

GEO World[®]

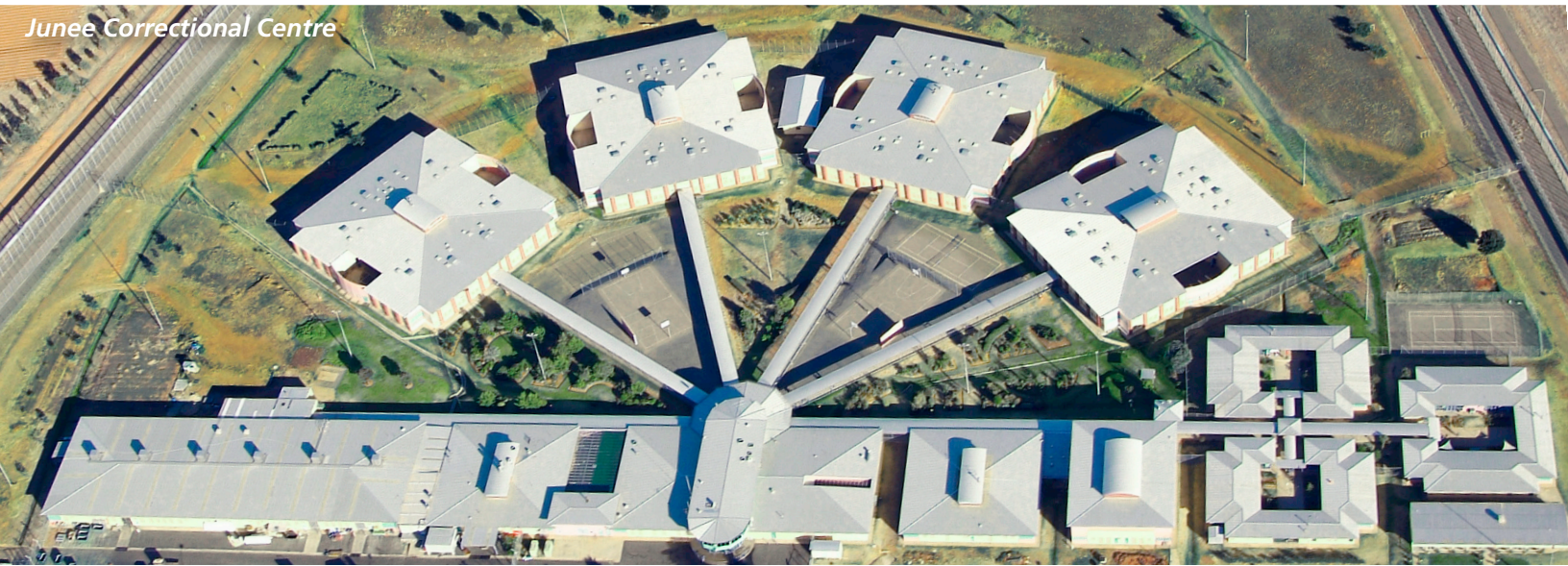
1ST QUARTER 2019

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.

Ravenhall Correctional Centre



Junee Correctional Centre



GEO Expands Public-Private Partnerships in Australia

*Completes first year of operation at Ravenhall Correctional Centre
Signs extension and expansion at Junee Correctional Centre*



Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder

"Our company's success, in renewing and extending our existing public-private partnerships, underscores the high quality services and programs delivered by our facilities worldwide."

To the GEO Family,

During 2018, we completed the first full year of operation at the newly constructed Ravenhall Correctional Centre in the State of Victoria, Australia. The Ravenhall Centre provides unprecedented levels of in-custody rehabilitation and post-release programs and was developed by a consortium led by our GEO Australia subsidiary.

We also closed the year with the announcement that GEO Australia had entered into a five-year contract extension with the State of New South Wales for the continued management of the Junee Correctional Centre. The five-year contract extension also included a 489-bed expansion project which will bring the Junee Centre's total capacity to 1,279 beds in 2019.

These important milestones capped a very active and successful year for The GEO Group with more than a dozen contract renewals or extensions. In California, we entered into five-year contract extensions for our four facilities under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation totaling 2,400 beds.

In Florida, we received two-year renewals for all five of the facilities we manage under contract with the Florida Department of

Management Services totaling approximately 7,800 beds. In New Mexico, we entered into contract modifications to support increased funding for the three facilities we operate under our partnership with the New Mexico Department of Corrections totaling approximately 2,400 beds, and in Oklahoma, the Department of Corrections extended our contract for the 2,682-bed Lawton Correctional Facility for an additional five-year term.

We were also successful in retaining two important contracts that underwent competitive rebid processes. In Virginia, we were awarded a new fifteen-year contract for the continued management of the 1,575-bed Lawrenceville Correctional Center, and in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, we were awarded a new five-year contract for the continued management of the 1,931-bed George W. Hill Correctional Facility. At the federal level, we entered into a new contract for the continued management of our 1,517-bed Joe Corley Processing Center in Texas.

On a combined basis, these contract renewals and extensions total approximately 22,000 beds and close to \$500 million in annualized revenues for our company. Our company's

success, in renewing and extending our existing public-private partnerships, underscores the high quality services and programs delivered by our facilities worldwide.

In addition to these important achievements, we completed the activation of two new projects during the fourth quarter of 2018. Following the conclusion of renovation work, we completed intake at our company-owned, 661-bed Eagle Pass Correctional Facility in Texas, under a two-year contract with the Idaho Department of Correction for the out-of-state housing, management, and supervision of medium-custody inmates.

Also, in Texas, we completed the construction and activation of our new company-owned, 1,000-bed Montgomery Processing Center under a ten-year contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Center was designed in accordance with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards and is comprised of highly energy efficient buildings, able to withstand a category 5 hurricane, as well as enhanced recreational facilities including shaded pavilions, artificial turf soccer fields, basketball courts, paved walkways, and handball courts.

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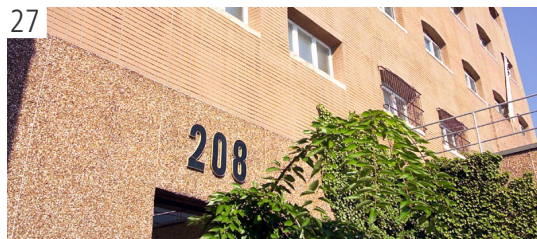
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Ravenhall Correctional Centre

GEO Expands Public-Private Partnerships in Australia

- Completes first year of operation at Ravenhall Correctional Centre
- Signs extension and expansion at Junee Correctional Centre



PICTURED ABOVE: Ravenhall Correctional Centre lobby.

