

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Friday, January 2, 2008

*"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." ~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

A recent Camp Summit graduate, who's currently in the National Guard, visited the Student Christmas Party and spoke at an assembly about his experiences. Camp Summit crews also packed and loaded food baskets for the Salvation Army.

75 bicycles refurbished in Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears operation were donated to the Salvation Army in Anderson, IN, and offenders assigned to the Wheels for the World program refurbished a wheelchair that will be sent to a 5-year-old girl with severe disabilities who lives in a remote village in Ukraine.

Staff members and offenders at Rockville Correctional facility participated in a joint holiday food drive over the past few weeks. The results included a monetary donation and bags of food being delivered to the Parke County Food Bank.

Employees from Eagle Magnetic Company in Indianapolis delivered Christmas presents to the student population at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. The packages included a radio with ear-buds and snacks.

Miami Correctional Facility named 3 Employees of the Month for December. Carole Dibble was named Employee of the Month (non-custody), Officer Jeremy Brindle was named Custody Officer of the Month, and Lorna Harbaugh was named Supervisor of the Month.

The Indiana Women's Prison Vocational Laundry laundered sheets and blankets for the Red Cross.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility held its first gingerbread house making contest for the students. The contest was a huge success and could become an annual holiday program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility donated 388 contraband cell phones, while Correctional Industrial Facility donated 53 cell phones, to Alternatives Incorporated of Madison County, a women's shelter for victims of domestic violence.

7 offenders from Miami Correctional Facility worked 17.5 hours unloading 2 semi-tractor trailers for the WWKI WE CARE wrap up action at the Johanning Civic Center. Offenders also helped set up tables and chairs.

Volunteers from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS Unit delivered 49 gift boxes to residents of the Hutsonville, IL Heritage House Veterans Nursing Home. The gift boxes included offender-made quilts and other items.

In response to the needs of food pantries in Indianapolis, Parole District #3 staff conducted a food drive. The donated food was picked up by the Wheeler Mission. Staff also sponsored a family with 4 children for the Holiday season.

Staff at the Rockville Correctional Facility set a new facility record during a blood drive. 36 usable units were donated during the drive, which extended one hour longer than scheduled to accommodate those who chose to participate.

Correctional Industrial Facility staff delivered over 200 food items to the Gleaners Food Bank out of Muncie, IN.

Students of the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's CLIFF unit assisted the Salvation Army by unloading commodities trucks, preparing food and fruit baskets, and distributing the goods to needy families. Students also assisted the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program by unloading, sorting, and packaging the toys for needy youth.

Pendleton Correctional Facility staff donated 20 pairs of children's gloves, 20 winter hats, 2 pairs of earmuffs, and 4 hat/glove sets to the Salvation Army in Anderson for distribution to needy children in Madison County.

Northeast Juvenile staff purchased winter clothes for 10 children from the Salvation Army Angel Tree.

Despite it being the day after Christmas, with horrific road conditions, 30 Westville Correctional Facility staff members volunteered to weather the elements and reported to work to make certain that the safe operations of the facility were not jeopardized. Superintendent Wilson is extremely proud of the staff who put the needs of the facility ahead of their own.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Effective leadership is putting first things first. Effective management is discipline, carrying it out." ~ Stephen Covey*

*Friday, January 9, 2009*

This week, Mia Kelsaw was promoted to District Supervisor of the Fort Wayne Parole District #2 office. Ms. Kelsaw began employment with the Department of Correction as a Parole Agent in 2001. Congratulations!

The first ever Winter Trimester Celebration took place at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. This special recognition was for the 14 students who earned a behavior average of 4.5 or higher 6 out of the last 8 weeks. The students were able to decorate gingerbread men and eat them as part of their reward for positive behavior.

Henryville Correctional Facility recently helped the Scott County Clearinghouse with donations from a facility food drive, monetary donations, and labor from the offenders.

During December, 26 wheelchairs were refurbished in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's "Wheels for the World" Program. A total of 299 wheelchairs were restored during 2008.

The Indianapolis Parole District #3 office relocated to 6075 Lakeside Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46278, and is sharing space with PEN Products. The new telephone number is (317) 216-2200, and the fax number is (317) 216-2208.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Correctional Officer Eric Hammond was the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Teamwork Award in recognition of his contributions to the Facility's K-9 Unit.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center recently ended a "Mitten Tree" drive. Staff donated 79 pairs of gloves, 36 winter hats, and 16 scarves, which will go to Mill Creek East Elementary School in Hendricks County.

South Bend Community Re-Entry Center and Parole District #8 completed a food drive for the holiday season of 2008. Over 500 lbs. of goods were delivered to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana in South Bend.

38 bicycles were reconditioned in the Pendleton Correctional Facility "Shifting Gears" Operation during December. A total of 878 bicycles were refurbished during 2008.

As part of a number of activities planned to give back to the community, Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility students involved with Youth-as-Resources planned a blood drive in which 42 facility staff members were able to donate. Donors were treated to a steak dinner, which was provided by Outback Steakhouse.

50 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility CLIFF participants proudly took part in graduation ceremonies and were determined to remain meth-free upon release. Family members joined in the celebration. 615 offenders have completed CLIFF since its start at Wabash Valley in June 2005.

Pendleton Correctional Facility is the recipient of a \$74,159 grant from the Indiana Department of Work Force Development. The grant will be utilized to purchase equipment for the facility's Barber Program, Auto Body Program, and Graphics Communication Program.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community Creative Energy group presented their annual Talent Show. TC offenders and staff staged a variety of music and dance numbers. The facility's auditorium was filled to capacity. The Creative Energy group provides ideas for alternative activities to drugs, alcohol or criminal behavior.

Miami Correctional Facility successfully completed its annual facility audit by the Program Review Division. MCF passed the audit with a 100% of the Mandatory standards and a 98.9% on the remaining standards. This is the highest score the facility can achieve because there are 5 standards that the facility cannot pass because of the way it is constructed.

Pendleton Correctional Facility off-grounds work crews logged 3,037 hours during December. During 2008, crews from the facility provided a total of 40,358 hours of service to the community.

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Friday, January 16, 2009

*"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together." ~ Vesta M. Kelly*

PEN Products is now hosting the Samaritan's Feet collection, sorting, and distribution at the PEN central office warehouse in Indianapolis. Samaritan's Feet is a humanitarian relief organization based in Charlotte, NC that puts shoes on the feet of children all around the world. Ron Hunter, the IUPUI Basketball Coach, has been raising awareness for Samaritan's Feet by coaching barefoot. Governor Daniels also appeared barefoot in his office this week to show his support for the program. PEN Products will employ offenders in sorting the donated new shoes and loading containers for overseas shipments, and the effort will be featured on upcoming episode of ESPN Sportscenter.

Branchville Correctional Facility, Henryville Correctional Facility, Rockville Correctional Facility, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the Indiana State Prison all received reaccreditation at panel hearings led by American Correctional Association (ACA) Commissioner Thomas Stickrath at the 2009 Winter Conference in Kissimmee, FL.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility provided a tour to members of the Marion County Leadership in Action Program (LAP). This committee focuses on re-entry and efforts to improve services offered to recently released offenders.

The Affirmative Action Advisory Committee for Westville Correctional Facility, Indiana State Prison, and Camp Summit conducted a combined Winter drive for shelters in Lake, LaPorte, and Porter counties. The staff donated over 273 gloves, mittens, headbands, earmuffs, hats, socks, coats, scarves, gloves, sweaters, pants, and food.

Pendleton Correctional Facility continues to experience tremendous success in thwarting attempts by visitors to smuggle contraband into the facility. 2 arrests have already been made this year, and a total of 18 visitors were arrested in 2008.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility was ranked #1 in the state for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008 for medical contract monitoring.

Westville Correctional Facility set a record with 45 staff volunteering to donate blood in one day. The facility's Employee Activity Planning Committee was able to give away two tickets to every donor for an upcoming Notre Dame women's basketball game, as well as holding a drawing for a free gas card.

Ball State University sent transcripts and letters of certification of graduation for 35 students at Correctional Industrial Facility. 24 men earned Associate of Arts degrees, and 11 men earned Bachelor of General Studies degrees.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex held a Citizen's Advisory Board Meeting. Superintendents Lloyd, Knight, and McCauley addressed members of the community by updating them with information about recent events and initiatives at each facility.

Indiana Women's Prison offenders and Oakland City University staff made 610 mosquito nets intended to help prevent the spread of malaria in Africa. The nets were delivered to Nimule, Sudan by Ms. Kristin Herrmann, IWP Program Director, and members of the Jesus Metropolitan Community Church.

A new offender Arts and Crafts program has been implemented at the Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Keep checking the Commissioner's Blog for updates and postings! This week, Commissioner Buss recognized outstanding employees from Reception Diagnostic Center and Indianapolis Women's Community Re-entry Center. The blog can be accessed from a state computer by going here: <http://intranet.idoc.in.gov/comblog/default.aspx>.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner



# Weekly Views

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Friday, January 23, 2009

*"In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned." ~ President Barack Obama*

All at Camp Summit received a special presentation from Dr. Mann Spitler this week on the perils of substance abuse. Dr. Spitler lost his daughter Manda to heroin addiction and gave a very compelling presentation.

Bloomington Parole District #5 participated in its second clothing drive to help collect Goodwill clothing vouchers for the upcoming spring job fair. Staff collected 18 bags of qualified clothing that equated to \$90 worth of Goodwill vouchers. These vouchers will be used for offenders to find appropriate clothing for job interviews and employment.

32 volunteer Allen County Jail chaplains visited Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility to gain insight on the transition from jail to prison. The chaplains were given an opportunity to learn about offender experiences, programs, and re-entry.

Starke County recently became the 74<sup>th</sup> Community Corrections Grant Act County and will be interviewing for a Director to coordinate agency programs this month. The program will include Home Detention, Juvenile Alternatives, Work Crew, and Community Service Programs.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility's Building Trades class assisted with building a Habitat for Humanity house in Danville, IN. 10 students assisted the crew by salvaging items and evaluating the structure of an abandoned home scheduled for demolition. A new home is planned to be built on the existing lot in the near future.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted the Pendleton Facilities' Community Advisory Board quarterly meeting. Facility staff presented on the therapy dog program "Love on a Leash," which involves special needs offenders, and the facility's participation in Performance Based Standards for Youth Correction and Detention Facilities program.

Indiana State Prison's Summit and West Farms have sold \$16,000 worth of firewood so far this winter. The farms are currently harvesting firewood from storm-damaged trees.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's SITCON team received third place in the Negotiation Competition held at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Crisis Negotiation Conference held in San Marcos, TX. Team members coordinated fundraisers to finance the trip and took advantage of the week-long conference designed to enhance crisis intervention techniques.

A staff assembly was held at the Correctional Industrial Facility and approximately 30 staff members attended to discuss and share experiences, events, and issues taking place at the facility.

PEN Products and Indiana State Prison's Summit and West Farms, along with ISO and Westville Correctional, will be working with the Department of Natural Resources cutting, splitting, and wrapping firewood for the Dunes State Park.

Miami Correctional Facility's Honor Guard presented the colors at a recent Indianapolis Ice hockey game. Those representing MCF included: Jeremy Stalhood, Brenda Bowman, Chris Ramberger, Beverly Abney, Joseph Townsend.

Indiana State Prison donated 304 bikes to surrounding communities in 2008 using the Shifting Gears Program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a program to commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams was the featured speaker at the event.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility students were able to watch the inauguration ceremony of President Barack Obama on television and were assigned essays to complete about the ceremony, in which they were to describe the inauguration process, identify key elected officials, and define the roles in government.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Advisory Board members met and were taken on a world tour by Chaplain Bob Nemergut. Father Bob recently spent 6 months on sabbatical and visited Europe, Asia and Africa. He shared his experiences with the board using a presentation complete with music and pictures.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears bicycle refurbishing operation recently donated bicycles to HVAF (Helping Homeless Veterans and Families) in Indianapolis. This organization provides veterans and their families with assistance necessary to ensure successful independent living in the community.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

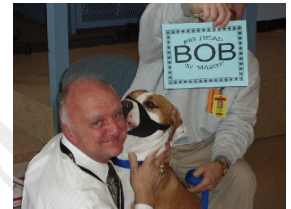
Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained." ~ Marie Curie*

*Friday, January 30, 2009*

This week, Commissioner Buss announced the appointments of Bryan Pearson as Superintendent of Edinburgh Correctional Facility, Beckie Bennett as Superintendent of Reception Diagnostic Center, and Steve McCauley as Superintendent of the Indiana Women's Prison. Congratulations to each of them as they begin their new positions!

The FIDO program at the Correctional Industrial Facility held a meet and greet event where 14 dogs and handlers attended and numerous visitors and employees dropped by. Superintendent Hanlon visited the event and was welcomed by CIF mascot, Big-Headed Bob.



Sgt. McIntyre of the Indianapolis Men's Community Re-entry Center arranged a work crew of 8 offenders to remove snow around the Government Center and Statehouse. Approximately 45 offenders from IMCRC have participated in snow removal work crews over the past few days.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted education and vocation graduations this week. 32 offenders received literacy certificates, and 20 received GEDs. Also, 20 offenders received Business Computer Application certificates, 8 received Culinary Arts certificates, 5 received Horticulture certificates, and 20 completed Master Student to Master Employee.

IDOC Community Corrections and the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives met with Clark County and Elkhart County Community Corrections to discuss the implementation of the 2007 Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative Federal grant. Through this grant, counties will provide services to IDOC prisoners being held in the county jails.

Through a partnership with the Indiana Department of Transportation, 5 residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility assisted with snow removal this week. The residents' assignment to this crew is considered a working test period, during which time supervisors evaluate their skills. Upon release, INDOT has the opportunity to hire these residents as full-time state employees.

In response to a "Cry for Help" from the local news, the Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program offenders made 67 quilts, pillows, and carrying bags and donated them to the Wheeler Mission.

Ball State University sent transcripts and letters of certification of graduation for 49 students at Miami Correctional Facility. Of those, 39 men earned Associate of Arts degrees, and 10 men earned Bachelor of General Studies degrees.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its 3<sup>rd</sup> PLUS Unit graduation ceremony. 16 offenders were recognized for successfully completing the character and faith-based program and were presented with certificates.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Staff Assembly, recognizing Classification Specialist Stacey Miller as Employee of the Quarter and Education Supervisor Evelyn Hicks as Supervisor of the Quarter. Retirees and recipients of Cash Spot Bonuses, Years of Service letters and pins, and challenge coins were also recognized.

Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit's Community Assistance Crew assisted the Michigan City women's shelter with domestic organization, moving furniture, and routine building maintenance.

Reception-Diagnostic Center employee Bob Shuler retired this week after 42 years with the Department. Bob was presented with an Indiana flag that has flown over the State Capital and a Proclamation establishing him as a Distinguished Hoosier by Governor Daniels. Congratulations!!

Several of Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility's students' paintings selected for the "Mockingbird: Art Stories" travelling display promoting Indiana Repertory Theatre's production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* received numerous and positive feedback. The display will be at several venues around the city throughout the duration of the play's showing.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held its quarterly Staff Recall discussing current and upcoming changes in facility operations. Approximately 90 staff attended, and 10 employees received door prizes.

Over 400 offenders at Westville were interviewed and completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Purdue University representatives were on location to answer questions and provide assistance to interested offenders.

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# Weekly Views

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*"Success is not final,  
failure is not fatal: it is  
the courage to continue  
that counts." ~ Sir  
Winston Churchill*

*Friday, February 6, 2009*

Governor Mitch Daniels presented the ACA Exemplary Offender Program Award to the CLIFF Units of Logansport Juvenile, Miami, Wabash Valley, and Rockville Correctional Facilities during a ceremony held at Rockville. Also in attendance were Commissioner Edwin G. Buss and dignitaries from all of the participating facilities. The national award is only given to one outstanding correctional program each year and was presented to the IDOC at an ACA Conference in January. Congratulations to the CLIFF program!

Putnamville Correctional Facility held its 3rd PLUS Unit graduation ceremony. 28 offenders were recognized for successfully completing the faith and character-based program. Ike Randolph, Executive Director of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives, and Dave Liebel, Deputy Director of Religious Services, were guest speakers.

Westview Alliance Church volunteers provided a Super Bowl party for 79 Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility offenders. Pizza Hut donated 40 pizzas for the event.

A Black History program was conducted at Pendleton Correctional Facility. Featured speakers were Lucky Hall, founder of Hall Accounting and Tax Service, Byron Alston, Executive Director of the Save the Youth Foundation), and Indianapolis Colts Chaplain Ken Johnson.

5 staff from New Castle Correctional Facility participated in the Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics at the Waterbowl in Muncie. It was a warming experience, with temperatures around 6 degrees.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program donated \$250 to The Villages of Indiana and has also sent Valentine bags filled with candy to be distributed to the children The Villages serves.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently began a third collaborative class with IUPUI. This Inside Out Prison Exchange Program allows IUPUI students to come to the facility and participate in a class with PREF residents. This setting allows the Inside and Outside students to compare and contrast ideas with a group unlike their own.

The Indiana State Prison Building Maintenance program completed 482 Pinewood Derby cars for the Boys Scouts.

A Super Bowl party was provided for 15 Pendleton Correctional Facility offenders who were nominated by staff in conjunction with the facility's new Offender Appreciation Program. This program recognizes and rewards offenders who demonstrate responsible behavior and serve as positive role models for other offenders.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted its Valentine Blood Drive this week at the facility. There were 48 people who showed up to donate, with 5 of those being double donors. There were 40 good pints received.

The Education Department at Indiana State Prison just initiated 2 new apprenticeship programs – Bricklayer and Offset Operator (in conjunction with the Print Shop).

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Facility Recall under the direction of newly-appointed Superintendent Bruce Lemmon. Facility updates, grievances, ACA, safety, physical fitness, offender apprenticeship, and the facility store were some of the topics of discussion.

Offenders assigned to the Wheels for the World operation at Pendleton Correctional Facility reconditioned 21 wheelchairs in January, while offenders in the Shifting Gears program restored 41 bicycles.

Miami Correctional Facility's INShape/Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee hosted a MCF Health and Fitness Fair with 12 vendor/participants. More than 50 staff members participated in the event.

Offenders from the Organic Farmers program at Indiana State Prison donated \$250 to benefit the Special Olympics.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, February 13, 2009

*"I do the very best I know  
how - the very best I can;  
and I mean to keep on  
doing so until the end." ~  
Abraham Lincoln (Born  
February 12, 1809)*

Commissioner Buss promoted Michael Lloyd, Superintendent of Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility (PREF), to the position of Director of Transition Facilities and Community-Based Programs. PREF staff would like to congratulate him and wish him the best of luck in his new role.

Congratulations to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Major James Basinger, who was promoted this week to Assistant Superintendent of Operations at the maximum-security facility. He is an highly knowledgeable 18-year veteran of the Department with 24 years of distinguished military service. Assistant Superintendent Basinger is a Sergeant Major with the 76<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Black History Program this week. The keynote speaker was Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools. Dr. White's speech was entitled, "The Cost of Liberation is High, but the Cost of Freedom is Higher."

Bob Dixon and Bill Lee, from Putnamville Correctional Facility, and Bill Fielding, Coordinator of Highway Operations with the Indiana Department of Transportation, showcased the Hoosier Roadside Heritage "Wildflower" Project and energy initiatives at DePauw University's Sustainability Expo. The project is a partnership between INDOT and PCF.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation for 9 students in the program. To date, 141 students have graduated from the 6-month intensive program. The program boasts a 90% success rate, with only a 9.9% recidivism rate. Parents, grandparents, siblings and staff attended the ceremony.

Dan Meadows, a Case Manager at New Castle Correctional Facility, was selected by the Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee and represented Indiana, joining other Law Enforcement Officers in the final leg of the Special Olympics Torch Run for the World Games held in Nampa, Idaho. Meadows was assigned to a team of runners and carried the torch for nine days before it was used to ignite the cauldron at the Opening Ceremonies.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility received a 100% on Mandatory Standards and 96.6% on Non-mandatory Standards. This was their Year 2 Review.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Sergeant Tim Nickles was promoted to Lieutenant. Superintendent Mize praised Lt. Nickles for the outstanding job he has done in drastically reducing the number of offender grievances filed at the facility.

Westville Correctional Facility has created a new program unit called "TC Prep." The 74 bed unit is specifically designed for interested offenders to begin the process of entering the Therapeutic Community. The unit also allows offenders to experience the TC philosophy while waiting for a place in the community. The facility currently has 436 offenders assigned to their Therapeutic Community.

The Indiana University Northwest Art Galleries came to the Indiana State Prison and interviewed offenders regarding the artwork which will be displayed during an art exhibit at the gallery. The exhibit will run from March 6 to April 17. The hours for the exhibit will be Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Offenders from New Castle Correctional Facility's L Dorm (minimum housing) provided New Castle and the Henry County community with 15,518 hours of Community Service in last quarter of 2008.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted another Black History Program. Guest speakers included FOX59 Reporter Derrick Wilkerson and Indianapolis Metropolitan School Principal Clete Ladd. During the program, a reflection on the life of Julia Carson was conducted. Congresswoman Carson's son and two grandsons attended the event.

26 IDOC staff and volunteers were trained as PREP<sup>®</sup> facilitators this week at McCormick's Creek State Park. PREP, the divorce Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program, is part of the PLUS program offered at most IDOC facilities. The training was coordinated by IDOC Religious and Volunteer Services and funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance.

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*"It is not so much the content of what one says as the way in which one says it. However important the thing you say, what's the good of it if not heard or, being heard, not felt." ~ Sylvia Ashton-Warner*

*Friday, February 20, 2009*

Wabash Valley is welcoming back Superintendent Bruce Lemmon. Mr. Lemmon briefly served as facility head nearly a decade ago and is doing double duty, continuing service as Superintendent of the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Also, congratulations to Alan Finnan as he becomes Operational Director of Mental Health!

Staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility received a generous donation of clothing from the Honorable Members of the Indiana General Assembly this week. State Representative Peggy Welch assisted with the effort. The clothing went to PREF's "Dress for Success" clothing bank, where gently-used clothing is distributed to PREF residents.



Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center has collected 23 boxes of clothing donated by residents, which will be donated to My Sister's Place. The organization provides immediate help for homeless neighbors in the form of clean, dry, warm clothing for both men and women.

The PEN Products Board of Directors recently met at the Indiana Government Center. The Board provides insight for current operations and future direction. The meeting closed with testimonials from successful ex-offenders.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held a Spring Retreat at Indiana State University. The objective of the retreat was to afford executive and on-line staff an opportunity to collectively develop procedures to improve programs, operation of the facility, and quality of life for the offender population.

Over 130 staff from WCC, ISP and Camp Summit attended a "Karaoke Challenge" off-grounds this week. 18 staff stepped up to the mike to represent their facility. Training Officer Richard Nalls from ISP took first place, with Correctional Officer Cara Harton of WCC as runner-up. Everyone who participated had fun as DOC coworkers.

The Indiana chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) recently met to brainstorm and discuss community activities for 2009. NABCJ's chief concerns are the general welfare of and influence of African Americans, relating to the administration of justice, and justice-related needs and practices.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility Boy Scout Troop 1888, sponsored by the Recreation Department, will be participating in the Pop Tab Recycling Project sponsored by the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana.

Angela Baskin from Surprise, Arizona gave an uplifting presentation on Breaking the Cycle of Incarceration to 82 women at the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center. Lt. Michelle Brown presented her with an certificate of appreciation, noting that the residents could relate to her testimony.

A Black History Program was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week. Attorney Judith Hawley Conley and Marion County Superior Court Judge David A. Shaheed were the featured speakers for the event.

Madison Correctional Facility hosted a community advisory board meeting this week. Jefferson County Prosecutor Chad Lewis made a presentation to the group about crime and sentencing rates. Executive Director Stan Knight also attended.

The Employee Appreciation Committee at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted a Sunrise Breakfast where staff purchased a hot breakfast on their way into the facility. Proceeds will fund employee activities.

Correctional Industrial Facility recognized volunteers in the chapel with refreshments and a "Meet and Greet" this week. 13 volunteers attended the ceremony, along with the Chaplains and Superintendent Tom Hanlon.

Correctional Medical Services at the Indiana State Prison passed their Pharmacy Audit this week with a score of 100%.

Miami Correctional Facility had 5 staff members take the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics recently, raising more than \$1,200 and receiving an award for "The Most Money raised by a Company." Those participating included Douglas Nelson, Ernest Parkin, Christopher Ertel, Constance Iddings, and Daniel Madson.

The Indiana Women's Prison Sheltered Workshop offenders and staff assembled 500 brochures with clipboards for the Indiana State Department of Health. The brochures are for the Coach's Asthma Clipboard Program.

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



# Weekly Views

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*"The past is a ghost,  
the future a dream. All  
we ever have is now."  
~ Bill Cosby*

*Friday, February 27, 2009*

Branchville Correctional Facility held a PLUS graduation ceremony this week for 28 offenders who completed the 16-month faith and character-based program. Oakland City University's Culinary Arts students provided refreshments.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility Barber Apprenticeship Program received a Certificate of Registration from the U. S. Department of Labor. 17 offenders will participate in the program, which leads to journeyman certification as a barber.

Administrative Assistant Leatha Sweatt and 5 residents from the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center attended a Christmas Behind Bars bagging day. 500 volunteers prepared 15,000 packages for Indiana prisons and jails.

Reception-Diagnostic Center recently held a "breakfast for lunch" Biscuits and Gravy sale to raise money for the upcoming Correctional Employees' Appreciation Week. \$257.65 was raised during the 2-day sale.

New Castle Correctional Facility PLUS Unit offenders raised \$2,100 through a pizza and Coke sale. Some of the money will be used to buy books and materials for the PLUS program, and \$300 was donated to the Saylor Prison Ministry.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility added another work crew to support the Homeland Security Search and Rescue area by assisting with maintenance and sanitation.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted an all-staff "Soul Food" Pitch-in for Black History Month. The celebration began with Indianapolis Public School Superintendent Dr. Eugene White speaking.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held its quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting. Clay County judges attended, and winners of the Offender Black History Month Art/Essay/Poem Contest dined with board members.

The Kairos Prison Ministry Organization began a 4-day program at the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week. This will be the first time in the organization's history to provide a program to segregation offenders.

New Castle Correctional Facility staff participated in Career Day and did a presentation on "Your Career in Corrections" at the New Castle Community School System this week. All 5 middle schools in Henry County participated.

A Southern Gospel quartet called Born Again gave a live concert for offenders at the Indiana State Prison minimum security unit. Staff and offenders alike enjoyed the concert.

Fatherhood program participants at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility sponsored a fundraising drive by selling donuts to the offender population. The Riley Children's Fund and the Wabash Valley March of Dimes will receive \$1,000 each!

Indiana Women's Prison offenders and staff welcomed the Blessed Hope Church during a program featuring Sheila Raye Charles, daughter the legendary Ray Charles. Ms. Charles gave her personal testimony and performed musical numbers.

Westville Correctional Facility presented its first "Purposeful Sentencing Initiative" meetings. Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Probation Officers heard information about the Department's Therapeutic Communities (TCs). The initiative will review the sentencing of offenders with drug convictions to a TC.

Plainfield Correctional Facility celebrated Black History Month by allowing offenders to submit original artwork pieces highlighting Black History and compete in a trivia challenge. Winners of the contests were announced at an assembly.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's Education Department, in conjunction with the Chaplains, held a Black History Month Celebration in the Chapel. Executive Director Richard Curry was the guest speaker.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Black History Month program for Level One offenders at the Outside Dormitory this week. The guest speaker for the event was Save the Youth Foundation Executive Director Byron Alston.

Miami Correctional Facility held graduation ceremonies for 51 CLIFF offenders. Deputy Commissioner Koester presented a plaque to Program Director Tricia Pretorius honoring CLIFF as the ACA Exemplary Offender Program.

The U.S. Department of Labor visited Indiana State Prison this week to showcase the apprenticeship program to other facilities. ISP staff and offenders were first to complete the program, and staff answered questions from other IDOC staff.

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

# Weekly Views

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*"In this age, which believes that there is a short cut to everything, the greatest lesson to be learned is that the most difficult way is, in the long run, the easiest." ~ Henry Miller*

*Friday, March 6, 2009*

"Hard Time," a documentary filmed at the Pendleton Correctional Facility in September 2008, will air on the Discovery Channel on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 PM Eastern Time.

The Rockville Correctional Facility CLIFF Unit held a program for a group of Parke County juveniles to educate them about where drug use will lead. 11 juveniles, their guardians, and the Probation Officer attended, and 7 offenders from CLIFF participated on the Panel. This program is supported by the Parke County Judge.

Indiana State Prison's offender American Legion Post 130 recently hosted a district meeting, which was the first district meeting held at a prison. State Senator Jim Arnold and Commissioner Buss spoke, and a total of 92 people attended.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize recently presented a total of \$1,575 in donations to the Pendleton Junior Baseball Challenger League, the Pendleton Middle School, and Pendleton's Maple Ridge Elementary. The donations were made possible by the facility's PLUS, Inside Out Dad, and American Legion programs.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility's Youth as Resources (YAR) student team "Miracles-in-the-Making" recently donated food, clothes, diapers and other items to help replenish the Julian Center's shelves. The students purchased many of the items with the money they raised from a t-shirt sale.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Andy Miller and Deputy Commissioner Chris Landis, along with Commissioner Buss, toured the Digital License Plate operation at the Indiana State Prison.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Black History Month program under the direction of Chaplain Jerry Anderson. Attendees included Community Advisory Board members and the president and members of the Greencastle NAACP.

PEN Products' Indiana State Prison farm operation received a horse from the LaPorte County Animal Shelter. The horse, Brandy, is approximately 20 years old and had escaped from her owner. The farm operation will supply pasture, labor, and facilities, while the animal shelter will supply feed and health care, to help Brandy recover.

For Black History Month, Henryville Correctional Facility held a "soul food" dinner for offenders, an art and literary contest, and a "soul food" carry-in for staff. An ex-offender also shared his successful re-entry elements with offenders.

Indiana Women's Prison enrolled 7 offenders into the Cosmetology U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program.

The Employee Assistance Planning Committee for Westville Correctional Facility set up a website at [www.myeapc.com](http://www.myeapc.com) to better communicate with employees. The EAPC raises funds to support activities for WCC's employees.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted a tour for members of the Criminal Law Society from Indiana University School of Law Indianapolis. Law students toured the Law Library and other facility areas to learn about services for offenders.

The Miami Correctional Facility Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee held its monthly fundraiser, selling ham, beans, and cornbread. The committee has scheduled a fundraiser for each month.

PEN Products hosted a meeting focusing on the expansion of the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program at Pendleton Correctional Facility. Representatives from Pendleton, New Castle Correctional Facility, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and Correctional Industrial Facility attended.

SITCON members from the Plainfield Correctional Facility raised \$530 for the Special Olympics of Indiana by participating in the 2009 "Freezin' for a Reason" Polar Plunge.

The prison mutts in the FIDO program at Correctional Industrial Facility recently held a second Meet and Greet event.

More than 150 Miami Correctional Facility staff participated in a quarterly Recall Meeting, which featured Bill Moulton from the Kentucky Bureau of Prisons. Moulton talked about reducing the stigma associated with suicide.

The Indiana Women's Prison ICAN program was filmed by the Tony Stewart Foundation for advertising and by Ivanhoe Video for medical and "Smart Women" segments.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, March 13, 2009

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it." ~ Thomas Jefferson

Miami Correctional Facility aided the Miami County Emergency Management Agency when they asked for assistance in filling sandbags to prevent flooding in northern Miami County. 20 offenders filled 1,800 sandbags in about 2.5 hours.

New Castle Parole Agents and Supervisor Fafata attended the open house of the Fayette County Community Corrections Work Release center. The facility has 56 work release beds, some to be offered to parole for intermediate sanctions.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a GED Graduation Ceremony and recognized 21 students. Logansport Mayor Mike Fincher delivered the Keynote address, and Cass County Circuit Judge Leo Burns also attended.

PEN Products hosted a Samaritan's Feet event where IUPUI's basketball coach Ron Hunter showed local media the warehouse filled with donated shoes. Offender workers sort shoes to prepare for shipment to Africa and South America.

Branchville held a graduation for 83 offenders who successfully completed Therapeutic Community treatment programs.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility will utilize RealCare Babies during a Baby Care Basics course this weekend. This program will allow 9 residents to keep a baby simulator with them and requires them to respond to the baby's needs.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's Inside Out Dad program donated 16 baby blankets to the IWP Wee Ones Nursery.

The Jaycee offender organization at the Indiana State Prison held a pizza and pop sale for the offender population and raised \$4,000, which will be donated to local non-profit organizations on a rotating basis.

Miami Correctional celebrated Black History Month with an Art and Essay contest sponsored by the Recreation Dept.

Parole Agents from New Castle Parole helped Union County on a Probation/Parole/Community Corrections sweep.

The Community Advisory Board for Indiana State Prison, Westville Correctional Facility, and Camp Summit met to discuss strategic planning for the IDOC. Population projections and Pew Center Report data were presented.

Correctional Industrial and Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facilities will each host a Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) weekend. Offenders and their significant others will work to enhance their relationships.

Edinburgh staff donated 10 cases of canned goods and 10 boxes of dried items to the Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN.

Allen County Community Corrections and the IDOC have initiated the Allen County Re-Entry Program (ACRP). ACRP will connect offenders to their community 60 days prior to CTP and will work with the court on their re-entry process.

Camp Summit recognized 19 students this week for successfully completing Napoleon Hill's Keys to Success Program. The program is designed to help make the connection between positive pro-social characteristics and success.

Plainfield Correctional Facility participated in a mock audit conducted by Central Office staff. PCF received a 100% on all mandatory standards and a 98.4% on all non-mandatory standards.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility had 9 offenders graduate from the Inside Out Dad program. Offenders had dinner with their family, and fathers were given an opportunity to read with their children.

23 students with the Law Enforcement Program at Ivy Tech in Columbus toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's PLUS program presented a check for \$900 to Project Angel, a Hendricks County non-profit organization. Project Angel provides necessary funds to enroll needy children into extracurricular activities.

The Northern Indiana Critical Incident Stress Management team met at Miami Correctional for its quarterly training.

Christian artists Jimmy Fauntleroy and Edward Pithey will perform at Indianapolis Juvenile this weekend.

Parole District 3 Supervisors and Agents, along with IMPD Officers and State Troopers, conducted a parole sweep this week. As a result, weapons, drugs, and ammunition were confiscated, and 4 arrests were made.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its third PLUS graduation for 55 offenders this week.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Never iron a four-leaf clover, because you don't want to press your luck." ~  
Author Unknown*



Friday, March 20, 2009



Nearly three dozen members of the Northern Region Strategic Planning Team spent two days working with a consultant from the National Institute of Corrections to continue work on the strategic plan. Input from everyone is needed to establish and implement the plan. Send your input to Tom Hanlon or Nancy Riley in the Central Region, Richard Newton or Alan Finnan in the Southern Region, or John Schrader or Mark Levenhagen in the Northern Region.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility received the Silver Award from Indiana's First Lady Cheri Daniels at the Indiana Statehouse for its contribution to the State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC).

Henryville Correctional Facility hosted Walter D. Smith, a speaker, entrepreneur, professional body builder, and radio talk show host. Mr. Smith spoke to the offender population about going "Against All Odds." His speech discussed overcoming a severe drug addiction, self-destructive behavior, and cigarette addiction, and he included information on health, fitness nutrition, exercise, and self-improvement. Mr. Smith was the first offender ever exonerated in the country due to DNA evidence. He had been sentenced to serve 78 to 190 years in prison.

South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility will be hosting its first "IRON Chef" contest. Selected students from the I2W class will be competing against each other in preparing a meal (meat, starch, vegetable, and dessert) in two hours. The winner will be selected by various staff and a guest chef.

7 Martin University students and their instructor, IDOC Legislative Director Tim Brown, recently toured Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted its second PREP weekend for offenders and their spouses. A total of 7 spouses attended the relationship enhancement retreat and have already provided outstanding feedback.

Indiana University Northwest Art Galleries for Contemporary Art and the Education Department for the Indiana State Prison are helping ISP Artist Guild offenders exhibit their work. The exhibit will be at the SubStation No. 9, located at 435 Fayette Street, Hammond, IN, and will run until April 17. The title for the exhibit is: "Artists Within: Behind the Walls of Indiana State Prison, Michigan City."

25 offenders were recognized for completing the PLUS Program during a graduation ceremony conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility received a donation of 70 pairs of shoes from Samaritan's Feet for its Dress for Re-Entry clothing bank. The donation included pairs of steel-toed boots to be used by the facility's INDOT crew.

Henryville Correctional Facility welcomed a volunteer teacher from the Floyd County Community School Corporation.

Miami Correctional Facility held an offender food sale of Kentucky Fried Chicken, collecting approximately \$9,000 in profit for the PLUS Unit.

Pendleton Correctional Facility is donating \$500 to Central Office for the Crime Stoppers project. The donation was made possible by fundraising activities sponsored by the facility's PLUS Program, Inside Out Dad Program, and American Legion group.

Recently, residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility Building Trades class assisted with a Habitat for Humanity project in Danville, IN. The residents helped lay the block foundation for a house to be built this spring.

Henryville Correctional Facility had 3 offenders graduate this week with their GEDs.

Wabash Valley's Fatherhood Program donated \$1,000 to the Wabash Valley Chapter of the March of Dimes.

PEN Products staff Doug Evans and Lisa Williams visited the Plainfield Correctional Facility to discuss implementing a job placement program for offenders through a U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a Walking Taco/Ice Cream Float sale to fundraise for employee appreciation week.

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

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings given to us to learn from." ~ Elizabeth Kubler-Ross*

*Friday, March 27, 2009*

At a Central Office staff assembly this week, IDOA Commissioner Mark Everson spoke on his government experiences and the IDOA's relationship with the IDOC, and Commissioner Buss and Chief of Staff Ronay recognized employees.

Plainfield Correctional received the Patriot Award at a dinner hosted by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

An IWP volunteer won the Lily Jefferson Award for Community Service, giving the \$500 award to the Wee Ones Nursery.

New Castle Correctional Facility offenders attending worship services this month paid their tithe by collecting approximately \$180 in food items to be contributed to the Christian Love Shelter in New Castle.

6 Northeast Juvenile students assisted the Sisters of the Cloth quilting guild for the Gathering of the Quilters quilt show.

Recently, 2 Parole Agents from the Indianapolis Parole Office spoke to teens at Families Reaching for Rainbows, a systems of care support service by Choices, Inc. The Agents talked about Parole, the IDOC, and making good choices.

Edinburgh's offender population donated \$134 to a facility non-for profit fund that will assist various organizations.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently held a grand opening of its "Farm Fresh Diner," a collaborative effort with Aramark to provide lunch for staff, on both day and evening shifts, at a nominal fee.

Logansport Juvenile held a CLIFF graduation ceremony recognizing 8 students who completed the 6 month program.

A Pendleton Correctional level one work crew painted bleachers and trim on buildings at Falls Park in Pendleton.

Staff and offenders at Madison Correctional are raising funds to help a local young man purchase a service dog, and a fundraiser breakfast and staff silent auction has been organized. Over \$600 has been raised so far for this cause.

The Shifting Gears operation at Pendleton Correctional donated 75 refurbished bikes to an Indianapolis Goodwill store.

Carlene Heeter, author of *Mama's Tears*, shared her story at the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center.

Supervisors and Agents from Indianapolis Parole District #3 recently performed a mini-sweep on all sex offenders who currently reside in DOC-assisted housing. As a result, Agents arrested 3 parolees for technical violations.

Lemuel Vega and 65 volunteers of Christmas Behind Bars delivered food gift bags to offenders at Indiana State Prison.

K-9 handler Christopher Lanning and dog Roxie from Putnamville Correctional Facility are featured in the latest issue of *K-9 Cop* magazine. The photos were taken during International Police Work Dog Association training.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility had 8 offenders graduate this week with their GEDs.

Lee W. Hoard and M. Duane Alsip of the IDOC's Program Review Division recently completed NIC Detention Facility Inspector Training in Aurora, Colorado and helped conduct a mock inspection of the Denver County, Colorado Jail.

Camp Summit held a Recall Assembly this week recognizing staff, reviewing population and spending projections, and going over recidivism rates and the new Youth Services Division plans.

The Wabash Valley offender Fatherhood Program donated \$1,000 to the Riley Children's Foundation.

Westville Correctional welcomed visitors from the U.S. Department of Justice who reviewed the Therapeutic Community. The DOJ's State Policy Advisor spoke positively about the program and was impressed with its operations.

Pendleton Juvenile's Boy Scouts have collected 5,351 pop tabs so far to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Plainfield Correctional hosted a tour for 18 students enrolled in the *Seminar in Corrections* class at Indiana University.

8 Northeast Juvenile students debated freedom of religion and citizen's rights in mock congressional hearings. The District Coordinator for "We the People" was a guest judge and Congressman Mark Souder sent certificates.

Indiana Women's Prison's Sheltered Workshop completed an 11,400 piece mailing for the March of Dimes.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we hit it." ~ Michelangelo Buonarroti*

*Friday, April 3, 2009*

Miami Correctional Facility has been nominated for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award by one of its employees serving in the National Guard Reserve. The award is the U.S. Government's highest recognition given to American employers for their exceptional support of National Guard or Reserve members.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently assisted the chartered Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School with a painting project. The crew of 16 residents painted classrooms, bathrooms, a gymnasium, hallways, other areas.

The Indiana Women's Prison participated in the "Paint the Town Pink" event sponsored by the Indianapolis Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Foundation. 6 offender teams decorated bed sheets to bring breast cancer awareness to IWP.

New Castle Correctional staff recently met with the Mayor of New Castle and the Director for the Arts and Parks to discuss using offenders from the facility's L Dorm (minimum housing) for work crews and projects.

Henryville Correctional Facility recently initiated a local charter of the Toastmasters Club, and it is comprised of over 20 offenders who meet once a week. The name of the Henryville Toastmasters charter is called "Successfully Speaking."

The staff at Madison Correctional Facility raised over \$850, with offenders donating over \$500, to help a local boy's family purchase an assistance dog that will alert others when the boy is about to have a life-threatening seizure.

150 people attended a general assembly at the Indiana State Prison. Staff who had perfect attendance for 2008 were recognized, and quarterly awards were given. Also, Superintendent Levenhagen updated staff on DOC current events.

Correctional Industrial Facility hosted its third special "Chaplain's Choice" seminar and workshop with the Rev. Willie Jenkins. The program focused on practical life skills and Rev. Jenkins' experience in prison ministry.

Today is graduation day for 51 graduates of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS Program. This marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduating class (206 total) from the faith and character based housing unit.

New Castle Correctional Facility's Community Advisory Board recently met for a luncheon, and 10 members attended.

Indiana State Prison Superintendent Mark Levenhagen participated in a round table discussion on criminal justice at Valparaiso University this week.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility held a graduation ceremony for its third Manufacturing Readiness class taught by Ivy Tech. The ceremony was held in the facility Chapel, and family and friends of the 9 graduates attended.

Companions on the Journey, a community-based re-entry program involving local businesses, conducted a silent auction of Westville Correctional Facility offender art work. 150 people attended, and the 47 pieces brought in over \$3,000.

30 wheelchairs were reconditioned in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's "Wheels for the World" program during the month of March, and the facility's "Shifting Gears" program reconditioned 49 bicycles.

2 offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility each donated 10 inches of hair for "Locks of Love," an organization that makes and provides wigs for cancer patients.

Branchville's ERO Team recently completed their annual physical fitness test. Over 20 Non-ERO staff also participated as part of the INShape program and to show their support for the Emergency Teams.

