



Friday
January 7,
2011

Weekly Views

The Indiana Department of Correction is pleased to welcome back Julie Von Arx-Lanham. Julie will be returning to the Department to play an important role in our Agency's re-entry initiatives. As Executive Director of Transitional Services, she will be developing new policies that improve offender transition, and she will support and help implement the recommendations of the Council of State Government's Justice Reinvestment Project. As an Executive Director, Ms. Lanham will serve as a member of the Commissioner's Executive Staff, and will oversee our Agency's reentry and transition services.

Superintendent Mark Sevier and Superintendent Alan Finnan are pleased to announce that Ms. Laurie Johnson from Pendleton Correctional Facility has been promoted to Assistant Superintendent at Miami Correctional Facility. Ms. Johnson began her career with the IDOC in March 1990 as a Correctional Officer and has worked her way up the ranks in custody and training to her current position as Unit Team Manager. In 2009, Laurie graduated from the Department's Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program. Her knowledge and experience will be an asset for Miami, and the facility is looking forward to her arrival on January 24, 2011 where she will be assigned as Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry.

60 Daviess County 5th graders were briefed about life in a maximum-security prison from Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PIO Rich Larsen. The Barr Reeve Elementary students are taking part in the Legal Education to Arrest Delinquency (LEAD) Program. The group learned more about IDOC and Wabash Valley programs designed to help offenders successfully re-enter society. (see photo right)



Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Varsity Basketball Team hosted a thrilling game with Michigan City's Intramural Traveling team. In an exciting overtime, WCC prevailed 121-120. The game was videotaped and will be shown to all the offender population over the closed circuit TV. The team welcomes Chicago's Moody Bible College this upcoming Saturday.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a staff assembly. Administrative staff provided employees with an update of significant events occurring at the facility and employees were honored for various accomplishments. Guests at the event included IDOC Executive Director of Adult Facilities Stanley Knight and Ombudsman Bureau Division Director Charlene Burkett. Several employees were presented certificates in recognition of years of service and completion of U.S. Department of Labor Training Programs. Correctional Officer Michael Eden was recognized as Employee of the Quarter and Correctional Casework Manager Andrew Cole was named as the facility's Supervisor of the Quarter. Two recently retired employees were also honored, Correctional Sergeant William Nicholson (33 years) and Recreation Leader Farouk Rezkalla (20 years).

George Korepanow, a new officer from the Indiana State Prison, was recognized with the Teamwork Award at the Northern Regional Correctional Training Graduation. Welcome George to the Department of Correction family.

Interns and staff from the Sagamore Institute, a nonprofit public policy research organization based in Indianapolis, visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). The group toured the grounds and spoke with staff and residents about the IREF program's impact on the residents' incarceration and re-entry.

Rockville Correctional Facility held the facility's fourth blood drive for 2010. Twenty four units of blood were successfully collected.

The Indiana Blood Center conducted a blood drive at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility. Twenty-Seven staff members donated and five others attempted to give blood.

After earning 11 high school credits at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility's (MJCF) Promise Junior/Senior High School, a MJCF student has completed all her course work to earn her High School Diploma.

28 staff members from IDOC Central Office hit the scales to weigh-in for the 2nd Annual Central Office Biggest Loser competition. Over the next 12 weeks, 14 teams of two will compete in the healthy weight loss competition. Besides the team competition, various events have been planned for participants to better create a happier, healthier lifestyle.



Friday
January 14,
2011

Weekly Views

Following Commissioner Buss' announcement of his departure, Governor Daniels has appointed Putnamville Correctional Facility Superintendent Bruce Lemmon to serve as the new Commissioner for the Indiana Department of Correction. Superintendent Lemmon has served in various capacities within IDOC since 1976, including Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner. Best wishes to Commissioner Buss in his new endeavor and congratulations to incoming Commissioner Lemmon!

Wabash PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) participants received special thanks today from Virgil Madden, Senior Policy Advisor for Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman. The Lieutenant Governor was very touched and impressed by the recent holiday cards designed and made by Wabash PLUS; part of the 1,500 cards made for her annual Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes campaign. Mr. Madden also presented WVCF/PLUS staff with the Partner in Progress Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Lieutenant Governor. The honor is the first of its kind for the Indiana Department of Correction and for the IDOC PLUS program.

Pendleton Juvenile Recreation Department held its first "Iron Man Competition". There were 110 participants in this week long event. The students who participated in the event had to complete work-out stations, in which they were judged on. There were 38 winners in the Iron Man Competition. All winners received a pizza party at the end of the competition.

Offenders from the Westville Correctional Facility's Inside Out Dad's Program spent an afternoon in front of a video camera. The offenders filmed themselves reciting messages of love, concern and encouragement to their children. The videos are sent with the hope that dad's message will brighten their child's day.



Pendleton Correctional Facility Officer Brandon Mackey was presented with the facility's 2010 "Outstanding Teamwork Award" in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to the facility's K9 Program. The award is presented annually to a K9 Officer who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to accomplishing the K9 Unit's mission while promoting unit cohesion.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for 30 students who completed their GED. Of the 30 graduates, two earned an Honors diploma. Along with the GED graduations, the Vantage Pointe Learning Center also reported that since July 1, 2010 they have had 140 students obtain their GED, issued 1096 high school credits, had seven students become certified in telecommunications, 88 students become certified in the copper based part of the C-tech program and 50 students become certified in the fiber optics part of the C-tech program. The keynote speaker for the event was former State Senator Tom Weatherwax.



Two Pendleton Correctional Facility employees were promoted and honored during a pinning ceremony conducted in Superintendent Finnan's Office. Congratulations go to Lt. Levi Stonebarger who was promoted to Captain and Sgt. Charlie Fox who received a promotion to Lieutenant. (see photo above)

Lemuel Vega with Christmas Behind Bars Ministry and George "Midget" Whirley with Unchained Ministry visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility to deliver inspirational messages of hope and to present each resident with gift bags that included hygiene items, books, and snacks. (see photo left)

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility's Boy Scout Troop #1888 and recreation staff member Mark Stevenson held the Second Annual Pinewood Derby race. The Boy Scouts carved blocks of wood to mold them into cars. They then painted their cars and installed wheels to prepare them to race. Student Hoyt took first place.

Please join Commissioner Buss and staff in congratulating the following staff as they take on new and exciting duties in their new roles throughout the Department. Central Office's Ronald J. Leffler has been appointed to the position of Deputy Compact Administrator. Ronald L. Allen, the Department's ACA Accreditation Manager and Director of the Program Review/Audit Division, will assume his new role as Assistant Superintendent at the Indiana Women's Prison. Director of Mental Health and Special Populations, Frances Osburn, will assume duties as the Superintendent of Edinburgh Correctional Facility. Edinburgh Superintendent Bryan Pearson will assume his new duties as Director, Mental Health and Special Populations. Assistant Superintendent, Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF), Kathy Griffin will assume the duties as Superintendent of the Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility. Chain O Lakes (COL) Superintendent Mike Cunegin will assume the duties as Assistant Superintendent at CIF. Please congratulate each of them and provide them all of your support towards their future success.



Friday
January 21,
2011

Weekly Views

Due to the extensive amount of continual snowfall in the South Bend area, most of the city's fire hydrants are completely covered with snow. In an effort to uncover these fire hydrants so that the fire department can readily access them in case of fire, the Mayor's office has asked the South Bend Community Re-entry Center (SBCRC) to assist. SBCRC offenders began the process of digging out fire hydrants on the south side of the city. Over 100 hydrants have been cleared, but an additional 50 remain. SBCRC hopes to continue this effort in the coming days until all hydrants in the city are completely cleared.

New Castle Correctional Facility Assistant Superintendent Craig Hanks received the 2010 statewide award for "Heroes for Recovery" from the Mental Health America of Indiana.

The Indiana Blood Center conducted a blood drive at the Pendleton Correctional Facility, collecting 15 units of blood. Staff donors were provided a choice of an Indianapolis Colts Shirt or a football autographed by Colts player Melvin Bullitt in appreciation for their participation.

Wabash Valley Lieutenant Michael Voigtschild has been promoted to Captain at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. An official pinning ceremony took place during the facility's Staff Recall. Captain Voigtschild is a nearly 13-year veteran at the maximum security facility and is a graduate of the Experienced and Emerging Leadership Program. Acting Major Tim Riggle and Assistant Superintendent Dick Brown did the pinning honors for the facility's newest Custody Supervisor.

Kojak Fuller, former Mr. Basketball, paid a visit to the Future Soldier Program at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Mr. Fuller gave the students a background history of his life and glory years playing basketball for Anderson High School. He advised the students on how bad choices changed his life, causing him to become a teenage father and eventually locked up in prison on drug charges. Mr. Fuller had the students' full attention as he showed them what the right choices could bring if they choose to make them. He also spoke about the changes that have taken place in his own life and acted out scenerios with the students on how to greet, speak, and give a firm hand shake to people they meet. The students were very appreciative of what Mr. Fuller shared with them and gave him a standing ovation.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) of Vigo County visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, to pick up two custom made PLUS quilts. The quilts will help raise funds during their annual BBBS Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser that takes place in late March. Assistant Superintendent Dick Brown has been a Big Brother with the organization since 2007 and suggested the project to help the over 200 children involved with BBBS.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS dorm donated \$500 to sponsor the Pinewood Derby race for the Cloverdale Cub Scout Pack 93 which was held at the Cloverdale Middle School. The boys are given an official Pinewood Derby kit. The scouts design, cut, and shape the wood block into a car of their liking. Then they add paint, wheels, and weights to get their cars ready for the race. Trophies are given to the winners.

Marion Thatcher, Correctional Team Manager at the Indiana State Prison, has earned his bachelor's degree in business management. Mr. Thatcher completed his degree after completing an externship at the Indiana State Prison. He seeks to use his degree to advance his career within the Department.

The Indiana State Prison held a blood drive with the American Red Cross. 22 staff members gave the gift of donated blood.

PEN Products' Lisa Williams and Doug Evans were two of fifteen corrections professionals selected to take part in the first Offender Employment Retention Specialist (OERS) training in Aurora, Colorado. At the training, the group of fifteen evaluated the new OERS curriculum which was developed through the National Institute of Corrections.

Westville's Therapeutic Community hosted its third family seminar. The series of family seminars, funded through a Justice Assistance Grant, addresses various topics related to re-entry. The day long seminar included workshops, written exercises, discussions and a luncheon provided by the facility's culinary arts vocational program.

The Native American Circle, an offender group at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF), hosted a memorial service in honor of the Lakota Sioux people who lost their lives at Wounded Knee, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in December 1890. Residents and their guests participated in a smudging ceremony and feasted on a traditional meal of fry-bread, beans, squash, beef stew, and maize.

Five staff members from New Castle Correctional Facility enjoyed "Lunch with the Chamber of Commerce."



Friday
February 4,
2011

Weekly Views

Former IDOC Commissioner Edwin Buss was presented the Distinguished Service Award by Indiana National Guard Adjutant General Martin Umbarger at the Leadership Symposium in Brown County. It is the highest civilian honor the United States military can bestow and is issued for exceptionally meritorious service to the government of the United States. General Umbarger commented, "Commissioner Buss has been extremely supportive of the Indiana National Guard. A military veteran himself, he understands the demands placed on our Citizen-Soldiers. And no state agency has been more accommodating and understanding of our Guardsmen than the Indiana Department of Corrections." (see photo left)



The 2011 Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers IndiCANA Food Drive, sponsored by First Lady Cheri Daniels, began this week and runs through February 25th! Last year the Department collected 7227 food items and \$4,247 to be donated to food banks across the state, thanks to the tireless efforts of IDOC staff. Again this year, each facility is encouraged to participate in the month-long event. If your facility has not signed up to join the cause, please have the coordinator for your facility contact Stephanie Lightfoot at Central Office.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff gathered to wish Superintendent James Basinger well in his new assignment as Executive Director of Adult Facilities. Director Basinger helped serve cake during a reception in his honor. "Base" said his years at Wabash have been educational. "It feels like I "grew up" here in terms of my correctional development. "Many of my co-workers have become life long friends." The 20 year veteran of the IDOC has been linked to Wabash Valley since 1992. James Basinger will begin serving in his new post effective Sunday, February 6, 2011. (see photo below)

Westville Correctional Facility was successfully recommended for re-accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) at the ACA winter conference in San Antonio, with its highest score yet of 99.1% on the non-mandatory applicable standards.

Occupants of the Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Dorm, a newly implemented veterans program at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, held a memorial service to honor one of their comrades who had lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday, February 2, 2011. Residents remembered the Army veteran through inspirational messages and song, and observed a moment of silence.



PEN Products' Job Placement Department conducted a "Job Club" for 19 of their resident workers from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. The topics discussed included Ethical Decision Making, focusing on the workplace, and "The 30 Second Elevator Speech". After a general discussion, the residents participated in small group activities which concluded with one on one practice of their elevator speeches.

Indiana State Prison-Minimum Security Unit Work Crew gave their assistance to the citizens of Michigan City. Recently, large amounts of snow had made it difficult for the street departments to keep up with the demands. The offenders helped by shoveling sidewalks, fire hydrants and bus stops.



Their help was greatly appreciated by all. (see photo left)

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Advisory Board met, learning more about a pilot solar water heating project, upcoming construction of a stun fence, and how P.E.W. report recommendations could lead to sentencing reform. Board members were also briefed on an upcoming MSNBC production at WVCF.

Central Office received 100% compliance with all ACA mandatory standards and 97.9% compliance on non-mandatory standards during its mock audit. Preparation continues as staff prepare for the ACA audit in March.

The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund (ICPOF) Scholarship Committee met to review applications for the seven scholarships available for the spring semester. Look for the winners to be announced soon!



Friday
February 11,
2011

Weekly Views

Representatives from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Indiana Veterans Administration, and the Indiana Department of Correction held a seminar at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility's Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Dorm where they informed INVET residents about possible employment assistance, educational and vocational benefits that may be eligible to them upon their release from incarceration.

The Indiana State Prison held a shelter sanitation competition to determine which units would be allowed to attend a Super Bowl party. Both I Cell House and F-Dorm tied after inspections were conducted and approximately 150 offenders were able to watch the game on and enjoying hot dogs, popcorn, snacks and refreshments.

Madison Correctional Facility's Family Preservation Center donated \$500 to the Capital Campaign for Girls Inc., an after-school program that inspires girls to be strong, smart and bold.

Longtime Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Volunteer, Pastor Steven Brown has been busy this month coordinating Black History Month events. Pastor Brown spoke with Youth Incarcerated as Adults residents about Dr. Martin Luther King and Black History. He also video taped informational Black History Month programs with Father Bob Nemergut for the Wabash television channel, which will air the entire month of February. The videos feature a number of books available for the offender population to read about Black History.



The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund (ICPOF) still has 25 commemorative coins available to purchase at this time, and they are going fast. The cost of the coin is \$50 and each one is numbered. Only 100 of these coins were made, so they will be a collector's item. 100% of the money from the sale of the coins goes to the ICPOF. Anyone interested in purchasing a coin should contact Jim Kimmel at (219) 362-6150. (see photo left)

On behalf of the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) Therapeutic Community (TC) Steering Committee, Jerry Vance, IDOC Director of Programs, presented the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility's (IREF) Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Dorm with a check for \$550. The funds were raised by WCC TC participants through a food sale sponsored by the offenders and donated to INVET in appreciation for the sacrifices made by all Indiana Veterans. Westville's TC Director, Lynda Sward has expressed a special interest in veteran's affairs, and will continue providing support for the INVET program. (see photo right of Alexis Dean, INVET Program Specialist, and Jerry Vance)

Congratulations to Pendleton Correctional Facility Casework Manager John Safford who has been promoted to the position of Correctional Unit Manager at the facility.

Mathew Leohr has been promoted to Supervisor of Classification at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Leohr began his career as a Correctional Counselor at Wabash in 1997, advanced to Casework Manager in 2000 and then to Unit Team Manager in 2007. Leohr is a 1997 Indiana State University graduate majoring in Psychology and Criminology.



Chief of Staff Amanda Copeland announced Aaron Garner as the new Executive Director of Research & Technology. Mr. Garner joined the Indiana Department of Correction as a Research Analyst within the Research and Planning Division in July 2006. Since joining the Indiana Department of Correction, Aaron graduated from the first Experienced and Emerging Leader's Program. He has also served as a Team Leader for the Department's Leadership Academy since its inception and currently holds the position of Treasurer with the Indiana Criminal Justice Association. Please welcome Aaron and provide him the support and cooperation he will need in his new role.

Seven students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility received their ServSafe certification. The students are currently enrolled in a Culinary Arts Class offered here at the facility.

Although it may not seem like it, spring is on its way and that means the 2011 ICPOF Golf Outing is quickly approaching. The tournament will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011 at Valle Vista Golf Course in Greenwood, Indiana. The golf outing is filling very fast, but there are still foursomes available. With that being said, spots will be given on a first come, first serve basis and will not be held without payment.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) celebrated the graduation of 35 offenders from the CLIFF (Clean Lifestyle Is Freedom Forever) program. MCF has had more than 900 offenders complete the program since it opened its doors at the facility in 2005.



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February 18,
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Weekly Views

Mike Hoffman, weatherman for channel 16, WNDU South Bend, visited Camp Summit (CS) Boot Camp to discuss various weather phenomena and gave the Camp Summit staff and students an inside look at the production of the weather reports at the news station. The visit was arranged by Mr. Tom Ferrara, who teaches the Careers class at Camp Summit. Mr. Hoffman broadcast a photo of his visit to CS on the evening news the day of his visit. (see photo right)



Members of the Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force made a fact finding visit to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, spending time in the facility's Youth Incarcerated as Adults (YIA) Unit. Kellie Whitcomb, IDOC Director of Juvenile Re-Entry & External Relations, helped coordinate the event, with YIA staff sharing programming information and answering questions to help enhance continued re-entry success for youth.

Six offenders from the Madison Correctional Facility passed the state board testing for licensing in Nail Technician and Cosmetology.

The Westville Correctional Facility will host an exciting basketball game between the WCC Varsity team and the NW Indiana Magical Stars this weekend. The Stars, an expansion franchise of the ABA, will bring their best to the facility on Friday night. WCC's Varsity team is coached by Recreation Leader Dan Palombizio, Indiana's Mr. Basketball 1981 and Ball State All-Star.

After 36 years of service, IDOC Central Office gathered to thank and congratulate Lonnise Roberson during her Retirement Celebration. Lonnise has spent the past six years as a part of the Legal Services Division, assisting with SEAC employment litigation. She has also been instrumental in helping initiate the Restorative Justice program. Lonnise is looking forward to spending more time with her friends and family and plans to travel abroad. Congratulation Lonnise!

Pendleton Correctional Facility employee Linda Becker was honored during a retirement luncheon in recognition of her 17 years of dedicated service to the facility and the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC). Congratulations Linda! Have a great retirement!

It was a busy week for the students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. The students participated in community service with the Anderson Police Department, helping the police set up for a Crime Awareness Seminar. Students also helped with construction on a house in Madison County for Habitat for Humanity and volunteered at Gleaners Food Bank.

As part of Black History Month, students at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility attended a program presented by local historian and actress Sue Livers. She presented her very popular portrayal of a black minister's wife during pre-civil war days here in Madison, IN. This Black minister was one of the pivotal leaders of the Underground Railroad that was extremely active in Madison. Slaves came across the Ohio River from Kentucky into a new free world while slave hunters did their best to track them down on the Indiana side.

In recognition of Black History Month, The Henryville Correctional Facility invited the Down by the Wayside Choir from Louisville, Kentucky to share musical selections as well as testimonies of changing their lives to the offender population. The choir has been singing in the Kentuckiana area since 2000. The choir is composed of members in recovery or recovered from drugs and/or alcohol.

Superintendent William K. Wilson judged a science fair on behalf of the Indiana State Prison at Barker Middle School in Michigan City, Indiana.



Wabash Valley Correctional Facility is the latest learning experience for Vincennes University (VU) Nursing Students, on grounds for hands on psych clinical rotations. VU nursing instructors and their students are spending time with CMS staff, making rounds in mental health areas and learning more about nursing careers in partnership with the IDOC. (see photo left)

A Kairos Fellowship Group spent three days at New Castle Correctional Facility meeting with a select group of offenders.

Congratulations to two recently promoted Pendleton Correctional Facility employees. Captain Karl Downey was promoted to the rank of Major and will serve as the facility's Custody Supervisor. Case Work Manager John Safford has been promoted to the position of Correctional Unit Team Manager 2.

Miami Correctional Facility's IN Shape Committee finished up its first quarter event which was a four week class of Zumba dance, an exercise class that features Latin music and dance moves. Eight staff members participated in the eight classes at the training building led by Zumba Gold Instructor Cindy Marschand from Galveston.



