

July 10, 2014

# Weekly Views

The first Parole Career Resource Center has opened at the Bloomington Parole Office. Ten parole agents who attended the Fall 2013 Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training program developed a plan that included putting Career Resource Centers in Parole offices across the State. Parole has worked closely with PEN Product's Reentry Division in pulling together all the necessary components to launch this initial center. With strong support from Supervisor Justin Noblitt, clients are now being served by the district's two OWDS Parole Agents, Cara Johnson and Mitch Donick.

The Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF), along with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles mobile unit, which was set up on IREF grounds, processed 265 resident applications for Indiana identification cards. Of that number, 250 residents were successful in obtaining valid state IDs.

Crops are sprouting at Putnamville Correctional Facility's greenhouse and they are in abundance! 475 pounds have been donated to local shelters so far this year, such as the Putnamville County Food Pantry and the Cunot Community and Senior Center in Poland, IN. The facility predicts a steady stream of donations will be given throughout the summer and fall and looks forward to contributing produce to those in need!

Through a fundraiser sponsored by the offender PLUS Program, the Plainfield Correctional Facility raised enough money to donate to two Hendricks County programs. Working in collaboration with Marco's Pizza, the facility sold over 1000 pizzas to the offender population. Totaling over \$3000, a portion of the proceeds earned was donated to both the Sycamore Services Inc. and the Hendricks County Animal Shelter.

Chef Jeff Vaughan of the U.S. Army visited the Indiana Women's Prison and demonstrated different cutting styles, safety practices and cooking tips for the Aramark IN2work class. While showing the class cutting skills he had fun with some fruit and vegetable decorations and was very encouraging to the culinary students.

Representatives from the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College have made several presentations to over 150 offenders at Westville Correctional Facility. Offenders listened intently as the representatives spoke concerning the Westville Education Initiative (WEI) and the expectations for the program. Approximately 110 offenders are expected to participate in the application process, consisting of an essay and a follow-up interview. The WEI is a collaboration between Notre Dame and Holy Cross and is jointly conceived and guided by the Department.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility is pleased to announce that they have achieved level 4 from Performance-based Standards (PbS), a program for juvenile justice facilities to identify, monitor and improve conditions and services to youth using national standards and outcome measures. This is the second time in a row that the facility has achieved this goal. Madison Juvenile is committed to providing quality programming in the safest environment to assist young ladies committed to the Indiana Department of Correction in becoming productive members of society.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held a job fair to attract potential employees. Attendees were able to meet with administrative and custody staff to have any questions or concerns addressed about potential positions. There were interviews conducted with 16 prospective employees with eight individuals being recommended for hire.

The American Red Cross held a blood drive at the Indiana State Prison where a total of 38 pints of blood were collected. With the generosity of the staff at the Indiana State Prison, potentially 114 lives may be saved.

A Rockville, Indiana man is alive today thanks to IDOC training and the quick actions of a Rockville Correctional Sergeant. While shopping in downtown Rockville, the RCF Sergeant, who wishes to remain anonymous, answered a call for help on his volunteer fire department radio to find a man in cardiac arrest. This Sergeant stepped up and began administering lifesaving CPR. The Sergeant expressed his gratitude to IDOC for providing the CPR training that led to his quick actions.

Several Camp Summit Boot Camp staff and facility students volunteered at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds for the Relay for Life initiative sponsored by the American Cancer Society. In addition to assisting in the preparation and helping during the event, Camp Summit staff and students have been busy raising money for Relay for Life over the past several months. Staff have held food fundraisers and students have donated money from their Trust funds to raise money for the cause. This is the second year Camp Summit has participated in this event. The facility plans to continue supporting this cause as an inspirational, meaningful, and a positive way to give back locally and globally.

Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) staff would like to congratulate Officer Thomas Johnson on his retirement. Mr. Thomas began his career at the facility on July 21, 1986 and served with distinguished service as a correctional officer. "On behalf of everyone at the facility we want to express our best wishes to Tom as he retires and thank him for his many years of service to the state," expressed Major Cathy Elliott.

Westville is pleased to announce several staff promotions. Correctional Officers James Bowen, James Dragoo, Kevin Halloran and Kevin Kotras have all been promoted as new sergeants. Also, Re-entry Coordinator John Riggs has been named as the Chaplain to replace Joe Asher. Asher and his wife are leaving Indiana to be missionaries in Turkey.

Ten residents from the Indianapolis Reentry Facility volunteered their time for a local Habitat for Humanity build, cutting siding and wood for the rehabilitation project.