Correctional Industrial Facility Donates to Animal Programs

Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) recently donated a total of $2000 to help fund the Animal Protection League in Anderson and the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN).

Warden Wendy Knight commented, “These are two very successful programs at our facility and we are pleased to be able to support them in this way”.

The mission of ICAN is to train and place assistance dogs with children and adults with disabilities, while providing life and job skills to inmates who train the dogs for service work inside Indiana correctional facilities. Puppies begin their training immediately with specially selected offenders who have themselves gone through training to learn how to interact and train the dogs. Using only positive reinforcement the offenders teach basic commands, how to walk on leash, not to be afraid of a wheelchair and many other needed skills for working with disabled individuals.

After completing 5 or 6 months puppies move to a new facility for the next phase of their training.

Articles by: Matt Worthman
Navigator Graduation

The Navigators is a ministry that shares the gospel of Jesus and helps people grow in their relationship with him through discipleship, creating spiritual generations of believers. Since its founding in 1933, The Navigators has upheld the mission “To know Christ, make Him known, and help others do the same.

CIF held graduation for its 20 plus graduates earlier this week. Chuck Broughton, the prison ministries leader for the program spoke about the importance of learning the bible and being able to teach what you have learned to others in a way they can understand. Staff support this program and it is a valuable part of our facility; we welcome the opportunity to help the offender population reach their goals.

CIF recently hosted “Christmas Behind Bars” on October 6th. This is a Christ-centered ministry focused on bringing the gospel to inmates. The program promotes hope so inmates can learn that there is a different way than turning to crime to cope with their problems.

In its 20th year of service, Lemuel Vega, a former offender himself, began the group 20 years ago after being released from prison and becoming a Christian. The program is about sharing love to those behind bars not just on Christmas, but 365 days a year.

Warden Knight commented “Lemuel’s dedication to this prison ministry is unmatched in anything I have ever seen. He works tirelessly to bring his message to these men and this program and is a multi-state success because of his commitment to Christ.”
Kairos 23 was held at CIF October 11-14th in the gymnasium. The Weekend is conducted in an institution by a team of volunteers of the same gender as the institution. The Team begins on Thursday evening and ends with a spirit-filled Closing on Sunday. It is only the "starting point" as the Participants are guided through the steps of understanding the Christian life. Each day of the 3½ days of the Weekend has a guiding purpose or focus. The activities for each day are designed to support that day's purpose. As the day's activities unfold, a building process is occurring. The Participants are led, step by step, through a growing understanding of the focus for that day, which is why Kairos is such a structured program. Every activity has a purpose that supports a higher purpose for the day, and every activity builds on prior activities. Everything has a place and an order. The Inside Program strategy brings positive and negative leaders of the institution together for a 3½ day weekend event of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and music led by the loving servant spirit of the volunteers. It is useful to think of the Weekend as a series of carefully planned events that flow one to another. For many Participants, this experience creates the desire to become a Christian and for others the desire to continue his/her personal Christian growth. After the Weekend, the Inside Program continues by helping the Participants establish small, 3 to 6 person Prayer and Share The ultimate goal of Weekends is to build a Christian community inside the Institution. within the institution.
PLU$+$, What is RESPECT?

Learning what respect truly means has taken me decades. Prior to making life changing decisions, I was involved in the "drug world," you know, "the game" and that whole lifestyle that goes with it. I was a bit further up on the ladder, which has the bottom, the in-between, and the top. Being in the position I was in, I truly believed that people respected me for who I was and what I had. How naive I was, I couldn't have been more wrong. Even when I'd boomed up to my highest point, being catered to and everyone trying to get in, I thought it was about respect, but what a fool I was. It was nothing more than envy and fear, and being as blind as I was, I thought it was respect. Now, as these last several years have gone by and I've been treating people honorable and being honorable, I have earned respect and can now plainly see the difference. My dad raised me saying "respect your elders," and I've heard people say "I respect people to get respect." I wholeheartedly disagree with both. Respect is something that is earned, not given. I am however respectful to everyone whether they deserve it or not, because that is who I am with my integrity. Being respectful to everyone shows your own character and when we treat people respectfully, walk with integrity that is being honorable. People will respect you. Whether others like you or not, they will respect you for the man you are if you have integrity.

-Written by: M. Wisehart
On April 1, 2011 the Animal Protection League (APL) entered into a partnership with the City of Anderson to manage the operations of their animal shelter. With this commitment the APL infused their all encompassing mission stating; “Our mission is to make second chances possible through the human/animal connection.”

The Animal Protection League aims to provide a compassionate, humane community for their animals and to celebrate the human/animal connection from a place of spirituality which sustains us emotionally, touching the lives of even the most hardened and provides animals with unconditional love.