Friday
February 25,
2011

Weekly Views

Westville Correctional Facility has received lots of attention from envious bird watchers around the nation. A Snowy Owl was spotted perched on a security tower over the weekend and has been sighted hanging around the facility as late as Thursday afternoon. Staff from the Department of Natural Resources visited the facility to confirm the sighting and indicated a Snowy Owl, a native from the high Arctic Circle, had not been spotted in the state for several years. Renowned watchers have contacted staff for verification and an opportunity to photograph the rare creature. (see photo right.)



Richard Brown has been named Superintendent of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). The nearly 20 year Department veteran said he is honored to serve the IDOC in his new assignment and added that staff at WVCF are top notch! Superintendent Brown said he will work to maintain a positive culture inside the maximum-security facility, dedicated to successful offender re-entry.

Congratulations to Pendleton Correctional Facility Correctional Officer Keri Gallagher who has been promoted to the position of Correctional Counselor at the facility. Best wishes to Keri as she begins this new phase of her correctional career!

Miami Correctional Facility held its quarterly recall meeting. During the meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Daryl Walls and Custody Supervisor Major Michael Hale presented Operational Awards to Sergeant Jason Tedder, Sergeant Christopher Ertel, Sergeant David Rish, Lt. Dennis Reagle, Sergeant Christopher Meredith, and Officer Matthew Jones.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted a "Volunteer Appreciation Dessert Bar." Awards were given for "Volunteer Group of the Year" to Madison Presbyterian Church, "Volunteer Individual of the Year" to Crystal Dashiell, "Most Faithful Volunteer" to Prince of Peace Catholic Parish, and "Student Choice" to Dr. Richard Hinchman.

Beth Faulkenberg, Food Service Director for Branchville Correctional Facility, was named the Food Service Director of the Year for the Indiana Department of Correction. She was presented the award during Aramark's Annual Indiana District Meeting. District Manager for Aramark Correctional Food Service in Indiana Curt Correll stated, "With Branchville's continued support, Beth has been able to showcase her leadership savvy and managerial experience." Beth has over five years experience with Aramark at the Branchville Correctional Facility.

The Central Office Can Do Team participated in the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Canned Food Drive sculpture contest. Staff gathered to cheer on the team, who had 30 minutes to complete a sculpture using the cans they had collected throughout the month of February. Central Office collected 358 cans and raised \$154.35 for this worthy cause. Although they didn't win the sculpture contest, support from their fellow staff members was so awesome that they were winners anyway! Hats off to the Central Office staff!



Wabash Valley is going green and saving green in the process. Solar panels are being installed on a housing unit to help heat water for up to 200 daily offender showers. Over its projected 30 year life span the system should save \$300,000! Bloomington based Mann Plumbing Inc. is putting the \$75 thousand dollar project together. It will pay for itself in just 15 years with minimum maintenance.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) staff and residents combined their talents to pay tribute to and to celebrate African American History in a production entitled "Reflections of Black History". Kamala Devi Harris, Teena Marie, Harriet Tubman, and Phyllis Wheatly were among the many pioneers recognized during the "Tribute to Sisterhood", which honored many women for their contributions to Black history and society. (see photo above of Specialist Miranda Weliver and an IREF Resident performing as Teena Marie and Rick James)

New Castle Correctional Facility presented the Black History Play "Lessons from the Porch" with several Central Office guests in attendance.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted a group from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. 18 Sheriff's Department Jail Officers from throughout the state toured the facility and learned about the DOC intake process.

IDOC Central Office came together for "Clean Up Day" in preparation for their upcoming ACA audit. Staff started their spring cleaning early this year and enjoyed a pitch-in lunch. Superintendent Brian Smith at Plainfield Correctional Facility graciously donated cleaning solution and rags to Central Office to aid in the clean up.

140 volunteers participated in the Kairos Program at New Castle Correctional Facility.



Friday
March 11,
2011

Weekly Views



The dedication of Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) EZ Room was the highlight of the week at the facility. In memory of Ms. Elaine Zschoche, DOC's 43 year employee, the WOW Room at WCC was renamed the EZ Room. Family and friends, including DOC retirees, were present for the dedication ceremony to celebrate the career of Ms. Zschoche. A beautiful cabinet, designed by WCC employee Alex McEathron, holds Ms. Zschoche's awards, certificates and accomplishments. (see photo left)

Spring is almost here and that means the 2011 ICPOF Golf Outing is quickly approaching. The tournament will be held on Friday, May 13, 2011 at Valle Vista Golf Course in Greenwood, Indiana. The golf outing is filling very fast, but there are still foursomes available. With that being said, spots will be given on a first come, first serve basis and will not be held without payment.

The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund (ICPOF) Scholarships have all been personally delivered to each recipient. The 2011 Scholarship winners are: Elaine Zschoche \$2000 scholarship - Dylan Emanuel, son of Allen Emanuel, Madison Correctional Facility; Paul Moynahan \$2000 scholarship - Julie Haynes, correctional officer, Reception Diagnostic Center; Jerome Brewer \$2000 scholarship - Richelle Powers, daughter of Ronald Powers, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility; \$500 book scholarship - Daniel Gabbard, son of Jeffrey Gabbard, Putnamville Correctional Facility \$500 book scholarship - Linda Hough, correctional officer, Westville Correctional Facility; \$500 book scholarship - Chelsea Rhodes, daughter of Danette Rhodes, Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility; \$500 book scholarship - Alexa Turkupolis, daughter of John Turkupolis, Parole District 1.

The Rockville Correctional Facility Building Maintenance program recently contributed a stair training platform for the facility's Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) program. The ICAN program offenders will use the stair platform to train their canines for special needs clients. The platform, constructed by four offenders in the Building Maintenance Program, took about two weeks to build. All materials were paid for by Ivy Tech Community College through the Building Maintenance class. The vocational program also recently contributed two picnic tables to a local elementary school with four more to come so that the students may study outside in warm weather, and Terre Haute's Habitat for Humanity received a shed built from scratch by the Building Maintenance class as well. (see photo below)

Community outreach has hit new highs at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility! Just released figures show Wabash's PLUS and Fatherhood Program participants donated nearly \$34,000 to area & state-wide charities and programs, many dedicated to helping children. Both programs are working to surpass that figure for 2011!

American Legion Post 130 offender organization from the Indiana State Prison received a plaque from the Child Welfare Foundation for donations they have made to that organization in the past few years. Also, the Sons of the American Legion from the Indiana State Prison donated \$1000 to the Child Welfare foundation. The check was presented to Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Glenn Nagel.



Putnamville Correctional Facility held its Inmate Shelter Representative Meeting. In attendance were several Executive staff members along with other facility staff. Topics that were discussed included Commissary, R & R, Law Library, Apprenticeships Programs, and GED and college programs.

Twenty-seven volunteers attended Henryville Correctional Facility's Volunteer Recognition and Training. Attendees enjoyed a meal, followed by a decorated cake recognizing all of the facility's volunteers. During the event, the Freedom 101 program received the "Henryville Volunteer Program" of the Year Award. The program has been coming to Henryville for three years and graduated 14 more offenders just last weekend. Freedom 101 is a cognitive thinking program that has made a significant impact on the offender population at Henryville.

Indiana State Prison held a Recognition Ceremony for offenders who have completed the Standard Pre-Release Orientation Program (SPOP). Offenders stated that the program taught them to never give up, that people do care, how to prepare a resume, and how to deal with stress. Superintendent Wilson spoke to the men and gave them encouragement to make the right choices.

Former Indiana University football standout Anthony Thompson visited Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) to speak with Youth Incarcerated as Adults (YIA) offenders, sharing his message of hope and how he overcame life's hurdles to achieve success on and off the field. The Heisman Trophy Runner-Up's inspiring presentation marked the first of a new Wabash Speakers Series, specifically addressing the WVCF youthful offender population.



Friday
March 18,
2011

Weekly Views

The first week of the National Institute of Correction's Offender Workforce Development Specialist training took place March 13-18 at the Correctional Training Center. 34 re-entry specialists from IDOC, Community Corrections, Bureau of Prisons, PEN Products and a variety of other post service providers completed part one of this challenging 180 hour curriculum. The training will continue with week two in late April and week three in June.

Staff from IDOC Central Office, the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF), Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Workforce Development celebrated the grand opening of the new Indiana Veterans Educational and Transition Unit (INVET) located at IREF. Along with several other speakers, Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and former IDOC Chief of Staff Don Ronay praised the INVET residents for their dedication and service to the United States military, and for their commitment and innovations to enhance the program for future INVET residents.

A United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Apprenticeship graduation was held at Miami Correctional Facility. Over 90 offenders from PEN Products and the Miami Correctional Facility completed their apprenticeship requirements in nine registered apprenticeship trades. Guest speaker for the program was USDOL State Director John Delgado.

This was a busy week for participants in the Indiana Women's Prison ICAN program. The facility hosted ICAN Puppy Paw Painting. The pups let their paws do the walking and created more than 35 works of art with paint and canvases. The paintings will be auctioned off at the 2nd Annual Soup's On fundraiser at the WFYI building on March 26th. Also, Pet Pals TV on WNDY started filming the first two segments of what will be a continuing program called ICAN Train That! The show will feature IWP ICAN handlers teaching how to train basic commands. The segments will air during Pet Pals TV on Saturday mornings. Patty Spittler, the host of Pet Pals TV, came in to help the handlers get over their stage fright!

Executive staff from Westville Correctional Facility and Correctional Medical Services were guests at a judges' morning debriefing in LaPorte County. DOC staff, county judges, and representatives from LaPorte's Probation Department revisited the Department's Purposeful Incarceration philosophy. A successful Q & A session renewed the county's confidence in the IDOC's commitment to Purposeful Incarceration and introduced ideas for greater communication among the entities.

The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held a Master Gardener's graduation and reception for 12 graduates and their families. The volunteers from the Noble County Master Gardener program provided certificates and inspiration into the offenders lives. The graduates are now preparing the garden for planting, with the goal of breaking last years total of 1100 pounds of produce given to a local food bank.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility presented their staff awards. Officer Chris Johns was selected as "March 2011 Employee of the Month," Sergeant Allen Coleman was selected as "January-March 2011 Supervisor of the Quarter," and Psych Tech Dottie Dirksen of CMS was selected as "January-March 2011 Contract Employee of the Quarter."

Participants from Northern Illinois University's ACA Student Chapter toured the Indiana State Prison to assist the group in their goal of understanding appreciation prisons outside of Illinois.

Legendary high school baseball coach, Ken Schreiber visited Camp Summit to speak with students about what it takes to be a winner. Mr. Schreiber told the students that the keys to winning in life, no matter what endeavor you choose, are attitude, commitment, persistence and learning from your mistakes. The visit is part of an on-going project to bring community leaders to Camp Summit to reinforce the principles underlying the mission of the boot camp.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff welcomed back Major Dusty Russell following an extended medical leave. Major Russell received a special PLUS quilt requested by Lieutenant Victor Linneweber. The quilt signifies Major Russell's long road back to good health and his return to Wabash Valley. We are very thankful to have him back on the job!

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COL) held a Community Advisory Board Meeting with 24 community members present. This was the first meeting for Superintendent Kathy Griffin since arriving at COL. Kathy Griffin shared her background in corrections and her vision for Chain O' Lakes in the future. A positive open discussion and praise was given by the community members for all the support that is given to the community from the facility's work crews and the choir.

Ivy Tech Community College at the Correctional Industrial Facility had 11 offenders graduate and receive their GED.

MSNBC, in collaboration with Calamari Productions, completed taping of a special report about Youth Incarcerated as Adults at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. The two hour special is due to air in November.

Miami Correctional Facility PLUS offenders were treated to a program featuring guest speaker Ken Johnson, Chaplain for the Indianapolis Colts. Also traveling with Johnson was his son KD Johnson, Christian Urban/Pop singer-songwriter-dancer-youth presenter, who also travels the country spreading the good word.



Friday
March 25,
2011

Weekly Views

MSNBC crews are back at Wabash Valley, this time to begin taping MSNBC Lockup/Wabash Valley: Extended Stay, six one hour programs about the maximum-security facility. This week is scout week for the group, introducing themselves to staff and offenders and fine tuning story ideas for the series of special reports. Last week, another MSNBC crew was on grounds taping a two hour report about Youth Incarcerated as Adults.

Pendleton Juvenile hosted Sergeant James Todd of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, who presented a workshop relating to gang intervention. Sergeant Todd teaches Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) in Indianapolis Public Schools. During his visit at the facility, he presented a short version of the GREAT program. The workshop lasted approximately 2 ½ hours. Two groups of 15 students attended a session.



The Indiana Women’s Prison (IWP) has a secret weapon!!! The IWP ICAN dogs are fighting the illiteracy problem by listening to offenders practice their reading skills. The program is sponsored by the Indiana State Library. (see photo left.)

Pendleton Correctional Facility Training Department secretary Dixie Weir was honored during a retirement luncheon for 23 years of dedicated service to the Indiana Department of Correction. Congratulations Dixie!

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) held a graduation ceremony for 69 offenders celebrating their completion of the PLUS Program.

Delivering the graduation speech was Chaplain William Babb who will retire next Thursday, March 31, after nearly 27 years of service. Babb has worked with the program since it began at MCF in 2006.

Putnamville Correctional Facility received a visit from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). BMV staff members were on-site to help offenders prepare for release by providing them with State Identification Cards. The BMV was scheduled to provide 394 offenders at Putnamville with ID’s over three days.

Sergeant Michael Gapski was appointed the new K-9 Field Commander of Miami Correctional Facility’s K-9 Team. Gapski is replacing Charles Williams who was commander since the K-9’s inception in 2007. According to Assistant Superintendent Daryl Walls, Sergeant Gapski brings years of experience in K-9 operations and has been the Assistant Field Commander of the K-9 team since its beginning. Under his guidance Miami’s K-9 team will continue to be one of the best in the state and will maintain the high standards of outgoing Field Commander Chuck Williams.

The Correctional Industrial Facility conducted a ceremony and training for the Suicide Companions. Assistant Superintendent Michael Cunegin presented certificates for eight of the suicide companion volunteers, and Lead Psychologist, Dr. Sheree Hersey discussed and shared significant information.

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) held an Apprenticeship Graduation for 26 offenders who received certificates from the United States Department of Labor. ISP Lieutenant Hiram Sizemore and Officer Adrienne Gordon received a special award from the offenders present in appreciation of their dedication to the program.

Members of the Un-Chaind Ministries, Ellettsville House of Prayer and Integrity Ministries visited the Rockville Correctional Facility for the 8th annual Rockville Rockin’ Revival. Offenders received an inspiring message of hope through music, message and personal testimonies.

Nikki Simpson and Regina Engle of the Wabash Valley March of Dimes visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, drumming up support for the upcoming March for Babies! Wabash coordinator Shawna Vair said Wabash will join 200 other area teams for the April 30th fund raising event. Vair added the PLUS unit made 200 custom quilts for babies receiving care at both Terre Haute hospitals.

Congratulations to four recently promoted Pendleton Correctional Facility employees who were recognized during a pinning ceremony conducted in Superintendent Alan Finnan’s office. Correctional Officer David Mason and Officer Daniel Arnold were promoted to the position of Correctional Sergeant, Sergeant Aaron Smith was promoted to Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Harold Counciller was promoted to Captain.

During Westville Correctional Facility’s quarterly Roll-Call, Superintendent Levenhagen recognized 28 staff members with perfect attendance during 2010. The Perfect Attendance staffers received a Cash Spot Bonus and items donated by the Department’s contract employees: Correctional Medical Services, Aramark and Ivy Tech.

Putnamville Correctional Facility held its facility wide recall meeting. This was the first meeting for Superintendent Stanley Knight since arriving at ISF. Stanley Knight shared his background in corrections and his vision for the future. Awards for Employees of the Quarter were announced: “Administrative Supervisor of the Quarter” went to Linda Yocom, “Administrative Employee of the Quarter” went to Karen Rogers, “Custody Supervisor of the Quarter” went to Sgt. Steven Rader, and “Custody Employee of the Quarter” went to Officer Jeffrey Deakins. Mike Shouse, a 40 year employee, was also given a special award for all of his years of service to Putnamville.



Friday
April 1, 2011

Weekly Views

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) said goodbye to two long-time staffers with the retirement of Chaplain William Babb and Internal Affairs Investigator Chris Ramberger. Chaplain Babb has been with the department for 26 years, serving as an officer, sergeant and firearms instructor at Westville, Indiana State Prison and, most recently, MCF. Chris Ramberger was hired to Internal Affairs at MCF in October 2003. Both will be dearly missed.

Following a two-day audit conducted by the American Correctional Association (ACA), Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) was recommended for accreditation, its first since opening as a re-entry facility in 2006. IREF received a score of 100% on mandatory standards and a score of 99.5% on non-mandatory standards. IREF Superintendent Beckie Bennett applauded her staff for their continued commitment to excellence.

The GEO Group and New Castle Correctional Facility donated \$5,000 to Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA) towards meeting IDOC's goal of raising \$10,000 for the victim organization in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. If your facility would like to make a pledge or donation to INCASA, please contact IDOC Director of Victim Services Brent Myers (bmyers@idoc.in.gov). All pledges/donations should be submitted by April 22nd.

The second Tie Tying Class was held for the resident workers in PEN Products central office Career Resource Center. Offenders learned how to tie a couple of different knots that they can use when they are dressing for job interviews as they transition back to community life. The Career Resource center teaches a wide range of re-entry programming ranging from computer skills to tying a necktie.

It was a busy week for the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) unit at the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF). The facility celebrated its fifth PLUS graduation for 19 participants. The PLUS unit donated over 40 teddy bears to local emergency services to use to comfort children during various crises. The PLUS participants also created Easter and Mother's Day cards to send to U.S. troops for the Hoosier Hero's program. Included with the cards are letters of encouragement for the soldiers.

Basketball players from Bethel College in Mishawka visited the Indiana State Prison (ISP) and played a game of basketball against the offender team. The ISP team won the game, as staff cheered them on.

The Future Soldier students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility shined over a dozen pairs of boots for staff to bring donations of canned goods for a restorative justice project. Staff collected 28 pounds of canned goods for a local food bank.

The South Bend Parole office held a luncheon in honor of Parole Agent Pamela Frederick, who is retiring after serving 21 years as a parole agent in South Bend. She began her career with the state in 1971 with Child Protective Services. Parole staff gathered to thank her for all her years of service to the Department and the community.

Congratulations to Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) Unit Team Secretary Norman Brenneman who was promoted this week to a Secretary 3 position. Norma will assume the duties as secretary to PCF Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry Duane Alsip.

At Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility 14 students completed the "Youth at Risk" program taught by the volunteers from Step Up, Inc. The program teaches students about different types of risky behavior that teenagers often practice with or without thinking or because of lack of knowledge.

During 2010, the Branchville Correctional Facility's Fatherhood/Parenting Department recorded 64 offender fathers reading books through the Departments' Reading with Dad and Me program. 100 children's books and DVDs were sent home to the offenders' children! The children are allowed to keep the books and DVD's, thereby expanding the children's home library collection. The books are donated by several individuals and agencies. This program presents an opportunity for incarcerated fathers and their children to stay connected although they may live hundreds of miles or several states apart.

Despite a flat tire that delayed their arrival and frequent computer problems, the American Red Cross Bloodmobile at Westville Correctional Facility was again a success. 44 staff visited the Bloodmobile, and more volunteers were turned away due to a lack of time. A total of 36 full donations were collected.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility hosted their quarterly Blood Drive. Edinburgh staff have always been extremely generous when it comes to blood donations. Donations were down from the last drive due to the flu bug, but this time around, 22 of the facility's 59 staff members attempted to donate. Everyone who donated received an Indiana Pacer package that included a ticket to an upcoming Pacers game, a t-shirt, and food voucher.

New Castle Correctional Facility's Physical Plant Director Charles Hamby was named GEO's Employee of the Year. Mr. Hamby was also recognized by IDOC in 2010 as the Physical Plant Director of the Year.



Friday
April 8, 2011

Kairos weekend was held at the Indiana State Prison. 36 men completed the religious program and approximately 100 past offender graduates came to celebrate the completion of another class. 35 volunteers helped facilitate the program.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) welcomed Mike Barber, of Mike Barber Ministries and former professional football star, to host his "Week-End of Excitement" Prison Ministry. Mr. Barber spent two days moving around WCC and spoke to hundreds of offenders at four separate locations around the facility. This was Mr. Barber's second visit to Westville.



Dugger Elementary 6th graders got a financial boost from Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, as they gear up for their annual St. Louis Field trip. The 6th grade class received \$500 from the Wabash Fatherhood Program and the PLUS unit donated a custom quilt for the students to raffle. Class representatives were all smiles for the presentation by Fatherhood Program Coordinator Michele Lincoln. (see photo left)

The Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Madison County continues to boast a great deal of success. The partnership between Habitat for Humanity and PNJCF allows the students to give back to the community in the true spirit of Restorative Justice. The students go out to the work site once per week and assist other habitat volunteers in building a home for a deserving low-income family. This partnership not only provides a new beginning for a well deserving family but also gives the students a chance to have some sense of accomplishment.