Miami Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit donated \$2,000 to Howard County charities. The unit donated \$1,000 to Kokomo Urban Outreach, \$500 to United Way of Howard County for its 211 Program, and \$500 to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Indiana State Prison employees Chuck Whelan and Gus Carlson held a seminar for the parents of Knox schools students on drugs and gangs. It was well attended by parents and community leaders, as well as the press and a local radio station.

Keep checking the Commissioner's Blog for updates! This week, Commissioner Buss wrote about "Facing Challenges," and 2 RDC employees were recognized for their heroic acts. The Blog can be accessed on a state computer by going to <http://intranet.idoc.in.gov/comblog/default.aspx>.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"There will come a time  
when you believe everything  
is finished. That will be the  
beginning."  
~ Louis L'Amour*



Thursday, April 9, 2009



An ACA audit was conducted at Pendleton Correctional Facility this week. The facility will be recommended for re-accreditation having scored 100% on the Mandatory Standards and 98.4% on the Non-Mandatory Standards.

For Easter, the players of Lowell's First Baptist Church put on the play "The Choice to Love" for Camp Summit students. The play was well received by the students and presented a good lesson in decision making and problem solving.

Offenders at Rockville Correctional Facility held the first RCF March of Dimes, March for Babies and raised \$718.60 for the cause. Participating offenders had their March of Dimes donation card placed on the Recreation building wall.

As part of the facility's Speakers Bureau, 2 Henryville Correctional Facility offenders recently spoke to Jeffersonville High School students enrolled in an Orientation to Life and Careers class. They discussed prison life, drugs, and life choices.

New Castle Correctional Facility honored World War II veterans from the USS Hyman, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, and their spouses with a luncheon and tour of the facility. Culinary Arts offenders prepared and served food. (See photo, right.)

Director of Programs Jerry Vance has been appointed to the Great Lakes Technology Transfer Center Board and the Regional Criminal Justice Committee.

Putnamville Correctional Facility staff welcomed home and honored Internal Affairs Investigator David Wire, who has been stationed Iraq for the past 15 months. Wire has been an IDOC employee for over 20 years.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility held a GED graduation luncheon for 3 offenders and their families.



During March, Pendleton Correctional Facility off-ground work crews logged 1,832 hours of community service.

The fourth Wabash Valley PREP Weekend was one of the best ever, according to Assistant Religious Services Director David Liebel. Two groups met for the marriage enrichment workshops, which were covered by a local television station.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS program donated \$250 to two local schools to help fund their After Prom celebrations. The PLUS dorm wanted to help fund these school-run celebrations since they are set up in order to provide a safe alternative to traditional parties.

157 Offenders were compliant with Indiana State Prison's recent cell sanitation and standardization inspection and earned the opportunity to view the NCCA Championship game on the big screen TV. within the Chapel.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility recently had 5 students take and pass the General Education Diploma exam.

An Easter Egg Hunt was conducted at the Recreation Area (Quarry) for Plainfield Correctional Facility staff and their families. All of the children attending the event received prizes, and 6 bicycles were given away as part of the festivities.

Four Westville Correctional Facility institutional teachers became Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) facilitators during a recent training conducted by the Indiana Department of Education. These four are now certified to administer the CASAS test to English as a Second Language students within the facility.

The Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Program made 100 bags, scarves, and hats for elderly woman in the Ukraine.

Project Safe Neighborhood representatives interviewed 2 Indiana State Prison offenders for an information commercial.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its 3rd MASTER STUDENT TO MASTER EMPLOYEE graduation ceremony, and 14 students received certificates from Superintendent Tom Hanlon, class instructor Dr. K.D. Nasir and community Pastor Hubert Nolon.

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

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Far away there in the sunshine  
are my highest aspirations. I  
may not reach them, but I can  
look up and see their beauty,  
believe in them, and try to  
follow where they lead." ~  
Louisa May Alcott*



Friday, April 17, 2009



The Student Hair Care Kick-off occurred this week for students at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. The facility recently revamped one of the classrooms at the school to accommodate a mini-salon, complete with a new floor, shampoo sinks, chairs, stand-alone hair dryers, and a waiting area. Licensed beauticians from Fantastic Sams Hair Salon provided hair care services ranging from relaxers and trimmings to shampoos and sets. The hours of operation will be every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (see photo, right).



The Spring Package Sale for offenders at the New Castle Correctional Facility resulted in \$5,400 in profit that will be used to buy gifts for the Toys for Tots program this coming December.

Plainfield Correctional Facility staff visited a Criminal Law class at the Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis to discuss with students the current punitive and rehabilitative theories practiced in corrections.

This weekend, Correctional Industrial Facility is hosting its fifth Kairos event. The event will include three days of carefully coordinated talks, meditations, worship, and music.

National Library Week is being celebrated at the Madison Correctional Facility all week. Offender librarians are planning special daily activities such as quizzes, scavenger hunts, and other puzzles and games designed for learning about the library's resources.

Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted the quarterly Pendleton Facilities Community Advisory Board Meeting this week.

The Praise Team at Plainfield Correctional Facility performed an Easter program for the offender population. The program was designed to be an educational experience for the audience, highlighting the individuals and events comprising the Easter tradition.

Camp Summit hosted a group of 20 Criminal Justice majors from St. Joseph College this week for a career day question and answer session and tour. This annual event was well received and may result in recruiting future DOC employees.



Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Community Advisory Board met this week, with guest speaker Dr. Jamie Wiles telling them about the new Special Needs Unit for offenders with mental health issues. Two local television stations covered the event (see photo, left).

The Indiana Women's Prison received a certificate from the Susan G. Komen Foundation for participating in the "Paint the Town Pink" event. The purpose of the event was to bring awareness to breast care and health.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex held a quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting at the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility to discuss current events at the facilities.

A college class from the University of Saint Francis located in Fort Wayne toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility.

The Indiana Women's Prison Community Outreach Department made 600 Easter baskets and stuffed animals. The items were delivered to School 14 and the Family Preservation Center.

Pendleton Correctional Facility donated four trellises made of oak to the Madison-Hancock Christian School in Pendleton. These pieces were made in the facility's PEN Products operation.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude."  
~Author Unknown*

*Friday, April 24, 2009*

Plainfield Correctional Facility underwent an ACA re-accreditation audit this week and received 100% on all mandatory standards and 98% on non-mandatory standards. Commissioner Buss was in attendance for the audit close-out and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of PCF staff.



Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS offenders made and presented 15 quilts to facility ERO staff. ERO will add the quilts, personalized with the WVCF and ERO logos, to their travel gear whenever called to assist other facilities. (See photo, left)

Students at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility were treated to the inspiring sounds of an Indianapolis-based Christian group, the Judah Band. The band put on a small concert and performed a number of uplifting songs.

Over 2,200 Putnamville Correctional Facility offenders attended a "Christmas Behind Bars" program facilitated by Lemuel Vega. Attendees listened to inspirational messages and received goodie bags.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently held its first Prison SMART Phase 2 weekend retreat. Prison SMART is an internationally recognized stress reduction and management course, which provides instruction on deep breathing and meditation exercises.

A graduation ceremony was conducted to recognize the most recent graduates of Pendleton Correctional Facility's Level One Inside Out Dad Program.

Mixed Up Mutts of LaPorte County, the dog rescue association that sponsors Westville Correctional Facility's "Prison Tails" program, hosted its annual dog walk recently. The walk raised \$3,500 for the facility. "Prison Tails" has rescued and trained over 400 abandoned dogs.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center recently held a submarine sandwich sale to raise money for the upcoming Correctional Employees' Week. \$273.50 was raised during the two-day sale, and 42 feet of sub was sold!

The Energy Assistance Program at Putnamville Correctional Facility had record breaking sales this season. Over 562 ricks of wood were sold from October 2008 through March 2009, which exceeded last year's sales. Offenders cut, split, deliver, and stack wood at the residences of low-income families who use the wood for heat.

The Parole Director and Indianapolis Parole District #3 staff participated in a joint Lever Pull Meeting with Marion County Probation to promote successful re-entry by changing conditions in neighborhoods with high crimes rates and facilitating an awareness and community support through an increase police presence for Marion County.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility and its residents assisted the Department's Victim Services Division for the upcoming Victim Rights Awareness Week. For the second year in a row, the residents stuffed envelopes in preparation for a mass mailing that will be done.

Classes from Earlham College and Ball State University toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's GROW Unit held a fundraiser for Sycamore Place, an emergency children's shelter. They raised over \$600 doing push ups and shooting 3-pointers.

Putnamville Correctional Facility recently sponsored its first annual "Youth Turkey Hunt" for employees and children.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently held a graduation ceremony for its third Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program. This collaborative effort allows IUPUI students the opportunity to study with residents at the facility.

Purdue Calumet criminal justice students were given a tour of the Indiana State Prison and spoke to an offender who answered questions about everyday life in a correctional facility.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"The world's favorite  
season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in  
May."  
- Edwin Way Teale*

*Friday, May 1, 2009*

60 key Department leaders recently gathered at the Correctional Training Institute to collaborate on the creation of 25 computer based training (CBT) modules that will explain elements and expectations of specific supervisory positions.

Over 300 high school students from Indianapolis Public Schools helped out the Samaritan's Feet operation at PEN Products Central Office by sorting shoes and preparing them for shipment overseas.

Representatives from the Indianapolis Parole office, staff from Central Office and Pendleton, and K-9 and SERT team members participated in a Career Day at the Center for Inquiry, an international baccalaureate school.

Miami Correctional Facility held its annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner, and 79 volunteers attended. The chicken dinner was catered by the Deedsville Methodist Church, and offenders sang and gave words of praise.

Director of Education John Nally was recently elected as the Council of Directors Representative to the National Executive Board for the Correctional Education Association.

Henryville Correctional participated in an emergency training exercise involving the dispersion of medication to individuals in case of an Anthrax attack. The Clark County Health Department and 9 surrounding counties contributed.

PEN Products Operation Manager Doug Evans completed training sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections to become certified as an Offender Workforce Development Specialist and as a Global Career Development Facilitator.

IWP had a Mother's Day Luncheon, sponsored by the United Methodist Church, for 40 offender mothers and 77 children.

Indianapolis Parole Supervisors and Agents, accompanied by officers from IMPD's North-East and South-West Districts, participated in 3 different parole sweeps in Marion County to target high crime rate areas and to follow up on parolees.

Plainfield Correctional welcomed 45 volunteers for a 4-day Kairos Prison Ministry; 42 offenders participated in the event.

New Castle Correctional Facility recently recognized and honored 30 religious volunteers. Music was provided by the offender choir and musicians, and dinner was served by offenders from the facility's Vocational Culinary Arts program.

The student team from Unit 9 won Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility's recent Kick-Ball Tournament.

Parole Agents from the Indianapolis Parole office spoke at the Workshop for Fatherhood at School 51 in Marion County.

Bill Lorton from Greencastle, IN instructed offenders during an intensive six-week Water Coloring Class held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Participants will have their artwork displayed at the Putnam County Museum in May.

Westville held its 2nd American Red Cross blood drive of 2009. 39 staff volunteered, donating 30 pints of blood.

The Indiana Women's Prison had 6 offenders and 11 outside students graduate from the Inside-Outside Prison Exchange Program, which is a 12-week long program between offenders and students from IUPUI.

17 students and their instructor from IU East – Richmond toured the New Castle Correctional Facility this week.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner, allowing facility staff to express their gratitude for the generosity exhibited by volunteers. All volunteers and Community Advisory Board members were invited to attend.

Branchville will host its 6<sup>th</sup> Kairos Prison Ministry this weekend, with 50 volunteers and 45 offenders participating.

Reporters from *The Indianapolis Star* visited the Wabash Valley CLIFF Unit to learn about the devastating impact of methamphetamine addiction. Offenders discussed how CLIFF is improving their lives and preparing them for re-entry.

The 136 members of the Christian Crossroads Choir conducted two performances at New Castle Correctional Facility.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held a Christmas Behind Bars program, and 1,128 offenders participated. 40 volunteers assisted in the efforts, as 10 separate religious services were held for the offender population.

PREF recently held a Popeye's sale and raised \$770.16 for the Volunteer Services Sub Recreation Fund.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Chance favors the  
prepared mind."  
~ Louis Pasteur*

*Friday, May 8, 2009*

State Senator Jim Arnold and State Representative Tom Dermody attended a staff assembly at the Indiana State Prison in honor of Correctional Employees' Week and spoke briefly to the staff in attendance. Representative Dermody received a lock award for his contributions to the field of corrections.

Several Security Threat Group (STG) Coordinators recently passed the ACA Certification Exam (CCS/STG). They were: Randy Litherland, Branchville; Tom Stinson, Westville; Vanessa Tolbert, IWP; Casie Klepinger, Miami; Toni Colter, Logansport Juvenile; Terry Williams, Henryville; Don Chamness, PREF; and Brian Patterson, New Castle.

Plainfield Correctional recently recognized Officer S. Manning as Employee of the Year, Mark Kindle as Supervisor of the Year, Mike Smith as the Most Dedicated Employee, and Cindy Stillwell as Rookie of the Year. The entire Maintenance Department and CMS each received PCF's Commitment to Excellence award.

This week, Camp Summit held many special events, including a staff appreciation cookout, where Steve Griffin and Erin Shreves were recognized as 2009 Employees of the Year. Many staff members were recognized for perfect attendance and years of service, including Michele Briggs who has served the IDOC for 25 years.

The education department of Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility administered 27 GED exams this past week.

Edinburgh Correctional kicked off Correctional Employees' Week with a picnic for staff on Sunday. 76 people, including employees and family members, participated in activities such as a train ride and a fishing derby for kids.

Pendleton Correctional had free doughnuts and coffee, held cookouts, gave away plants and copies of Discovery Channel Documentary DVD "Hard Time," and held a golf outing and a fishing competition for Correctional Employees' Week.

Interim Superintendent Latoya Lane held a Staff Assembly in the PREF chapel this week and presented awards to staff for Making a Difference and for Employee of the Quarter, as well as leading the group through 2 teambuilding exercises.

11 Pendleton Correctional offenders were recognized during a ceremony for completing the Inside Out Dad Program.

30 ISP employees completed a 5K walk along Lake Michigan for InShape Indiana and Correctional Employees' Week.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility recently graduated 9 students from the CLIFF unit.

Plainfield Correctional held a facility cookout this week, where Assistant Superintendent Craig Grage sat in a dunk tank.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility employees participated in several events for Correctional Employees' Week, including a 3 mile walk, golf scramble, health and nutrition seminar, pizza party, and a breakfast prepared by facility executive staff.

KFC food was passed out to eligible offenders at Pendleton Correctional for a PLUS Unit fundraiser.

Plainfield Re-Entry held a staff 3 on 3 basketball tournament as part of Correctional Employees' Week.

For Correctional Employees' Week, CIF Superintendent Hanlon served breakfast, employees received ice cream, cookouts were held, and there was a Taste of CIF competition. There were also miniature golf and basketball shooting contests, and some unlucky employees were "arrested" and placed in the "CIF Slammer."

Reception-Diagnostic Center staff recently donated 521 canned food items to Gleaners Food Bank in Indianapolis.

Henryville Correctional's Employee Appreciation week included a Bar-B-Que, employee awards, and an employee chili cook-off. Superintendent Chapman was also surprised when he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the District Nine Health Departments for Henryville's assistance in a health-related POD exercise.

Indianapolis Juvenile celebrated Correctional Employees' Week. The highlight of the festivities was the employee cook-out, and an awards ceremony followed, where numerous staff received Cash Spot bonuses and awards for their service.

Commissioner Buss addressed staff at a ceremony for Correctional Employees' Week at Putnamville Correctional. Staff enjoyed various activities including cookouts, a motorcycle run, and Specialty Team demonstrations this week.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Make up your mind to act  
decidedly and take the  
consequences. No good is  
ever done in this world by  
hesitation." ~ Thomas Henry*

*Friday, May 15, 2009*

This week, Johnson Controls presented Commissioner Buss with the BELL (Building Efficiency, Local Leadership) award at Putnamville Correctional Facility for the IDOC's commitment to increasing energy efficiency.

Indianapolis Parole Supervisors and Agents participated in a 2 day ex-offender resource fair in collaboration with the Indianapolis Mayor's Office, Probation, and Re-entry Court staff. 422 parolees total visited the fair, where they learned about resources available and prepared to meet employers. Former Colts Coach Tony Dungy spoke at the fair.

As a community service project, the culinary arts department at Pendleton Juvenile is cutting 45 pound blocks of cheese into 16 pieces for the Second Harvest Food Bank in Muncie. The students are going to cut up 450 blocks of cheese in all.

Commissioner Buss presented Dolores Montgomery with the Governor's Distinguished Hoosier Award for her retirement after 30 years of service with the Department of Correction. She has served her entire career at the Indiana State Prison.

Westville Correctional recognized Correctional Employees' Week with a Flag Raising Ceremony. Superintendent Wilson spoke to a group of over 100 correctional staff who gathered for the event and expressed his gratitude for their dedication.

Volunteers from the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-entry Center recently assisted Gleaners Food Bank volunteers at multiple postal sites for the 17th annual NALC National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger."

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation at Putnamville Correctional Facility recently approved its 3<sup>rd</sup> adoption. Speedo Cat was adopted by a student of St. Mary of the Woods College. 29 thoroughbreds are currently in the program.

Employee of the Year honorees at Wabash Valley Correctional include: Officer Jaime Wilson (Rookie); Robbie Marshall STG, Internal Affairs (Employee); Roxanna Henderson (Officer) and Sgt. Jason Irvine (Supervisor).

For Correctional Employees' Week, Central Office staff enjoyed a day of food and games at Victory Field in Indianapolis.

This week, South Bend Juvenile hosted an educational open house. The students were able to show their parents their classrooms, meet their teachers, and receive their report cards for the last grading period.

New Castle Correctional celebrated Correctional Employees' Week by having a staff recall and a pitch-in luncheon.

Miami Correctional named its Employees of the Year during its Correctional Employees' Week Recall Meeting. They are Robin Burton, Secretary, as Employee of the Year; Gene Cooper and Jim Dibble, Maintenance Supervisors, as co-Supervisors of the Year; and Officer Joseph Townsend as Correctional Officer of the Year.

21 students from Camp Summit designed ceramic tiles to be used in a mosaic that will be on permanent display at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City. The mosaic's theme is "Literacy in our Community."

Westville Correctional staff participated with area businesses in the LaPorte County YMCA Corporate Challenge.

Sgt. Chris Effner, a member of a Terre Haute area fugitive apprehension unit, is working with the Terre Haute Parole Office to apprehend delinquent offenders by having WTHI-TV profile 5 of the parole office's most wanted offenders.

Pendleton Juvenile held a Fresh Favorites Café for 72 eligible offenders. They had their choice of 2 track packs and additional sides. This was a great success for the offenders in the IN2WORK program to get hands-on experience.

CIF Superintendent Tom Hanlon recently presented \$107 to officers for the Special Olympics of Indiana.

Indianapolis Juvenile hosted a student talent show, where students performed music from a variety of genres. IJCF judges critiqued each act and offered motivational comments for each performer. All student performers were winners.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility recently donated 60 pints of milk to Lords Locker in Trafalgar, IN.

The law library at the Indiana State Prison was recently rededicated as the Dale Monroe Memorial Law Library.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional celebrated Correctional Employees' Week by having 2 golf scrambles, a motorcycle run, carnival style games, pizza party, and a cookout. Employee recognition and service awards were also given.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"It is impossible to win the race unless you venture to run, impossible to win the victory unless you dare to battle." ~ Richard M. DeVos*

*Friday, May 22, 2009*

Offenders in the Organic Gardening Program at the Indiana State Prison prepared 42 flats and planted over 2,000 donated seeds to help the International Friendship Gardens get ready for their main fundraiser of the year, "The Plant Sale."

Oakland City University held graduation ceremonies at New Castle Correctional Facility with 2 offenders receiving Bachelor's Degrees and 40 offenders receiving Associate's Degrees.

Kairos #10 was recently held at the Rockville Correctional Facility with all 42 participants completing the program. The Kairos team was comprised of 47 volunteers, supported by 13 outside kitchen helpers. The Sunday closing ceremony was also attended by an additional 80 members of the outside community.

The River City Rollers, a local wheelchair basketball team, played against students and staff at South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility. The Rollers won, but not by much. During the breaks, each player for the Rollers told the story of how he ended up in the wheelchair.

PEN Products has updated its website to the new format, and it went live this week. Take a look at the PEN Products website at [www.penproducts.com](http://www.penproducts.com).

Branchville Correctional Facility Superintendent Gil Peters and other BTC staff have been traveling to various state facilities to share ideas developed with local judges on problem solving courts. These problem solving courts are sentencing individuals to prison mandating they complete certain re-entry programs before coming back for a modification hearing. If the modification is granted, the offender will be sent to the court's drug or re-entry program.

40 volunteers from the local Prison Fellowship organization spent the weekend at the Westville Correctional Facility providing evangelistic programs and concerts. The organization presented all offenders with an elephant ear and a beverage. Over 3,000 elephant ears were prepared and served to the offender population.

A pilot program called Reach One Teach One had its first graduation at the Indiana State Prison. Reach One Teach One is a curriculum designed to train offenders to be peer educators. Topics include HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and tuberculosis (TB), as well as public speaking skills and cultural and self awareness. St. Joseph County Health Department provided the training.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently celebrated Christmas Behind Bars. Every offender had a chance to hear a Christmas program and receive a Christmas present. This program was conceived by Lemuel Vega.

Three IDOC staff attended a 3-day workshop in Maryland for Health and Human Services/Office of Family Assistance grantees. IDOC's Fatherhood and Marriage Education programs are funded by HHS/OFA. IDOC was consistently recognized by training staff as leading the country in providing services to incarcerated fathers.

The Kairos Prison Ministry Organization concluded a 4-day program at the Pendleton Correctional Facility that involved participation by 42 general population offenders.

Two staff members from the Indiana State Prison recently gave a lecture on prison life and gangs to approximately 50 people at the American Legion in North Judson, IN. The speakers were also asked to give their lecture to area educators.

