

CIBA Foundation Awards Grant to Shifting Gears Program

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J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana - (December 4, 2006) - The Indiana Department of Correction was recently awarded an initial \$1,000 grant from the CIBA Foundation (Central Indiana Bicycling Association) for its "Shifting Gears" program. The program is a joint effort between the Department of Correction and its partners, Bicycle Garage Indy and Volunteers of America.

The shifting gears program collects broken and battered bikes, restores them using offender labor and distributes them to less fortunate children in Indiana communities. All donations of bicycles are fully tax deductible for the donors.

Offenders at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City and Pendleton Correctional Facility, in Pendleton, Indiana have restored over 360 bikes since the program started in August 2006. Hundreds of refurbished bikes were delivered this summer to needy children and more will be receiving bikes for Christmas.

"We commend these three organizations for their efforts to provide safe bicycles to those who would not otherwise be able to afford them," said Irwin J. Prince, President of the CIBA Foundation.

"This is one of the most community-oriented programs that the Indiana Department of Correction has undertaken. It has gotten a lot of people involved and excited." said Commissioner J. David Donahue.

"This program has afforded offenders an opportunity to learn new work skills, while helping children in communities. The CIBA grant will allow Shifting Gears to acquire much needed replacement parts and will significantly increase the output of the program. I want to thank everyone for their efforts and support."

To learn more about the Shifting Gears program, please contact Diana Williams, Director of Programs at the Indiana Department of Correction at 317.232.5756. To donate a bike, please visit the Bicycle Garage

locations: Bicycle Garage Indy - North 4130 East 82nd Street, Indianapolis or Bicycle Garage Indy - South, 997 East County Line Road, Greenwood.

About CIBA Foundation

The CIBA Foundation is a not-for-profit organization devoted to encouraging the use of the bicycle as a means for touring, exercising, and commuting.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

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