The Inside/Out Dad program, under the Family Management Department, is hosting its Caregiver's event in the Visiting Room of Correctional Industrial Facility for the mothers, grandmothers, and grandfathers of the offender's children. The event is held to thank the caregivers for carrying all the responsibilities of the family while the father is incarcerated.

Dr. Susan Lockwood, IDOC's Juvenile Education Coordinator, has been elected to a two-year term as President of the National Council of State and Federal Directors. The council is composed of correctional education directors from across the nation and serves as a conduit between federal agencies and correctional education programs at both the state and federal level. The council is also a formal clearing house for directors to share best practices on a regular basis.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility Held a Clean Lifestyle Is Freedom Forever (CLIFF) graduation for six students. This is the 34th CLIFF graduation that the facility has held with a total of 263 students from the program.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility had five students pass the ServSafe exam to earn their certification from the National Restaurant Association (NRA). With the successful completion the NRA's ServSafe exam, students earn their certification which helps open doors to employment and advancement within the restaurant and hospitality industry.

In collaboration with Panda Express, the Religious Services Department at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) sponsored a fundraiser in which 20% of purchases made by IREF residents, staff, volunteers, and patrons from the community was donated to the Angel Food Ministries (AFM) located at Ritter Avenue Free Methodist Church. \$603.38 was raised to purchase AFM food boxes for families in need.

Congratulations to Correctional Sergeant Robert Marvell who was recognized at the Pendleton Correctional Facility for his promotion to Lieutenant.

Nine Ball State University psychology students visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility this week and were provided a tour by Community Services Director Wayne Scaife.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a GED graduation ceremony for 18 students who successfully completed their GED. Two of the 18 students received an honors diploma. Local businessman Milton Cole was the Keynote Speaker.

Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility Superintendent Beckie Bennett announces that Angel Vélez has been promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent at IREF. Mr. Vélez has been with IREF since December 2009, serving in the capacity of Acting Assistant Superintendent of Operations in which he oversees Custody, Contract Services, Training and Internal Affairs. He will continue these current responsibilities as the Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Vélez is a 16-year veteran with the Department and currently serves as an IDOC Police Officer.

The Correctional Industrial Facility hosted its ninth weekend for the Preventative Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) and had seven new GED graduates.

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Friday
April 15, 2011

Weekly Views

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) Community Services Department will sponsor a "Run for the Cause" event to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which works to end breast cancer through education, research and community programs. The 5K race will coincide with the Komen Race for the Cure event that will take place downtown Indianapolis near the IUPUI campus. Residents and staff have raised over \$800 in pledges and donations to support the cause.

The ICAN handlers from the Indiana Women's Prison were featured on WFYI's "Pet Pals" TV show this past Saturday. The handlers gave tips for pet owners on training their dogs. The handlers will be featured on the show through out the year.

The PEN Products Moving Crew assisted the Indiana War Memorial Museum by transporting two regimental national flags to Richmond, IN for a celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The flags accompanied the 36th and 57th regiments that left from Wayne County.

The Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility sold ribbons to staff members to wear during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in honor of all victims of crime. The money collected will be donated to the Anderson Women's Shelter.

Marion County Superior Court Judge Jose Salinas and Lisa Johnson, Victim Advocate for the Anderson Police Department, visited the Correctional Industrial Facility to speak with the PLUS participants during their week long Victim Impact Seminar.

American Legion Post 130 and Northwest Jaycees Offender organizations from the Indiana State Prison donated \$300 each to the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA).

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, students at South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a Memory Walk, heard a presentation by guest speaker former State Representative Jackie Walorski, and raised money for a local domestic violence shelter.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted its annual PLUS graduation for 36 offenders who completed the program. IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Religious Services Director, Dr. Stephen Hall were the guest speakers. Commissioner Lemmon congratulated the offenders for their hard work and showed his appreciation to the family members of offenders for their support of the program. He also congratulated Superintendent Peters and staff for successfully expanding the PLUS program from 108 to 240 beds.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. A fried chicken dinner was served to 53 volunteers by the Deedsville United Methodist Church. The event was pastored by Retired Chaplain William Babb. The facility honored 44 volunteers with 5-year pins and 26 volunteers with 10-year pins. MCF volunteers have donated 8,732 hours over the past year.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility honored Tom Jones, the late mayor of Linton, with a commemorative quilt crafted by the facility's PLUS unit. Mayor Jones' widow Patti was presented with the quilt during a presentation at Wabash Valley. WVCF Correctional Officer Lisa Baugh, who supervises a facility offender labor line, requested the special quilt. Officer Baugh's crews worked closely with the City of Linton and Mayor Jones on several community improvement projects.

South Bend Juvenile welcomed students' family members for a school open house. Families were invited to meet with teachers and facility staff, see the classrooms and share a snack with their children.

Three Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students earned the privilege of going off grounds and spent their time completing tasks for "Habitat for Humanity Restore" in Madison, Indiana.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted their two year ACA program review audit. The facility scored 100% on mandatory standards and 98.9 % on non-mandatory standards. The auditors involved in the process consistently remarked about the overall cleanliness of the facility and the positive attitudes expressed by both staff and offenders.

Westville Correctional Facility in cooperation with Purdue North Central (PNC) hosted the annual "Honors Luncheon" for 24 of the 51 offender college students making the "Chancellor's List." John Coggins, Dean of Students, was the luncheon's guest speaker. Mr. Coggins congratulated the IDOC and the facility on the excellent partnership with PNC. Due to the large number of offenders receiving this honor, a second luncheon is scheduled for May 6th.

IDOC Construction Services Director Kevin Orme addressed the Wabash Valley Community Advisory Board and local media, detailing the new WVCF Stun Fence project. Orme said the stun fence will add a heightened level of security to the facility while remaining very cost efficient to operate and repair.

Correctional Officer Robert Storey from the Indiana State Prison was honored by the Michigan City Police Department for his outstanding work with the Community Service Crew and specifically all of the work with renovating the Police Department Building.

Congratulations to Correctional Sergeant Sandra Crawford who was recognized at the Correctional Industrial Facility for her promotion to Lieutenant. Also congratulations to Officers Leah Williams and Kevin Woods for their promotions to Sergeant.



Friday
April 29, 2011

At the recent Correctional Education Association Forum in Washington D.C., IDOC's Dr. John Nally gave a presentation on the \$726,000 Second Chance Act grant that was awarded to the PEN Products Braille program located at the Miami Correctional Facility. The attendees found the Second Chance grantees session to be the most valuable at the CEA Forum. The session tied together all aspects of the conference into one neat package of implementation of service.

A retirement luncheon was conducted for Pendleton Correctional Facility Counselor Mike Kidder who was recognized for 25 years of service to the Indiana Department of Correction. Congratulations Mike and have a great retirement!

The Venture and Boy Scout Troop #1888 at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was awarded the 2010 Centennial Quality Unit Award which recognizes Scout Troops in achieving excellence in providing a quality program.

Approximately 20 people attended a one-day Facilitator Skills Training session in Plainfield, IN, provided by the Office of Family Assistance in Washington, D.C. The training was conducted by Nigel Vann, Senior Director, Training & Technical Assistance for the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse, and was attended by staff from several IDOC facilities, as well as staff and volunteers from several county jails.

A picture of the Madison Correctional Facility Hearts of Hope AA group appears in the May 2011 issue of *Grapevine*. The Hearts of Hope Group, an all female group, is open to the offenders and members of the community. *Grapevine* is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is written, edited, illustrated and read by AA members and those interested in recovery.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) has a new Captain! Amanda Pirtle joined WVCF as an Officer in 1999, promoted to Sergeant in 2007 and Correctional Lieutenant in 2008. Captain Pirtle has completed the Leadership Academy, helps train new correctional hires and is an experienced and valued member of the facility CISM team!

Madison Correctional Facility held a grand opening for the facility's Family Preservation Center. An Easter themed party with face-painting, crafts and hotdogs was enjoyed by 110 children and grandchildren of the offender population.

Lt. Ryan Harrison from the Indiana State Prison spoke to a group of students at Purdue University Calumet. Lt. Harrison discussed the tactical aspects of the working in the Department of Correction.

DePauw University Sociology students and their Professor, Rebecca Bordt, toured the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility as an enhancement to their educational experience. The students received a first hand look at maximum security open population, segregation and the PLUS unit, where they talked to participants about community service, as the offenders prepare to successfully re-enter society.

New Castle Correctional Facility hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for 90 volunteers. Ronald Craig was named Volunteer of the Year and Westminster Community Center was named Volunteer Group of the Year.

Miami Correctional Facility held a PREP weekend with four couples. During the weekend, Casework Manager Katherine Snow went above and beyond the call of duty when one of the participants went into a diabetic seizure at the hotel. Ms. Snow was able to get access into the participant's hotel room, where she found the woman ill and called an ambulance. Without Mrs. Snow's insistence, the woman may not have been found until she was very ill.

Approximately 75 employees attended the Staff Assembly at the Correctional Industrial Facility. Superintendent Carneygee recognized and congratulated the following quarterly award recipients: Officer of the Quarter-Officer A. J. Mills, Supervisor of the Quarter-Sgt Jim Smith, Employee of the Quarter-Counselor Rob Stafford, Contractual Employee of the Quarter-Barbara Barnett, and Extra Mile Award-Officer Deric Springer.

Two Staff Assembly sessions were conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Administrative staff provided employees with an update of recent events at the facility and several staff members were recognized in connection with retirement, promotions, and years of service. Correctional Officer Johnathan C. Jackson was recognized as the facility's Employee of the Quarter and Lieutenant Robert Marvell was recognized as Supervisor of the Quarter.

Pendleton Juvenile held their Staff Assembly Award Ceremony. Serving as the guest speaker was Kate Frazier from Child Protective Services. Ms. Frazier, who has worked at PNJCF for many years, is a highly energized person that motivates people with her enthusiasm. Facility students sang under the direction of staff member Sondra Woods. Nakuma Stone received Correctional Officer of the Quarter; Vicky Schmidt, Culinary Arts Teacher, was named Employee of the Quarter; and Supervisor of the Quarter was Charles DeWeese.

Six students at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility earned their official GED after a lot of hard work and preparation.

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Friday
May 6, 2011

Weekly Views

IDOC Director of Registration and Victim Services Brent Myers and IDOC SOMM Program Director Harry Miller toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility along with Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault (INCASA) CEO Anita Carpenter and INCASA Director of Victim Advocacy Leslie Lukes.

Westville Correctional Facility's Prison Tails program, in cooperation with the Purdue North Central Marketing students, hosted the 4th annual dog walk fund raiser at Blum Park in Westville. Prison Tails is a non-profit rescue group that exists exclusively on donations and adoption fees. The dog walk netted \$1,025. The facility's Level 1 Offender Dog Handlers were able to participate in the dog walk and demonstrate their dog handling skills.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility conducted its 11th PLUS graduation for eight students. During their participation in the program, the students were able to raise over \$550 dollars, donating \$170 dollars total to the Emmaus Mission Food Bank and the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The group also provided over 200 hours of community service.

Indiana's Offender Workforce Development Specialist Training team completed their second week of training at the Correctional Training Institute. The 30 participants from IDOC, Community Corrections and several other re-entry service providers have now finished two thirds of the required 180-hour curriculum. In the final week, the four teams will develop their specific plans to improve re-entry outcomes throughout Indiana.

Miami Correctional Facility celebrated Correctional Employee Appreciation Week by serving root beer floats, biscuits and gravy, offering family tours, playing basketball, and providing Midnight Bingo to night shift staff. The facility also held an Employee Recognition Ceremony, where three new sergeants were named. Those promoted to Sergeant are Craig Stoll, Larry King and Matthew Jones. Several staff were also recognized for years of service and perfect attendance, and three people were named Employees of the Year. Tricia Pretorius received Supervisor of the Year; Denise Ross received Employee of the Year (non-custody) and Officer Matthew Jones received Officer of the Year.

Wabash Valley Superintendents, past and present joined together to honor Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent, Janna Anderson, who this week marked 35 years of dedicated service to the State of Indiana! Janna received thanks for her continuing commitment to WVCF from Craig Hanks, Commissioner Bruce Lemmon, James Basinger and her new boss Richard Brown. (See photo below)



A documentary film crew that is focusing on Peace Learning Center programs visited the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. These youth programs have been recognized by the Indianapolis Crime Prevention Task Force report as "a local 'best practice' that has demonstrated the effectiveness of teaching young adults and at-risk youth creative ways of resolving conflicts, personal responsibility, and character building." The Peace Learning Center is able to bring the program to the juveniles through a Federal Grant.

IDOC Central Office celebrated Correctional Employee Appreciation Week in style. Throughout the week, staff were able to "dress up" for spirit days including Sports Team Spirit Day, Generational Day, and DOC Pride Day. On Thursday, Central Office staff were treated to Qdoba for lunch in celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Years of Service Awards were also distributed for up to 40 years of service!

Pendleton Juvenile Auxiliary Committee paid tribute to all staff by offering numerous activities this week to celebrate Employee Appreciation. Some of the activities included an Ice Cream Social, "Minute to Win It" games, breakfast for all shifts twice during the week, and Bingo games where staff were served popcorn and soda. The festivities ended with a facility pitch-in.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted tours for family members of employees in connection with Employee Appreciation Week activities.

The Venture Scout Unit at Pendleton Juvenile counted 4,700 pop tabs in the month of April. The pop tabs will be donated to benefit the Ronald McDonald House.

Students from both Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility and Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility assisted their local community with Habitat for Humanity projects. These community service projects are in the spirit of Restorative Justice.

WTHR reporter Scott Swan visited the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility to interview offenders in IREF's knitting group, The Naptown Knitters. The group is being taught to knit by Doreen Tatnall, a near Eastside resident, who has taken on the project of working with the men to knit scarves and sew on patches for the 2012 Superbowl.



Friday
May 13, 2011

Offenders in the PLUS unit at the Correctional Industrial Facility have been making bears for several non-for-profit groups that work hand in hand with their community. 20 bears were given to, "Turnstone Center for Children and Adults with Disabilities". This non-for-profit group serves the Ft. Wayne, Allen County Area.

The Indiana Women's Prison Sheltered Workshop offenders and staff created cloth Easter Baskets with floppy eared bunnies for each of the babies on the Wee-Ones Nursery Unit. The spirit of creating the baskets was so great that the offenders made three dozen extra baskets and donated them to the homeless ministries.



The Wabash Valley Building Trades class put their skills to good use, building a new concession stand for North Central High School in Sullivan County. The much needed new concession stand was delivered to the school this week. Wabash Valley Superintendent Dick Brown called it a win-win effort, with offenders learning valuable job skills along with the pride of giving back to the community. (see photo left)

Miami Correctional Facility's Straight Talk Program went on the road to Twin Lakes High School. The offenders spent two days talking to more than 150 students about their lives. Many students said the program will make them think twice when making future decisions about drugs and alcohol.

IDOC Human Resources Director Kathleen Cordial and new Pendleton Facilities Complex Human Resource Generalist Mark Sabatino toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility.

In a celebration of achievement, Madison Correctional Facility recognized the accomplishments of more than 125 offenders. The women successfully completed and graduated from programming in a variety of areas including college, GED, Career-Technical, USDOL apprenticeship and GRIP or PLUS therapeutic communities.

Students in Mr. DeHart's U.S. History classes at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility were treated to a "Depression-style" dinner of Poor Man's Casserole and Ritz Cracker Mock Apple Pie for successfully completing the Great Depression unit. The Depression Dinner prepared by Culinary Arts students under the direction of Vickie Schmidt.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility passed their ACA Program review audit. Superintendent Griffin thanked all Chain O' Lakes staff for there hard work and dedication on a job well done.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility held a graduation ceremony for five GED graduates. "A" Honor Roll students, "A/B" Honor Roll students, and students that earned credits were also recognized at the ceremony.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) allowed nearly 100 family members of MCF staff to enter the facility for a tour during Correctional Employee Appreciation Week. Family members where able to see where the offenders live, play and have programming by going in the Offender Services Building, a Housing Unit and the Recreation Building.

The Calvary Temple choir performed beautifully for the offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP). The IWP Clown Ministry also provided a ministry program. The offenders departed the programs stating that their spiritual needs were fulfilled that day through both programs.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's PLUS unit hand made more than 200 Mother's Day Cards for a neighboring nursing home.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility kicked off Correctional Employees Week with a staff breakfast provided by ARAMARK and served by Superintendent Kathy Griffin. Week long events include cookouts, an ice cream social, and a night of bowling. Members of the local community advisory board were invited and attended several events. The week ended with the presentation of length of service and employee of the quarter awards.

Students enrolled in Phase 3 of the Why Try program at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility have been given an opportunity to be student presenters to the program's new intake students during school orientation. During the presentations, Phase 3 students relay their experiences both in and out of the correctional facility, as well as how the Why Try Program has enabled them to think more appropriately about situations, so that they can make positive decisions in their lives.

Correctional Lieutenant Ryan Harrison from Indiana State Prison represented the Indiana Department of Correction at the National Mock Prison Riots in West Virginia.

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Friday
May 20, 2011

Weekly Views

During Correctional Employee Appreciation Week, Parole Agent John Larson was recognized as the Gary Parole District's 2011 Parole Agent of the Year, as unanimously voted by his fellow parole agents. Mr. Larson celebrated his ten year anniversary with the Parole Division in April and has worked for over 20 years in community supervision. Congratulations Mr. Larson on a job well done.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters representatives attended Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Staff Re-Call meeting to thank the PLUS unit for providing quilts to at risk children in need and urging staff to consider helping the over 100 youngsters in the Wabash Valley area needing a Big Brother or Sister. Superintendent Dick Brown, himself a Big Brother, said the benefits are huge; 46% are less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 52% less likely to skip school and participants have the great feeling of "giving back!"

Lisa Williams from PEN Products and Tricia Pretorius from Miami Correctional Facility presented a proposal for implementation of a Career Housing Dorm to Miami's Community Advisory Board. The Career Dorm concept is designed to bring re-entry/employment focused training into the housing unit.

At Putnamville Correctional Facility, 1,576 pizzas were sold to the offender population during a pizza sale hosted by the facility's PLUS Unit. The sale generated over \$4000 in proceeds, making it the facility's most profitable fundraiser to date. PLUS will use the money generated from the sale for charitable donations and to purchase program supplies.

The Totally Free Ministry presented a week-end long seminar for the offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison. The keynote speaker was Sheila Raye Charles, daughter of musical legendary artist Ray Charles, who shared her story of struggling with a 20 year drug addiction.

Offenders at New Castle Correctional Facility were awarded 33 Associate Degrees and 14 Bachelor Degrees from Oakland College University.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted a Purdue University graduation, honoring 85 offender graduates. The offenders shared this successful event with invited guests and enjoyed cake and punch to celebrate the occasion. The facility welcomed guest speaker, Purdue North Central Chancellor James Dworkin.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was able to collect \$200 for the Alternatives Shelter in Madison County during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in which staff and students from PNJ participated in multiple fundraisers, such as selling ribbons. The students also participated in poster contests, bookmark contests, specialized lesson plans, and placed "victim's shoes" in the education building.

Camp Summit Boot Camp hosted a Victim Impact Panel Presentation. 25 students listened as a convicted drunk driver and his victim recalled a night that changed their lives forever. This Victim Impact Panel is a part of the Restorative Justice program running at Camp Summit and embraced in many communities at this time. This program is designed to bring the Student and their Victim together and evaluate how their negative actions not only affected themselves but others in their communities. It also empowers the victim by making them an active participant in the juvenile justice system.



A pinning ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to recognize Correctional Officers Boyd Lunsford and Joshua Shaver who were promoted to the position of Correctional Sergeant.

The Correctional Industrial Facility passed its first year audit from IDOC Director of Field Audits Wendy Knight, her staff, and other personnel from the Department. The auditors were very complimentary of the facility.

Recent heavy flooding put a damper on Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's 2011 Trash Bash, but offender crews still managed to fill over 1000 bags of trash along U.S. 41 in Sullivan County. Wabash offenders, working with the National Guard then came to the aid of New Harmony helping to fill over 13,000 sandbags for the levee, saving the town water supply and sewer system. Crews helped fill another 18,000 sandbags in the Evansville area. (photo above)

Staff from New Castle Correctional Facility attended the Annual Dinner Meeting for the Henry County United Fund.

Pendleton Juvenile held a Kairos Torch Reunion for 60 volunteers and 20 student participants. The program is a three day weekend event of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, meditations and music led by the loving servant spirit of the volunteers.