New Castle Correctional Facility offenders tithed \$336.86 to be donated to the Gyson family of New Castle. The father and infant son were severely burned in a garage fire several weeks ago and are still recovering in the Wishard Burn Unit.

Students from Butler University in Indianapolis toured Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility this week. The Criminal Justice students asked staff questions concerning the daily operations and procedures for running a juvenile facility and about student programming and re-entry.

Grace College held a graduation at the Indiana State Prison. 12 students received Associate's Degrees and 14 received Bachelor's Degrees. 7 students were recognized for academic achievements and placed on the Dean's List.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you'll make a difference." ~ Arie Pencovici*

*Friday, May 29, 2009*

Westville Correctional Facility celebrated the largest college graduation in its history this week and recognized 110 offender graduates who earned certificates, Associate's, or Bachelor's degrees from the onsite college program. Supt. William Wilson applauded the 24-year relationship between the facility and Purdue North Central.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicle's "BMV2YOU" mobile unit visited Putnamville Correctional Facility this week and issued 238 state ID cards to offenders over a 2 day period. The BMV unit had never made more than 100 cards in any single day.

Indiana Women's Prison raised \$2,115 for the Indianapolis affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The foundation provided a breast health seminar, and 270 offenders participated in a 5K walk/run and picnic.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility held an employment training class provided by Hillcroft Services. The class is designed to assist residents by preparing them to re-enter the workforce upon their release into the community.

As a tribute to Supt. Dawn Buss, the students at South Bend Juvenile put on a talent show. Groups of students wrote songs, drew pictures, and made congratulatory posters, and the Teen Leadership Training group choreographed a dance routine in her honor. Additionally, she was presented with an "honorary degree" from the Council Oak Jr.-Sr. High School as a token of appreciation for everything she has done at South Bend Juvenile.

The I.M.P.A.C.T. Consulting Group (Individuals Motivating Purpose and Career Transformation) recently facilitated a workshop for the offender population at Henryville Correctional Facility. The workshop focused on the movie *The Secret*, and the offenders discussed the impact of the movie and how to apply its message in their everyday lives.

Wabash Valley staff donated over 30 bags of clothing and shoes, while PLUS participants produced 150 homemade quilts, for shipment to Indianapolis for part of the IDOC's Indiana Disabled Veterans Fund Drive.

This week, Camp Summit's Education Program hosted an open house for families of students. 19 families took advantage of this opportunity to meet teachers, get progress reports, and learn about education at Camp Summit.

The bio-mass boiler at Putnamville Correctional Facility was featured on WTHI-TV's "Green Living" series this week. Physical Plant Director Michael Callahan discussed the process, cost savings, and offender involvement of the boiler. [http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/news\\_wthi\\_putnamville\\_correctional\\_facility\\_saves\\_money\\_200905271730](http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/news_wthi_putnamville_correctional_facility_saves_money_200905271730).

Indiana State Prison's Gavel Club "Seriously Speaking" is holding their 1-year anniversary and membership drive. Currently, 17 men have complete 5 of the mandated Toastmaster lessons and will mentor new members in speaking.

The offender American Legion at Pendleton Correctional conducted a Memorial Day Ceremony to honor veterans.

Henryville Correctional Facility sponsored the Academic Excellence Award for Ivy Tech Community College of Southern Indiana. The award program provides recognition for academic accomplishment to the graduating students of Ivy Tech.

17 offenders from Pendleton Juvenile participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester All Star Party. These students maintained a 4.0 behavior average in school for a month and were treated to *Star Wars 2: Attack of the Clones*, popcorn, and posters.

Indiana Women's Prison celebrated its 2009 Oakland City University college graduation. OCU graduated 23 students, 13 with Associate's degrees and 10 with Bachelor's degrees. 11 students graduated with honors.

Freedom 101 recently took place at Henryville Correctional Facility. Throughout the 4 day program, offenders were challenged to look deeply at themselves and make the right choices in life, and they received certificates of completion.

Purdue North Central held commencement exercises at Indiana State Prison this week, with Chancellor Dworkin presiding. 7 men earned their Associate's degree, and one graduate earned his certificate in Organization/Supervision.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize presented \$250 to the Blue River Girls Softball Organization and \$250 to the Daleville High School PTO. The donations were made possible through PLUS program fundraisers.

5 offenders completed the Horticulture/Landscape Management program at Indiana Women's Prison.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt*

*Friday, June 5, 2009*

At Miami's Community Advisory Board meeting, Branchville Correctional Facility Superintendent Gil Peters discussed the Purposeful Incarceration initiative, which involves working with courts to sentence offenders directly into a therapeutic community. Also, Westville's Therapeutic Community received its first sentencing referral from a Porter County judge this week. Superintendent Wilson and staff have been meeting with judges and prosecutors to introduce the Purposeful Incarceration initiative.

In May, Miami Correctional held a record 8 Straight Talk programs, reaching more than 630 students. The program utilizes Level 1 and Level 2 offenders to talk to youth about prison, peer pressure, parental respect, and drug abuse.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff and family members recently participated in the Parke County Relay for Life. Fundraising efforts included a book sale and providing a gift basket for the relay's silent auction.

2 students from Camp Summit participated in formal GED Graduation Ceremonies with the Michigan City Area Schools.

Correctional Industrial Facility held a pizza fundraiser this week. The sale generated approximately \$1,463, with \$200 going to the Wee Ones Nursery at the Women's Prison and \$300 going to the Salvation Army in Muncie, IN.

Henryville Correctional Facility recently hosted the Unchained Gang, a Christian group of ministering motorcycle riders.

Pendleton Juvenile is holding a PNJCF Golf Academy with PGA Professional Jim Phillips. He will be coming one day a week for this 8-week program starting June 10. 16 offenders will be able to participate in the program.

New Castle Correctional Facility staff have raised \$3,600 and are participating in the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Miami's PLUS Unit hosted its 3rd mini Relay for Life, and 400 offenders raised \$1,400 for the American Cancer Society.

New Castle staff played in the Muncie Mission's golf tournament to raise money for the Mission's re-entry programs.

Offenders from Indiana State Prison's Minimum Security Unit assisted with placing a state historical marker in front of the house where Pulitzer Prize winner Edwin Way Teale lived. Teales was a writer, photographer, and naturalist.

15 players from the Athletes in Action sports ministry played basketball with Pendleton Correctional's offender team.

This week, the Correctional Industrial Facility held its "Fifth Sundays Chaplain's Choice" and welcomed Dave Brewer, a printing trades teacher at Plainfield Correctional Facility. Dave held a special workshop and worship.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility will hold its first Drum Circle for both staff and residents. Drum Circles are used as a creative way to release and express emotions positively and promote unity.

Ball State University recently held a graduation at the Indiana State Prison. 21 offenders received Bachelor's degrees, 33 received Associate's degrees, and 29 students made the Dean's List.

28 bicycles were reconditioned in Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears operation, and 12 wheelchairs were restored in the Wheels for the World program during May. Bikes were recently donated to the Muncie Freewill Baptist Church Vacation Bible School Program, organizations that provide services to veterans, and a domestic violence shelter.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently completed its first relationship enhancement workshop. All CIF offenders requesting to be married are required to complete this course. 8 couples participated in the final session.

Staff of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility participated in a kickball game with residents of the facility, and the game was officiated by recreation department clerks.

Mark Newkirk from the Indiana State Prison successfully completed the year-long Leadership LaPorte County program.

A Pendleton Correctional work crew moved 60 rooms of furniture at the Indiana Deaf School for a remodeling project.

The NW Regional Community Advisory Board serving Westville Correctional Facility, Indiana State Prison, and Camp Summit Boot Camp recently met on the beach of Lake Michigan's Washington Park.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." ~ Vince Lombardi*

Friday, June 12, 2009

Madison Correctional Facility's GRIP Unit used more than 1,200 yards of red, white, and blue material to make bunting and banners for the City of Madison's Bicentennial Celebration. The banners replicate the centennial banners from 1909.

Members of the Indiana Chapter of NABCJ and IDOC staff recently participated in the first "Partner to Better Our Community" event. The collaboration provided support to the Seyoum Family, who became proud recipients of a Habitat for Humanity House in March. The labor included finishing touches with the landscape and painting.

Putnamville Correctional Facility honored 170 education graduates during 2 ceremonies, including 53 college graduates (4 with honors), 11 MSME graduates, 88 Vocational Training graduates, 60 GED graduates, and 18 dual graduates (MSME/Vocational Training). Deputy Commissioner of Re-Entry Randy Koester was the keynote speaker.

Offenders assigned to the Pendleton Correctional Facility Auto Body Vocational Training Program recently painted and performed body work on a fire truck for the Dick Johnson Township Fire Department in rural Clay County.

Recently, the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility received donations from Duke Energy, including 20 suitcases and 5 television sets with VHS and DVD players, as part of a drive to assist the facility with its re-entry mission.

Rockville Correctional Facility hosted its annual Hope Center picnic. Participants in the parenting program had assistance from the Culinary Art students, who prepared the food for 51 children and their mothers. The children and mothers spent the afternoon at the center eating, playing games, and enjoying spending time together.

Pendleton Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony to honor the most recent offender graduates of the on-site Ball State University and Grace College programs.

Karen Ann Smith, MS, CADAC II, Substance Abuse Counselor III and Family Community Re-Entry Specialist for Branchville Correctional Facility, was recently featured in Cambridge Publishing's Top 101 Industry Experts book. The Top Industry Experts reveals the objectives and triumphs prominent Cambridge members have achieved to gain success.

The Indiana Blood Center Bloodmobile visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility, and staff donated 12 units of blood.

Putnamville Compost Recycling Supervisor Robert Dixon, Horticulture Supervisor Bill Lee, and one offender from each of their lines participated in a community project in Greencastle, IN. Offenders planted flowers for residents of the Memory Care Unit at the Waters Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

At Westville's quarterly staff assembly, Superintendent William Wilson recognized the daunting tasks of correctional staff during these tough economic times and thanked the WCC staff for their remarkable work and diligent efforts.

Pendleton Correctional Facility staff recently donated \$112 in connection with money raised by IDOC SERT members for the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a ceremony for the 56 offenders graduates of the Inside Out Dads Program.

The Indiana State Prison library received a 2008 LSTA Literacy Grant from Governor Daniels. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row the library was awarded a grant. The grant will be used to purchase books, get multiple copies of books, increase the book clubs, and update the language lab for non-English speaking offenders.

The Indiana Women's Prison is hosting Kairos this weekend, with 30 offenders participating.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's "Shifting Gears" Program donated 11 reconditioned bicycles to a veteran's organization. The bikes will be used by veterans for transportation.

Director of Religious Services Dr. Stephen Hall addressed 50 PLUS graduates during a ceremony held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, June 19, 2009

*"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." ~ John Lubbock*

An American Correctional Association audit team recommended Wabash Valley Correctional Facility for re-accreditation and gave the facility an impressive 98.9% score. The audit team praised the facility for its knowledgeable and hospitable staff, commitment to public safety, advanced security, and ultra-clean physical plant.

Pendleton Juvenile and Camp Summit Boot Camp were successful in their bid to secure National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grants. The grants will be used to purchase equipment to improve their food service program and to benefit student training in the IN2Work program.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently assisted the Plainfield Optimist Club by cleaning youth football equipment for the upcoming season. Residents of the facility assisted with this project as a way to give back to the community and support the local youth recreation program.

Several members of NABCJ and their families participated in the 5k Homeless Walk held at Veterans Memorial for Homeward Bound Central Indiana. In addition to the walk, the members collectively managed to raise \$280 for the Midtown Town Mental Health Agency and Second Helpings as their contribution to homeless service providers.

Ten staff from the New Castle Correctional Facility cooked and served breakfast for 150 youth attending the Henry County Sheriff's Summer Camp this week.

WRTV Reporter Sarah Cornell visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to do a story on the facility's Reality Check program. The program provides an opportunity for at-risk youth to hear offenders communicate the factors and circumstances that led to their incarceration with the hope of deterring young people from a life of crime. Indiana State Prison and Miami Correctional Facility have similar programs.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held an academic graduation ceremony for 130 offenders. Offenders were recognized for completing ESL, GED studies, vocational classes, Associate's Degrees, and Bachelor's Degrees. Families were able to attend the ceremony to see their loved ones gain recognition for their accomplishments.

Indiana State Prison hosted two family day celebrations this week. One family day was for the Inside/Out Dad program in celebration of the class' graduation and to help foster positive family ties. The Native American Religious Community also held a family day.

The Indianapolis Parole Office had two teams of agents who participated in sweeps resulting in two paroled offenders being arrested for parole violations and new criminal charges and one offender, with a nominal amount of marijuana, receiving consideration of no action being taken, based on the nearness of his maximum release date.

A Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Ten offenders and their spouse or significant other participated in the weekend event.

The Pendleton AMVETS organization recently donated nine bicycles to the Pendleton Correctional Facility Shifting Gears operation for restoration. Also this week, two reconditioned bikes were donated to the Helping Homeless Veterans and Families organization.

Miami Correctional Facility recently hosted two graduation ceremonies for more than 269 offenders who completed various educational programs. More than 170 offenders earned college degrees, with the rest earning certificates of completion and licenses in vocational and GED programs.

Correctional Officer Casey Shook from New Castle Correctional Facility was temporarily assigned to the Sheriff's Department this week (compliments of GEO) to assist as a camp counselor for 150 juveniles attending the Sheriff's Summer Camp. The program provides direction and assistance to troubled youth in the community.

A golf driving range has been created at the Pendleton Correctional Facility for use by facility staff, contractual employees, and their dependents during off-duty hours.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



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From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"It is not by muscle, speed, or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character, and judgment." ~ Marcus Tullius Cicero*

*Friday, June 26, 2009*

30 law students, law clerks, attorneys, and staff from the Attorney General's office toured the Putnamville Correctional Facility and learned about the offender programs, housing and segregation units, and industry operations.

Two Pendleton Juvenile students participated in the Ford Driving Skills for Life program at O'Reilly Raceway in Indianapolis. The juveniles participated in several driving courses simulating various dangerous driving situations.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted a meeting, with the Culinary Arts program serving lunch, for Parole District #7 agents and supervisors and facility Unit Team staff. Director of Parole Services Kenneth Whipker also attended.

Correctional Industrial Facility held its second CIF Department Head Retreat at Mounds State Park in Anderson, IN. Groups and guest speakers shared ideas and presented on improving communications and greening the facility.

Plainfield Correctional's PLUS Unit raised \$2,205, part of which will be donated to the Hendricks Co. Humane Society.

Mike Lloyd, Director of Transition Facilities and Community-based Programs, addressed 125 United Methodist Church members about how re-entry reduces the crime rate and encouraged listeners to consider volunteering or mentoring.

Indiana State Prison's Education Department Bridge Program is completing its summer session. The program is a staff-monitored, offender-tutored program that prepares incoming freshman for college, and 70 students are enrolled.

Camp Summit had 28 students complete Napoleon Hill's Keys to Success, which is a values-based curriculum that makes the connection between positive/pro-social characteristics and success.

Friends Fellowship prison ministry group with the Calvary Temple Church in Indianapolis held a one-day religious seminar titled "Sitting at the Feet of Jesus" at the Indiana Women's Prison, and 61 offenders participated.

Pendleton Juvenile recently held its first Honors PE party to recognize students who have consistently shown a good effort. The facility also recognized students who won the PNJCF games competition with pizza, chips, and a movie.

Correctional Industrial Facility just received 59 felines from the Anderson Animal Shelter for its new 9-Lives program. A WTHR story on the program can be seen here: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=10591589>.

The first Sister-to-Sister Teen Summit kicked off this week at the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility with Senator Jean Breaux as the keynote speaker. A panel including Judge Danielle Gregory, Judge Tanya Walton-Pratt, and representatives from the Indianapolis Police Department's G.R.E.A.T also spoke to students.

The *Pendleton-Lapel Times/Post* newspaper recognized the Pendleton Correctional Facility for receiving a recommendation for ACA re-accreditation. Pendleton Correctional Facility Farm Manager Mark Miller was also featured for recognition he received for outstanding performance with the production and marketing of soybeans last year.

Cinde Troutman, who works in the Indiana State Prison's Commissary Department, has accepted another year as the VFW Post 2536 Commander in Michigan City, IN and has also been named the VFW 3<sup>rd</sup> District Jr. Vice Commander.

Correctional Industrial Facility, in partnership with Ball State University, held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual graduation ceremony. 66 men received Associate's Degrees, and 43 men received Bachelor's of General Studies Degrees.

The staff at Westville Correctional Facility gathered for a panoramic photo, sponsored by the facility's Employee's Activity Planning Committee. The EPAC hosts numerous activities for the employees and the community.

Pendleton Correctional Facility held a 3-day Christian revival with many ministers and praise teams from central Indiana.

Mangofish, a young group of male Christian musicians, is currently touring Indiana, and they agreed to perform at Correctional Industrial Facility. The group will perform Christian music for the inmates and give personal testimony.

WTHR-TV reporter Anne-Marie Tiernan visited the ICAN Training Team at the Indiana Women's Prison this week.

Continue to follow the IDOC and Commissioner Buss on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/IDOC\\_Comm\\_Buss!](http://twitter.com/IDOC_Comm_Buss!)

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Thursday, July 2, 2009



*"In the truest sense,  
freedom cannot be  
bestowed; it must be  
achieved." ~ Franklin  
D. Roosevelt*

Miami Correctional Facility hosted its first Family Fun Day with a dunk tank, squirt guns, a cookout, DJ, and karaoke. The families were also treated to a K-9 and E-Squad demonstration. More than 300 people attended the event.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS unit held a mini Relay for Life event and raised \$460 in donations for the American Cancer Society. The donations were made by staff and students of the facility.

America in Bloom judges recently visited New Castle Correctional Facility, at the request of New Castle Mayor James Small, to view the facility's landscaping and tour the horticulture program, and they were impressed with the programs.

At the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Spring INSOMM Program Training Conference, Robert Hays of the Evansville Parole Office was recognized as the INSOMM Parole Agent of the Year. Hays has been involved with the program since its inception.

Pendleton Correctional Facility held a ceremony for 35 offenders receiving their GED certificates. Marion County Drug Treatment and Re-Entry Court Judge Jose D. Salinas spoke at the event.

Correctional Industrial Facility raised over \$300 selling cheeseburgers & brats. All proceeds are going to The Villages.

Seven members from the South Bend Kiwanis Club brought two horses out to South Bend Juvenile. 21 higher level students enjoyed learning about horses and took turns riding, with the assistance of the Kiwanis Club volunteers.

The Steve Cornelison Obstacle Course was dedicated at the Indiana State Prison this week. Family members attended the dedication, and staff had a competition between emergency squads. The trophy for the fastest team went to SERT.

Logansport Juvenile held a PLUS graduation ceremony, and 11 students earned certificates for completing the program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears program donated 27 reconditioned bicycles to the Partners in Housing organization this week. This organization provides the homeless with safe, affordable housing and access to services.

Approximately 80 volunteers recently presented the Bill Glass Weekend of Champions at Miami Correctional Facility. Entertainment included the Christian music group Mangofish and professional juggler Bob Whitcomb.

At New Castle Correctional Facility, Ball State University honored 39 offenders with Associate's Degrees, and 13 offenders earned Bachelor's Degrees. Also, vocational certificates were awarded to 80 offenders in various trades.

Lee W. Hoard and M. Duane Alsip of the Program Review Division recently completed the National Institute of Correction's Jail Staffing Analysis Training in Columbus, Ohio.

The Westville Employee Planning Activity Committee hosted a successful staff outing for approximately 115 staff and their families to see a Chicago Cubs game. The EPAC rented chauffeured buses for the trip to Wrigley Field.

Correctional Industrial Facility donated 404,599 pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House located at the Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis in response to Superintendent Tom Hanlon's challenge to collect many tabs.

Indiana State Prison held a family day at the facility this week. Approximately 400 staff and family members enjoyed a meal, elephant ears, children's games, buggy rides, and special demonstration by the facility's emergency teams.

Logansport Juvenile held a GED graduation ceremony for 30 students, and two graduated with honors.

PEN Products held its first all-day training workshop, based on the National Institute of Correction's Offender Workforce Development Training program, for 20 Miami Correctional Facility offenders.

Correctional Industrial Facility's Inside/Out Dad Program hosted its second annual Father's Picnic this week. 64 fathers and 77 children participated, and 25 volunteers and numerous facility staff were involved in serving food.

Westville's Employee Activity Planning Committee hosted a Family Day Open House at the facility. The day was filled with a picnic lunch, tours, and E-Squad and K-9 demonstrations. Over 200 friends and family members attended.

Visit the new and improved Commissioner's Blog! Go to [http://www.doc-apps.in.gov/doc\\_blog](http://www.doc-apps.in.gov/doc_blog) to register and log on.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Continuity gives us roots;  
change gives us branches,  
letting us stretch and grow  
and reach new heights."  
~Pauline R. Kezer*

Friday, July 10, 2009

Commissioner Buss and Executive Staff travelled around the state this week to announce Facility Forward. Superintendents and Parole Supervisors also met with Executive Staff at the Governor's Mansion to discuss the initiative.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility passed an ACA Review with 100% compliance on mandatory standards and 98.5% compliance on non-mandatory standards. The staff and offender population continue to do an excellent job maintaining the facility in compliance with ACA standards.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility treated students to a Freedom Concert recently. Mangofish, a Christian music group, presented a variety of musical offerings to a standing room only crowd in the chapel.

Indiana Women's Prison recently assisted the Camp Atterbury library that was destroyed by a tornado last summer. IWP donated approximately 400 books in honor of the IDOC employees who have been deployed to military duty.

New Castle Correctional held a ceremony for 46 offenders who completed Literacy and 20 offenders who earned GEDs.

Westville Correctional Facility's PLUS program recognized the dedicated service of volunteer Edwin Vance at its recent graduation. To honor his commitment, the unit dedicated the Edwin William Vance Library. Mr. Vance has donated over 1,000 books to the PLUS library.

The Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) program from the Correctional Industrial Facility is donating \$500 to the Pendleton Fire Department for the purchase of Fire Prevention Material for kids.

17 IDOC staff members from various facilities within the Region 1 Division of Finance and Performance attended a Procurement Training with the Indiana Department of Administration at Miami Correctional Facility this week.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility recently held a graduation ceremony for the Ivy Tech Manufacturing Readiness Class. 13 residents were recognized for the completion of the program.

Minimum Security Offenders from the Indiana State Prison began working at the LaPorte INDOT station this week as an ongoing assistance crew. The crew is supervised by PEN Products staff.

*Pendleton-Lapel Times/Post* reporters visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility twice this week to work on a series of articles about the facility that will focus on the facility's history, its current mission, and the facility's community impact.

The Indiana Women's Prison Playback Group recently performed for a group of staff members from the Family Services Support Program. The staff from the Family Services Support Program would enjoy working with IWP staff in the future to possibly have the Playback Group perform for the juveniles they work with.

The Shifting Gears bicycle refurbishing operation at the Pendleton Correctional Facility donated 10 bikes this week to the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center. A bike was also donated this week to the John P. Craine House, which is an alternative sentencing program dedicated to serving non-violent females with pre-school age children.

Correctional Industrial Facility's PLUS program is donating \$500 to the Alternative Incorporated of Madison County, which is a residential facility serving women and their dependent children who are victims of family violence and/or homelessness.

The Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility will hold a Volunteer Appreciation Day this weekend. The event will include food and fun games, such as ring toss, paper airplane flying, a corn hole tournament, and others.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted a tour of its CLIFF and PLUS units for 17 members of the Indiana Coalition of Court Alcohol and Drug Services recently. The visitors came from Greene, Shelby, Nobel, Hamilton, Cass, Johnson, Elkhart, Marshall, Monroe, Howard and Miami counties.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a graduation ceremony this week to recognize 19 offenders assigned to the Minimum Security Housing Unit (OSD) who earned a certificate in Vocational Horticulture. 9 OSD offenders were also recognized for completing their GED. Indianapolis Metropolitan High School #401 Principal Clete Ladd spoke.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Progress lies not in  
enhancing what is, but  
in advancing toward  
what will be." ~ Kahlil  
Gibran*



Friday, July 17, 2009



The Christian Motorcycle Association recently visited South Bend Juvenile. Fifteen volunteers came in the morning for inspirational messages and music and returned in the afternoon, bringing 10 motorcycles into the large outdoor recreation area. Students looked at the bikes for an hour, asked questions, and listened to music with the volunteers.

Agents and supervisors from the Indianapolis Parole Office (PD#3) participated in a multi-jurisdictional sweep with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Probation Department, and Community Corrections in an effort to reduce the level of violent crime, provide valuable intelligence relating to criminal activities, and validate compliance with regard to parole rules and expectations.

At a Plainfield Correctional Facility staff assembly, Major Bill Hyatte and Superintendent Wendy Knight each took a pie in the face as part of a fundraising effort for the Activity Committee. Their good spirit raised approximately \$600!

Rockville Correctional Facility offenders contributed \$1,374.35 to the American Cancer Society's Parke County Relay for Life. The funds were raised through the efforts of the Recreation Department staff who facilitated ice cream and Krispy Kreme donut sale fundraisers.

Six students from Camp Summit performed community service at the LaPorte American Red Cross blood collection center. The students assisted in setup and tear down before and after the blood collection.

Miami Correctional Facility Internal Affairs employees Lorna Harbaugh and Chris Ramberger are in training to become Correctional Police Officers, a distinction which allows them to make arrests, conduct searches and seizures of a person or property, carry a firearm, and exercise other police powers with respect to the enforcement of Indiana laws.

This week, the IDOC Softball Team beat the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 12-7 during their first game of the summer league.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility celebrated graduates of the final PLUS program this week. Six students were honored for completing the 16-week program. Dr. Stephen Hall served as the keynote speaker.

Officials from the Marion County Community Corrections program toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week.

Staff at the Westville Correctional Facility hosted a successful and unprecedented American Red Cross Blood Drive. In just 6 hours, the staff collectively donated 84 units of blood. Superintendent Wilson praised the staff's effort to come together for such a worthy cause.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held its 1<sup>st</sup> "Best in the Business" acknowledgement ceremony this week. The four program managers picked two staff from the facility who displayed best practices on a daily basis. Also, five student offenders from each unit were nominated by the program managers for "setting the best behavior example" for all other students in the units. The Chaplain and his student band performed a song to start the ceremony.

Seventeen IDOC staff members from various facilities within the Region 1 Division of Finance and Performance attended a Procurement Training with the Indiana Department of Administration at Miami Correctional Facility this week.

The Rockville Correctional Facility CLIFF program recently held its graduation. Terri Edwards, a business woman celebrating nineteen years of sobriety, and Mick Schoenrad, IDOC Director of Substance Abuse, spoke at the event.

Pendleton Correctional Facility was contacted by Towers Productions this week for the purpose of making plans to film a second documentary at the facility to be aired on the Discovery Channel.

Camp Summit held an open house for Parole and Probation staff to enhance cooperation and communication, while improving community services and transition of students who will be released back to community supervision. Eight probation officers and two parole agents attended. The attendees expressed their appreciation to be allowed to visit the facility and talk with staff about programming that is available to the students.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"We make a living by  
what we get. We make a  
life by what we give." ~  
Sir Winston Churchill*

*Friday, July 24, 2009*

Westville Correctional Facility and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles supplied approximately 227 offenders with state identification cards during the BMV's two-day visit. The effort helps offenders secure identification for re-entry.

Commissioner Buss and Executive Staff visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week for a meeting and tour.

Pendleton Juvenile's C complex held a "Day with the Sergeant" party this week. Nine offenders, who have demonstrated positive behavior through all aspects of their programming for the past month, were treated to pizza, sodas, and games.

Eighteen selected staff members from New Castle Correctional Facility just completed a six week pre-supervisory class entitled "CLIMB" (Continuous Learning Inspires My Best). Session 2 started this week with 20 participants.

Plainfield Correctional donated 45.2 lbs. of produce from its vegetable garden to the St. Mark's Food Bank in Plainfield.

Four students from South Bend Juvenile performed community service last weekend at the annual Enshrinement Festival at the College Football Hall of Fame. They assisted with the parade and then enjoyed games and entertainment.

17 Miami Correctional Facility staff and family members gathered at the Grissom Air Museum to clean the F-14 Tomcat. The plane is part of the museum's outdoor exhibit, and the facility has committed to clean it at least two times a year.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility had 12 staff members participate in Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), a two-day course that helps individuals recognize risk and learn how to intervene with suicidal individuals.

Indiana Women's Prison will hold its 2009 Earth, Wind, and Fire Summer Camp this weekend. The number of participants expected to attend this event will be 59 offenders and 113 children.

Miami Correctional Facility recently hosted a PREP weekend, and 15 couples attended. Staff from MCF, Central Office, CIF, and a volunteer from Putnamville worked together to make the weekend a big success.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS program made its first donation of the year from its organic gardens. So far this year, the program has donated over 2,000 lbs of fresh produce to local area food banks and elderly/low income housing units. With the continued good weather, the program hopes to greatly exceed last year's total of 5,000 lbs.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted a Community Advisory Board this week. Culinary Arts students prepared and served lunch to the approximately 14 staff and 9 board members who attended.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility PLUS program held a fundraiser and donated \$1,100 to the Hendricks County Humane Society. The donation will be used to provide assistance to individuals fostering rescued animals in the area.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility had 6 students help set up the 4-H Fair at the Allen County Fairgrounds.

Correctional Industrial Facility hosted the Pendleton Facilities' Community Advisory Board quarterly meeting. Superintendent Gilbert Peters, a special guest from Branchville, gave a presentation on "Incarceration with a Purpose."

52 participants in the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility CLIFF program, joined by proud family members, took part in graduation festivities. To date, over 702 offenders have completed the program to end their addiction to meth.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to honor the most recent graduates of the facility's Vocational Training Programs, which include the Auto Body, Carpentry, Printing, Barbering, and Welding programs.

Correctional Industrial Facility processed 76,000 eyeglasses for the Lion's Club International this past month. The Lion's Club ships the recycled eyeglasses to third world countries and other underdeveloped regions worldwide.

Northeast Juvenile held a Field Day for all students. Students participated in games, the Indiana National Guard brought an inflatable obstacle course and passed out t-shirts, and the New Covenant Church grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

Officers for the newly-chartered American Legion Post at Miami Correctional Facility were installed by the Fifth District Commander for the American Legion of Indiana. The Post was also given its official designation as Post 555.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful."  
~Author Unknown*

*Friday, July 31, 2009*

Kentucky Department of Correction officials met with IDOC staff to review our re-entry work and initiate a partnership. They toured the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility and learned about the re-entry process and programming.

Wabash Valley held a graduation ceremony for 57 GED students, 50 vocational students, 27 Associate's Degree students, and 17 Bachelor's Degree students. Indiana State University Associate Dean, Dr. Harriet Hudson spoke at the event.

IDOC employees attended the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Training Institute in Little Rock, AR. Attendees were able to network and receive training credits on various topics addressing many of the pressing issues that are affecting corrections on a federal, state and global level.

Four offenders completed First Aid and CPR certification for their apprenticeship at Madison Correctional Facility.

This weekend, PREF will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) weekend for incarcerated residents and their significant others. The event focuses on building stronger, healthier relationships.

Faculty from Ivy Tech Community College recently gave a presentation to Camp Summit students about enrollment procedures, financial aid, courses available, class scheduling, cost of college, and transfers to other colleges.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility Shifting Gears bicycle refurbishing operation recently donated two reconditioned bikes to Helping Homeless Veterans and Families and one bicycle to the VA Domiciliary in Indianapolis.

Miami Correctional Facility's CLIFF Unit hosted its first Family Day seminar recently. 6 offenders, with two family members each, attended. They spent the day discussing addiction and how to prepare for the offender's re-entry.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility has donated 8,875 pounds of produce to charities this season.

The Wabash Valley PLUS Unit made and donated banners and quilts for the Marshall County 4-H Beef Club's silent auction, netting the youngsters \$331 for much needed projects and improvements.

Miami Correctional Facility employees Sgt. Frank Kaicy, Katherine O'Dell, Kim Smith, and Ann Hubbard assisted a driver, whose truck load of hay caught on fire, by calling authorities and helping the driver exit the vehicle.

Lt. Sizemore coordinated the harvesting of vegetables from the Organic Garden and Apprenticeship Garden at the Indiana State Prison. The vegetables were donated to Disciples Church, Stepping Stones Women's Shelter, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church for their soup kitchens.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently held a golf tournament in Anderson, IN, raising \$1,017 for the Special Olympics.

Recently, 41 members of Agape Choir performed at Camp Summit. The Choir performed a capella style for the entire student population. The program also included selecting student volunteers to sing along with the choir.

During a Pendleton Correction Facility staff assembly, Superintendent Brett Mize recognized Sandy Sidwell as Employee of the Quarter and Karl Downey as Supervisor of the Quarter. Dr. Lorenzo Eli and Carrie Johnson also received plaques.

Correctional Industrial Facility has delivered over 300 pounds of fresh garden vegetables to the Anderson Christian Center. The vegetables included radishes, onions, zucchini, squash and cucumbers.

Indiana State Prison Recreational Work Leader Brudnell Bradley presented Michigan City Women's Shelter Director Gerry Jones with a check for \$402.17. The donation came from the proceeds of Minimum Security Unit food sale.

PEN Industries at Westville added a Tire Recapping Shop and has hired 30 offender workers, with 30 more to be added.

10,490 White Castle sandwiches were sold at Correctional Industrial Facility, raising \$1,797 for The Villages.

Branchville Correctional Facility held its annual Therapeutic Community ceremony this week for the 92 offenders who completed the program, and 10 family members attended the ceremony. The Honorable Judge Wayne Trockman spoke and received a certificate of appreciation for his help and commitment to the Incarceration with a Purpose program.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Complexity creates a maze between you and success. Simplicity ensures a clear line of sight." ~ Lee J. Colan*

Friday, August 7, 2009



Commissioner Buss recognized and congratulated many of the on-line staff during a recent visit to Correctional Industrial Facility. (See photo, left.)

A Kairos Weekend Seminar at New Castle Correctional Facility started this week with 42 offenders participating. Approximately 100 outside volunteers assisted and presented the program.

The Internal Affairs Division at Westville has arranged to donate all the facility's confiscated cell phones to the Stepping Stone Women's Shelter, a woman's crisis intervention center in Michigan City. Thus far, IA has approved 50 cell phones to be given to the shelter.

PEN Products recently held a Career Planning Workshop for 26 offenders at the Plainfield Correctional Facility. Twenty-two DOC staff participated in the workshop covering topics such as the O\*Net Interest Profiler, Career Planning, and Job Retention. This marks the second PEN Products Offender Career Planning Workshop based on the National Institute of Corrections' Offender Workforce Development Services model. The first workshop was held at the Miami Correctional Facility, and the goal is to offer this to all PEN Products offender workers.

Henryville Correctional Facility held a ceremony honoring the Henryville charter of Toastmasters International. The charter, named "Successfully Speaking," has now been in existence for a year. District Toastmaster delegates were on hand for the ceremony to certify membership and present a certificate to the facility.

Rockville Correctional Facility donated crocheted animals to the Local Coordinating Council of the Governor's Commission on Drug & Alcohol Abuse. The animals will be distributed to children visiting the booth at the Parke County Fair and Parke County law enforcement's Night Out.

New Castle Correctional Facility held a Staff Recall this week. Officer Robin Blair was named Officer of the Month, and Larietha Clark and Jennifer Pierce were named Co-employees of the Month.

Pendleton Correctional Facility off-grounds work crews provided 1,664 hours of community service during July. Since January 1, crews have logged a total of 11,068 hours. The facility will also be providing two night crews to perform cleanup work at the Indiana State Fairgrounds from August 7 through August 23.

Fourteen youth from South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility were recently able to participate in the "Baby Think it Over" program. The life-like electronic baby dolls were with the students 24 hours a day for an entire weekend to simulate the stressors of being a new parent.

The Indiana State Prison welcomed the IDOC's Division of Program Review this week for the annual internal audit. The facility received a score of 100% on the mandatory and 99.12 % on the non-mandatory standards.

In July, thirty-six bicycles were refurbished in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears program, while thirteen wheelchairs were refurbished in the Wheels for the World operation.

New Castle Correctional Facility Superintendent Jeff Wrigley, Assistant Superintendent Scott Fitch, and Internal Affairs Investigator Brian Patterson served as waiters at the Bella Vita Restaurant's luncheon to raise \$1200 for the United Fund.

*Romeo and Juliet*, rewritten to reach troubled youth by Wabash Valley offenders involved in the Shakespeare Program, was shown to Youth Incarcerated as Adult offenders this week. The offender "players," all serving life sentences for crimes committed as teens, urged them to think of the consequences of their actions as they prepare to re-enter society.

Simeon Square Assisted Living received 71 pounds of vegetables from the Indiana State Prison apprenticeship garden.

South Bend Juvenile hosted an ASIST suicide prevention training this week. 12 staff members from South Bend Juvenile, Camp Summit, and CMS were able to participate in this 2-day course.

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

# Weekly Views

## Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Some drink from the  
fountain of knowledge -  
others just gargle.

~Anonymous

*Friday, August 14, 2009*

The Wabash Valley and Pendleton Correctional Facilities have been formally approved for re-accreditation by the American Correctional Association 139th Congress of Corrections, meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation for 9 students who completed the program. The program, which began in December 2005, has graduated 162 students from the program and boasts a 9.8% return rate.

Twenty-six men were recognized at the Correctional Industrial Facility for earning their GED during the 2008-2009 school year. Staff, visitors and volunteers were present for the ceremony in the visiting area.

The Gospel Echoes team visited South Bend Juvenile this week. In addition to their traditional musical performance, they brought a guest ventriloquist to entertain the students.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted a meeting to discuss recent security upgrades to the facility, including the completion of the high mast lights and the ongoing construction of the electrical stun fence. State representatives Dennie Oxley and Russ Stillwell were present along with Tell City mayor Barbara Ewing and several county commissioners.

At Pendleton Correctional Facility, the ODR (Officers/Staff Dining Room) will begin serving lunch for all staff. A number of menu items will be offered including hamburgers, cheeseburgers, wings, nachos, salads, chips, and soda.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted a Community Advisory Board Meeting. Members of the local Mayors office, State Representatives office, County and City police departments and solid waste district were in attendance.

Fifteen students from Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility recently took and passed the GED exams. Two passed with honors.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility held a PLUS graduation, where 19 offenders were recognized for completion of the program.

Chain O Lakes Correctional Facility offenders held a sub sandwich sale this week and earned over \$150 which they donated to the Albion Elementary School for school supplies for the first, second and third grade students.

Pendleton Juvenile Future Soldiers program held a Drill Competition showdown with the current reigning champs E-15 unit attempting to defend their position against the underdogs E-14. It was a tuff battle with strong stepping and precision timing, but E-14 won.

Miami Correctional Facility had 54 staff participate in the IDOC/Battle of the Badges Blood Drive Wednesday. The American Red Cross collected a total of 48 usable pints of blood.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility received nine Golden Retriever puppies from the Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN). The pups are sponsored by the Tony Stewart Foundation and will receive training from offenders to begin their careers as Assistance Companions for the disabled.

Several staff and five students from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility went to Anderson to work on a build site for Habitat for Humanity. Community Service projects are part of the restorative justice model for the Division of Youth Services. The staff and students were well received by the other volunteer workers on the site.

South Bend Juvenile held graduation ceremony. Eight students were recognized for earning their GED, and two others for advancing in full grade levels. In addition to the eight recognized, three other students earned passing test scores for their GED's however have already been successfully released into their communities.

The Division of Staff Development Emergency Operations concluded the first "Developing Professional Employees" class at CTI; with 29 staff members successfully completing the program. The Developing Professional Employees program introduces new supervisors to strategies to help them manage their transition to supervision in a multigenerational workforce. This program also introduces the new supervisors to delegation, motivation, and personnel issues. This course is the first block in the new supervisory series titled "The D.O.C. Supervisory Program."



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"There are no such things as limits to growth, because there are no limits to the human capacity for intelligence, imagination, and wonder." ~ Ronald Reagan*

*Friday, August 21, 2009*

Central Office and Wabash Valley staffers, including Commissioner Buss and Superintendent Bruce Lemmon, toured the newly-renovated Knox County Community Corrections 140 bed work release facility in Vincennes this week.

Jerry Vance, Dir. of Programs, Stephen Hall, Dir. of Religious Services, David Liebel, Deputy Dir. of Religious Services, and Joe Huff, CIF Family Management Prog. Coord., all attended the OFA Strong Practices, Bright Promises: Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood Conference held in Washington, D.C. Dr. Hall and Mr. Liebel presented a workshop on "Improving Re-entry Outcomes through Strengthening Families."

20 members of Westville's Emergency Response Team won the FedEx Plane Pull Challenge at the Indianapolis Airport, pulling a plane 12 feet in 5.33 seconds. WCC's Recreation Fund donated \$1000 to benefit Special Olympics Indiana.

Miami Correctional Facility placed 3rd in the Public Safety Division of the FedEx Plane Pull Challenge to benefit Special Olympics Indiana, pulling a 150,000 lb. FedEx airplane 12 feet in 6.237 seconds. The team raised \$2,090.

Plainfield Correctional Complex's E-Squad team also participated in the FedEx Plane Pull. They raised \$1,876.50.

20 members of New Castle Correctional Facility's SERT Team participated in the Special Olympics FedEx Plane Pull and raised \$2,733, which was 5<sup>th</sup> overall for fundraising. The team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Public Safety category for the pull.

Pendleton Juvenile raised \$949.69 during Fresh Favorites. The IN2WORK students filled orders quickly and accurately.

The Indianapolis Parole Office (PD3) had two teams of agents and supervisors that participated in a sweep in support of IMPD-NW District's efforts at reducing violent crime. Five paroled offenders were arrested.

PEN Products held its first U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship graduation for 16 offender workers at the Branchville Correctional Facility. Superintendent Gil Peters, PEN Products Director Mike Herron, PEN Products Operations Manager Doug Evans and U.S. Department of Labor Regional Director John Delgado all spoke at the event.

Westville's Employee Action Planning Committee sold root beer floats to fundraise for the facility's Picnic in the Park.

Staff Development Emergency Operations concluded the first "Optimizing Heightened Effectiveness" class at CTI for 25 supervisors. The program shows supervisors how to increase their managerial skills in a multigenerational workforce.

Indiana State Prison staff donated \$200 worth of school supplies to the Citywide Back- to-School drive in Michigan City.

39 New Castle Correctional Facility offenders graduated from the PLUS program in front of 56 visitors and volunteers.

30 correctional professionals, who were attending an NIC Conference in Indianapolis, visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility. The conference focused on the "Management of Violent, High-Risk, and High Security Inmates."

Miami hosted 200 volunteers for the Gospel Echoes Team Freedom Rally and had a cookout for offenders and staff.

Madison's garden has harvested 2 tons of produce, which was donated to the Salvation Army and other local charities.

The Indiana State Prison donated 35 refurbished bicycles to The Villages foster care organization in Portage, Indiana.

Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility hosted participants from the Aftercare for Indiana through Mentoring (AIM) program for a tour of the facility. AIM focuses on re-entry and has participants from Maine, Ohio, and Indiana.

Michigan DOC representatives toured IWP and discussed female programs that could be replicated in Michigan.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility raised \$104 in donations for The Villages school supplies fundraiser.

Indiana State Prison's gardens harvested 400 lbs of vegetables, which were donated to the Simeon Square Assisted Living.

Offenders from New Castle's L Dorm (minimum housing) assisted with the set up and dismantling of a booth for NCCF staff at the Mooreland Free Fair, as well as daily pickup of trash and cleaning the fairgrounds.

PLUS was recently highlighted in ACA's *Corrections Today*: <http://www.aca.org/fileupload/177/ahaidar/Hall.pdf>.