For more than 25 years, GEO's wholly-owned subsidiary, GEO Australia, has provided high quality correctional management services and offender rehabilitation programs across the states of Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria.

During 2018, GEO Australia built upon these long-standing public-private partnerships. In the state of Victoria, GEO Australia completed the first full year of operation at the newly constructed Ravenhall Correctional Centre. The Ravenhall Centre was developed by a GEO led consortium with a total development cost of \$700 million, which was financed under a public-private partnership structure and included a capital investment from GEO of approximately \$90 million. The Centre opened with a contract capacity of 1,000 beds in late 2017 and expanded to 1,300 beds during 2018.



The Ravenhall Centre provides unprecedented levels of in-custody rehabilitation and post-release programs aimed at reducing reoffending rates and helping offenders reintegrate into society through the GEO Continuum of Care, including:

- More than 110 dedicated in-custody rehabilitation and programs staff
- 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

In late 2018, GEO Australia also entered into a five-year contract extension with the state of New South Wales for the continued management and expansion of the Junee Correctional Centre effective April 1, 2019. GEO Australia has managed the 790-bed Junee Centre for over 25 years since its opening in 1993. The five-year contract extension also included the completion of a 489-bed

expansion project which will bring the Centre's total capacity to 1,279 beds in 2019.

The completion of one year of operations at the Ravenhall Centre in the state of Victoria and the signing of a five-year contract extension and expansion of the Junee Centre in the state of New South Wales are a testament to the high quality services delivered by The GEO Group under its longstanding public-private partnerships in Australia.

Ravenhall Centre's GEO Continuum of Care 2018 Highlights:

- *Completed over 18,000 hours of rehabilitation programming*
- *Completed over 2,800 vocational training modules*
- *Awarded 130 vocational training certificates*
- *Completed 1,700 individual cognitive behavioral treatment sessions*

ASP – Kingman Provides Support for Visually Impaired Through Successful Braille Program

Written By **Lisa Black, Education Administrator & Lisa Medley, Braille Coordinator**
Arizona State Prison - Kingman

On October 3, 2018, Lisa Medley, the Braille Program Coordinator for the Arizona State Prison Complex in Kingman (ASP – Kingman), attended the National Prison Braille Forum (NPBF) sponsored by the American Printing House for the Blind and held in Louisville, Kentucky. Attending the Forum with Ms. Medley were Jared Leslie, Director of Media Services, and Nancy Raspiller, Arizona Prison Braille Program Coordinator and Transcriber. Both are from the Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) in Phoenix.

A main highlight of the Forum were testimonials. Former inmates spoke of their success upon release due to participation in a Prison Braille Program. This program has changed their lives.

In sharing successes, ASP - Kingman and the FBC's Arizona Instructional Resource Center (AIRC) stood out for our Braille on Demand service that is offered to teachers in order to meet the daily needs of the classroom. These requests have a turn-around

time of 24 to 48 hours and inmates at ASP - Kingman have been able to meet this demand which gives blind students the same daily classroom resources as their sighted peers.

Through our continued partnership with the Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix, ASP - Kingman has grown the program from five certified transcribers to a total of 23 inmates who are in various stages of receiving their Certification for Literary Braille Transcription from the Library of Congress. So far, two of our original five have since been released and are independent contract transcribers.

In November of 2017, the Foundation for Blind Children donated a Braillo 2000 embossing machine, a Tiger Elite embosser (used for embossing tactile graphics), a Brother printer, a binding machine, and all other supplies necessary for the Facility to add the production of braille to our learning program. Inmates went through a three-day

training session conducted by Jared Leslie, Nancy Raspiller, and Chris Hawk, Director of IT for the Foundation. They were trained on equipment operation, and how to receive, produce, and deliver an embossing order from start to finish.

As of this publication, inmates at ASP - Kingman have produced a total of 279 books since the start of 2018, which equates to 945 braille volumes, 80,057 braille pages, and 6,471 tactile graphics.

On September 18, 2018, Marc Ashton, CEO of the FBC and his entire leadership team, paid a visit to ASP - Kingman to meet with our Braille inmates and GEO administrators. This visit provided the inmates a chance to fully understand the scope of what the FBC and AIRC do for the blind and visually impaired community and how this work affects everyone involved.

In addition to attending the NPBF, Ms. Medley also attended the Arizona Education and Rehabilitation

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) conference held in Flagstaff, Arizona. This was a gathering of TVI and OVI professionals throughout the state. Representatives meet twice a year to collaborate on ways of improving the access of braille technology, books, supplies, etc. to the students they serve. Jared Leslie and Lisa Medley gave a presentation on the various types of media that are available through the Arizona Instructional Resource Center, Foundation for Blind Children, and the ASP - Kingman Braille program.

To say that this past year has been filled with recognition, positive changes, and growth for ASP - Kingman's Braille Program does not even touch on the pride that is felt by the inmates regarding the work they do. We are looking forward to continued success in working with the FBC and the possibility of more growth. In the meantime, our inmates are proudly committed to transcribing and producing quality braille for the students of Arizona, as well as our country's blind and visually impaired community.



Pictured: *Inmates at ASP - Kingman transcribing and producing Braille*



Pictured left to right: *Nancy Raspiller, Arizona Prison Braille Program Coordinator and Transcriber, and Jared Leslie, Director of Media Services*



ICPA Conference 2018 – Montreal

Written By **Rich Felsher, Corporate**

The GEO Group was proud to be a major sponsor of the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) Annual Conference held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from October 21 - October 26. This conference is one of the largest events in the prison and correctional field and was hosted by Correctional Services Canada (CSC).

70 nations from all corners of the world were represented. Around 700 attendees, comprised of Heads of Service, CEOs, senior management, correctional practitioners, industry leaders and experts in the field, were provided a rich and diverse program. The conference theme was “Beyond Prisons: The Way Forward” and session topics addressed best practices, innovations, new approaches and the latest technologies focused on reducing recidivism globally. Some highlights of the week were presentations from Correctional Services Canada Commissioner Anne Kelly, US Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, and other key international stakeholders in Corrections and Law Enforcement. Heartfelt and moving presentations were made by tribal elders from Canadian First Nations throughout the conference. Individuals from First Nations are disproportionately represented in the prison population and Correctional Services Canada is coordinating efforts with the elders to reduce recidivism in that population.