Congratulations to Bill Goodhart on his 20 years of service to the State of Indiana. Bill has served the entirety of his tenure as a Librarian at the Correctional Industrial Facility.

Wabash Valley staffers provided the gift of life this week, donating 49 units of blood to the Indiana Blood Center.



Friday
May 27, 2011

Seven Wabash Valley Care Packages have found their mark overseas. Wabash sent packages filled with snacks, games, hygiene items, thank-you notes and much more to deployed staffers Nathan McKinney and Michael Petty. Petty, based in Iraq, told Superintendent Dick Brown how thankful he is for the donated items, especially the mail. He added the goods came at a great time, since the PX there will be closing down soon!

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) held its inaugural MCF Prison Breakout 5K Fun Run/Walk, bringing in nearly 60 people from the facility and the public varying in age from 14 to 67 years. The event was sponsored by the Correctional Employee Appreciation and IN Shape committees to promote fitness and to raise money for appreciation events. The run netted \$558, half of which will go to appreciation events and the other half to the Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund. (see photo below of Superintendent Sevier crossing the finish line)



A Shifting Gears program was recently implemented at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. In collaboration with Bicycles of America and Volunteers of America, the program provides additional offender jobs and a service to the community.

Three students from Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a community service project planting flowers for the Jefferson County Animal Shelter.

Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry Duane Alsip and PCF Chaplain Mark Dodd presented a check in the amount of \$1076.69 to Reverend Lamar Imes, the Associate Superintendent of the Indiana North Central District of the United Methodist Church. The money will be directed to the United Methodist Committee on Relief in connection with recent global disasters. The money was raised through donations from PCF offenders and from the profits of a Fresh Favorites food sale conducted by Aramark.

Intra City Little League hosted their opening day due to the continuing support of the Indiana State Prison (ISP). ISP staff and offenders have supported league teams, which allow children from local neighborhoods surrounding the prison to play in the baseball league.

Students from New Castle's Vocational Occupational Health class toured the New Castle Correctional Facility to see a different perspective in health care.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted a Community Advisory Board meeting during which Superintendent Knight presented facility updates, staff gave program overviews, and Assistant Superintendent Grage introduced offenders in recognition of their contribution to the Black History Month Essay Contest.

New Castle Correctional Facility held a Staff Recall where Tamera Ankrom was named Employee of the Month and Daniel Sutherland was named Correctional Officer of the Month. Several other staff were also recognized with SPOT Awards.

Indiana State Prison Superintendent William K. Wilson announced with great pleasure the promotion of three Correctional Officers to Correctional Sergeants. Joshua Fagan, Debra Fly-Nelson and Beachy Gothard were recently promoted to Correctional Sergeants.

Miami Correctional Facility has recently honored many of its staff members with Operational and Employee of the Month awards. Those receiving Operational awards were: Sgt. Brandon Williams, "Inspires a Shared Vision"; Sgt. Rita Beemer, "Encourages the Heart"; Sgt. James Cree, "Encourages others to Act"; Lt. Dustin McCord, "Challenge the Process". Those named as Employee of the Month (non-custody) include: Scott Kenworthy, Wendy Layden, Denise Ross, and Clair Barnes. Those named Supervisor of the Month include: Sgt. Bradley Holt, Sgt. Jessica Evans, Tony Cropper, and Tricia Pretorius. Those named Officer of the Month include: Sgt. Mathew Jones and Officer Christopher Gray.



Purdue North Central held the last graduation of the year at the Indiana State Prison, Minimum Security Unit. Ten offenders received Associate Degrees and one offender received a Bachelor of Science Degree. Superintendent Wilson congratulated the men on their endeavor and reminded about the value of hard work.

Criminal Justice students from Harrison College in Anderson, IN toured the New Castle Correctional Facility.

Barack Meives, an employee at Miami Correctional Facility since December 2004, was pinned as a lieutenant. Meives was hired in as an officer and promoted to sergeant in March 2007. He also received an Operational Award "Encourage the Heart" in the third quarter of 2009 and Supervisor of the Month in April 2010. (see photo left)

Weekly Views



Friday
June 3, 2011

Weekly Views

The IDOC was well represented at the Kickoff Ceremony for the Indiana Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run in downtown Indianapolis. Runners from the New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) and the IDOC's Central SERT Team ran the kick-off leg which officially opens the Summer Games for Special Olympics. NCCF was a \$5000 sponsor of the Torch Run and the IDOC, Plainfield Correctional Facility, Pendleton Correctional Facility, Westville Correctional Facility, Putnamville Correctional Facility, Miami Correctional Facility all received special recognition on the official Torch Run t-shirt for their donations.

Forty-two students at Pendleton Juvenile volunteered to participate in the Relay for Life. The students named their team Desire, Time, and Effort (DTE). \$271 has been donated by staff to this worthy cause. Another relay is scheduled to be held on June 8th. Relay for Life began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay for Life has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into the world's largest movement to end the disease.

Executive Director of Adult Facilities James Basinger and Wabash Valley Superintendent Dick Brown hosted a Thank You lunch for minimum security offenders who, during recent heavy flooding, helped save the New Harmony water supply and sewer system by filling over 13,000 sandbags for the levee. WVCF work crews also filled over 18,000 sandbags in the Evansville area.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted the first Juvenile Crime Summit. Over 100 individuals from all areas of the criminal justice system attended. The topic of the summit was learning the trends of gang violence in our communities. One of the keynote speakers was Frank Straub, Director of Public Safety for the city of Indianapolis. PNJCF's Future Soldiers greeted the visitors and presented the honor flag quilt made by the PLUS program at Wabash Valley. (see photo below)



Westville's Therapeutic Community (TC) sponsored a McDonald's Food Sale for the TC's 436 offenders. For the first time, 78 offenders on the facility's TC waiting unit were invited to join in the community's food sale. The sale netted a profit of \$1,301. The money will go to the Michigan City Life Care Center, a local nursing home where the TC sponsors a resident's Birthday Club and the "Holiday in a Box" program that sends holiday decorations to the home.

Another chapter has closed on the career of Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Law Librarian Jerry Huston, who retired after 14 years of service to WVCF.

Superintendent Dick Brown hosted a retirement reception for Jerry, thanking him for his work as a secretary with IT, as a LAN Administrator Associate in IT and as the longtime Clerk for the north side Law Library. Jerry said he plans to spend time carefully studying an extensive "honey do" list during his leisure time.

A reception was held for staff who retired from the Indiana State Prison. Sarah Mangold, Patricia Griffin, Linda and Chuck Wood and Harry Bentley were all recognized for their years of service. The five individuals represent 110 years of experience.

Correctional Officer Ronald Tischler retired from the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Officer Tischler was presented with a plaque in recognition and appreciation for his 29 years of dedicated service to the facility and to the Department. Congratulations Officer Tischler!

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Superintendent Steve McCauley, Assistant Superintendent LaShelle Turner and Major Pete Peckham attended the celebration of IWP Officers Tyler Parlette and Billy Wharton's graduation from the Specialized Emergency Response Team (SERT) Academy. Congratulations Officers Parlette and Wharton!

Derrick Turner, IDOC Parole Agent, was guest speaker for a job club at PEN Products Central Office. The Job Club was attended by PEN's resident workers from the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. Mr. Turner's presentation was very well received and followed by a lengthy question and answer session with the residents.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility became a classroom for Indiana State University Criminology students. Professor Shannon M. Barton-Bellessa said the tour gave her students a firsthand look at offender life behind bars and the challenges faced by staff dedicated to their successful re-entry into society. Students have also toured Rockville and the Putnamville Correctional Facilities.

A commencement ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to honor the most recent offender graduates of the Ball State University and Grace College programs. Shorridge High School Principal Brandon Cosby served as guest speaker for the graduation event.



Friday
June 10, 2011

The Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) paid a visit to two IDOC facilities to better prepare offenders for their upcoming release and re-entry to the community. In conjunction with the Indiana Women's Prison, BMV staff processed approximately 200 offenders for valid State Identification Cards (ID). The BMV also successfully processed 259 state ID's at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Thank you to all IDOC staff who donated to help correctional staff in Alabama during their time of need. Together, the IDOC donated \$4,486.55 to the Alabama Department of Correction (ADOC)! Commissioner Lemmon received a nice letter of thanks from ADOC's Commissioner. Your generosity touched their hearts while helping to meet their need.

Miami Correctional Facility held its annual Mini Relay for Life for more than 200 offender participants. The offenders donated more than \$900 to the American Cancer Society (ACS). To raise more money for ACS, the offenders were also allowed to purchase Relay bracelets to be sent to loved ones. Relay is an annual community service project for the Miami PLUS Unit.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's (CIF) PLUS Unit donated 45 hand made bears to Turnstone Center for Children and Adults with Disabilities. The PLUS bears will be given to Turnstone's preschool graduates.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted a Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program for offenders and their spouses. Coordinated by Rick Hayes, the weekend event provided an opportunity for 15 couples to learn conflict resolution techniques and strategies to enhance marital relationships.

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon introduced Mr. Keith Butts as the new Acting Superintendent of the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) during the Commissioner's Executive Staff Meeting that was conducted at PCF. Congratulations Acting Superintendent Butts!

The Westville Correctional Facility (WCC), in cooperation with local mutual aid support services, conducted the facility's 2nd Annual Emergency Disaster Drill. The drill consisted of a predetermined emergency situation and prearranged staff who monitored the facility's response and handling of the emergency. At the completion of the drill, WCC Superintendent Levenhagen hosted a debriefing where participants were given the opportunity to discuss their role and what they witnessed during the drill. Beverages and healthy snacks were provided to staff and support teams during the debriefing.

The Indiana Women's Prison recognized 14 graduates of IWP's PLUS program. Each offender graduate completed 320 hours of community service and a self help curriculum facilitated by 30 mentors and 15 volunteers who donated over 300 hours a month. Speakers at the event included Facility Superintendent McCauley, PLUS volunteer Susan Bennett, Julian Center Director Ann Delaney and IDOC Director of Religious Services and Community Involvement Dr. Stephen Hall. The graduation was attended by the offenders' families and topped off with refreshments and praise for their outstanding accomplishment.

New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) held a special Staff Recall to acknowledge Superintendent Don Stine and his service at NCCF. Superintendent Stine has been promoted to Warden at the D. Ray James facility in Folkston, GA, another GEO facility.

A group of Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents and staff assisted their Woodruff Place neighbors by picking up trash and cleaning the streets in preparation for the community's annual flea market.

Fifteen students from Logansport Juvenile have earned their GED through the facility's Vantage Pointe Learning Center, with one of those students earning an honors diploma. Vantage Pointe offers regular high school credit classes as well as GED education and testing. So far in 2011, Vantage Pointe has issued 557 high school credits, had 37 students obtain their GED, certified seven students in telecommunications, certified 25 students in the copper based part of the C-tech program, and certified ten students in the fiber optics part of the C-tech program.

Three students from Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a community service project at the Jefferson County Animal Shelter.

A Memorial Day Service was conducted by the Pendleton Correctional Facility Offender American Legion Post. The event was attended by administrative staff and American Legion representatives from the local community.

Seven students graduated from Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS program. A ceremony was held at the facility to celebrate the accomplishments of the students, staff and community mentors.

CIF is proud to announce that 15 Ivy Tech students passed their GED test, and four of the men received honors.

Best Wishes are extended to Charles Terry, Sewage Disposal Foreman, who retired after 20 years of service at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility extends congratulations to Mike Rains, promoted to Unit Manager and Harley Crabb promoted to Major.

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Friday
June 17, 2011

Weekly Views

A story about Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's (WVCF) community volunteers helping offenders prepare for re-entry into society has been nominated for an Emmy! "Faith Driven" produced by WTHI TV photojournalist Ryan Ward is in the Human Interest News category Emmy hunt, competing in the Emmy Ohio Valley chapter. The winner will be announced July 30, in Louisville, Kentucky. Good luck Ryan!

The Noble County Purdue Master Gardeners were awarded the State's 2011 Purdue Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award for the Master Gardeners program at Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility. Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility teamed up with Noble County Purdue Master Gardeners in 2010 to conduct its first Master Gardener program at the facility. Since then, 15 offenders have graduated from the program. Together with Noble County Master Gardeners, a garden was planted on the grounds of the facility with all produce donated to the local food bank.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility was recognized as a leader of Indiana prisons in sustainability at a Corrections National Sustainability Symposium presented by Greenprisons.org in Indianapolis, IN. The symposium highlighted new initiatives in sustainable corrections and its fiscal impact. At the conclusion of the symposium, Commissioner Lemmon, Superintendent Stanley Knight and over 70 attendees toured PCF's compost and recycling areas, the Shifting Gears program, the bio-mass boiler and the wind turbine.

The Deep River Grinders from Hobart, IN visited the Indiana State Prison to play Baseball according to the rules of 1858. The entire Grinders team, umpire, and tally keeper were all in period attire. The game from 1858 is similar to the game played today, with some notable differences. Players do not wear gloves or other protective equipment. There is also no sliding, leading off, bunting or stealing of bases.

Forty Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students attended "Midnight Madness." Students that were conduct free for 30 days and did not have any outstanding sanctions were treated to one pound hotdogs with all the fixings, chips, brownie bites, lemonade, a movie, dancing, playing pool and basket ball.

The Venture Scouts unit at Pendleton Juvenile participated in a campout where students earned badges for Astronomy. They also had a Rain Gutter Regatta, decorated their Derby cars and roasted hot dogs & marshmallows.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) celebrated the graduation of 141 TC offenders. The ceremony was quite an honor for the graduates, who celebrated with invited guests and staff members of the program. The offenders selected the phrase, "Brand New Men with the World in their Grasps!" as their send off message as they re-enter society. Superintendent Levenhagen expressed appreciation to the TC team, congratulated the offender graduates and asked their families to support and encourage these "new men." The ceremony ended with cake and punch, presented by the students from the facility's Culinary Arts program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Sergeant Michael Caylor was honored during a pinning ceremony conducted in the Superintendent's Office in recognition of his promotion to the position of Correctional Lieutenant. Congratulations Lieutenant Caylor and good luck in your new supervisory role!

Plainfield Correctional Facility (PCF) hosted a Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) for seven offenders and their spouses. The workshop provided the couples with education and practical strategies to enhance their relationship. It was facilitated by trained staff from IYC as well as Central Office and Wabash Valley. PREP is built on research in the area of couples relationships, psychology, sociology, and education. It is presented throughout the world. The workshop was arranged and moderated by Amy Fenn, PCF case manager.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a CLIFF graduation ceremony for eight students. Since the program's inception in December 2005, 271 students have graduated.

WVCF marked Graduation Day for 157 GED, vocational and college graduates. The Caps and Gown Ceremony included proud family members, witnessing an important milestone in the lives of their loved ones. "A degree, certificate or diploma in hand will enhance employment chances and a successful new beginning, post incarceration," said Superintendent Dick Brown.

A commencement ceremony was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF) for 240 academic and vocational graduates. Keynote speaker, IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon addressed the graduates and visitors, "I encourage you not to become complacent with today's accomplishment, but to continue to strive for self improvement." Commissioner Lemmon thanked PCF staff for their dedication and commitment to education.

The offender population at the Correctional Industrial Facility enjoyed an evening of music during the facility's Praise Team concert. Many of the volunteers who assist in worship were invited to attend along with staff.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Auxiliary Committee had a facility Garage Sale. Staff donated the items that were sold. The sale raised over \$500. The committee will utilize the money for the annual PNJCF Community Day. All unsold items were donated to Alternatives women's shelter in Anderson, IN.



Friday
June 24, 2011

Weekly Views

Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Superintendent Steve McCauley, Assistant Superintendent LaShelle Turner, and Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Atwood were invited to attend a luncheon with Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard. The topic of discussion was the Indiana Supreme Court's Judges Summer Teacher's Workshop "From the Inside Out: How Indiana's Courts Work".

The Plainfield Correctional Facility received new residents this week, five ICAN puppies. The pups will remain at this facility for one to two years to be trained by the offender dog handlers on how to become service dogs for persons with physical and mental handicaps. The pups will receive their initial training at Plainfield and will then be moved to other facilities throughout the state to receive their final training before they are assigned to a person who needs them. In April, the facility's GRIP unit held a fundraiser for the ICAN program, donating approximately \$4,000. Due to the amount of the donation, the facility was given the privilege of naming one of the new puppies. "Smitty" was named in honor of our superintendant, Brian Smith. (see photo of Smitty below)



The first graduation of the National Institute of Corrections' (NIC) "Offender Workforce Development Specialists" training program was held at the Correctional Training Institute. PEN Products, in a cooperative agreement with NIC, sponsored the three week course which began in March of this year. The 29 graduates represented a wide array of agencies, including IDOC, Community Corrections, and faith-based and non-profit re-entry service providers. Participants completed 180 hours of course work including two lengthy practicum assignments. Congratulations to the graduates!

During the Employer Support of the Guard Reserves (ESGR) annual awards banquet, Putnamville Correctional Facility received the "Secretary of Defense Freedom" award and the "Above and Beyond" award. The awards were in recognition of the facility's outstanding service and continuing support of military employees. Putnamville Assistant Superintendent Tim Phegley, Correctional Captain John Steckler and Human

Resource Generalist Kathy Goss accepted the awards on behalf of the facility. Superintendent Stanley Knight expressed his gratitude for the recognition and for the opportunity to serve those who serve our country.

The Westville Correctional Facility hosted its annual Family Day Open House. The event, coordinated by the facility's Planning Committee, offered a variety of activities: lunch, E-Squad demonstrations, vendors, tours, elephant ears, and games for the kids. Members of the Planning Committee admit that seeing the delightful faces of the attendees is the reward for their hard work.

Two Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students were escorted off grounds to complete a Restorative Justice Project at the Jefferson County Animal Shelter.

Branchville Correctional Facility would like to congratulate three recent promotions to sergeant: Sergeant Shelly Adams-Brown, Sergeant Dennise Garrison, and Sergeant Shannon Lehmkueler.

Miami Correctional Facility held its annual Family Fun Day with a Hawaiian Luau. Staff and their families were treated to grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, a bouncy castle, water slide, children's games, adult tricycle races, pony rides, and demonstrations by Miami's K-9 unit and E-squad. About 200 staff and family enjoyed the windy day.

The Kairos Prison Ministry Organization began a four day program at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF). The event will involve participation by approximately 40 Kairos volunteers and 36 PCF offenders.

Charles E. Oberlie, Michigan City Mayor, thanked the Indiana State Prison Community Assistance program for the services provided to the city. A work crew from the program recently cleaned up the medians and shoulders of a very import corridor leading into Michigan City. Mayor Oberlie stated in a letter to the Superintendent, "You and your staff have time and again responded in a positive fashion to assist our city workforce and address many longstanding issues".

IWP hosted a tour for students participating in the Indiana Supreme Court's Summer Teachers Workshop "From the Inside Out: How Indiana's Courts Work". Superintendent Steve McCauley, Assistant Superintendent Ron Allen and Program Director Tim Horan lead the tour through the offender dorms, Wee One's Nursery, ICAN Training and educational programs. The event closed with a light lunch presented by the facility's Culinary Arts Program.



Friday
July 8, 2011

The Times Regional Newspaper visited and interviewed offenders from the Inside/Outside Dad's program at Westville Correctional Facility. The paper ran a special Father's Day article that highlighted the offender's relationship with their children and the importance of giving their children the hope and courage necessary as they await their father's release. The Times also interviewed the offenders' children for their perspective of having a father in prison. The article reinforced the value of the facility's fatherhood programs.

Congratulations to Assistant Superintendent Bill Hyatt (IYC) and Re-entry Monitor Nicole Doctor (WCC) for their winning entries in the Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund's "Rename the Fund" contest! The Fund will now be known as the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI), to more accurately reflect the Fund's purpose. The SECC code for the upcoming fall campaign will remain 662100.

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) hosted an Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) graduation ceremony. The graduation ceremony for 12 canine graduates followed two long weeks of team training with the offender handlers and the recipients receiving their new canine partner. Dustin Hillman, a recipient from Lafayette, said his service dog, Tippy, has already made a difference in his life. Tippy can smell when Hillman, a diabetic, has low blood sugar, and the dog has made him exercise more. IWP is proud of staff and the offenders for their commitment to community involvement. (see photo below)



The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) paid a visit to the Indiana State Prison after a baby hawk fell out of its nest on facility grounds. DNR staff examined the baby hawk and advised ISP staff that it was an endangered species. The baby hawk is alive and well and has been removed from the grounds.

Select students from Camp Summit Boot Camp, Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility, Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility, and South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility contributed poems,

artwork, fiction, and nonfiction prose for the first edition of "Keeping it 100: Voices from the Inside" literary journal. This endeavor is the first of many editions to be published that showcases the talents of students who are currently incarcerated. Anyone interested in contributing their students' work should contact Janet Freeman at South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility (jfreeman@doc.in.gov).