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

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"I know the price of success:  
dedication, hard work, and an  
unremitting devotion to the  
things you want to see happen."  
~ Frank Lloyd Wright*

*Friday, August 28, 2009*

Several IDOC employees were recognized for their years of service and attended a ceremony with Governor Daniels and Commissioner Buss. Those honored for 35 years were: Orville Harmon, Anthony Debes, Zettie Cotton, John Pelsor, Linda Moris, Roy McGity, Patty Finn-Hill, Lee Grace, Debra Day, Susan Van Hoy, Michael Eden, Debbie Coy, Danny Graham, Richard Sabolick, Ruth Fouty, Catherine Wier, and Daniel Forker. Those honored for 40 years were: Gloria Marrs, Ronald Vail, and Philip Slavens. Congratulations!

Miami Correctional Facility recently received a grant for \$6,803 from the Library Service and Technology Act to provide computers and software to both libraries at the facility for two new Electronic Library Resource Centers.

PREF is currently assisting the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy with repairs to a perimeter fence and grounds work.

Christmas came early at the Rockville Correctional Facility this year. Members of the Worthington Amish Choir joined with volunteers of the Christmas Behind Bars ministry to present a revival program and give gift bags to offenders.

ISP minimum security offenders assisted with setup and teardown of the Mill Pond Festival in Union Mills, Indiana.

Westville hosted its 17<sup>th</sup> Practical Talk Ministries graduation ceremony. The PTM is a faith-based organization that owns homes in the South Bend area and helps to provide stable housing and re-entry opportunities for graduate offenders.

Camp Summit's Education Department held an open house for parents and family members of the students. Family members toured the Education Department, met with faculty, and discussed their student's education plan and progress.

New Castle staff participated in the IDOC's blood drive. 114 people volunteered to donate, and 84 pints were collected.

Pendleton's Shifting Gears bicycle refurbishing operation donated bikes to Dove Harbor in Anderson, the VA Domiciliary in Indianapolis, the Turning Point Life Center in New Castle, and AMVETS Post #91 in Monticello.

Part of Miami's K-9 team recently participated in a demonstration for 100 people at the Estates at Eagle's Pointe.

Indiana State Prison Correctional Counselor Winston Garland has been named the new boys basketball coach at West Side High School in Gary. Coach Garland is a former NBA player.

Indiana Correctional Association representatives toured Pendleton Correctional Facility to review offender programming.

Christmas Behind Bars recently held two worship services, as well as a musical concert, for the entire IWP population.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's PLUS program donated 386 lbs of fresh produce harvested from the facility garden to a local food pantry. For the year, the PCF PLUS program has donated 2,512 lbs of fresh produce!

During the Indiana State Fair, two Pendleton offender work crews picked up trash from the grounds and parking areas.

Indiana State Prison's Fiscal Department held a cookie sale for Stepping Stones Women Shelter and raised \$83.

Camp Summit recently held a ceremony to recognize several students who completed several phases of the IN2WORK program. A total of ten students were acknowledged for their achievements.

New Castle Correctional Facility conducted facility tours for family and friends this week with various departments setting up displays in the visiting room. Approximately 150 family and friends visited.

Miami training officer Jennifer Stoll donated time recently to a local daycare to certify their employees in CPR.

The ABN Network visited NCCF with their Christmas Behind Bars program and provided snacks and Bible literature.

PREF has donated 14,320 pounds of produce this year to local charities through the Landscape Management class.

Miami Correctional Facility's Lt. Destin McCord went above and beyond his detailed duties recently when he spotted a trash bag on fire outside the Pen Products Industries building and took actions to extinguish the fire. Good job!

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted the Christmas Behind Bars program. More than 1,300 offenders participated.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others." ~ Barbara Bush*

*Friday, September 4, 2009*

During the recent ACA conference in Nashville, TN, Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) received the 2009 American Correctional Chaplains' Association (ACCA) Chaplaincy Offender Program Award. Congratulations to all involved!

The Plainfield Correctional SITCON team received an award given by the Indiana Association of Hostage Negotiators (IAHCN) for their accomplishment of placing 3<sup>rd</sup> at a national competition in Texas.

This week, Indiana Women's Prison offenders enjoyed a video presentation from volunteers who journeyed to Sudan, Africa with a delivery of 600 mosquito nets made by the offenders and Oakland City University.

Westville Correctional Facility's collaboration with Purdue University North Central has increased the number of offenders attending college this year. Approximately 200 offenders began the fall semester this week.

Miami Correctional Facility recently held its quarterly staff recall meeting, during which staff received hepatitis training.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility hosted an opportunity fair to assist 47 offenders with their pre-release preparations. Representatives from Ivy Tech, Martin University, and the Department of Workforce Development participated.

Correctional Industrial Facility's "Fifth Sundays Chaplain's Choice" welcomed David Welch, former circuit court judge from Bloomington, Indiana. Mr. Welch brought a special workshop and worship to the chapel.

The Indianapolis Parole Office (PD3) assisted the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Department with participation in the "Back to School" Sex-Offender Registry Compliance Sweep.

Over 58 children and 33 offenders participated in a "Day with Dad" program at Putnamville Correctional Facility. All played games, read books, and participated in activities geared toward creating positive memories.

CIF and Pendleton maintenance departments partnered to install a new shingle roof for the Indiana State Police Post located at 21<sup>st</sup> street and Post Road in Indianapolis.

Madison offender Mariam Lakhani won first place at the Area 63 Toastmaster's International Humorous Speech Contest.

Ten artists from the Indiana State Prison Artist Guild have been invited to exhibit arts and crafts at the Lubeznik Art Center in Michigan City, Indiana. The showing will begin September 4 and will run until early November.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program donated \$1000 to the Away Home Shelter located in Greencastle, IN.

Both CIF's and Branchville's PLUS programs donated artwork to the Use What You Got Ministries for their silent auction. Proceeds from the sale will assist offenders' families in their travel to and from visits.

Miami Correctional Facility held its monthly staff meeting with department heads receiving training on performing weekly inspections from Fire Chief Tim Brown and Lester Jeffries, Safety/Hazard Manager.

PLUS offenders at CIF made 500 "Thinking of You" cards for nursing homes in Pendleton, Anderson and New Castle.

Indiana Women's Prison submitted over 200 hand-sewn sleeping bags to the American Legion Rehabilitation Department. The sleeping bags will be given to the Homeless Veterans Stand Down Program.

ISP's Fiscal Department raised \$168.31 from a brownies sale for Stepping Stones, a Michigan City women's shelter.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recognized staff winners of its "Biggest Loser" competition. Derrick Hobbs won the individual competition, and William Creamean, Derrick Hobbs, Hannah Whitaker and Ron Turner won as a team.

Correctional Industrial Facility donated over 50 units of blood to the American Red Cross this week.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted a film crew as they filmed portions of the prison for an upcoming National Geographic Channel series. The show needed footage of a working prison with real offenders and custody staff.

The State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) kicked off this week. Check out [www.insecc.org](http://www.insecc.org) to contribute!

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

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." ~ Oprah Winfrey*

*Friday, September 11, 2009*

The Indiana Addiction Recovery Month Symposium (IN ARMS) will be held September 14-18. IN ARMS is an interagency collaborative training effort between the IDOC and DMHA and will focus on services that increase the probability of individual recovery and decrease relapse and incarceration for individuals with addictions. Current and effective evidenced-based practices (EBP) and other effective strategies toward a cooperative and coordinated approach to facilitate recovery from addiction in persons within these multiple systems will be covered.

Westville Correctional Facility has partnered with the Indiana National Guard by sending Level 1 offenders to the National Guard Armory in Michigan City. The offenders will be supplying labor to assist the military in renovating the 100-year-old building.

Off grounds work crews at the Pendleton Correctional Facility logged 3,089 hours of community service during the month of August. Since January 1, 2009, crews such as the INDOT Work Crew, DNR Mounds State Park Work crew, and Indiana State Fairgrounds Work Crew have provided 14,157 hours of work to the community.

Thirty-three staff members from New Castle Correctional Facility joined 400 volunteers from Henry County this week to participate in the United Fund's 16th Day of Caring.

Two South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility students who recently graduated from Aramark's IN2WORK program were able to visit an actual culinary arts class at Ivy Tech's South Bend campus. The students attended a Classical Cuisine & French Cooking class and have been invited back to sit in on a Soups, Stocks and Bases class and a baking class.

Central Office held an Ice Cream Social, sponsored by the Fiscal Division, and a cornhole tournament, raising a combined \$300 for the SECC! (See photos, right.)

Participants of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Inside Out Dad's Program donated \$500 to the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Labor Day Telethon, and their contribution was announced on WTWO Television.

A crew of seven offenders from the Edinburgh Correctional Facility assisted the Indiana National Guard in setting up tents for the Scottish Festival at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds.

The IDOC Central Office softball team is now 5 and 1 and is 1<sup>st</sup> place in the state agency softball league.

The Pendleton Complex held a job fair this week and interviewed 61 candidates.

IDOC's Community Corrections Division will be hosting the first Evidence-Based Research Institute in conjunction with Indiana University's Center for Evidence-Based Practices on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Bloomington, IN. The Institute serves as a venue for IDOC professionals and other Indiana leaders to promote the best practices within Community Corrections.

Fifty-two bicycles were refurbished in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears Program during August. 320 bikes have been reconditioned since January 1, 2009.

Seventeen wheelchairs were restored in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's Wheels for the World Program during August. 155 wheelchairs have been reconditioned since January 1, 2009.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility staff held their blood drive this week and had excellent participation. 42% (23) of Edinburgh's 55 employees donated.

Cass-Pulaski Regional Community Corrections will be having an Open House on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM for their new Work Release expansion. This facility will hold 52 male and 12 female offenders.



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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"The secret of joy in work is contained in one word - excellence. To know how to do something well is to enjoy it." ~ Pearl Buck*

*Friday, September 18, 2009*

The UN-Chained Motorcycle Gang and the Georgia-based Soul Harbor Motorcycle Gang held a bike show-revival at Rockville Correctional Facility. Offenders heard music from the Soul Patrol Band from the Ellettsville House of Prayer.

Twelve new officers started the Pre-Service Training Academy this week, while forty-four newly hired officers graduated.

Bartholomew Co. Community Corrections will host an open house for the work release facility Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30 – 5:30.

Anchor of Hope Ministries founders and Mary Kay consultants Abby Weatherford and Rita Abrams visited Indianapolis Juvenile as part of their Adopt-A-Face program, which ministers to prisoners and teaches them how to care for their skin.

Henryville has introduced the GLADNESS Project, which is a series of workshops that prepare offenders to find a jobs.

Kenneth Johnson, the Colts' chaplain, visited the Indiana Women's Prison and shared an inspirational message.

Miami Correctional hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual golf tournament. 19 teams played and received prizes, refreshments, and dinner.

Pendleton Juvenile held a PLUS graduation for 5 offenders, and family and friends attended the ceremony.

Westville's Therapeutic Community Creative Energy Department hosted a "Stomp For Recovery" competition. Five teams of stompers performed for an audience of staff and offenders as a tribute to National Recovery Month.

Indianapolis Juvenile "locked up" Administrative Assistant Sharon Dawn for the SECC, and staff raised \$110 for bail.

The PREF Building Trades class worked on a Habitat for Humanity house and will soon begin a roofing project at IJCF.

NIC's Regional Field Coordinator for Indiana, Amanda Hall, presented a workshop with Kentucky's Regional Field Coordinator for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference of the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency.

Henryville scored 100% on mandatory standards and 99.5 % on non-mandatory standards during a program review audit.

The Red Cross Blood Mobile was at Pendleton Juvenile this week, and 28 staff volunteered to donate.

Branchville's PLUS unit installed a new saltwater aquarium, giving the offenders a sense of responsibility and therapy.

PREF celebrated the 3-year anniversary of the facility's Toastmasters club charter. Sheltering Wings women's shelter and St. Mark's Episcopal Food Pantry both received donations from recent Toastmasters Club fundraisers.

Eleven paralegal students from the Fort Wayne International Business College toured Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Pendleton Correctional staff conducted a bake sale this week to benefit the SECC.

CIF graduated 8 fathers from Baby Care Basics/Dads 101 and 12 fathers from the Inside/Out Dad programs this week.

WVCF's Inside Out Dads program donated \$1000 to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, and the PLUS unit donated \$1000 to the Terre Haute Children's Museum for a cornerstone honoring a volunteer, the late Dutch Gunyon.

The Indiana Blood Center's Bloodmobile visited the Plainfield Correctional Facility. Staff filled every donation time slot.

Correctional Industrial Facility is hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> Preventative Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) weekend.

PREF hosted staff from the Kentucky DOC and the Kentucky State Reformatory for a tour of the facility.

ISP's Shifting Gears program gave 25 refurbished bicycles to the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter in LaPorte, IN.

5 New Castle staff attended a New Castle Chamber of Commerce luncheon, at which Lt. Governor Becky Skillman spoke.

CIF held a Hardees fundraiser and donated \$535.36 to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Indiana.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held a blood drive this week and another has been scheduled for later this month.

Central Office held a silent auction and a pizza sale for the SECC this week. Combined, the events raised over \$1,000!

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Criticism, like rain,  
should be gentle enough to  
nourish a man's growth  
without destroying his  
roots." ~ Frank A. Clark*

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman visited Central Office as a guest judge for the SECC chili cook-off. Chief of Staff Dan Ronay and Communications Chief Doug Garrison were also judges. Central Office also had an SECC bake sale and hot dog lunch.

Reception Diagnostic Center concluded an ACA audit this week and was recommended for re-accreditation with a score of 100% on mandatory standards, and 94.7% on non-mandatory standards. Great job!

Logansport Juvenile employees participated in the local Cass County YMCA Corporate Challenge and won the softball championship. It was the facility's third championship. Congratulations to those who participated in the tournament!

Three teams of agents and supervisors from the Indianapolis Parole Office (PD3) participated with the Marion County Probation Department and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department in a multi-jurisdictional effort at reducing violent crime in the annual city-wide sweep. 5 offenders were arrested for parole violation and numerous others visited.

Six offenders from New Castle's minimum housing unit assisted in the setup and clean up of the New Castle's Art's Park Silent Auction this week.

Pendleton Juvenile's Boy Scout Troop #1888 recently had its Annual Camp out. The Scouts were involved in many activities throughout the evening and spent the night in individual tents located on the outside Recreation area.

The Oprah Show was at the Indiana State Prison filming and interviewing Offender Eric Wrinkles, who is currently on death row, about his crime and remorse. The show will be aired at a later date.

Eighteen Criminal Justice students from Franklin College toured the Edinburgh Correctional Facility. The students were allowed to talk to offenders about their incarceration and background.

South Bend Juvenile held its second Iron Chef competition for graduates of Aramark's IN2WORK culinary arts class. Four students competed in the 3-day cook-off, judged by Ivy Tech leaders, SBJ staff, and a student representative.

A Pendleton Correctional Facility off-grounds offender work crew recently replaced a roof on a maintenance building at the Indiana State Police Post # 52 in Indianapolis. This crew is also replacing a roof on a second building there.

Six New Castle staff played in State Representative Tom Saunders's Annual Golf Tournament held at Memorial Park.

Northeast Juvenile staff recently raised funds for Walk Now for Autism. Superintendent Donna Carneygee, Sergeant Waquanza Woods, and Recreation Leader Andre Patterson walked with 1,300 people for the cause.

September marks the 1-year anniversary of the F.I.D.O (Faith + Inmates+ Dogs = Opportunity) prison dog program at CIF. In the last year, 47 dogs have come through the program. 32 have been adopted, while 15 are up for adoption.

RDC recently concluded a Bicycle Drive. Sixteen bicycles were collected and donated to the Shifting Gears program.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility held a successful popcorn and bake sale to raise money for the SECC.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community hosted a Spelling Bee in recognition of National Recovery Month. Forty-nine offenders participated in the bee and a winner was announced.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted a PLUS graduation this week for the 46 offenders who completed the program. Dave Liebel, Deputy Director of Religious Services and Community Involvement, spoke at the event.

Five students and one staff member from Camp Summit participated in the "Adopt-A-Beach" clean-up program at Washington Park, Michigan City Beach. The students picked up trash on the beach and logged each item they picked up. The group picked up approximately 100 pounds of trash overall.

Indiana State Prison and Westville Correctional Facility held a Karaoke Challenge. Officer Debbie Raley from ISP came in first place, and WCC staff also showed great talent. This was the third challenge between the facilities.

Northeast Juvenile held its annual staff vs. students basketball game. The undefeated staff won, 45-39.

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

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"October is the fallen leaf, but  
it is also a wider horizon more  
clearly seen. It is the distant  
hills once more in sight, and  
the enduring constellations  
above them once again." ~  
Hal Borland*

*Friday, October 2, 2009*

The 2009 Suicide Prevention Summit, "Shoulder to Shoulder: No One Stands Alone," was held at the Correctional Training Institute this week. Over 240 staff from IDOC, CMS, and law enforcement agencies attended the summit.

Pendleton Juvenile held a ceremony for 12 students who completed either kitchen or retail basics for IN2WORK.

PREF hosted the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir for a concert. This opportunity was made possible by a Nina Mason Charitable Trust grant to benefit PREF, the Indianapolis Children's Choir, and the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir.

Miami Correctional gave 350 pounds of food, from its Recovery Month food drive, to the Kokomo Rescue Mission.

Indiana Women's Prison staff and Special Needs Workshop offenders made 40 flower pot holders for CTI.

The Southwest Youth Village of Knox County commended Wabash Valley staffers Sam Zollars and Scott McGavic for helping them prevent the escape of a disruptive youth offender from their van along U.S. 41.

Staff Development Emergency Operations conducted the Pre-service Academy and the Making A Change Academy at Madison for the new staff of the Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility. A total of 51 new staff attended the academies.

Franklin College Criminal Justice students toured the Reception-Diagnostic Center, learning about the intake process.

Branchville Correctional Facility is hosting an Old Fashioned Tent Revival. Over 275 offenders and 40 volunteers are participating in prayer, special music, singing, sermons, and personal testimony. The revival runs through Saturday.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation ceremony this week for 10 students.

Over 76 Wabash Valley staffers gave the "gift of life" this week, taking part in the 2009 IDOC Blood Drive. WVCF's Employment Appreciation Committee sponsored prize giveaways, a corn hole tourney, and a cook-out for the event.

Criminal Justice students from the Muncie Ivy Tech campus toured New Castle Correctional Facility this week.

Two students of the PREF Outdoor Power Equipment/Small Engine Repair class recently passed two EETC Technician certifications tests. One passed the very difficult electrical test and another passed the 4-stroke test.

Pendleton Juvenile hosted the Mighty Hands puppet troupe from Camby, IN. 60 students and staff attended the show.

Henryville Correctional Facility hosted the cognitive thinking program Freedom 101 last week and graduated 9 offenders.

Miami Correctional Facility named Officer Kenneth Melanson as Officer of the Month, Sgt. Angela Johnson as Supervisor of the Month, and Daniel Rich, Correctional Counselor, as Non-Custody Employee of the Month for August.

Pendleton's Shifting Gears program donated eleven bikes this week to veterans' organizations in Indianapolis.

Members of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Department toured the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility this week.

Pendleton Juvenile's Boy Scout Troop #1888 has collected 20,000 pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House this year.

NCCF held a staff recall and recognized Jo Carver and Christopher Boggs as Employees of the Month for October.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Northeast Juvenile this week, and 25 staff volunteered to donate.

CIF staff raised \$286.50 for the SECC with a fundraiser that included hot dogs, chips, and ice cream floats.

Pendleton Correctional Facility offenders purchased barbecued pork and chicken dinners for a fundraiser. Proceeds will support the Inside Out Dad program and purchase material to make baby blankets for the Wee Ones Nursery.

Northeast Juvenile staff participated in the Urban Run/Walk to promote literacy in Fort Wayne.

Plainfield's PLUS program donated just under 2 tons of fresh produce from its garden to local food pantries this year.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility held a golf scramble this week in support of the SECC and raised \$260.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Learn from yesterday,  
live for today, hope for  
tomorrow." ~ Albert  
Einstein*

*Friday, October 9, 2009*

At the ICA Conference this week, Commissioner Buss presented Commissioner's Awards to the following: William Wilson and Alan Chapman, Co-Superintendents of the Year; Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, Facility of the Year; Bruce Lemmon, Distinguished Service Award; Debra Fealy, Employee of the Year; Connie Hedges, Chaplain of the Year; Richard Davis, Rising Star Award; Vickie Conquest, Parole Employee of the Year; Linda Jeffers, Case Management Employee of the Year; Captain Herman Kelley, Supervisor of the Year; Jeff Pitcher, Correctional Professional of the Year; Alisia Lawrence, Administrative Support Award; Alan Montgomery, Finance Employee of the Year; Bob Gipson, Physical Plant Employee of the Year; and Kathy Goss, Human Resources Employee of the Year. Congratulations to all!

PEN Products Director Mike Herron and PEN's Operations Manager Doug Evans participated in the National Institute of Corrections live satellite/internet broadcast, "Innovative Re-entry Strategies: The Emerging Role of Correctional Industries." Commissioner Buss and Dr. John Nally appeared and discussed correctional industries and collaboration.

IWP's Community Outreach Department sent out 65 quilted blankets, 40 children's hat and scarf sets, 10 stuffed animals, and 6 children's quilts to the Indiana Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America.

Miami Correctional hosted a Straight Talk Program, with three offenders speaking to 15 students and a teacher from Clinton Central High School. The program focuses on making good choices and the consequences of bad choices.

Last week, Indianapolis Juvenile staff donated blood to the American Red Cross, donating enough to benefit 57 lives.

Wabash Valley minimum-security offenders helped clear a large bank for the Sullivan County 8<sup>th</sup> graders' annual excursion down the Wabash River. The trip, sponsored by the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District, included guide State Senator John Waterman, who requested the bank clearing.

Alexandra More from the Scotland State Hospital has been observing Westville Correctional facility's "Prison Tails" dog program. Ms. More's dog therapy research is funded by the Winston Churchill grant.

