlockingthemystery/index.htm> (all documents can be found here).

Commendations go out to Geoff Jankowski, South Bend Juvenile teacher, for his quick response to a potentially life-threatening situation. When food became lodged in another staff person's throat and prevented her from breathing, Mr. Jankowski performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the food and allowing her to breathe again.

The Westville PLUS Unit held its first Marriage Enrichment Weekend. Nine offenders from the PLUS Unit and their significant others attended the seminar led by PLUS Unit volunteers, WCC staff and Central Office Directors.

Henryville Correctional Facility initiated a new offender work crew for the city of Austin. With the addition of this crew, Henryville has 22 work crews with five manned by DOC officers and 17 crews manned by civilian employees. All civilian crew supervisors must attend 30 hours of mandated training annually through the training officer.

Six members of the Kappa Delta Pi sorority went to the Providence Library at Pendleton Juvenile Facility to repair books. They donated supplies and seven boxes of books to the library. In addition, the sorority has gained a \$1,000 grant to use to support the library.

Officers from the Marion County Superior Court Probation Department toured Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility for training purposes. Several information sessions were conducted throughout the facility where key personnel answered the officers' questions and concerns.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility CLIFF Unit assisted the Salvation Army with food distribution. Distributions were made to several area food banks, rescue missions and day care centers.

The Indiana State Prison Emergency Response Team raised over \$650 for the Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge.

Sandra Hawkins, Adjunct Professor Criminal Justice, Purdue University Calumet and 16 students were given a tour of the Indiana State Prison and were allowed to speak to an offender and ask questions. Howard Morton, Executive Assistant, was presented a plaque from the student body of Purdue Calumet.

"The Voice from Behind the Wall" program at Indiana State Prison had 45 Chesterton High School students learn first hand from an offender the pitfalls associated with making the wrong decisions in life.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a celebration of Black History Month. The audience included approximately 80 offenders, facility staff and volunteers. At Pendleton Correctional Facility, Indianapolis Deputy Mayor of Neighborhoods Olgen Williams was guest speaker during a Black History Program. Commissioner Donahue also spoke at the event for offenders and volunteers from the community.

The Correctional Industrial Facility sold KFC dinners to the offender population. The proceeds went to the PLUS Program and a nearby charity.

The Edinburgh Correctional Facility held a Winter Graduation Ceremony to recognize GED graduates, Literacy and Life Skills completers, and Thinking for a Change completers.

Camp Summit recognized 35 students this week for successfully completing the Keys to Success Program.

Branchville Correctional Facility and Oakland City University held their Fall Deans' List Banquet for 52 offenders.



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***The key to realizing a dream is to focus not on success but on significance  
and then even the small steps and little victories along your path will take on greater meaning.  
-Oprah Winfrey, submitted by Mia Black, Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility***

Friday, February 29, 2008

Congratulations to Lieutenant William Searing of the Reception and Diagnostic Center who was elected president of the Indiana Association of Hostage Crisis Negotiators (IAHCN) for 2008. The mission of the association is to provide training and networking between the FBI, State Police, Indiana Department of Correction, Sheriff Departments and local law enforcement. These organizations also lend support and knowledge to each other's departments.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility concluded its celebration of Black History Month with a closing program where a panel of local professionals and celebrities performed and answered questions posed by the students. The panel reinforced positive attitudes and behaviors and shared their personal paths to success. The program ended with Kevin Moore, Director of Juvenile Services, honoring the family and memory of Jerome Brewer, who died in the line of duty on August 1, 2007. The building will now be known as "The Jerome Brewer Recreation Center."

The South Bend Community Reentry Center coordinated its first ever Job Fair with a local staffing agency that represents a variety of local employers. Agency personnel visited the facility to interview offender applicants. Twenty-four offenders went through the agency's orientation and application process. Five offenders have already been placed into jobs and up to 10 more offenders are being considered for immediate job placement. Due to the success of the event, the staffing agency is interested in continuing to conduct periodic job fairs to fill their positions.

Five offenders at Westville Correctional Facility have completed the ACT program; transfers are in process to send them from long-term disciplinary segregation to maximum-security general population to complete the last six-month phase of that program. ACT is a step-down re-entry program to enable compliant offenders to return to general population first instead of releasing them from a special control unit directly to the streets.

Twelve E-Squad members from the Putnamville Correctional Facility took the "Polar Bear Plunge" for Special Olympics. The team raised \$1500 in donations and took first place by diving in and staying in the icy lake at Eagle Creek Park for 2 minutes 3 seconds.

The Indiana Women's Prison Outreach Program donated 30 handmade stuffed animals to "Operation DOC Cares." The stuffed animals will be sent to families of the IDOC employees serving our great country.

Each evening this week, Madison Correctional Facility's two offender city crews were dedicated to repainting the interior of City Hall. Last week, they painted the City's police department interior walls.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility held its "Black History is Our History" interfaith service, where over 70 offenders received a challenge to fight racism with love not hatred and intolerance. In addition, representatives from the Muslim and Christian communities addressed the need for religious tolerance and spoke of the common bonds between each faith's traditions.

The education department at Correctional Industrial Facility held a celebration of Black History Month. The program featured Northern Regional Director Rondle Anderson as the guest speaker, along with a facility choir, panel debate, and a trivia quiz.

Offenders at the Indiana State Prison enjoyed a concert by the Blood Brothers Band, a contemporary Christian band stationed out of the River of Life Church in Michigan City.



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***"I can give you a six-word formula for success: think things through- then follow through."***  
***-Eddie Rickenbacker, American World War I fighter ace***

Friday, March 7, 2008

Thursday was graduation day for 14 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders who successfully completed the PEN Products/U.S. Department of Labor Graphic Arts Apprenticeship Program, the first of its kind in the state. Keynote speaker, Commissioner J. David Donahue, said the recipients are demonstrating positive change as they prepare to re-enter society, extensively trained to seek a well paying job.

Recently, residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility graduated from a money management class taught by staff of the National City Bank. National City has agreed to a volunteer partnership with PREF to provide the class to help residents prepare for return to the community. The program is such a success that National City staff distributed a press release announcing the program and the recent graduation of residents.

Indianapolis Men's and Women's Community Re-Entry Centers participated in Indiana Business College's Criminal Justice Week. The Acting Superintendents gave talks on "Careers in Corrections" and the facilities hosted a job fair.

*Correctional News* Magazine featured the Indiana Department of Correction for creating the world's first 600-horsepower-rated boiler, which runs purely on ethanol. Find the article at <http://www.correctionalnews.com/ME2/Audiences/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3AArticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&tier=4&id=CB69547B69924B0AB6F33C43249902C4&AudID=A8CD3887511441F7AA259DA5A2CCFA71>.

The Michigan City Police Department gave a special presentation to the students of Camp Summit Boot Camp on the many pitfalls of STG or gang involvement. The presentation is intended to help young people make sound decisions regarding resisting traditional STG temptations. While Camp Summit's STG problem is likely not as serious as many facilities, it is hoped presentations like this may help students to avoid making the problem any worse.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Volunteer Recognition Dinner to honor community service volunteers for their outstanding and dedicated service to the facility. Approximately 30 volunteers attended.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center continues its fundraising efforts for the 2008 Indianapolis Komen Race for the Cure to support breast cancer research. In addition to a \$500 monetary donation, 20 runners and walkers will represent the facility by participating in the April 19<sup>th</sup> event.

PEN Products awarded U.S. Department Labor Apprenticeship Certificates to 16 offenders at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Each offender completed over 500 hours of classroom work and over 8000 hours of on-the-job training in the PEN Products print shop to earn the Offset Press Operator I Apprenticeship.

The PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) Program at Westville Correctional Facility graduated its third class since the inception of the program. Nine graduates received their Certificates of Completion.

The offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison, Community Outreach Program made and donated 40 felt hats to the Soul Ministry meeting at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, for distribution with meals served to the homeless.

Special Olympics of Northwest Indiana, held their second annual event "Freezin' for a Reason. Employees from the Indiana State Prison were award prizes for the most people in a group plunge (19) and most money raised by a company.

Members of Miami Correctional Facility's E-Squad and K-9 teams canvassed local neighborhoods, visiting about 400 homes and hanging the ALERT Notification System door hangers and explaining the system to interested neighbors. Correctional Industrial Facility staff also canvassed local neighborhoods, distributing approximately 500 notices.



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*"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."*

*~ Albert Einstein, born March 14, 1879*

Friday, March 14, 2008

The Indiana Department of Correction, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and ARAMARK Correctional Services, recently registered fifteen of the Department's facilities in the DOL's apprenticeship program involving food service. The program teams ARAMARK's "Inmate to Workmate" program with the DOL's "Cook – Any Industry" apprenticeship program.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility recently conducted its monthly job fair, and the event attracted twenty-three candidates for several officer positions and other employment opportunities.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility (PREF) held a fundraiser for the Sheltering Wing's Women's Shelter and St. Mark's Episcopal Food Pantry. The fundraiser was a collaboration of PREF staff and residents of the Toastmasters and Fatherhood programs. Kentucky Fried Chicken was sold to the residents of the facility, and each charity received a designated amount of money, with the remainder of the funds being allotted to the Fatherhood program.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff members participated in the Terre Haute Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl-a-Thon and raised \$1300 for the organization. This was the first time the facility participated in the effort, in which five DOC teams participated.

The Indiana State Prison basketball team, coached by former NBA player Winston Garlard, was interviewed by the Northwest Times.

Madison Correctional Facility recently added two new Back Row Enterprises programs. One of the programs, Lifespring, provides substance abuse treatment to the offenders and to members of the community. The other, Turning Point Domestic Violence, provides support and education to offenders and the community about domestic violence.

Students from the Criminal Justice program at Ivy Tech – Sellersburg toured Henryville Correctional Facility. The students received information on many topics, such as control room operation to visitation procedures, and the students had the opportunity to ask offenders about the circumstances that brought them to prison.

Branchville Correctional Facility received another dog for the Shelter Puppies Offender Trained (SPOT) program. Offender dog handlers will house break and teach basic obedience commands to the puppies to suit them as family pets. To date, the SPOT program has saved twelve dogs from euthanization.

An Inside Out Dad graduation was held for five offenders on Sunday at Pendleton Correctional Facility. Family members were permitted to attend, and refreshments were served to the offenders and their visitors following the program.

The staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program made 520 Easter gift bags filled with snack donations received from community contributions. The bags were distributed to the Homeless Initiative, children of offenders in the Family Preservation Program, and offenders at the facility.

Indiana State Prison received thank you letters from the children of Knapp School's Safe Harbor Program in Michigan City who received bicycles from ISP's Shifting Gears program.

A four-day seminar called "Freedom 101" was presented to twenty-six offenders at Madison Correctional Facility. The seminar incorporated humor, open discussion, and music to help offenders set new goals and was presented by two volunteer facilitators and eight other volunteers who served as group leaders.



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# Weekly Views

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***“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” ~ Anne Bradstreet***

Thursday, March 20, 2008

The Division of Emergency Response Operations recently conducted an Emergency Squad Academy at the Correctional Training Institute. Each Emergency Squad from around the state participated in the five-day academy, and a graduation ceremony for the 63 participants was held at the conclusion of the program.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Recognition Program. The program recognized over 220 volunteers, community service providers, and interns who gave their time and skills over the past year to help offenders with rehabilitation and re-entry. Volunteers have averaged over 588 hours of service monthly.

Offenders in the Rockville Correctional Facility’s Teddy Bear Club donated 59 crocheted bunnies, 16 blankets, and 14 other crocheted animals to the families of the Indiana National Guard’s 139<sup>th</sup> Field Army Unit. This is the second donation to the unit, and it was prompted by the unit’s recent deployment.

Dr. Mann Spitler gave a substance abuse presentation entitled “Manda’s Story” to the students at Camp Summit this week. The presentation chronicled Dr. Spitler’s daughter and her battle with a heroin addiction. Afterwards, the students each prepared an essay on what the presentation meant to them, and the essays were incorporated as part of the substance abuse program.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held a graduation ceremony for 23 graduates of its Inside Out Dads program. Family members and staff were present alongside the offenders as they shared their learned parenting skills and commitments to becoming better fathers after their release.

Rockville Correctional Facility recently held a blood drive where 29 employees visited the Indiana Blood Center mobile unit. The drive collected 25 units of blood.

The Indiana Women’s Prison Special Needs Workshop made and donated over 3,500 items to Teachers’ Treasures, Inc., a store that provides free materials to teachers from schools demonstrating a poverty index of 40% or higher. The offenders made journals, bookmarks, bookbags, and flash cards, while other items were received by the community through the effort of workshop staff.

Due to the high amounts of recent rainfall, Madison Correctional Facility offered assistance to the Mayor of Madison to help with flood prevention and clean-up efforts. Thirty-five offenders from Madison’s GRIP Unit filled over 500 sandbags for the city within a few hours.

Pendleton Correctional Facility’s PLUS program recently conducted a food sale where offenders were permitted to purchase Church’s Fried Chicken. \$996 was raised during the event, and proceeds were divided between the PLUS program and Sheperd Community Center of Anderson.



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# Weekly Views

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***"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."***  
***~ Christopher Reeve***

Friday, March 28, 2008

Several facilities are using the peer review process to solve issues they have experienced by using best practices from around the DOC. All staff are encouraged to embrace the process to improve effectiveness and continue the excellence demonstrated throughout the DOC.

The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded eight staff from Indiana State Prison with Apprenticeship Certifications. Indiana State Prison is the only facility with staff, offenders, and PEN products working with the U.S. Department of Labor in the Apprenticeship Program.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently held its first PLUS graduation for 28 offenders. Commissioner Donahue gave the keynote address, graduates gave testimonies, and the PLUS band played inspirational songs.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility recently held an art contest in celebration of Black History Month. The winning drawing was a collage of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

Fourteen criminal justice students from Brown-Mackie College toured Westville Correctional Facility's PEN Products shops, the Education department, and the Westville Control Unit to observe and discuss the programs.

Indiana State Prison's Minimum Security Unit recently held a GED, Literacy, Life Skills, and Computer Business graduation. Commissioner Donahue, Director Burch, and Director Cox congratulated the honorees.

Calamari Productions finished up filming several episodes for the MSNBC series "Lockup" at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. The film crew captured the daily routine, programs, and life inside the facility, and the episodes scheduled to air later this year will focus on the Future Soldiers program, treatment, education, and staff.

Members of the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility's Toastmasters Urban Gavel Club presented checks worth \$200 to Sheltering Wing's Women's Shelter and to St. Mark's Episcopal Food Pantry. The donation was made possible by a fundraiser held earlier in the month.

Youths at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in writing seminars as part of the facility's quarterly Fun Day. Several students wrote letters to American troops deployed in Iraq.

Commissioner Donahue was presented a "Lock Award" by the staff of Indiana State Prison for his "key" leadership in "unlocking" the future of the IDOC. The lock is over 100 years old and was removed during prison renovation.

A Vulnerability Assessment Team consisting of approximately twenty DOC staff recently visited Pendleton Correctional Facility. The team was to identify and correct potential security issues in order to eliminate the opportunity for an escape or major security breach.

Branchville Correctional Facility will be recognized by the Perry County Animal Shelter in an open house ceremony. Branchville provides offender labor to assist in the daily cleaning and upkeep of the facility.

The PEN Products Board of Directors recently held its first meeting of 2008 at the PEN Central Office. Commissioner Donahue, members of DOC Executive Staff, and representatives from IDOA, the private industry, the Office of Management and Budget, and Purdue University attended the meeting and provided direction to the team.

In conjunction with "Operation DOC Cares," Correctional Industrial Facility staff has donated non-perishable items for five staff members currently serving in the military. Five boxes will soon be shipped out containing items such as disposable cameras, phone cards, pens, paper, and snacks.

Staff and offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison's PLUS Program made and donated 860 pink ribbons to be worn by participants in the American Cancer Society's "Race for the Cure."

Putnamville Correctional Facility offenders recently purchased approximately \$1900 of Kentucky Fried Chicken. A portion of the proceeds was donated to the Away Home Shelter, and the remainder went to the PLUS program.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

*"Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things." ~ Peter Drucker, writer and professor*

Friday, April 4, 2008

The American Red Cross recently held blood drives for staff at Westville Correctional Facility and Indiana State Prison. There were thirty-two volunteers and twenty-five accepted donations from WCC, and there were seventeen volunteers and thirteen accepted donations from ISP.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently made an \$800 contribution from a PLUS fundraiser to the Hope Haven Horse Farm of Coatesville. The farm serves at-risk children from local schools, mental health clinics, and the juvenile justice system by using horses as an alternative teaching method of anger management, communication, responsibility, conflict resolution, and self-confidence.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held its largest GED graduation ceremony. Ninety-nine staff, students, and family members were in attendance to watch sixteen students, including four who had previously been released, be honored.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Future Soldiers Unit participated in "Operation DOC Cares" by putting together boxes of donated items to mail to DOC staff currently deployed overseas.