Branchville Correctional Facility E-Squad members Sergeant John Pyle and Officer Mike Lasher attended the Special Weapons Academy at New Castle. They received top team honors as the best shooters in the state.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held a Staff Recall and Staff Apprenticeship Graduation. CIF was pleased to have 244 staff members graduate, the largest graduation to date.

Superintendents Keith Butts and Donna Carneygee signed a Memorandum of Understanding that combines the training services and resources of the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Correctional Industrial Facility.

Camp Summit Boot Camp conducted an Employee Assembly to brief staff on significant events taking place at the facility and to recognize staff accomplishments from the last four months. Five Camp Summit employees were given awards for their outstanding contributions to the facility and state service over the past three-months. Several staff were also recognized for their years of State Service: 15 years, Tom Ferrara; 10 years, Mickey Elch; and 5 years service, Adrienne Harrison.

Victim services groups toured Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility to review the programming students are required to complete before release. Along with the tour, we discussed the victim notification process and restorative justice options for victims.

Students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in educational activities pertaining to bullying. Students were informed on the types of bullying that occur and ways to address bullying. Several students created poems, songs and posters with anti-bullying themes.

The 2011 FedEx Plane Pull Challenge to benefit Special Olympics Indiana will take place on Saturday, August 6 at the former Indianapolis Airport terminal. Last year, New Castle Correctional Facility took first place in the Public Safety Division with a time of 5.56 seconds. Don't miss the fun as teams of up to 22 people compete to pull a 164,000 lb. FedEx Boeing 757 a distance of 12 feet across the tarmac in the least amount of time! Register your team online at www.soindiana.org. Please have each individual that is considering participating complete the online registration. Final rosters are not due until the day of the event on August 6th.

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Friday
July 15, 2011

Weekly Views

ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Towards Education) Ride with the Governor will be held on August 12, 2011 to support the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund. More details coming soon.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) hosted the Indiana State Police (ISP) Career Camp, providing over 77 participants with a tour of the Secured Confinement Unit followed by a question/answer session for the teenagers, eyeing careers in law enforcement. The ISP Career Camp, based in Vincennes, gives students an in-depth look at law enforcement, with WVCF being an annual stop for the students.

As part of a community service project, four students from Camp Summit Boot Camp completed a Gang Graffiti Abatement in the city of LaPorte, IN. They were able to paint over several gang symbols and other markings on buildings facing a city park. The students worked diligently to complete the project. One passerby commented to Camp Summit staff that it was nice to see such well-mannered kids helping the community.

Offenders from New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) PLUS Unit donated 200 "critters" (bears & rabbits) to the Henry County Senior Advisory Council's Angleworx Project. Angleworx sends care packages to 200 senior residents in Henry County twice a year.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF) hosted multiple groups in and out of state. Members of Ohio's state government, a State Boiler Inspector, and an engineer from the Limbaugh Company viewed the facility's green initiatives in hopes of implementing similar programs in Ohio. Highlights of the tour included PCF's wind turbine, compost and recycling, seed processing, and bio-mass boiler areas. Additional, student law clerks from the Attorney General's office toured Putnamville's operations and programs. Guests were welcomed by Superintendent Stanley Knight. Assistant Superintendent Craig Grage gave an overview of the facility and conducted the tour. Staff from the Indianapolis Star newspaper also visited PCF to tour the facility's Shifting Gears program. Program Coordinator, Kevin Wilson and offenders assigned to the work line were interviewed to promote community awareness.



The Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit donated a hand-built dollhouse to For God So Loved the World Ministries, a homeless shelter located on the Far East side of Indianapolis. Among the ministry's residents are homeless veterans and their families and children. Two INVET residents spent more than 500 hours hand-making some of the dollhouse furniture and revamping and building the dollhouse, which was in disrepair when it was received as a donation. (see photo left)

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) celebrated another PLUS graduation. The group of 37 offender graduates is the facility's largest thus far. Offenders were able to invite guests to share in and support them as they celebrate this milestone. This is WCC's 13th PLUS graduation since the program started in November 2005. Ms Sandy Sharp, who has been the Unit's Program Director since its conception, has 249 offender participants.

Branchville Correctional Facility donated \$2500 to the Indiana State Police Summer Youth Camp Program. Through Branchville's donation, over 35 children were able to participate in the camp held at Lincoln State Park. The Junior Pioneer Camps are designed for students between 11 and 14 years old who are considered high risk and need a structured program with close supervision. The funds were generated through offender fundraisers held throughout the past few months.

Officials from the Madison County Prosecutor's Office toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility and met with representatives from all three Pendleton facilities, Executive Staff from Central Office, and Indiana State Police personnel. The visit was requested by the Prosecutor's Office for the purpose of demonstrating their support in addressing the needs of the three Pendleton facilities.

The Indiana Women's Prison hosted two family events for offender mothers and grandmothers. Forty-five offenders and 78 children, ages 4 to 17, attended the IWP Annual Kid's Camp. This group enjoyed activities such as an obstacle course, moon bounce, piñata and making picture frames. After a wonderful lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers, everyone watched the movie Toy Story 3. At IWP's Annual Teen's Day Camp, 10 offenders and 16 of teenagers enjoyed taking part in "Minute to Win It" activities, karaoke, and picture frame making after a taco bar lunch. Both days were fun for offenders, staff, volunteers and children alike. Superintendent McCauley personally thanked all for their support, help and donations to make this year's camp a success.

Miami Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Sevier was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from James Durst, Superintendent with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Leslie Durst, Director of the Indiana Educational Resource Center. The certificate was for the valuable support, teamwork, administration and resources he has provided to the successful development and implementation of the Miami Accessible Media Project.



Friday
July 29, 2011

The Westville Correctional Facility hosted its first ever Mike Barber Revival Prison Ministry weekend. The three-day event was shown in a live broadcast on Pr-Claim.tv online. The live airing of the revival allowed the offenders' friends and family to view and participate in the revival. For the first time in WCC's history, all 3400 offenders were invited under one tent to share the experience of the revival. Mike Barber, a former NFL tight-end for the Houston Oilers, had the offenders rocking to music and enthralled the crowd with messages of spirituality and personal responsibility.

Camp Summit Boot Camp has been named one of the three finalists for the 2011 Performance Based Standards (PbS) Barbara Allen-Hagen Award. This national award is given to one correctional facility and one detention facility annually. The finalists were selected on the basis of demonstrating excellence in implementation and compliance with the PbS of the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA) for facility programs and operations. The award winners will be announced in Washington D.C. this October at the annual CJCA meeting. It is an honor and an exceptional accomplishment for Camp Summit to be named a finalist for the award and to have done so in such a short period of time as a PbS site.

Agent Lamont Patterson from the Indianapolis Parole Office (PD#3) attended the 17th Annual Drug Court Training Conference in Washington, DC with the Honorable Judge Salinas from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Court. Agent Patterson served as a panelist for the session on Dealing with the New Demographic: Returning State Prisoners and The State of Re-Entry Courts in Indiana. He represented the PD#3 Office in a professional and knowledgeable manner.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility hosted a tour for Ivy Tech Criminology students. Lieutenant Kevin Kirklen and Mike Rain conducted the tour, which introduced the students to offender programs and facility operations.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility recently donated \$949.83 to the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis for tornado relief. The money was raised through a Fresh Favorites food sale sponsored by Aramark.

Staff and four students from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) helped set up Pioneer Village at the Indiana State Fair. Those attending the Pioneer Village will be able to literally walk through American agriculture with a series of well-marked paths that guide you through growing crops, old-time chores, and displays of antique farms and home artifacts.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted "Midnight Madness" for 28 students. As a reward for their positive behavior, the students will receive snacks, to include nachos, and play games.

A GED graduation ceremony was conducted at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. There were eight students in the graduation class. Family members and staff celebrated their accomplishment. Students and their guests enjoyed pizza and cake prepared by the facility's Culinary Arts class.



Indiana State Prison Superintendent William K. Wilson proudly announces the promotion of two staff to Correctional Captain. Carl Tibbles and Robert Shriner Jr. were promoted to Correctional Captain. Superintendent Wilson remarked how both officers reflect the hard work and dedication of our staff at the Indiana State Prison. (see photo above)

Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program and Therapeutic Community have donated over 3900 lbs of fresh garden produce to local food banks. This is the first year for the Therapeutic Community's garden, and they hope to donate as much produce as the PLUS garden within a couple years. Once the Therapeutic Community garden is fully established, Branchville will be able to donate between 15,000 to 20,000 lbs. of produce per year.

Pendleton Juvenile held their quarterly Facility Assembly. Former PNJCF Assistant Superintendent Keith Butts spoke to the staff. He was awarded with an encased flag from the Future Soldiers Program. Staff were recognized for Perfect Attendance, PPCC Value Awards and Extra Mile Awards. Officer of the Quarter was awarded to Officer Brian Dwiggens. Non-custody Employee of the Quarter was awarded to Recreation Leader Mark Stephenson. Supervisor of the Quarter was awarded to Program Director Natalie Walker.

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Friday
August 5,
2011

W e e k l y V i e w s

Generosity and community service are hallmarks of the Department, proven once again by your generous contributions, totaling \$4215, to Prevent Child Abuse America. Former IDOC Deputy Commissioner Jim Hmurovich serves as President and CEO of this charitable organization that strives to build awareness, provide education and inspire hope to everyone involved in the effort to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children.

In an effort to end domestic violence, the Department is joining the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence for the Race Away from Domestic Violence on Saturday, August 13th. We still need more walkers to join if we are going to have the largest team this year. *** The DEADLINE for TEAM entries is TUESDAY, August 9*** You can register online at https://secure.getmeregistered.com/register.php?event_id=4379&c Please direct any questions to Lisa Salinas at lsalinas@idoc.IN.gov or (317) 233-5541.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Superintendent Dick Brown and Correctional Officer Lonnie Land went to "jail" to help raise funds to benefit National Night Out Officers in Linton, IN during festivities this week in Greene County. Over 1,500 people turned out for the event and WVCF staffers passed out ALERT informational brochures at their display that featured a facility trip vehicle and fire department emergency vehicle.



Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program held a closing ceremony for summer participants at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF).

Eleven outside students and 14 inside students from IREF met at the facility for six weeks where they exchanged ideas about humanity and justice, examined the works and advancements resulting from the Civil Rights Movement, and looked at how community members, parents, activists, and others strove to improve their communities. IREF staff, IUPUI faculty, and members from community organizations remarked about the importance of the exchange program and celebrated the success of the participants. (see photo above)

Westville Correctional Facility's Vocational Education Department hosted a special Vegetable Palooza luncheon. The Culinary Arts and Horticulture classes combined their skills and presented a feast of garden fresh vegetable dishes. Salsa, zucchini bread, zucchini and basil lasagna, pasta and lettuce salads, mint tea and carrot cake were a few of the delights served. The luncheon allowed the student offenders to appreciate the rewards of their efforts.

During a facility recall, Putnamville Correctional Facility Superintendent Stanley Knight highlighted facility accomplishments, addressed operations and staff challenges, and relayed facility and Department news. In addition, awards were presented to Employees of the Quarter and recognition given to Unit Team Manager Russ Spicer and staff for outstanding achievement in the facility's Sanitation Contest. The contests are held as incentives for offenders and staff to exceed required levels of sanitation thereby aiding in the control of vermin, minimizing health issues and improving the offenders' quality of life.

Benny Polin, of God Praising in Prison, hosted a Gospel Fest at the Indiana Women's Prison. Approximately 50 volunteers brought in ribs & chicken with all the fixings to feed 700 offenders, staff, and volunteers. The day was filled with praise, worship and fellowship. Thanks to all that helped to make it a special day.

A "Day with Dad" program was held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Coordinated by Case Managers James Bennett and Dwaine Short, 51 children and 25 incarcerated fathers engaged in various activities to promote positive father-child relationships, deter recidivism and disrupt the cycle of family incarceration.



Wabash Valley is BACK, at the Indiana State Fair with a quilt entry! This is the year of the soybean and WVCF PLUS offenders have entered a dandy, hoping to repeat the success of last year's "Piggy" award winning quilt. PLUS Casework Manager Jacquie Mize said, "Who knew soybeans could look so adorable?" (see photo left)

The Ivy Tech Building Maintenance class at the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) completed construction on a house package for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Muncie, Indiana. CIF also held a PLUS unit Doughnut Fundraiser, making close to \$800.



Friday
August 12,
2011

Weekly Views

The Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Legion Post #311 at the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) hosted a greeting card sale to raise funds to support the Post's goals and mission. Over 30 different varieties of cards were made available for purchase by the residents for \$1.25 each. The greeting card sale marks the Post's first ongoing fundraiser at IREF.

Branchville Correctional Facility Superintendent Gil Peters announced the promotions of Captain Shannan Sturgeon to Unit Team Manager, Sergeant Alan Blum to Lieutenant, Sergeant Nathan Hoffman to Lieutenant, and Leslie Durham to Plant Foreman 1. Congratulations all!

The Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility Choir took a road trip to the Auburn Presbyterian Church for an outdoor concert and church service. This capped off a three day celebration of the church's 100th Anniversary.

Miami Correctional Facility's (MCF) American Legion Post #555 conducted a swearing in ceremony for its officers. Jerry Stevens, the Fifth District Regional Commander, officiated the ceremony. MCF's legion is ranked 12th overall in the entire state for membership, according to Stevens. Stevens said he was impressed with MCF's uniform and the professional way the meeting was run.

Three visitors from Japan came to the Indiana Women's Prison to observe an Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) training session. They are conducting research about service dogs in the United States and are hoping to utilize the information to improve the training and use of service dogs in Japan.

Therapeutic Community (TC) staff at Westville Correctional Facility hosted their annual "TC field day." All 436 TC offenders spent the day enjoying picnic. Westville staff served hamburgers, hot dogs and watermelon, while the offenders participated in organized sporting events. The field days are an effort promoted by the TC's Creative Energy department, which teaches and encourages offenders to replace the time spent using drugs with positive activity.

The offender farmers at the Indiana State Prison picked 355 pounds of produce from the organic garden at the prison, and donated the goods to Stepping Stone Shelter, a not for profit organization.

The Indiana State Fair came to Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) this week. Tastes of the fairgrounds were provided to staff compliments of the Employee Appreciation Committee. Committee members and custody staff served up cotton candy, popcorn, and ice cream on all shifts in appreciation of the blue ribbon job WVCF staffers do each day!

The PLUS program at the Putnamville Correctional Facility recently donated \$1000 to various organizations. Assistant Superintendent Craig Grage, Case Manager Kumaran and Case Worker Schuetz presented Putnam County Library representatives with a \$500 check for their children's reading program "Imaginary Books". The donation will enable 20 children to receive one book per month for a period of a year. A donation of \$500 was also awarded to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an organization that provides public education and training resources to eliminate domestic violence.



Carol Kornas from Castleton United Methodist Church donated 100 backpacks with school supplies to the Indiana Women's Prison. The backpacks were donated to the facility for the women to give to their children. (see photo left)

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) recently presented a check in the amount of \$514.45 to Special Olympics Indiana. The monetary gift was made possible by donations from PCF employees and the facility's PLUS Program.

Indiana State Prison Superintendent William K. Wilson announced with great pleasure the promotion of two staff members. Nicole Kachmar and Joshua Brooks were recently promoted to Correctional Caseworker 4. "I congratulated both Ms. Kachmar and Mr. Brooks. I wish them well and look forward to their continued success with the Indiana State Prison," stated Superintendent Wilson.

Congratulations to the Plainfield Correctional Complex (RDC/IYC) E-Squad team on their 1st place finish in the Public Safety Division at the Fed Ex Plane Pull Challenge for Special Olympics Indiana! The team completed the pull in 6.601 seconds, and raised a total of \$1,459.14! Outstanding job!!

Volunteer Reverend Ray Nelson staff Minister New Life Tabernacle and members of his congregation visited Chain O' Lakes for a series of softball and fellowship. Members from the church were assigned as team captains to choose sides. Plans are being made for another game and possible cook out.

Indiana State Prison successfully passed the Department's mock audit for re-accreditation with the American Correctional Association. The prison scored a perfect 100 percent on mandatory standards and a 99.3 percent on non-mandatory national standards.



Friday
August 19,
2011

Weekly Views

New college scholarships are available for staff and their families through the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana (CPAFI). Seven scholarships are available, including the \$4,000 Commissioner's Scholarship, which is the largest one ever given by the CPAFI. For more information or to apply, visit www.cpaifi.org. Don't delay... deadline for application submission is September 6, 2011.

PEN Products' Digital License Plate Shop is going green! PEN Products changed their process to reuse the slip sheeting (laminated backing) instead of utilizing new plastic bags to protect the license plate during shipment. Reclaiming the previously discarded laminated backing while piloting a process to ensure high quality will prevent over 9 million bags or 54,000 lbs of plastic bags from going into landfills in the next three years.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility has initiated steps to slowly come off lockdown status and return to normal operation. The facility has developed a process for getting eligible offenders back to work and regular visitation will resume on Monday August 22, 2011.

The Indiana Women's Prison PLUS Program held a welcome picnic for twelve new program participants. There was food and games such as water balloon toss and wiffle ball. The new PLUS offenders indicated they are looking forward to challenging themselves in a positive manner while in the program.



Branchville Correctional Facility presented a check for over \$750 to the Perry County Department of Child Services office. The money will be used to send 19 underprivileged children to Holiday World, a local amusement park. The money was raised through offender fundraisers operated out of A-Dormitory.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff not only enjoyed being part of the first ever Sullivan County Night Out at the City Park, but they also got to pass out Indiana Department of Correction ALERT notification service flyers. The Wabash display featured an offender transport vehicle and fire department emergency truck, and an unidentified young lady who tried on a WVCF fire suit. Over 2000 people attended the event. (see photo above)

With 28 registered team members, the Department of Correction was awarded third place in team participation in the Race Away from Domestic Violence, in sponsorship of the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The majority of participants came from Central Office, followed by Pendleton Juvenile and IREF. Other facilities represented were Edinburgh, Logansport Juvenile, PEN Products, the parole board, and Corizon. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to participating again next year.

Two case managers at the Westville Correctional Facility have successfully presented the facility's first Thinking for a Change (T4C) 3.0 class. The offenders, all with less than nine months to their EPRD, graduated from the 13 week class and will be considered for a 30-day time cut from the newly designed, stand alone program. The offender graduates celebrated with soda and popcorn, provided by the Recreation Department, while watching the 1985 movie, "The Breakfast Club". Lessons within the T4C program make reference to the movie.



Miami Correctional Facility hosted a Gospel Echoes Freedom Rally with more than 170 volunteers coming into the facility. The event began with evening worship services in the chapels and then volunteers cooked up a picnic lunch with hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad, chips and a whoopie pie for dessert. The meal was given out to nearly all 3,188 offenders and all on-duty staff. This is the seventh year the group has provided this meal for the facility. (see photo left)

The Indiana Women's Prison Sheltered Workshop staff and offenders raised \$120 at a yard sale. The proceeds will be shared by the Angels of East Africa Recue Mission

and the Indianapolis Homeless ministry, which is operated by 12 Stone Fellowship. The women created & donated over 100 hand-crafted items, such as baby blankets, sweaters, shawls, hats, scarves and much more. Items that were not sold will be used for another sale next month.



Friday
August 26,
2011

W e e k l y V i e w s

Congratulations to Team Correction for their amazing third place finish in the 7th Annual Paddle Battle sponsored by the State Personnel Department! The team swept their original heat, and with no time to rest before the championship heat, they pulled out in front. A little cheating from one of the competition kept them from taking first place, but they only missed it by seconds. We couldn't be prouder of the awesome TEAM CORRECTION!!! Congratulations to Ashley Lindenmier, James Baumgardner, Teresa Turner and Steve Hall!

Miami Correctional Facility's K-9 Unit went out into the community to put on a show for participants of the American Cancer Society's Bark For Life event in Peru, IN. The team conducted several demonstrations of the dogs' working abilities and answered questions from the audience. About 55 people attended the event.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted Jail Commanders and jailers from the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and Dearborn County Sheriff's Department. The group toured the facility and learned more about RDC and the IDOC intake process.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Officer Maggie Miller helped bring the WVCF IDOC Blood Drive Challenge to a close with her donation to the Indiana Blood Center. 94 staffers gave the "gift of life" helping to address the current critical need for blood. Superintendent Dick Brown thanked all of the Wabash "silent heroes" for their demonstration of community spirit.

Southern District Federal Court Judge Tanya Walton Pratt and members of her staff toured the Pendleton Correctional Facility's segregation units with Superintendent Keith Butts and Assistant Superintendent of Operations Duane Alsip. Judge Pratt was impressed with how clean the facility was. She also commented on the positive interaction she observed between staff and offenders. Judge Pratt was accompanied on the tour by Tom Quigley who serves as Special Counsel to Commissioner Lemmon, Deputy Attorney General David Arthur, and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana.