The GEO Group was represented by Executive Vice President, US Corrections Administration & International Services Kyle Schiller, Divisional Vice President, Continuum of Care David Burch, and Corporate Manager Operations / Administration Richard Felsher. The GEO Group showcased our award-winning GEO Continuum of Care and how its programming is changing behaviors and transforming lives.

On Monday October 22, Richard Felsher co-presented with Leslie Alexander-Paffe of the National Restaurant Association / ServSafe organization. The title of the thematic workshop session was “The Way Forward – Education is the key to a Reduction in Recidivism...A Foodservice Perspective”. From the 36th floor, with a view of the beautiful city of Montreal, they presented to a packed conference room. The attendees were interested in the successful synergistic partnership created by The GEO Group, a publicly traded company, NRA/Servsafe, a privately held company, and various government agencies. Topics presented included providing food safety training and industry standard certifications to staff and inmates, teaching skills to properly handle and cook food to prevent foodborne illnesses, and navigating a pathway to viable job opportunities post incarceration.

Take control of your Health *and* your Wallet

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

Although most people complain about health care costs, few people shop for health care the way they might shop for a car by comparing prices. What you may not realize is that a procedure can cost **thousands of dollars more** at one hospital versus another. Others rely on their doctor's referrals or don't know where to go to find information. Hospital prices vary for any number of reasons and patients get caught in the middle. So how can we spend less while still getting quality care with confidence?

It's really quite easy once you know where to go. Use the tools in this article to guide you. You can price medical care and prescriptions, shopping for not only quality, but also cost. A doctor's recommendation is very important and you should partner with him/her for the best treatment plan. But don't forget, you are the boss of your own health and budget.

Compare medical procedure costs

It's important to be aware of cost differences for different procedures. For example, an outpatient knee replacement in Long Beach, CA could cost as much as \$33,000 but a short drive to Santa Monica, CA for the same procedure is priced at \$14,000. That's nearly a \$20,000 difference!

At Holy Cross Hospital, in Fort Lauderdale, FL the charge for a MRI of the spine is approximately \$1,800. Less than 30-minutes away, at Boca Raton Regional Hospital, the same MRI costs less than half of that: roughly \$800.

You don't have to go to another city to find savings but it is important to always compare. For example, in San Antonio, TX, rotator cuff surgery in the Christus Health system is substantially less if you choose an outpatient center rather than a hospital. The cost at the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital is about \$18,000 compared to \$9,500 by going to the Christus Santa Rosa outpatient center. That is nearly half the price!

By using the treatment cost tools on www.bcbs.com, you will know how much you will be charged. You could save a great deal if you do your research before receiving a procedure.

Shop around for medications

Sticker shock at the pharmacy counter? Perhaps you should try a different pharmacy. The cost of the same prescription drug can vary drastically at different pharmacies, even within the same city. Websites like www.goodrx.com or www.singlecare.com provide a price check of your medications and also offer printable coupons if available.

By checking the cost for the popular cardiac medication Plavix on www.goodrx.com, you could pay \$9 at Walmart with no coupon, \$16 at CVS with a coupon, or \$22 at Walgreens with a coupon. A simple five-minute check can save you half the money! Also, don't forget to ask your physician for samples. Why buy a prescription for a new drug if they can give you free samples to try first?

Free and Generic Medications

Purchasing a medication at retail can sometimes be less costly than it would be using your health insurance. Check the price of a medication through drugstore and pharmacy discount drug programs offered by stores like Costco, Rite Aid, Publix Supermarket, Kroger's, Sam's Club, Walgreens, and Walmart.

Walmart offers a variety of medications for \$4 for a 30-day supply and \$10 for a 90-day supply. And if your prescription isn't one of those listed, remember you still save \$7 on your co-payment by purchasing your prescription at Walmart with your ExpressScripts card.

Check your medical bills

Most people carefully check their receipt at a restaurant before they pay. Why not do the same with your medical bills? Did you know that almost 8 out of 10 medical bills have some type of error? Ask for the full bill and review it for anything odd. If anything doesn't look right, call your physician and ask questions. Need help? Contact the customer service center on your insurance card. If you still need help, websites like www.copatent.com, can review your bills for errors and work to get them resolved.

Educate yourself about your healthcare! Use the tools we've provided to ensure you are being properly charged and be in control of your health and your wallet.



Flightline Correctional Center Hosts 2018 Mock Exercise

Written By **Vince Rigsby, Deputy Warden**
Flightline Correctional Center



On November 16, 2018, Flightline Correctional Center hosted a Community-Wide Major Mock Exercise. The goal of this exercise was to partner with the community's first responders and hospital to expand upon the outstanding relationship GEO has with the community of Big Spring, Texas.

The scenario included an explosion at the Flightline unit. During this explosion, several persons were injured with varying degrees of trauma. Flightline medical staff conducted the initial triage with assistance coming from the Big Spring Fire Department Paramedics and Firefighters. Additional security and traffic control was provided by the Big Spring Police Department. The Howard County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center provided coordination of all local first responders.

Once the injuries were triaged, some were transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where their staff continued the exercise. Flightline staff were used as injured parties and triaged again at the hospital where they were treated for the simulated injuries sustained in the explosion.

The Command Centers at both Flightline and the Scenic Mountain Medical Center were opened for this exercise and coordinated the efforts for this large undertaking.

Flightline Correctional Center would like to thank the Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the Big Spring Fire Department, and the Big Spring Police Department for participating in this exercise and for their continued support.

Brooks County Detention Center - Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway

Written By **Cheryle Martinez, Brooks County Detention Center**

Brooks County Detention Center, in conjunction with the Falfurrias Police Department, proudly participated in a Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway on November 20, 2018. The employees of Brooks County came together and contributed food items which resulted in a total of 13 complete Thanksgiving meals. The donated items which were packaged and delivered to needy families in the local community, consisted of a large Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, rolls, and pies. The recipients of the



Thanksgiving meals were very grateful and the employees at Brooks County Detention Center were proud to make a difference and contribute to the less fortunate.

To our awesome Team, we thank you for your generous contributions. This couldn't have been done without you.

Pictured left to right: Mario Morones, Valerie Johnson, Maria Moreno, Cheryle Martinez, and Matthew May.