A representative from Lincoln Tech visited Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility to speak with residents who are interested in building their technical skills once released. Informational packets were available, and there was a question and answer session.

Fifty-three offenders received certificates for completing the PLUS program during a ceremony at Indiana State Prison. Virgil Madden, Advisor for Minority Affairs to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, was the keynote speaker.

As part of Camp Summit's ongoing effort to prepare all students for a successful re-entry, recruiters from the Indiana Army National Guard gave a presentation to all students this week on possible career opportunities. Several students have expressed interest in joining the National Guard.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet and honored 46 volunteers for their time and energy dedicated to staff and offenders. Entertainment was provided by the facility drama team, who sang and performed music.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently introduced fourteen new ministers to the joys and challenges of prison ministry. The ministers were brought in by Michael Alley, pastor of the Elwood Church of God, and the ministers toured the facility and held a worship service in the CIF chapel.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently hosted its second PREP Marriage Strengthening Weekend, where thirteen couples participated. Offenders came from the PLUS, CLIFF, and Inside/Out Dads programs, and staff from WVCF, Branchville, and Central Office led the weekend's activities.

Superintendent Brett Mize began his first day at Pendleton Correctional Facility by meeting with department heads to outline his expectations, objectives, and plans for the facility.

Hillcroft Services began teaching an employment skills building class to residents of the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility. The class focuses on improving the way that one presents himself to an employer, interviewing properly, and obtaining skills needed to maintain employment once hired.

Staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program made and donated 1,000 pink ribbons to be worn by participants in the Susan G. Coleman "Race for the Cure."



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“The path to our destination is not always a straight one. We go down the wrong road, we get lost, we turn back. Maybe it doesn't matter which road we embark on. Maybe what matters is that we embark.” ~ Barbara Hall (Northern Exposure, Rosebud, 1993)***

Friday, April 11, 2008

South Bend Community Re-entry Center's Celebrate Recovery program recently hosted a cookout and concert featuring Brian Neal. Brian is a well-known Christian singer and has done several Celebrate Recovery concerts around the country. Celebrate Recovery is a Christian organization that provides substance abuse addiction programming.

The Inside Out Dads program at Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility recently helped clean up the Dekalb County 4-H fairgrounds following a period of flooding as part of a community service project aimed at having a positive impact on children.

Students from St. Joseph's College visited and toured Camp Summit to learn about the boot camp's mission as it relates to their criminal justice class. Camp Summit's management team presented a program overview and responded to students' questions, and some of the students expressed interest in working for the Department in the future.

The Northwest Times recently published an article on former NBA player Winston Garland and the Indiana State Prison offender basketball team. Garland is a recreation leader at the prison, and retired from the NBA after the 1994-95 season.

The Culinary Arts vocational program at the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility (PREF) recently prepared a meal for staff of Plainfield Correctional Facility, Reception Diagnostic Center, and PREF. In all, sixty-seven staff attended the luncheon.

Members of the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility Community Advisory Board met to discuss upcoming events and the facility's overall impact on the community.

Reception Diagnostic Center again teamed up with the Indiana Blood Center to host a blood drive, where staff members “gave their right arm” to help save lives.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility Aquaponics Program recently donated thirty pounds of tilapia fish and approximately three pounds of parsley to the Operation Love Food Bank in Anderson.

Seventeen students from the “Prisons and Justice in the United States” class at DePauw University recently toured Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Correctional Industrial Facility's Family Management Department recently held a Caregiver Appreciation Ceremony for the Inside Out Dads program. Approximately 60-70 caregivers and children attended and were honored by the fathers with certificates of appreciation.

The Hendricks County Flyer featured Reception Diagnostic Center Superintendent Steve McCauley in an article highlighting his history with the Department and his goals for RDC.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently participated in the Fresh Favorites Promotion for “March Madness” over the Final Four weekend. The meal of pizza, cookies, and soda was planned, prepared, and served by offenders currently in the Inmate to Workmate Phase II program as part of their ongoing training in areas such as customer service, operations, and marketing. All seven offenders in Phase II participated from start to finish on this promotion.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently hosted a PLUS Advisory Board meeting where new Religious Services Coordinators were introduced and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter PLUS statistics were discussed.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities, and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.” ~ Harry Truman***

Friday, April 18, 2008

The Indiana Women’s Prison held a Grand Opening Ceremony for the Wee Ones Nursery. Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, Commissioner Donahue, and community organizations representatives attended, and the event received positive media coverage.

Students from Ancilla College recently toured Westville Correctional Facility. The tour focused on the facility’s re-entry programming offered through PEN Products, the education department, and the ACT program.

Miami Correctional Facility held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, where a total of 73 volunteers and family members were treated to dinner, door prizes, and words of appreciation from staff and offenders.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted an Inside Out Dads graduation ceremony for 20 offenders. Director of Religious Services Steve Hall participated in the event, and the guest speaker was counselor Elvin Taylor.

The St. Vincent Youth Detention Ministry recently provided the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility with a religious program. The entire population participated in the program, which was followed by an ice cream social.

Staff members at Rockville Correctional Facility held a bake sale raising \$226 for the March of Dimes – March for Babies team. Several staff members will be participating in the upcoming Wabash Valley March for Babies.

A graduation ceremony was recently held at Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility for the IUPUI Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. PREF residents and IUPUI students were recognized, and the story was featured on Indianapolis WISH-TV.

The Notre Dame Folk Choir entertained the offender population at Indiana State Prison, and nearly 300 attended the program.

Westville Correctional Facility recently held a chicken sale, and \$2,000 was raised and donated to the local Boy Scouts.

Ms. Linda Novak, the Social Studies teacher at South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility, was recently awarded the “We the People” Scholarship to attend the 2008 “We the People Institute for Teachers” at James Madison University.

A religious workshop was recently conducted by Kairos Prison Ministries at Pendleton Correctional Facility. 42 offenders participated in the event that encourages offenders to break down divisive barriers.

The Indiana Women’s Prison recently held a PLUS Graduation Ceremony to recognize 14 offender graduates.

Madison Correctional Facility held a community advisory board meeting that had the highest attendance to date. The Sheriff’s department, Mayor’s office, county commissioners, and area non-profit agencies were all represented.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Advisory Board learned a great deal from Ivy Tech administrator LeaAnne Crooks, who spoke about educational and vocational opportunities offered to offenders by Ivy Tech. Director John Nally also attended.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility recently hosted a hiring fair that allowed employers to come into the facility and interview residents who are within 90 days of release. 34 employer representatives attended, and 2 residents were offered employment.

Heather Waters and Rich McCulley performed for staff and offenders on death row at Indiana State Prison. The performance was the first allowed on death row.

Indianapolis Women’s Community Re-entry Center held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, awarding certificates to the volunteers.

Miami Correctional Facility held a CLIFF completion ceremony for 35 offenders, and more than 73 completed the program.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast - you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.” ~ Eddie Cantor (1892 - 1964)***

Friday, April 25, 2008

Students from DePauw University recently toured Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility and were given a brief overview of the Department's re-entry initiatives. Students were also allowed to ask questions of the residents.

The U.S. Chess Trust donated 8 tournament level chess sets to the Therapeutic Community at Westville Correctional Facility. The chess sets help the inmates understand the difference between long-term and short-term strategies of problem-solving.

Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility conducted an Inside Out Dads graduation and picnic for 22 offenders and their families. A total of 61 family members and children were in attendance, and the fathers gave their children age-appropriate books.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted a religious program conducted by KAIROS. The program featured over 43 sponsors, volunteers, and staff, and 45 offenders participated. Group devotions, worship, and reflection time were included in the program.

In correspondence with National Victims' Rights Week, residents at Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility recently stuffed a total of 877 mailers that included a proclamation from the Governor. Packets were sent to law enforcement officials in Indiana.

Correctional Industrial Facility's building trades class completed the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 Habitat for Humanity house packages for 2008.

Handlers and canines from Putnamville Correctional Facility attended a K-9 Academy at Correctional Training Institute. The dogs and handlers took two of the three first place awards. The dogs and handlers also recently gave a demonstration at IPS School #2.

Gary Horton from the American Freedom Assembly spoke to the PLUS unit offenders and the Echo 15 cadets at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility on AMERICA (Attitude, Motivation, Enthusiasm, Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Aspiration).

Staff from the Indianapolis Parole office, Central Office, and Parole Board participated in a joint Level Pull meeting with Marion County Probation at the City-County Building. The meeting promoted successful re-entry by changing conditions in neighborhoods with high crime rates and facilitating an awareness and community support through an increased police presence.

KAIROS Prison Ministry held its fourth 4-day ministry program at the Indiana State Prison. Offenders from the 3 previous programs attended a closing ceremony, along with the volunteers, family, and church members from the KAIROS ministry.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a staff recall/general assembly, where administrative staff provided updates regarding their areas of responsibility, and staff recognition award were presented.

The recreation department at Rockville Correctional Facility recently sponsored a pie sale for offenders, and over \$700 was raised and donated to the Use What You've Got Prison Ministry. The ministry provides transportation for prison visitation.

PEN Products at Correctional Industrial Facility has built a total of 885 picnic tables for the Department of Natural Resources, which has requested 4,000 tables.

Miami Correctional Facility recently held its quarterly Community Advisory Board Meeting, where 12 people were in attendance. New superintendent Mark Sevier discussed plans to participate in speaking engagements to introduce him to the community.

The U.S. Department of Justice concluded a visit to Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility after a weeklong inspection of the facility's policies and procedures. Several staff were interviewed about their job duties and responsibilities.

“Marlin my Darlin” and “Speedy Recovery,” two Dark Bay fillies ages 3 and 4, recently arrived at Putnamville Correctional Facility. The fillies were donated to the facility for the Equine Management program by owner Bob Cook from Indianapolis.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you had everything to do, and you've done it.”***

***~ Margaret Thatcher***

Friday, May 2, 2008

Research and Planning staff introduced the Department's recidivism rate for 2007 at the Agency Leadership Symposium held at CTI. In 2007, recidivism rates decreased for the second consecutive year, resulting in 37.8% of offenders being recommitted to the IDOC within three years of their release date. To obtain the full report, contact Aaron Garner at [agarner@idoc.in.gov](mailto:agarner@idoc.in.gov).

Officers Shaun Glover and Nikki Reed from Reception Diagnostic Center recently went above and beyond the call of duty and displayed heroism when they discovered a house fire near the facility. The officers searched the home for any occupants, called 911, and waited until the fire department arrived.

Madison Correctional Facility recently hosted their second Freedom 101 presentation. The sessions, which addressed the thinking-feeling-behavior model on responsibility, intention, forgiveness, and goal-setting, were presented for the PLUS unit.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted their inaugural PREP relationship enhancement weekend where 26 couples participated. Offenders from the PLUS unit, as well as staff from the facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, and Central Office, assisted in making the weekend a great success.

9 offenders from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a program offered by HillCrest Organization of Delaware County. HillCrest coaches offenders to prepare them for job interviews and find gainful employment.

The Indiana Women's Prison recently held a Community Advisory Board meeting where IWP's accomplishments and goals were discussed. Board members brought many potential donations for the new Wee One's Nursery and Family Preservation Center.

Offenders from Madison Correctional Facility renovated rooms in the Veteran's Affairs Office in Madison. Materials were purchased by the American Legion, and the offenders replaced the ceiling, put up drywall, replaced flooring, and painted.

Branchville Correctional Facility recently hosted its annual Sexual Assault Awareness seminar. Offenders in the PLUS unit decorated handkerchiefs denouncing attacks on women and presented them to employees of Crisis Connection, a local victim assistance agency.

Faculty from Miami University (Ohio) traveled to Plainfield Correctional Facility for a first-hand glimpse of the newly implemented SOCAP program. Professors toured the facility and interviewed staff to gain insights they may pass on to their criminal justice students to address the increasing sex offender population in corrections.

Cindi Troutman, a member of the Indiana State Prison staff, was elected Post Commander for the VFW in Michigan City. She is the first female in the history of Post No. 2536 to be elected to that position in the 76-year history of the organization. Ms. Troutman is an 18-year veteran and served in Operation Desert Storm.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility recently welcomed staff from the Office of the Mayor for the City of Indianapolis to tour the facility. Director of the Front Porch Alliance, Douglas Hairston, and Director of Re-entry, Khadijah Muhammad, met with PREF staff and spoke with soon-to-be-released residents about their re-entry.

The Indiana Women's Prison PLUS, Community Outreach, and Sheltered Workshop Program staff and offenders crocheted 130 small bags with the insignia of the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) for the Women's CMA Conference. There were also 4 flags and 26 centerpieces made for the Correctional Training Institute.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held a volunteer recognition dinner, where offenders in the "Future Soldiers" Unit sang military songs, C7 offenders acted out a poem, culinary arts students served food, and art students had their pictures on the walls and origami flowers decorating the tables.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy***

Friday, May 9, 2008

Internal Affairs Chief Investigator Willard Plank and Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Superintendent Michael Dempsey were awarded Governor’s Public Service Achievement Awards. Both attended a ceremony and were recognized by Governor Mitch Daniels.

Commissioner Donahue addressed staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility’s Employee Recognition Ceremony and was the Keynote Speaker at the first Equine Management Program graduation. Esteemed guests at the graduation ceremony were Judge Sally Gray, State Representative Amos Thomas, and the Coordinator for Thoroughbred Breeding Development Jackie Brown.

The Westville Correctional Facility’s Employee Planning Committee distributed pens with a silk flower to every female employee in honor of Mother’s Day and to recognize their role beyond the workplace.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted the second Mini Relay for Life for more than 300 offenders. Offenders donated \$1,675 to the American Cancer Society and were able to walk for a short time in the yard to honor cancer victims and survivors.

Indiana State Prison held a staff assembly in celebration of Correctional Employees’ Week. State Representative Scott Pelath and Regional Director Rondle Anderson addressed the 250 employees present, and awards were given to the employees and department of the year.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted an Employee Appreciation Picnic where staff were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn, drinks, and other refreshments. Activities included a dunk tank, prize giveaways, games for children, a K-9 demonstration, and exhibits conducted by E-Squad and Fire Department personnel. Commissioner Donahue visited the facility to express his appreciation for the staff’s outstanding public service.

Camp Summit participated in Purdue University-Calumet’s annual Napoleon Hill World Leaning Center’s Student Day, which included a day of motivational speakers and a luncheon at the Calumet campus. 26 students and 6 staff participated in the program.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility wrapped up Correctional Employees’ Week with a chili cook-off. An ice cream social, a community cookout, and an Employee Recognition Ceremony were other events held during the week.

Madison Correctional Facility’s PLUS Unit has begun a service project that involves the clearing of debris from Madison’s railroad incline. The City of Madison wants the railroad incline cleared and turned into a walking trail in celebration of the city’s upcoming bicentennial.

18 offenders from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently attended the Faith and Fathers Parenting Seminar.

Reception Diagnostic Center held its annual Correctional Employees’ Week cookout and staff recognition ceremony. 39 employees received pins for years of service, and Community Advisory Board members in attendance were recognized as well.

Putnamville Correctional Facility staff participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life held at DePauw University. Staff raised a total of \$4,578 and walked in recognition of cancer survivors.

Rockville Correctional Facility’s Teddy Bear Club provided 60 crocheted teddy bears for delivery to Riley Children’s Hospital. The bears will be delivered by Central Elementary School students as part of a Student Council field trip to the hospital.

Indiana State Prison had 130 students from 5 different schools and 2 different states participate in the “Voices Behind the Wall” program, which informs students about making the right choices in life. An offender shared his testimony about not being able to attend prom, not receiving his driver’s license, and never going to high school as a result of his actions.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens – citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.” ~ George H.W. Bush***

Friday, May 16, 2008

Members of the State Budget Committee met at Westville Correctional Facility to see and discuss the fiscal impact of the new electric stun fence that was installed and the dorm renovations that are in progress, which will replace all electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems in the units using no outside labor.

Two Camp Summit students were recognized this week by the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) for excellence in math. Both received special certificates and were recognized at Camp Summit's community meeting.

