

November 8, 2013

# Weekly Views

Team DOC made a big splash for the Prison Greyhounds program, helping wash 244 dogs and raising about \$4000 during the annual fundraiser at Pet Supplies Plus. There were 91 total volunteers, including nine from Team DOC, three of whom were students from Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Prison Greyhounds reports the DOC volunteers were the hardest workers, which comes as no surprise to us. Thank you to all who helped make this a great success! (see photo below)

Reentry Parole District #1, in collaboration with the Department of Workforce Development, held a workshop at the

Hancock County Community Corrections for parolees in the Greenfield area. The I-HIRE program was established to help clients with criminal histories connect with sustainable employment opposed to minimum wage paying jobs.

The Correctional Industrial Facility Wiccan Coven, Hearth Stone, celebrated Samhain the "spiritual new year" at the facility. This is the holiest of days in the pre-Christian Celtic tradition. It is a time of reflection and honoring of ancestors. During Samhain, thanks are given for past bounty, accomplishments of the past year are recognized and thought is given to the New Year and how improvement can be made. It is also a natural time to honor those that are no longer with us. The fourteen men of the Coven wrote and performed a special play on this evening and enjoyed a special feast.



Offenders from New Castle Correctional Facility's Veterans Unit & Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) Unit donated \$1400 and \$600 respectively to the "Homes for Heroes".

A WTHI TV news crew (Terre Haute) took to the roof of Wabash Valley Correctional Facility for a first-hand look at solar power! Physical Plant Director Roger Dagley was sky high with enthusiasm over the PLUS Unit solar coil system. It uses ultraviolet light to help heat water used for offender showers, giving natural gas boilers a break. The PLUS unit is using half as much natural gas as before! Dagley told reporter Jaclyn Bevis the green initiative could also help heat the building, saving even more taxpayer dollars! (photo left)



Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility offenders participated in the Larwill volunteer fire department fundraiser. For over five years, offenders from Chain O' Lakes have assisted the Larwill Volunteer Fire

Department in preparing for this bi-annual occasion. The offenders set up tables, chairs and prepare over 700 pounds of fish and 200 pounds of onion rings for this fundraising event. Offender volunteers returned to the fire house the following day for the cleanup detail. Money raised from this event is used by the fire department to update training and equipment.



Parole agents and staff from all ten Parole Districts participated in the tenth annual Operation Safe Halloween to monitor paroled sex offenders during designated trick or treat hours. Every year, the IDOC Parole Service Division collaborates with local law enforcement agencies within the community to ensure complete compliance and accountability. In Marion County, Reentry Parole District #1 and Indianapolis Parole District #3 collaborated with Marion County Sheriff's Department, Sex and Violent Offender Unit (INSORCE), and Marion County Superior Court Probation Department. Parole results included many positive contacts with registered sex offenders, finding 94% attending as directed and in compliance with all facets of their registration responsibilities. During the community meeting, up-to-date information on programs to assist with employment and support services was provided along with current information relative to registration obligations for the state of Indiana. Three parolees were arrested on outstanding parole warrants and an additional parole violation warrant resulted when an offender reported and was arrested for technical violations.



Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) played host to several legislators who came in to tour different areas in the facility. They were also treated to a lunch of Fresh Favorites pizza. The legislators visited the facility's CLIFF and PLUS programs, as well as MCF's Miami Accessible Media Project shop, medical area, recreation and master control areas. The lawmakers expressed how much they were impressed with operations, the level of dedication of staff and overall professionalism.

Putnamville Correctional Facility conducted their annual disaster drill, in cooperation with the Greencastle Fire Department. The scenario was a fire in the prison industry Pallet Shop. A mock emergency evacuation and accountability of offenders and staff was immediately initiated and facility's Fire Emergency Procedures were activated.

