

December 20, 2013

Weekly Views

Commissioner Bruce Lemmon addressed graduates of the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Apprenticeship program and visitors, during the first USDOL graduation ceremony held at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. "This program has been taken to unprecedented heights. But, the true value of the program will be when you obtain employment as a result of this accomplishment," stated Commissioner Lemmon. PEN Director of Apprenticeship Doug Evans, Aramark IN2WORK State Manager Melissa Hess and various central office program staff were also in attendance. The ceremony was organized by Putnamville's USDOL coordinator David Mikles, who was recognized for his contribution to the success of the program. (photo right)



The Correctional Industrial Facility's new American Legion Post 503 is pleased to announce that their first fundraiser was a huge success. The Great Donut Sale raised over \$1,200 by selling 693 dozen donuts to offenders. The facility and Post would like to give a special thank you to Kroger Payless in Anderson who said this was the biggest donut order they had ever tried to make and started working on them at 6:00PM the night before distribution. The funds raised will give the Post the opportunity to purchase a few things needed for the new Post and to start a community fund for donations to not-for-profits in the area.

A very special plaque from the Indiana Criminal Justice Association (ICJA) brought Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) staff together to remember Carrie Lambert-Fort. Carrie, the facility release coordinator, was a 16 year employee who passed away unexpectedly in September. The plaque, displayed in the WVCF award case reads in part, "A strong leader who devoted her career toward creating a better way of life for others and dedicated service to the field of corrections and the ICJA." Her husband, John, (pictured left) a long time volunteer at WVCF was on hand for the presentation.



Bethel College played the Miami Correctional Facility Offender All-Star basketball team on Phase 2 of the facility. Bethel lost 80 to 86. It was a positive experience for everyone, and the offenders were very appreciative for Bethel coming to MCF to compete against them, according to Scott Kenworthy, Recreation Coordinator.

The Employee Appreciation Planning Committee at the Indiana State Prison sponsored a staff food drive of non-perishable foods. Staff donated a total amount of 561 non-perishable food items which were donated to the local Salvation Army in Michigan City, IN. The Salvation Army will help approximately 800 families in the community a month.

Staff at Edinburgh Correctional Facility were honored to be joined by Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center Commander Colonel Shatto and his staff for the facility's annual holiday meal. The facility donated a turkey and ham for the dinner out of the employee appreciation fund while staff brought covered dishes to make for a wonderful meal. The ceremony was enjoyed by all and the staff at Edinburgh Correctional Facility would like to wish all a happy and safe holiday season. (photo right)



Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility is very pleased to announce that they have achieved level 4 from Performance-based Standards (PbS), a program for juvenile justice agencies and facilities to identify, monitor and improve conditions and services to youths using national standards and outcome measures. Currently 187 participants throughout the country participated in October's data collection. Twenty-eight facilities obtained level 4, 22 of these 28 have participated for five years or longer. It is a great testament to the staff to have achieved this status in short period of time.

The Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility PLUS Unit designed and sold Christmas cards to staff and students. The students also donated 100 cards to the Red Cross, Holidays for Hero's program for our soldiers currently stationed in foreign countries. The students donated 20 cards to a specific unit of Marines stationed in Afghanistan. The sales earned \$80 and the money was donated to the Emmaus Mission Center for use in their food pantry and homeless shelter.

The Greyhounds are here! Staff and offenders at the Putnamville Correctional offenders welcome Flying Williston, G's Jazzy, Jane Mead and Where's Ranger, the newest arrival's to the facility's Prison Greyhound Program.





Pendleton Correctional Facility Offender American Legion Post 608 donated \$608 to the Toys for Tots Project sponsored by the United States Marine Reserves and the White River Fitness Club of Anderson. The money will be used to purchase two bicycles and toys for the annual project. Darrell Baylor Judge Advocate for Marine Corp League, Mounds Detachment, visited the facility to accept the check and express appreciation to Post 608 members for the donation. (photo left)

Christmas came early for the offenders and staff at Miami Correctional Facility. More than 90 volunteers from the Gospel

Echoes team visited the facility, singing Christmas carols and delivering a bag of cookies to all staff and offenders. The group has made this an annual project for the last several years. They hand deliver the bags to each offender in their cell and sing to them afterwards in the dayroom of the housing units.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) completed their re-accreditation audit by the American Correctional Association. MJCF attained a score of 100% on 39 mandatory standards and 98.1% on 331 non-mandatory standards.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility students have been busy preparing cookies, decorating sun catchers and making Christmas cards. Students and program staff delivered the cookies and cards to a veteran's hospital in Indianapolis. The sun catchers and cards were also delivered to a local nursing home. (photo right)



Fifty Gospel Echoes volunteers visited the Putnamville Correctional Facility for their annual Christmas cookie distribution. In addition to cookies, Glendon Bender and the volunteers sang Christmas carols, participated in a meet and greet with the offenders and gave individual spiritual counsel.

John Sage, Founder and Executive Director of the "Bridges to Life" organization, visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to speak to offenders involved in the program. The organization was founded by Mr. Sage in 1998 after he experienced the murder of his sister. The mission of Mr. Sage's ministry is "to connect communities to prisons in an effort to reduce the recidivism rate (particularly that resulting from violent crimes), reduce the number of crime victims, and enhance public safety. The program's emphasis is on facilitating the healing process for victims and offenders.



Miami Correctional Facility held a Holiday Blood Drive with the American Red Cross. Nearly 30 employees donated blood with an unofficial total of 28 good units given. (photo left)

Madison Correctional Facility held its Celebration of Achievement for over 150 offenders who graduated from various programs. Assistant Superintendent Rodger McKinley gave the commencement address telling a story of the struggles a butterfly must go through to become a beautiful creature. He stated, "Today's graduates have encountered struggles in life, done something about them, and will soon be ready to fly."

The Logansport juvenile Correctional Facility CLIFF and Youth Transition Reentry Independent (YTRI) unit students assisted the Salvation Army and the Angel Tree Project in its annual food basket distribution. There were a total of eight students from the CLIFF and YTRI units who assisted the Salvation Army in preparing the food baskets and delivering those baskets to those in need. Along with Food baskets there were also gifts for the children in the program. There were 221 families impacted by the program.

Putnamville Correctional Facility Superintendent Stanley Knight and Assistant Superintendent Michael Rains extended season's greetings to Jennifer Edwards, Executive Director of the United Way of Putnam County, (pictured right) in the form of a \$500 donation to the organization. The Putnam County United Way performs a variety of services to enhance the quality of life for Putnam County residents.

Miami Correctional Facility Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee sold Candy Grams again this year to staff. Each hand-colored sheet was delivered to staff with a candy cane attached. The candy grams were sent by co-workers showing their appreciation to each other. This year the facility sold more than 550 candy grams netting nearly \$300. The committee also held its annual Holiday Bake Sale. Several staff members baked goodies to sell to staff for \$1. The committee made more than \$100 on the two-day sale.