HTCF Assists with Imagination Lab at Clark Creek Elementary School

Written By **Donnie Emerson, Warden, and Selina Lewis, HTCF Public Information Officer**

When the Clark Creek Elementary School in Plainfield, Indiana asked the Rotary Club for assistance with a building project for the Imagination Lab, Warden Donnie Emerson of the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) and President of the local Plainfield Rotary Club saw an opportunity where the men could assist in providing a community service. The Imagination Lab was a perfect project for HTCF's American Legion Post #198 and Building Trades. When approached with the idea, the veterans and building trades class was very excited about the opportunity to provide a community service, especially one that benefits children. The task was to complete a project that showed the history of innovation, transportation and technological advances in the local area over the years. The inmates decided to construct a train car to symbolize the period of early transportation that was pivotal to the history of Plainfield. The Plainfield Rotary Club also donated a beautifully crafted bell to be mounted on the train. The Imagination Lab will utilize the bell to ring in the opening and closing of each Odyssey class. On August 30, 2018, HTCF Executive staff attended an open house at the Imagination Lab where members of the community attended and toured the lab. The Clark Creek Elementary staff along with School Board Representatives were very appreciative and excited about the project.

HTCF looks forward to future opportunities to give back to the community.

Veteran of the Quarter for the Eastern Region

Written By **Misty Horn, Graceville Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**



Alex Bellamy first enlisted in the United States Air Force in 2000 at the age of 18 as a Weapons Loader/Trainer. Alex was looking for an opportunity to do his part for his country as well as take the opportunity to receive training and secure a future not only for himself, but for his family. Alex proudly served his country from 2000 until 2006. During his six years of service, Alex was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas and Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

While serving his country, Alex received multiple awards and accolades. The Air Force Training Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Air Force Good Conduct Medal are just a few. Alex is grateful for his time in the service and to have developed skills that he still uses to this day. Alex has a greater understanding and appreciation for what matters most in his life...his faith, family and his country.

Since joining Graceville Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility as Grievance Coordinator, Alex has been a dedicated employee and the facility has had a significant reduction in both formal and informal grievances. Alex has always exceeded expectations and delivered the highest level of service in the 11 years he has been with GEO. His positivity impacts not only the facility but the residents, staff, and community.

Alex, we thank you for your dedication and service to our country, and to GEO!



GPCF CERT Team- Back Row (Left to right): Lt. Stephen Castiglione-Assistant Commander, Sgt Jeff Firanski, Reece Persanowski, Michael Holmstrom, Alaric Brito, Jose Flores, Huriel Akoneto, Ryan Manning, Sgt Mario Ortiz III, Major Kory Kusick.
Front Row (Left to right): Senior Warden Robert Farley, Tyson Yoder, Damien Wood, Cory Williamson, Chris Wilhelm, Stevi Rubion, Juan Del Angel, Tyler Gardner, Tucker Lynn and Lt. Michael Gooch-Commander

Great Plains Correctional Facility's 3rd Annual Major Mock Exercise

Written By **Mandy Davis, Great Plains Correctional Facility**

The GEO Group's Great Plains Correctional Facility in Hinton, OK hosted its 3rd annual Major Mock Exercise in tandem with FCI El Reno and the Oklahoma City FTC on November 14, 2018. The exercise was successful, and all agencies involved were eager to work together and share their collective knowledge. Drills were conducted to simulate a major explosion in a housing unit where two pods had been damaged with staff and inmate injuries, and an inmate disturbance in the A, B, and C gyms and in the Education classes. It was an incredible sight to see the Command Center Operators and Emergency Response Teams from three separate institutions work so cohesively with one another.

At Great Plains, we believe that competition breeds success, so the first part of the exercise included a CERT challenge between three agencies with a trophy and year-long bragging rights at stake. The challenge consisted of physical tests of strength and endurance, a written test on policy and procedure, a "Get Dressed" drill to test familiarity with equipment, and a tactical formation demonstration. We are proud to announce that the Great Plains Correctional Facility CERT members earned first place for the 3rd consecutive year and will defend the trophy next year.

Simultaneously with the CERT challenge, GPCF Unit Manager and MIS Specialist directed a mass casualty exercise involving a unit boiler explosion. Facility staff responded to the incident and successfully demonstrated their knowledge of safety, evacuation and triage procedures. The simulation was also an opportunity for all agencies to rehearse the operation of an incident command center. It was an awesome training experience and validated the day-to-day preparation work of all staff involved.

The BOP DCT squads from El Reno and Oklahoma City worked fluidly with the CERT members of Great Plains in the inmate disturbance drill in the Education classes and in the A, B, and C gym scenario. All members were able to gain experience with non-lethal ammunition, restraint techniques, and breaching strategy. Three teams who competed fiercely against one another moments earlier showed unbreakable unity while demonstrating their skills in disturbance control. It was a portrait of the comradery that is at the foundation of a successful correctional facility.

The Mock Exercise concluded with a debriefing and trophy presentation to the victorious GPCF CERT members. Staff from all three facilities parted ways with handshakes and a sense of accomplishment in knowing at the end of the day we all improved significantly as corrections professionals.



2nd Annual Trick or Trunk

Written By **Ashley Duran, Karnes County Correctional Center**

Karnes County Correctional Center (KCCC) has been very busy this quarter giving back to the community. At the end of October, KCCC participated in the 2nd Annual Karnes City Chamber of Commerce Downtown Community Trick or Treat Event. KCCC employees donated candy to help make this event a success. Our volunteers enjoyed hosting all of the trick or treaters; from the ninja turtles to the many princesses. Seventy-five pounds of candy and snacks was given out to the estimated 800 people who attended this free Halloween event. Trick or Trunk is on its way to becoming a tradition in our community as a safe and convenient way to distribute candy and goodies to the children of our community. We look forward to participating for many years to come.

Pictured left to right:

Brittany Machado,
Executive Secretary
Dale Villanueva,
Fire and Safety
Beverly Fossler,
Payroll
Darlene Semlinger,
Human Resources

KCRC Donates Hygiene Kits to Local Volunteer Group

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

Karnes County Residential Center staff recently donated over 50 Hygiene Kits to local school aged children in Karnes County.

Circle of Angels is a local volunteer group whose mission is to assist school aged children and the elderly. Their services are free to any school aged child of Karnes County. This year, the local volunteer group wanted to bless each child they saw with a COA Hygiene Kit. KCRC set a goal of donating 50 Hygiene Kits for this cause and were able to go above and beyond their set goal. Every department at KCRC pitched in. The Hygiene Kits included full sized products such as shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, chap stick, deodorant, toothbrushes, body wash, etc.

Thank you to all KCRC staff who made this event a success!

