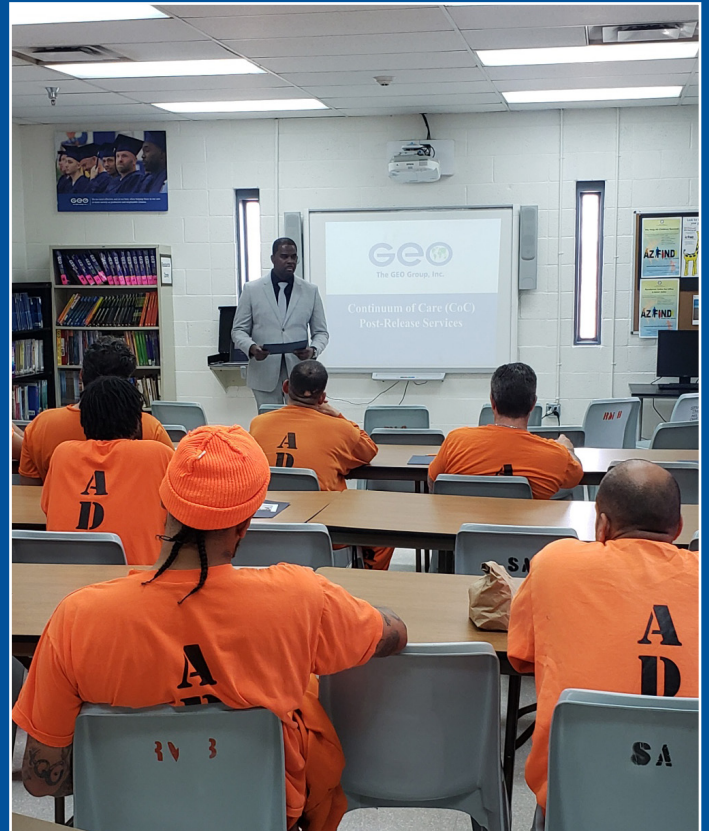




4th QUARTER 2024

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year

Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Letter From The Executive Chairman

To the GEO Family,

We are proud of the operational milestones GEO achieved during the fourth quarter of 2024, which continue to be underpinned by the dedication and professionalism of our 18,000 employees worldwide. Our employees make daily sacrifices to care for all those in our facilities and programs, consistently delivering high quality support services on behalf of our government agency partners with an unwavering organizational commitment to operational excellence.

During the fourth quarter, our GEO Secure Services facilities underwent 66 audits, including internal audits, government reviews, third-party accreditations, and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) certifications. Six of our secure services facilities received re-accreditation audits from the American Correctional Association (ACA) with an average re-accreditation score of 99.3 percent. Another two secure services facilities received PREA certifications. Our GTI transportation division and GEOAmey U.K. joint venture safely completed approximately 4.3 million miles driven in the United States and overseas.

At the federal level, we renewed our contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for the provision of our company-owned 1,940-bed Adelanto ICE Processing Center in California for a five-year term. We also renewed our ICE contracts in California for the 400-bed Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center, the 750-bed Desert View Annex, and the 700-bed Golden State Annex, for five-year terms. At the state level, we renewed our contract with the Florida Department of Corrections for the management of the 1,948-bed South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility for a two-year term.

Our GEO Reentry Services division renewed five residential reentry center contracts at the state and federal levels during the fourth quarter of 2024. Additionally, our reentry centers successfully underwent a combined total of 90 audits, including internal audits, government reviews, third-party accreditations, and PREA certifications. Five of our residential reentry centers received

re-accreditation audits from the ACA with an average re-accreditation score of 99.9 percent. One of our residential reentry centers received PREA certification.

These quarterly accomplishments are consistent with the outstanding operational performance of our diversified business units throughout the entire year. During 2024, our secure services facilities successfully underwent 197 audits, and we renewed 13 secure services contracts, including nine contracts at the federal level. Our GEO Care facilities and program sites successfully underwent a combined total of 311 audits, and we renewed 31 residential reentry center contracts, including 15 contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, along with 44 non-residential and day reporting center contracts during 2024.

In 2024, our GEO Continuum of Care® programs completed approximately 6.8 million hours of enhanced in-custody rehabilitation programming. Our academic programs awarded more than 3,000 high school equivalency degrees, and our vocational courses awarded close to 9,700 vocational training certifications. Our substance abuse treatment programs awarded more than 9,300 program completions, and we achieved over 60,000 behavioral program completions and more than 43,000 individual cognitive behavioral sessions.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to providing high quality support services on behalf of our government agency partners, while delivering safe and compassionate care to all those entrusted to our facilities and programs.



George C. Zoley

Executive Chairman
of The Board

COVER STORY**02****GEO Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year: Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

We are proud to recognize Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (FWCRF) as the GEO Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year for its outstanding commitment to excellence in staff development, fostering a culture of change, and demonstrating leadership that aligns with the GEO mission at every level.

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This holiday season, the Jack Brewer Foundation (JBF) hosted a Heroes Holiday Sports Event at the South Bay Correctional Facility, bringing together NFL players, UFC fighters, boxers, and other special guests.

EDITORIAL STAFF

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In October of 2024, the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Team at Fulham Correctional Centre hosted its inaugural Dawili festival for the Hindi and Sikh men in its care.

CONTRIBUTORS

George C. Zoley
Pablo E. Paez
Chris V. Ferreira

**22****Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association Professional of the Year**

The Illinois Certification Board (ICB) award recognizes the outstanding efforts and achievements of an individual in the substance use disorder, and or mental health disorders profession.

GEO Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year

Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



We are proud to recognize Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (FWCRF) as the GEO Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year for its outstanding commitment to excellence in staff development, fostering a culture of change, and demonstrating leadership that aligns with the GEO mission at every level.

Staff Development Excellence

At the core of FWCRF's success is its investment in its team. By prioritizing continuous professional development and equipping staff with cutting-edge training and resources, the facility ensures that every individual is empowered to perform at their highest potential. These efforts go beyond technical skills, focusing on cultivating empathy, resilience, and a dedication to transformative justice.

A Culture of Change

FWCRF stands out as a beacon of progress within the rehabilitation field. The facility has cultivated an environment where rehabilitation and second chances take precedence, promoting programs that support both inmates and staff in embracing growth and transformation. This culture of change is evident in its innovative approach to education, vocational training, and mental health support for those in its care.

Mission-Driven Leadership

Leadership at FWCRF exemplifies a deep commitment to their mission. Every decision, initiative, and program is guided by a clear focus on restoring lives, strengthening communities, and preparing individuals for successful reintegration. Its leaders inspire others to take ownership of this mission, ensuring that it is not just a statement but a living, breathing philosophy that drives the facility's operations.