The second class of six students graduated from the Parole Pre-service Academy after four weeks of training. The South Bend and Indianapolis District Offices each had two representatives, and the Bloomington and Gary offices had one representative each. Parole Services is proud to include Jasmin Durakovic and Michael Rodriguez (PD8), Justin Fuller and Oscar Solis (PD3), Tony Fetter (PD5) and Latrina Brown (PD6) to the ranks and recognizes the efforts of the trainees, Parole Division Training Officers and the staff of SDEO for a successful orientation.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility Urban Unity Gavel Club Toastmasters presented the Good News Mission Men's Shelter, which provides food, shelter, and human services to Indianapolis's displaced men, with a \$375 check and several pounds of produce from the IREF garden. Toastmasters residents held a Subway Sandwich fundraiser, in which residents participated by purchasing sandwiches with funds from their inmate accounts.

Branchville Correctional Facility Superintendent Gil Peters announced the promotions of Correctional Officer Greg Krygielka, accountant Vicky Hinton, Correctional Officer Sarah Hess, and former Ivy Tech contract employee Karen Godare to Correctional Caseworkers. Congratulations all!

Re-Entry staff at the Westville Correctional Facility have been aiding offenders in reclaiming lost or forgotten money. Staff have been checking offender names and information against the Attorney General's Unclaimed Property Division web page to determine if the offender has any unclaimed money. Through their efforts, the facility has reclaimed over \$1600 from the states unclaimed money division. The money is sent directly to the offender's Trust Fund account.

A Forklift Operator Class was held at the Indiana State Prison (ISP), Minimum Security. Rick Cornelison, a Pen Products instructor presented the class to offenders who are assigned to the warehouse.

The Indiana State Public Defender's Office and the Physical Plant staff from the Indiana State Prison installed video conference equipment at ISP. This equipment will be used to assist with the number of attorney visits at the facility. The benefit to the taxpayers is that the attorneys will be able to meet with their clients from Indianapolis and not have to be on the road traveling numerous hours.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a PLUS graduation for ten students who successfully completed the program. This is the tenth graduating class from the PLUS unit. This class completed over 300 hours of community service, raised \$150 over the 16-week course and donated \$50 to the Domestic Violence Awareness Fund. The unit also has three mentors that donated over 30 hours of their time to the success of the unit and class.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility held a Prevention Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) for 12 offenders and their spouses. PREP is a pre-marital/marital educational program designed to teach couples communication and conflict management skills. The event is organized by Volunteer Coordinator Rick Hayes.

Weekly Views

September 9, 2011

State Senator John Waterman and his associate Jay Hood visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS Unit, which lived up to its dedication to community service. Native American PLUS participants presented Senator Waterman with 800 medicine bags and other items for the Sullivan County POW WOW that will be held at Shakamak State Park September 17th and 18th. This is the second annual visit Senator Waterman has made to the WVCF PLUS Unit to accept these gifts and to tour the unit. (See photo below)

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Culinary Students worked with the Pendleton Library Community Garden Project to make salsa. The library brought the garden produce to PNJ, and our students and their teacher made the salsa. The salsa will be packaged by the Pendleton Library Community Garden Project and then sold at a community fund raiser.

PEN products held a Career Path Planning Workshop at Miami Correctional Facility for 24 offenders along with 12 practitioners including IDOC, Community Corrections and the Department of Workforce Development. This one day workshop includes self-assessments along with training decision making, employment retention and time management.



Barbara Holcomb, Equine Management Instructor at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, was the guest speaker at the Brazil Rotary Club. In appreciation of her appearance and support of the program, club members pledged donations for a silent auction that will be held October 1st at the Indiana Derby. Proceeds from the auction will be used to fund the facility equine program, a subsidiary of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, a non-profit organization.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Officers Curtis Bynum, Steven Hill, and Anthony Nunley were recognized during a pinning ceremony at the facility to acknowledge their promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Westville Correctional Facility's east entrance, located off SR 421, has taken on a new look thanks to a landscape renovation by the facility's Horticulture Class. The offender students, under the direction of Ms. Willard, designed and planted the foliage to spruce up the entrance.

Branchville Correctional Facility is pleased to announce that Crisis Connection has recognized PLUS Case Manager Kelly Hubert and Addiction Recovery Specialist Jackie Coultas with a "Special Someone" Award. Crisis Connection tries to honor people who go above and beyond with no expectation of praise other than the reward inherent in making a difference. The Branchville PLUS Program also donated over 25 offender-made quilts to Crisis Connection.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility donated over 63 pounds of fresh vegetables to Second Helpings Food Rescue Mission. The vegetables, which included cucumbers, cabbage, tomatoes, broccoli, beans, celery, cantaloupe, and bell peppers, were harvested from the facility's resident-run garden.

Twenty-one staff and six offenders from the New Castle Correctional Facility were part of the 550 plus volunteers that participated in the Henry County United Fund's Day of Caring. New Castle and Geo Group donated \$5,000 to the Henry County United Fund at the kick-off during the Day of Caring.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) Superintendent Jan Davis announced the promotion of a custody officer at the facility. Valerie Copeland has been promoted from Correctional Officer to Correctional Sergeant. Sergeant Copeland began her career in corrections at MJCF on August 20, 2009. She is a member of the facility's Quick Response Team, Weapon's Team, and Cell Extraction Team. She was honored in November 2010 as "Employee of the Month." She most recently has been working as the "Officer in Charge" of Promise Junior Senior High School. Sergeant Copeland has been recognized for her communication skills, good judgment, professionalism, work ethic and for improving the conduct of the students during school.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to acknowledge the most recent graduates of the facility's PLUS Program. Mr. Virgil Madden, who serves as Policy Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, was the guest speaker for the event.

Residents at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility along with Superintendent Beckie Bennett and Volunteer & Community Services Coordinator Richard Rosales appeared as guests on the British Broadcasting Channel's popular radio program "World Have Your Say". Topics of discussion included the American Judicial System, sentencing reform, the residents' expectations about community reception and overcoming the stigma of incarceration.

Weekly Views

September 16, 2011

The Indiana State Prison (ISP) successfully passed an audit for re-accreditation with the American Correctional Association (ACA). ISP scored a perfect 100 percent on mandatory standards and a 98.6 percent on non-mandatory national standards. Superintendent William K. Wilson is appreciative to staff for their dedication and hard work leading up to the audit. "The auditors were very complimentary of our staff and their degree of professionalism. We have a lot to be proud of and that was evident to the audit team members" stated Superintendent Wilson.

MSNBC's Lockup/Wabash Valley/Extended Stay on location production has now ended. The crew spent 53 days (long 12 hour days per PIO Rich Larsen) at WVCF from March through September, interviewing offenders and staff for six, one hour programs. The shows are due to air on MSNBC late this year or early in 2012.

Staff and offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) are busy raising funds for the Wabash Valley Race for the Cure. Staff members are currently being "pinked" for the cure. When they receive a decorated boot from an anonymous friend, they must make a donation to move the boot to another staff member. The facility will also have a cupcake war and bake sale with staff member entries to be judged by the Parke County Home Extension Office. Offenders at RCF will be holding a two hour walk for the cure on Saturday, October 1.

Thirteen offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility were recognized as the first graduates of the Doctor Dad program. Coordinated by Case Manager Dwaine Short, the curriculum for the three week program included lecture and hands on instruction in the use of thermometers, diapers, formula, and child safety equipment.

PEN Products engaged IN State Surplus to sell its Pendleton Correctional Facility Farm equipment at public auction. The auction attracted 121 registered bidders from Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky, and was considered a success. The line-up of equipment auctioned varied from grain drying equipment, farm tractors, grain and vegetable field production equipment and cattle gates. PEN Products will maintain its Pendleton Farm hay enterprise. PEN Products thanks Superintendent Butts and staff and Construction Services staff for their much appreciated help in preparing for the sale.

The Westville Correctional Facility proudly announces the promotion of two staff members to the rank of Correctional Captain. Newly promoted Captains, Edward Coday and Otis Thompson, "are representatives of the character and moral fabric the facility supports," stated Superintendent Levenhagen. The facility has not promoted someone to the captain position since 2004.

The Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility held a cook-out pitch-in fundraiser and raised \$212 through staff donations to benefit the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). The ICADV works to eliminate domestic violence through the implementation of prevention programs including public education, advocacy for system and societal change, influencing public policy and allocation of resources.

Two Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility students were escorted off-grounds to complete a Restorative Justice Project at the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility donated baby blankets, made by the offender population, to the American Red Cross (ARC) of Greater Indianapolis. Mrs. Terry Held, from the ARC, received the baby blankets and was very appreciative of the facility's effort to help. The American Red Cross provides transportation for Marion County residents who do not have reliable transportation to their medical appointments. Some of those residents are expectant mothers and (ARC) furnishes them with a gift bag with various items to help them in their time of need.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility's PLUS unit donated \$1000 to Sheltering Wings, an organization in Hendricks County housing abused women and children from Hendricks County and neighboring counties.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held a Department of Labor Apprenticeship Graduation along with Pen Products for 32 graduates.

The Chain O' Lakes (COL) Correctional Facility community advisory board got together for its quarterly meeting. Superintendent Griffin asked those members who benefit from offender work crews or witness an exceptional job being done, to consider nominating the Officer in charge for COL Employee of the Quarter. All members were invited to the facility's upcoming volunteer recognition day.

Fifteen criminology students and Professor Jamie Houston from Ivy Tech College toured the Putnamville Correctional Facility. The tour was conducted by Case Manager Melissa Langdon and Captain Troy Keith who relayed information regarding facility operations and programming.

Weekly Views

September 23, 2011

Chief of Staff Amanda Copeland is proud to announce the birth of her son, Stephen Cash Copeland. Stephen arrived at 9:45am on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 and came in weighing 7 lbs 2ozs and is 21 inches long. Mom and Stephen are doing well! While Chief Copeland is on leave, RDC Superintendent Tom Hanlon will serve as Acting Chief of Staff.

Future Solider and Venture Scout students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional facility raised money for the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). Students asked staff to sponsor them in a walkathon. They collectively raised \$400 for ICADV. One student was able to raise \$167 by himself.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility participated in Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District's Special Waste Collection Day. The purpose of these events is to safely dispose of unwanted problem waste and electronics from your home. Among the items that were collected included anything toxic, flammable, corrosive or poisonous, such as latex and oil based paints, stains, thinners, stripper, and antifreeze. Computer components, TVs, radios, and other electronics were also collected. Over three semi-trailers of waste was collected to be disposed of properly.

PLUS offenders sponsored a Steak Sandwich Sale at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Coordinated by Case Manager K. Kumaran, over 740 orders were received from offenders in general population. The proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase tutorial DVDs and as charitable donations.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility Superintendent Fran Osburn is proud to announce the promotion of Tobias Foster to Unit Team Manager. Mr. Foster served as a five year active duty U.S. Air Force Security Forces Officer and is a veteran of the War on Terrorism. Following his service, Mr. Foster joined the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) as a Custody Officer and, thereafter, a Counselor. He has held the positions of Custody Officer, Counselor, Programs/Re-Entry Coordinator, and Casework Manager in more than six years in the IDOC. Mr. Foster has also participated in the Experienced and Emerging Leadership program and is a Correctional Police Officer.

Three students from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a community service project at the Anderson Police Department. The students performed general clean up as well as washed police vehicles.

Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) hosted the first ever Cupcake War Bake Sale competition to benefit the Wabash Valley Race for the Cure. This event kicked off the State Employees' Community Campaign at RCF. Staff brought in homemade cupcakes for either the single cupcake competition or the multi-cake display competition. Single cupcake winners included Internal Affairs Investigator Steven Hazard winning first place with his carrot cake; Superintendent Stout and Assistant Superintendents Ferguson and Milner took second place for their cherry pie cupcake; and Aramark staff took third with a root beer float cupcake. Multi-cake display winners included Culinary Arts Instructor Sheila McKee in first place for "Old Swampy the Alligator"; Aramark staff in second place with "The Martians Have Landed"; and Casework Manager Christine Barclay in third place with "Corn on the Cob with Butter Pat". Staff were able to purchase the cupcakes and a silent auction was held for the multi-cake displays.

Renowned artist Emanuel Martinez began his "Art for Kids" project at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF). Every day students are chosen to assist Mr. Martinez create three large murals within the facility. To learn more about Mr. Martinez you can visit his website at www.emanuelmartinez.com. MJCF will host an "unveiling" of the project at its conclusion.

A Prosecutor, Judge, Probation Officers and Board Members from Starke County Community Corrections spent several hours with the staff and inmates of the Therapeutic Community at Westville Correctional Facility. They were impressed with the depth and intensity of the Purposeful Sentencing initiative.

Giving staff a taste of the coming fall season Miami Correctional Facility's Employee Appreciation Committee held a fundraiser, offering up sliced apples with caramel and apple cider. The committee holds food sales a couple times a month in order to raise money for their Family Fun Day in the summer.

Comedian and actor Mike Epps, along with Indianapolis Producer, Amp Harris, and Super Bowl 2012 Director of Communications Dianna Boyce visited the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility to meet the Naptown Knitters, a group of volunteers and IREF residents who meet twice a week to knit scarves for Super Bowl volunteers. Epps visited with residents, posed for pictures and signed autographs.

Evansville Indiana Red Hat Club members and Vincennes University (VU) students toured the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, with both groups coming away with a better understanding of the re-entry process. Red Hat Club members remarked on the cleanliness of the facility and how much they liked the PLUS unit quilts. VU students said the educational tour gave them a better understanding of safety and security along with the importance of programming in preparing offenders for their return to society.

September 30, 2011

Weekly Views

Thirty-two new Correctional Police Officers were added to the ranks of the Indiana Department of Correction during a graduation ceremony held at the Correctional Training Institute. Various dignitaries, guests, and family members were present to witness the event which included Commissioner Lemmon, members from his Executive Staff, Superintendents and other leaders from the law enforcement community. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Mr. Michael Lindsay, Deputy Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. The Honorable Judge Bob A. Witham from the Henry County Superior Court performed the swearing-in and oath to the new officers.

During Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) PREP Weekend Dinner and Orientation session at the Michigan City Clarion Inn, WCC Chaplin Mike Schultz saved the life of a child. Chaplin Schultz heard commotion in the hotel's swimming pool and learned that a young child was in peril. Chaplin Schultz went to the rescue of the child and performed Rescue Breathing until paramedics arrive. Superintendent Levenhagen recognized the valiant Chaplin during the facility's quarterly assembly.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) hosted an unveiling of the murals created by MJCF students who participated in The Emanuel Project-Art for Kids. The project is named after Emanuel Martinez, a master painter and sculptor. Emanuel visited MJCF in September where he personally worked with students to create three permanent murals on the walls outside the facility's cafeteria. The Emanuel Project provides art supplies and creative learning opportunities for incarcerated juveniles, engaging them in the classroom, reducing behavioral problems, and improving academic success. In addition to providing art supplies for facilities, the multi-faceted program also provides guidance and assistance from art professionals in developing art projects for the students in the facilities. MJCF is the project's first expansion into Indiana after working with many facilities in southern states.

Fifty Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders have graduated from the latest PLUS class. Dr. Stephen Hall was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony which included proud family and friends of the graduates. Superintendent Dick Brown said the 16-month faith and character based program empowers participants with the needed tools to become more productive and community minded members of society upon release. Wabash was among the three pilot facilities which launched the PLUS program back in 2005. (see photo right)



Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility's (COL) Administrative Staff hosted a dinner for the facility's hard working volunteers. Superintendent Kathy Griffin wanted to give something back to those who give so much of their time to COL. Volunteers from Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and various bible studies were in attendance as well as representatives from the Parole Division, local banking institutions, child support and Work One. Offenders made an oversized thank you card that was on display and gave testimonies of appreciation. Reverend Ray Nelson was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for his efforts teaching Thinking for a Change and organizing softball and basketball games. Over 60 volunteers, community advisory board members, staff and offenders attended.

The Indiana State Prison held a job fair with approximately 45 individuals attending. The applicants were given a tour of the facility, enjoyed refreshments and spoke to staff about the facility. The job fair was very successful and may become an annual event.



Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility staff and four students assisted Gleaners Food Bank by assembling over 7,000 snack bags for distribution to low-income families. (see photo left)

Thirty participants from the Lake County Sheriff's Department, Awakenings Incorporated, the Oregon Department of Correction, Minnesota Correctional Industries, PEN Products and various IDOC facilities completed a three day Offender Workforce Development Regional training conducted by the National Institute of Corrections in Merrillville.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility hosted a blood drive conducted by the Indiana Blood Center. Ten units of blood were donated by staff during the event.

Weekly Views

October 7, 2011

Commissioner Lemmon is proud to announce that Craig Hanks, Director of Mental Health for the Indiana Department of Correction, was awarded the 2011 Professional of the Year Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) at the NAMI State Conference.

Commissioner joined over 20 IDOC staff for the Wine at the Line footrace in beautiful Bargersville, IN. The weather was perfect, and race proceeds supported the Happy Hollow Children's Camp for physically and economically disadvantaged children. The DOC Race Team's next event will be the Moonlight 4-Miler on November 19

in downtown Indianapolis. For more information, contact Lisa Salinas at (317) 233-5541 or lsalinas@idoc.IN.gov. (see photo right)

"Honesty, Compassion, Responsibility, Tolerance and Respect" was the theme of a PLUS Graduation Ceremony held for 74 graduates at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Opening remarks were given by Superintendent Knight, followed by Keynote Speaker Dr. Stephen Hall. "I'm the 'bus driver' and have the weight of responsibility for the program on my shoulders. I hope that none of you return," stated Dr. Hall. The ceremony concluded with testimonials from graduates and distribution of Certificates of Completion. The program was coordinated by Case Manager Kumaran. (see photo of Dr. Hall below)



Members of the student chapter of the Indiana Criminal Justice Association from IVY Tech in Logansport, under the guidance of Krysten Hinkle, toured both the Indiana State Prison and the Westville Correctional Facility. They had the opportunity to compare and contrast the units, operations and programs of medium, maximum and long-term segregation and enjoy a luncheon provided by the WCC-Ivy Tech Culinary Arts vocational class.

A very sweet gesture in extremely good taste has been made to Carlisle elementary and junior high students, courtesy of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Fatherhood Program! Program supervisor Michele Lincoln and program coordinator Josh Collins delivered 40 dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts to the appreciative Sullivan County students. The project is part of the ongoing Fatherhood initiative for participants to give back to the community.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility (COL) held several events including a Staff Assembly. Several employees were awarded cash spot bonuses, and Correctional Officer Rodney Hall was named employee of the quarter. COL Case Manager Rom Moening also conducted a sexual assault response team (SART) training for staff team members along with the LaGrange and Noble County Sheriff's Departments.

Six offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison PLUS Unit successfully passed the Serve Safe test as part of the Healthy Living Component of the PLUS program.

This accomplishment will enable the women to gain employment in the food industry upon re-entry into our community. The Serve Test was paid for through generous donations of volunteers from various organizations.

Miami Correctional Facility's Employee Appreciation Committee held a nachos and chili hotdog sale, netting more than \$200 toward the Employee Appreciation activities fund.

Congratulations go to Pendleton Correctional Facility K-9 Handler Jeremiah Norris and Hanni, his explosives detection canine, for receiving certification by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). Certification was granted after Norris and Hanni successfully passed the National Odor Recognition Test. This testing procedure represents the proficiency standard established by the ATF as a benchmark for effective canine explosives detection. (See photo right)

The Indiana Women's Prison hosted the Kairos 12th Weekend from September 22, through 25, 2011 with 30 offenders attending. In addition, the "Stepping Stones Mennonite Choir" held a worship concert.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility helped on a Habitat for Humanity project in Anderson, IN. Four students and two staff members participated in the community service project. They helped with building and clean-up.



October 14, 2011

Weekly Views

The Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Correctional Training Institute is ramping up for the dedication of the IDOC Museum and Wing. Correctional Training Institute staff, Darren Coy and Matt Andrick, are currently preparing historic items for Items have been donated by IDOC facilities and staff state-wide. There is ample room to accommodate more IDOC history. Hurry, donate, and be a part of IDOC history, memories and nostalgia! Please contact Matt Andrick to donate your items at 765-521-0230 ext. 5004, or via MAndrick@idoc.in.gov.

Officer Chad Evans, from the Putnamville Correctional Facility saw an opportunity to help others and acted on it. After watching a news segment on TV, Evans reported the Council on Domestic Violence's (CODA) need for cell phones to his supervisor. As a result, 100 confiscated cell phones were donated to CODA for victims of domestic violence. For each donated phone CODA will receive a brand new phone with GPS coordinates and 3000 free minutes.