Pictured left to right: *Transportation Officers, Michael Nash and Angela Wilder*



Staff at KCRC Save a Residents Life

Written By **Horatio Douglas, Rivers Correctional Institution**

We would like to take the opportunity to commend the Security and Medical Team that assisted with saving the life of an adult resident in October of 2018.

A resident entered the dayroom where he grabbed the back of the couch and immediately fell to the floor. The mail room clerk who was picking up mail called for assistance immediately. The resident adviser who responded called for a Medical Emergency. Training immediately kicked in, and the RA began placing the resident in a lifesaving position, thinking at the time that he was possibly having a seizure. The Security Staff First Responder team arrived quickly and began assisting.

Medical arrived on scene within two minutes and began what they are taught to do. It was amazing! The resident was not responsive, and the AED had to be administered several times, while in between Security and Medical staff administered CPR. The teamwork was phenomenal, when one person got tired from doing chest compressions another person jumped in.

The ambulance soon arrived on scene and took over. The resident was brought to a local hospital in San Antonio where he was diagnosed with having a heart attack.

We are truly amazed at the team work and knowledge of the staff at KCRC. This could have gone another way, and the resident would not be with us today.

With all that goes on in our worlds on a day-to-day basis, this reminds us of why we do what we do. The staff at KCRC are truly amazing, and the events on that day show the passion our staff have for what they do.

SRVE Serves the Community

Written By **Angie Price, New Castle Correctional Facility**

S.R.V.E. (Socially Responsible Volunteer Experience) is a program that is offered to New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) level one inmates, allowing them the opportunity to participate in community service projects and complete self-help studies. With 25 participants, they currently provide services to the Second Harvest Food Drive monthly, various work assignments at the Wilbur Wright Museum, the maintenance and harvesting of a garden that produced over 2,200 pounds of produce in 2018 for God's Grain Bin, and various other service projects in the community. On September 7, 2018, the Henry County Day of Caring Event allowed three staff members and twenty inmates to complete cleaning, power washing,



weed removal, and painting at Camp Ada, a Girl Scout Camp, in Spiceland, Indiana. The local Girls Scouts Director stated, "I want to specifically share how great our experience with GEO was. The gentlemen that came out to Camp were incredibly hard working and took great initiative to tackle projects that we didn't even have on our list."

The S.R.V.E. program started in May of 2018. Those participating in the activity completed just over 1,000 volunteer hours of community service in 2018. The inmates have shown gratitude for the opportunity to give back to the community and look forward to future service projects.

Pictured: Group photo of SRVE participants

Honoring Greatness at Mesa Verde

Written By **Taquishia Parker, Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center**



On December 13, 2018, the Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center proudly served breakfast to the veterans of Honor Flight Kern County (HFKC) and presented them with a donation of five hundred dollars.

HFKC is one of 136 hubs around the country that are part of the Honor Flight Network. HFKC is a non-profit organization coordinated by volunteers and created to honor veterans of Kern County and the surrounding areas. There are approximately 46,000 veterans in Kern County with over 8,000 of them being World War II and Korean War veterans. Their mission is to honor and send America's veterans to Washington D.C. to see the memorials built in their honor for their service to our country – all at no cost to the veteran. Top priority is given to the most senior veterans and those from any conflict who are terminally ill. Every veteran accepted by HFKC for this honor travels at no cost to him/her due to the generosity of donations from the community. The trips include all air and ground transportation, meals, overnight accommodations, and guided tours.

GEO Community Meeting at Guadalupe County Correctional Facility

Written By: **Vincent Horton, Warden**

On August 15, 2018, Warden Vincent Horton and the Facility Team at Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (CCCF) hosted members of GEO's Executive Management Team, led by The GEO Group's SVP and President, US & International Operations, Mr. David Donahue.

Members of The GEO Group Executive Management Team included Western Region Vice President Paul Laird, Divisional Vice President, Continuum of Care David Burch, Executive Vice President, Public Policy Adam Hasner and GEO Care's National Director of Business Development Kathy Prizmich. Secretary of the New Mexico Corrections Department, David Jablonski, along with members of New Mexico's Legislative Education Committee and Finance Committee were also in attendance.



Warden Horton began the presentation to the audience with a summary of the services offered at GCCF. During his presentation, he focused on rehabilitation programs at the facility and how platforms, such as adult basic education, cognitive programs, reentry programs, and vocational programs are tools given to inmates for the purpose of rehabilitating. A tour of the facility was provided to all guests and during the tour, inmates were able to offer their own perspectives on programming at the facility. GCCF has many programs, one of its most successful programs being the Weaving Program, which is taught under the tutelage of Mr. Silver Chavez in partnership with local community college. Inmates learn how to build a loom, design their piece to be woven, fabricate woven pieces of art and are given tutorials on how to market their products. The tour continued into the recreation area, and a verbal presentation was given by an inmate currently participating in the ECHO Program (Extension for Community Healthcare Program), coordinated by Carlos Gonzales, through the University of New Mexico (UNM). ECHO concentrates its impact on reducing health issues related to diabetes, hepatitis C, HIV, and chronic pain, both within the facility and post release.

The tour then visited the Faith-Based Dorms where they received an overview of the program. GCCF's Faith-Based Dorms allow offenders to have a space for those who wish to practice their faith on a consistent basis. Inmates study readings and attempt to understand and share interpretations with other inmates. The intent is for them to practice the teachings of their respective religions. Next, the tour visited the Residential Drug and Alcohol Program (RDAP), where an individual explained how their therapy and group discussions were instrumental in understanding his addictions, how he has been able to change his life, and how thankful he was for the support of his peers and staff. The final destination on the tour featured an individual who was able to move from a higher custody level facility in Santa Fe to GCCF where he was then able to attain his GED. He now plans to attend welding school upon his release.

The highlight of the presentation was the closing remarks by Adam Hasner, Executive Vice President, Public Policy. Mr. Hasner talked about how the Continuum of Care (CoC) program at GCCF is providing rehabilitation services from intake to discharge, as well as a potential post-discharge services program to be added in the future. The goal of the CoC is to facilitate a successful transition to life returning home in order to maximize the impact of programs delivered to reduce recidivism. The GEO Group's post-release program is being enhanced and piloted around the United States. A program of this nature helps inmates through an evidence-based approach and can improve the quality of the Facility's environment and enhance outcomes. Nationally, there are seventeen GEO Continuum of Care demonstration sites, including the Guadalupe County Correctional Facility.

The event concluded with positive reactions from GEO officials, with New Mexico Officials agreeing to pursue post-release programming in New Mexico in the future.