In honor of Veteran's Day, the Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Field of Flags ceremony. The ceremony, held in front of the RCF Administration Building, honors those



servicemen and women who have served, are currently serving or deployed or gave their lives for their country with the United States Armed Forces. Community members and facility staff sponsored flags in honor of their loved ones. Proceeds from the program will be sent to the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs Military Family Relief Fund. Thanks to the generosity of Rockville staff and surrounding community, this year's donation totals \$475. The included the presentation and folding of the flag and retiring of the colors by the IDOC Honor Guard, represented by staff from both Putnamville Correctional Facility and Rockville. RCF Correctional Officer and veteran, Max Ditto (pictured left) emceed the ceremony and Correctional Officer Rex Thomas, also a veteran, performed two songs. After the reading of the names in loving memory, with pride and honor and of staff currently serving, the ceremony closed with a 21 gun salute the playing of Taps.

The Logansport juvenile Correctional Facility participated in a Fundraising event for Warriors for Christ Ministries. Students from the facilities PLUS, CLIFF and Youth Transition

Reentry Independent Living units who have participated in the program were invited to speak at the fundraising event. Along with art work that the students donated to the ministries silent auction the PLUS unit donated \$500. The ministries which began by the founders volunteering their time as mentors on the PLUS unit has now become the Warriors for Christ Ministries who provide a program called "Out for Good" is specifically for juveniles in correctional and detention facilities. (photo right)



Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) staff participated in two Job Fairs conducted by Ivy Tech Community College. PCF Operations Assistant Lola McGregor and PCF Community Services Director Wayne Scaife participated in a job fair on the New Castle

Ivy Tech Campus and Officer McGregor and Caseworker Joshua Shaver participated in a job fair conducted by Ivy Tech at the Muncie Campus. The job fairs were offered by Ivy Tech to provide their graduates and current students the opportunity to network with employers from the local community. During the job fairs, PCF Staff distributed information relative to positions available, information regarding benefits, and instructions on how to apply on-line. (photo left)



Fort Wayne Parole District #2 Parolees Welcome Smith, Greg Shipe, Todd Currie, Jr., Daniel Dieringer, Rodney Perry and Sylvester Schoch successfully completed a six week "boot camp" style Small Business Development Training Program designed to provide self-employment training for parolees. In honor of the participants, a graduation and reception was held at the Fort Wayne Urban League. District Supervisor Mia Kelsaw of the Fort Wayne Parole District will be one of the keynote speakers for the graduation.

The Indiana Women's Prison held a Pumpkin Carving Contest for the Halloween Holiday. The contest was held in the gym and consisted of each unit providing 4 offender representatives to carve 2 pumpkins. The pumpkins were then placed in their respective units for Halloween. IWP staff went around to each unit and voted on the best pumpkin. Unit 13 was the winner, with units 4 and 6 tying for second place. The winning dorm will receive a popcorn/movie party for their entire unit. All units should be congratulated for their participation. (photo right)



Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility conducted a staff assembly, graduation ceremony and Open House. Superintendent Commons recognized the following staff awards: Specialist of the Quarter, YDS K. Eads; A. DeHart, Non-custody Employee of the Quarter; and Sgt. B. Speights, Supervisor of the Quarter. A graduation ceremony was conducting after the staff assembly. There were 19 students recognized during the graduation ceremony. Over 30 families participated in the school Open House. During the Open House, Mrs. DeHart hosted a chili supper as a fundraiser for her English 9 classes. Families were able to purchase a chili dinner and eat with their student. The supper was quite successful. The proceeds will go toward the Victorian Christmas dinner, which is the culminating event for the English classes December novel unit over Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

The Covenant Choir from Northern Indiana visited Miami Correctional Facility (MCF), singing for about 200 offenders. The group is made up of 40 individuals of various ages, vocations, and churches who share a vision of sharing God's love in Prisons, Juvenile Centers, Rescue Missions and Retirement Centers. The choir makes an annual appearance at MCF.

Seventeen students from the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility have earned their GED through the facility's Vantage Pointe Learning Center, with one of those earning honors diplomas. The school also has 20 student awaiting results of the GED test. The facility's school is accredited through the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement Advance Education and offers regular high school credit classes as well as GED education and testing. So far in 2013, the Vantage Pointe Learning Center had 102 students obtain their GED, issued 1012 high school credits.