The Grace College Collegiate Commencement was held at Indiana State Prison. 12 offenders received Associate's and Bachelor of Science degrees.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a "brief back" meeting to discuss the effectiveness of Employee Appreciation Week. The overall consensus was that everyone had an enjoyable week with good food and fun events, which included bowling, a jail program, a silent auction, and ice cream social.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility had 13 offenders recently pass the GED test, 3 of which passed with honors.

Crews from Camp Summit began construction on two homes in LaPorte for Habitat for Humanity. These homes are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> homes Camp Summit has helped to construct over the past several years.

PEN Products has made its first delivery of known origin firewood to Turkey Run and Shades State Parks. This pilot project employs 10-15 offenders at Putnamville Correctional Facility, and the wood is obtained from downed trees at Putnamville.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility students crocheted 66 hours and made pillows, lap shawls, and blankets to be donated to nursing homes and hospice groups. Students also cleaned litter from a wooded area as part of their community service.

Correctional Industrial Facility completed a PREP (Preventative Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend where 9 couples participated.

Staff and offenders of Indiana Women's Prison coordinated a fundraiser dinner from Buca di Beppo's that raised \$200 for the IWP Family Preservation Center.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility K-9 crew tracked down the Sullivan County-based Haddon Blue Ribbon Hustlers 4-H Club this week. They provided the youngsters with a demonstration of facility drug and search dogs. A question and answer period followed the event.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit presented a check for \$500 to the Big Brother/Big Sister organization. A partnership between the facility and Big Brother/Big Sister is in the works to help provide services for children affected by parental incarceration.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Community Advisory Board meeting where the winners of the Black History Month essay and art contests gave presentations, an overview of the Equine Management Program graduation was given, and ASCA data and facility updates were given to the Board members. Sue Murray, Mayor of Greencastle, attended for the first time.

Indiana State Prison staff sponsored a training day for the children of the Inter-City Baseball League. Prison staff, ARAMARK staff, and offenders' clubs are sponsoring 6 teams this year. The goal is to aid children who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford being in the league.

Indiana Women's Prison hosted the Oakland City University offender commencement ceremony. Offender families and facility staff were in attendance as 14 offenders received their Associate's and Bachelor's degrees in General and Business Studies.

Because it is going out of business, Curves Fitness Center on the west side of Indianapolis has agreed to donate gender-specific exercise machines to Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Some people are making such thorough plans for rainy days that they aren't enjoying today's sunshine.” ~ William Feather***

Friday, May 23, 2008

Indiana's unemployment rate for April was the lowest of neighboring states at 4.7%. Nevertheless, the Indiana Department of Correction always needs hardworking, dedicated individuals to join our team, so spread the word to your family, friends, and neighbors that would be interested. More information can be found on our website at <http://www.in.gov/idoc/2340.htm>.

Indianapolis Parole District #3 held the first-ever Parole district job fair where 22 employers and 2 facilities of higher learning were represented. 301 parolees attended, and 22 were hired for employment, while 71 enrolled in school.

Ball State University and Grace College held graduation ceremonies at Pendleton Correctional Facility. 41 offenders graduated from the two institutions, 28 from Ball State University and 14 from Grace College. Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis Olgen Williams was the guest speaker.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit donated \$200 to the Away Home Shelter in Greencastle. The Away Home Shelter provides housing to families who are homeless.

Offenders in the CLIFF program at Rockville Correctional Facility held an Outreach Program for local juveniles under the supervision of the Parke County Probation Department. The program consisted of a panel of CLIFF offenders and included topics regarding peer influence, family support/intervention, and aftercare.

Correctional Industrial Facility completed a Kairos event, which included 42 offenders and 47 volunteers.

Camp Summit recognized 20 students in special ceremonies for successfully completing the Keys to Success Program. The program is value-based designed to help others make the connection between positive pro-social characteristics and success.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility held the second Nurturing Fatherhood special event where family members were allowed to visit with the offenders participating in the program.

Indiana Women's Prison held a fundraiser dinner for volunteers, who had to donate a minimum \$25 gift card to attend. Offenders read essays on "Being a Mother in Prison," between the performances of the IWP Playback Theatre Company. The fundraiser raised almost \$1200, which will purchase 6 months of food supplies for the Family Preservation Program.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's K-9 Unit participated in the "Fair on the Square" in Greencastle. K-9 demonstrations were given and over \$800 was raised for the International Police Work Dog Association National Conference.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted the formal graduation ceremonies for offenders who completed Purdue University studies. The President of Purdue University conferred 1 Bachelor's degree, 22 Associate's degrees, and 22 Certificates of Completion at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual graduation ceremony.

In line with INShape Indiana, Correctional Industrial Facility's Recreation Leader Randy Cornwell lost a total of 46.4 pounds in a three month period. CIF awarded Randy the "Biggest Loser" title for the facility.

90 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS participants completed their first and second quarters of the faith and character-based program. A special ceremony and reception marked the occasion with special guests Terry Jenkins, David Liebel, and Isaac Randolph, Executive Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

A pilot program at Pendleton Correctional facility will enroll offenders failing a urinalysis test into a substance abuse program for 3 months. Upon completion of the program the offender, can request for reinstatement of contact visitation. Only those offenders who give 100% during their participation in the drug treatment program will be reinstated. If the offender tests positive after their reinstatement they will return to their previous sanction.

Plainfield Correctional Facility had 13 offenders graduate from Indiana State University. 2 offenders graduated with Bachelor's Degrees in General Studies and 11 offenders graduated with Associate's Degrees in General Studies. The offenders' families were allowed to attend the graduation ceremony and attend a reception following the ceremony.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others, at whatever cost.”***  
~ *Arthur Ashe*

Friday, May 30, 2008

South Bend Community Re-entry Center's Celebrate Recovery Program sponsored by the Granger Community Church held a Memorial Day Cookout for all offenders. During this event, Celebrate Recovery volunteers issued eleven certificates for graduates of the Celebrate Recovery addiction program.

The Inmate 2 Workmate Phase II graduates at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility will be presenting their first official Fresh Favorites Café. This café is open for orders to staff and offenders.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held its second PLUS graduation. 69 PLUS graduates listened attentively as the keynote speaker, Chief Communications Officer Doug Garrison, addressed them.

Pendleton Correctional Facility, in conjunction with Volunteers of America and Bike Garage Indy, donated a bike to a man referred to them through Centered Around Christ in Indianapolis. The man had recently had his bike stolen.

The PLUS Program at the Correctional Industrial Facility is making a \$500 contribution to the Minority Health Coalition and a \$500 contribution to the Operation Love food pantry. Both are located in Anderson, Indiana.

Westville Correctional Facility took part in the first Corporate Challenge Competition conducted by the La Porte YMCA. Staff teams participated in golf, volleyball, bowling, euchre, a three-point shootout, poker tournament, and obstacle course. Overall, WCC placed fourth in the final standings among nine corporate teams, supporting the principles of INShape Indiana.

Pendleton Correctional Facility announced a program in partnership with the education department that would allow offenders graduating from college with a Bachelor's Degree to tutor offenders wanting to enter college classes or continue their education to gain a Bachelor's Degree.

Indiana Women's Prison recently held a Volunteer Recognition Program. The Recognition Program acknowledged and honored the volunteers who give of themselves to support the Indiana Women's Prison by providing hope and guidance to an offender's successful return to the community.

Correctional Industrial Facility is planning an upcoming Christmas Behind Bars event. Every offender at CIF will have a chance to hear a Christmas program and receive a Christmas present.

Ball State University had a graduation at the Indiana State Prison. 84 offenders received Bachelor's or Associate's Degrees, and 102 offenders made the Dean's List.

Branchville Correctional Facility held its first graduation ceremony for the GRIP Therapeutic Community. 79 offenders completed the intensive substance abuse treatment program. 33 of the offenders' family members were present to show their support and to gain knowledge on what needs to be done to ensure a successful re-entry.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual PLUS Unit graduation in which 17 students received their certificates of completion for the sixteen-week character and religious-based program. Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis Olgen Williams and Dr. Stephen Hall were the keynote speakers.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of bold projects and new ideas. Rather, it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the great enterprises and ideals of American society.”***

***~ Robert F. Kennedy (Shot June 5, 1968, died June 6, 1968)***

Friday, June 6, 2008

In spite of nasty weather, Commissioner Donahue held a successful Re-entry Town Hall Meeting in Bloomington. Attendees included city officials, state legislators, judges, and interested citizens.

As preparations continue for the Unlock the Mystery Mental Health Conference, Dr. William Elliott, Director of Mental Health and Behavior Services, and Doug Garrison, Chief Communications Officer, promoted the event on WIBC radio on the Greg Garrison Show.

The Indiana Women's Prison laundry cleaned approximately 143 blankets and 50 sheets for the Red Cross this week as a result of the massive damage caused by last weeks storms and tornados.

DOC employees participated in the opening ceremonies for the Torch Run Final Leg for Special Olympics Indiana at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

A charter of the American Legion is being established at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. The organization will initially involve participation by approximately 25 to 50 offender veterans, as well as sons of veterans.

Dr. Link was featured in the Northwest Times in an article concerning his work as a chaplain at the Indiana State Prison. Dr. Link retired from Norte Dame University where he was the Dean of the Law School.

Pendleton Correctional Facility staff recently participated in a successful blood drive during which 21 pints of blood were collected for the Central Indiana Regional Blood Bank.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility recently hosted a summit of local community leaders. 21 students participated in the youth-focused sessions conducted at the facility to create solutions toward youth violence.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility C5 and C7 units are now officially registered for Alcoholics Anonymous. These young men are serious about their recovery and are working toward a positive and productive future.

The Indiana Women's Prison PLUS offenders folded and sorted newsletters for the Westminster Presbyterian's Church. The newsletter will be mailed out by the church to promote their mission of unity.

Two offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility took the state exam this week for Manicure/Pedicure Cosmetology licenses. Both offenders passed with flying colors. These are Madison's first offenders that will soon be released with their license in hand, ready to work in the cosmetology industry.

Wabash Valley minimum security labor lines rushed to storm ravaged Bloomfield, Indiana helping clear downed trees and other debris from the city park. Crews returned the next day to continue their good neighbor clean up efforts city wide.

Christmas came early at the Correctional Industrial Facility. There were 46 volunteers present to witness 1396 offenders participate in the "Christmas Behind Bars" program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility is expanding its Shifting Gears operation. The existing program currently located outside the walls is being moved inside the facility to allow for the employment of 20 offenders and to increase productivity.

The Indiana Women's Prison will host an offender 5K fundraiser for breast cancer research. The 99 offenders have donated their pledges to the Indianapolis Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation totaling \$874.

Canine Rosie, a member of Putnamville Correctional Facility's K-9 Unit, gave birth to the first litter of the facility's Bloodhound Breeding Program. Rosie delivered 6 females and 2 males.

Purdue University North Central recently held a graduation at the Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit where 7 men received an Associate's Degree.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Weather is a great metaphor for life - sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad, and there's nothing much you can do about it but carry an umbrella.” ~Pepper Giardino***

Friday, June 13, 2008

Wabash Valley minimum-security offenders joined citizens, farmers, the Marines, and the National Guard this week to sandbag flooded areas. Crews worked to stem raging flood waters in Sullivan, Greene, Knox, Vigo, Daviess, and Gibson Counties.

Correctional Industrial Facility held an Inside/Out Dads picnic where 65 children and 35 fathers attended.

Indiana State Prison's education department sponsored the first annual Poets Behind Bars event. There were 20 “inside poets” who shared their work, 10 “outside” poets who shared their work, and other guests, including local author Harry Mark Petrakis.

Branchville Correctional Facility sent an outside work crew to Knox County for assistance with the rising flood waters. 21 offenders and 2 officers spent more than 12 hours preparing sandbags and assisting in the disaster relief.

In conjunction with DOC's special “clean up initiative” this week, extra landscaping efforts were made by teams of students and staff at Camp Summit in an effort to spruce up the facility via donations of shrubs and additional flowers.

The Westville Correctional Facility PLUS Program donated \$400 to the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (INVOAD) fund to provide relief to those afflicted by last week's flooding in Indiana.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its first American Welding Society (AWS) certification test for students who recently graduated from the welding program. Students successfully completing the welding class earn 18 credit hours with Ivy Tech.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received a generous donation of approximately 60 bicycles for the “Shifting Gears” operation from a local man who privately collects and restores bicycles for donation to charitable organizations.

Offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison sewed more than 350 bags for the Church World Service. The bags will be filled by the Church World volunteers, and donated to help provide school kits to children of many states.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility offender work crews assisted local communities of Prince's Lake, Edinburgh, and Columbus, Indiana during the recent storms that swept across the area. Crews helped clear downed trees, remove debris, and sandbagged.

Rockville Correctional Facility's Lions International Eye Glass Re-cycle Operation celebrated the completion of 5,526,500 pairs of re-cycled eye-glasses since 1995 this week. Lions District Governor Ron Spivey, accompanied by several members of the Clinton Lions Club, provided cake and ice cream for the celebration.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility sent a work crew to the Morgan County Fairgrounds to help fill and place sandbags in potential floodplains. The crew worked alongside civilians as they attempted to stem rising waters and clean up the aftermath.

Miami Correctional Facility held two separate graduation ceremonies with 455 graduates completing educational programs. More than 240 offenders went through the ceremony with more than 240 family members in attendance.

The Wabash Valley PLUS unit helped provide flood relief, donating \$500 to the Salvation Army's Indiana Headquarters. Over 60 PLUS made quilts will be given to the local Emergency Management Agency.

Pendleton Correctional Facility provided approximately twenty 20 level one offenders to assist with flood damage clean-up efforts in Morgan County.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recognized CMS Administrators Monica Speckman, HCA and Crystal Hottman, DON for receiving the CMS Star Health Services Administrator Award and the CMS Star Director of Nursing Award, respectively.

PEN Products staff and offender workers have filled 5 gallon bladders with water for Homeland Security for distribution to flood victims. PEN drivers have delivered water and toilet tissue, and PEN is donating warehouse space to help in the effort.

A screen replication of a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe was on display during Catholic services at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. The painting depicts the Virgin Mary and the Immaculate Conception and is a Mexican cultural symbol.

The Indiana Women's Prison was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections at the American Correctional Association Awards Ceremony with the score of 100 % Mandatory and 98% Non-Mandatory standards.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

*“Long stormy spring-time, wet contentious April, winter chilling the lap of very May; but at length the season of summer does come.” ~ Thomas Carlyle*

Friday, June 20, 2008

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently graduated 154 offenders who completed GED, vocational, and college courses. Commissioner Donahue challenged the graduates to make the most of their accomplishments and thanked attending families.

Branchville Correctional Facility’s PLUS program recently donated \$4000 to the Indiana Red Cross. The money will be directed to the Disaster Relief Fund to help those who were affected by recent flooding.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility had 6 more offenders complete Phase 1 of the “Inmate to Workmate” program and 4 offenders complete Phase 2. These offenders are gaining “hands on” restaurant-style training.

Westville Correctional Facility sponsored its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Motorcycle Ride fundraiser to send care packages to deployed DOC employees. ABATE of Indiana, Buffalo Soldiers, Christian Motorcycle Association, and the Patriot Guard were represented.

Residents from Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility began work in the town of Plainfield replacing broken sidewalks for the citizens of the community.

Fr. David L. Rogers, Chaplain at the Indiana State Prison, recently scheduled a Marriage Seminar at the ISO Minimum Security Unit. The content focused on the Life Innovations, Inc. pre-marital and marital counseling materials.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff members, family, and friends participated in the Parke County American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Through several fund-raising events they were able to donate \$731, surpassing their \$500 goal.

Staff and students from Camp Summit took up a goodwill offering totaling \$300 to assist those unfortunate families in Central Indiana devastated by recent flooding. The check was forwarded to the American Red Cross Disaster Fund.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its first “CIF Department Head Retreat” at Falls Park in Pendleton. State Senator Tim Lanane from Anderson stopped by Friday and joined in with several interesting discussions.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility’s Nurturing Fathers Program recently graduated 9 offenders. Each offender was awarded a certificate and provided additional information where they could continue with parental development upon release.

Miami Correctional Facility’s “Mighty Cancer Fighters” team participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Miami County Relay for Life. The team raised more than \$3,000 in the fight against cancer. This is the fourth year the facility has participated in the event.

Pendleton Correctional Facility is providing 10 offenders daily to assist with the recovery of the coverage bridge in Moscow, Indiana that was destroyed by a tornado. Also, a work crew is still assisting with the clean up of damage in Morgan County.

Bill Glass’ youth outreach and prison ministry, Champions for Life, held a Weekend of Champions rally at IJCF. Champions for Life utilizes former professional athletes as a forum to motivate and urge students toward making positive lifestyle choices.