Brooks County Detention Center Santa's Coming to Town Toy Drive

Written By: **Cheryle Martinez, Brooks County Detention Center**

The GEO Group's Brooks County Detention Center made a difference this Holiday Season by donating over 200 toys to the annual City of Falfurrias' Toy Drive. Throughout the City of Falfurrias, different organizations partnered together to provide toys for the annual "Santa's Coming to Town Toy Drive," hosted by the Falfurrias Police Department. Brooks County Detention Center was assigned the age group of 3-4 years old. Generous toy donations were collected from the staff at the Center, and employees were challenged to contribute at least one unwrapped toy. As the donations started to come in and the boxes started to overflow with toys, we couldn't help but feel happy and fulfilled knowing that we were making a positive impact for the children in the community. With the overwhelming number of toys donated, the Brooks County Detention Center was also able to extend some donated toys to the neighboring City of Premont to contribute towards their toy drive as well. We are so grateful to the employees of the Brooks County Detention Center for being so generous and giving during this Holiday Season.



Pictured (Left to right): Mathew May, Maria Moreno, Julia Garcia, Armando Andrade, Cheryle Martinez, Lisa Campero, Marina Garcia, Vanessa Cavazos & Isaiah Huerta.



Pictured (Left to right): Marla Cabrera, Bianca Regalado, Glenda Molina, Ernestina Cates, Lisa Campero, Adrian Solis, Maria Moreno, Valerie Johnson, Cheryle Martinez, Warden Armando Andrade, Marina Garcia, Benny Clegg, Hermelinda Guerrero, Elida Reyes, Anna Rodriguez, Armando Olivarez, Vanessa Guerra, Kristi Deases & Vanessa Cavazos.



League of Dreams Autism Run

Written By **Taquishia Parker, Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center**

The Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center enjoys giving back to the community. Staff geared up in jogging suits and sneakers to support athletes with disabilities in an annual run.

On November 3, 2018, the Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center participated in the League of Dreams Annual Autism Run at the California State University in Bakersfield. The League of Dreams is an adaptive sports league that provides sports training, team camaraderie, and competitive sporting opportunities for athletes with physical and developmental disabilities between the ages of five to twenty-two.

Pictured left to right: Claudia Vigil, Evelyn Jaramillo, Taquishia Parker, Denetha Estell, Maria Barrera and Ryanna Morua.

Rachel's Challenge

Written By **Ashley Duran**,
Karnes County Correctional Center



In Early November, Karnes City Junior High reached out to our Brittany Machado about donating composition books to help the students participate and complete Rachel's Challenge. Rachel was the first student killed in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999. The Organization is run by her parents and works to reduce violence in schools. Rachel's Challenge is a non-religious, non-profit, and non-political organization. Its main goal is to help kids look for the best in others, follow their dreams, choose to be positive influences, speak with kindness, and start your own chain reaction.

Pictured left to right: Ashley Duran, Inmate Trust Fund | Theresa Molina, Karnes City Jr. High Principal | Brittany Machado, Executive Secretary | Deanna Wiatrek, Karnes City Jr. High Counselor

KCRC's "Wear It Pink Friday"

Written By
Kourtney Standlee,
Karnes County
Residential Center

The Karnes County Residential Center staff participated in their annual "Wear It Pink Friday" on October 19, 2018 and wore pink shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Pictured: Karnes County Residential Staff



Service Dogs in Training Go to College

Written By **Jennifer L. Shaw**, Moshannon Valley Correctional Center

On November 8, 2018, two service dogs in training, Oliver and Gibson, who are part of the BARKS Service Dog program at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center (MVCC), recently visited Penn State University's DuBois Campus. The dogs participated in the campus' 4th Annual Assistive Technology Day. The expo featured multiple vendors offering services to people with disabilities. MVCC partners with United Disabilities Services (UDS), which provides the facility with puppies that inmates train for approximately twelve months until the dogs go on to secondary phase training. The dogs are eventually placed with individuals who have mobility disabilities, PTSD, and children with developmental disabilities. MVCC has partnered with UDS since 2016.



LaSalle's Head Start Christmas

Written By **Amy Spence**,
LaSalle ICE Processing Center

Each year, Mrs. Melinda Parker, Human Resource Manager for LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LIPC) and Alexandria Staging Facility, leads a donation drive for the LaSalle Head Start Program.

Head Start is a program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. After several fundraising events and many donations, LIPC was able to provide 80 children with coloring books, reading books, crayons, stickers, pencils, candy, puzzles, and much more.

Our very own, Mr. Jeffrey Free, GTI Transportation Manager, dressed as Santa and along with his elves, passed out gift bags to each child. The staff of LIPC enjoy this time of the year, as we are able to give back to the community.

NCCF Strikes Out the Stigma

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

On October 27, 2018, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) hosted its 4th Annual Strike Out the Stigma bowling event to raise funds. These funds go towards family counseling, peer to peer groups, training, teacher stipends, and advocacy initiatives. The event was held at the Woodland Bowling Alley in Indianapolis. Unit Manager Blake Huber formed New Castle Correctional Facility's "Psych Outs" team, which consisted of himself, Case Manager Derek Powell, Security Operations Manager Paul Williams, Correctional Officer Jonathan Gilmer, Correctional Officer Terry Terrell, and Phillip Powell. Case Manager Elizabeth Shelley came to the event to cheer the team on to victory. Although the event itself was just for fun, NAMI provided prizes for achievements throughout the games. The NCCF "Psych Outs" were able to take home over half of those prizes. At the end of the two-hour bowling session, NAMI staff announced that the NCCF "Psych Outs" were honored with the top prize for the largest donation in the amount of \$1,089! A total of eighteen teams comprised of 102 people participated. NCCF's donation was \$89 over the goal Mr. Huber had set for the facility. The donation was raised by Mr. Huber and Ms. Shelley through email flyers, Facebook posts, bake sales, and the sale of Ms. Shelley's homemade caramels. The sales, staff donations, and a generous \$500 PLUS Program donation are what led them to victory. This event was a fun time to be had by all, and GEO Staff will certainly participate again in the future given the opportunity.



GEO's Senior Leaders Become Chefs for a Day

Written By **Chris Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

On November 17, 2018, members of GEO's senior leadership took time to participate in Quantum House's Chef for a Day program. Quantum House is a caring and supportive home that lessens the burden for families whose children are receiving treatment in Palm Beach County for a serious medical condition.

Fueled by the vision, energy, and resources of Intracoastal Health Systems, Junior League of the Palm Beaches, and Quantum Foundation, Quantum House opened its doors in May 2001 to families going through a most difficult time.

The House continues to be where hope has a home for more than 1,000 family members every year. The House is the only hospital hospitality house serving children and their families this way between Fort Lauderdale and Orlando in Florida. Over the years, the House has proudly served families from every state and nearly two dozen countries around the world.

The Chef for a Day program is a ton of fun and a great way to bring volunteers together, while also bringing the families staying at the house together. The program alleviates the stress of families having to plan and prepare a meal after a long day. The GEO team cooked a meal consisting of baked ziti, Caesar salad, and garlic bread. Quantum House staff and the families were grateful for the support and were excited to be left with tons of leftovers!



Moshannon Valley Correctional Center Honors their Veterans

Written By **Jennifer L. Shaw, Moshannon Valley Correctional Center**



Pictured (Left to right): Scott Winters, Warden Oddo, Kevin Bittenbender

On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, Moshannon Valley Correctional Center honored its veterans by having a three-hour program, consisting of two speakers and a catered lunch. The first speaker, Kevin Bittenbender, Retired Sergeant Major of the United States Army National Guard and current 30-year employee of the Bureau of Prisons, spoke about his three deployments and his struggles with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Mr. Bittenbender introduced the Bureau Battle Buddy (B3) program to the veterans. The B3 program is derived from the U.S. Army's "Battle Buddy" program for wounded veterans and the "Buddy to Buddy Program" developed by the Michigan Army National Guard. The B3 program provides direct support to staff returning home from deployment. The program is based on a peer support model, connecting existing members, many of whom are veterans from past conflicts, with newly returning veterans.

The program provides support to any veteran seeking help.

The Battle Buddy program has expanded to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and will be offered at the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center. The second speaker, Scott Winters, a representative from the DuBois Veterans Center, spoke about the services available to veterans and their families, including individual therapy, marriage and family therapy, group counseling, and bereavement counseling. All services are offered on a confidential basis and are free of charge. A polo shirt and challenge coin were given to each of the twenty-nine veterans in attendance as a small token of appreciation for their service.

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Walks in the Savoy Breast Cancer 5K

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens, Executive Secretary**



On Saturday October 13, 2017, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center staff members participated in the Savoy Medical Breast Cancer Awareness 5K. This is the second year that the Center has helped raise money for breast cancer, with forty staff members attending the walk. This year's team theme was Steel Magnolias, and the team brought home a 1st place trophy for "Most Team Spirit," as well as a 1st place trophy for "Most Team Members." Thank you to all the staff members who participated in the walk and helped raise money for such a worthy cause!

Pictured: Pine Prairie Processing Center Staff

Inside Out Corrections—When an Un-Caged Bird Remembers its Wings

Written By **Damon Keough, New Castle Correctional Facility**

It takes certain conditions to unlock one's potential. This is the case for artist Matt Gunning, an inmate at New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF), who recently won a gold prize for his piece, "Who is Really in Prison?," which he entered into the art exhibit, "Capitalizing on Justice," for the Urban Justice Center in New York City. His work was among the best of over 75 received from across the United States. His path to this achievement has been one of pain, support, and the continued call to create works of art.

From an early age, Gunning exercised his creativity with frequent doodling and renderings of cereal boxes and album covers. Eventually, he created a portrait that won his junior high school art contest. From that point onward, his parents began to encourage and support his art—instrumental to

the development of his gift. Later, in 1995, as a way to seek wholeness after a painful breakup, he purchased a Bob Ross Starter Kit, which he used to create his first painting. Soothed by this effort, he began to see art as therapy.

Unfortunately, like many adults, he put this calling aside to raise a family, not realizing that art was an integral part of his character. Several years later, while in jail, Gunning remembered his gift of drawing. He understood it to be a lifeline for coping with adversity and began to draw from the moment he entered NCCF. This became an icebreaker and a form of communication for him in an adverse environment, especially after winning numerous art shows at NCCF. This led to recognition by Captain Gard who encouraged him to be a part of the prestigious "Art Crew," a small group of talented inmate artists.

These artists accept the challenges of various projects like creating works for a silent auction whose proceeds went to special needs children. Gunning, whose son and daughter are autistic, benefited from this innovative project. He will show them how to become better artists and better persons through their art.

The Art Crew has helped him grow as an artist as life is no longer about the superficial. Art is his life. Increasingly, people pursue him in search of advice and mentorship on the craft. By assisting them, he has begun to recover, finally reaching a point of total validation and confidence. He states, "It's okay to be vulnerable. Ultimately from this vulnerable position, I have been saved." Through his art-driven network, he received a flyer for the "Capitalizing on Justice" art exhibit. Seeing it as a worthy cause, he entered his piece, "Who is Really in Prison?," which accentuates

the pain of physical, mental, and financial incarceration on relationships on both sides of the bars. He managed to channel his feelings into striking imagery.

Through a pattern of suffering and the call to create, a path of redemption has emerged. Gunning no longer rejects his needs to fit into the system. In other words, he has learned to process the world through his art instead of using it as duct tape only to repair the holes in his life. He says it like this, "People have come and gone, but art has always been there. Art has never let me down." By developing his gift as an artist, he has learned how to move from mediocrity to greatness. This personal and intimate relationship has compelled him to open a studio and art gallery that promotes other self-taught artists upon his release. There, he will show them how to become better artists and better people through art.



Pictured: Inmate Gunning displaying his art work



Fulham Inmates Raise Money for Movember Foundation

Written By **Hannah Lonnee, Fulham Correctional Centre**

“Our fathers, partners, brothers and friends face a health crisis that isn’t being talked about. Men are dying too young. We can’t afford to stay silent.”

That was the quote from The Movember Foundation that resonated with prisoners in Fulham Correctional Centre’s Nalu unit. The Movember Foundation raises funds and awareness for some of the biggest health issues faced by men — prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention. It funds innovative research, and in the 15 years the foundation has been running, it has funded 1,200 men’s health projects around the world. By 2030, it aims to reduce the number of men dying prematurely by 25 percent.

The foundation traces its origins back to 2003 when two friends met for a beer in Melbourne, Australia. The moustache had all but disappeared from fashion trends at the time — could they bring it back? They found 30 guys willing to take up the challenge. The following year, 480 people got involved and raised AUD \$54,000 for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. The concept was simple, by growing a moustache (a ‘mo’) in November, men could inspire donations, conversations, and real change.

