

August 1, 2014

# Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) Commissioner Bruce Lemmon and Kevin Orme, Director of Construction Services, visited the Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) to present Commissioner Coins to the entire CIF maintenance staff. They were being recognized for the multiple projects including roof resurfacing, security screens, LED perimeter light replacement and replacement cell house windows just to name a few. Their efforts have saved the department tens of thousands of dollars by completely the majority of the work themselves. (photo below)

Offenders from Indiana State Prison Medium

Minimum Security Unit and Westville Correctional Facility have been working together on a project for the Fuller Center for Housing of Gary Indiana Inc. This project involves renovating dilapidated homes in the Gary area.

The offender work crews completely gutted the inside of the two homes, removing window frames, plumbing, wiring, and support walls and cleaning out the crawl spaces. Pastor Chet Johnson, the project organizer, sent a letter to the Commissioner Lemmon expressing his sincere appreciation for the work performed by these two crews. (photo left)



Saturday was the perfect day for the Pendleton Correctional Facility's (PCF) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Back to School Fair hosted by the Employee Appreciation Committee (EAC). 150 children and grandchildren of PCF employees, grades pre-school to college, participated in games, drawings for gift cards and enjoyed a sit-down lunch before back packs filled with school supplies were

distributed. Holly Gibson EAC Event Chairman stated, "It was a pleasure and a golden opportunity for me to help out staff members with school supplies. All of the children that attended had smiles on their face during the whole fair, especially for the face painting and the cake walk. I am already looking forward to 2015 Back to School Fair."

Several Indianapolis Reentry Educational Facility (IREF) staff traded their IDOC custody uniforms for prison garb all in the name of Special Olympics Indiana. IREF correctional police and custody officers placed Captain Angela Blakey, Officer Sonya Phipps, and Training Coordinator William Phipps (pictured right) under arrest at their respective offices, handcuffed, then escorted the 'staff-residents' to the Risk Management Unit where they were made to dress in a red jumpsuit and await bail.

IREF staff, contract workers, volunteers, and residents came to their aid and contributed \$140 for their release from lock-up. The Jail and Bail event is just one of many events the facility has held over the last few weeks to raise money to benefit Special Olympics. The goal is to raise at least \$1,200 by September 6, 2014. To date, IREF has raised \$913.



Football season is just around the corner and the turf is up...actually down, at North Central High School in Sullivan County. Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) minimum-security labor line offenders teamed up with North Central football players to spread sod on the playing field. The no huddle offensive effort took several hours to complete. The North Central Thunderbirds will put the field to the test August 22 when they take on White River Valley. Deputy Commissioner Jim Basinger will be on hand cheering the team's fullback and inside linebacker! Go Basingers! (photo left)



The Logansport Juvenile Correctional facility held the first session of the Joint Understanding and Cooperation Program (JUCP) training at the facility. The JUCP program is designed to improve communication and the working relationship between

staff and students. Two separate instructor/facilitator sessions will be held. For first session, Logansport staff participated in the training with members of the facility and Correctional Training Institute training departments. The Student Facilitator session will follow. (photo right)



Commissioner Lemmon attended the Quarterly Assembly at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility to present Commissioner Coins to Principal Chris Stilwell and English teacher Amanda DeHart. Mr. Stilwell received Principal of Year from Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS), and Mrs. DeHart was nominated for Teacher of the Year for CEEAS. Staff were recognized for perfect attendance, going the "extra mile" and years of service. Superintendent Linda Commons presented quarterly awards to Youth Development Specialist of the Quarter Frank Bohannon, Non-custody Employee of the Quarter Robert Guffey and Supervisor of the Quarter to Sergeant Joseph Roe.

Miami Correctional Facility's American Legion Post 555 presented the Veterans Committee from Howard County with 226,000 Pop Tabs during its monthly meeting. The pop tabs were collected by the Legion and offenders in the facility's PLUS Unit.