CIF's Garden produced a total of 3,061.5 lbs of vegetables this year for the Christian Center in Anderson, Indiana.

Logansport Juvenile recently took third place overall in the Cass County Family YMCA Corporate Challenge.

Miami Correctional Facility administrators hosted a first-of-its-kind meeting, nicknamed "Bridge the Gap," with law enforcement officials, mayors, and community representatives from four area counties attending. The meeting was the first in a series to try and find solutions to help make an offender's release back to the community a success.

Pendleton Correctional Facility held a ceremony for twenty offenders who completed the Inside Out Dad Program.

The staff "10-10" softball team and the offender "All Stars" team faced off during a softball game at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The All Stars, coached by Recreation Supervisor Jeff Newton, took first place with a score of 13-9.

Following the recent blood drive, members of Rockville Correctional's Unit Team and Intake and Classification departments will be treated to a pizza party hosted by the Employee Appreciation Committee. Thirty-five donors visited the blood mobile, competing on teams for the pizza party.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility offenders earned \$93.66 by collecting pop cans, so they donated the money to Black Pines Animal Park, a professional animal retirement retreat in Albion, Indiana.

For the second year in a row, Los Angeles country/blues recording artist Heather Waters, daughter of Officer M. Manista, gave a performance in the Indiana State Prison's chapel for the offender general population and staff members.

Congratulations to Richard Brown, Assistant Superintendent of Operations at Rockville Correctional Facility, for competing in the Wabash Valley Race for the Cure 5K. He finished second place in his category. Other staff members joined in the 5K non-competitive and one-mile fun run/walk.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility "Wheels for the World" wheelchair refurbishing operation reconditioned 13 wheelchairs during September. 168 chairs have been refurbished and prepared for donation since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction



Friday, October 16, 2009



*"A bend in the road is  
not the end of the road...  
unless you fail to make  
the turn." ~Author  
Unknown*

Commissioner Buss and State Representative Terri Austin attended a ribbon cutting dedication ceremony held at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to showcase the facility's new green, wood-fired biomass boiler operation.

This week, twelve students of the PREF Building Trades vocational class worked on a local Habitat for Humanity site. The students tore out interior walls, replaced a large section of the front wall, and built storage racks in the interior.

A reporter and photographer from MSNBC.com visited Miami Correctional Facility's CLIFF program recently, interviewing staff and offenders for an upcoming story that will be featured on the website as part of The Elkhart Project. The story focused on the financial and social impact of meth on the community.

A facility recall was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, during which Superintendent Lemmon and Acting Executive Director of Adult Facilities Brett Mize recognized facility ICA award winners and staff who have significantly contributed to facility operations. They also informed staff of agency and facility news.

WISH-TV anchor/reporter Gene Rodriguez came to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility this week to interview a YIA offender for an upcoming series of reports about teens and gun crimes. The special series will air in November.

The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund's Board of Trustees met for the second time to discuss the fund's progress. The Fund accepts donations to assist IDOC staff who are displaced by serious disaster. Indiana's Inspector General attended the meeting to ensure that Fund and Board activities are carried out in an ethical manner. As the Fund grows, donations will also be used to support scholarships for staff or members of their immediate family. Anyone wishing to donate may contact their facility head or district supervisor and watch for the debut of the Fund's new website.

Eight Inside Out Dad graduates from Pendleton's Level One Housing Unit were honored during a ceremony.

Miami Correctional Facility hosted eleven students from St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer. The class professor William Hartley is a former IDOC employee. Students participated in the Straight Talk Program and toured the facility.

Plainfield staff were recognized for outstanding performance at the recent Indiana Correctional Association conference. Arthur Bryant received the ICA Educator of the Year award, Officer Stephen Manning received the ICA Correctional Officer of the Year Award, and Captain Herman Kelley received the Commissioner's Award for Supervisor of the Year.

The Indiana State Prison held a General Assembly and gave out yearly and quarterly awards. 42 staff members received Apprenticeship Certificates for completing the apprenticeship program. Staff also received years of service awards.

The BMV mobile unit processed state IDs for over 100 offenders at New Castle Correctional Facility this week.

Miami Correctional Facility recently hosted a facility tour for Special Olympics' staff and athletes. Facility staff connected with the athletes, parents, and staff at the recent Federal Express Plane Pull that benefits the Special Olympics.

Thirty-five bicycles reconditioned in the Pendleton Correctional Facility Shifting Gears program were donated to Partners in Housing, an agency in Indianapolis that provides housing to the homeless.

The Plainfield Correctional Complex held a Community Advisory Board Meeting this week at RDC.

Sergeant Daryl Brown from the Indiana State Prison received the Adjunct Instructor Trainer of the Year award from CTI.

The Employee Planning Committee at Westville presented a grilled hot dog lunch to 450 staff members during the evening hour shifts. Executive Staff helped deliver the meal and expressed appreciation for a job well done.

Seventeen students from Franklin College and two students from Ivy Tech toured Pendleton Correctional Facility.

Representatives from Leopard Films and the Speed Channel visited Pendleton, Plainfield, and Westville this week to tour the auto body programs in preparation for a documentary to be filmed entitled "Big House Garage."

Channel 13 WTHR-TV visited the Indiana State Prison to collect information and video footage in order to complete a story on the fabrication of electronic cell doors that will be used to replace the old, manual cell doors.

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

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives." ~ William James*

*Friday, October 23, 2009*

Governor Daniels visited Branchville and honored employee Mike Hubert with a Governor's Heroism Award.

Donations to the Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund can now be made through SECC using charitable code 662100. For more information on registering your pledge, please visit [www.insecc.org](http://www.insecc.org) or see your SECC coordinator.

WVCF's Advisory Board members were introduced to new Supt. James Basinger, briefed on H1N1, and told about the BMV issuing state IDs to offenders nearing release. CLIFF graduate Turner Corn spoke on how he improved his life.

PEN Products announces that Bradley Krause, Farmer Foreman at the Indiana State Prison-Farm, is the 2009 recipient of the National Association of Institutional Agribusiness (NAIA) Billy Max Moore Award. Congratulations!

Westville hosted its Education Graduation and recognized 397 offenders who received GEDs and Vocational certificates.

NABCJ members and employees from PREF and Central Office prepared food at Second Helpings, a nonprofit organization that rescues prepared and perishable food and distributes meals to organizations that feed hungry people.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Communities held a competition, Recovery Quest, regarding various recovery and substance abuse topics to build a healthy rivalry and help offenders take interest in their own recovery.

Miami's CLIFF unit held a family education day where four families attended and discussed interpersonal relationships.

At a staff assembly, Pendleton Correctional Facility recognized Carolyn Spegal as Employee of the Quarter, Captain Larry Taylor as Supervisor of the Quarter, and retirees Loren Hartley and Larry Liptow.

A National Fatherhood Initiative representative will visit PREF to observe and photograph the fatherhood programs.

The BMV mobile unit visited Wabash Valley and delivered 216 state ID cards in two days to inmates who will soon be released back to their communities. The IDOC has processed and delivered 1,445 state ID cards in 13 days since May.

Westville offenders donated \$1,250 to the LaPorte County chapter of Children's International Summer Villages.

INDOT has worked with IDOC crews to clear overgrowth, pick up trash, and clean unit buildings. Since July, an eight-member IDOC crew from the Indiana State Prison Minimum Security Unit has worked in the LaPorte District.

52 Plainfield offenders graduated from the GRIP substance abuse program. Family members attended the ceremony.

A WNDU reporter interviewed South Bend Juvenile students and staff about a creative writing program facilitated by University of Notre Dame graduate students. Student poems will be in an anthology published by the graduate students.

CIF is hosting its sixth Kairos Weekend. There will be 42 volunteers and offenders participating in the four day event.

A PREF resident recently passed both the 4-Stroke Cycle and 2-Stroke Cycle, EETC technician certification exams. With the Electrical exam he passed last month, he is only the second student to take and pass all three exams.

The Inside/Out Dads program will host its 3<sup>rd</sup> Halloween Party in CIF's visiting room for 52 fathers and 98 children.

DMHA received a SAMHSA Offender Re-entry Grant, in partnership with IDOC, OFBI, ISHD, and Centerstone of Indiana. This grant will provide substance abuse treatment to those transitioning from IDOC to underserved areas.

Kairos began a 4-day program at Pendleton that will involve 22 Administrative Segregation Unit offenders.

Marion County service providers met in the Indianapolis Mayor's Office for the Ex-Offender Re-Entry Service Provider Forum. Staff from IDOC facilities and Central Office attended to help improve successful offender re-entry.

Over 60 trainers attended the Statewide Trainers' Conference. Award recipients included: Sgt. Darrell Brown, ISP, Adjunct Trainer of the Year; Kris Main, LJCF, Rising Star of the Year; Anthony Thomas, Westville, Correctional Trainer of the Year; Mike Arthur, Plainfield, and Gordon Neeley, Putnamville, Co-Correctional Supervisor of the Year; Rockville Correctional Facility, Training Facility of the Year; and Kris Pew, CTI, SDEO Director of the Year.

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



# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

*"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." ~ Abigail Adams*



Friday, October 30, 2009



At the 2009 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism, the IDOC was well-represented. Steve Hall, Jerry Vance, Doug Williams, and Dalton Haney led sessions talking about the Department's programming, job training, and re-entry initiatives. Keith Blackburn, a volunteer assistant chaplain at Pendleton, was presented with a Governor's Award for Service and Volunteerism in recognition of his work with the PLUS program. Miss America Katie Stamm from Seymour, IN, was the keynote speaker at the conference. After her speech, she was presented with a quilt crafted by Wabash Valley's PLUS Unit.

Sixty offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility attended a day-long Alcoholics Anonymous retreat last weekend. Fifteen volunteers from three different states hosted the event, featuring speakers and small group discussions.

Director of Education Dr. John Nally was invited by the Executive Office of the President to be a member of a panel on correctional education at the White House Conference Center.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's PLUS unit recently donated \$1000 to the Sullivan County Humane Shelter.

Pendleton Juvenile held its quarterly Facility Assembly/Award Ceremony this week. Eleven students received their GED certificate, with one student receiving his High School diploma. Eight students also received Serv Safe Certificates. The guest speaker was Judge Jose D. Salinas, Marion Superior Court - Criminal Division.

Indiana State Prison's apprenticeship programs underwent a compliance review by the Department of Labor. All apprenticeship programs were found to be in full compliance with regulations.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently held a staff assembly, in conjunction with a chili cook-off and hot dog fundraiser.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility held a career day this week, and offenders learned about the printing industry.

The Greene County Daily World interviewed new Wabash Valley Superintendent James Basinger, focusing on his ties to Linton, where he was active with Indiana National Guard recruitment.

Pendleton held a retirement luncheon this week to honor Correctional Officers Larry Liptow and Loren Hartley.

Levar Fisher, formerly a linebacker for the Arizona Cardinals, spoke to 50 students at Pendleton Juvenile. Mr. Fisher works for Sportsworld Ministries and travels the country talking to students about making positive changes in their lives.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a bake sale, with the proceeds going to fund the employee Christmas party.

Wabash Valley PIO Rich Larsen addressed the Terre Haute Rotary Club this week, providing a facility overview and taking part in a question/answer session.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held an open house for supportive adults, family members, and students this week. Attendees had the opportunity to meet each of the student's teachers and support staff, tour the school, and see the students' work displayed throughout the building. 90 adults attended for 45 students.

Eighteen Administrative Segregation offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility who participated in a recent Kairos Ministry Program were honored during the organization's closing ceremony.

Interim Superintendent Latoya Lane held a staff assembly/pitch-in luncheon for the staff of PREF. Ms. Lane addressed recent subjects of interest with the staff and awarded the Making a Difference Award to Ms. Deborah Braun and the Employee of the Quarter to Mr. Randall Boys.

The Indiana University Parole and Probation class, led by professor Robert Bingham, toured Wabash Valley this week.

The Indiana Women's Prison held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony, themed "Thank you Beary Much." Each volunteer who attended the event received a stuffed bear made by the Offender Community Outreach Program.

Westville's offender band "Times and Tunes" presented its fall concert to over 500 offenders and staff. The band is led by professional musician and Correctional Counselor Hebert.

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



# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) opened its doors to 92 juvenile females who transferred from Indianapolis Juvenile. For a successful transition, students and staff were treated to pizza to facilitate a "get to know us" session.

The Covenant Choir from Goshen, IN brought a musical message of hope and thanksgiving to Rockville offenders.

Congratulations to the Indianapolis Parole District for receiving the ICA Parole Office/Employee of the Year award.

Camp Summit scored 100% on mandatory and 99.7% on non-mandatory standards for its 2<sup>nd</sup> year ACA internal audit.

Putnamville held its Community Advisory Board meeting. State Representatives Nancy Michaels and Vern Tincher, Putnam Co. Superior Court Judge Charles Bridges, Greencastle Mayor Sue Murray, and Brazil Chief of Police David Archer all attended.

Logansport Juvenile held a GED graduation for 16 students. Indiana State Police Captain Ed Schroder spoke at the event.

ISP is rolling out a new series of re-entry programming entitled "Intervention You!" The classes will enhance the current SPOP curriculum and provide additional education classes to assist offenders in achieving successful re-entry.

Two groups from Ivy Tech's Sociology classes recently toured Miami Correctional Facility.

CTI hosted training this week in conjunction with the FBI Critical Incident Response Group and the Indiana Association of Hostage and Crisis Negotiations. This training was open to all federal, state, county, and local negotiators.

During October, the Shifting Gears operation at Pendleton donated 105 refurbished bikes to charitable organizations.

The WVCF/Ivy Tech Barber School honored Ben Freeman as the first facility-licensed through the apprenticeship program.

192 paroled sex offenders went to the 4<sup>th</sup> Indianapolis Operation Safe Halloween. No offenders were arrested at the event.

A film crew from PREP Inc. interviewed offenders and spouses at ISP, CIF, and Pendleton in support of the new PREP Inside and Out curriculum, which teaches offenders positive communication and relationship skills.

Logansport Juvenile held a CLIFF graduation for 11 students. To date, 191 students have completed the program.

The National Institute of Correction's Offender Workforce Development Specialist training program recently completed its final week of training. Indiana's team, which included IDOC employees Tanya Zimmerman, Lisa Williams, David Burch, Liz Johnson, Nicole Doctor, and Tricia May, developed a plan to replicate this training in Indiana.

CIF held a Rally's Inside/Out Dad fundraiser. Some of the proceeds will go to the Delaware Co. Salvation Army.

42 Madison Juvenile students are currently taking the pre-GED test. Ball State and Ivy Tech are collaborating to deliver academic and vocational programming to students at the facility, officially beginning November 16.

PEN Products held a Career Path Planning Workshop for offenders, IDOC staff, and community service providers at Putnamville.

Last week, Logansport Juvenile celebrated Red Ribbon Week. David Parnell spoke to students about his recovery from methamphetamine addiction and shared his story of how the drugs negatively affected his body and spirit.

Miami hosted Straight Talk programs at Lafayette Park M.S. for 300 students and at the facility with youth from Wabash.

Wabash Valley staff were first on the scene of a truck/train accident in Carlisle. A patrol officer witnessed the crash and alerted first responders to the scene. WVCF fire personnel monitored the accident victim until emergency aid arrived.

Officer Timothy Warrum climbed CIF's water tower to install 2 red indicator bulbs to comply with federal and local laws.

PEN Products' Job Placement Program took 5 female offenders to a large Indianapolis business for mock interviews. The women participated in individual interviews and received resume writing and interview hints by H.R. managers.

During October, Pendleton Correctional Facility off-grounds work crews logged 2,184 hours of community service.

Branchville is hosting its 7<sup>th</sup> Kairos event. Over 40 volunteers and 50 offenders are expected to participate.

Pendleton Juvenile's Auxiliary Committee held a breakfast celebration and gave out t-shirts for all working in the facility.

This week, 17 Ivy Tech Criminology students toured Putnamville housing units and program areas to learn about the facility.

A Newslink Indiana Reporter visited Pendleton to videotape interviews with staff and offenders regarding the college program.

28 IDOC staff attended training as PREP Inside and Out facilitators. This curriculum will be used in PLUS and other units.

"Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be." ~ Kahlil Gibran



Military veterans were recognized on Veteran's Day at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Each bracket gathered their veterans for a group picture. Marine Corp Veterans and family members of service members/veterans gathered to celebrate the Marine Corp birthday with a cake.

Rockville Correctional Facility held Kairos #11 with 41 offenders completing the program. The program was facilitated by a team of 47 Kairos volunteers. 82 members of the outside community attended the closing ceremonies.

New Castle held a staff recall with Nancy Reasoner and Janalea Bevans named Officer and Employee of the Month.

Logansport Juvenile recently honored its volunteers by providing a celebratory dinner for approximately 28 volunteers.

Madison Correctional Facility's Toastmasters "Correctly Speaking" Chapter sponsored an ice cream social for Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility.

At Henryville last weekend, Celebrate Recovery, a faith-based initiative that challenges participants to overcome addictive, compulsive and dysfunctional behaviors, held a holiday dinner and concert for the offender population.

Indiana State Prison's Eastern Orthodox community welcomed Metropolitan Joseph of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church.

Tomorrow, PREF will hold a concert performed by the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir and the Indianapolis Children's Choir as part of a grant provided by the Nina Mason Charitable Trust. Residents who have been building relationships with their children will enjoy the concert as the culmination of this special program.

Logansport Juvenile's CLIFF unit presented its Students Talking About Recovery program to 150 Lincoln M.S. students.

Rina Mahoney and Terence Wilton, actors of the "Actors From London Stage" Production Company, performed King Lear for forty offenders enrolled in two of ISU's classes at Putnamville Correctional facility. The production company, made up of five actors, was performing at DePauw University for the week and volunteered to perform for the offenders. The offenders not only watched a performance, but acted the parts of King Lear, his three daughters, and other support roles.

The profits from Westville Correctional Facility's offender food sales provided monetary donations to three local Salvation Army posts. The facility donated a total of \$2,400 in time for the holiday season.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility completed its Emergency Preparedness scenario, and Staff Development and Emergency Operations evaluated.

A film crew from Leopard Films USA visited Pendleton Correctional Facility to conduct additional video taped interviews in conjunction with the documentary being prepared that will feature the facility's Vocational Auto Body Program.

Rockville Correctional Facility staff and offenders collected 50,000 can tabs and donated them to the Parke County Girl Scouts.

Indiana State Prison held a graduation for offenders completing the Inside/Outside Dad program. The Inside/Out Dad program helps incarcerated fathers learn how to be a more involved, responsible and committed father.

Supervising Judge Dave Certo of the Marion County Probation Department and Robert Bingham, Marion County Chief Probation Officer, toured PREF this week for a look at Indiana's re-entry efforts.

17 students and a professor from the Criminal Justice Department at Manchester College toured CIF.

Nine students from Logansport Juvenile completed their Fiber-Optic class and are now certified installers of Fiber-Optics through C-Tech. Fiber-Optic class is an entry level class that runs for six weeks and is offered to GED graduates and or High School graduates. By the end of the six weeks students will learn the basic applications for constructing Fiber Optic cables for TV, computers, telephones and other networking.

Madison Correctional Facility staff and offenders raised money to save three animals at the Jefferson County Animal Shelter. The monies raised will assist with the adoption fee and spay/neuter making the adoption less expensive.

Recently, Henryville staff and offenders attended the Clark County Drug Court and addressed addiction/recovery issues.

Indiana State Prison recently held its sixth Kairos weekend. 34 offenders participated in the program.

Custody and non-custody staff at Pendleton Correctional Facility are working together to prepare sack meals for the offender population in connection with the lockdown currently in place at that facility.



# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted State Representatives Nancy Michael, Gail Riecken, Tom Saunders, and Vern Tincher, Commissioner Buss, IDOC staff, and Community Advisory Board members for a tour and luncheon.

Commissioner Buss spoke at the opening ceremony of the Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (IACCAC) Conference in Indianapolis. Other IDOC presenters included Jerry Vance, Jim Cox, and Michael Lloyd.

IDOC staff Jack Hendrix, Joe Huff, and Dave Liebel visited the U.S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute to observe the Life Connection faith and character-based program.

Judges from the Ukraine toured Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility and learned about Indiana's prison system.

The BMV Mobile Unit delivered 117 State ID cards to offenders at Edinburgh Correctional Facility who will soon be released. Over 1560 ID cards have been processed and delivered in 14 days since May!

A team effort between LaPorte Police and Camp Summit Boot Camp will supply free labor to remove graffiti from structures and objects. The new program is available to all property owners within the City of LaPorte.

The Indianapolis Parole Office (PD3) assisted Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's North-West District, in conjunction with the Marion County Sheriff's Department-Warrant Unit and U.S. Marshals Service, in a community policing activity by conducting compliance visits on paroled offenders residing in this area and no arrests were required.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a luncheon to celebrate completion of the Performace Based Standards (PBS) candidacy program. PBS team members were recognized with certificates and all staff received tokens of appreciation from Superintendent Harshbarger for their extra efforts during PBS data collection months.

Indiana State Prison's Fiscal Department held a bake sale with the profits going to the Stepping Stones Women's Shelter.

Branchville's Therapeutic Communities held a Family Recovery Day this week. Over 50 offenders and their families participated in the program. The focus of the program was to inform family members about what type of treatment is offered through the Therapeutic Communities and how they can help with relapse prevention and re-integration.

The Peace and Learning Center started sessions with Pendleton Juvenile intake students this week focusing on conflict resolution. Staff and students are being trained in a new method for dealing with conflict that will create a unique opportunity to improve the culture in our facility. This program is funded through a grant initiative.

Plainfield Correctional Facility held a staff assembly to keep staff informed on agency announcements. At the assembly, Amanda Hall, CWM from JCF and Regional Trainer for the NIC, delivered a presentation on managing stress and avoiding burnout in the workplace. Ms. Hall's information was well received and much appreciated.

Five students from Logansport Juvenile's CLIFF unit presented the Students Talking About Recovery (STAR) program at Peru Junior High School. The unit also conducted a STAR presentation to a group of student nurses from Ivy Tech.