Impactful Outcomes

The results of FWCRF's efforts speak volumes. From improved staff retention and satisfaction to measurable decreases in recidivism rates, its dedication to excellence has created a ripple effect of positive change. The facility has become a model for others, showcasing how a focus on people—both staff and those in their care—can lead to transformative outcomes.

As we honor FWCRF as the Continuum of Care Correctional Facility of the Year, we celebrate not only its achievements but also the inspiration the facility provides to others in the field. FWCRF's example reminds us all of the power of leadership, dedication, and the unwavering belief in the potential for change.

Congratulations to Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility for this well-deserved recognition!



The GEO Group Foundation Supports South Florida Special Olympics

Written By **Christopher Ferreira,**
Corporate Relations



In 2024, The GEO Group Foundation was a proud sponsor of the South Florida Special Olympics' Sallarulo's Race for Champions. The event took place on November 2nd on the campus of Nova Southeastern University. Case Specialists from GEO's Miami and Ft. Lauderdale ISAP Offices participated in this 5K race and enjoyed the VIP Brunch afterwards. Dania Centeno, a Case Specialist for the Miami ISAP Offices won 2nd place in her age group (women 30-39) with a finishing time of 33 minutes and 46 seconds!

2024 marked the 19th year of Sallarulo's Race for Champions. A South Florida institution, the event celebrates respect and compassion for all by providing an opportunity for the entire community to walk or run alongside Special Olympics Florida athletes. The funds raised through Sallarulo's Race for Champions support Special Olympics Florida's programs in Broward County, serving more than 6,000 athletes and their

families each year. Athletes benefit from year-round sports training and competition in a variety of 19 sports and receive health services, inclusive programming and leadership training all at no cost. Through the transformative power and joy of sport, Special Olympics Florida and Sallarulo's Race for Champions helps athletes live richer, fuller lives.





The GEO Group Supports the Boca Raton Mayor's Ball

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

As a strong community partner, The GEO Group is proud to have been a sponsor of the Ninth Annual Boca Raton Mayor's Ball. The event took place at the Boca West Country Club and was attended by several GEO employees, including Christa Siciliano, Director, Tax; Cinthya Albert, Senior Manager, Tax; Andrea Paredes, Human Resources Coordinator; and Chris Ferreira, Director, Corporate Relations.

This year's event marked the Centennial Anniversary of the City of Boca Raton and the theme for the night was "Boca 100: A Sensational Century of Growth, Giving, and Greatness." Several individuals and organizations received awards for their lasting impact on the community, including The J.C. Mitchell Award (Individual Category): Presented to Bill Mitchell for his dedication to the community; The Susan Whelchel Award (Nonprofit Category): Awarded to the Spirit of Giving Network for its commitment to collaboration and service; The George Long Award (Business Category): Bestowed upon the Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce for fostering economic growth; and The Addison Mizner Award (Philanthropy Category): Presented to Holli Rockwell Trubinsky for her extraordinary philanthropic contributions.



Bowling with EPIC!

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

In mid-November of 2024, GEO's Corporate Engagement Committee, EPIC, organized a bowling event for employees. The event provided discounted entry and included pizza, wings, and soda for all who attended. Employees enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and fun.





The Jack Brewer Foundation Fatherhood Blessing Tree Initiative

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

This Christmas, the Jack Brewer Foundation (JBF) brought hope and joy to fatherless children in need through its Fatherhood Blessing Tree Initiative. As part of this program, 2nd Chance Heroes—men who were once incarcerated but have since rebuilt their lives and become positive role models—personally delivered gifts to the homes of children growing up without a

father. Each gift was given on behalf of the children's fathers, who are incarcerated but part of JBF's Faith and Fatherhood Initiative. These fathers and grandfathers, who are actively working to strengthen their bonds with their kids, were able to provide their children and grandchildren with presents, even from behind bars. For the children, the gifts were much

more than material items—they were a powerful reminder that they are seen, loved, and supported by their fathers, no matter the distance. At the same time, the fathers were filled with pride, knowing they could still make a meaningful impact on their children's lives, helping to nurture their relationship despite the challenges of incarceration.



2nd Chance Heroes Deliver Christmas Gifts to Pine Ridge Students

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

The Jack Brewer Foundation (JBF) made a meaningful impact in South Florida with its Holiday Gift Giveaway at the Pine Ridge Education Center in Fort Lauderdale. Volunteers included GEO Continuum of Care Alumni, 2nd Chance Fathers, JBF board members, and NFL partners, who came together to distribute toys, shoes, and other gifts to over 100 low-income students, many of whom are fatherless.

This initiative highlights JBF's continued efforts, alongside The GEO Group and its alumni, to break the cycle of poverty and incarceration. By giving back to the community, the 2nd Chance Fathers and other volunteers provided not just gifts, but also hope, cheer, and support to children in need.



Local Food Distributions in the South Bay Community

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

The Jack Brewer Foundation (JBF) continues to make a powerful impact in South Bay, Florida, with its ongoing food distribution efforts. On December 28 and December 31, 2024, JBF's 2nd Chance Fathers—men who have successfully reintegrated into society after incarceration—worked alongside volunteers to distribute nearly 40,000 pounds of food to more than 1,100 families in need. This initiative not only provides vital support to the community but also underscores the positive impact of second chances, as these fathers give back to help break the cycle of poverty and incarceration.

The GEO Group, which operates the South Bay Correctional Facility, plays a key role in supporting these efforts. GEO staff and alumni of the facility volunteer each week at the food distribution, furthering the mission of rehabilitation and community reintegration. These contributions highlight the importance of collaboration in transforming lives and building stronger communities in South Bay.



Heroes Holiday Sports Festival at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**



This holiday season, the Jack Brewer Foundation (JBF) hosted a Heroes Holiday Sports Event at the South Bay Correctional Facility, bringing together NFL players, UFC fighters, boxers, and other special guests. These Christian leaders shared powerful messages of hope, redemption, and faith with the incarcerated men, while also spending time engaging in casual conversation.

The event featured a friendly softball game between the athletes and the men, with GEO executives and staff also participating, fostering camaraderie and connection. In addition to the game, the day included games of cornhole and checkers, creating an atmosphere of fellowship and relaxation.



Over 350 men took part in the event, enjoying the activities, the opportunity to connect with visitors, and a hot meal provided by JBF. The day was filled with prayer, uplifting conversations, and discussions on fatherhood, leadership, and personal growth, all grounded in Christian principles. JBF continues to use sports and community engagement to promote character development, teamwork, and the rebuilding of relationships, helping these men strengthen their connections with their families and build a brighter future.