The K-9 crew at Wabash Valley provided a demonstration for Hoosier Boys State participants on the Indiana State University campus. The K-9 teams showed their skills in crowd control, handler protection, tracking and drug detection.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted a summer picnic sponsored by the PREF Parenting Department. The event involved a cookout and various activities, such as flying radio controlled airplanes with the volunteer group Screaming Eagles.

Indiana State Prison recently held a family day where staff and family members enjoyed a cookout, horse buggy rides, children’s games, hay rides, SERT, K-9, & E-squad demonstrations, and facility tours.

The Indiana Women’s Prison Outreach Program donated 50 handmade bears to CJ’s Bus Foundation. The Bus is deployed to disaster sites nationwide in order to entertain children in a safe group environment in the aftermath of disasters.

The Christian Motorcyclist Association visited Pendleton Correctional Facility and conducted programs for offenders. Members of the group displayed their motorcycles, conducted a prayer service, and played gospel music.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***"The great leaders are like the best conductors—they reach beyond the notes to reach the magic in the players."***  
***~ Blaine Lee***

Friday, June 27, 2008

Following Commissioner Donahue's announcement of his departure, Governor Daniels named ISP Superintendent Ed Buss as the new Commissioner. Best wishes to Commissioner Donahue in his new endeavor and congratulations to Superintendent Buss!

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation for 11 students that successfully completed the program. There have been a total of 101 graduates since the program's inception in December 2005.

The Bill Glass 'Weekend of Champions' was held at the Plainfield Correctional Facility, and around 1,000 offenders participated. Former professional athletes and industry workers motivated offenders to make better lifestyle choices.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Inside Out Dads program recently held a Father's Day Picnic where 51 offenders spent quality time with their children and enjoyed games, prizes, and food.

Director of Food Services John Schilling was recently awarded a scholarship by the American Correctional Food Service Association. The scholarship will be used for Mr. Schilling's Continuing Education Hours for Certified Dietary Manager, Certified Food Protection Professional, and Certified Correctional Foodservice Professional credentialing.

A new wind turbine, which is a modern windmill, was recently set into place at Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Madison Correctional Facility held its third annual family day where over 1,000 people, including family members, offenders and community volunteers, enjoyed a full day of carnival-style games, along with a cookout/picnic lunch.

Westville Correctional Facility conducted its quarterly staff assembly this week. In addition to the distribution of special awards and recognition, staff were treated to a motivational presentation on suicide prevention by William Molton, a former officer and case manager at ISP who now works with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility had 22 students graduate and receive their GED diplomas. 55 students have earned their GED for 2007-2008, and 7 have graduated with an honors diploma.

The Bill Glass Crusade was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The Christian-based group gave testimonials and entertained offenders with juggling acts, motorcycles, and gospel music.

Approximately 50 members of the Transition from Prison to the Community Initiative (TPCI) team recently visited the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) for a tour. Superintendent Lloyd addressed the group and answered questions.

Correctional Industrial Facility and Ball State University held their 4th annual graduation, awarding degrees to 143 men. Staff and guests were in attendance.

Wabash Valley staff sponsored a series of events all week to help 21 employees impacted by recent flooding. Over \$1,200 was raised, and a large quantity of cleaning supplies was donated to help facility flood victims.

Rockville Correctional Facility recently hosted a Bill Glass Weekend of Champions. Over 40 volunteers and 6 platform artists visited the facility during the two-day program.

20 offenders and 2 officers from Edinburgh Correctional Facility continued to assist the storm relief in Morgan County.

The Indiana Women's Prison's Family Preservation Center conducted its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual One-Day Summer Camp where 43 offenders and approximately 80 children/grandchildren participated. The camp theme was "The Wild Wild West," and activities were funded through community donations to the Family Preservation Program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received 30 bikes donated through Bicycle Garage Indy for the Shifting Gears Program. This was a result of a BGI promotion the last few weeks.

Approximately 40 Emergency Response Personnel teams from around the Department participated in various events, such as a tug of war and obstacle course, during a competition held at the Correctional Industrial Facility.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” ~ U.S. Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776***

Thursday, July 3, 2008

Commissioner Donahue and State Senator Teresa Lubbers attended the grand opening of the Miami Braille Project at Miami Correctional Facility. The program teaches 20 offenders to transcribe textbooks into Braille textbooks through collaboration with PEN Products, the Indiana Department of Education, the Center for Exceptional Learning, and the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

During its recent ACA audit, Branchville Correctional Facility was recommended for re-accreditation by passing 100% of all mandatory standards and 97.7% of the non-mandatory standards.

This week, 45 men graduated from the PLUS Unit at Westville Correctional Facility. The guest speaker was Mr. Edwin W. Vance, an integral instructor for the program and a volunteer at WCC for twenty years.

12 Indiana State Prison offenders and their spouses participated in the preservation and relationship enhancement program (PREP) last weekend. One of the offenders indicated, “The techniques and materials definitely have enhanced my life and my relationship.”

Madison Correctional Facility sent 35 offenders to assist the City of Madison in preparation for this weekend’s Regatta. Offenders cleaned up the waterfront and painted the judge’s stand where Governor Daniels will be presenting the Governor’s Cup at the conclusion of the weekend’s unlimited hydroplane boat races and festival.

Henryville Correctional Facility celebrated the completion of its Anger Management Program by having a picnic for the 16 graduates of the three month-long program that focused on coping with anger and realizing alternatives to anger.

Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted an Independence Day Celebration for offenders. The cookout featured smoked sausage, sides, and soft drinks, and the band Beta Male performed.

The Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Assistant Director of the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association toured the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) to learn about re-entry in an effort to improve Louisiana’s own transition programs.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held an Independence Day Celebration Program. The Praise Team offender band sang various inspirational songs for the staff, volunteers and other employees. In addition, the offenders provided a special presentation of pictures and images that recognized all branches of the military, as well as the fallen soldiers. The Praise Team will be performing for the offender population on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Henryville Correctional Facility staff transported 15 offenders who are presently in the Inside Out Dads program to State Route #60 in Salem to clean up debris as part of a community service project. The offenders collected over 40 bags of trash.

The Indiana Women’s Prison PLUS offenders are performing a Freedom Presentation on July 4<sup>th</sup> for the open population offenders and staff. The presentation is a self-written and self-directed arrangement that portrays different interpretations of freedom.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“If your life is free of failures, you're not taking enough risks.” ~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr., A Father's Book of Wisdom***

Friday, July 11, 2008

Major General R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant of the Indiana National Guard, and Commissioner Donahue visited Camp Summit and Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. At Camp Summit, the General's two Blackhawk Helicopters landed just outside the “O” Course where students offered a teambuilding demonstration, followed by a demonstration of drill and ceremony. At PJCF, General Umbarger inspected the “Echo15” unit of the Future Soldiers program and spoke briefly to the offenders and staff participating in the volunteer program.

The Department's inaugural Leadership Academy debuted at the Correctional Training Institute this week, with 24 staff from facilities statewide attending. The Leadership Academy is designated as the Department's precursor to the Experienced and Emerging Leadership program and the Executive Management series of advancement within the agency.

Congratulations to Westville Correctional Facility for passing the annual ACA audit with a score of 100% on the mandatory items and 98% on the non-mandatory standards.

Rockville Correctional Facility held its first PLUS graduation with 19 graduates receiving certificates. Dr. Steven Hall was the keynote speaker. Graduates and guests enjoyed refreshments provided by the Culinary Arts class following the ceremony.

Staff at Putnamville Correctional Facility donated over 24 units of blood to the Indiana Blood Center. The Blood Center has a daily goal of 550 units, but this was negatively affected due to flooding and storm damage.

Mary Hulman-George, a benefactor of the retired race horse program at Putnamville Correctional facility, toured the Equine Management/Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation Program with representatives from the “Open Range Horse Rescue Center” in Colorado. Also, the program received another Indiana Racing Thoroughbred. His name is “Jim's Rusty Gem.” He is an 8 year old, 16-hand, sound gelding. His arrival puts the Equine/TRF Program count at 17 horses with 2 adoptions.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit recently held a bake sale in which PLUS students raised \$164 selling the cookies, cakes, and brownies they prepared. Proceeds from the sale were earmarked for charities providing assistance to Indiana citizens affected by the floods of 2008.

Madison Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit has adopted “Hanging Rock Hill,” one of Madison's landmarks. The area, which had been restored to its original beauty by the facility's highway crew over a year ago, features a beautiful waterfall alongside of State Highway 7.

Pendleton Correctional Facility recently set an all-time facility record for the number of off-ground work crew hours performed by Level One offenders. During the month of June, offenders assigned to these crews logged a total of 6,891 community service hours.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Communities completed their annual school bus wash program. Offenders washed, waxed, and detailed 25 school buses from a local rural school corporation. This has allowed the school corporation to free up summer maintenance employees and assign them to other projects. Offenders put in over 600 hours on the project.

The Indiana State Prison's fire suppression program received recognition from the news media this week. Offenders are trained and assigned to several housing unit throughout the facility. When a fire is reported, the offender Fire Chief reports to the scene and ordered the necessary equipment and firefighters to the scene, with the help of Lieutenant Carl Tibbles.

The Indiana Women's Prison donated a check for \$ 800.74 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The money was raised by 100 IWP offenders who participated in a Fundraiser Walk. In addition to the money, the Community Outreach staff and offenders donated a handmade Breast Cancer Survivor Quilt to be auctioned at one of the upcoming Susan G. Komen events.

Staff from the Indianapolis Deputy Mayor's Office visited the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) this week. The staff toured the facility, met with executive staff, and enjoyed a meal prepared by the facility's Culinary Arts program.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Few things are impossible to diligence and skill. Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance.” ~ Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)***

Friday, July 18, 2008

Director of Education Dr. John Nally was recognized with "The President's Award" at the 63rd Annual International Correctional Education Association Conference in Denver, Colorado. Each year, the CEA president recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the field of correctional education at the state and national level.

Miami Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit recently donated \$2,500 to the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility to help them start up their PLUS unit. The donation to LJCF will help them purchase needed supplies, materials and curriculum to begin their unit, which is scheduled to open July 21.

Staff from the Indiana Women's Prison and Madison Correctional Facility donated offender-made pillows to the Julian Center Pillow Project. The pillows are the first of 250 pillows to be donated to the non-profit center over the next year. The Julian Center provides shelter and counseling to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and survivors of child sexual abuse.

Putnamville Correctional Facility passed the annual ACA Facility Review with a score of 98.6%. Mr. Osburn attributes the success to "making everyday an ACA audit," and to the diligent efforts of staff.

Reception-Diagnostic Center recently held a "Sub Sammich" sale to raise money for local schools in need of supplies. 42 feet of sub was sold, and a total of \$351.75 was raised during the two-day sale! Money was also donated to assist fellow RDC staff who were affected by the recent flooding.

The Lions Club International Eyeglass Recycling Center located at Westville Correctional Facility recently commemorated a monumental milestone by processing its 4,000,000<sup>th</sup> pair of recycled eyeglasses.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility staff collected donations for individuals who were displaced by storms across the local area. The facility was very successful collecting a lot of clothing and hygiene items. All donations went to local community lockers in Edinburgh and Trafalgar.

Madison Correctional Facility held its quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting. Kris Mayfield, Unit Team Manager, and 4 offenders made presentations on the upcoming Domestic Violence Conference and the programs offered at Ivy Tech.

New Castle Correctional Facility is proud to announce the promotion of 10 Correctional staff. Glen Thompson has been promoted to the rank of Captain, and Laura Denny, Diane McDaniel, Justin Upchurch, David Young, Terry Cross, Junior Dunn, Jabin Collins, David Denney and Blake Huber have all been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The Christian Motorcyclists Association recently presented a day-long program at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. CMA opened with a morning religious program titled "Breaking Through" and held an afternoon Bike Show for all offenders.

At the Correctional Industrial Facility, The Minority Health Coalition out of Madison County donated a \$500 check to Brenda Jones, Wellness Volunteer for the PLUS program. Superintendent Tom Hanlon presented her the check during her wellness class.

Indiana State Prison held a talent show for the enjoyment of Department of Correction staff. Twenty offender singers and poets competed to win the coveted title of ISP's American Idol.

How did the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility turn a warehouse into a cell house? The facility Community Advisory Board got the answers during their meeting this week, including a chance to tour the minimum-security unit. Keeping the offenders at the facility also kept community service crews on the job for area cities and towns.

Branchville Correctional Facility and Correctional Medical Services offered their first annual health fair. Mental health and dental professionals were present to help inform offenders on the importance of preventative care and maintaining proper daily hygiene. The event also kicked off the Cardiac Initiative, where offenders over 45 will be offered low dose aspirin on a daily basis and will be given literature on ways to improve their overall cardiac health.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***“Time is an equal opportunity employer. Each human being has exactly the same number of hours and minutes every day. Rich people can't buy more hours. Scientists can't invent new minutes. And you can't save time to spend it on another day. Even so, time is amazingly fair and forgiving. No matter how much time you've wasted in the past, you still have an entire tomorrow.” ~ Denis Waitley***

Friday, July 25, 2008

Members of the Indiana State Budget Committee, State Representative Amos Thomas, Commissioner Donahue, incoming Commissioner Buss, and Central Office Executive Staff toured programs at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The Budget Committee presented Commissioner Donahue with a token of appreciation for his service to the Department.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's PLUS Program donated \$1,000 to the North American Association of Warden and Superintendents in support of the "Make a Smile Project." Funds raised will be used to rebuild playgrounds and purchase recreational equipment for areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The Indiana State Prison's Shifting Gears program donated 2 bikes to children in the community whose bikes were stolen earlier this week. The young boys deliver papers for a paper route and use their bikes to assist them.

Madison Correctional Facility donated over 900 lbs. of vegetables from its first garden to the Salvation Army's soup kitchen.

61 offenders graduated from the CLIFF program at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Approximately 22 family members were on hand to witness the graduation. Director of Substance Abuse Jerry Vance delivered an inspiring message. and 2 graduates gave their personal testimonials.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex held a job fair where 75 people were interviewed during the 5 hour fair.

The Indiana Women's Prison staff and offenders assigned to the Special Needs Workshop made and donated 25 centerpieces to the Correctional Training Institute for an upcoming trainer's conference.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS unit donated 1,000 lbs. of fresh produce from their organic garden to a local subsidized housing complex. The program hopes to surpass last year's donation total of over 6,000 lbs.

A bake sale was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week to raise money for this year's "Villages" campaign. The Bake Sale was such a success that the facility was able to purchase additional folders. The Facility was able to donate a total of 2,088 folders for the campaign.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's grounds crew has donated a total of 126 pounds of vegetables to the Christian Center Kitchen located in Anderson.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted the Plainfield Complex's Community Advisory Board meeting. The CAB includes members of the community who are interested in the progress made by the correctional facilities in their area.

All 400 of Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community offenders participated in a "Field Day" where the clean, healthy living commitment of the offenders was recognized through sporting events and games. The day was hosted by the TC's creative energy group, which is made of a staff member and selected offenders who promote healthy hobbies.

Offenders from the Putnamville Correctional Facility have donated arts and crafts for display at the Putnam County Museum. Their pieces will remain on display through mid-September 2008, and one of the offender's art pieces is featured on the cover page of the museum's newsletter.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted the Pendleton Facilities' Community Advisory Board Meeting. The Board was provided Facility updates by Superintendents Michael Dempsey, Tom Hanlon, and Brett Mize.

PEN products at the Correctional Industrial Facility concluded its production of building picnic tables this week. Beginning April 1, 2008 they have constructed 4,000 picnic tables.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." ~ T.S. Eliot***

Friday, August 1, 2008

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a dedication ceremony for the newly completed wind turbine and in honor of deceased Director of Contract Compliance, Larry Lazart. Guests were addressed by Commissioner Donahue, Johnson Control's David Peters, Paul Cummings of the Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development, and Larry's brother, Mark Lazart.

State Representative F. Dale Grubb visited Rockville Correctional Facility to speak to students who had completed their GED or a Vocational Program, and he presented each of the graduates with an Indiana House of Representatives certificate.

Westville Correctional Facility's Vocational Horticultural Class was recognized by the Save the Dunes project for its contribution in helping control the invasive Purple Loosestrife plant that clogs the dunes' wetlands. The class used the retrieved plants by allowing beetles to hatch onto them and replanting the plants around the city to conserve the beetle population.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation service for 12 offenders who earned their GEDs and 1 offender who earned his high school diploma. There were 24 guests and family members who attended the ceremonies.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently held its 2<sup>nd</sup> PLUS graduation for 12 offenders. Isaac Randolph, Executive Director of the Office of Faith Based & Community Initiatives, gave the keynote address to staff, family members, and volunteers.