Dogs are available for adoption through the Animal Protection League, Faith Inmate Dogs Opportunity program (FIDO). FIDO dogs are obedience trained and socialized by CIF prison offenders. The adoption fee covers spay/neuter, vaccinations, de-worming, microchip and heart worm test. All FIDO animals are house trained; crate trained, and know the five basic commands. Which include sit, down, come, stay and heel.

If you are interested in meeting and ultimately adopting and providing a needed forever home for a FIDO dog please visit the APL website at http://www.inapl.org/prison-programs or contact Maleah Stringer at 765-278-9435, email: maleahstringer@aol.com

The Month of November

9-Lives 36 Felines are available for adoption, Please visit APL for a list and photo's or contact Maleah Stringer at maleahstringer@aol.com

Citrine: The word comes from the Latin opalus, meaning “precious jewel.” Necklaces with opals set in them were worn to repel evil and to protect eyesight. The November birthstone, topaz, symbolizes love and affection. It is believed to give the wearer increased strength and intellect.

The flower, birthstone, meaning, and colors for the month of June are:

- Citrine, Yellow Topaz, Pearl, Topaz, Diamond.
- Chrysanthemum

Fidelity, Faithfulness
Robert Meister

This month's volunteer spotlight is Mr. Robert Meister, aka “Bob”.

Bob has been an essential part of Correctional Industrial Facility for many years now. He started as a level 2 volunteer working as an assistant head servant for Kairos. As a member of this group he helped lead offenders to Christ through its ministry.

Eventually, Bob wanted to be more involved not only serving on the Kairos team but wherever we needed him; and so he went on to become a level 1 volunteer taking on a bigger role.

Currently Bob still serves as a Kairos member, works in our faith based unit, Shamgar when needed, volunteers for various functions throughout the facility and completes the monthly reports for the chapel.

I asked Bob, if he could tell me the number one reason he continues to serve in his capacity; this was his reply, “I guess God called me to do this and that’s why I do it, I like seeing the changes in the offenders; how they have grown. It’s cool to see that.”

It is such a pleasure to work with such genuine people that strive to make others better by being strong leaders. Thanks again Bob!

Article by: C. Francum

Gospel Echoes coming to CIF December 5th

Sharing God’s Love through Song

It is the primary focus of Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry Association, Inc. to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with prison inmates. Gospel Echoes provides Bible Study Correspondence Courses, a Grading Network, and Christian literature to encourage growth and discipleship, and Ministry Teams to share Gospel presentations through preaching and music.
Upcoming Events:

November

- 2nd Covenant Choir
- 6th Election Day
- 10th Volunteer Annual Fall Training
- 12th Veterans Day
- 13th Creative Writing
- 13th Guest Speaker Gregg Doyel
- 22nd Thanksgiving
- 23rd Presidents Lincoln’s Birthday

Miscellaneous Information

**Don’t Forget Training**

All volunteers must complete annual training, applications and TB tests. This year’s Fall training will be held Saturday, November 10th from 9-12 AM in the front meeting room of the facility. (ODR)

There will be a nurse doing TB testing for all volunteers that need to be updated and want to use them on site.

If you plan to attend please email me your name and group you serve with no later than November 7th at Cfrancum@Idoc.In.gov.
Volunteer Fact Corner

**Annual Requirements**
Volunteers must re-certify annually
Volunteers must receive Tuberculosis (TB) testing annually.
(TB) test results must be provided to this correctional facility.

**Operational Procedures**
Appropriate dress guidelines can be found at http://www.in.gov/idoc/2864.htm
(See page 10 of Volunteer Handbook)
All items entering this facility are subject to be searched.
Each correctional facility has unique rules that may not be applicable at all facilities.
Chaplains are available to address religious concerns.
Visitation of an offender is not permitted while acting in the volunteer capacity.
Be respectful and cooperative with Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) staff.
SECURITY COMES FIRST

**Donations**
Donations must be listed on a “Donation Form” and be accompanied by a gate release form.
Processing and approval of gate release forms require 48 hours.
A gate release form is required each time you wish to bring items into this facility.
Failure to comply with the above listed instructions would be considered trafficking.

IDOC facilities are always in need of donations.
Listed below are the donation needs for this facility.
Please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator for detailed information.
Donation needs can also be found on our website under the Volunteer tab.

- Books - educational, recreational, faith-based, etc.
- Release Clothing - pants, shirts, coats, shoes and accessories
- Crafting Materials - fabric, thread, yarn and etc. for sewing, knitting, and crocheting
- Woodworking Supplies - used to build items for donations

**Updated Needs -**
- Plain 2 pocket Folders
- Composition notebooks (no metal pieces)
- Felt
- Yarn
- Pillow stuffing
- Glue
- Glitter

We need Buddhist, Catholic and MSTA volunteers!
Contact Camay Francum for details.