GEO Hosts Annual St. Jude Classic Golf Tournament

Written By **Maria Laird, Eastern Regional Office**

In 2024, The GEO Group's Eastern Regional Office held their ninth annual St. Jude Classic Golf Tournament at the Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Charlotte, North Carolina. GEO's Eastern Region staff and supportive vendors/partners gathered to raise funds for children's cancer research and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The financial goal this year was once again exceeded for this important cause and a check was presented to St. Jude for \$231,630. The Eastern Region has now raised a total of \$1,307,772 over the past nine years and will once again, proudly host a tenth event on June 12, 2025.

In recognition of GEO's support, St. Jude provided a VIP tour of

the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee to GEO staff and Chairman level sponsors. Paul Laird, GEO Senior Vice President of Secure Services, Kevin Sidebottom, GEO Director of Operations, Jon Walker, Executive Vice President-ViaPath, John Puricelli, Vice President-Keefe Group, and Matthew Hollingsworth, CEO-Ameritech General along with their guests attended the tour.

When St. Jude opened in 1962, childhood cancer was considered largely incurable. Since then, St. Jude has helped push the overall survival rate from 20% to more than 80%. Remarkably, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing, or food – so they can focus on helping their child live.



Pictured left to right: presenting a check to St. Jude is; Kevin Sidebottom, Maria Laird, Katie Cronin (St. Jude representative) and Paul Laird.



Pictured left to right: Karen Walker, Presley Aarstad, Matt Hollingsworth, Charlene Laird, Paul Laird, John Puricelli, John Walker, Kevin Sidebottom, and Arzu Sidebottom.

Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Donates to Families Against Abuse

Written By **Cruzetta Sepulveda,**
Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



Staff at Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (FWCRF) chose Families Against Abuse as their Christmas Charity this year. Staff truly stepped up for this charity and donated many items to this wonderful cause, including clothing, hygiene items, games, toys, and books.





'Let us Worship' at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

As 2024 came to a close, the Jack Brewer Foundation (JBF) brought a message of hope and renewal to the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility with a powerful praise and worship service, led by renowned American worship leader Sean Feucht of Let Us Worship. Held ahead of New Year's Day, the service filled the incarcerated men with faith, inspiration, and the promise of new beginnings as they looked forward to the year ahead.

Through its Faith and Fatherhood Initiative, JBF continues to offer essential resources and support to thousands of incarcerated fathers, helping them rebuild their lives, reconnect with their families, and provide for them. This event served as a powerful reminder that the end of one year marks the beginning of new opportunities for renewal, redemption, and second chances offered through Jesus Christ.





Staying Active and Showing Support

Written By **Rohan Gunter, Broward Transitional Center**

The weather this fall in 2024 was perfect for The 44th annual Tamarac Turkey Trot 5K. Over 2,500 attendees, came to Tamarac, Florida on Thanksgiving morning, ideal for the city's annual tradition. This event is an integral part of the Broward County community's calendar as its attendance was sold out completely. For the second time in a row, Broward Transitional Center (BTC) had 12 registered participants and three supporters in our group.

Jonathan Werble, was the male first place winner, and Kendall Parrott won the female division. Shout out to the Security Operations Officer, O. Gedeon with an impressive finish time under 25 minutes.

The medical team was ready just in case and there were plenty of drinking stations, but I'm happy to report that we had no incidents. The GEO Group Foundation made a \$500 donation to the cause through the Leadership Broward Foundation.

GEO Supports Local 4-H Camp

Written By **Michelle Bair, Folkston ICE Processing Center**

Georgia 4-H is a program at the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Cooperative Extension System. This program is available in every county in Georgia through in-school and after-school programs, community events, project work, and summer camping experiences. Some of the classes and workshops offered at these camps include herpetology, healthy living, and lake ecology.

The Folkston ICE Processing Center (FIPC) supports two local 4-H students in Charlton County. Hannah and Adriana are both looking forward to attending the summer camp in 2025. Hannah and Adriana are both members of the local 4-H who were selling poinsettias to raise money for 4-H camp. FIPC used the plants to decorate for our Christmas party, and then they were given out as door prizes.



CASA Christmas

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens,**
South Louisiana ICE Processing
Center

While working as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) can be very rewarding, it can also come with some disturbing experiences. CASA volunteers often encounter cases involving severe cases of neglect, abuse, and trauma that can leave a lasting impact on not only the child, but also the volunteer. While some cases can be extremely challenging, many CASA volunteers work with children in situations where they can make a positive impact. Despite the challenges, CASA volunteers play a vital role in advocating for the best interests of children in the child welfare system.



The South Louisiana ICE Processing Center (SLIPC) is happy and proud to support CASA because we are helping make a life-changing difference for the most vulnerable of children. Through fundraising and donations, Facility Administrator, Helen Grimes and

staff were pleased to present CASA with a donation of \$3,000 and numerous toys for the foster children, in the hopes of making their Christmas a little brighter. Here at SLIPC the staff look forward to more fundraisers in the coming year. Together we can help a child thrive!



Dog Chew-Toy Project at Western Region Detention Facility



Written By **Tiffany Hartley,**
Western Region Detention Facility

The holiday season always seems to stir up the deepest emotions in all of us, especially for those who are locked away from loved ones. But what about “man’s best friend,” these furry, four-legged angels who also live in prison, far from home? The Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF) found a way to combine the two into an entertaining project that will benefit everyone involved!

The Dog Chew-Toy Project was launched in December of 2024, and we accepted T-shirt donations from employees and used our laundry’s expired uniforms. The shirts are cut into strips and then woven firmly together to create a rope — ideal for tug-of-war!

Our goal is to make at least 300 chew toys that are donated to a local animal shelter. Activities

that aim to give back to the community have significantly improved the overall wellbeing of those involved, as they give them meaning and hope by doing good. It is not surprising that the resulting positive effects also benefit employees, as detainees are less stressed this season. This project is ongoing and we’re looking forward to exploring new projects and activities for 2025!

Caring for our Furry Friends

Written By **Cruzetta Sepulveda,**
Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



Every year, Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility staff donate dog food, bowls, blankets, toys, and

leashes, etc. to the Pinal County Animal Shelter. The staff at the shelter and animals are very grateful for our donations.

This year, Florence West staff were greeted by the Animal Care and Control Director, Audra Michael, who accepted the donations on the shelter’s behalf.



Lea County Special Olympics Family Festival

Written By **Nancy Hill,**
Lea County Correctional Facility



Lea County Correctional Facility (LCCF) has become a registered agency for Lea County Special Olympics. In October of 2024, staff members Nancy Hill, Rebecca Enos, and Liza Hensley represented LCCF for the second year at the annual L.E.T.R Family Festival.