Michael Hale of Kokomo was promoted to Major of the Miami Correctional Facility. Hale has worked at MCF since March 1999 and was among the first 30 custody staff hired.

Parole agents and supervisors at Parole District #3 conducted 4 sweeps during the month of July, which were all carried out in collaboration with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department in an effort to address the recent rise in violence.

Branchville Correctional Facility staff and offenders raised over \$2330 for the Make a Smile Campaign. This money will be used to build playgrounds near correctional facilities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its 1<sup>st</sup> GRIP graduation for 69 offenders. Over 30 staff and family members attended the graduation ceremony.

The Indiana Women's Prison recently held The Inside – Out Prison Exchange Program Closing Ceremony. The program began in May 2008 with 12 outside (IUPUI) and 12 inside (IWP) students exploring the topic of "Women and Social Action."

Miami Correctional Facility's INShape Committee hosted a softball game between custody brackets and non-custody recently. Members of the I-Bracket won the overall tournament defeating the K-Bracket and non-custody staff in two different games.

Correctional Industrial Facility hosted its 4th Family Worship service in conjunction with PREP (Preventative Relationship Enhancement Program). This is the first time the Family Worship Program has been a part of the PREP weekend at CIF.

The Wabash Valley Inside Out Dads Program donated \$1,000 to the Terre Haute Children's Museum Building Fund.

The Indiana Women's Prison Sheltered Workshop made and donated over 140 quilted, crocheted, and sewn items to the Julian Center for Women and Children. Also, over 2,000 items donated to the facility are to help the victims of domestic violence.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted its third Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP).

Governor Daniels observed K-9 demonstrations and posed for pictures with K-9 members from the Putnamville Correctional Facility at the Putnam County Fair. The facility's K-9 Unit also received accolades from the president of the International Police Work Dog Association (L.P.W.D.A.) for services rendered.

PLUS participants at Wabash Valley donated 14 quilts to the Shalom Center for the homeless of Bloomington, Indiana. JoAnn Fabrics and the Bloomington Unitarian Universalist Church provided materials and funding to make the project possible.

10 offenders from the Pendleton Correctional Facility Level One outside Dorm were selected for an off-grounds work crew to work on a 3-day demolition project at Fort Harrison State Park. The crew is helping prepare a park building for remodeling.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***"He who knows no hardships will know no hardihood. He who faces no calamity will need no courage. Mysterious though it is, the characteristics in human nature which we love best grow in a soil with a strong mixture of troubles."***

***~ Harry Emerson Fosdick***

Friday, August 8, 2008

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility received a 97.8% score for non-mandatory files and 100% score for mandatory files during its recent ACA audit. The ACA team gave special recognition to the program at the Eliza Hendricks School.

A community service crew made up of staff and students from Camp Summit helped complete construction of 2 new Habitat for Humanity homes in LaPorte this week. These homes represent the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> homes Camp Summit has helped construct.

The Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) held its 5th graduation ceremony this week at the Indiana Women's Prison. The ceremony was the culmination of 2 weeks of training, in which the recipients were taught how to work with their dogs.

The Miami Correctional Facility PLUS Unit hosted an Offender Arts and Crafts Show at the Old Peru Firehouse in Peru, Indiana. The show was a great success, and all auction proceeds will go to the Miami County YMCA's Youth Fitness Room.

A Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility offender and re-entry staff members assisted at the Indiana State Fair to help set up Pioneer Village. This is an annual community service project and collaboration.

A Community Advisory Board meeting was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Members were apprised of facility updates and ASCA Data information, toured a housing and segregation unit and the Chapel, and observed programming.

Pendleton Correctional Facility recently conducted a PREP (Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend. 8 offenders inside the walls and fifteen 15 offenders housed at the facility's level one outside dorm participated in the event.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF Graduation, and to date, the program has graduated 107 students.

Eliza Hendricks School at IJCF has met the requirements established by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission and was awarded continuing accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

The 2008 Friends Fellowship Bible Study Seminar was held at The Indiana Women's Prison. This group of volunteers provides Bible studies, worship services, and various volunteer programs to the prison.

Pendleton Correctional Facility recently donated 30 bicycles to the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Home that were refurbished by offenders assigned to the facility's Shifting Gears program.

New Castle Correctional Facility was able to raise \$3,000 to be donated to two local schools. The facility donated \$1500 to the Shenandoah FFA and \$1500 to the Blue River Band Boosters. This is the second donation from offenders at New Castle.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility raised \$1,125 for the NAAWS "Make a Smile" campaign. The funds will be put to good use, helping to build playgrounds for youth in areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held its first incentive party for offenders who received all of their incentive points for good behavior during the month of July. There were 27 offenders able to participate in this event.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex E-Squad Team raised \$1,383.55 to participate in the Special Olympics Indiana Fed Ex Plane Pull. The E-Squad Field Commander agreed to kiss a goat when \$200 was raised for this event.

The PLUS Unit from Madison Correctional Facility had an etiquette lesson this week, combined with a fine dining experience. In addition to the etiquette lesson, the dinner was in celebration of the PLUS Unit reaching full capacity for the first time.

Correctional Industrial Facility's PLUS Unit donated \$500 to The Villages Campaign.

During the past 6 six weeks, the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) has donated over 4 tons of produce to the federal, Plant a Row for the Hungry program. The garden is maintained by the facility's Landscape Management class.

The Saints Prison Ministry came to the Indiana State Prison to play softball. The Saints Prison Ministry is based in New Jersey and travels to promote community involvement to raise morale and contact between the offenders and society.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***“Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” ~ Lou Holtz***

Friday, August 15, 2008

Congratulations to Westville Correctional Facility and their ERO team who donated \$1000 to the annual FED EX Plane Pull competition, which raises funds for the Special Olympics. They pulled a 73 ½ ton Boeing 727 a distance of 12 feet from a dead stop in only 4.746 seconds, beating 53 other teams to take the gold!

Volunteers from the Pendleton First United Methodist Church held their first monthly Unit Sponsor Activity with cadets and staff from the Future Soldiers program. The theme for the gathering was “building good relationships.” Since the initiation of the Future Soldiers program, two of the graduates have been accepted into the Armed Forces and several others are currently involved in the enlistment process.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility held a fundraiser this week by selling Papa John’s pizza to the residents. The total amount of money raised was \$695.10 and was distributed between the facility’s Toastmaster club, the Mozel Sander’s Foundation, the PREF Parenting Department, and the April Wills Foundation.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted a camera crew from the Services for the Visually & Hearing Impaired recently who did a story on the Miami Braille Project for the show “Focus on Independence.” The story will air on the local public access cable channel in Grant County all during the month of October.

Pendleton Correctional Facility/CMS RN Michelle Vandagriff and LPN Linda Fahl were first responders to an auto accident in Pendleton while they were on their lunch break. The nurses rendered assistance to an unresponsive man in one of the vehicles until emergency medical services arrived at the scene.

The Leadership Perry County group purchased and donated approximately 60 children’s books, valued at over \$400, to the Read to Me program at Branchville Correctional Facility. Offenders participating in the parenting program will be videotaped reading the books, and they will send the tape home for their children to watch.

The Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program crocheted and donated over 100 sets of hats, scarves, and mittens for the Centenary Christian Church. The items will be given to needy children in the area for Christmas.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center recently held a “Sloppy Dog” (sloppy joes and hot dogs) sale to raise money for local schools in need of supplies. \$299.78 was raised during the two-day sale!

Five students at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility passed the requirements for the GED exams.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility Horticulture Aquaponics program recently harvested a variety of herbs and vegetables to be donated to the Operation Love Food Bank in Anderson. Since the first of the year, the program has donated approximately 350 pounds of produce and 30 pounds of tilapia fish to that organization.

The generous staff of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility helped fill over 6 boxes full of spiral notebooks for The Villages 2008 - Kids Can't Wait campaign!

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility celebrated its two year anniversary of the charter of the Toastmaster’s Urban Unity Gavel Club. The Urban Unity Gavel Club was the first chartered Toastmaster’s International club in the state of Indiana.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize spoke to the Noblesville Kiwanis Club on Wednesday. Superintendent Mize presented an overview of the facility and Executive Assistant Jack Binion provided information relative to the facility’s Shifting Gears Program.

The Correctional Industrial Facility is donating a total of \$1,069 to The Villages. This includes staff and offender donations and \$140 worth of donated “Mug Money.”



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***“For every failure, there's an alternative course of action. You just have to find it. When you come to a roadblock, take a detour.” ~ Mary Kay Ash***

Friday, August 22, 2008

Governor Daniels recognized 21 Department of Correction employees for their years of service to the state of Indiana. Stella Wilson received an award for her 45 years of service, and Dana Blank, Joyce Childress, Alan Holden, and Frances Watson received awards for their 40 years of service. Employees recognized for 35 years of service included Laurie Batchelor, Martha Black, Jean Cohn, Joseph Furore, Albert Humes, Ivan Jones, Dennis Johnson, James Kidwell, Patricia Morton, Ronald Orndorff, Kenneth Ray, Mark Starr, Alice Waddell, Sharon Weiler, and Brenda Williams.

Madison Correctional Facility held its first annual Domestic Violence Conference, where subject matter experts from across the state held various workshops. Around 30 community members and 150 offenders attended the conference, and a silent auction raised over \$800 in support of next year's conference and local service providers.

The Westville Correctional Facility hosted a college fair for GED students and recent GED graduates. Purdue North Central representative Ronald McGonagal spoke to the offenders about attainable goals, presented information, and encouraged higher educational opportunities. The fair drew over 400 offenders who asked questions, gathered materials, and explored the possibilities of a college education both during and after incarceration.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize presented a \$1,500 check to Pendleton Heights Middle School Principal Dan Joyce. The money was donated by the facility's PLUS unit and will be used to purchase volleyball uniforms.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility was featured in a WISH-TV news story in Indianapolis this week. The story highlighted and explained the ALERT Notification Service as it applies to the entire Plainfield complex, including the Reception Diagnostic Center and Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility.

Miami Correctional Facility held a facility-wide cookout hosted by Gospel Echoes of Goshen, IN. More than 200 volunteers grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for all offenders and staff at the facility. This was the fifth year the facility has hosted the summer event, and it is always well-received by the offenders.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility "Shifting Gears" bicycle restoration program recently donated 150 bicycles to charitable organizations. 14 restored bikes were donated to the Dove Harbor Women and Children Shelter in Anderson, 30 to the Project School in Indianapolis, and 106 to the Villages of Indiana.

Branchville Correctional Facility administration held a cookout for the hard work and effort displayed during the recent ACA Audit. The administration staff cooked hamburgers and prepared the meals so they could be delivered to all staff.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility Outside Dorm Inside-Out Dads Program recently performed clean-up work at the Facility Quarry Fishing/Recreation area as a community service project by painting playground equipment and repairing the dock.

This weekend, the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) will hold a graduation ceremony for participants of the facility's collaborative class with the Christian Theological Seminary (CTS). The partnership was the first of its kind for both parties, and the class was a resounding success.

This week, 5 offenders graduated from the PLUS Unit at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Two of the young men from the graduating class spoke of the trials, tests, and the awareness of their positive accomplishments.

The Staff Development and Training division recently conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Statewide Trainers Conference, while it also hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Statewide Training Support Program Conference. Trainers participated in programs designed to enhance their knowledge and skills. In addition, an Awards Banquet was held to recognize dedicated staff. This year's award recipients were: Rising Star of the Year 2008 – Andrew Wilson (Madison); Program Support Employee of the Year 2008 – Trecia Bumgardner (Putnamville); Adjunct Trainer of the Year 2008 – Ray Waterman (Westville); Correctional Trainer of the Year 2008 – Richard Nalls (ISP); Co-Training Supervisor of the Year 2008 – Sharon Deford (Miami); Co-Training Supervisor of the Year 2008 – Nick Eblen (Rockville); Director's Award 2008 – John Cruz (Westville); and Facility of the Year 2008 - Plainfield Correctional Facility.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***“Everyone visualizes whether he knows it or not. Visualizing is the great secret of success.” ~ Genevieve Behrend (1881-1960)***

Friday, August 29, 2008

Congratulations to Plainfield Correctional Facility employee Ralph “Pete” Taylor, who was recently recognized by Governor Daniels for his 35 years of service with the Department of Correction.

The Westville Correctional Facility compost site, operated jointly with the LaPorte Solid Waste District, has won the Bronze Excellence Award from the Solid Waste Association of North America.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility students participated in the IJCF Olympics this week. Ribbons were given for first, second, and third place winners in events ranging from track and field, to volleyball and basketball.

Congratulations to the health care staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) who received a 100% on their most recent pharmacy audit. In addition to this achievement, the PREF Health Care staff held a Health Care Fair for residents of the facility who are interested in improving their overall health.

This week at Pendleton Juvenile Correction Facility, a “Mock Audit” was conducted by the Program Review Division. The facility received a score of 100% on the Mandatory folders and 99.5% for Non-Mandatory folders. A celebration “cook-out” is being held for staff and offenders to celebrate the accomplishment.

The Indianapolis Parole Office (PD#3) participated in a Parole Sweep on the near Westside of Indianapolis this week in collaboration with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The joint effort, which resulted in 3 new arrests for parole violations and new criminal charges, continues to promote public safety and combat violence in the community.

The General Christian offenders at the Indiana State Prison will have a family day in the chapel this weekend. A cookout will be served to approximately 190 family members and 190 General Christian offenders. A guest choir called The Bible Ways from Gary will be performing.

Camp Summit conducted a major disaster drill involving mutual aid agencies, which featured an electrical fire in the school building with multiple injuries to staff and students. Five local mutual aid agencies participated in the drill. Umpires critiqued the drill, which also was monitored by ERO and LaPorte County Emergency Management Agency.

Pendleton Correctional Facility recently conducted a “Reality Check” program for 8 at-risk youth from the Anderson area. This program provides an opportunity for participants to hear offenders relate the factors that resulted in their incarceration in hope of deterring young people from a life of crime.

Kairos arrived at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility this week. The three-day event helps offenders of all religious backgrounds renew their faith and achieve personal growth. 50 volunteers will interact with 42 offenders, talking about such topics as incarceration and faith.

Branchville Correctional Facility recently donated several pictures, drawn by offenders in the PLUS Program, to the Perry County Tri Kappa organization. The pictures depict local historic sites and will be on display at a local branch of the Fifth Third Bank, with matted prints available for purchase with a \$10 donation. Tri Kappa will use the proceeds for their various community projects.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility’s newly hired Community Service Director, Karen Butterworth, was highlighted in the Hendricks County Flyer newspaper this week. Ms. Butterworth’s commitment to foster care and the successful development of special needs children was illustrated, as well as her commitment to public service.

On Sunday, the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) is planning for Dr. Wyatt Mullinax to bring a special workshop and worship service to the chapel.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***“One of the things I learned the hard way was that it doesn’t pay to get discouraged. Keeping busy and making optimism a way of life can restore your faith in yourself.” ~ Lucille Ball***

Friday, September 5, 2008

Congratulations to Indiana State Prison for passing a recent ACA Audit. The prison received a 100% score on the mandatory folders and 98.8% on non-mandatory standards.

Vocational auto body classes from Pendleton Correctional Facility and Plainfield Correctional Facility recently participated in the Department’s Third Annual Truck Restoration Contest, which took place between the Indiana Government Center Buildings in downtown Indianapolis. The restored vehicle from Pendleton won the Commissioner’s award, while the restored vehicle from Plainfield won the People’s Choice award. Congratulations to both facilities!

Miami Correctional Facility recently reinstituted its Employee of the Month program, rewarding three employees each month for their outstanding contribution to the facility. The August recipients were Ruth Massey for Correctional Officer of the month, Ann Hubbard for Employee of the Month (non-custody), and Jim Hoover for Supervisor of the Month. The June recipients were Robin Burton, Timothy Grinslade, and Amy Clark. The July recipients were David Waggoner, Jesse Fivecoate, and Jim Dibble.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility and the Town of Plainfield have been selected to receive an intergovernmental cooperation award by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) for their partnership efforts to rebuild the sidewalks of the Town of Plainfield and for the ongoing Youth Athletic Complex project.

Pendleton Correctional Facility, in conjunction with Vincennes University, recently implemented a program which will provide offenders the opportunity to receive college credit for completion of the facility’s Graphic Communication Program.