On September 26th, the Department hosted the 2nd Annual IDOC Commissioner's Golf Open at The Fort Golf Course, located on the grounds of Ft. Harrison State Park. Thirty-six teams comprised of IDOC employees, sponsors, and other participants competed in the golf tournament. Over \$3500 was raised to benefit the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana.

During the 2011 Indiana Criminal Justice Association's Fall Conference, in Merrillville, IN, IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon presented staff with the Annual Commissioner's Awards. Among this year's recipients were Mark Sevier -Superintendent of the Year, Ernest Huff-Distinguished Service Award, Klorissa Moody- Parole Agent of the Year, Tanya Zimmerman- Industrial Professional of the Year, Terry Harman-Chaplain of the Year, Cindy Brown-Physical Plant Staff of the Year, Karl Pruett-Corrections Supervisor of the Year, Terry Tackett-Human Resources Staff of the Year, Alexis Dean Evens- Re-entry Staff of the Year, Jason Miller-Correctional Professional of the Year, Steven Scholz-Rising Star, and Jennifer Logan-Administrative Support Staff of the Year.

During the 2011 IDOC Blood Drive Challenge, over 650 units were donated by staff who rolled up their sleeves to give the gift of life. 22 facilities across the state hosted blood drives throughout the months of July and August in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Indiana Blood Center. All of the facilities that participated did a terrific job thanks to their wonderful blood drive coordinators who worked hard to promote their blood drives and encourage staff along the way. Taking first place in the small facility category for the third year in a row was Edinburgh Correctional Facility with 28% of staff donating, totaling 18 units! The first winner for the new medium facility category was the Correctional Industrial Facility with 10% of staff donating, collecting 38 units! Wabash Valley Correctional Facility took home first place in the large facility category with 15% of staff donating, collecting a whopping 94 units!

The Rockville Correctional Facility's Recreation Department Supervisor Joe Anderson has facilitated a "Chemo Cap" project with the facility's Teddy Bear Club, an offender group that makes crocheted teddy bears and other items for donation to various philanthropic organizations. The offenders assigned to the Teddy Bear Club have created a crocheted cap fashioned from pink yarn to donate to the Wabash Valley Race for the Cure. So far 24 caps have been donated with more to come.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility now has an obstacle course on grounds. Future Solider Program Instructor Nakuma Stone and Maintenance Staffer Gary King have been working tirelessly on this project. The course will include a balance beam, climbing wall, and other obstacles. The course will primarily be used by students in the Future Solider Program. Staff will also be able to use the course for teambuilding activities.

Ms. Stephanie Riley, a criminal justice student from IVY Tech Community College in Columbus, IN, visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) to interview PCF Lieutenant Chad Winfrey in connection with a research paper she is completing. Lieutenant Winfrey provided her with a tour of the facility following the interview.

The Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) was well represented at the ICJA Conference Awards Ceremony. Three employees from WCC received honors of recognition from ICJA including: Assistant Superintendent of Operations Michael T. Scott was presented with the Distinguished Service Award, Human Resource Specialist Dixie Phelan received Support Services Staff of the Year, and Correctional Sergeant Michael Wheele received Correctional Officer of the Year. ICJA's Volunteer of the Year award also went to a WCC Volunteer, Chaplain Clarence O'Connor.

Putnamville Correctional Facility Security Threat Group Coordinators, J.R. Smith and Darrin Chaney attended a conference hosted by the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center's (IIFC) Gang Intelligence Sharing Project, in Indianapolis, IN. During the conference, attendees received extensive training from FBI agents on the use of correctional intelligence, proactive policing, criminal gang statutes, growing security threat groups and how the FBI's Cryptanalysis and Racketeering Unit has helped law enforcement investigations and prosecutions.

October 21, 2011

Weekly Views

Deputy Commissioner Randy Koester presented a check for \$10,255.82 to the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) during ICADV's 29th Annual Fall Conference. Various IDOC staff members, offenders, and facility programs, such as the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) units, helped raise money for this important cause.

Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman visited the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility to deliver the keynote address during a GED graduation ceremony. Twenty-five students donning blue caps and gowns celebrated their high school graduation from Logansport's

Vantage Pointe Learning Center, joining 413 other juvenile offenders who have earned their GEDs at Logansport since 2007. "You've achieved something that others in your situation have not," Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman told the graduates during her keynote address. Two students passed with honors. One graduate had already been released but returned to attend the graduation ceremony.

The Indianapolis District#3 and District#1 Parole Offices, in conjunction with the Marion County Sheriff's Department Sex and Violent Offender Unit, participated in an initiative to monitor Marion County sex offender compliance for registry responsibility and conditions of parole. Positive contact was made with more than 50 paroled sex offenders and 15 arrests were made for new charges related to registration responsibility. Marion County officials were complimentary of parole staff's dedication and professionalism throughout this project and willingness to go the extra mile.

A total of eleven teams competed in the IDOC 2nd Annual Softball Tournament. The winning team was "Warning Shot" from Putnamville Correctional Facility. Lyndie Alspaugh from the Putnamville team was named MVP. Executive Director Richard Curry presented plaques to the winners. A fun day was had by all!

The Correctional Industrial Facility's (CIF) FIDO Program received its 100th dog from the Anderson Animal Shelter. The FIDO program, which stands for Faith + Inmates + Dogs = Opportunity, has found forever homes for 85 abandoned unwanted dogs since the program began in September 2008. FIDO partners the dogs with two offender handlers, whose jobs are to socialize the dogs and teach basic obedience in order to make them more adoptable. It's a win-win situation for both the dogs and the inmates. CIF currently has 15 dogs up for adoption.

Approximately 60 PLUS graduates attended a presentation by Brooks Douglass, whose personal story of victimization and forgiveness has been told in the movie, Heaven's Rain. As an Oklahoma State Senator, Mr. Douglas authored and worked to pass numerous crime rights' bills and laws, including the Oklahoma Victims' Bill of Rights, which dramatically changed the state criminal justice system. He also worked to pass laws regulating rights to restitution; confidentiality of victim information; rights of victims to attend all court proceedings; rights to be informed of case status; and right of victims to attend the execution of their loved one's convicted killer.

The Wabash Valley Community Advisory Board learned that a new solar project is already saving close to 24 percent in terms of natural gas usage. Solar panels are being used in one cell house to help heat water for offender showers. Physical Plant Director Roger Dagley said the new system, which went hot earlier this year, is virtually maintenance free!

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) successfully completed the ACA Re-Accreditation Audit. The facility earned a 100% on mandatory and 99.3% on non-mandatory standards. During the exit interview, the auditors praised PNJCF staff for their hospitality, professionalism and knowledge. The PNJCF Auxiliary Committee provided a celebratory breakfast for all staff for this accomplishment.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) celebrated the graduation of 248 offender students. A traditional ceremony with guest speakers, refreshments and family reflected the cooperative re-entry efforts among WCC, Ivy Tech and the offenders. 194 offenders received their GED and 54 earned a Career Technical Certificate.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility sadly reports the passing of facility K-9 Baron. Baron provided approximately six years of faithful service to the facility in the capacity of an aggression canine. K-9 personnel and all staff at the facility are grieving the passing of this "fallen soldier".

Family Youth and Community Development Program representative Charles Miles and Carrie Cox from Putnam County Family Support Services were the recipients of a donation from the Putnamville Correctional Facility's PLUS program. During a presentation ceremony arranged by PLUS Coordinator Karumathil Kumaran, a check in the amount of \$1,250 was presented to each representative by a PLUS offender.

The Indiana State Prison conducted interviews resulting in seven staff promotions. Staff promotions include: Corine Hollihan, Administrative Secretary 2, Lauren Crohan and Ashley Moelich, Correctional Caseworkers 4, Tracy Hall, Correctional Release Assistant 4, and John Connelly, Nicholas Henry and Anthony Neal, Correctional Sergeants. Congratulations to all and good luck in their new assignments!

Staff from the Mexican Consulate visited with the Mexican National offender population at New Castle Correctional Facility.

October 28, 2011

Weekly Views

The IDOC Audit Division is proud to announce that beginning January 2012, IDOC will be transitioning to an electronic audit system starting with program review audits. The Audit Division has received lots of positive feedback from field ACA managers in support of the electronic version. Indiana has already received inquiries from other states that are interested in an electronic system. Congratulations to the audit team for another Best Practice for Indiana!

The Indiana Women's Prison Family Preservation Program hosted the "Angel's Wings, Inc" 2011 Fall Festival. 44 offenders from the Family Preservations Program and their children attended the event. Approximately 144 children ranging from 4 to 17 years of age enjoyed an evening of crafts, games, food, and an opportunity to have fun bonding with their mothers and grandmothers. Angel's Wings, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting family preservation by providing alternative residential placement for children of offenders, fostering mentor relationships with pregnant offenders, and assisting female ex-offenders in the successful re-integration into the community.

Five representatives of the Oregon Department of Correction visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to tour and observe facility programming and operations. They were accompanied by Executive Director of Adult Facilities James Basinger, Rockville Correctional Facility Superintendent Julie Stout, Executive Director of Staff Development and Emergency Operations Richard Curry, Ronald C. Allen from the Correctional Training Institute, and David Marcial from the Criminal Justice Institute in Middletown, Connecticut.

PEN Products hosted an all day Career Path Planning Workshop for 46 offenders at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility as part of a four day Re-entry Symposium. The workshop allowed offenders to take part in an interest and skills assessment, taught valuable time management skills, and challenged them on finding and retaining employment in their post-incarceration career.

Miami Correctional Facility's Employee Appreciation Committee raised more than \$85 with its annual "Savor the Soup" contest. Staff submitted six entries, including pumpkin, zuppa, chili, loaded potato, stuffed pepper, and white chili. Staff were then encouraged to vote for their favorite soup. Taking the prize was the stuffed pepper soup made by TyAnna Snyder.

Retired business leaders known as SCORE met with select Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) offenders to talk about their release efforts and how to lay the foundation for a successful small business plan when they return to society. Assistant Superintendent of Re-entry Jack Hendrix said the event, coordinated by the WVCF Speakers Bureau, is designed to enhance offender career opportunities as they prepare to go home.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Pre Release Department held its annual Job and Community Resource Fair. Over 200 offenders attended the event to gain knowledge of employment opportunities and to better understand the types of aid offered in their respective communities. Area colleges, businesses, community organizations, mental health providers, and government agencies such as Department of Child Services, Work One, Department of Veterans Affairs, Access to Recovery and two local Parole Offices distributed information at the event.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility held their Quarterly Facility Assembly and Awards Ceremony. Receiving awards for Employee of the Quarter were: Correctional Officers Herb Boyd and John Turner, Non-Custody staff member, Barbara Atkinson, and Supervisor Sondra Woods. A Celebration and "Roast" for Tim Greathouse was also held in recognition of his promotion to the position of Superintendent at Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility. Executive Director Michael Dempsey and Program Director Chris Blessinger attended both events.

Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Varsity Basketball Team hosted an exciting evening of basketball with players from Trinity International University (TU). The TU Trojans, who traveled from Deerfield, IL, were overpowered by WCC 138-110. WCC's team is coached by members of the facility's Recreation Department, who hold offender players to exceptionally high standards and encourage good sportsmanship, teamwork and education.

Seven Camp Summit employees were given awards for their outstanding contributions to the facility and state service over the past several months. In addition, four staff were given pins for years of State service ranging from 5-30 years. On hand to help recognize the employees was State Senator Jim Arnold and Bob Tayl, who are members of the Community Advisory Board for Camp Summit, Indiana State Prison and WCC.

A thank you was given to the Indiana State Prison for refurbishing and donating nine bicycles to the Catholic Charities Dioceses of Gary. The bicycles will be used for less fortunate adults who are requiring bicycles to look for work or for children in the area to receive their first bicycles.

Twenty-two offenders from the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) completed their vocational classes. Please join us in congratulating instructors Mr. Robert Cari and Ms. Rolanda Boggs and the offenders for a job well done!

November 4, 2011

Weekly Views

Congratulations to Parole and Re-Entry Services Program Director Liz Johnson, who was recognized by Use What You've Got Prison Ministries (UWYGPM) for her commitment to offender re-entry and family wholeness. Liz served as guest speaker at the organization's annual dinner. UWYGPM is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that offers shuttle service from Indianapolis to correctional facilities throughout the state to assist families who want to visit their incarcerated loved ones.

Indianapolis Parole District#3, Re-Entry Parole District#1, and Central Office Staff participated in Operation Safe Halloween for the eighth consecutive year to monitor paroled sex offenders during the

designated 'trick or treat' hours. The program is held in conjunction with Marion County Superior Court Probation Department, Marion County Community Corrections, and the Marion County Sheriff's Department -Sex and Violent Offender Unit to assist offenders with the responsibility to register as a sex offender and provide for a safer community during this traditional children's activity. From the three parole districts, only four offenders were arrested for registry or ID violations and one for a delinquency warrant.

Dave Wegner, Director of Cass/Pulaski County Community Corrections, received special recognition from Commissioner Lemmon for his work with IDOC parole staff. Any time the Department has needed help with a case, Director Wegner has been there to assist in any way he can. Recently, he provided an agent with office space to conduct visits and made his staff available at all times to assist the agent with difficult situations. When needed, he allows parolees to report any time of day to the Cass/Pulaski County Community Corrections building for drug tests, blood alcohol content tests, or for day reporting. Director Wegner has also acted as a liaison between the Cass County Courts and IDOC Parole Services, improving parole's relationship in Cass County.

Offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility received an early Christmas from Lemuel Vega's outreach ministry, Christmas Behind Bars. Offenders had the opportunity to attend a spiritual service, and 3,000 grocery sized bags filled with hygiene items and snacks were distributed to the offender population and staff.

Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) hosted a Straight Talk Program with 18 students from a Clinton Central High School Sociology Class. The students spoke with three offenders in the program about life in prison and their crimes, as well as staff members about what it is like to work in a prison. George Gilbert, the student's sociology teacher, said he enjoys bringing the students to the prison and giving them a view into a world they don't get to see. Gilbert has been bringing students to MCF for more than five years.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility held an anniversary celebration on November 3, 2011 to celebrate two years of operation. Staff were treated to refreshments for the anniversary celebration.

New Castle Correctional Facility Case Manager Mary Lowery coordinated an offender donation project to buy winter accessories for local school children. A total of \$650 was raised through offender donations which allowed for the purchase of 588 items that included gloves, hats & scarves.

Going green is saving green, as in taxpayer dollars at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Physical Plant Director Roger Dagley showed local TV station WTHI a solar project being used to help heat water for showers in a housing unit at the facility. "We see less usage of our boiler system, a drop in natural gas usage, an abundance of hot water, and all around efficiency" Dagley told the news crew.

Branchville Correctional Facility hosted the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles' (BMV) mobile unit. Approximately 200 offenders were able to secure a State of Indiana ID. This program assists offenders in their re-entry by allowing eligible offenders to quickly renew or obtain a drivers license once released. Pre-release Director John Godare, along with two local Indiana BMV employees and one Central Office BMV employee, coordinated the event.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility raised \$218 for the Toys for Hendricks County Kids program. During the month of October, the Activity Committee sold Trick-or-Treat bags for \$1 and staff could send them to anyone they wanted. The money will go to help purchase Christmas presents for kids in Hendricks County who are less fortunate and who might not have a Christmas.

Pendleton Correctional Facility K-9 Handlers Sean Reger and Misty Stamper, with K-9 Kasey and K-9 Debo, recently graduated from the K-9 Advanced Aggression Academy conducted at the Correctional Training Institute. The training focused on obedience, handler protection, building and area searches, and crowd control.

A film crew from 3 Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) arrived at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) to interview residents for their new show, Free Indeed. The crew filmed the different aspects of prison life and the residents' testimonies about their religious journey and its effect on their incarceration. The IREF Men's choir was also filmed, and Lemuel Vega from the prison ministry Christmas Behind Bars spoke about the ministry's outreach program and items they deliver to Indiana prisoners each year. The interviews will air in segments as part of a series taking place later this season, and in early April 2012.

November 18, 2011

Weekly Views

Correctional Captain Cathy Elliott has been promoted to the rank of Correctional Major at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Major Elliott is the first female Major in the facility's history and also has the additional distinction of becoming the first female in the history of the Indiana Department of Correction to become a Major at a maximum security male facility. Congratulations Major Elliott!

Executive Director of Programs, Jerry Vance is proud to announce that in 2011, 2,999 IDs were issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles for soon-to-be released offenders. That number is almost twice the number of IDs that were issued last year. Kudos to Liz Johnson for her coordination of this effort, as well as kudos to the

facilities for their hard work to facilitate this process. That's 2999 offenders who will return to the community with an ID who otherwise may not have had one.

On America Recycles Day, the Putnamville Correctional Facility was honored with an award by TREES Inc. for going "above and beyond" in its recycling efforts. The conservation of electricity, water, natural gas, steam and the use of wind energy have provided an unprecedented monetary saving for the facility and to the taxpayers of Indiana. Superintendent Stanley Knight attributed the success of the programs to the diligent efforts of staff and offenders.

The Terre Haute Tribune-Star took in a play at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. "Tuesdays with Mortie" is an eight act play, written by the offender participants and sponsor, Dr. Jacquelyn Frank of Eastern Illinois University. The play, an adaption of two works, "Tuesdays with Morrie" and "Les Miserables", was nearly a year in the making, offering an inspiring message of hope and forgiveness.

Recently, Internal Affairs Officer Kenneth Wiltsie, from the Indiana Women's Prison, heard a cry for help from a bystander whose friend had slumped over and stopped breathing. Due to Mr. Wiltsie CPR Training, he immediately took action and began to administer CPR chest compressions. When Paramedics arrived the gentleman had a pulse and was breathing as he was taken to the hospital. Our job is to reflect favorably on the Department of Correction. It is the belief of Superintendent McCauley that Mr. Wiltsie did just that. Good Job Mr. Wiltsie!

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and his Executive Staff hosted a tour of the Indiana State Prison, Westville Correctional Facility and Camp Summit Boot Camp to Daniel Heyns, Director of Michigan Department of Correction (MDOC) and Ed Mize, operations Manager from MDOC. Lunch was provided by Westville Correctional Facility's culinary arts program.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility has become one of 16 correctional facilities nationally to restore wheelchairs for the "Wheels of the World Program". The offenders participating in this program were trained by two representatives from Aura Hills, CA on how to breakdown and restore wheelchairs to "like new" condition. The inmates are learning teamwork, mechanical skills and a sense of pride that they produced a product that makes a difference in a person's life. Currently 61 wheelchairs have been restored by the offenders at Plainfield.

The PLUS Unit at New Castle Correctional Facility held a graduation for 35 offenders. The PLUS Unit also donated \$500 to Gods Grain Bin located in Henry County to buy food items for the holidays.

Offenders in the Branchville Correctional Facility's PLUS Program sewed and donated over 100 quilts and 100 bags to the local Crisis Connection Agency. Crisis Connection will give these bags and quilts to women and children who are seeking assistance as a result of domestic violence. Materials for the quilts and bags were donated to the PLUS program by staff, visitors, and local businesses.

The students at Madison Juvenile Correctional facility participated in the American Red Cross "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program by creating and decorating over 150 Christmas cards to be sent to soldiers overseas.

A crew of ten Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents participated in a Habitat for Humanity home building project. The crew assisted with preparing the house for dedication to a single mother of two children, and with cleaning the worksite.

Miami Correctional Facility recognized several staff for outstanding service during its quarterly recall meeting. Recognized for Employees and Supervisor of the Quarter were: Officer Jake Kieninger, Officer of the Quarter; Correctional Caseworker Bill Taylor, Employee of the Quarter, and Sergeant Matthew Jones, Supervisor of the Quarters. Several other awards were given out to Captain Doug Nelson, Officer Larry Fleenor, Major Michael Hale, Tricia Pretorius, Jim Dibble and Lester Jeffries. Superintendent Mark Sevier also announced the promotions of three men to Lieutenant at Miami. Those promoted are Jason Tedder, Christopher Ertel, and Matthew Clothier. Congratulations all!

The Plainfield Correctional Facility completed its first Thinking For a Change 3.0 class. 12 offenders graduated from the class after completing 50 hours of instruction. The class teaches cognitive thinking skills such as how to avoid conflicts, problem solving, and improving social skills.

Weekly Views

Happy Thanksgiving!



Commissioner Lemmon, members of his Executive staff, and facility staff from the Correctional Industrial Facility, Indiana Women's Prison, Branchville, Putnamville, Wabash Valley, and Miami Correctional Facilities presented over 5,000 cards and 1,100 flags for distribution to overseas troops to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman for her sixth annual "Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes" program. The cards were made by offenders who participate in the PLUS program at each of these facilities. The cards and flags will be distributed to U.S. Armed Forces, particularly those overseas and units from Indiana. The folded pocket flags were provided by Putnamville's PLUS unit. Wabash Valley PLUS offender John Dean said, "being a vet and knowing the sacrifice they make, I just want them to know we care." See photo below.