We knew we had to do more and raise more to make an impact. We started earlier in the year with fundraisers and raffling baskets. Additional hygiene items and ice cream pints were sold to inmates with a donation included in every purchase. Many inmates reached out and expressed how they enjoyed being able to participate and help such a remarkable organization. It did not stop there. Staff and local vendors were enthusiastic to donate items to create multiple baskets to be raffled. This included a swing bench built by the LCCF's maintenance department. The festival raised a total of \$15,601.92. LCCF was one of the top contributors raising \$5,354.42 for the 2024 year.



Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Written By **Michael Martin, Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility**

At the Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility (RADDF), under the direction of Brick Tripp, Facility Administrator, Chaplain, Michael L. Martin has partnered with communities near and far to reestablish the RADDF Volunteer Program. Chaplain Martin has recruited volunteers across Georgia and Alabama. He has implemented Faith-Based Services and Substance Abuse Programs, and is still in the process of implementing other programs at the facility.

To show appreciation and to honor the volunteers, RADDF hosted a "Volunteer Appreciation Banquet." The banquet included Chaplains from other facilities, community officials, facility staff, and others. The banquet was a huge success. Over 30 volunteers attended the event.

The community praised the Facility for its effectiveness in reestablishing the volunteer program, and expressed their appreciation for working with Chaplain Martin on this worthwhile effort.



Florence West Volunteers for Food Scarcity Charity

Written By **Cruzetta Sepulveda,**
Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



**A very big thank
you to our staff who
helped:**

*Facility Administrator,
Ron Credio, Executive
Assistant, Cruzetta
Sepulveda, Business
Manager, Brenda
Duran, Accounting
Secretary, Tonia
Blanco, CPS, Cassandra
Shifflett, CPO, Taryn
Rodriguez, CPO,
Desirae Ramirez,
Education, Joel Hunter,
Librarian, Margaret
Arroyo, HSA, Adelaide
Carter, Registered
Nurses, Korry Smith
and Janelle Steffan,
and Correctional
Officers, Melissa Brass,
Joanne Loving, and
Amanda Robles.*

In November 2024, the staff at Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (FWCRF) donated their time to an organization called Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). FMSC believes hope starts with food and works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development.

FMSC meals are developed by food science and nutrition professionals to supplement nutritional needs and reduce problems with malnutrition. Nutrition allows children to grow, thrive, and develop to their full potential.

Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria

and undernutrition. Half of the deaths in children under five years old are caused by hunger.

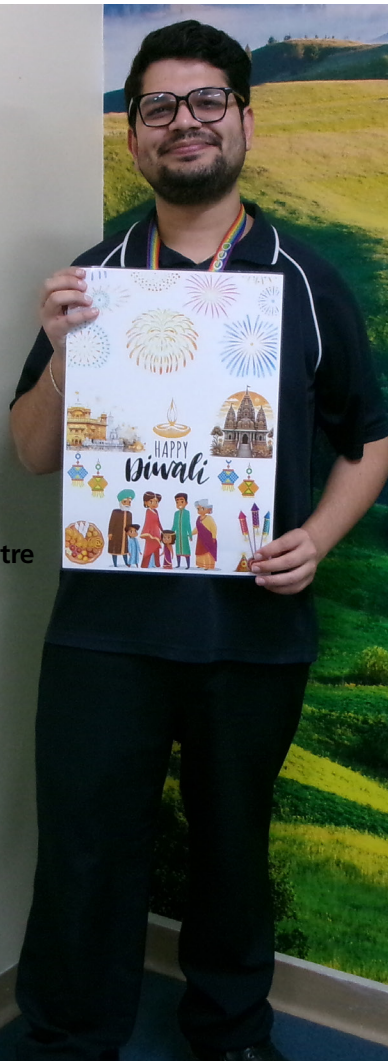
FMSC does not have its own food distribution staff, it relies on an exceptional network of missions and humanitarian organizations to distribute meals.

Hunger is the world's biggest solvable problem. FMSC believes that food is the foundation for all other progress. To a starving child, hope can only truly begin once a reliable source of nutritious food has been established.

The attending staff were very impressed and honored to help such a wonderful cause and look forward to participating again in the future.

Diwali Festival Embraced at Victorian Centres

Written By **Lyndell Coutts, Fulham Correctional Centre**



Fulham Correctional Centre Alcohol and Other Drugs Specialist, Yogi Arora with the Diwali flyers he created for participants.

In October 2024, the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Team at Fulham Correctional Centre hosted its inaugural Dawili festival for the Hindi and Sikh men in its care.

Diwali is a major religious festival in Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism; and symbolises the victory of light over darkness. The event supports Hindi and Sikh men to retain spiritual and cultural connections.

The Sikh Jatinder led the group in Diwali prayer and participants shared treats supplied by the Hindu chaplaincy.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Specialist, Yogi Arora created Diwali flyers for the men, which illustrated the diversity of people in India, the importance of sweets and fireworks, and a candle to signify the light that casts out evil.

Ravenhall Correctional Centre also held its second Diwali celebration, on October 30, 2024 for the men with an Indian subcontinent background and for staff, which included traditional food and music.

Fulham Staff Host Inaugural International Men's Day Event

Written By **Lyndell Coutts, Fulham Correctional Centre**



In November 2024, Staff from across Fulham Correctional Centre worked together to successfully deliver its first International Men's Day event for their colleagues and the men in their care.

International Men's Day celebrates the positive value men bring to the world, their families and communities - highlighting positive role models and raising awareness of men's wellbeing.

This year's theme "Positive Male Role Models" set the scene for a variety of activities to encourage men to lead meaningful lives, make positive contributions, and transcend barriers towards a more caring humanity.

All staff were treated to a special barbecue lunch which was organised by Human Resources and provided by the Catering department. Information on the series of health challenges faced by men and steps towards addressing them was shared to promote the importance of addressing men's wellness.

Rehabilitation & Reintegration (R&R) team members, supported by staff from Custodial Services and Health Services, organised a cricket match for the men in custody, which became a highlight of the day and created positive interactions among the men involved.



R&R Manager, Lisa Mannion said the cricketers were cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd of spectators with some fantastic sportsmanship displayed.

After the match, the players attended the Activity Hub to receive participation certificates and listen to staff speak about the significance of International Men's Day and how important it is for them to work closely with their support networks.

An information booth was established in a marquee on the oval, with the men in custody encouraged to visit, collect some resources focused on improving their physical and mental health and maintaining their wellbeing at any age.

This was a really valuable part of the day, with some men speaking openly about their physical and mental health struggles. Some men shared how they worked to address their challenges, while others spoke about what they might try to enable a change in their thinking patterns.

General Manager, Natalie Greenfield said the day generated a sense of community throughout the centre while raising awareness of good health and wellbeing, including promoting a healthy active lifestyle.

"Our inaugural International Men's Day event was extremely successful and we look forward to building on this success next year," Ms. Greenfield said.

Thank you to all of the staff from across the centre who worked so hard to bring this event to fruition for the benefit of all of the men at Fulham.

Reentry Leadership Spotlight



Ashley Hunt has been with the company since the inception of the North Carolina Confinement Response to Violations (CRV) Facilities in 2014. She has successfully spent ten years managing her own program while helping GEO expand. Her success at the Lumberton CRV led to other CRV's coming on board including Burke CRV for Men in Morganton, NC and The North Piedmont CRV for Women in Lexington, NC.

Ashley assisted in training both of the new directors at those sites and provided start up assistance at the new women's CRV, including interviewing and staff onboarding.

Several years ago, Ashley and her team were relocated from their facility. During that time, she modeled resiliency and positivity when what was intended to be a short stay ended up being almost two years. During that time, the CRV staff, at Ashley's direction, provided exceptional services in a very challenging environment. The staff carpooled to the new facility, traveling over an hour each way, every day.

Ashley has an excellent relationship with both local and central office staff. She was asked to join the administrative supervisors to present at an American Correctional Association conference on the joint collaboration between GEO and the Department and the CRV model. She is frequently asked to help train with the department staff on the Behavioral Management System both at her site and others.

Ashley holds incentive events at her site that go above and beyond what would be expected. She and her staff created an overdose awareness event that was so successful with both participants and

Ashley Hunt

Program Director, Robeson Facility (In-Prison Treatment)



CRV staff that it has become an annual event. She has held Black History Month, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Thanksgiving presentations. She challenges the participants to write essays, create art, and paint. She has a wall of fame for her completers and has a staff wall that can be utilized for positive comments from each other.

Even while doing all of the “extra” things that make her site special, she is still laser focused on outcomes and evidence-based practices. Her external and internal audits have been well above average. Her program has also successfully shown a reduction in criminal thinking errors year after year.

Lastly, Ashley is always willing to lend a hand to other sites and other directors. When we started a new program in a new state, Ashley sent two of her staff so that they could provide services while the new staff was in training. Those staff were able to model the high expectations that she and her team have been known for.

She also prepared new directors by hosting them at her site in North Carolina to see groups and incentive events in person.

Ashley grew up in North Carolina and has two sons. She keeps busy by attending all of their sporting events. Her hobbies include traveling, spending time with her children, everything DIY and crafting. She is the head organizer of her neighborhood community events committee.

Ashley is also currently working on her LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) and LCAS (Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist) certifications.

Overall, you won’t find a more dedicated, consistently high achieving Director. She continues to learn, is always looking for new ideas, and doesn’t slow down or settle. She is more than deserving of the honor of Reentry Services Director of the Year.

BI Leadership Spotlight



Slade Melton began his career with BI in August of 2015 as an entry level employee, then worked his way up through the ranks as a Production Coordinator, Mentor, Supervisor, and now as the Production Manager.

Slade grew up in a small farming town in Colorado where he assumed two leadership roles in high school: the head of Future Farmers of America and the leader of the Student Council. After high school, he worked in a restaurant, but he really wanted to further himself. It was his sister that encouraged him to look into a job in manufacturing. That was the beginning of Slade's journey with BI.

Slade's almost ten years with BI has included developing relationships with the Boulder County manufacturing community, the Northern Colorado Manufacturing Association, and the St. Vrain school system. When students learn that there are alternatives to college that will invest in them now, rather than having to go into debt, they become excited about their future. Slade and BI take pride in knowing that they have made a difference in the future of manufacturing and in the lives of students in Colorado!

In his free time, Slade enjoys hiking, eating a good meal with friends, talking about everything Harry Potter, fixing cars, and spending time with his wife.

We are grateful to Slade for the incredible contributions he's given to the company. If you're curious to know what we think of Slade, then here are some of the positive impressions he's created in the words of his own leadership team:

- "Slade balances both the needs of the business and the needs of the employees equally. He's

Slade Melton

Manager of Manufacturing, BI



approachable, makes time for everyone, and cares about the growth of each employee. Should anyone walk through the production floor, they will notice the fingerprints of Slade in every line of production, in every unit's high standard of quality, and in every employee's output."

- "Slade is a supportive boss and brings out the best work in each employee. Slade leads the team with empathy and takes the time to hear our ideas. It's a great pleasure to work in an environment where everyone's opinions and ideas are valued. Slade's motivation and kindness are a few traits that make him a great leader. Working under his leadership has been a game-changer for me."

- "Slade puts extra thought, time, and effort into answering questions, not only for his team, but also for different departments within BI. Slade also does a great job with his team by mentoring them on what direction they should go when it comes to making autonomous decisions on their respective lines. We are lucky to have Slade as our boss."

Finally, in the words of Isabel Yang, Executive Vice President for BI:

"I've seen Slade become more confident and grow his leadership skills in the two short years I've been at BI. I've never seen Slade lose his cool - although I know sometimes, he's under tremendous pressure. I'm proud to have Slade as part of BI's management team, and he has a very bright future ahead of him!"

We all look forward to working with Slade for many more years to come!

Illinois Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Professional Certification Association Professional of the Year

Written By **Bruce Morrison and Warren Johnson,**
Southwestern Illinois
Correctional Center



In 2019, Ms. McDonald was awarded The GEO Group employee of the year, and on October 29, 2024, she was awarded the ICB/IAODAPCA Professional of the Year award.

The Illinois Certification Board (ICB) award recognizes the outstanding efforts and achievements of an individual in the substance use disorder, and/or mental health disorders profession.



Ms. KaShena McDonald's roles in this field are unique ones. They include educator, counselor, and inspiration to her co-workers and students.

Ms. McDonald earned her Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) certificate in May of 2006 and then began her career in October of that year as a substance abuse Counselor with GEO Reentry Services at Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center in East St. Louis, Illinois. Shortly after, she quickly moved into the Certified Associate Addictions Professional (CAAP) Program Trainer position.

The CAAP Program is offered to individuals in custody who meet the admission criteria to not only assist them with their substance use disorder issues, but also with working towards their



CAAP certification. At this time, her students have completed all necessary course work and passed the examination at a 95% success rate. The CAAP students also are learning very important life and job skills that will have a positive impact on their success upon release.

Ms. McDonald also continues to assist with providing monthly trainings for newly hired staff as well as certified counselors to promote professional development and hopefully inspire new staff to work toward their CADC certification.

Congratulations and thank to you Ms. McDonald for your continued contributions to your students, our company, and the substance abuse field.

Celebrating a 30-Year Career Milestone

Written By **Margie West, Human Resources**

Monica L. Hook, Vice President of Communications for GEO Care has reached an impressive milestone in her career.

In 1994, Ms. Hook began her career at BI, Incorporated. She was hired as a BI Manufacturing Engineering Specialist to write over 900+ assembly, test, and quality control procedures for all the electronic monitoring devices built in Boulder, CO. She later joined the BI Marketing team in 1997 as a Documentation Writer and was eventually promoted to a Marketing Communications Director.

When asked about a specific experience that had a significant impact on her and her team, Ms. Hook replied, "During the process of creating a corporate video about the important work we do in GEO Care, several individuals shared their personal stories with me on camera, opened up about the challenges they had overcome and their goals for the future. The common thread that most impressed me about those interviews was their genuine desire to be ready to move forward and help others on a similar journey. In my GEO Care Communications role, our team has the privilege to help tell their inspiring stories to the world."

When GEO acquired BI in 2011, Ms. Hook moved to GEO Care. Through hard work and dedication, she was promoted to Strategic Marketing Director.

When asked what advice she had for someone just starting their career, she said, "Be a voracious learner. Ask questions and listen to the answers; practice humility; find a mentor; become a critical thinker; look for ways to expand your skills as there are lessons everywhere. Then once you've built knowledge and experience, share it!"

Monica's incredible career story is more than just a celebration of her work anniversary. Her journey is a reminder that with passion, dedication, and a supportive community, anything is possible! Her story inspired everyone to move forward with renewed motivation and a belief in the power of working together.

Congratulations, Monica, on reaching this incredible milestone!

"What motivates me the most is the people I get to work with here at GEO, and the commitment we make to Changing Behavior and Changing Lives. Our employees and the educational programs we offer make a difference every day in the lives of those we serve." - Monica Hook





GEO Reentry Celebrates 10 Years of Changing Lives in Lycoming County

As Published in the **Williamsport Sun-Gazette**, January 2025

Recidivism in the criminal justice system is a very real concern with some repeat offenders entering the system multiple times. Many factors can play into this cycle with a major one being a lack of support for those looking to turn their lives around.

Due to overcrowding in 2010, the prison board and county commissioners were discussing the possibility of constructing a new prison when President Judge Nancy Butts suggested a different path.

Working with then District Attorney and current Lycoming County Judge Eric Linhardt, county commissioners and others, Butts suggested bringing in GEO Reentry Services, 1544

E. Third St., as a way to provide better support to those most at risk of re-offending.

"What we offer is cognitive behavioral intervention programming to reduce recidivism and make the community safer," explained program manager Nicole English.

"When they come into the program, they're here six days a week, and then gradually, as they progress, they drop down their days," she said.

The services are provided on an outpatient basis. Individuals partaking in the program are not housed onsite.

In addition to the services for those who have reentered

society, programming is also offered to those on the verge of being released, including helping them set up mental health services, their drug and alcohol counseling, as well as any additional resources they may need prior to release.

"We also do electronic monitoring as well, so that way, individuals don't have to sit in the county jail. They can still be in the community, and continue to work," English explained.

The crimes committed by those in the program run the gamut of all possible charges from DUI to possession to simple assaults and more.

"They kind of range all over the place, so we don't specifically

focus on one simple charge. Our program is on a one size fits all approach," English said.

"When they come into the program, we give them a risk needs assessment, just to figure out what we can do to offer some assistance, and then we'll place them in the groups that fit best for them," she said.

"So if somebody's coming in with no history of drugs or alcohol use, we're obviously not going to put them in a drug and alcohol group," English explained.

"If they're here for a simple assault, we might put them in some anger management versus if they're here for anything regarding their children, we'll put them in parenting classes. We have a lot of individuals with trauma, so we have female trauma and male trauma to address that," she continued.

An area GEO Reentry Services has recently branched out into is youth intervention.

Early intervention with the juvenile population is key," English said.

"Similar to our day reporting program with adults, we've started working with the juvenile probation office as well. So if an individual has any needs, like trauma, life skills, just changing the way they think, they'll come into our program, get set up with a case manager, some group programming, and then they're free to come and go," she explained.

"But they have that outlet here, because if you can get to them

quick, and focus on changing the way they think, it may lead down the road to positive behaviors," English said.

English has seen an undeniable benefit to having GEO Reentry in the county.

"It's helped create a safer community because a lot of these individuals that are re-entering the community have resources now, so they're not just kind of getting released and getting released with just the clothes on their back. They can get help with food, clothing and getting set up with a case manager," she said.

"Even if they're not referred, we can still offer them assistance. We have a website where you can just type in your location, and it gives you all of the resources in your area," English stressed.

Both the prison population and recidivism are down, English said, noting that between 2020 and 2023, the program had 226 success completions with only 44 individuals receiving new charges.

"This is just a fantastic program. You have 10 years of success, all the graduates, all the behavior change, the impact it's made in the community," said John Hogan, GEO Reentry area manager.

It's been a great investment by the courts and the commissioners.

"You look at all the people that have had their lives have changed for the better and the impacts it has on recidivism, which means it impacts public safety and crime

in a positive way, helping people be employed and contributing," he continued.

"This is what communities ought to be doing, investing in people and giving them better lives," Hogan said.

"After 10 years, we know that it helps. It gives people in the system a much better chance of success afterwards because ultimately the goal is to have these people get back on the right track," county Commissioner Mark Mussina said.

"It's about second chances. And so many people, if they're given the right second chance, and the right guidance, that's all they need," he continued.

"The commissioners have supported it throughout the years, and we have a commissioner group right now that is still fully supportive of the program going forward," Mussina said.

"Being open 10 years, I feel like Lycoming County was ahead of the game," English said.

"Providing treatment versus just incarceration is key. You can actually change the way they think," she said.

"I think sometimes individuals in the criminal justice system are overlooked, or there's a stigma, but just being able to treat them as people and making sure that we're providing them the best services is important because they're people too," English stressed.



In-Service Training Day at SWICC

Written By **Bruce Morrison and Warren Johnson,**
Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center

In November 2024, The GEO Reentry Services staff from Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC) participated in an interactive



training and team building day at the Rock Springs Rotary Nature Center.

The dreary rain and blustering wind could not dampen the festive atmosphere inside the lodge. A game of "Find someone who..." bingo broke the ice and got everyone up and moving as they attempted to be the first to fill out their grids, as well as find out something new about each other.

Interactive motivational videos continued to boost energy levels by getting everyone up out of their seats.

How hard is it to recognize your co-workers by their baby pics? We all found out, pretty hard.

Additionally, a pizza party potluck lunch was provided for staff. The laid-back setting provided an environment for new and seasoned staff to socialize with

one another in a relaxed and comfortable environment.

Several treatment presentations were facilitated, and interactive videos were shown providing information to assist all counselors with working in the therapeutic community and provided tools related to the concepts we teach the population we serve. The topics covered included:

- Staff Roles in a Therapeutic Community
- Therapeutic Community Structure and Milieu Management
- Therapeutic Community Model and Method
- 7 Habits of Effective Employees by Ron Conlow
- Happiness at Work by Arlette Benzen

Overall, it was a successful, interactive day of team building with food and games enjoyed by all.

Wichita Day Reporting Center Community Resource Fair

Written By **Kali Mills, Wichita Day Reporting Center**

In October 2024, the Wichita Day Reporting Center (DRC) welcomed community partners and members to a Resource Fair. This on-site “outreach event” offered attendees a host of resources including food, clothing, a mobile identification producing unit, flu shots, and many other resources to meet the needs of those in attendance.

To ensure the success of the event, the Wichita DRC partnered with several key community service providers, including: The DMV, Union Rescue Mission, Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center, Wichita State University Technical College, ICTSOS, Goodwill Industries, NexStep, ICT Street Team, Vocational Rehab, Substance Abuse Center of Kansas, Department of Children and Families, Ivy Homes, Dear Neighbor Ministries, Restoration Knox, Search & Rescue Outreach, Sedgwick County Offender Assessment Program, Community Jam

Force, and the Wichita Family Crisis Center. This group of agencies helped around 150 members of the community connect with the resources they needed.

The Wichita DRC, a non-residential building program run by GEO Reentry Services, provides individualized, assessment-based programs for individuals to keep them in the community. Participants learn the life skills and coping mechanisms needed to restructure thinking and behavior. Participants are introduced to a safe, educational, and supportive environment and given the tools they need to remain successful in the community. They participate in evidence-based programs and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) on a daily basis to reduce the likelihood of a return to the criminal justice system.

North Brunswick Fall Graduation Celebration

Written By **Peter Conerly, North Brunswick Community Resource Center**



In October 2024, The North Brunswick Community Resource Center (CRC) held their Fall Graduation Celebration. This event serves to recognize program graduates for their accomplishments in successfully completing the CRC program.

The celebration was attended by participants, staff, and invited guests. New Jersey Assemblywoman, Tennille R. McCoy of the 14th Legislative District was the guest speaker for the event. In her remarks, Assemblywoman McCoy acknowledged the extraordinary efforts made by the graduates



and offered words of encouragement for their continued success in life.

Several graduates spoke of their experience and the help they received from staff in obtaining employment and completing their program requirements.

The five graduates were presented with certificates of program completion by staff and each received a laptop gifted by the CRC Program. The event concluded with a catered luncheon.



National Apprenticeship Week

Written By **Angela Geisinger, Continuum of Care**

As the country celebrates National Apprenticeship Week, The GEO Group and Skill Builders Solutions (SBS) have teamed up to celebrate the power of training to transform lives. Through this collaboration, we are highlighting the importance of direct training, skill development, and providing a second chance for people striving to build a better future.

Skill Builders Solutions is an organization that focuses on providing comprehensive training and apprenticeship programs for individuals looking to enter or transition into skilled trades careers, essentially bridging the gap between education and employment by equipping people with the necessary

practical skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen trade, while also partnering with employers to build a skilled workforce pipeline through targeted recruitment and customized training solutions.

GEO and SBS joined forces to not only celebrate the value of pre-apprenticeship programs but also highlight the life-changing impact these opportunities have on individuals who are seeking a fresh start. As part of the celebration, GEO Alumni and SBS graduates shared their powerful stories about how the training provided by SBS in partnership with GEO Continuum of Care has helped them successfully reintegrate into the workforce.

Paul Sanders, a GEO and SBS alumnus, emphasized the real-world impact that skill-building and mentorship can have on individual lives. "Thanks to Skill Builders Solutions and The GEO Group I have not only gained valuable skills, but I have also regained my confidence and sense of purpose. It feels incredible to be a contributing

member of the workforce, doing work of which I am proud. I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community. I am thankful The GEO Group partners with awesome organizations like Skill Builders Solutions. We learned so much, and I continue to learn."

Skill Builders Solutions first began the pre-apprenticeship program at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. The partnership with GEO has resulted in 100% employment placement of graduates. We are excited to kick off our second cohort, continuing a partnership committed to transforming lives and the workforce.



The GEO Group endorsed by National Association of Alcohol and Drug Counselors and Florida Certification Board Approved Professional Education Provider

Written By **Angela Geisinger, Continuum of Care**

In the ever-evolving field of addiction counseling and behavioral health, continuing education plays a pivotal role in ensuring professionals are equipped with the latest tools, methodologies, and insights to provide the highest quality care to individuals battling addiction. The GEO Group has achieved a significant milestone by securing both the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Counselors (NAADAC) certification and approval from the Florida Certification Board (FCB) as an approved education provider. This achievement underscores the agency's unwavering commitment to excellence in treatment and staff development.

NAADAC is one of the leading organizations in the United States advocating for addiction counselors and promoting the highest standards of professional practice. Achieving NAADAC certification is a rigorous process that sets an organization apart by adhering to a strict code of ethics, offering top-tier educational programs, and providing counselors with the tools they need to excel.

For GEO, receiving NAADAC certification represents a commitment to providing comprehensive, up-to-date, nationally recognized education. The certification opens doors for counselors to pursue their

professional credentials at no cost. This means that they can access valuable staff development resources without the financial burden typically associated with credentialing, empowering them to further their skills and education.

In addition to this national accreditation, The GEO Group has been endorsed by the FCB as an education provider. The FCB is the governing body for certification in the state of Florida, and its approval process ensures that education providers meet the specific needs and requirements of professionals practicing within the state.

As an FCB-approved education provider, The GEO Group offers courses that meet the state's stringent guidelines for continuing education, helping addiction counselors earn the necessary credits to maintain and advance their certifications. This approval solidifies GEO's role as a trusted partner for professionals working within the treatment landscape.

With a focus on quality and accessibility, The GEO Group can offer development that will benefit treatment staff, enabling them to stay on top of regulations, community needs, and best practices for treating addiction.



Both the NAADAC certification and FCB approval come with a commitment to supporting our staff with valuable educational resources that improve the standard of care provided to those affected by addiction.

"We are incredibly excited to provide educational credits at no cost to our counselors" says Vice President of Programs, Angela Geisinger. "As someone who began my career as a counselor, I understand the importance of continuing education in this field. It is truly an honor to be a champion for all counselors by removing financial barriers to professional development. By offering these opportunities, we are not only supporting the growth of individuals but also elevating the entire profession, ensuring that the counseling community has the skills and knowledge needed to make the most meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve."