The Indiana Women’s Prison hosted the Streams in the Desert “God’s Transformation Process” 3-day seminar for the offender population during the Labor Day weekend. 336 offenders attended the seminar which focused on self-confidence and positive change for strong women in tough times. Keynote speaker Pastor Jolinda Wade opened the seminar with a message of purpose.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility is working with “Love on a Leash” to provide a mentoring experience for special needs offenders using dogs. The volunteers have divided their meetings into 4 basic sessions to discuss animal behavior and care.

The Art Adams “Rockabilly” Band recently entertained offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. The band conducted two performances for offenders housed inside the maximum security facility and then provided a third concert for offenders housed in the minimum security housing unit located outside the walls of the facility.

Thirty-nine employees from Westville Correctional Facility with 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of state service were honored at a special recognition luncheon prepared and served by the Culinary Arts class. Superintendent William Wilson gave the keynote address, and each honoree received a certificate and a pin.

Correctional Industrial Facility recognized National Recovery Month by putting up a display this week near the front of the facility for staff and visitors to become more familiar with the Therapeutic Community.

Local media recently highlighted Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility for a graduation ceremony that was held to honor residents who completed a collaborative class between PREF and the Christian Theological Seminary (CTS). In another story, local media featured the success of the Restorative Justice program, which allows residents to begin to repair the harm that their crime and incarceration has caused to those that they have offended.

WRTV reporter Julie Pursley visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week to interview PEN Products staff and offenders in connection with the donation of green beans to the Gleaner’s Food Bank in Indianapolis.

Correctional Industrial Facility took in 8 Mixed Mutts from the nearby shelter this week. The name of the program is F+I+D=O which stands for Faith+Inmate+Dogs=Opportunity. After 2 months of training, the dogs will be available for adoption.

Calamari Productions producer Karen Grau arrived at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility this week to film a juvenile female student who will be the subject of an upcoming documentary about juvenile females in the correctional system.

The Indiana Department of Correction Softball Team comprised of Central Office and PD3 staff won 18-10 against the Indiana Senate in the State Government Softball League at Chuck Kleins Softball Complex. They play next for a playoff berth.



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

***“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.” ~ Albert Camus (1913-1960)***

Friday, September 12, 2008

The Research and Planning Division has completed the 2007 IDOC Juvenile Recidivism Report. They found that the 2007 juvenile recidivism rate is 34.0%. To view the report in its entirety, follow the link: [Juvenile Recidivism Rates, 2007](#).

Commissioner Buss visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility this week, addressing staff and touring several areas. He and Chief of Staff Dan Ronay were also taken into "custody" until they each raised at least \$250 for the SECC.

Attorney General Steve Carter held a press conference about the statewide initiative to address underage drinking and driving, teen date violence, and teen suicide prevention at Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility. This was followed by Joni Irwin, of the Jason Foundation, who held a training session at the facility to train staff members on youth suicide prevention.

Central Office had a successful SECC week as Lt. Governor Becky Skillman judged the Chili Cook-off and Executive Staff members were "locked up" until each raised \$250 for the SECC. Over \$4,000 was raised during the two events!

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize presented a \$500 check to representatives of the Ovid Community Church. The donation represents proceeds from a fundraiser sponsored by the facility's American Legion Organization.

The IDOC and Social Security Administration are working on an MOU to allow offenders to apply for and receive duplicate social security cards within 120 days of release. IDOC will be the first state corrections agency to have such an agreement.

At Indianapolis Power and Light, The Gleaners Food Bank presented the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center with a Community Spirit Award for the volunteer services they have provided to Gleaners over the past year.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit recently held two fundraisers with food from Rally's and Arby's. The facility donated \$2,288 to the Villages Campaign and \$700 to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, which assisted many flood victims from the Indiana Department of Correction this summer. Five of those victims were staff at PCF.

Miami Correctional Facility staff recently rallied to support a fellow staff member who lost his home in a fire. Sgt. Rick Perdue lost his home and all of its contents in a fire Aug. 22. The staff made a total donation of \$1,058.21 to him and his family.

Two members of Scotland Yard, assigned to the training division, received a tour of the Indiana State Prison. Alan Hiscox and Steve Lorrigan said visiting the prison was the highlight of their trip to America.

The Shadyside Allstars Band performed for offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility in celebration of Labor Day.

This week, residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility assisted with the Transportation Expo & Snow Plow Roadeo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The residents assisted with setting up the Roadeo courses and equipment demos.

The Family Management Department at the Correctional Industrial Facility had a hamburger sale fundraiser this week. The sale generated approximately \$3,263.60. \$1,500 of this will be donated to charitable and community projects.

Several representatives of the Evansville Parole Office attended a two-day Security Threat Groups seminar for law enforcement, parole, probation, and other community partners. Topics discussed were gang recognition, internet pervasiveness, and safety.

This week, volunteers from Prison Fellowship provided more than 350 elephant ears to both offenders and staff of Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Aramark provided the drinks for this event.

Residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility participated in a special program called Baby Think It Over. It allowed the residents to care for realistic baby dolls and gave them the idea of how fatherhood is a 24-hour job.

The Indiana State Prison had its first ever Offender Apprenticeship graduation this week. The U.S. Department of Labor presented 33 offenders with their apprenticeship certificates in the chapel.

A special, annual recognition picnic luncheon was held over the weekend for the more than 650 volunteers at Westville Correctional Facility. Multiple awards and prizes were given to the programs and volunteers.

One of the students at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility recently received her High School diploma. She will be released from the facility soon and will immediately begin college in pursuit of a nursing degree.

# Weekly Views

**Be informed about the Indiana Department of  
Correction**

*"It is wonderful what  
strength of purpose and  
boldness and energy of will  
are roused by the assurance  
that we are doing our duty."  
~Walter Scott*

*Friday, September 19, 2008*

In recognition of National Recovery Month, Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community hosted a Field Day for all 436 TC offenders. The TC's Creative Energy Group led the offenders in track and field events and competitions. TC staff manned the grills and served the offenders a picnic lunch.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility recently conducted a recognition program for the most recent graduates of the facility's Level One outside dorm Inside/Out Dad program. 11 offenders were presented with certificates during the event.

This week, 4 students from the Camp Atterbury Job Corps began a six-week internship at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility. The students will receive training for the positions of correctional officer and maintenance foreman. This is the second group of interns to have participated in the program.

Miami Correctional Facility recently participated in the Miami County Battle of the Badges Blood Drive. MCF staff donated a total of 52 good units, which is nearly half of the total 105 units, which gave the Battle's trophy to the law enforcement team.

Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted a wellness fair this week. Employees from Curves, Hoosier Start, Dr. Bonham- Eye Specialist, Edward Jones Investment, Granger and North Safety Product, Koosner Fire Prevention Companies, and National City Bank all manned booths to promote the physical, mental and financial wellness of staff.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility "Shifting Gears" Bicycle Refurbishing Program recently donated 51 bikes to the Pendleton Amvets, 25 bikes to the Indianapolis Metropolitan High School and 15 bicycles to the Greenfield Center for Christ. Since January 2008, over 1,000 bicycles have been received by the facility for refurbishing and over 500 bikes have been refurbished and donated to charitable organizations.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a two-day food sale. The departmental competition raised \$213.06 in recognition of the State Employees' Community Campaign, with all proceeds being donated to the Make a Wish Foundation.

The Edinburgh Correctional Facility kicked off SECC week by having an Ice Cream Social for staff that raised \$60. The facility will have more events in the upcoming weeks.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility recently conducted a "Reality Check" program for five 5 at risk youth from the Muncie area. The program provides an opportunity for participants to hear offenders relate the factors that resulted in their incarceration in hope of deterring young people from a life of crime.

Correctional Industrial Facility took in 8 Mixed Mutts from the nearby shelter this week. The name of the program is F+I+D=O which stands for Faith+Inmate+Dogs = Opportunity. Since then, handlers have spent time socializing and familiarizing themselves with their perspective dogs.

Miami Correctional Facility, along with Oakland City University, recently began offering offenders an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Horticulture. This two-year college degree program will make use of the greenhouse with an educational opportunity for about 20 offenders and will also provide plants and items to beautify the prison grounds.

The Indiana Women's Prison Annual Program Review was held this week. The committee found IWP to be in 100 % compliance with the ACA standards and 96.8 % for the non-mandatory standards.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*

# Weekly Views

**Be informed about the Indiana Department of  
Correction**

*"No pessimist ever  
discovered the secret of the  
stars, or sailed to an  
uncharted land, or opened a  
new doorway for the human  
spirit." ~ Helen Keller*

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

During the Agency Leadership Symposium at the Adam's Mark Hotel this week, Commissioner Buss presented bicycles, school supplies, backpacks, and monetary donations totaling over \$30,000 from the "Kids Can't Wait" campaign to The Villages. PEN Products work release offenders were also on hand to fill the backpacks with supplies.

United Kingdom Shadow Minister of Justice Nicolas Herbert and his Chief of Staff Blair Gibbs recently visited the Reception Diagnostic Center, Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and Correctional Industrial Facility in order to gain insight into Indiana's correctional system and the programs available to offenders.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility welcomed representatives from Purdue's Noble County Master Gardeners Club. After introductions, offender volunteers and club members assembled cookbooks for the master gardeners' upcoming fundraiser.

Dr. Charles Sutton, the Fatherhood and PREP Grants Federal Project Officer, recently visited Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility. Dr. Sutton toured the facility and watched as the Reading with Dad and Me program was conducted.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a GED graduation ceremony for 22 students this week. For the fiscal year 2008-2009 so far, the facility has graduated 41 students, with 3 of those students having earned an honors diploma.

30 PEN Products offenders received their U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates at Pendleton Correctional Facility. The offenders had completed their on-the-job training and required class work while working in the PEN operation.

Agents and Supervisors from Parole District #3 in Indianapolis collaborated with Marion County Probation, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and Indiana State Police to conduct a city-wide sweep. As a result, 4 arrests were made. PD #3 also conducted a Lever-Pull meeting with Marion County Community Corrections, with 33 parolees attending.

29 offenders interacted with their children during the Putnamville Correctional Facility's annual "Day with Dad" event. Children and fathers enjoyed games, refreshments, and magic tricks performed by Correctional Officer Joseph Browning.

Staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Outreach Program made and donated a total of 300 hats, scarves and mitten sets to the Centenary Christian Church who sponsors the Mitten Tree for under privileged children.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted an Inside/Out Dad Graduation ceremony this week for 16 offenders.

Dr. Bill Bruinsma and Chuck Whetstone, along with St. Joseph County staff and Tom Applegate of CMS, visited Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility to conduct a follow-up review of the facility, which was ordered last fall by Probate Judge Peter Nemeth. The committee commended IJCF on the improved education system and monitoring of the student social culture.

14 students from DePauw University toured Putnamville Correctional Facility for a Corrections and Prisons in America class.

This week, Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted Marion County Court Judges for a group discussion and tour of the facility. The Judges were very impressed with the facility, the programs available, and the residents.

The Christian Motorcycle Association's Fall Worship Service will be held this weekend at the Indiana Women's Prison. After the service the CMA will hold a bike show while taking the opportunity to minister to the offender population.

Branchville Correctional Facility's INshape committee and education department sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive. A record number of donors participated in the event to help resupply the blood bank.

Madison Correctional Facility opened a 10-bed work release center this week for women from southeast Indiana.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*

# Weekly Views

## Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Then summer fades and passes and October comes. We'll smell smoke then, and feel an unexpected sharpness, a thrill of nervousness, swift elation, a sense of sadness and departure." ~ Thomas Wolfe*

*Friday, October 3, 2008*

Director of Emergency Response Operations Mike Jayne recently participated in the Torch Ride for Special Olympics of Indiana. Mr. Jayne represented the IDOC and was the top fundraiser and the lead rider for the 2 hour-long Torch Ride.

In recognition of National Recovery Month, 2002 Camp Summit Graduate Ben Johnson offered a presentation to Camp Summit students, staff, and Community Advisory Board members on his past struggles and how he overcame addictions.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a vocational education graduation ceremony where 84 offenders received certificates in recognition of completing Auto Body, Carpentry, Barbering, Printing, or Welding programs.

Parole District 3 in Indianapolis carried out its first "Lifting up Sobriety" celebration for National Recovery Month. 50 balloons were released in front of the office celebrating those who have overcome addiction and are on the path to sobriety.

Madison Correctional Facility received the "Mission Partner Award" from Turning Point Domestic Violence Services this week in recognition of the Domestic Violence Conference that was held in conjunction with Turning Point.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility held an Inside-Out Prison Exchange Conference. The program gives residents the opportunity to participate in a college class at the facility with students from IUPUI.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility raised \$70 for the State Employees' Community Campaign during a chili cook off.

Mike Meyers, manager of the Summit Farm at the Indiana State Prison, received a letter of commendation from the LaPorte County Red Cross for donating 800 watermelons to various shelters, food kitchens, food pantries and daycare centers.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted the regional Community Advisory Board meeting. The program addressed National Recovery Month by including a presentation by a Therapeutic Community inmate, who had rejected a modified sentence for early release. He felt completing the TC program was more important than going home right away.

Since July 01, 2008, the IDOC has been awarded over \$5.27 million in grant funding, including grants for offender re-entry, victim notification, juvenile offender case management and services, adult and juvenile education, and much more.

Branchville's Therapeutic Communities created posters and fliers, which were displayed throughout the facility in celebration of National Recovery Month. Offenders wrote songs, poems, and stories and created and performed skits about recovery.

Approximately 72 Parolees from the Evansville Parole District attended CareerFest Fall 2008. CareerFest is the largest and most respected job fair in the Tri-state area, bringing together qualified applicants with quality employers.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its first Master Student to Master Employee Graduation Ceremony for 10 students.

Camp Summit sponsored 2 staff training sessions this week on suicide prevention through the Jason Foundation and the Office of the Indiana Attorney General as part of Indiana's Safe Student Initiative.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility recently held a PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend, bringing 12 couples together for intense talks about expectations, commitment, feeling understood and forgiveness.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility residents were given the opportunity to write down an addiction put it into a balloon filled with helium. Residents released the balloons all at once to signify escaping from their problems.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to honor 37 graduates of the facility's GED Program.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*

# Weekly Views

**Be informed about the Indiana Department of  
Correction**

*Friday, October 10, 2008*

*"Dreams come true.  
Without that possibility,  
nature would not incite us  
to have them."  
~ John Updike*

At the Commissioner's Awards Luncheon held at the ICA Conference, Correctional Industrial Facility won Facility of the Year, Gregory Cress of South Bend Community Re-entry won Superintendent of the Year, Lynda Sward from Westville won Correctional Professional of the Year, Tyese Boone from South Bend Juvenile won the Corrections Supervisor Award, James Davis from PEN Products won Employee of the Year, Michelle Rains from Pendleton won the Administrative Support Award, Stacy Doane-Selmier and John Turkupolis of Indianapolis Parole District #3 both won Parole Employee of the Year, Alex McEathron of Westville won Physical Plant Employee of the Year, Elaine Zschoche of Westville won the Distinguished Service Award, Michael Organ of Rockville won the Rising Star Award, William Babb of Miami won Chaplain of the Year, Anthony Goffinet of Branchville won Human Resources Employee of the Year, Carman Babb of Miami won Finance Employee of the Year, and Kathy Alvey of Branchville won Re-entry/Case Management Employee of the Year. Congrats!

PEN Products' Farm and Food Manager, Lin Paul, was named president of the National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA), which is a group promoting ideas on institutional farming, ranching and food industries operations.

Branchville Correctional Facility received a refurbished 1998 GMC C8500 Fire Master fire engine, which was excess property at Logansport State Hospital, for part of a mutual aid agreement between the facility and area volunteer fire departments.

Miami Correctional Facility donated over 458 pounds of vegetables from its offender garden to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

The PLUS unit at Indiana Women's Prison completed 600 packets for MDWISE, a not-for-profit managed care organization, which contained an array of parental care information. The unit also made many pink ribbons for breast cancer awareness.

Robert Petty and Alfred Grambo from the International Table Tennis Association put on a table tennis clinic for offenders at Plainfield Correctional Facility in hopes of using the sport to boost confidence.

Pendleton Correctional Facility donated 20 pumpkins grown in the facility's PEN Products Farm to the Indy Baby Expo.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit sponsored a canned food drive for National Recovery Month. The facility donated approximately 100 lbs. of non-perishable food items to the 13 Step House in Fort Wayne.

The Mighty Hands Puppet Ministry, an outreach Christian program provided by Lifeline Baptist Church, recently provided a program for 19 offenders at Pendleton Juvenile. The ministry uses puppets, witnessing, and live music to relay their message.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff participated in the Race for the Cure, donating \$426. Offenders held a pie sale raising an additional \$387.82. Assistant Superintendent of Operations Dick Brown finished 21<sup>st</sup> in the 5K competitive competition.