Jerry Paul, President of the Veteran's Committee, said the committee turned in 3.5 million total tabs to the Ronald McDonald House and was thankful for the amount that was given by MCF. This is the third year the legion has donated pop tabs, making their total contribution more than 750,000 tabs.



The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) is partnering with the Girls Scouts Behind Bars (GSBB). The Girl Scout program has enabled the incarcerated mothers at the facility, who meet the criteria, to bond with their daughters each month.

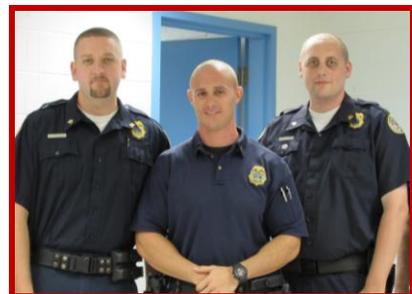
The American Red Cross Bloodmobile had a very successful visit to Camp Summit. The successful visit was due to the participation of many employees who donated blood. The total number of units collected was 23! According to the American Red Cross, the drive potentially helped to save over 65 lives. The Red Cross Bloodmobile visit, which was coordinated by Camp Summit Staffer Patricia Kimmel, is part of

the IDOC's Blood Drive Challenge for 2014. "The Facility has done an outstanding job with our blood drives this year which is partly due to the promotional efforts of Pat Kimmel. She's really committed to the efforts to raise awareness of the need for blood and participation of staff," commented Superintendent Davis. (photo right)



Miami Correctional Facility held its IDOC Blood Drive Challenge donating 31 good units to the American Red Cross. Of those who donated, six employees gave double red cells.

Putnamville Correctional Facility was host to a fantastic Kairos Retreat! Approximately 77 offenders participated in this spirit and faith building day, as well as 15 volunteers from outside the facility. Kelli Searing, program coordinator and re-entry transition instructor for ISF was an avid leader and was pleased to see so many partakers involved!



Reception-Diagnostic Center (RDC) Superintendent Jim Wynn is pleased to announce the promotions of Jeremiah Jones, Robbie Johnson and John Dudash to Correctional Sergeant (pictured left) and Chris Callihan to Program Coordinator, where he will "oversee Internal Affairs and Security Threat Groups for RDC. Congratulations to each of you on your hard work and dedication!

Indiana Women's Prison Superintendent Steve McCauley is proud to announce the promotion of former Internal Affairs Investigator Nicole Wilson for her new position as Captain! (photo right)



It is with appreciation that Plainfield Correctional Facility announces the retirement of Officer Donald Edwards. Officer Edwards began his career with the Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer on June 22, 1992 at Plainfield Correctional Facility. In his 22 years at Plainfield, Officer Edwards worked both day and night shifts in a variety of Officer Posts. Most recently, Officer Edwards has been a member of H Bracket serving as a regular trip officer. He worked as part of the regular custody team for the Arthur Campbell High School program from approximately 1995 through approximately 2004. He has no current plans for his retirement other than rest.



Commissioner Bruce Lemmon was on hand to wish retiring Wabash Valley Correctional Facility casework manager Steve Robertson the very best! Robertson retired this week after 32.5 years of dedicated service to the Department. During a cake reception in his honor Steve was presented with a letter of appreciation, a distinguished service plaque and a retirement quilt. Not that he will be using it anytime soon as sources indicate a Hawaii trip is in his future. Robertson spent 26 years with the Indiana Department of Correction, 22 at Wabash as counselor and casework manager, four at Putnamville as an officer and counselor, plus six and a half years with Child Protective Services. The Indiana State University Criminology graduate has also been an active, long term member of the Indiana Criminal Justice Association. Congratulations Steve! (photo left)

Miami Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community program was one of two Therapeutic Community programs that earned a 100% score in its recent audit by Central Office staff. The audit involved staff and offender interviews, a tour of the unit, and documentation. There are eight Therapeutic Communities in the state and all were audited.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community, the largest in the nation, received their recent audit score of 97%, while Grace College for the combined Westville and Indiana State Prison site received an A+ rating for the past quarter.