Wabash Valley has "pinned" its newest Lieutenant! Trianito D. Foster, "T.D." has served with distinction at Wabash Valley since January of 1993 as an Officer and Correctional Sergeant. Lieutenant Foster is the Offender Transportation Coordinator and Video Court Operator. He is the DOC liaison and Officer in Charge for Regional Hospital and coordinates closely with Corizon. Doing the honors was Utility Captain Tim Riggle and IDOC Executive Director of Adult Facilities, James Basinger. Director Basinger said Lieutenant Foster has "an exceptional working relationship with area medical providers and local and state judiciary officials."

Pendleton Correctional Facility Officer Lawrence Schoettmer along with eight offenders assigned to the facility's Security Level One Housing Unit traveled to Westfield, IN for the purpose of planting over 200 trees and bushes at the Westfield Fire Department Training Center. Westfield Deputy Fire Chief Jason Lemons expressed appreciation to Correctional Officer Schoettmer and the minimum security level one offenders that assisted with this landscaping project. In a letter to the facility Deputy Chief Lemons stated, "Your assistance has been invaluable to us and we can't express enough how much it means to us and our community."

The PLUS unit at the Correctional Industrial Facility held a pizza fundraiser in partnership with Small Town Pizza in Pendleton, IN. Over \$1000 was raised. The PLUS offenders have chosen to donate half of the money to Erin's House. Erin's House, located in Ft. Wayne, IN, provides support services for children, teens and their families, who have suffered the death of a loved one.

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon delighted the staff, graduate offenders and their visitors as the honored Guest Speaker at the Westville Correctional Facility's PLUS graduation. The PLUS ceremony honored 26 graduate offenders who completed the extensive faith and character based program that encourages positive alternatives to criminal thinking. Refreshments, provided by the facility's Culinary Arts Vocational Education class, created a relaxed, joyous atmosphere where offenders celebrated their accomplishments with staff and their invited guests.

Westville Correctional Facility Superintendent Mark Levenhagen is pleased to announce the facility's newest Correctional Captain, Larry Steinbeck. Captain Steinbeck began his career as a Correctional Officer in 1991. Superintendent Levenhagen recognized the captain's professional correctional demeanor and his courteous, no nonsense approach to facility operations.

Students from DePauw University gave a choral and instrumental performance for offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Twelve students and several Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility staff participated in a "Balloon Release for Survivors of Suicide" in conjunction with the "13th Annual International Survivors of Suicide Day". This event allows bereaved individuals whose loved one died from suicide to connect with other survivors. Each individual released a balloon on which they wrote the name of the deceased. During the launch process a poem was read aloud.

The offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison raised \$2,155.22 for the Indiana Canine Assistant Network. The ICAN handlers raised the money by selling chicken, potatoes, pop, and pizza to the other offenders. Everyone was pleased with the results. The money will be utilized towards the upkeep and training for the assistance dogs.



Weekly Views

December 2, 2011

All IDOC Chaplains received heartwarming gifts in the form of jackets from Dave Liebel representing the Department's Religious Services Division. The blue jackets are in conjunction with a special proclamation by Governor Mitch Daniels, recognizing the contribution of correctional chaplains, part of Pastoral Care Week. It is the first such recognition for IDOC Chaplains. A faith based foundation donated funds for the purchase of jackets with the DOC logo and name of each Department Chaplain as a way of expressing appreciation for their ministries. (see photo below of Dave Liebel and staff from WVCF)



Sharon Dawn, Administrative Assistant at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP), organized an enormous traditional project that involved staff and offenders from the IWP IVY Tech Culinary Arts Class, Aramark and the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. The collaborative effort by everyone made it possible for over 300 turkeys and dressing to be cooked at IWP prior to feeding over 7200 people at the Watkins's Community Center on Thanksgiving Day. This count does not include the meals passed out from the other three facilities that served meals. Many monetary and food donations were received to help make the dinner a feast. The help from all was greatly appreciated and is a prime example of "Working together Works!"

Once again the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) exceeded their goal during the facility's Red Cross Blood drive. A special recognition award was presented to WCC staff member Glenda Lewis, who voluntarily coordinates three blood drives each year at WCC. As a direct result of Glenda's efforts, the facility has collected a total of 732 units of blood over the last few years.

The Stepping Stone Shelter for Women in Michigan City and Use What You Got Ministries of Indianapolis both received a \$250 donation from the PLUS Unit at the Indiana State Prison. The men from the PLUS Unit also made colorful blankets for the children at the Stepping Stone Shelter which were presented at the same time as the check presentation. (see photo below)



Matt Peterson was hired as a Chaplain at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Mr. Peterson is in the process of completing his Masters in Divinity Degree from the Christian Theological Seminary. Congratulations Chaplain Peterson!

Lieutenant Jim Boldman who previously worked at the Correctional Industrial Facility has been hired as a Lieutenant at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. A ceremony was conducted in the Superintendent's office to welcome Lieutenant Boldman to the facility.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility has five new Sergeants ready to serve as front line supervisors! Congratulations to newly pinned Gary Small, Matthew Liddle, Athena Davis, Michael Greves and Benjamin Lake. Major Dusty Russell and Zone Captain Vera Barnett said the impressive new class is now undergoing 80 rigorous hours of Sergeant Field Training.

Superintendent Stanley Knight at the Putnamville Correctional Facility extends his congratulations to Correctional Officer Mark Neese in recognition of his appointment as the Promoting Positive Corrections Culture (PPCC) staff member of the month. Neese, a five year employee, will receive a Subway Gift Card and have his photo displayed in the entry area of the facility.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) completed its year one ACA Program Review. MJCF scored 100% on all mandatory standards and 99.7% on all non-mandatory standards. Superintendent Tim Greathouse praised all staff for their teamwork.

A group of volunteers with Lemuel Vega from the organization Christmas Behind Bars came to the Indiana State Prison and delivered bags of goodies to the offender population. The volunteers with Mr. Vega's group performed a special program in the chapel for the offenders after delivering the gifts.

Ivy Tech Community College held their First Recognition Ceremony at the Indiana Women's Prison for 60 offenders that completed courses in Business Technology, GED, Culinary Arts and Horticulture. IWP staff and the offenders' families attended the ceremony to congratulate the offenders for this great accomplishment in their lives.

December 9, 2011

Weekly Views

A story about the Wabash Valley Shakespeare program garnered top honors for Indiana State University! Jennifer Sicking, Associate Director of Media Relations said their "Shakespeare in Prison" story won a silver award in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District 5 annual competition. ISU completed with universities from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The Jaycees offender organization at the Indiana State Prison donated \$1,000 in toys to the local Salvation Army. These gifts will be given to children in the community.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility recently received congratulations from the American Correctional Association (ACA) Program Review Division for a very successful "Electronic" ACA Facility Review. Putnamville was the first adult facility to successfully complete an electronic audit scoring 100% on mandatory standards and 99.10% on non-mandatory standards. Superintendent Stanley Knight attributed the success to the commitment of staff.

Branchville Correctional Facility installed a new bailer to assist with the facility's recycling program. The machine will allow for more efficient recycling by shrinking large volumes of waste into smaller more manageable bails. The recycling program is supervised by Unit Team Manager Dan Mitchell and operated by Correctional Caseworker Tom Damin along with offenders participating in the Reformatory Residential Re-Entry Program (RRRP) who are in need of community service hours. Offenders need to complete 125 hours of community service to complete the RRRP Program. (See photo right)

The Plainfield Correctional Facility more than doubled their contribution to the State Employees' Community Campaign (SECC) for the year 2011. The 2010 contribution was \$6,510.40, and this year's SECC Campaign Chairman Cathie Ardelean set a goal of \$7,000. As a result of her efforts and great employee support (83 employees participating), a total of \$13,166.40 was raised for a great cause.

The Rockville Correctional Facility's (RCF) CLIFF (Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever) unit has teamed up with Vanderburgh County and Madison County to brighten the holidays of area foster children. Offenders in the CLIFF unit created greeting cards to be distributed to the children who wouldn't otherwise receive such items. This project is one of the many community service initiatives set in motion by RCF CLIFF residents.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted a group of attorneys and social workers from the Marion County Public Defender's Office, where they toured the facility and learned about the intake process for adult males.

Facility Supervisor of Classification Andrew Cole and Re-Entry Program Coordinator Paula Dickson from the Pendleton Correctional Facility were among a group of twelve criminal justice professionals that participated in the "2nd Annual Criminal Justice Career Panel Discussion" held at Harrison College in Anderson, Indiana. According to Harrison College representatives, "the panel discussion was offered to provide students an opportunity to hear from local agencies regarding education requirements, as well as general and specific hiring practices for local criminal justice agencies and organizations."

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) hosted their sixth Family/Community Seminar. Eight TC offender/residents and fourteen guests participated in the day-long event. The topic of the seminar was "The Challenges of Re-Entry". All the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity and stated that the experience was enlightening and beneficial.

American Legion Post 130, the offender organization located at the Indiana State Prison, presented two checks at their monthly meeting to the Commander for the American Legion. One check for \$500 was for scholarships for members' families. The other check of \$500 was for 50 children to each receive a Christmas gift of ten dollars.

Wabash Valley Training and Internal Affairs staff teamed up to provide instruction to Vincennes and southern Indiana based Indiana Department of Transportation employees who supervise offender workers. They talked and answered questions about a wide variety of offender security and supervision topics.

"Christmas Behind Bars" founder Lemuel Vega along with approximately 80 of his prison ministry volunteers visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to distribute gift bags to the offender population.

Superintendent Stanley Knight at the Putnamville Correctional Facility extends congratulations to Correctional Officers Mike Ellis, William Hyatte, Doayne Houghton and Scott Rodgers on their promotion to Correctional Sergeant.



December 16, 2011

Weekly Views

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) and Corizon lost a dedicated and loved employee. A memorial service was held for Addiction Recovery Specialist Liz Lee on the CLIFF unit. Representatives from IDOC and Corizon were in attendance. Many ex-students of the CLIFF unit and past staff returned to the facility to honor her legacy. Liz Lee began her career with the Department in 1995 as a Substance Abuse Counselor at Logansport Juvenile. She left LJCF in 2005 to become the Director of the First CLIFF program at Miami Correctional Facility. She later returned to Logansport Juvenile to open the first juvenile CLIFF unit. In 2010, she joined the Corizon organization as an Addiction Recovery Specialist maintaining her loyal service to the CLIFF unit.

Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) School of Public and Environmental Affairs held a closing ceremony for fall 2011 participants of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at the Indiana Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). Composed of 20 outside students from IUPUI and 16 inside students from IREF, this was the largest group to date. The Inside-Out class met at IREF for 16 weeks during the fall semester where they focused on institutional corrections in the US, examined local, state and federal corrections programs, and explored current correctional policies and the possibilities for reform. IREF staff, IUPUI faculty, residents' family members, and members from the community attended the closing ceremony.

Offenders in the PLUS unit at the Correctional Industrial Facility donated \$250 to Helping Hands at East Elementary School in Pendleton, IN.

PEN Products Central Office staff held a food drive collecting over 130 lbs of food and hygiene products for the Westminster Neighborhood Ministries. Westminster serves the near eastside of Indianapolis by providing a weekly food pantry and holiday food baskets.

Eleven offenders and 30 children and guests spent a 'Holiday with Dad' at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Coordinated by James Bennett and Dwaine Short, graduates of the Inside Out Dads program engaged in one-on-one activities with their children amid the aroma of mouth watering holiday cookies, and the sounds of basketball, shuffle board, magic tricks and children's laughter.

New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) Chaplain Kathy Williams delivered the first ever AIDS Quilt to the AIDS Organization of Indianapolis which is part of the Greater Indianapolis Health Foundation. The quilt, measuring 18 feet wide & 20 feet long, was put together by offenders at NCCF.

Madison Correctional Facility held their semi-annual "Celebration of Achievement", recognizing over 150 women completing programs including Therapeutic Community, PLUS, GED, Cosmetology, US Department of Labor Apprenticeships, College and Career Technical. Offender families attended the celebration.

Religious Volunteers from the Westville Correctional Facility provided offenders with Christmas greetings and home baked Christmas Cookies. The volunteers presented a Christmas worship service along with a dozen cookies for each of the 3,350 offenders-that is 40,200 cookies. For those offenders unable to attend the service, volunteers visited and distributed cookies on the housing units.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held its year end community advisory board meeting. Twenty-two members were in attendance. Four new members attended representing Noble county surveyor's office, Noble County Purdue Extension (Master Gardner), Noble county convention and visitors' office and Pilot House, a local shelter. Staff and offenders collected six large boxes of canned and dry goods that were presented along with a check for \$113.50 to the Albion Food Bank

Poinsettias grown by offender students in the Pendleton Correctional Facility Vocational Horticulture program were delivered to area nursing homes.

Wabash Valley's Major Dusty Russell and Captain Amanda Pirtle helped make the Holiday special for 190 Knox County youngsters, taking part in the annual Shop with a Cop program. Five year olds Nevaeh and Ashlynn were able to pick out toys, games, coats, hats, gloves, AND meet Santa! The WVCF PLUS Unit donated \$200 to the campaign!

Five Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents recently completed work on a Victorian three-story dollhouse, complete with a family of dolls, new furniture for each room, a wraparound porch, carpeted rooms and hardwood floors, and donated it to Daystar Childcare Ministry, Englewood Christian Church. The residents are participants in the facility's recreation department, which obtains dollhouse kits and other items to donate to area charities.

PEN Products held its annual Board of Directors meeting at the Miami Correctional Facility on December 14, 2011. The Board toured the seven industry operations with over 500 offenders working and visiting the new Career Dorm piloted at the Miami Correctional Facility.

Weekly Views



Happy Holidays!



Twenty-six members of the Gospel Echoes team visited the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF), bringing homemade cookies for offenders and staff members. Approximately 1,360 bags of cookies were distributed. They sang carols during the lunch meal while distributing the cookies. St. Nick, played by RCF Training Supervisor Nick Eblen, also visited the Rockville Correctional Facility. Nineteen families and some canines came to the facility to get pictures with Santa who had treats and presents for the children. (see photo right)



'Tis the season for giving! Staff at the Putnamville Correctional Facility collected food for donation to the Putnam County Food Pantry in Greencastle, IN. A barrel of food items was delivered to the non-profit organization that has fed over 700 Greencastle residents and families and served over 62,000 meals this year. Tonya Morris, Business Accountant Manager, coordinated the facility event.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility staff brought a little Christmas joy to the children of the residents of Noble House Ministries. A Christmas tree was placed in the lobby of the facility with handmade ornaments marked with the names and wishes of 16 children. The ornaments did not last long, as they were quickly grabbed up by the caring staff of the facility. Within days, the individually wrapped gifts began to fill Superintendent Kathy Griffin's office. Next, Santa, Officer Steve Hoyle, was up, up, and away to deliver his bag of goodies. Santa and his Elf, Rod Kitchen, passed out gifts and a bag of candy to each child. Each child was also able to take a picture with Santa to keep for years to come.

Specialized Parole Agents from around the state met at the Correctional Training Institute for training. State Parole is preparing to launch a GPS monitoring program in which the highest risk sex offenders will be tracked at all times. Parole Agents are excited about the new high tech tool as it will be used in a way that will enhance public safety. These specialized Agents are trained to supervise sex offenders released to our communities. This is a difficult and demanding assignment. Please extend your support to these Agents wherever possible.

The IUPUI Criminal Justice Class received a presentation, tour, and lecture about the Indiana State Prison (ISP). ISP Superintendent Wilson was honored to share his experiences in criminal justice with the students.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held Christmas Behind Bars. Offenders received Christmas goodies and were entertained by a church choir.

Christmas gifts were delivered to fourteen Hendricks County Elementary Schools to be distributed to 139 needy children. For the past fourteen years, the facility has requested of the schools the names of children that might not be having a very merry Christmas. Staff at the facility purchase and wrap the requested gifts and with the help of Santa Claus deliveries are made to each individual school. Every Elementary School arranged for as many kids as possible to see Santa, played by George Shepherd, Director of Education and Harvey Pedro, Correctional Officer at Plainfield Correctional Facility. (see photo left)



Five Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility residents recently completed work on a Victorian three-story dollhouse, complete with a family of dolls, new furniture for each room, a wraparound porch, carpeted rooms and hardwood floors, and donated it to Daystar Childcare Ministry at Englewood Christian Church. The residents are participants in the facility's recreation department, which obtains dollhouse kits and other items to donate to area charities.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Youth Incarcerated as Adult GED graduates took part in the first ever Caps and Gowns Day, celebrating their achievement as they prepare for re-entry. Ivy Tech instructors work with the students. Ivy Tech Chancellor Dr. Ann Valentine said, "We are giving them the opportunity to join us on the streets with some employ-ability skills that they did not have before."

Staff at the Pendleton Correctional Facility collected 178 non-perishable food items which were delivered to the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana. In conjunction with the facility's traditional "Tree of Warmth" project, PCF staff also donated children's winter clothing items for delivery to the Salvation Army in Anderson, IN.

Staff and students from Camp Summit donated nearly 300 food items to the local the Salvation Army Food Bank in Michigan City. The food will be used to assist needy families in the area this holiday season. Students donated over \$320 from their trust-funds to help purchase food. In addition, staff and students volunteered their time and labor at the food bank for three days.

Weekly Views

2012

Commissioner Lemmon visited Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit, taking time to talk with the residents as they updated him on special projects they are working on.

Thanks to the generous staff at IDOC's Central Office and our partners at Aramark, 57 activity bags were donated to Riley Hospital for Children. Each bag contained crayons, markers, activity books, Play-Doh, and craft projects. These activity bags provide a welcome distraction for the kids while waiting to see doctors and have tests, during long trips to and from the hospital, and during hospitalization. During the month of December a Christmas tree was on display in the reception area and was decorated with ornaments that listed items needed for the activity bags. Representatives from Riley sent a 'Thank You' card to Central Office for bringing comfort and cheer to the kids at Riley this holiday season.

Rupert Boneham, America's most beloved "Survivor," spoke to 60 students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. He shared his own personal history with negative decisions and the impact on his life. He stressed the importance of developing a strong mind. Rupert stated that "it is the strongest muscle in your body." He also expressed the importance of working and not focusing on the pay for that work.

Westville Correctional Facility made visiting a little more cheerful for children during their Christmas visits. Staff assigned to the facility's Visiting Room distributed games, puzzles and toys to the young visitors with donations from the Covenant Church of West Lafayette. Members of the church delivered over 1000 items to the facility.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Kwanzaa Celebration in the facility chapel that was attended by approximately 90 offenders. Guest speaker Kamau Jywanza provided an informative presentation relative to the significance of the seven day celebration and discussed the principles, practices, and symbols associated with the holiday which is geared to the social and spiritual needs of African-Americans. Ivy Tech Corporate College Correctional Education Program Coordinator Evelyn Pierce-Hicks, who serves as the supervisor of educational programs at the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Correctional Industrial Facility, served as the emcee of the program which was the first time such an event has ever been conducted at the facility.

Members of the Plainfield Correctional Facility's Jazz Band, led by volunteer Bob Groves, played Christmas songs for the offenders confined to the facility's infirmary. For the offenders unable to leave their rooms, including offenders undergoing dialysis, the band strolled through the infirmary for all to hear. Mr. Groves has been volunteering at the facility for over five years and bands under his direction have performed at several facility events.

Santa made a special stop to the Indiana Women's Prison Wee Ones Nursery unit this holiday season. While on the unit, Santa took pictures with all eight babies and their mothers currently living on the unit. The babies all enjoyed the visit. The staff and offenders of the Wee Ones Nursery unit would like to thank Santa (Mr. Shepherd of Ivy Tech) for taking time out of his busy schedule for the visit.



The PLUS Unit at New Castle Correctional Facility donated \$500, along with an additional \$80 raised from staff haircuts and a load of food donated by both staff and offenders to God's Grain Bin, a non-profit organization located in New Castle.

Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) held its fifth blood drive of the year, collecting 26 units for a grand total of 78 units donated in 2011. According the American Red Cross, each unit donated has the potential of saving three lives, so up to 134 individual could be impacted because RCF staff took the time to give.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) hosted their sixth Family Community Seminar. Eight TC offender residents and 14 guests participated in the daylong event. The topic of the seminar was The Challenges of Re-Entry. All the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity and stated that the experience was enlightening and beneficial.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a blood drive at the facility. The facility had 26 employees volunteer to donate and the Red Cross collected 16 units of Blood. This is Logansport's third blood drive for 2011, and over 60 units of blood were collected this year.