New Castle staff and offenders presented the Westminster Community Center with a \$10,000 check which will be used to buy clothing and toys for 90 underprivileged children this Holiday Season.

The Department of Labor is issuing Correctional Officer Apprentice Program certificates to 147 correctional staff members. All of these staff member have 5 or more years of service. Congratulations!

This week, Ball State staff began teaching classes for the student population at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility held a career day this week, and offenders learned about auto mechanics.

RDC recently held a Chili Cook-off and raised \$221.25 for the upcoming RDC Holiday Party, during the two-day sale!

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS unit made a \$150 donation to the Cass County Ministerial Association. These funds will be disseminated among the Emmaus Mission, Salvation Army, and the Walton Food Bank.

Pendleton Juvenile's Auxiliary Committee held a "Walking Taco" fundraiser for the upcoming Christmas Parties for staff.

ISP's American Legion and Northwest Jaycees donated \$2,500 to the Michigan City Area Schools, which will buy coats for deserving children. The organizations also purchased 50 turkeys for the Salvation Army to give to needy families.

Northeast Juvenile and New Covenant Christian Center provided a Thanksgiving dinner to all offenders.

Westville hosted its largest Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Ninety volunteers were served in the facility's "Blue Room" dining area. Superintendent Wilson expressed words of thanks for the many hours of service.

**"The two most powerful weapons are courage and persistence. Nothing can stop a person armed with both." ~ Scott Sorrell**



The fourth annual IDOC auto show was recently held at the Indiana Government Center in Indianapolis. The auto body vocational programs from Pendleton, Plainfield, and Westville all participated. One of Plainfield's vehicles won first place. Each of the vehicles are newly resotred for use by the Parole Division.

This past weekend, the Indiana Women's Prison relocated to 2596 Girls School Road in Indianapolis, the former address of the Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility. IWP staff, as well as Emergency Response Operations, successfully transported 449 offenders with no major security problems.

William Watson, Director of Vigo County Community Corrections, was elected to a two-year term as President of the Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (IACCAC). IACCAC is the association representing the community corrections staff who are members. Lake County Director Kellie Bittorf was elected Vice President.

ISP held its second PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program) weekend with thirteen offenders and their significant others participating.

Upon completing a doll-house kit purchased and built as part of an arts and crafts activity, a group of PREF residents donated the house to a young girl residing at a foster-care agency in Brazil, Indiana.

The Wabash Valley PLUS Unit presented a model of the U.S.S. Vincennes to WVCF advisory board member and long time supporter of the unit, Belle Kasting, a former mayor of Vincennes, Indiana. PLUS participant Larry James took over a year to construct the model, largely out of paper.

300 turkeys, complete with all the "fixins," were prepared by staff and volunteers from IWP and IJCF, as well as Mr. Brady, Culinary Arts Instructor at PREF. Thelma "Mama" Turner continued the 25 year-old tradition where the 300 turkeys and full dinner menu were distributed to the Watkins Community Center.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility sent several youth to help out at the Salvation Army. The youth assisted with cleaning, loading and unloading of trucks, and the preparation and serving of meals.

Correctional Industrial Facility recently held two concerts, one with Hearts Afire and another with the By The Grace Trio. Both groups were gratefully received by a large group of offenders in the CIF Chapel.

Graduates of the Inside/Out Dads Program had a family day this week with their children attending for a visit in the chapel at the Indiana State Prison.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center Executive Staff recently hosted a pitch-in lunch and dinner for all employees in celebration of Thanksgiving and their hard work toward the recent ACA re-accreditation.

Pendleton Juvenile recently hosted the KAIROS Torch Retreat Weekend. Sixteen students were provided a safe place for spiritual exploration and growth, while promoting a long-term mentoring process. More than forty volunteers gave of their time and talents for the weekend Torch retreat.

This Thanksgiving, PREF will have approximately 100 members of the Progressive Baptist Church attending the Thanksgiving religious service. The congregation will join the residents in their worship and fellowship.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted a tour of the facility's Long Term Segregation Unit for executive staff members from the Illinois Department of Corrections. The Illinois visitors were interested in viewing and learning more about the Unit's ACT (Action, Consequences, and Treatment) Program.

Pendleton Juvenile recently held a Thanksgiving celebration feast. The auxiliary provided the meat for the festivities, and staff participated by bringing in side dishes.

ISP Employee Cindi Troutman was named 2009 Veteran of the Year at the Red, White and Blue Ball in Michigan City.

Lina Presley, Linda Vannatta, and Tom Quigley recently visited Miami and Plainfield to discuss proposed changes in the adult grievance procedure with interested personnel and to discuss solutions to problems that they share in common. Deputy Attorney General Betsy Isenberg also joined the group for the Miami visit.



# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

The Indianapolis Women's Community Re-entry Center moved to the grounds of the Indiana Women's Prison this week.

Miami Correctional Facility and PEN Products held two certificate ceremonies, one for staff and one for offenders, celebrating the completion of the Department of Labor's Apprenticeship programs. John M. Delgado, State Director for the U.S. Department of Labor, addressed both groups. A total of 145 staff and 93 offenders received certificates.

49 Correctional Police Officer candidates completed the 64-hour Essential Case Law for Policing America course administered by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, and all passed the 2-hour, 100 question test.

Reception-Diagnostic Center recently concluded a canned food drive. Staff donated 322 food items, which were divided among the St. Marks Food Pantry and the Healing Streams Revival Food Pantry, both located in Hendricks County.

The mobile BMV unit visited Madison Correctional. IDs were made for 172 adult females and 5 juvenile females.

New Castle Correctional Facility held a staff recall this week. Officer Charlotte Stewart was named Officer of the Month, and Debbie Swaford and Logan Phillippe were named Employees of the Month.

This week, Pendleton Correctional conducted a hostage simulation that was an excellent training opportunity for staff.

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS program created over 200 handmade Christmas cards and sent them to a local elderly housing complex so all residents would have the opportunity to receive a Holiday card.

ISP's Jaycees purchased 250 toys, which were wrapped and given to the local Salvation Army for distribution to children.

Camp Summit honored nine staff members for outstanding performance over the past few months at the facility's Quarterly Recall held at the facility. Several CAB members, including State Senator Jim Arnold, attended the event.

PLUS Offenders from New Castle made 200 holiday cards that were delivered to residents in local nursing homes.

Wabash Valley staff responded to the Employee Appreciation Committee sponsored holiday food drive, donating over 720 pounds of food to help those in need at food banks in Sullivan, Greene and Knox Counties.

ISP held a graduation for 132 offenders who completed their GED, Literacy and Life Skills, or an apprenticeship.

Rockville Correctional Facility honored volunteers for their many hours of service. They enjoyed a musical presentation by the RCF Holiday Choir and refreshments that had been prepared by the Culinary Arts Class.

Volunteers with the "Christmas Behind Bars" prison ministry organization distributed gift bags to Pendleton offenders.

ISP's Substance Abuse Department recognized the best essay for the Commitment to Change Program. The essay will air on the offender's channel and be submitted to the Continuing Education Counsel Committee for publication.

New Castle offenders donated \$1,500 to the Double Q Foundation, which holds a summer camp for kids with diabetes.

PEN Products held a Career Path Planning Workshop at Westville Correctional Facility this week. The 23 offender participants were challenged to start now in designing a career path plan for post release success.

WVCF PIO Rich Larsen talked to 58 Barr Reeve Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> graders today as part of the Daviess County Extension Service Project LEAD (Legal Education to Arrest Delinquency) Program.

Approximately 225 CIF Offenders participated in a Basketball Tournament over the Thanksgiving Day holiday period.

Miami's PLUS Unit held its second Offender Arts and Crafts Show and Silent Auction this week. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Miami County Youth Leadership Summit to promote finishing school and attending college. The show made more than \$500. Offenders in the unit made more than 150 craft pieces for the show/auction.

Madison Correctional Facility held its annual volunteer recognition event to honor over 200 volunteers.

Hats off to Wabash Valley Counselor Faith Reeves who volunteered her time Thanksgiving Day, serving meals to over 600 Sullivan County residents, part of the annual Wally King Memorial Thanksgiving dinner.

The Indiana State Prison held a General Christian Family Day for offenders and their families.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted a successful PREP weekend, where 8 offenders and their significant others spent a weekend learning valuable relationship enhancement techniques. The program was well received by all in attendance.

25 bicycles reconditioned in Pendleton's "Shifting Gears" operation were donated to AMVETS Post # 26 in Pendleton.

**"To be mature means to face, and not evade, every fresh crisis that comes." ~ Fritz Kunkel**



# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009

Last weekend, Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility hosted its third annual Holiday Gift Exchange for fathers participating in the Children's Visitation Center (CVC) program. Ten incarcerated fathers and thirteen of their children enjoyed a holiday feast together, sang songs, and then gathered around the Christmas tree to open presents.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility volunteers held three unit parties to bring some Christmas spirit to the students.

At their regular quarterly meeting, Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund board members were pleased to learn that staff have pledged nearly \$8,000 to the Fund through the SECC. See your facility's SECC coordinator to participate.

Mennonite Congregations from Indiana distributed cookies this week at the Correctional Industrial Facility. They went throughout the facility handing out cookies to staff and offenders.

Members of Parole District #5 are joining members of Jackson County law enforcement in this year's Shop with a Cop. The Parole Agents will shop with some of the 109 families who have children that are in need. The children will be able to get clothing and toys for the holidays.

As part of an ongoing commitment to employee appreciation events, Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted its annual staff Christmas Party last weekend at the FOP Lodge in Anderson. Several door prizes donated by local vendors were presented throughout the evening.

Henryville Correctional Facility offenders arrived at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility this week to work on the construction of the Education Building. The projected date of completion is January 7, 2010.

Approximately 20 Pendleton Correctional Facility staff members attended the facility's second Promoting Positive Correctional Culture program this week at the facility's Training Center.

During November, 23 bicycles were reconditioned in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears operation. 412 bikes have been refurbished so far this year.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Lt. Amanda Pirtle and Officer Roxanne Henderson took part in the Vincennes Police Department's Shop with a Cop event for needy kids this week and presented them with a \$240 check on behalf of the facility's Inside Out Dad's Program.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility students helped prepare care packages to IDOC employees deployed overseas.

Miami Correctional Facility's Business Office raised \$211.59 during a bake sale this week. The business office held the sale to help offset the costs of a Wii console and games to be purchased for the Stepping Stone Shelter in northern Indiana. The shelter is for women and children.

Pendleton Correctional Facility off-ground work crews logged 2,320 hours of community service during November.

The Employee Action Planning Committee at Westville Correctional Facility hosted the facility's annual Christmas Party last weekend. A catered dinner, holiday entertainment, and dancing to the DJ filled the delightful evening at a location that overlooked beautiful Lake Michigan. Nearly 300 staff members, their guests, contract employees and retirees attended the celebration.

Boy Scout Troop #1888 from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility is still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The Boy Scouts have counted over 24,000 pop tabs this year. The Scouts are also collecting aluminum cans.

Putnamville Correctional Facility staff brainstormed at a 2-day retreat focusing on maintaining existing high standard levels and improving upon facility operations and programs in light of budget constraints. Capitalizing on resources, facility graduates of the Department's Experienced and Emerging Leaders Program served as focus group coordinators. During the retreat, State Representatives Nancy Michaels (see picture, right) and Vern Tincher visited and addressed staff. "I support community partnerships and look forward to working with Commissioner Buss," stated Representative Michaels.



"Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2009

Commissioner Buss presented Marion County Judge Marilyn Moores with a Distinguished Hoosier Award and a commemorative lock from the Indiana State Prison for her commitment to the juvenile justice system.

The Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility moved to the grounds of the former Indiana Women's Prison this week.

Montezuma Christian Church volunteers directed the Rockville Holiday Choir in the Christmas Cantata "City on a Hill."

Superintendent Jan Davis of Madison Correctional Facility used grant monies to purchase stockings and presents for the students at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility. The items will be left by Santa in the student's rooms Christmas Eve.

Henryville held a Community Advisory Board meeting, recognizing road crew officers and discussing work crews.

Logansport Juvenile held a graduation ceremony for 21 students. State Senator Randall Head was the keynote speaker. State Representative Douglas Gutwein and former State Senator Tom Weatherwax also attended.

The Northern CISM Team met for its annual holiday dinner/training. Westville's culinary arts program prepared lunch.

New Castle's Education/Culinary Arts Department provided a Holiday dinner this week for 49 offender participants and 87 family and friends. Offenders were required to be conduct free for a year and enrolled in a program or employed.

Pendleton Juvenile's Auxiliary Committee held a Christmas dinner for the all of the facility's staff.

Over 7,350 hamburgers and spicy chicken pieces were sold to Putnamville offenders. The food sale, organized by PLUS Coordinator S. Kumaran, generated proceeds of over \$3,650 for the PLUS Unit.

The Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry visited Pendleton and distributed cookies to offenders and staff.

Staff members, family, and friends enjoyed a visit with Santa at the Rockville Correctional Facility. Each child received a gift and everyone enjoyed cookies and milk. The sale of pictures benefitted the Employee Appreciation Fund.

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles made 68 state IDs for Henryville offenders about ready to be released.

WVCF's Michele Lincoln, Cindy Lett, Roxanna Henderson, Amanda Pirtle, and Shawna Vair helped buy toys as part of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. WVCF Inside Out Dad's and PLUS offenders donated over \$547.

Madison Juvenile students created a card for the family of fallen police officer Sutton from Jefferson County.

Gospel Echoes treated all Miami staff and offenders to a bag of cookies for the holidays. More than 200 volunteers put together more than 3,600 bags of cookies to hand out to staff and offenders.

Several Pendleton Juvenile units had Christmas this week and enjoyed a meal and presents donated by volunteers.

Plainfield assisted 250 underprivileged children in 8 local community schools for the Toys for Hendricks County Kids Drive. Donated gifts were delivered to the local schools by Santa Claus, PCF employee George Shepherd.

The Gospel Echoes visited New Castle this week passing out literature and cookies to both staff and offenders.

Madison Correctional Facility's Cosmetology Department hosted a night at the spa for a Salvation Army Christmas Family this week. The family enjoyed the evening, and the offenders learned a valuable lesson in giving.

The Gospel Echoes Prison Ministry delivered cookies to the offender population and staff at the Indiana State Prison.

The Inside/Out Dads at CIF hosted their third Christmas Party for 61 fathers and 105 children. The Salvation Army of Delaware County supplied gifts and refreshments.

Westville recently hosted its annual Christian Christmas Celebration. The Christian group presented words of encouragement and holiday music to the facility's 3,300 offenders and gave all staff and offenders holiday cookies.

A graduation was held at ISP's Minimum Security Unit for offenders receiving GEDs and Apprenticeship Certificates.

South Bend Juvenile hosted an educational retreat for staff from SBJ and Camp Summit. 30 staff members from treatment, custody, and education participated in a variety of professional development activities.

CIF held its annual AA Christmas party with 8 volunteers and 65 offenders enjoying pizza, chips, cookies, and soda.

Putnamville staff distributed Christmas candy while Gospel Echoes representatives distributed cookies to the offender population. Afterward, the Gospel Echoes volunteers participated in a meet and greet session with the offenders.

"Open your presents at Christmas time but be thankful year round for the gifts you receive." ~ Lorinda Ruth Lowen



# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009

Madison Correctional Facility started the second of two training academies to accommodate the new hires for the Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility and the staff hired for the Madison Campus Maintenance Consolidation.

Over 100 Miami offenders were treated to a special concert by the Main Street United Methodist Church bell choirs.

Over 40 representatives from area communities, DNR, INDOT, and not-for-profit organizations met at the WVCF firehouse to discuss and schedule 2010 projects, utilizing supervised minimum-security offender labor lines.

New Castle Correctional Facility staff raised \$1,800 through food sales to assist 4 NCCF families this holiday season.

Pendleton Correctional Facility honored Pendleton Complex Warehouse Supervisor Trena Aynes in recognition of her retiring after 20 years of service.

Logansport Juvenile sent several youth to assist the Salvation Army in handing out over 200 gift packages.

Westville's Employee Action Planning Committee sponsored the facility's participation in LaPorte County Jaycee's Deserving Children evening. Staff from WCC accompanied the county's most deserving children to dinner and to local stores for holiday shopping. According to the Jaycee's, Westville provided more staff to the program than any other business or agency.

Henryville recently graduated two offenders who earned their GED and were taught by the facility's volunteer teacher.

A traveling basketball team sponsored by Brian Taylor came to the Indiana State Prison to play basketball with the offender league. After the game, the offender players spoke to the ball players about making good life choices.

Miami Correctional Facility's K-9 team rang the bells for the Salvation Army at the Kroger grocery store in Peru for 12 hours recently. Members participating in the bell ringing included: Jeremy Brindle, Michael Gapski, Montrel McGee, Jeffrey Childers, Stanley Green, Zachary Whann, Matthew Schoettmer, Brian Knauff, Dale Chasteen, Charles Williams, Glen Hatter, Joshua Snow and Charity Hotsinpillar.

The PLUS Graduate Pilot Program at Correctional Industrial Facility created 250 Christmas cards for local nursing homes.

The Indianapolis Men's Community Re-entry Center just wrapped up its first Christmas celebration with Christmas Behind Bars and Unchained Ministries. Both residents and staff enjoyed the two hour presentation.

Wabash Valley staff, led by Superintendent James Basinger, delivered 56 PLUS unit Christmas gift boxes to residents of the Hutsonville, Illinois-based Heritage House for veterans. Each gift came directly from offender commissary donations, offender fundraisers, and outside donations from PLUS volunteers with the New Beginnings Christian Ministry.

Madison Correctional Facility employees, PLUS unit, Toastmaster's Club, and CMS teamed up to ensure a Merry Christmas for 8 local children.

Pendleton conducted a graduation ceremony for two offenders who completed their GED and 13 offenders who completed the facility's Horticulture Vocational Training Program.

Indiana State Prison's Shifting Gears Program donated 29 bikes to the Moose Lodge in Knox, Indiana.

Miami Correctional Facility's American Legion offender group held a fundraiser over the weekend. The group sold Pepsi and Hostess pies to offenders and made nearly \$3,000 on the sale.

Successfully Speaking, the Toastmasters Club at the Henryville Correctional Facility, recently donated \$250 to the Clearinghouse Food Pantry in Scottsburg. Club members also wrapped gifts and made Christmas stockings for the children who visited their fathers at the facility.

Branchville Correctional Facility recently held a blood drive and collected 34 units of blood. The American Red Cross awarded Karen Smith, Counselor/Substance Abuse, with a plaque for her giving history of over 13 gallons of blood.

Miami's Employee Appreciation Committee held a donut sale and raised \$90 for Employee Appreciation Week.

Madison Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community, GRIP, sent 115 Christmas cards to 3 local nursing homes and donated 50 crocheted hats and 10 stuffed animals to the Department of Child Services.

*Merry  
Christmas*

# WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2009

Commissioner Buss visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility this week to tour the grounds and congratulate the staff and resident population for the successful transition and move from the Plainfield location.

For the holiday season, Rockville Correctional Facility staff sponsored 52 children from the four Parke County elementary schools. The facility coordinated with the schools to identify the needs and wishes of each child. Individual staff members sponsored children, and there were also activities at the facility to assist in the raising of funds.

During the holidays, Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility was very active with festivities. Madison Presbyterian Church hosted a Christmas party for the best behaved unit. MJCF also received generous monetary donations from the Christ Episcopal Church and Tea Creek Baptist Church, which allowed the opportunity to facilitate Christmas parties for the remaining two general population units. The students received stockings on Christmas Day that contained items donated from Madison Correctional Facility, and recreation staff held Bingo games with prizes for the students. In addition, Hanover Baptist Church collected and donated items from our wish list.

Indiana State Prison's fiscal staff presented the Stepping Stones Women's Shelter with two Nintendo Wii game consoles and a television. The funds were raised by bake sales and donations made by the offender American Legion and Jaycees organizations.

For the 12<sup>th</sup> year, Christmas morning at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility included Bishop Gerald A. Gettlefinger, who presided over mass for offenders and staff, followed by a question/answer session.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility recently held a Holiday Pageant. Facility staff and selected students were in attendance. The Boy Scout Troop, middle school class, and offender choir performed skits and sang holiday carols.

CIF's Therapeutic Community, GRIP, had a talent show where 40 offenders participated. The program involved a variety of acts, such as a skit that acted out the story of TC and the story of AA/NA, vocal numbers, and a guitar solo. The winning performance was a musical number followed by a skit that celebrated recovery.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility recently held a blood drive and collected 16 units of blood. The facility partnered with the Indiana Blood Center that assists more than 60 hospitals in Indiana.

Camp Summit Boot Camp staff and selected students participated in various holiday activities designed to assist the less fortunate during this holiday season. Volunteer activities included stocking Salvation Army Food Bank shelves in Michigan City, caroling at six nursing/assisted living homes in LaPorte and Michigan City, and participating in Adopt-A-Family, where staff and students presented gifts to needy local families selected by Father Frank Endres of the St. Mary of the Angels Church in LaPorte. The gifts were purchased with donations from staff and students at Camp Summit, and the students alone donated over \$411.

CIF held a Native American Sweat and Wounded Knee remembrance the day after Christmas in the chapel.

In conjunction with Pendleton Correctional Facility's annual Tree of Warmth project, 48 children's knit hat and glove sets donated by staff were presented to the Salvation Army in Anderson.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility's Healthcare Services passed the Indiana State Pharmacy audit with a 100% score.

Two members of the Westville Correctional Facility Canine Unit assisted the LaPorte County Sheriff's Department in the search for a missing teenager. When the girl disappeared and search efforts began, the facility stepped up to show its community support by providing staff and canines to the search.

Offenders assigned to Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears operation refurbished 41 bicycles during December. A total of 453 bikes were reconditioned in 2009.

CIF delivered refreshments to the officers assigned to work on Christmas, and gift cards were drawn for all staff.



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's Day." ~ Edith Lovejoy Pierce