Delbert Boone, authority on addiction and criminal behavior, spoke at the Westville Correctional Facility. Boone addressed 436 offenders assigned to the facility's Therapeutic Community and provided inspiration to staff and offenders alike.

The Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit held a food sale from Kentucky Fried Chicken with the profits being donated to 2 local women's shelters. The check for \$286 was presented to the shelter's director this week.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 8 students of the Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) Unit. To date, 123 have graduated from the program.

30 IU students toured Plainfield Correctional Facility and discussed prison, parole, and probation roles with staff.

4 students from Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility received their GED certificates, one receiving honors.

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of  
Correction

"Coming together is a  
beginning. Keeping  
together is progress.  
Working together is  
success." ~ Henry Ford

Friday, October 17, 2008

This week, 59 IDOC employees graduated from the 2008 Commissioner's Experienced and Emerging Leaders (EEL) program at the Correctional Training Institute. The program engages promising staff in workshops to improve leadership skills.

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) has selected Doug Evans, IDOC's Prison Industries Operations Manager, to participate on its first national "All Industries Team." As a member of this team, Doug will receive advanced training as an offender workforce development specialist (OWDS) and will be able to take this training back to Indiana to train others.

Within the first two weeks of opening, all 10 offenders assigned to the new Jefferson Community Re-entry Center have obtained employment! The Jefferson Community Re-entry Center operates within the Madison Correctional Facility.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility Acting Superintendent Bryan Pearson presented a check for \$171 raised by an offender pizza sale to Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN. Lords Locker assists the facility by supplying clothing for offenders upon release.

Pendleton Juvenile was recommended for ACA re-accreditation with 100% mandatory and 98.7% non-mandatory scores.

PEN Products' New Castle Correctional Facility operation became the 12th IDOC facility to become registered in the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship program. The operation refurbishes portable medical equipment.

At the fall ICA conference, the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit was named Program of the Year, the Youth Incarcerated as Adult Unit received the prestigious Warren W. Martin award, and volunteers Jack and Kathy Gunyon were named Volunteers of the Year for their work in the PLUS Unit.

Rockville Correctional Facility held their third blood drive of 2008, resulting in the donation of 13 units.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received photographs of an orphan in Haiti who was a recipient of a wheelchair restored in the Wheels for the World program. Orphanage staff expressed their gratitude for the detail and quality of the wheelchair.

22 women at the Madison Correctional Facility made up the first graduating class from the GRIP (Growth, Responsibility, Integrity, and Purpose) Therapeutic Community, which serves as an in-patient substance abuse therapeutic community.

Reception Diagnostic Center hosted a blood drive with the Indiana Blood Center, with 12 units of blood being donated.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's Farm, Equine, and Culinary Arts Education Program hosted farmers, NRCS technical staff, and central office staff for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Intensive Grazing Tour.

Indiana State Prison issued 200 educational certificates, including 50 GEDs and 100 vocational certificates at a ceremony.

2 PEN Products offender workers in the Miami Braille Project at the Miami Correctional Facility have earned their Transcribers Certification from the Library of Congress. The training helps offenders provide textbooks for Indiana schools.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility held its annual Christmas behind Bars Program, which presented 7 different workshops. More than 1,130 offenders signed up for the program, and 998 offenders came through the chapel in 10 ½ hours.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a graduation ceremony to honor 25 offenders for completing the Vocational Horticulture Program. 3 offenders also received their GED certificates.

The Indianapolis Star recently highlighted Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility's Reading with Dad and Me program in which residents videotape reading a children's book aloud and send a DVD recording of the reading to their children.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of  
Correction

Friday, October 24, 2008

"To be nobody but yourself  
in a world which is doing its  
best day and night to make  
you everybody else means to  
fight the hardest battle  
which any human being can  
fight, and never stop  
fighting." ~ e.e. Cummings

Lt. Tony Keith and K-9 Marlene from Putnamville Correctional Facility both received the "Award of Merit" from the International Police Work Dog Association in recognition of their outstanding performance in Police K-9 Service.

40 IUPUI Criminal Justice students partnered with 35 Pendleton Juvenile GED-level offenders in a two-session writing program recently. In small groups, students exchanged ideas and view points and collaborated on the writing assignments.

New Castle Correctional Facility administrators and 2 offenders presented \$1,200 raised by a KFC food sale to the Double Q Foundation, which provides Summer Camp opportunities to underprivileged juveniles with diabetes.

Miami Correctional Facility recently hosted its third Kairos Prison Ministry weekend event, which included talks, discussions, meditations, worship, and music. More than 50 volunteers came together to put on the weekend for about 30 offenders.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's CLIFF program presented its STAR (Students Talking About Recovery) program to classes at Culver Community Middle School. The program features CLIFF program participants talking to youth on how their drug use lead to criminal acts, broken homes and families, and incarceration.

Westville Correctional Facility held a ceremony recognizing the 220 GEDs, 203 vocational education certificates, several correspondence Associate's degrees, and one correspondence Bachelor's degree awarded this year.

Acoustic rock group Blue Sky Nine recently visited Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility to put on a mini concert for the female population. The band performed several songs that deal with teenage and young adult experiences and life questions.

12 students from a Criminal Justice class at Franklin College toured the Edinburgh Correctional Facility. The students received information about the facility work crews and programs.

A film crew from the 3 Angels Broadcasting Company visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to conduct a site survey in preparation for an upcoming project. They will tape the facility's Reality Check Program and a religious service program.

Madison Mayor Tim Armstrong and Police Chief John Wallace hosted a cookout lunch for city street employees and the crews from the Madison Correctional Facility as a "thank you" for cleaning up the city from summer's wind storm damage.

Correctional Industrial Facility's PLUS and Fatherhood Programs donated \$500 each to the Salvation Army.

Agents and Supervisors from Parole Districts #3 and #4B participated in surveillance training in conjunction with Cumberland Police Officers, retired DEA officers, IMPD Vice Officers, and IMPD Covert Operations Officers. The training will assist Agents in monitoring high risk sex offenders in the community.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility served as the host facility for the IDOC's PLUS Advisory Board, where they discussed topics concerning PLUS policies and procedures.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex (PREF, RDC, and IYC) held its Regional Community Advisory Board Meeting.

The Correctional Industrial Facility hosted its fourth Kairos weekend event. Kairos Prison Ministry is an international, lay-led Christian ministry which conducts a highly structured program designed for use in correctional institutions.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Happy   
Halloween

*Friday, October 31, 2008*

On behalf of Commissioner Buss, Chief of Staff Dan Ronay presented Col. Les Scroggum with a Governor's Distinguished Hoosier Award in honor of his 44 years of service with the Department and a job well done.

State Senator Tom Weatherwax presented IDOC Auditor and Jail Inspector Lee Hoard with the Governor's Award for Excellence in Service for his involvement with the Indiana Hoosier Heartland Industrial Coalition.

Miami Correctional Facility's Straight Talk program recently sent 3 offenders to talk to students from Clinton Central H.S. and Lafayette Park M.S. about drug and alcohol abuse, peer pressure, parental respect and being incarcerated.

The Family Education Department at the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility hosted its second Halloween Carnival, which was also the grand opening of the Children's Visitation Center. 10 fathers and 19 children attended.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS unit presented a check for \$500 to the United Way's Project Backpack for Cass County. The students held a fundraiser walkathon and solicited donations for the local charity.

Sgt. Jason Nowatzke and K-9 Bo from Indiana State Prison assisted with the bomb sweep for VP Candidate Sarah Palin's visit to the Ft. Wayne Coliseum. They swept multiple areas with Ft. Wayne and Indiana State Police technicians.

Seminarians from the Calvary Chapel Bible College have been assisting students at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility each Wednesday morning tutoring offenders referred to them by their teachers on a variety of education subjects.

New Castle Correctional Facility held a facility-wide Regional Contract Compliance Audit conducted by GEO personnel.

Miami Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 56 offenders who successfully completed the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) Program. Dr. David Link was the guest speaker and 40 family members attended.

Southern Bridges, a local band, performed a concert for the entire resident population at PREF.

Indiana Women's Prison and Oakland City University staff hosted a haunted house and a fall festival, complete with crafts, popcorn, cider and hot dog eating contest, for the offender population.

Pendleton Correctional Facility staff donated 19 units of blood that were collected by the Indiana Regional Blood Center.

New Castle Correctional Facility held a Staff Recall where Logan Phillippe and Debbie Swafford, Culinary Arts Instructors, were recognized as Employees of the Month. Officers of the Month were Debra Powell and David Freeman.

Correctional Industrial Facility hosted an Inside-Out Dads Halloween party for 45 dads, 93 children, and 10 volunteers.

Pendleton Correctional Facility agreed to help refurbish 8,000 livestock gates and fabricating fencing at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, which will create 50 new offender jobs.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility awarded 5 students their GED diplomas. 1 student passed with honors.

Inmates in the Westville Correctional Facility PLUS program hand-decorated 250 small pumpkins that will be given to children coming to the visiting room over the weekend as part of a Halloween celebration.

Staff and offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison Outreach Program sent 80 homemade quilts, pillows, and carrying bags to the American Legion to be given to homeless veterans this week.

Miami Correctional Facility held a Fall Family Fun Fest at the facility's new walking trail. The Fun Fest was open to all employees and their children and was the kick off for the quarter-mile trail, named "Miami in Motion."

*From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner*

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, November 7, 2008

*"I know nothing grander, better exercise, better digestion, more positive proof of the past, the triumphant result of faith in human kind, than a well-contested American national election." ~ Walt Whitman*

Offenders from Edinburgh Correctional Facility assisted volunteers at Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN as they handed out over 300 coats to children in the local communities.

Miami Correctional Facility allowed children of staff members to come in during Halloween and have their Trick or Treat candy x-rayed. 11 children of 5 staff members took advantage of the opportunity, and all candy was found to be safe.

On Halloween, Indianapolis Parole District #3 Supervisors and Parole Agents, along with Central Office staff, participated for the third consecutive year in Operation Safe Halloween with Marion County Probation. Attendance among Parolees was high, with 98 percent of expected parolees attending.

The Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN), a worldwide Christian television station based out of southern Illinois, visited New Castle Correctional Facility and interviewed the chaplains, Christian inmates, Superintendent Jeff Wrigley, and Program Director Mick Craig for an upcoming production.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's CMS staff hosted its first health fair for offenders. The fair offered tips on how to lose weight, blood pressure screenings, diabetes prevention, and flu shots.

The Christian Motorcycle Association recently held services at the Pendleton Correctional Facility in the Outside Dormitory, as well as in the Religious Services Building inside the facility.

Supervisors and Parole Agents from Indianapolis Parole District #3 recently participated in a sweep with IMPD North District officers in response to a rise in violence in the North District in Indianapolis.

Indiana Air National Guard representatives visited with Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility students. Students learned about enlistment and career possibilities and how the National Guard keeps Indiana and the nation safe.

Westville Correctional Facility's PLUS unit graduated 23 more offenders from the program this week. Many of the graduates had friends and family in attendance. Chaplain David Link, Deputy Director for Religious and Volunteer Services, was the main speaker.

Three Angels Broadcasting Network visited Pendleton Correctional Facility and videotaped the Reality Check Program and Christmas Behind Bars for a program scheduled to air in December.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its 5<sup>th</sup> PREP (Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend. 21 offenders with their significant others attended presentations and activities to enhance relationships by learning communication skills.

Offenders from New Castle Correctional Facility donated 8,879 community service hours to the City of New Castle and Henry County in October 2008.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS unit donated \$300 to the United Way Food Coalition to restock food pantries.

Westville Correctional Facility's new music group preformed their first facility concert for staff and offenders. The music group is under the direction of local performing artist and WCC Counselor Fred Hebert. The group, "Time & Tunes," presented a variety of numbers for everyone's enjoyment.

Correction: Agents and Supervisors from Parole Districts #3 and #4A participated in surveillance training in conjunction with Cumberland Police Officers, retired DEA officers, IMPD Vice Officers, and IMPD Covert Operations Officers. The training will assist Agents in monitoring high risk sex offenders in the community.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, November 14, 2008

*"This nation will remain  
the land of the free only  
so long as it is the home  
of the brave." ~ Elmer  
Davis*

Rockville Correctional Facility dedicated their second Field of Flags on Veteran's day, where 40 staff and area residents attended the ceremony, and \$500 was donated to the IN Department of Veteran's Affairs Military Family Relief Fund.

The Canadian Academy of Practical Shooting (CAPS) filmed scenarios for the IDOC's new interactive judgment based training program at Pendleton Correctional, New Castle Correctional, and Correctional Industrial Facilities.

IDOC K-9 teams successfully assisted the Benton County Sheriff's Department, along with other Law Enforcement K-9 narcotic units, by searching vehicles at the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm work site.

Daniel Meadows, a casework manager with the New Castle Correctional Facility, has been selected by the Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics to represent Indiana in the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games.

PEN Products and Westville Correctional Facility awarded 41 offenders with U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Certificates. The offenders completed on-the-job training and class work by working in the PEN Products industries.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility Farm and PEN Products hosted Dr. Horstman and veterinarian students from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine who performed pregnancy checks on 24 bred heifers and 36 bred cows.

Volunteers from Kingsway Christian Church hosted a birthday celebration for 24 students at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. Each student celebrated the importance of their creation and the value of their lives.

Pendleton, PREF, and Plainfield all recently held PREP (Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program) events allowing offenders and their significant others to work on skills to improve their relationship and communication.

Private Corey Nichols, a graduate of the Future Soldiers Program, recently graduated basic training and visited Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. His visit was a tremendous lift to many of the students at the facility.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held an event featuring early Christmas pictures with Santa at the Living Christ Lutheran Church in Plainfield. Nearly 50 children came to the activity, which raised \$165 for the organization and facility.

Staff and offenders at Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Veteran's Day ceremony. The program was organized and conducted by offenders involved in the facility's American Legion program.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility held a graduation ceremony for the first Prison SMART (Stress Management and Rehabilitation Training) seminar that took place this week. The class is the only program of its kind in the world.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Employee Appreciation Committee and offender Fatherhood Initiative Program joined the WTHI TV Share your Thanksgiving Campaign and donated 12 boxes of food and over \$352 to the cause.

The Indiana Women's Prison held a mini 13.1 mile marathon where 32 offenders participated and completed it with a minimum time of 2 hours and 1 minute. The marathon allowed offenders to accomplish their personal goals.

Supervisors and Agents from Indianapolis Parole District #3 worked with law enforcement agencies and contributed 115 hours to track an extremely high-risk sex offender. The offender was apprehended on new criminal charges.

Amanda Leis from Miami Correctional Facility earned the Certified Corrections Supervisor/Security Threat Group designation from the American Correctional Association recently.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility had its final harvest out of the facility garden. With the 750 pounds of turnips harvested this week, the Landscape Management vocational class tallied a total of 16,520 pounds of produce for 2008.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Friday, November 21, 2008



*"You cannot do all the good  
the world needs, but the  
world needs all the good you  
can do." ~ Anonymous*

Rockville Correctional received ACA re-accreditation, passing 100% of mandatory and 98.7% of non-mandatory standards.

5 Ukrainian judges visited the Indiana Women's Prison to learn about the Indiana prison system. The judges enjoyed a tour of the facility, an ICAN presentation, and a meal prepared by Inmate-to-Workmate program participants.

Congratulations to those who recently earned the Certified Corrections Supervisor/Security Threat Group designation from ACA: Lina Presley, Central Office; JR Smith and Darren Chaney, Putnamville; Amanda Leis, Miami; Kyle Stevens and Pete Peterson, Pendleton; Kevin Niewald, RDC & Plainfield; and Jerry Newlin, Rockville.

The Wee One's Nursery program at the Indiana Women's Prison received over \$4,700 in generous donations for supplies from facilities: PREF offenders gave \$700, Wabash Valley PLUS offenders gave \$500, Branchville PLUS offenders gave \$500, ISP offenders gave \$1,000, Plainfield PLUS offenders gave \$500, Madison Toastmasters offenders gave \$250, Miami PLUS offenders gave \$500, Henryville offenders gave \$500, and Rockville PLUS offenders gave \$250.

The 2008 Woman's Press Club of Indiana (WPCI) prison writing contest has concluded and had an all-time high of 255 entries--131 poems, 53 short stories, and 71 essays. Winners represented WVCF, ISP, IWP, and Plainfield Correctional.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility graduated 4 students from the GED program.

An Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Custody Supervisors meeting was held at the Putnamville State Police Post with presentations on incident reviews, CAPS training, K-9 cell phone detection, command center operations, and chemical munitions conversion.

The Crisis Center, Inc. in Lake County designated the Gary Parole Office as a place teens can go in the event of abuse, neglect, or any other issue that may arise and feel secure until the Crisis Center arrives.

Camp Summit held a ceremony for the 26 students who completed Napoleon Hill's Keys to Success Program.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held a suicide prevention workshop, where Bill Moulton, a suicide prevention advocate, gave the keynote address to staff from PREF, RDC, Putnamville, IJCF, and the Hendricks County School Corporation.

New Castle Correctional Facility's Religious Services Department offenders raised \$494.66 for The Villages.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility staff donated 5 large bags of clothing and 7 boxes of toys for children to the Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN. The Lords Locker will use the donations to help those in need during the holiday season.

Reception-Diagnostic Center held a Ham & Beans sale and raised \$220 for the annual staff Christmas party.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's Inside Out Dad program donated \$2,000 to the three Pendleton elementary school principals. The money will be used to purchase Christmas presents for needy children.

Indiana State Prison's American Legion and JayCees donated 50 turkeys and \$1,000 worth of toys to the Salvation Army.

7 retired racehorses arrived at the Putnamville Correctional Facility from Hoosier Park Race Track. The Equine Management Program now has a total of 28 horses. 2 horses were recently adopted by Saint Mary of the Woods College.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility received a \$9,000 Lilly Endowment Inc. grant which provides funds for food, clothing, hygiene items, and other special programs for the student population through the Holiday Care program.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its 2nd Master Student to Master Employee graduation ceremony. 16 students received certificates from Superintendent Tom Hanlon.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility held its 2nd Baby Think It Over program using the RealCare Baby Simulators. Residents experienced what it is like to care for an infant while it cries and fusses.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*Wednesday, November 26, 2008*



A crew of 6 offenders and a Correctional Officer from Edinburgh Correctional Facility assisted volunteers at the Lords Locker as they prepared Thanksgiving meals. The offenders unloaded trucks as the food was delivered.

Fort Wayne Parole Office staff facilitated a gathering of faith-based and community organizations to explain the Access to Recovery (ATR) program at the Eagle's Nest Youth Center in Fort Wayne. The presentation focused on the parole population's needs, involvement from those in attendance, and how the re-entry effort improves lives in communities.

2 Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility staff members attended the 2008 Leaders Summit at the Church of ACTS. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard gave the opening address prior to workshops aimed at strengthening the community.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Auxiliary Committee held a staff "pitch-in" dinner for employees to celebrate Thanksgiving. Donations were taken to raise money for care packages that will be sent to deployed IDOC staff.

Fr. David L. Rogers, Chaplain at the Indiana State Prison, spoke to approximately 50 Valparaiso University students about prison chaplaincy as a special ministry for the university's Church Vocations Series.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Vocational Print Instructor Robert Carey has been designated as an Adjunct Professor of Printing Technology for Vincennes University. Offenders in his class will be able to earn college credit for this program.

7 offenders graduated from the Nurturing Fathers Program at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility. The program lasted 13 weeks and helped offenders develop skills to become a better parent and a positive role model.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held its first quarterly Offender Relations Committee meeting. The committee, comprised of offenders and Executive staff, was developed to improve communication and conditions for offenders.

The New Covenant Church provided Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility students with a Thanksgiving dinner.

3 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staffers have been named members of the State Employees' Community Campaign Torchbearer Society. Rick Watkins, Jeanne Watkins, and Dorothy Morris each contributed over \$1,000 to the SECC.

The Wheels for the World operation at the Pendleton Correctional Facility recently refurbished 200 wheelchairs and 10 walkers that will be sent to the Republic of Ghana in western Africa.

The Continuing Education Committee at Indiana State Prison donated \$500 to the Boy Scouts at Pendleton Juvenile.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a Suicide Awareness Training Session called "Out of the Darkness" with a presentation by Bill Moulton, a UTM for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Approximately 60 staff and visitors attended.

PEN Products at Miami Correctional Facility opened its Officer Uniform Shop and shipped its first 100 shirts. The shop employs 10 offender workers, who remain in the shop the entire day and receive an exact number of shirts each morning.

The 5th Kairos weekend at Indiana State Prison involved 35 offenders and 30 volunteers from Kairos International.

The Shifting Gears program at Pendleton Correctional Facility donated 25 refurbished bicycles to the Indianapolis Metropolitan School.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Community Advisory Board meeting, and State Representative-Elect Nancy Michaels attended.

12 students from Manchester College toured Correctional Industrial Facility and had a group discussion with offenders.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."  
~ Harry Firestone

*Friday, December 5, 2008*

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders who are part of the facility Shakespeare program presented their adaptation, in today's language, of "Romeo and Juliet" and targeted the presentation to at-risk juveniles. The offenders' goal is to prevent teens from making the same mistakes they made, which ended in incarceration. The production is being taped for viewing by troubled teens in alternative high schools.

In a special ceremony, Camp Summit recognized its 17<sup>th</sup> graduate of Aramark's Inmate 2 Workmate program, which is a program designed to offer vocational education in the food service arena.

A recent fundraiser by New Castle Correctional Facility offenders netted \$4,700 in profits that will be donated to the "Shop with a Tot" program at the Westminster Community Center in New Castle.

Students at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility provided assistance at the Thelma Turner-Watkins Center Thanksgiving Day Celebration. Over 7,900 people, who would otherwise go without, were fed dinner.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility held a graduation ceremony for 9 graduates of its inaugural Ivy Tech Manufacturing Readiness class. Family and friends were invited to the ceremony, and Ms. Susan Brooks, General Counsel and Senior Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development for Ivy Tech, was the keynote speaker.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility Superintendent Bryan Pearson presented a check in the amount of \$285 to the Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN. The money will be used for the toy drive that will assist families in the local community.

Plainfield Correctional Facility presented a \$700 check to St. Mark's Episcopal Church Food Bank to assist in restocking the shelves of their food pantry during the holiday season. St. Mark's was chosen to be the recipient of the funds raised by the facility's PLUS unit because of the charity they bestowed upon DOC employees during the June floods.

Pendleton Correctional Facility presented two old windows from the Superintendent's office, dating back to the 1923 construction of the facility, to the Pendleton Historical Museum.

Correctional Industrial Facility received a 100% score on mandatory standards and a 97.9% score on non-mandatory standards during its 2<sup>nd</sup> year ACA review. The scores were a 3.1% increase over last year's scores.

The offender Jaycee organization at the Indiana State Prison donated over \$1,000 worth of toys to the Salvation Army.

Correctional Industrial Facility's F.I.D.O. (Faith+Inmates+Dogs=Opportunity) program held a meet and greet session in the facility's visiting room. There was considerable paw shaking going on and a good time was had by all.

The Branchville Correctional Facility's Education Department held a graduation ceremony for the Master Student to Master Employee Program. 42 offenders completed the curriculum, which focused on job training, computer skills, interviewing techniques and resume building.

New Castle Correctional Facility offenders finished a building renovation at the Levi Coffin House State Historic Site.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently received donations totaling \$466 from the local radio controlled airplane club, the Screaming Eagles. The items donated to the recreation department included basketballs, a stereo, pool table covers, a sweeper, cue racks, arts and crafts items, ping pong paddles and balls, and an air pump.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears operation refurbished 53 bicycles during November, and the Wheels for the World operation restored 17 wheelchairs during November.

CIF sponsored a workshop and worship with Major Douglass Rick of the Salvation Army.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Friday, December 12, 2008

"Believing in people before they have proved themselves is the key to motivating people to reach their potential." ~ John C. Maxwell

Commissioner Buss announced the launch of the Commissioner's Blog, where he will be posting articles for all DOC employees to see. Comments to those posts are encouraged! The blog can be found at: <http://intranet.idoc.in.gov/comblog/default.aspx> and can be accessed by logging onto a state computer.

For 12 hours, 125 volunteers from multiple churches cooked and collected 40,000 cookies to distribute a dozen to each inmate at Westville Correctional Facility. They also provided inspirational lessons and sang Christmas carols.

Branchville Correctional Facility held a Red Cross Blood Drive and gathered a total of 30 good units of blood.

GEO staff added over \$1,500 to the \$4,700 already raised by New Castle Correctional Facility offenders to be donated to the Westminster Community Center's "Shop for a Tot" program.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility PLUS offenders are doing work for staff inside the facility, and the payment for all this work will be food donations to a local food bank.

Lt. Rodney Bowser was recently promoted to Captain at the Reception-Diagnostic Center. Congratulations!

The Indiana State Prison hosted its third 2008 parenting class graduation for 40 offenders. Assistant Superintendent McBride congratulated the class on succeeding in following through on the program to the finish as it is important to maintain contact with their families.

Offenders at Pendleton Correctional Facility were permitted to purchase Kentucky Fried Chicken this week in connection with a fundraiser sponsored by the facility's American Legion organization. Half of the profit will be donated to charity.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility held its 5th PLUS Unit graduation ceremony. 15 students were honored for successfully completing the 16-week character and faith-based program and were presented with certificates.

New Castle Correctional Facility PLUS offenders donated \$494.66 to the Shepherd Community Center in Indianapolis.

Madison Correctional Facility held two graduations this week. The GRIP therapeutic community graduated 47 women and PLUS graduated 30.

About 20 Miami Correctional Facility offenders put in more than 400 hours filling 38 semi-trailers recently with tires during Tire Collection events in Benton, White, and Jasper counties for the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District.

The Indiana Women's Prison Wee Ones Nursery Program was honored with a *Heroes in the Fight* award given by Eli Lilly and Company. The award celebrates dignity, courage, hope, and recovery in the ongoing treatment of persons with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI).

Mennonite congregations from Central Indiana distributed cookies and cards at the Correctional Industrial Facility.

Plainfield Correctional Facility began collecting holiday cards for men and women in the Armed Services who are currently overseas. The cards will be sent to give them a sense of home and remind them that they aren't forgotten.

New Castle Correctional Facility staff assisted the Salvation Army with bell ringing this week and raised \$678.68.

A volunteer recognition dinner was held for volunteers of the Madison Correctional Facility. A lasagna dinner was prepared and served by Inmate to Workmate participants and entertainment was provided by offenders.

Prison Fellowship provided students at Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility a traditional Christmas Dinner, along with singing and a message from Rev. Anthony Payton from Come As You Are Community Church in Fort Wayne.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, December 19, 2008

*"Christmas is more than a time of festivities, family and friends; it is a season of generosity, gladness, and gratitude." ~ William Arthur Ward*

IDOC raised \$1,070.18 to purchase calling cards and care packages for deployed staff. Central Office, ISP, MCU, MCF, IYC, WCC, SBJ, PNJF, and PEN Products all provided donations, with some given to the Elwood VFW for food baskets.

Westville Correctional Facility PLUS participants donated items, including hand-decorated bags, ornaments, greeting cards, and candy, to the Porter and LaPorte County Meals on Wheels/Wellness Check program.

Camp Summit staff and students contributed \$818.58 for its annual Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Program. Gifts were presented to the recipients, one of which is a recent Camp Summit graduate now in the National Guard.

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the 17 staff members of the Evansville Parole Office collected canned goods and toys for two local charities: the Tri-State Food Bank and U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

Rockville Correctional Facility held its annual HOPE Center Christmas Party. 41 moms who completed the Parenting Program and their 78 children visited with Santa, and Christmas gifts were given to the children by Unchained Ministries.

Miami Correctional Facility delivered more than 840 bags of Ramen Noodles, along with several other food, paper, and hygiene items, from the facility food drive to Helping Hands Food Pantry and the Salvation Army of Peru.

Plainfield Correctional Facility participated in the Toys for Hendricks County Kids Drive and assisted 204 underprivileged children. Staff and businesses donated gifts, which Santa delivered to the local schools.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff and offenders presented over \$500 in donations and gifts to the Sullivan County Toys for Tots drive. The Employee Appreciation Committee and offender Fatherhood Program sponsored the event.

Volunteers from the Gospel Echoes ministry of Goshen, IN visited the Indiana State Prison, Pendleton Correctional Facility, and Putnamville Correctional Facility and gave cookies to all offenders at each facility.

The children of Queen of All Saints Catholic Church and St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church donated approximately 600 toys for distribution at the Indiana State Prison to the children visiting with offenders during the holiday.

Christmas Behind Bars Outreach Ministry volunteers gave gift bags to all offenders and staff at Pendleton Correctional.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its first annual Kwanzaa Celebration. Over 250 offenders participated in the celebration, which focused on the traditional African values of family, responsibility, commerce, and self improvement.

New Castle Correctional Facility offenders helped staff wrap presents for Westminster's "Shop for a Tot" program.

A troupe of 10 offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility has been spreading holiday cheer by visiting nursing homes. The women sing holiday songs, play games such as the "Reindeer Pokey," and dance with the senior citizens.

The Inside/Out Dads program held its 2nd annual Christmas Party at the Correctional Industrial Facility. There were approximately 105 children, 56 offenders, and 10 volunteers present at the party.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility staff has taken select residents to local nursing homes and retirement communities in the Hendricks County area for Christmas caroling. This program began last year and is successful again.

Indiana Women's Prison staff and offenders of the Sheltered Workshop and Community Outreach Program made and donated 1,400 Christmas stockings to children attending School #14, families of deployed soldiers, and the Julian Center.

60 graduates of the Inside Out Dads Program celebrated an early Christmas with their children during a Christmas Day with Dad event held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Over 100 family members participated in the event.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*Merry  
Christmas*

*Wednesday, December 24, 2008*

The Crime Stoppers pilot project kicked off at Correctional Industrial Facility. Crime Stoppers Program Director Lt. Tom Kern demonstrated how the program allows offenders to view unsolved crime information on television and submit tips.

Staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility provided Suicide Prevention Training to 9 residents of the facility.

Miami Correctional Facility PLUS offenders spread Christmas cheer by delivering Christmas trees they had decorated with handmade ornaments to the recreation buildings, Offender Services Buildings, and dining halls.

Logansport Juvenile graduated 10 students from CLIFF. To date, 133 have graduated and have an 11% recidivism rate.

Staff at Rockville Correctional Facility sponsored 60 Parke County children on the annual facility Giving Tree. The facility coordinated with the 4 local elementary schools to identify the needs and wishes of each child.

The New Castle Correctional Facility PLUS unit sold 368 Wick's pies as a fundraiser. The unit raised \$1267.94 and made a couple of outside donations, including \$300 to the Wee Ones Nursery at the Indiana Women's Prison.

Camp Summit's English class students wrote Holiday books for small children who are in Riley Children's Hospital.

Kevin Hunter of the Evansville Parole Office participated in the annual Shop with a Cop program in Warrick County. The program is a joint effort between law enforcement agencies, local school corporations, and a local credit union.

A crew of 6 offenders and a Correctional Officer from the Edinburgh Correctional Facility assisted volunteers at the Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN as they prepared to deliver Holiday meals. The offenders unloaded trucks organized food items.

Indiana Women's Prison staff and offenders donated approximately 100 pounds of food items to the Gleaners Food Bank.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility sends a great big thanks to Indiana State Prison for the donation of \$500 to its boy scout troop. The money will be used for camping equipment and other Boy Scout supplies.

Staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility purchased Christmas gifts for 41 students at Reelsville Elementary School and 12 students at Cloverdale Elementary School as part of the facility's annual Angel Tree program.

The Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center celebrated its first Christmas Behind Bars. Lemual Vega, along with Unchained Ministries, handed out Christmas packages to 82 women at the center.

More than 3,600 bags of homemade cookies were delivered to all Miami Correctional Facility staff and offenders. For the past 7 years, Gospel Echoes of Goshen have come in with several volunteers to pass out bags during the holidays.

Over 400 pounds of food and \$760 was raised by staff and offenders at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility to benefit Our Fathers Arms food pantry, which will serve the needy in Sullivan County this holiday season.

Westville's offender musical group has been spreading holiday cheer throughout the facility. Times and Tunes performed holiday music for the annual staff holiday luncheon, the hospital unit, and the Therapeutic Community.

Plainfield Correctional Facility offenders performed for staff, while staff gave offenders holiday goodie bags.

Correctional Industrial Facility's PLUS Writers Club sponsored a Holiday Outreach for area nursing homes by sending out 700 Christmas cards with letters of encouragement written and signed by the PLUS Program Community.

Pendleton Correctional Facility staff and offenders donated 451 food items to the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana in connection with the recent Holiday Food Drive.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner