



COVER STORY

"GEO CONTINUUM OF CARE" RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS
"Innovation in Corrections" Award
from the American Correctional Association



Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder

"The prestigious "Innovation in Corrections" Award we received from the American Correctional Association underscores our leadership position within our industry and is a direct reflection of the steadfast commitment, dedication and professionalism our employees exhibit every day to deliver services and programs that help those in our care reenter society as productive and employable citizens."

To the GEO Family,

In early January, I was honored to accept the 2018 "Innovation in Corrections" Award on behalf of The GEO Group at the American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference in Orlando, Florida. More than two decades ago, this prestigious award was established to broaden the knowledge of successful program interventions throughout ACA and to annually recognize an outstanding correctional program.

This year, our company received this important recognition for the implementation of our "GEO Continuum of Care" at the Graceville Correctional Facility in Florida, which started as a pilot program in late 2015. Since that time, the Facility has achieved remarkable results having completed close to 900,000 hours of rehabilitation programming; awarded more than 2,900 program completions including GEDs, vocational certifications and substance abuse treatment; and conducted approximately 8,400 individual cognitive behavioral treatment sessions.

These enhanced in-custody rehabilitation efforts have been integrated with post-

release support services for the individuals being released from the Graceville Correctional Facility. Over the last two years, 617 post-release program participants have received assistance upon their return to the community with more than \$400,000 in funding being allocated for crucial community needs including housing, employment, and transportation assistance.

The implementation of our industry-leading "GEO Continuum of Care" program has also resulted in improved safety and security outcomes with the Graceville Correctional Facility achieving a 42 percent reduction in grievances filed and a 45 percent reduction in major disciplinary reports.

Since we first implemented our pilot program in late 2015, we have rolled out our "GEO Continuum of Care" programs at 14 state correctional facilities and one federal correctional institution, which are operated by GEO. More recently, we completed the development and activation of the

Ravenhall Correctional Centre in Melbourne, Australia, which will provide an unprecedented level of rehabilitation and reentry services. On a daily basis, all of our "GEO Continuum of Care" programs are positively impacting the lives of more than 17,000 individuals in our care. We've also strengthened our corporate commitment to be the world's leader in the delivery of evidence-based rehabilitation by doubling our annual company investment from \$5 million in 2016 to \$10 million in 2017 to expand our "GEO Continuum of Care" division.

The prestigious "Innovation in Corrections" Award we received from the American Correctional Association underscores our leadership position within our industry and is a direct reflection of the steadfast commitment, dedication and professionalism our employees exhibit every day to deliver services and programs that help those in our care reenter society as productive and employable citizens.

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COVER STORY

"GEO CONTINUUM OF CARE" RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS *"Innovation in Corrections" Award* from the American Correctional Association

On January 8, 2018, The GEO Group (GEO) was proud to accept the "Innovation in Corrections" Award at the American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference in Orlando, Florida. This prestigious award was presented to Dr. George C. Zoley, GEO's Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Founder by Victoria C. Myers, Chair of ACA's Correctional Awards Committee.

ACA's Correctional Awards Committee selected the "GEO Continuum of Care" program at the Graceville Correctional Facility in Florida as the ACA 2018 "Innovation in Corrections" awardee. The award was based on an independent nomination of the "GEO Continuum of Care" program, which was submitted by Dr. John Smykla, Director and Professor of the School of Criminology and Criminal

Justice at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida.

GEO launched the "GEO Continuum of Care" at Graceville Correctional Facility as a pilot program in late 2015, and over the course of two years (2016 and 2017), the Facility achieved several important milestones:

- ✓ Completed **886,170** hours of rehabilitation programming
- ✓ Awarded **553** substance abuse treatment program completions
- ✓ Awarded **1,787** behavioral program completions
- ✓ Awarded **206** faith and character program completions
- ✓ Awarded **256** vocational certifications
- ✓ Awarded **117** GEDs or high school equivalency degrees

- ✓ Completed **8,382** individual cognitive behavioral treatment sessions
- ✓ Achieved a **42%** reduction in grievances filed and a **45%** reduction in major disciplinary reports
- ✓ Assisted **617** released participants upon return to their community
- ✓ Provided **\$413,363** to support released individuals with needs in the community

The "GEO Continuum of Care" program at Graceville Correctional Facility has always been and continues to be entirely funded by The GEO Group, above and beyond its contractual requirements with the State of Florida. Following the success experienced at the Graceville Facility, the Florida Legislature allocated funding to expand the "GEO Continuum of Care" to the additional four Florida correctional facilities currently operated by GEO: Blackwater River



Correctional Facility, South Bay Correctional Facility, Moore Haven Correctional Facility, and Bay Correctional Facility.

Additionally, “GEO Continuum of Care” programs have been implemented in state correctional facilities operated by GEO in California, Arizona, Indiana, New Mexico, Virginia, and Georgia, as well as at the Federal Bureau of Prisons’ Rivers Correctional Institution, which is owned and operated by GEO in North Carolina. On a combined basis, “GEO Continuum of Care” programs are positively impacting the lives of more than 16,000 inmates on a daily basis at 15 facilities in the United States.

The goal of GEO’s in-custody rehabilitation programming is to facilitate a successful transition for individuals to daily life in their communities. GEO’s evidence-based treatment begins with individualized risks and needs assessments and offers several unique programs:

- ✓ Enhanced academic programming with the use of Smart-Board technology for interactive learning in every classroom
- ✓ Enhanced vocational training through nationally certified programs focused on future job and career opportunities
- ✓ Industry-leading Cognitive Behavioral and Substance Abuse Treatment based on nationally recognized curricula
- ✓ Faith and character based services with an emphasis on mentoring and modified therapeutic community settings

The “GEO Continuum of Care” integrates these enhanced in-custody programs with post-release support services, which entail active case managers and 24-hour support to assist individuals with the most crucial needs upon their release back into the community, including housing, employment, and transportation assistance.

At the Corporate level, GEO doubled its annual company commitment from \$5 million in 2016 to \$10 million in 2017 to expand its “GEO Continuum of Care” Division, and over the last two years, the program has achieved significant milestones:

- ✓ Completed more than **11.1** million hours of rehabilitation programming through a diverse number of programs
- ✓ Averaged approximately **12,000** daily participants in academic programs
- ✓ Awarded **4,464** GEDs or high school equivalency degrees
- ✓ Averaged more than **24,000** daily participants in vocational training programs
- ✓ Awarded **15,488** vocational training certifications
- ✓ Averaged approximately **4,000** daily participants in substance abuse treatment programs
- ✓ Awarded **16,632** substance abuse program completions

Its success in launching and implementing “GEO Continuum of Care” programs across the United States positioned GEO to develop and activate the 1,300-bed Ravenhall Correctional Centre in the State of Victoria, Australia. The \$700 million Ravenhall project, which commenced operations in November 2017, will provide unprecedented levels of in-custody rehabilitation and post-release programs aimed at reducing recidivism rates and helping offenders reintegrate into society through the “GEO Continuum of Care” including:

- ✓ More than **110** dedicated in-custody rehabilitation and programs staff and **\$30 million** in annual funding for in-prison and post-release programs
- ✓ Intensive evidence-based rehabilitation and treatment programs in group and individualized settings
- ✓ Extensive partnerships with community-based service providers to enhance the delivery of rehabilitation and post-release programming

Pictured: George C. Zoley, GEO’s Chairman, CEO and Founder, accepts the “Innovation in Corrections” Award, accompanied by GEO’s management team, Dr. John Smykla from Florida Atlantic University, and ACA President, Lannette Linthicum.



Heritage Trail Earns "GEO Continuum of Care" Certification

Written By **Tilmer E. Paulson, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

On October 12, 2017, Divisional Vice President of "GEO Continuum Of Care" David Burch visited the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility and proudly presented Warden Donnie Emerson and the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility with the "GEO Continuum of Care" certification.

The process began in October 2015 with a new facility mission. Changes were made to the 104-year-old programming building to make for a more comfortable learning experience for the students. The facility soon after implemented data

entry into the GEOtrack system. Next, the facility greatly expanded its academic, vocational, and certification programs such as ServSafe, Customer Service Gold, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-Hour Construction Industry Outreach Training program, Forklift, and CPR/ first aid.

Heritage Trail Correctional Facility also expanded its religious services by updating the Faith and Character based unit curriculum, partnering with the Kairos Prison Ministries,

and implementing the Men of Honor program developed by released Heritage Trail Correctional Facility inmates.

Programming and Case Management staff attended comprehensive training provided by "GEO Continuum Of Care" staff. Following training, they were able to implement procedures for assessment, begin one-on-one individual cognitive based therapy sessions, develop better referral processes for evidence-based programs, greatly enhance transition planning, update pre-

release programming, and connect with post-release support services.

The "GEO Continuum of Care" certification was awarded following a comprehensive review from Divisional Vice President of "GEO Continuum Of Care" David Burch and his staff in 2017.

Pictured from left to right: Deputy Warden Dan Leflore, Divisional Vice President of "GEO Continuum Of Care" David Burch, Warden Donald Emerson, and Chief of Security Shad Rice (currently the Assistant Warden of Operations at Blackwater River Correctional Facility).

6 ACA ACCREDITED GEO FACILITIES

At the January 2018 American Correctional Association (ACA) conference held in Orlando, Florida, six GEO facilities received ACA reaccreditation. ACA established a national accreditation process to improve professionalism in corrections and reentry. There are currently 64 GEO facilities that have received ACA accreditation. GEO's facilities are always praised for their commitment to high operational standards. Pictured are ACA Commissioners Michael Wade, Lisa Stapleton, Owen Murray, along with Daniel Ragsdale, GEO Executive Vice President, Contract Compliance, and Catherine Price, GEO Director of ACA Accreditation and each GEO facility team. Congratulations!



100%
Blackwater River
Correctional Facility



99.6%
LaSalle ICE
Processing Center



100%
Leidel Residential
Reentry Center



99.8%
Reeves County
Detention Center III



100%
Tacoma ICE
Processing Center



100%
Rivers Correctional
Institution

David Donahue Awarded the 2017 Louie Wainwright Award



Pictured: ASCA President Leann Bertsch presented the 2017 Louie Wainwright Award to Dave Donahue, Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations at The GEO Group.

At the January 2018 American Correctional Association (ACA) conference held in Orlando, Florida, David Donahue, Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations at The GEO Group, was proudly awarded the 2017 Louie Wainwright Award for 'Outstanding Contributions to Corrections by an ASCA Associate.'

In 2004, the Louie Wainwright Award was created to recognize outstanding contributions to corrections by an Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) Associate who has exemplified the professional standards espoused by Mr. Wainwright. No ASCA Associate has been more successful in directing an agency nor given so much to the profession as the revered Louie Wainwright who, for twenty-five years of continuous service, served as Secretary of the Florida Department of Corrections. After his service, he continued to contribute to corrections via Wainwright Judicial Services, a criminal justice consulting firm based in Tallahassee, Florida, and the Corrections Foundation of Florida, a non-profit entity serving the Florida Department of Corrections with more than 25,000 members.

ASCA President Leann Bertsch presented the distinguished award to Mr. Donahue. Leann Bertsch stated, "Equally impressive to Mr. Donahue's resume are his many contributions to the field of corrections. Mr. Donahue currently serves as Vice President of ACA. Additionally, he is an ACA-certified correctional manager and a member of ACA's restrictive housing sub-committee. He is an active member of ACA, a steadfast supporter of ASCA, and deserving of this great honor."



PREA Milestones

Look How Far We Have Come

Written By **Phebia Moreland,**
Contract Compliance, Corporate

Since the national Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards were implemented on August 20, 2012, GEO took an aggressive approach to prevention, detection, and responding to allegations of sexual abuse and sexual harassment within its facilities. In 2013, GEO dedicated a full-time Corporate PREA Coordinator, responsible for overseeing GEO's compliance with the PREA standards in all required corrections, reentry, and youth services facilities. Each required facility designated a PREA Compliance Manager responsible for implementation and coordination efforts to comply with the PREA standards and law. GEO's Contract Compliance department developed PREA policies and auditing tools and began preparing for the PREA certification process at its facilities. All facility staff received specialized training and in-custody individuals and residents received orientation during intake and extended education on PREA requirements. All facilities received a two-to-three day technical assist visit and a mock PREA audit prior to undergoing a certification audit with an independent auditor certified by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

From GEO's first certification audit in April 2014 to present, GEO facilities continue to excel and receive PREA certification. August 19, 2016, marked the end of the first three-year audit cycle since the national PREA standards were implemented. August 20, 2016, began the first recertification audit year for many agencies. Auditors were better prepared and trained this time around and recertification audits became more stringent as the DOJ strengthened its auditor certification process and training curriculum. In 2017, seventeen GEO facilities were audited for recertification (eleven U.S. corrections, five reentry, and one youth facility). Eleven of the seventeen facilities recertified this year met all standards and received accolades for exceeding the required standards. 2017 also marked another PREA milestone for GEO's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. In January, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) launched their PREA certification process. ICE chooses the certification audit dates and auditors, unlike the DOJ process. This past year, eight of GEO's ICE facilities were selected by ICE for initial PREA certification, and the other four will be audited for initial certification in 2018.

To date, GEO has successfully certified seventy-one facilities (forty adult facilities, three detention facilities, eighteen reentry adult community facilities, and six youth facilities which all fall under DOJ standards and four adult facilities which fall under DHS standards). Certified facilities met all standards and often were identified as having exceeded requirements. These certifications demonstrate operational excellence and full commitment to GEO's zero tolerance philosophy and the DOJ and DHS National standards to prevent, detect, and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within GEO's facilities.

On April 5, 2017, GEO acquired Community Education Centers (CEC) and all of these facilities were PREA certified under CEC. All former CEC facilities are currently transitioning their PREA programs to the GEO protocols and will be recertified under the new protocols beginning April 2018. Congratulations to the Wardens, Facility Directors, PREA Compliance Managers, and staff at all PREA certified facilities for a job well done. Special thank you to all corporate and regional staff who continue to support GEO's zero tolerance philosophy. A complete list of all PREA compliant facilities and their final audit reports can be found on GEO's public website at: www.geogroup.com/PREA_Certification_Information



KCRC Celebrates Fire Prevention Week

Written By **Kourtney Standlee,**
Karnes County Residential Center

On October 13, 2017, the Karnes County Residential Center participated in Fire Prevention Week with the local volunteer fire department from Karnes City, Texas, visiting the Center. The fire department brought fire apparatus and a brush fire truck for the children to see. Approximately 225 children from the classrooms participated in stop, drop, and roll, detecting smoke in a building, talking to firefighters, and viewing the fire equipment.



NCCF Supports Special Olympics

Written By **Derek Powell,**
New Castle Correctional Facility

On November 18, 2017, New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) sponsored a bowling team for the 4th annual Strikes for Special Olympics in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the Woodland Bowl. The team consisted of Case Manager Derek Powell, Captain Paul Williams, Officer Jonathan Gilmer, and Officer Matt Laurie. After two games, the scores were tallied and the NCCF's team received second place. Approximately \$17,000 was raised for the Indiana Special Olympics.

Pine Prairie Staff Participate in Savoy Breast Cancer Awareness 5K

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center**



On Saturday, October 14, 2017, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center staff participated in the 11th annual Savoy Breast Cancer Awareness Walk/5K, bringing home a second place trophy for 'Most Team Members Participating' and a second place trophy for 'Most Team Spirit.'

Unfortunately, cancer has affected almost everyone we know in one way or another. Thank you to our survivors Assistant Warden Alfonso Castillo, Assistant Warden of Finance and Administration Hollie Carrier, Case Manager Sheila Dominick, and to all the staff and family members who participated in the walk helping to raise funds and awareness for a worthy cause. A special thank you to Martha Richard for organizing the event and group.

NENMDF Donates Ceremonial Bugle to Wreaths Across America

Written By **Judy Steen, Wreaths Across American Coordinator**



Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility recently donated a beautiful ceremonial bugle to be used for events for Wreaths Across America (WAA), veteran funerals, and patriotic memorial services. The bugle was used on September 11, 2017, for the memorial ceremony at the Clayton Chamber Park. The ceremonial bugle is a dignified method of playing Taps at a military funeral when a live bugler is not available for military funeral ceremonies. The ceremonial bugle has an electronic insert that enables an individual to symbolically play Taps, a more respectful means to honor those who served.

Pictured: Veteran Ronnie Steen, GEO Employee Eli Fuller, GEO family member and WAA Clayton Coordinator Judy Steen, Assistant Warden and veteran Donald Vigil, Correctional Technician and veteran Lloyd Moore, veteran and Lieutenant John Herrera, veteran and WAA-Clayton Coordinator David Drumm, and veteran and WAA Clayton Coordinator Freddie Rael.

Moon and Stars! Star Party IV at Central Valley MCCF

Written By **David Davenport, Central Valley MCCF**



At Central Valley MCCF, "GEO Continuum of Care" programming includes special science education in astronomy. The night sky of November 22, 2017 was the subject of the fourth star party in McFarland, California. The Moon and eight first-magnitude stars were the main events of the activity. The Moon was a waxing crescent, with 18% of the disc illuminated. The bright stars were in the constellations of the Eagle, the Swan, the Lyre, the Southern Fish, the Chariot, the Bull (Taurus), and the Hunter (Orion). Like other events in the past year, this sky-watching experience included the use of celestial charts, a marine sextant system, books and models about astronomy. In addition, astronomy DVDs by PBS/Nova were viewed between hands-on outdoor sessions. The films presented the work of amateur astronomers and described the four-hundred year history of the telescope. This three-hour experience supported the Astronomy Science parts of the academic programs for English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, and High School Equivalency-General Educational Development academic classes.

This event was made possible by Warden Gerald Morris, Assistant Warden Gerard Brochu, and Education and Programs Manager Sabrina Aguilar. Participating inmate-students were from the classes of four academic instructors including Ms. Gallegos, Mr. Gillem, Mr. Cantu, and Mr. Davenport. Inmate-tutors with astronomy expertise provided assistance with astronomy binoculars and celestial navigational tools. Security for the event was provided by Lieutenant Lucas Spray and Chief Eric Perez.

Pictured left to right: Above: Ms. Sabrina Aguilar, Warden Gerald Morris, and Instructor Mr. Cantu with astronomy instruments and resources. **Below:** Inmate-student getting a close view of the Moon's craters, maria, and terminus, using a 15-power astronomy binoculars that capture 100-times more light than the human eye. Marine sextant system, exact-time clock, artificial horizon, and a copy of the U.S. Navy's Nautical Almanac.



KCRC Staff Support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Written By **Kourtney Standlee, Karnes County Residential Center**

On October 27, 2017, the Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes City, Texas, proudly participated in their annual 'Wear It Pink Friday' and wore pink shirts in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the second most common kind of cancer among women. About one-in-eight women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer.



Central Valley MCCF Partners with the Mexican Consulate to Promote Education

Written By **Sabrina Aguilar, Central Valley MCCF**

Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF) has successfully taken the steps necessary to form a partnership with the National Institute for Adult Education (INEA). INEA offers correctional institutions, school districts, universities, and other organizations that promote the importance of education the opportunity to initiate what is known as a Community Plaza. A Community Plaza is an organization that has been authorized by the Mexican Consulate to provide basic literacy, primary, and secondary educational resources.

The Work Program's goal is to encourage, promote, and operate educational services for adults, fifteen years of age and older, pursuant to the educational strategy of the Community Plaza. Participants may advance through the educational levels at their own pace to earn a nationally recognized diploma. The diploma is especially resourceful to Mexican nationals and men in-custody with active immigration holds as their diploma will provide further educational and employment opportunities upon release.

On November 30, 2017, Ms. Karla Paramo and Mr. Santiago Cortes-Alcocer joined Warden Gerald Morris, Assistant Warden Gerard Brochu, Education/Programs Manager Sabrina Aguilar, and Academic Instructor Angelica Gallegos to sign the final documents signifying the agreement between both entities. Central Valley MCCF is appreciative of the continued assistance of the Mexican Consulate staff, who have made this collaboration possible. The Facility looks forward to further promoting education amongst the population.

Pictured left to right: Education/Programs Manager Sabrina Aguilar, Warden Gerald Morris, Academic Instructor Angelica Gallegos, Santiago Cortes-Alcocer, and Karla Paramo.

Honoring Our Veterans

Written By **Nicole Allen,**
Western Region Detention Facility

The end of year at Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF) becomes a customary time to remember our veterans and honor the many men and women who served in the armed forces. We are reminded of their personal sacrifices in the protection of our freedoms and the defense of our nation. For this we remain forever grateful. We at the WRDF are fortunate in that we live in a military community and many of our staff members have served in one of the branches of service.

To honor our veterans, we have chosen one staff member, Mr. Pat Thomas, to highlight for his exemplary service to our nation. Correctional Counselor Mr. Pat Thomas began his employment at The GEO Group in June 2000. Mr. Thomas was enlisted in the Armed Forces from August 1973 to August 1994. During his twenty years of service, he worked as a Sonar Technician aboard the USS Sellers DDG-11, USS Stein FF-1065, USS Fanning FF-1076, and USS Meyerkord FF-1058. Mr. Thomas was stationed in Pearl Harbor, HI, Charleston, SC, San Francisco, CA, and finally San Diego, CA. At the time of his retirement, Mr. Thomas was a Chief Petty Officer (E-7). Pat, as he is called by many of the staff at WRDF, continues to serve the military by being a mentor and working with other veterans in his community. He serves in the Veterans Ministry within his church where he seeks out veterans in need of services and assistance. When asked what he liked most about his time in the service he stated, "I felt great pride in wearing my uniform, especially off base. There was a real positive connection with people in the community. When I encountered times that were often stressful, I remembered our flag, which is what we all represented and felt honored to make a difference."



A GEO Opportunity Transforms a Life

Written By **Shannon Hilton,**
Arizona State Prison-Kingman

Correctional Officer Andrew Emanuel was one of the early recruits at Arizona State Prison-Kingman (Kingman). In late 2015, when Mr. Emanuel learned about job opportunities with The GEO Group, he was unemployed, homeless, and did not own a vehicle. Mr. Emanuel was living in the Kingman Cornerstone Mission, a shelter for homeless men. Mr. Emanuel read about a job fair being conducted in town, so he walked to attend the event. To his surprise, Kingman was the only employer interviewing, and was recruiting for Correctional Officers. Mr. Emanuel's initial reaction was uncertainty about this line of work. Human Resources (HR) staff convinced him to apply, and he eventually started in the Correctional Officer Training Academy in February 2016. Because Mr. Emanuel lacked transportation, HR organized for various staff to help him with rides to and from the facility. By the end of the eight-week training, Mr. Emanuel had earned enough money to purchase a car and to move into an apartment. Since that time, he has served faithfully as a dedicated Correctional Officer at Kingman. Mr. Emanuel reflected on the opportunity GEO provided to better his life, "I am especially thankful to HR staff member Kristin Schwartzkopf and to all GEO staff for helping me turn my life around. GEO has made a huge difference in my life."



Shannon Weller's Passion For Helping Children

Written By **Eileen Roth, Corporate**

Shannon Weller, a Paralegal at GEO's Corporate Office in Boca Raton, Florida, loves helping children. Since 2015, she has volunteered for the 20th Judicial Circuit Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program. A GAL is a trained and certified court-appointed volunteer who advocates objectively and solely for the best interests of abused, abandoned, or neglected children. She is the voice for a child in the courtroom since they cannot speak on their own behalf. Shannon was the GAL for one special 11-year-old girl, whose foster parents adopted her after two and a half years. That day in the courtroom, the family didn't give her the gift of life, but life gave them the gift of her. There wasn't a dry eye in the courtroom.

Shannon hosted the GAL Christmas Drive for the past three years, collecting donations to buy items on the children's wish lists. She has sponsored fifty-two GAL children. Shannon also volunteers for Friends of Foster Children of Palm Beach County (FFC) and was appointed to the Board of Directors in August 2017. Shannon spearheads her own charity drives such as Easter baskets, emergency backpack bundles, and Halloween costumes, which she delivers to FFC. She depends on her network of family, friends, and anyone who can contribute money, clothing, and toys. Shannon has been a 'Wish Granter' for the Make a Wish Foundation (MAW) since 2014. 'Wish Granters' conduct an interview with a MAW child and family to determine the child's one special wish. Shannon has granted nineteen wishes to date! Shannon stated her goal is to make a difference in the lives of others. Her dedication for helping children has become a life-changing experience that is now part of who she is and how she chooses to live her life.

Customer Audit Celebration at CACF

Written By **Helen Kline, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**



Pictured left to right: Correctional Program Officer Sherry Barkley, Correctional Officer Dale Heath, Correctional Program Supervisor Christle Gordon, and Records Technician Joe Nasal.

Central Arizona Correctional Facility's (CACF) goal was to reduce the number of findings from the previous year's customer audit by 50%. The staff immediately began preparing the facility for the upcoming audit. After the audit was complete, it became apparent that staff's hard work had paid off. The goal of a 50% reduction in findings was not only met, but it was exceeded. To date, CACF has achieved the highest audit score in the state. On November 8, 2017, CACF proudly celebrated the results of the audit with a cook out.

LaSalle's Thanksgiving Food Drive Help Feed Seniors in Their Community

Written By **Lindsey Vercher**, LaSalle ICE Processing Center



Pictured left to right: Back row: Gary Cloud, Becky Francis, Melinda Parker, Crystal Cripps, Tonya Adams, and Kenneth Gurganus. **Front row:** Ashley Aric, Lindsey Vercher, Tricia Mackey, Corrie Roark, Kelsey Villemarette, and Brenda Sullivan.

LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LIPC) staff members dedicated their time and efforts to making their 2017 Thanksgiving food drive a notable success. In Louisiana, 23% of seniors, nearly one-in-four, face the threat of hunger. This ranks Louisiana as the second worst state for senior hunger. In 2017, LIPC successfully donated twenty baskets to elderly residents of LaSalle Parish. The facility is dedicated to giving back to the LaSalle Parish community. LIPC donated a variety of canned items, twenty turkeys, their time, and helped personally deliver the baskets to the residents in the community. LIPC could not have completed this heartwarming task without the help of its dedicated employees.

ASP-Florence West Supports ADOC Fallen Employee Memorial

Written By **Jennifer Glispie**, Arizona State Prison-Florence West



On behalf of The GEO Group Foundation, Arizona State Prison-Florence West Warden Rick Mauldin presented a \$9,000 check to John Hallahan and Stan Bates on November 15, 2017. The donation will go towards the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC) Fallen Employee Memorial. The memorial is designated to be located near the ADOC Central office buildings in Phoenix, Arizona. The GEO Group will be honored by having three 8x8 pavers and two planter benches engraved with the company name. There have been twelve ADOC employees who have lost their lives in service. Now, their honorable service and ultimate sacrifice will be forever commemorated with this special memorial dedicated to their memory. The committee is hopeful to complete construction of the memorial by May 2018.

Golden State MCCF

Milestones Paved in History – 2017 Accomplishments

Written By **Dan Meyer,**
Golden State MCCF



Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility (GSMCCF) made major strides in 2017 in its quest to rehabilitate individuals housed in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) system. Over the course of 2017, GSMCCF added many programs which went above and beyond the usual contractual requirements. Most noteworthy of these was the addition of on-site college instruction through Bakersfield College.

GSMCCF became a pilot facility CDCR selected to launch classes similar to classes offered to the general public. The participants achieved an astounding 100% passing rate. 86% of those participants received a letter grade of A. The percentage of those who achieved an A climbed even higher during the summer session to 93%.

GSMCCF had a large enrollment of individuals who participated in College Distance Learning classes offered through Coastline College and several other colleges which translated into a total of 167 students

enrolled in college classes. This amounted to approximately 24% of GSMCCF's population taking college classes.

In 2017, GSMCCF had a total of fifty-nine GED/HiSET completions and 250 vocational certificates issued.

Another new program offered was through a local training facility called Westside Energy Services Training and Education Center (WESTEC). The Training For Success program was an instant success as it certified participants in various industry standard certifications and can be used to help the participants become employed upon their release from custody.

Other equally important certification programs offered at GSMCCF include Certiport computer certification, National Center for Construction and Education Research (NCCER) certification, and Janitorial certification through Clean Check Training System. GSMCCF also started several Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups (ILTAG) including a music program called Mixed Company, an art program called Art Works, a Malachi

Dads faith-based program, a Prison Fellowship faith-based program, a Celebrate Recovery Inside faith-based program, a Criminal Gang Anonymous (CGA) program, and a job fair/provider fair for individuals who are not enrolled in the reentry program.

GSMCCF's "GEO Continuum of Care" (CoC) program had an increasing growth of enrollments during 2017. Since its inception in mid-2015, GSMCCF's CoC program had seventy-five graduates in 2015, 359 graduates in 2016, and 429 graduates in 2017, for a grand total of 863 graduates in two and a half years.

'Men of Excellence' awards increased to nineteen graduates who successfully completed at least four classes in the CoC Reentry program. In October 2017, GSMCCF held its first CoC barbecue for 140 men. GSMCCF CoC also held its first job/provider fair for reentry participants and its first Performance Accountability Review (PAR) for the program. Both events were extremely successful with many

compliments received from the PAR auditors.

In November 2017, GSMCCF honored their veterans. Veterans included thirty-six inmates and six staff members who were presented with certificates of service and treated to a luncheon while Mixed Company, the facility's ILTAG band, performed a musical showing.

In December 2017, the CoC population created Christmas cards for staff to distribute to the community's convalescent residents. Christmas cards donated to the facility were distributed to the inmate population by the Chaplain.

It was fitting for GSMCCF to close out 2017 on a high note for staff as well. In its first ACA reaccreditation audit, GSMCCF received a score of 98.6% and a virtual score of 100%. GSMCCF recorded many milestones and achievements in 2017 with many more to come in 2018.



Riverbend Correctional Facility Offers NCCER Accredited Vocational Program

Written By **Beth Greene, Riverbend Correctional Facility**

Riverbend Correctional Facility has become one of The GEO Group's first NCCER (National Center for Construction, Education, and Research) certified facilities. This certification allows Riverbend Correctional Facility to provide a nationally accredited curriculum to their heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) students. Once the students graduate from the program, the students will receive a nationally recognized trade certificate.

NCCER is a nationally accredited, non-profit organization. The organization has a core curriculum for most trades in the construction industry that must be passed in order to advance to the vocational training. This core curriculum transfers to any trade certification within NCCER that students might pursue in the future.

Riverbend Correctional Facility students are currently enrolled in the HVAC level one program. Upon successful completion, they will earn a certificate as a HVAC Technician Apprentice. In December 2017, Riverbend Correctional Facility had a successful inaugural graduation.

Congratulations to Instructor William Burgamy on becoming a certified NCCER instructor and to Program Director Beth Greene on becoming a certified NCCER curriculum proctor. Students are excited about the program and are standing in line hoping to get into the next class!

Pictured left to right: Instructor William Burgamy and Curriculum Proctor Beth Greene. HVAC students participating in hands-on lab.



Warden Ramos Speaks at Elementary School

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center**

On October 5, 2017, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Warden Indalecio Ramos had the pleasure of speaking at the Pine Prairie Elementary School during the Fire Safety and Prevention Week.

Warden Indalecio Ramos shared the importance of making the right decision and being kind to others. He also shared his story of how he started as a Correctional Officer. The Warden explained that with his diligence and dedication, he worked his way up to now being the Warden at Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center. Warden Indalecio Ramos expressed the importance of hard work and empathy towards others. As he stated, "Harsh words are like a fire, the burn will heal, but the mark will be forever there."

Pictured:

Warden Indalecio Ramos guest speaking at Pine Prairie Elementary School.

Use of Criminal Thinking Scales in Correctional Setting

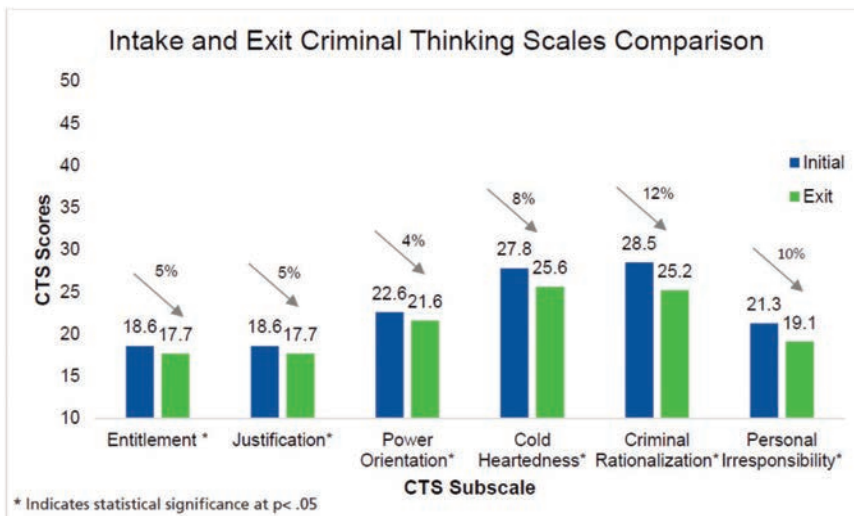
Written By Jason Boggs & Kasia Kijanczuk,
 GEO Continuum of Care Research Department, Corporate

Providing rehabilitation programming within our correctional facilities is only one step in assisting individuals to change their behavior. One of the most complex criminogenic needs that most of our participants exhibit is criminal thinking. Although we offer a plethora of curricula that address an individual's criminal thinking and skills to overcome this behavior, oftentimes it takes time to see positive results.

One way to measure how effective our programming is on positively impacting criminal thinking within our participants' progress is by administering the Criminal Thinking Scales (CTS) assessment.

The Criminal Thinking Scales instrument, developed by the Texas Christian University, is a two page, 37-item assessment tool designed to measure levels of cold-heartedness, criminal rationalization, entitlement, justification, power orientation, and personal irresponsibility within an individual. This assessment provides a gauge for an individual's degree of criminal thinking and therefore, their risk of future reoffending. Optimal use of the Criminal Thinking Scales assessment is to administer it at the onset of rehabilitation efforts and then once more towards the end of the intervention, allowing for some months to pass in-between assessments. With the ability to administer the assessment in a group or individual setting, and the ease of scoring, the Criminal Thinking Scales assessment is ideal for correctional use within both prisons and reentry facilities.

Below is an example of the results we obtained earlier this year from Lumberton CRV located in North Carolina. As can be seen, we found a reduction in criminal thinking achieved after 2-3 months of programming.



Indiana Attorney General Visits New Castle

Written By Myra Strobel,
 New Castle Correctional Facility

New Castle Correctional Facility was honored to accept a visit from the Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill on August 30, 2017. Attorney General Curtis Hill met with New Castle Correctional Facility leadership to discuss current events and facility goals before taking a tour of the facility. He commented on the high sanitation standards of the facility and professionalism of staff. Attorney General Curtis Hill was presented with a one-of-a-kind handmade quilt and quilt holder made by New Castle Correctional Facility participants in the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) program and vocational building maintenance class. The quilt noted his alma mater, Indiana University in Bloomington and his home city of Elkhart.

Pictured left to right: Warden Keith Butts and Attorney General Curtis Hill with quilt.

Heritage Trail Holds Second Graduation for the Men of Honor Program

Written By **James Parvin, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**



In September 2017, the Men of Honor program piloted at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF), held its second graduation in which eleven new graduates received their certificates. In addition, thirty new participants were welcomed into the program during the ceremony.

The Men of Honor Outreach Ministry is a faith-based program that began in October 2016 by former offender Reginald Smith. The men are taught to be self-sufficient, positive role models, and leaders in their homes and communities. The program provides jobs and other support to recently graduated and released individuals. The program currently partners with the Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, and the Indiana Plan to provide employment opportunities to the participants.

Alexandria Staging Facility Supports Local Hospital in Louisiana

Written By **Marlene Womble-Williams, Alexandria Staging Facility**



On November 7, 2017, on behalf of The GEO Group Foundation, Alexandria Staging Facility selected the children at CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital as the recipients of a \$500 donation. Children's Miracle Network (CMN) at CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital will utilize these funds to provide life-saving services and equipment for children in the neonatal intensive care unit, Pediatric Therapy Center, and seventeen rural School-Based Health Centers for the local children in Central Louisiana. CMN takes pride in keeping the funds within the community in which they are raised.

Pictured from left to right: Alexandria Staging Facility's Project Administrator Joseph Young, Christus St. Frances Cabrini Health System Program Manager Kellie Flynn Freebeck, and Alexandria Staging Facility's Executive Secretary Marlene Womble-Williams.

Hurricane Evacuation Missions

*Delivering safe and secure transportation,
with service second to none!*

Written By **Randall Henderson, GTI Corporate**



The 2017 hurricane season was a hyperactive and extremely destructive season. Communities from Texas to Florida and nearly the entire eastern seaboard were affected. GEO's in-house transportation division, GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) units, assigned to each facility, along with many others from facilities throughout central Texas, were mobilized to carry out the transfer of over 2,000 individuals in-custody.

Hurricane Harvey was scheduled to come ashore in south Texas on August 25, 2017, at night. The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) ordered the evacuation of Coastal Bend Detention Center (CBDC) the morning of August 24, 2017. A transport team comprised of sixteen vehicles and forty GTI staff members was assembled to complete this mission. The team consisted of vehicles and staff from CBDC, Joe Corley ICE Processing Center (JCIPC), Rio Grande Detention Center, and South Texas ICE Processing Center (STIPC). GTI staff successfully relocated 483 USMS individuals to other GEO facilities. The individuals were moved on sixteen vehicles that traveled 5,575 miles without any incidents.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also made the decision to evacuate all ICE individuals from the Karnes Correctional Center (KCC) and Karnes County Residential Center (KCRC). Combined, GTI staff members relocated 275 residents and individuals in-custody, on ten vehicles that traveled 1,761 miles round-trip without any incidents. With ongoing flooding in Houston, Texas, from Hurricane Harvey, GEO Care requested assistance to evacuate the Leidel Comprehensive Sanction Center, which had 147 inmates. A team of five vehicles and ten GTI staff members from JCIPC was assigned to the mission. On August 30, 2017, all 147 individuals were evacuated to JCIPC without any incidents.

Hurricane Irma was pending a direct hit and the path continued up the eastern coastline of Florida, which impacted Broward Transition Center (BTC). The decision by ICE to evacuate was relayed to BTC and GTI staff on September 5, 2017. There were 695 individuals to be relocated to other locations. A GTI team comprised of twenty-five GTI staff members was assigned to complete this mission. The individuals were moved on four GTI vehicles which traveled round-trip to two different airports with no incidents. Originally, Folkston ICE Processing Center (FIPC) was designated as a destination point for individuals evacuated from Florida for Hurricane Irma. On September 6-7, 2017, two missions consisting of eight vehicles and sixteen GTI staff members transported a total of 234 individuals from the Orlando ICE office and transported them back to FIPC. On September 7, 2017, ICE made the decision to evacuate FIPC to Houston, Texas, via ICE air operations. The two missions consisted of ten GTI vehicles and twenty GTI staff members successfully transporting 267 individuals over 800 miles without incident. Food services provided meals for the flight.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma required several facility evacuations and relocations of individuals in-custody. When called into action, over 130 GTI staff members responded swiftly and efficiently resulting in the safe and secure movement of approximately 2,100 individuals on short notice. The hard-working GTI staff truly upheld the GTI motto of "Delivering safe and secure transportation, with service second to none!"



Central Arizona Correctional Facility Donates to Local Army National Guard

Written By **Helen Kline,**
Central Arizona Correctional Facility

Recently, Central Arizona Correctional Facility participated in a state-wide military care package program. To encourage participation, Central Arizona Correctional Facility had a friendly competition between each shift to see which group could bring in the most items. Additionally, Central Arizona Correctional Facility received a large donation of candy and cookies from a local church which was donated to the local Army National Guard.

Pictured left to right:
Donations to the National Guard:
Lieutenant Eric Mendiola and Kurt Lingle.



Kingman Helps Lead Community Event

Written By **Shannon Hilton, Arizona State Prison-Kingman**

On October 18, 2017, staff from the Arizona State Prison-Kingman (Kingman) participated in a community event titled "Walk Against Drugs for a Safer Community." The event was the 11th annual walk which was organized by the Kingman Coalition Against Drugs. Over 2,000 participants started walking simultaneously from various start points in the City of Kingman and all came together at Centennial Park to enjoy listening to guest speakers and music.

At the park, Kingman staff were well equipped at the GEO booth with GEO promotional items and more than 2,000 bags of popcorn and cotton candy. The GEO booth was definitely a popular site for all walkers to visit. All 2,000 bags of popcorn and cotton candy were issued in less than an hour. Staff enjoyed the positive effort to connect with many community citizens on a note-worthy cause. Kingman is already planning for next year's 12th annual walk. Kingman staff and the Kingman Coalition Against Drugs are very appreciative of The GEO Group Foundation's donation to this positive community event.

Pictured left to right: Executive Assistant Shannon Hilton, Correctional Officer Tim Eyer, Correctional Officer Michael Von Laurus, Human Resources Specialist Kristin Schwartzkopf, Executive Secretary Susan Gregory, Case Management Supervisor Yvonne Rydgren, and Deputy Warden Nick Pastella.

Central Arizona Correctional Facility Hosts Chili Cook-Off

Written By **Helen Kline, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**



Pictured left to right: Winner of the Chili cook-off: Training Manager Jesse Burns and Warden Bennie Rollins. Winner for the spookiest dessert: Substance Abuse Counselor Amie Romero and Warden Bennie Rollins.

On October 31, 2017, Central Arizona Correctional Facility held a chili cook-off and spookiest dessert competition. Staff eagerly brought in their chili and desserts for other staff to try. This event allowed staff from all departments to share a meal together and vote for their favorites. Staff with the winning dishes were presented with a plaque or certificate. Winner of the chili cook-off was awarded to Training Manager Jesse Burns and the winner for the spookiest dessert was awarded to Substance Abuse Counselor Amie Romero.



NCCF's Correctional Officer Honored by IDOC Commissioner

Written By **Roy Davis,
New Castle Correctional Facility**

New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) Officer Dallas Racine was recently honored with the Indiana Department Of Correction's (IDOC) 'Officer of the Year' award at the Fall Leadership Symposium.

His actions during an incident that occurred on May 20, 2017, at NCCF were highlighted. Officer Dallas Racine was posted on perimeter patrol that night when he witnessed two offenders climb over a slow-down fence near the track area and were walking along the fence.

He immediately alerted supervisory staff and closely followed the offenders.

His actions prevented what could have been a serious security breach.

Deputy Commissioner James Basinger stated that Officer Dallas Racine exemplifies the true meaning of being a dedicated Correctional Officer.

Pictured left to right:
Warden Keith Butts, Correctional Officer Dallas Racine, and IDOC Deputy Commissioner James Basinger.

WRDF Participates in Annual 'Light The Night' 5K Run

Written By **Nicole Allen,**
**Western Region
Detention Facility**

This year, staff at the Western Region Detention Facility participated in the 31st Crime Stoppers 'Light the Night Against Crime' 5K run which took place at the beautiful Liberty Station in San Diego.

GEO has been participating in this event since 2002. Staff and their families were able to enjoy fun booths, exhibits, post-race party, and great food. Crime Stoppers operates an anonymous tip hotline where citizens can call with information on any felony crime or suspected criminal activity. Hundreds of tips are shared every month and over the past thirty-one years, approximately 6,000 cases were solved because of the information received. It gives the public a safe place to do the right thing without having to face potential retribution. Western Region Detention Facility is proud to support the non-profit organization and do our part in keeping San Diego safe.



GEO's New Castle Correctional Facility Supports Local Indiana High Schools

Written By **Myra Strobel,** **New Castle Correctional Facility**

In 2017, The GEO Group's New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) proudly donated \$32,000 to four local high school scholarship funds. This year's recipients included New Castle High School, Blue River Valley Junior-Senior High School, Tri Junior-Senior High School, and Knightstown High School, all located in Henry County, Indiana. NCCF Warden Keith Butts enjoys visiting each school to speak with staff and students while touring the grounds. The visits allow him the opportunity to see the school's achievements, struggles, and future goals. Each school has the opportunity to decide which students will receive the scholarship.

Pictured left to right: *New Castle High School Principal Chris Walker with Warden Keith Butts. Blue River Valley High School Principal Adam Perdue with Warden Keith Butts.*



Rivers Correctional Institution Attends Scholarship Banquet

Written By **Deborah S. Gatling,**
Rivers Correctional Institution

On November 2, 2017, Rivers Correctional Institution (RCI) attended the Chowan University 15th annual Scholarship Luncheon held in Murfreesboro, North Carolina. The event allowed scholarship donors the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the students directly impacted by their generous giving. RCI has been awarding scholarships to colleges and local high schools for more than six years. These scholarship events encourage social responsibility and community support. Donors share stories of why they donate to student scholarships and the students share how the scholarship assistance is empowering them to strive for their dreams and goals.

Pictured left to right: *Recipient Courtney O'Keefe, Recipient Daniel Boddie, Rivers Correctional Institution Executive Secretary Deborah Gatling, Recipient Marquez Alston, and Rivers Correctional Institution Education Director Horatio Douglas.*

Preserve Your Health or Lose Your Wealth

Put Your Money Where Your Health Is

Written By **Susan Napolitano, Corporate Human Resources**

Anyone who has ever worked on cars or spent a large sum of money getting their car repaired will tell you not to use cheap motor oil and to get preventive maintenance. The basics, like changing your car's engine oil, checking your tire pressure, and getting scheduled inspections, can catch anything serious before it becomes a major problem, requiring expensive repairs. The same holds true for your body and your overall health.

The basics of good health include what fuel you put in your body, regular physical activity, and getting preventive check-ups. Remember, preventive doctor visits are covered 100% by your company benefits, but a prolonged hospital stay can wipe out your savings and quickly erase your wealth. **Staying healthy is cheaper than getting healthy.** So, if you **take action now** by eating healthy foods, committing to daily exercise, and staying up to date on recommended medical screenings, you will spend more time enjoying your life, hobbies, and family, and less time in doctor offices spending your money on co-pays, tests, treatments, prescriptions, and more.

Preserving Health as You Age

Keeping your car running great, even when the mileage goes into the high six-figures, is very possible. The same is true of our bodies; as we age, our joints stiffen and muscles weaken, body fat increases, energy decreases, and obesity results in numerous chronic conditions. It's substantially less expensive to prevent than it is to treat an illness, thus making healthy lifestyle choices now and catching illnesses early becomes increasingly important to aging well. Making healthy lifestyle choices now impacts how your skin looks, your daily stress levels, your joint flexibility, and overall mobility and ultimately, the length and quality of your life.

The Path to Preserving Health and Wealth includes:

- **Healthy eating.** Fresh fruits and vegetables can cost more than a hot dog at the quick-stop station, but can you afford the medical bills those hot dogs may lead to later?
- **Regular exercise.** Physical activity will not only aid with keeping certain risk factors for disease at bay, it also helps you live life to its fullest with more energy and keeps your muscles and bones strong. Get daily exercise now, without draining your wallet and save time and money by avoiding the doctor's office later.



- **Avoid tobacco and limit alcohol.** These harmful habits can be expensive now, but even more costly later if diagnosed with an illness associated with either of these.
- **Support from experts.** Health coaches can provide a special benefit to help you improve your health, your overall well-being, and reach your goals. While hiring a health coach by the hour would be costly, Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and Kaiser members have **free** access to a health coach! Why not reach out today to see what support you can receive for your own personal health plan? A wellness coach can help you to make a plan and assist you in taking steps to preserve your health. BCBS members can contact a healthy lifestyle coach at **855-838-5897** or call the customer service line at **855-212-4662**. Kaiser members can log onto **kp.org/wellnesscoach**. Also available are member discounts for vitamins, supplements, massage therapy, chiropractic care, gym memberships, and acupuncture. Log on to **kp.org/choosehealthy**.

It's never too late to take action towards staying young, feeling young, and living young. Staying healthy helps you to hold on to your hard-earned money to use for things you enjoy doing. If you like playing with your children or grandchildren, you want to be strong enough to be able to pick them up and play with them. If you like sports, maintain the energy and mobility necessary to play well and prevent injury as you age. Without taking action today for a healthier lifestyle, the choice may be made for you.

Remember, today is the day to do something about a healthier and wealthier tomorrow.



KCRC Donates Over 100 Hygiene Kits to Local Community

Written By **Kourtney Standlee**, Karnes County Residential Center

The Karnes County Residential Center staff was able to donate over one-hundred hygiene kits to local school-aged children located in Karnes County.

The Circle of Angels is a local volunteer group whose mission is to assist school-aged children and the elderly. This event is free to any child living in Karnes County. This year, the local volunteer group wanted to bless each child they saw with a hygiene kit. Karnes County Residential Center set a goal of donating one-hundred hygiene kits to the Circle of Angels' event and was able to go above and beyond their goal. The hygiene kits included full-sized products such as shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, lip balm, deodorant, toothbrushes, body wash, and feminine products just to name a few.

Pictured left to right: Resident Advisor Ernest Perez, Transportation Officer Gena Rodriguez, Executive Secretary Kourtney Standlee, Transportation Officer Angela Wilder, and Account Payable Clerk Kristi Rogers.

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center's Holiday Food Drive

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens**, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center

Warden Indalecio Ramos and the staff at Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center believe that holiday cheer means food on the table for everyone. Wanting to spread the holiday cheer, they held a canned and non-perishable food drive. On November 21, 2017, Warden Indalecio Ramos and staff presented their collection to Chief L.C. Deshotel, and he agreed to distribute the goods to the community.

The hope is to help ease the burden for some of the area families. Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center wants to help support the community in any way that they can, even with a small gesture of donating canned goods to families in need.

Pictured: Top: Front row: Fannie Cavel. **Back row:** Evelyn Lafleur-Williams, Katrina Roy, Margaret Vidrine, Hollie Carrier, Christie Theriot, Jacqueline Bellard, James Fontenot, Elwood Terry, and Kayla Delaphous. **Bottom:** Assistant Warden Alfonso Castillo, Chief L.C. Deshotel, and Warden Indalecio Ramos.





Ute Raises Funds for Cancer

Written By **Haley Robertson, Junee Correctional Centre**

The work of a group of Junee Correctional Centre students enrolled in Technical and Further Education in New South Wales (TAFE NSW) trade courses recently raised more than \$78,000 AUD for a local cancer charity.

The students took on a challenging project to fully restore an early 1980s WB Holden coupe utility (ute) that was raffled to raise proceeds for Can Assist Junee. Powered by a reconditioned 253ci Holden V8 motor, the car features stunning paint and bodywork as well as a beautiful custom tray with timber deck.

The GEO Group Australia, which manages Junee Correctional Centre, donated the ute. TAFE NSW Instructors who teach spray painting, automotive restoration, panel beating, woodwork, and mechanical engineering assisted the inmates. The car was stripped back to a shell and underwent a total motor rebuild and complete under body rebuild. Students undertaking engineering courses designed the tray, while those learning woodwork completed the timber deck.

Junee Correctional Centre's General Manager Scott Brideoake praised the students, programs staff, and the TAFE NSW Instructors who worked with the students. "This outstanding result is a credit to all parties," he said. "The students worked incredibly hard to produce an amazing vehicle with the support of our staff and TAFE Instructors. Staff went beyond the call of duty to take this ute to events and prominent locations in the region and worked closely with Can Assist Junee to ensure the raffle received as much exposure as possible."

Junee Correctional Centre's Offender Services Manager Trevor Coles said the project provided the students with many benefits beyond learning skills that could help them gain employment. "Projects such as this teach the value of working as part of a team and give the students a great sense of pride which builds self-esteem," he said.

"The \$78,190 raised exceeded everybody's wildest expectations. We were hoping to raise \$50,000, but this result is just amazing and will help so many local people battling with cancer." The project was made possible through the partnership between TAFE NSW and The GEO Group Australia.

Pictured left to right: General Manager Scott Brideoake handing over the keys to Brock Phillips, the winner of the raffle. The WB Holden Ute.



Art Focuses on Mental Health

Written By **Haley Robertson, Junee Correctional Centre**

An art exhibition was held in Wagga Wagga exploring the journey of mental health experienced by inmates at Junee Correctional Centre. The 'Journey Man' exhibition contained thirty works of art completed by seven inmates during a therapeutic art course. Sold by auction on the opening night, all artwork was donated by the artists to contribute to the support of mental health awareness in the local region. More than \$4,600 AUD was raised for Riverina Bluebell. Formed in 2007 by Riverina-based farmers, Riverina Bluebell connects people suffering from depression and their caretakers with local support and resources. Local art mentor and curator Anthony Boerboom has worked with the seven inmates who submitted works for the exhibition for two years and has been involved with Junee Correctional Centre for more than a decade.

Pictured: Anthony Boerboom pictured with some of the artwork for the exhibition.

Community Placement Supports Tertiary Qualification

Written By **Philip Goslin**,
Fulham Correctional Centre



Matt, a former inmate at Fulham Correctional Centre (FCC) recently spoke in glowing terms of a placement program that allowed him to complete a Diploma in Community Services (Alcohol, Other Drugs and Mental Health) while serving his sentence. Matt spoke publicly at a Salvation Army event in Warragul. At the event, he talked about securing tertiary qualifications in community services. Following a recommendation by FCC programs staff, Matt attended the Salvation Army office on a daily basis for more than six months working as a Counselor to meet his placement requirements for the course. He hopes to pursue a career as a youth worker in the alcohol and other drugs sector. Correctional Manager Greg Battley, who manages the Nalu unit at FCC, said there are twenty-seven individuals from the unit going into the local community each day, with most assisting organisations. FCC has more than fifty organisations that call on the services and support of the 'bush gangs' who work throughout the community. "The community work placements play a very important role in the rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals." Greg Battley said.

Sporting Chance

Written By **Haley Robertson**, Junee Correctional Centre

Junee Correctional Centre in Australia was able to give the children of Junee a reason to play more sports by donating sporting kits to primary schools.

Inmates at the Centre initiated a fundraising campaign with the goal of giving back to the local community. They held a series of sporting competitions to raise funds and were keen to deliver children in the country town a message on the importance of keeping active.

"They thought it would be a good idea to encourage kids to live a healthier lifestyle and stay active," said Junee Correctional Centre Offender Services Manager Trevor Coles.

Kits packed full of sporting equipment and worth approximately \$1,000 AUD were handed to the principals of Junee's three primary schools. The kits were a welcome addition to the sporting equipment stocks since much of the existing equipment at the schools was quite old.

"The students are so excited to have some new equipment to play with, and we look forward to some fun-filled times on the playground," said St. Joseph's Primary School Principal Jane Addison.

Junee Correctional Centre has a proud history of supporting youth in the local area and encouraging physical activity. It has a long-running sponsorship arrangement with the Junee Junior Netball Association and the Junee Junior Rugby League Football Club. Other sponsorships that are granted annually include the GEO Bressington Scholarship, GEO Big Breakfast, and various other sporting sponsorships.

The Centre also acknowledges young achievers in the local community each January by awarding scholarships and recognition awards through its Youth in Focus program. The awards cover four categories — academic excellence, creative arts, sporting distinction, and financial hardship.

Pictured left to right: Trevor Coles, James Ross, Kay Thurston, Alexandra Sheridan and Scott Brideoake. Principals of the local public schools accepting their sporting equipment.





Fulham Correctional Centre Celebrates 20-Year Milestone

Written By **Regina Regulska, Fulham Correctional Centre**

2017 marked twenty years of operations at Fulham Correctional Centre, Victoria's first privately operated men's prison and the largest regional correctional centre in the state. The facility was officially opened on March 20, 1997, and the first cohort of offenders arrived almost three weeks later on April 7, 1997.

The Centre is a medium to minimum security facility occupying fifty acres of open space. It is comprised of three distinct levels of living arrangements for inmates including self-care to increase their responsibility the closer they are to reintegration into the community. A range of education, training, programs and industry options are available. External to the

perimeter of the main facility, the Community Transitional Unit, known as the Nalu Unit, was officially opened on September 30, 2003. The unit's eighty-four inmates benefit from an intensive program of community reparation, leadership/team work challenges, and preparation for reintegration into the community.

To acknowledge the Centre reaching such a significant milestone, several events were held during the year. On April 7, 2017, the senior management team donned aprons and gloves to prepare and serve a barbecue lunch for staff in the plaza. Inmates joined in the celebrations, also cooking barbecue lunches and enjoying refreshments in their units.

The second celebration was held on April 28, 2017, where thirty-two current staff members who commenced in 1997 were acknowledged. Those who were able to be present on the day were congratulated by GEO Managing Director Mr. Pieter Bezuidenhout, Wellington Shire Representative Councillor Darren McCubbin, Corrections Victoria Deputy Commissioner Rod Wise, and local elder Aunty Bess Yarram. These special guests watched as special medallions commemorating twenty years of service were presented to staff.

The 20th anniversary festivities concluded on the evening of August 11, 2017, with a formal dinner attended by representatives from the corporate office together with

160 staff and partners. Having successfully transitioned into a new contract, the management and staff at Fulham Correctional Centre look forward to further celebrations during the next twenty years!

Pictured left to right: 1: 20-year medallion recipients: **Back row:** Trevor Jones, Brooke Delaney, Peter Goodwin, Simon Henry, Stephen Van Dyke, Mark De Moel, Michael Hyland, Garry Beecroft, Brian Lane, Robert Laurie, and Ted Webber. **Front row:** Barry Cross, Debbie Cool-Easton, Jamie Clohesy, Michelle Murray, and Peter Wilksch. **2:** General Manager Col Caskie. **3:** Phillip Munnings, Bruno Malacco, Pieter Bezuidenhout, and Allan Marshall. **4:** Leanne Mielke, Mandy Leslie-Caile, and Georgia Everett. **5:** Col Caskie, Pieter Bezuidenhout, Aunty Bess Yarram, Rod Wise, Leanne Sheppard, and Darren McCubbin.



Erie Outpatient Celebrates Second Graduation

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

On September 29, 2017, Erie Outpatient in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, celebrated its second graduation ceremony for fourteen participants who completed the six-month drug and alcohol treatment program offered at the non-residential reentry service center.

“We are very proud to deliver this valuable drug and alcohol treatment program that saves lives,” said Annette Garcia, Director of Erie Outpatient. “It is impressive to witness the commitment of the participants who work hard to complete the program and to see evidence that individuals can become contributing members of society.”

Participants are provided with a evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatment program that starts with intensive outpatient drug and alcohol counseling. The beginning of the program offers intensive outpatient treatment consisting of three, three-hour group counseling sessions and one individual session. The next stage is outpatient treatment, which offers two, two-hour group sessions and one individual session on a weekly basis.

“We experienced additional good news as we received the information that one of our graduates was accepted into college while taking part in the treatment program here at

Erie Outpatient,” said Director Garcia. Reentry centers in Philadelphia are fortunate to have a collaboration with the Community College of Philadelphia’s (CCP) Reentry Support Project. Participants are able to pursue college credits while in the criminal justice system at CCP.

A large group attended the graduation, including a representative from Pennsylvania Probation and Parole, staff, and returning participants. Participants who graduated are now living successfully at home with many engaged in the workforce, attending 12-step meetings, and enjoying reunification with their

families. Guests, staff, and graduates enjoyed the special ceremony that represents a chance to live a productive life drug and alcohol free. Gratitude was expressed for the opportunity to have learned skills that help them live a productive life one day at a time.

Pictured left to right: Back row: Counselor Jackie Jackson, graduate Ishmael Gomez, graduate Maurice Dozier, graduate Nathaniel Williams, Counselor Joanne Clodomir, and Counselor Nathan Skinner. **Front row:** Parole Agent Hyman, Counselor Cyndi Downes, Counselor Marybelis Alfaro, Peer Specialist Carol Hammond, Graduate Peter Chak and Annette Garcia.

Staff Picnic Supports Positive Workforce at Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center

Written By **Paul Redfield, SWICC**

GEO Reentry in-prison treatment services staff at the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC) in East St. Louis, Illinois, celebrated their fourth consecutive year of successful unity at a staff picnic on September 9, 2017. "An event where staff share with each other outside the work environment strengthens bonds and creates pride in the delivery of our work," said Andrew Young, Program Director for GEO Reentry Services at SWICC. This year, GEO Reentry had more than sixty employees, family members, and children celebrate and share fellowship with one another at the staff picnic.

"Each year, we learn how to make the event better and this year everyone felt that we had finally found the best time of the year to have our picnic," said Paul Redfield, Program Evaluator for GEO Reentry Services at SWICC. "The event is always a lot of fun and staff morale over the past four years has improved thanks to this and other efforts made by staff. Our goal is to gather as a family and be supportive of each other as we share a day of fellowship." The annual staff picnic is an event that was started in 2014 by several program staff who wanted to create an environment that would promote more positive staff morale, a happier work force, and fun staff activities outside of work.



NM Reentry Facilities Share The Mission Of Recovery

Written By **Russell Ouellett & Karen Collins, New Mexico Men's & Women's Recovery Academies**

Residents from the GEO Reentry Services' New Mexico Men's and Women's Recovery Academies joined other community providers honoring National Recovery Month at a celebratory event on September 28, 2017, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Residents from both residential reentry centers were accompanied by staff to share the common goal of recovery from substance abuse and celebrate the joy of living sober, positive, and productive lives. Approximately 1,500 individuals attended the special event. The women residents performed a zumba dance routine, while the male residents presented an original poem and music performance with a recovery theme. The crowd was extremely receptive to the dancers and the overall energy at the event increased with their performances.

California Hosts Open Houses for Four New Day Reporting Centers

Written By **Sara Woehler, Compton Day Reporting Center**

In July 2017, The GEO Group was awarded eight out of eight Day Reporting Center (DRC) contracts that were bid out by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Four of the eight DRCs were existing offices and four were brand new sites. Since their implementation, all four offices have met their capacity and have been building strong relationships in their communities. The week of October 23, 2017, was a big week for the four new DRCs which included Compton DRC, Antelope Valley DRC, Solano DRC, and Contra Costa DRC. Each center hosted an open house to welcome the community, customer, and local government representatives. The open houses provided a great opportunity for the offices to share the good work that is being done and network with local resources.





Alumni Share The Gift Of Positive Living at Holiday Gathering

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

On December 6, 2017, the holiday spirit was alive and well at Talbot Hall in Kearny, New Jersey, as New Jersey and Pennsylvania alumni members, staff, and guests gathered for a festive holiday dinner and meeting. Handshakes and laughter were exchanged at this annual event which celebrates fellowship and the joys of living a positive lifestyle after having completed evidence-based reentry programming provided by Education and Health Centers of America, Inc. (EHCA) and GEO Reentry Services. GEO Reentry Services is the service provider for Education and Health Centers of America, Inc. in New Jersey centers. Approximately one hundred people were in attendance at the residential reentry facility that hosted an extensive buffet dinner provided by contributions from alumni members. Ann Schlarb, Senior Vice President and President, GEO Care, attended the dinner and meeting, as well as representatives from EHCA, New Jersey Facility Directors, and community representatives. "We were very honored to have Ann Schlarb in attendance to meet our alumni family and join our celebration," said Arthur Townes, Director of New Jersey Alumni. "We are proud to share the message that change is possible and proud to promote the recovery treatment services being provided to current residents."

Alumni services are a function of the treatment programming provided by EHCA and GEO Reentry. Alumni attend meetings at facilities before residents are released, and act as a support system to those who are transitioning back into society. Members who are successful in the community become mentors before and after release to help provide referral assistance for social services, employment, and housing. Members regularly attend alumni meetings to help those preparing to reenter society, and serve as proof that a productive lifestyle is attainable by participation in treatment.

Pictured left to right: Standing: Alumni members Andre Jarrells, Brian Session, Glosheen Hughley Salaam, Darren Ivey, Dorothy Barlow, GEO Care President Ann Schlarb, alumni members Jermaine Butler, David Ruddy, and Tia Reynolds. **Back row:** Director of NJ Alumni Services Arthur Townes, alumni Abdul Muhammad, Masia Mugmuk, and Anthony Hayes. **Kneeling:** Alumni Christopher Stokes, and Keith Thomas.

Abraxas Youth Support Local Riding Center

Written By **Andrew Wallace & Avery Colon, Abraxas Marienville**

In the beginning of May 2017, youth and staff from the Evergreen dorm at Abraxas Marienville teamed up with the Venango Area Riding for the Handicapped Association (VARHA). VARHA provides therapeutic horseback riding for children, adolescents, and adults with special needs. They serve over 150 riders each year in a variety of programs. Horse assisted therapy includes psychological, physical, and social benefits.

The Abraxas volunteers in the Evergreen dorm travel to Franklin, Pennsylvania, every Tuesday to volunteer with the VARHA program. They begin each day by meeting with staff and other volunteers to receive their assignments. This includes grooming the horses, cleaning the stables, and feeding the horses. The Abraxas volunteers train and are tested on how to properly reign and tie the horses to their post. When assigned to a VARHA participant, the Abraxas volunteers receive a brief background on the rider and what additional support, if any, is needed. VARHA allows the Abraxas youth volunteers to discover some hidden truths about their character and who they are, rather than the role they have played that led them to Abraxas. Overall, the experience is an excellent way for the youth to be involved in the community, participate in the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice, and make a difference in someone else's life.



NJ Alumni & Staff Volunteer For 'Slam Dunk The Junk' Newark Cleanup

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**



Pictured left to right: Director of NJ Alumni Services Arthur Townes, Alumnus Erid Bodison, Director of Talbot Hall Sheila Leonardo, and Program Activities Coordinator Sharese Mumford.

Members of the New Jersey Alumni Services group and staff from New Jersey's Talbot Hall in Kearny, New Jersey, gathered to volunteer their time and effort to join the annual 'Slam Dunk the Junk' cleanup in Newark, New Jersey, on October 5, 2017. Alumni and staff worked tirelessly, sweeping and collecting trash, leaving a marked improvement in the appearance of Newark's Lincoln Park. "We are always grateful for an opportunity to give back to the community," said Arthur Townes, Director of New Jersey Alumni Services. "We are hoping to change the perception of the individual who is returning to society, and bring awareness to the public about the importance of reentry treatment programming. We have seen many lives changed through treatment." The New Jersey alumni have an excellent track record of supporting the local community with cleanups and various volunteer-related activities that are geared to improve the neighborhood, and provide an opportunity for alumni, staff, and residents to give back to the community.

Santa Ana DRC Supports OCRP's Opioid Awareness Event

Written By **Yadira De Santiago, Santa Ana Day Reporting Center**



The Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC) has established a long-lasting partnership with the Orange County Reentry Partnership, a local reentry collaborative that brings together organizations that provide assistance to individuals in-custody or who have been recently released. The Santa Ana DRC has shown support for the Orange County Reentry Partnership numerous times in the past and continues to provide funding and support for Orange County Reentry Partnership's events and fundraisers. Recently, the Santa Ana DRC sponsored and attended an opioid awareness event that Orange County Reentry Partnership hosted. The partnership has paid off for both the Santa Ana DRC and Orange County Reentry Partnership, showing the importance of maintaining a long-lasting relationship.

Hundreds Gather To Celebrate Recovery at Annual Alumni Barbecue

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

Hundreds of former residents, family members, and staff gathered to enjoy a celebration at the annual alumni barbecue held on September 16, 2017, in Iselin, New Jersey. The event is designed to celebrate the successes of graduates of New Jersey correctional treatment facilities who are now living drug and crime free after completing evidence-based reentry programming provided by GEO Reentry Services and Education and Health Centers of America, Inc. (EHCA). The barbecue was the setting for an inspirational day to acknowledge recovery and positive change through successful reentry treatment. "It is very rewarding to have this opportunity to reunite with alumni members to share good news about living crime and drug free," said Arthur Townes, Director of New Jersey Alumni Services. "To see our members continuing to help others, pursue education and maintain jobs, and be a supportive member of the family is extremely gratifying. We recognize the importance of giving second chances and providing important reentry services." The event was well attended by many guests including Derrick D. Schofield, Executive Vice President, "GEO Continuum of Care" and Reentry Services, GEO Care, Dr. Ralph Fretz, Director of Post-Release Services, Dr. Robert Mackey, Chief Executive Officer for EHCA, Tom Brady, EHCA's Chief Compliance Officer, and John Clancy Jr., Chief Operating Officer of EHCA, just to name a few.



Casper Reentry Center Uses Zentangle to Untangle Lives

Written By **Robert Barnes, Casper Reentry Center**

On August 3, 2017, the residents of the Native American Residential Treatment Program (RTP) at the Casper Reentry Center in Casper, Wyoming, received a class in the meditative art of Zentangle. Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing method of art used to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. "This art form has many benefits," explains Mrs. Jody Halferty, a certified Zentangle Teacher, artist, and instructor for the RTP class. "Zentangle helps with stress management, self-esteem, anger management, and offers an increased sense of personal accomplishment." Each resident received their own Zentangle starter kit which included a Sakura pen, #2 pencil, a small tortillion, and 4x4 sheets of bristol art paper. "We are always looking for new tools that our residents can use to improve their lives and increase their chances of success," Ms. Sherri Martin, RTP Program Director said. Mrs. Jody Halferty taught the residents seven Zentangle patterns with unique names such as Meer and Hollibaugh.

Madera DRC Hosts Thanksgiving Dinner for Madera Probation Staff

Written By **Audrey K. Cross, Madera Day Reporting Center**

On November 7, 2017, the staff from Madera Day Reporting Center (DRC) hosted a Thanksgiving feast for the Madera Probation staff to show their appreciation for all of their hard work and support with the participants in the DRC. At the dinner, the Madera DRC provided food and drinks to show their gratitude to the Madera Probation Department. **Pictured left to right: Standing:** Veronica Huerta, Brittanía Perez, Alberto Palma, Stephanie Ross, Xavier García, Rick Galindo, Audrey Cross, Jose Pantoja, Jose Pedroza, Abinadi Cortes, Jeanette Sousa, Richard Garcia, and Karen Daza. **Sitting:** Teresa Anzaldula, Macias Cruz, Danae Fernandez, Teri Watson, Karen Villavicencio, Vicki Teran, and Nancy Ceja.





Talbot Hall Holds Summer Full of Family Activities

Written By **Karen Collins**,
GEO Care Marketing Manager

The Family Services staff at Talbot Hall in Kearny, New Jersey, experienced a successful and busy summer by hosting several events for families to get together and build a positive platform for going forward.

Family Services Coordinator

Justine Asante, Master of Science, Marriage and Family Therapy, organized the family activities that included a summer reading event, family field day, and back-to-school family night. All events were well attended by residents, staff, and family members, who attended the events to express support for family reunification and positive relationship building.

Family services provide evidence-based programming as an integral element in the reentry treatment model at many residential reentry centers nationwide.

Education and Health Centers of America (EHCA)

Director of Talbot Hall Sheila Leonardo, Program Coordinator Melissa Craten, and Ms. Asante kept a full regimen of activities for residents throughout the summer.

Abraxas Marienville Supports The National Center for Shaken Baby Syndrome

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky**, Abraxas Marienville

In mid-August 2017, I received an email from Abraxas Marienville's Dakota Dorm Treatment Supervisor Nickie Irwin simply stating, "We should participate." When I opened the link, I was sold! It was a link to the Purple Hat Project.

The Purple Hat Project is an effort spearheaded by the National Center for Shaken Baby Syndrome (NCSBS) to increase awareness through education. I immediately called the Center and spoke to Alyssa York. She explained that the crying period for most newborns or small infants is known as the 'PURPLE Crying Period.' This is when most babies are victims of shaken baby syndrome – when new parents become so overwhelmed with frustration about inconsolable crying that they resort to shaking the baby which results in serious head trauma. The letters in PURPLE stand for peak of crying, unexpected, resists soothing, pain-like face, long-lasting, and evening. The crying usually begins within the first two weeks of life and ends around four months of age.

I followed up with Nickie Irwin who said the young men in the Dakota dorm were extremely interested in assisting with the project. Per Alyssa York, the parameters were that each hat had to be at least fifty percent purple, a newborn baby size, soft to the touch, and baby-friendly. All hats had to be completed and received by a participating hospital no later than October 1, 2017.

We purchased variations of purple yarn and taught seven young men how to loom knit in a hurry. Nickie Irwin, Counselor Lee Ann Holt, and I taught, knitted, and assisted for weeks.

The young men were enthralled by the project and wanted to make as many hats as possible. They not only knitted hats in the craft room, but took the project back to their dorm. We were constantly asked how many we had finished; their goal was one hundred hats.

NCSBS's final objective was for every newborn baby in the fifteen states that participated in the project to receive a purple hat and their parents would receive information around the 'PURPLE Crying Period' and shaken baby syndrome. We decided to donate the hats to West Virginia since it was the closest state to Abraxas Marienville (located in Marienville, Pennsylvania) that was participating.

In the last week of September 2017, we sent ninety-eight very tiny purple hats to the Women and Children's Hospital in Charleston, West Virginia. We not only received a lovely thank you note, but several pictures of newborns sporting our hats! Shortly thereafter, we received a call from the hospital noting that they have a children's chemotherapy ward and are requesting larger hats for those children.

Casper Reentry Center Provides Leadership Teleconference

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**



Residents and staff at the Casper Reentry Center in Wyoming were able to watch a presentation by teleconference as a gift from the Highland Park Community Church on August 10-11, 2017. The Church arranged for the 2017 Global Leadership Summit, organized by Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, to be teleconferenced to the residential reentry center, for both residents and staff to view. Senior Pastor Mike Fackler personally came out to introduce the Summit, a potentially life-changing event designed to elicit and polish the leadership capacity of every attendee. Staff of the church also ran the sound and technology to make it available, despite the logistical challenges. "This was a unique opportunity for residents to be involved with a teleconference on a topic like leadership," said Anna George, Certified Social Worker, Program Counselor at Casper Reentry Center. The residents in attendance are undergoing modified Therapeutic Community (TC) treatment at Casper Reentry Center, and were largely grateful for the experience. For many, it was the first time in a long time they thought of themselves as being potential leaders. For others, it was a way to visualize the possibility of finding a calling in life bigger than the mistakes of the past.



Casper Reentry Center Supports School Supply Drive For Natrona County

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

In August 2017, residents and staff located at Casper Reentry Center (CRC) in Casper, Wyoming, had an opportunity to serve the surrounding Natrona County area by helping gather school supplies for children in need. CRC's Adult Community Corrections (ACC) resident council members decided in June they wanted to participate in the 'Stuff the Bus' challenge, a project that began in 2011, designed to provide children from low income families the necessary school supplies needed for the start of the school year.

"Community outreach is often a rewarding venture for residents and staff in reentry treatment programming facilities, enabling residents to have a chance at giving back to the community in a positive way," said Joshua Brown, Director of the Casper Reentry Center. "We are very proud of the residents and staff of the Casper Reentry Center for the fantastic job they did supporting back to school efforts for children in the county."

Residents began collecting the school supplies in June, which resulted in filling two large boxes of donations that were delivered on August 24, 2017. Donations included backpacks, paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, and additional supplies to ensure the children had a good start to the school year.

CRC provides an evidence-based roster of reentry treatment services to its population that include individual assessments, substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral treatment, educational services, Native American specific programming, fatherhood classes, health care services, and alumni and aftercare programming.

GEO Care Program in San Francisco Featured at National Conference

Written By **Maria Richard, Taylor Street Center**



Officials from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), an award-winning non-profit, as well as staff from GEO Care, delivered a timely workshop at the International Community Corrections Association's annual conference in Seattle, Washington, on November 1, 2017. The workshop focused on parolee reentry, specifically focusing on how to successfully reintegrate long-term offenders into local communities.

Titled "From Lifer to Community Member: Making it Work," the well-attended panel featured Jon Stern, Chief Deputy Regional Administrator for the CDCR's Division of Adult Parole Operations Southern Region, Dwayne Cooks, Project Director for Civic Pit Stop, and Maria Richard, Facility Director of GEO Care Parolee Services Center in San Francisco, California. GEO Care's National Director of Business Development Kathy Prizmich Kernan moderated the panel. The panel discussed how states, with California leading the way, are releasing more long-term offenders today, and how it takes unique programming to help prevent recidivism.

The workshop focused also on an innovative public-private partnership in San Francisco, California, in which the state, GEO Care, and the non-profit Pit Stop is transforming neighborhoods while also providing employment for long-term offenders who are bridging back to the workforce. For many of these program participants, the experience has been life-altering. Pit Stop hires many of the GEO Care participants to serve as attendants at unique public restrooms, thereby helping to reclaim many neighborhoods from criminal activity. City and state politicians as well as the public works department have praised the program.

"What we are doing is unique, and it is working," said Maria Richard, who has worked at the GEO Care's Taylor Street Center since 2000. Located in the heart of San Francisco, California, this center delivers residential and non-residential programming for Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Pretrial and CDCR clients. The key to the success of these individuals, according to Dwayne Cooks, the Director of the non-profit offering the jobs to participants, is the treatment and training they receive at the GEO Care Center. Dwayne Cooks said GEO Care prepares these individuals with the life skills and attitude to succeed in the workplace. GEO Care has created, in concert with CDCR, a curriculum specifically for these individuals called the Long-Term Offender program. Jason Carpenter, GEO Care Program Manager for the Parolee Service Center and Transitional Housing Program, was instrumental in developing this program.

Pictured left to right: Top: Jon Stern, CDCR, Maria Richard and Kathy Prizmich Kernan, GEO Care, and Dwayne Cooks, Pit Stop. **Below:** The presentation highlighted a unique public-private partnership that is helping San Francisco reclaim public spaces.



Shasta Day Reporting Center Runs for a Cause

Written By **Danielle Caito, Shasta DRC**

Team members from the Shasta County Day Reporting Center (DRC) recently participated in a run to benefit an area organization that provides assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Zombie run/walk, which was sponsored in part by GEO Reentry Services, was open to the community and included live music and other entertainment.

The run benefited One Safe Place, which provides legal services, safety options, and emotional support to adults, children, and seniors affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. The Shasta DRC looks forward to continuing to make a positive impact in their community through providing effective treatment services at the DRC and supporting their community partners with the same goal.

New Jersey Alumni Bowls For Big Brothers Big Sisters

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

On October 21, 2017, New Jersey Alumni Services members and staff participated in a fundraiser to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union counties. The group, aptly named 'Team Changed' joined hundreds of other volunteers who participated in the second annual Big Brothers Big Sisters 'Bowl for Kids' Sake' to raise money for the organization's mentoring programs for children. Teams representing corporate sponsors and local organizations met for the bowling event, which served for a joyous day for a good cause. "We are proud to volunteer for community events that help others who face adversity," said Arthur Townes, Director of New Jersey Alumni Services, who coordinated the team. "As individuals who have overcome obstacles to become productive citizens, we are pleased to have an opportunity to give back and be a role model for change to those in need."

The team bowled like the pros and enjoyed a day of fellowship. The uplifting event helped bring all together and acknowledge the importance of mentorship to others. Over the last year, alumni services members volunteered for city cleanups, gardening and beautification projects, back-to-school drives, collected and distributed food for holiday drives for the needy, spoke at public events, and participated in reading volunteer work.



Pictured left to right: 'Team Changed': Talbot Hall Director Sheila Leonardo, Sean Birthwright of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Alumnus John Hillgrove, NJ Director of Alumni Services Arthur Townes, Alumnus Brian Sessions and Erid Bodison (front).

Madera DRC Supports Special Olympics of Northern California

Written By **Audrey K. Cross, Madera Day Reporting Center**

On October 28, 2017, the staff from Madera Day Reporting Center in California and the Madera Probation took part in the Madera Guardians of the Flame 5K Run. The run benefited Special Olympics of Northern California. There were prizes and food provided for the participants in the run. The run started at 8:00 a.m. with a clear sky and a temperature of 75 degrees. Four Madera Day Reporting Center staff members were present for the event and two of them received a door prize.

Pictured left to right: Richard Garcia, Audrey Cross, Santiago Perez, and Jose Pedroza.



Abraxas Supports Local Family through Golf Tournament

Written By **Amanda Aliff, Leadership Development Program**



On September 22, 2017, residents at Abraxas South Mountain participated in a golf tournament to raise money for a local two-year-old diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome. In preparation for the tournament, the youth and staff members within both Abraxas facilities participated in numerous fundraisers. Residents also participated in community service activities at the golf course in order to help clean the grounds prior to the event. Fire fighters, police officers, and local patrons were invited to participate in the event as well. At the conclusion of the tournament, residents witnessed the check being given to the family of the little girl, symbolizing empathy and giving back to others. This event raised over \$2,000 to help the family.



ADAPPT Staff and Participants Walk For Recovery

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

Participants and staff at ADAPPT, a residential reentry center in Reading, Pennsylvania, participated in the 20th annual Berks County Recovery Walk and Soberstock, hosted by the Council on Chemical Abuse and Easy Does It of Berks County.

The inspirational day took place on September 23, 2017, and was held to honor September as National Recovery Month. The participants are part of the AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug) residential programming at ADAPPT and are receiving evidence-based treatment services at the center, which address substance abuse and criminal behavior.

“This was a successful event for our participants who had a chance to see that living sober and crime free is possible,” said Dawn Martin, Clinical Supervisor at ADAPPT who accompanied the group. “It was a great opportunity for participants to witness how strong recovery is in Berks County.”

Brett Sander and Heidi Koch, both Unit Counselors, also joined the ADAPPT group for the walk that began at Reading Community College and ended at City Park in Reading.

The participants were able to meet individuals in the recovering community and enjoyed hearing others’ experiences of strength and hope. They were encouraged by others who struggled with the disease of addiction, and who shared with them the importance of making changes and choices that support a positive lifestyle.

ADAPPT provides an inpatient chemical dependency program that is comprehensive in scope, including an initial assessment, personalized treatment programs, and individual and group counseling.

Participation in the Recovery Walk gave the participants an opportunity to see recovery in action and be a part of the hundreds who are now enjoying sober and positive lives.

Pictured left to right: Back row: Participants Enoc Villanueva, Bismar Duran, Chelsea Wells, Jamie Coleman and Mark Taylor. **Front row:** Participants Kevin Lee, Steven Warhurst, Joselle Cutrufello, Robin Mineo, Clinical Supervisor Dawn Martin, participants Dennis Applebury, Jose Rivera, and Jonathon Montag.



Hoffman Hall Hosts Vocational Event

Written By **Lorraine Watson & Karen Collins, Hoffman Hall**

On October 11, 2017, Hoffman Hall, a GEO Reentry Services residential center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, held a successful information event designed to assist participants with information provided by community partners regarding vocational and occupational opportunities after release. Staff did an amazing job in reaching out to establish community partnerships, which resulted in an informative day. “The event provided participants with knowledge of vocational opportunities that are available to them before release, helping establish goals, create a plan, and anticipate employment opportunities,” said John Cunningham, Director of Hoffman Hall. Hoffman Hall was awarded the 2016 Innovation in Corrections Award from the American Correctional Association, for distinguished programming in resident education and demonstrated results in reducing recidivism.

Pictured: GED Coordinator Lorraine Watson.

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