7th Annual Adult Summit at Imperial County Day Reporting Center

Written By **Carlos Contreras, Imperial County Day Reporting Center**

The GEO Group's Imperial County Day Reporting Center (DRC) participated in the 7th Annual Adult Summit, along with Imperial County Community Connection Partners and customers, which included the Imperial County Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Public Defenders, Imperial County Courts, Behavioral Health, and many others.

The Imperial County Sheriff Department assisted in providing the Color Guard for the opening ceremony. At the start of the ceremony, Imperial County Chief, Dan Prince spoke about how the event provided resources to attendees in their community. Mr. Prince then thanked the community for providing resources and participants for using those resources. The Courts representative, Honorable Judge Nunez thanked the community for being able to help reintegrate participants into the community and providing resources to make

it accessible for the participants. Judge Nunez praised the evidence-based programs and reintegration services.

The guest speaker, Artie Gonzalez actor and motivational speaker, spoke of his previous convictions and turmoil and how he overcame his downfall and addiction to help motivate current probationers to better pursue a prosocial lifestyle and become positive members of the community.

Participants received a raffle ticket for going around and visiting the Imperial County Community Connection Partner booths. When at a community booth, the participants were required to request an item, engage in the topic, and receive a signature. Once completed, the participants would turn in the form with a completed signature and receive a raffle ticket. The raffle ticket was entered into a drawing for water bottles, bags, and bicycles.

Imperial DRC staff participated by catering the event for nearly 500 people. It required meticulous planning, coordination, and execution to ensure all guests were satisfied. The GEO Group also conducted referrals for Imperial County Community Connection Partners. When engaging with other Imperial County Community Connection Partners, staff would give a brief description of the services we provide and how The GEO Group connects participants to community resources.





Stockton Day Reporting Center Launches a Successful Mentoring Program

Written By **Gloria Alcantara,**
Stockton Day Reporting Center



Stockton Day Reporting Center (DRC) was proud to have opened its first mentoring group with 13 participants in September 2024. This initiative, led by Monique Quipp (CBT presenter), included carefully selecting mentors and setting clear expectations and agreements for the program. Suitable mentors include phase 3 participants, aftercare participants, and alumni with a good reputation, who all have stable income and housing, lead clean and sober lives, and actively contribute to the community.

The feedback from both participants and mentors was overwhelmingly positive and sparked the interest of Collaborative Courts staff, who joined the mentoring group with 15 other participants in December 2024. Stephen Chew, an alumnus, consistently supports the mentoring group in collaboration with GEO staff. Despite a difficult start to the program, Mr. Chew experienced a transformation after volunteering at the winter transition ceremony in January 2024. Inspired by the graduates' stories, he decided to share his own journey. He successfully completed the program on September 6, 2024 and volunteered as the first mentor. The Stockton DRC has committed to setting up a mentoring group once a quarter and is actively making adjustments to improve its services.

Tully House Annual End-of-the-Year Alumni Dinner

Written By **Arthur Townes,**
Tully House

In December 2024, Tully house hosted its annual End-of-the-Year Alumni dinner. In attendance were EHCA staff member, Michael Oliver, Regional Director, Melissa Craten, Facility Administrator, Paula Lord, and a representative from the NJDOC office of transitional services.

It was a joyous evening with old friends uniting, laughing, and enjoying shared food and company.

As always, the highlight was sharing information and inspiration with the current family and friends still transitioning, letting them know support is always available.



Perry County PREP Center Honors More Than 60 New Graduates

As Published in the **Alabama Political Reporter**, December 2024

Since its opening in April 2022, the Perry County Parole and Probation Reentry Education and Employment Program Center has welcomed nearly 300 graduates through its programs.

On Friday, The Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles partnered with J.F. Ingram State Technical College, state legislators and representatives from the Perry County commission to welcome more than 60 new graduates.

Assistant Director for Reentry, Rebecca Bensema, opened the ceremony by thanking everyone who supported the graduates, from family members to staff at the Perry County facility.

"You are my neighbors. We are going to be in the grocery store together. We're going to be getting gas together. We're going to be complaining about

prices together. You are going to be in the community with me. You are a part of the community, and you are an important part of Alabama," said Bensema. "Don't forget about your voting rights, and do not go back. Here is 61 reasons why parole works in the state of Alabama."

Alabama State Senator Robert Stewart also spoke to graduates about the importance of their growth and the challenges they accepted within this program. Senator Stewart currently sits on the Reentry Commission that's working to reduce recidivism in the state by half by 2030.

"This is just one chapter of a much longer book of your life," said Stewart. "You are greater than the worst thing you've ever done. Your growth is what makes our state a better place."

ABPP Director Cam Ward and Chair of the Reentry Commission gave closing remarks at the PREP Center graduation ceremony. Ward is a verbal advocate of providing individuals who were previously incarcerated with necessary provisions to succeed.

"Life will try to knock you down, but you have to get back up," said Ward. "Today's graduation symbolizes that each of you got back up."

The Perry County PREP Center is currently the only inmate rehabilitative center of its kind in Alabama. GEO Reentry provides substance use and mental health counseling and career technical training is provided through J.F. Ingram State Technical College.



Shreveport Reentry Program Helps Parolees, Probationers Change Their Lives

As Published in **KTBS, December 2024**

SHREVEPORT, La. — Parolees and probationers who've completed a life-changing reentry program are celebrating a major milestone today — they're graduating.

The Shreveport Probation and Parole Office and GEO Reentry Services helps individuals turn their lives around by preparing them for life after jail or prison.

Graduates say they're proud to have completed the program. Among them is Anthony Mandigo, one of five graduates receiving certificates today.

He served 15 years behind bars for a drug charge and was ordered by a judge to complete the reentry program or face returning to prison.

"It feels great to get my certificate. Honestly, I didn't want to do it; I had to," Mandigo said.

The program offers assistance with earning high school diplomas, finding jobs, reconnecting with family, and developing life skills. Some participants are court-mandated, while others join voluntarily through probation or parole.

Mandigo says the program helped him secure employment.

"How to be successful and what I can do with myself — not hang around the wrong crowd or people who talk about you and want to hurt you or whatever," Mandigo said.

Mandigo plans to focus on his family and stay on the right path moving forward.

The Shreveport Day Reporting Center has been transforming lives for over 11 years. It opened after the Louisiana Department

of Public Safety and Corrections selected GEO Reentry to open several statewide.

Program participants receive the ongoing treatment needed to help break cycles of criminal behavior. Classes include:

- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Employment readiness and career development
- Community Connections, including links to community service providers
- Adult Basic Education and GED prep resources and referrals
- Life skills and parenting classes
- Drug and alcohol classes

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