From humble beginnings, the Movember movement has gone global, gaining support from over five million ‘Mo Bros’ and ‘Mo Sistas’ around the world.

At Fulham Correctional Centre, a handful of inmates banded together and approached the unit supervisor and manager with a plan to raise money for The Movember Foundation. They expressed how they could relate to men’s mental health struggles. In total, 37 inmates participated by growing moustaches and contributing funds. Fulham Correctional Centre also made a contribution and AUD \$1,000 were raised for The Movember Foundation.

Pictured: Correctional Officer Hannah Lonnee with two inmates who took part in the Movember movement at the Nalu Unit.



Commissioner Visits GEO Managed Facilities

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



Corrections Victoria Commissioner Dr. Emma Cassar recently visited the two Victorian Correctional Centres managed by The GEO Group Australia as part of a state-wide tour. The commissioner, who started in the role on 1 June, toured Fulham Correctional Centre with Deputy Commissioner Rod Wise who spoke to pre-service course participants about their experiences in the system. Fulham put on a 'high tea' for the visitors prepared by an inmate who was previously a chef. The tour of Ravenhall Correctional Centre came as the facility celebrated its first anniversary — the centre received its first intake of 25 inmates on 13 November 2017. In its first 12 months, Ravenhall took in 3,345 inmates and processed 5,268 inmate movements, including transfers and discharge.

The confidence that Corrections Victoria has in Ravenhall was demonstrated when it instructed GEO to increase counts to the Centre's full built capacity of 1,300 beds.

"The centre is looking wonderful and the team is doing a terrific job," said Dr. Cassar when she inspected the facility.

Pictured: From left: Fulham Correctional Centre general manager Col Caskie with Corrections Victoria commissioner Dr Emma Cassar and deputy commissioner Rod Wise.

Support For Local Farmers

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

Junee Correctional Centre has raised over AUD \$15,000 for the Rural Aid 'Buy A Bale' Campaign.

The local region is feeling the impact of the recent drought, and while the Centre's farm is a small operation, the rural location of the Centre means that many inmates and staff either come 'off the land' themselves or have family and friends in farming.

Staff and inmates were keen to support local farmers so The GEO Group Australia (GEO) and the Centre collaborated with Crust Pizza Wagga to develop an effort to sell pizzas to staff and inmates and donate all money raised to the 'Buy A Bale' Campaign. Crust Pizza Wagga supplied the Centre with over 1,500 pizzas across a three-day period and donated a further AUD \$1,000 towards the cause. Over AUD \$5,000 were raised through pizza sales, and GEO matched the amount dollar-for-dollar.

Through a number of other fundraising initiatives — including staff purchasing raised garden beds and hanging pots made by inmates from excess fencing material — a total of AUD \$15,588 was donated to Rural Aid.

"This was a fantastic effort and demonstrates how inmates can contribute and give back to the larger community in a way that also promotes pro-social behaviour," said Junee Correctional Centre General Manager Scott Brideoake.

"Our thanks to Crust Pizza Wagga for their generosity and time, discounted pizzas, and the donation to this very worthwhile cause."

Pictured: Local MP Steph Cooke and George Liakatos from Crust Pizza Wagga (third from right) celebrate the funds raised for Rural Aid with Junee Correctional Centre staff (from left) Trevor





All in a Day's Work— Junee Correctional Officer Saves Life

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

It was just your average working day in for Correctional Officer Brooke Dixon when a steno call came through that an inmate needed help and to come quick. Brooke immediately made her way to the pod area to find an inmate choking, unable to breathe. It was then that all her first aid training kicked in, and she began the Heimlich Maneuver on the distressed inmate. After around 8 seconds of continuous blows, a large piece of food fell to the floor from the inmate's mouth and he was able to breathe again. The Centre Medical Team arrived and assessed the inmate, determining that Brooke had actually saved the inmate's life.

Brooke has only been a Correctional Officer for about 2 years and prior to that spent years as a salesperson; however, she felt very unfulfilled and was desperate for a career change. That is when she decided to become a correctional officer, as she believed the skills she had developed during her years as a salesperson could be utilised to make a difference in people's lives. Brooke could easily build a rapport with clients to convince them to purchase products from her, so she figured how hard would it be to build a rapport with inmates to convince them to gain employment, attend programs, and better themselves for reintegration back to the community.

Brooke said, "Every day as an officer is different. I'm loving the challenges that every day brings, and I learn from each and every situation and experience. I'm excited for what the future holds for me, and I'm looking forward to a long and fulfilling career at GEO." Brooke received recognition for her quick thinking and actions which saved the inmate's life.

" Every day as an officer is different. I'm loving the challenges that every day brings, and I learn from each and every situation and experience. I'm excited for what the future holds for me, and I'm looking forward to a long and fulfilling career at GEO. "

Funds for Starlight

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

When Correctional Supervisor Esther Dekkers commented on an inmate's unconventional haircut, she had no idea that it would lead to more than AUD \$1,000 being raised for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

In a brief exchange of banter, Esther said the haircut was "atrocious" and that he should shave it off. The prisoner suggested Esther should shave her locks off and her response was "if the unit raises \$500 for charity I will."

Within 12 hours of the challenge being issued, 67 inmates in the Nalu Unit had pledged over \$550. Several days later, Esther's head was shaved with most of the inmates in the unit watching on.

Fulham's management team agreed to match the inmates' contributions, and this resulted in over AUD \$1,000 being donated to the foundation which has been brightening the lives of sick children across Australia for 30 years.

Pictured: Fulham correctional supervisor Esther Dekkers and the inmate whose casual comment led to funds being raised for Starlight Children's Foundation.



Boxes for Possums

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



Pictured: WIRES Representative Ellen Kemp with an orphaned joey ready for one of the possum boxes made at Junee Correctional Centre

Junee Correctional Centre is again playing a role helping orphaned and injured Brush Tail Possums be released back into the wild through its support of the local branch of Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES). Inmates undertaking TAFE courses have constructed 30 design-specific timber possum boxes for WIRES. This follows the delivery of 25 boxes in 2016. The boxes significantly increase the survival chances of the Possums.

While in care at WIRES, possums are housed in the boxes. They are then released back into the bush in the same box so they have familiar surroundings and don't have to compete with other Australian wildlife natives for tree hollows. Inmates are also about to start making pouches for Kangaroo Joeys following an additional request from WIRES. The activity reflects GEO's aim to provide better corrections through community engagement. Possums may require ongoing care at the WIRES shelter for between a week to four months depending on the nature of their misadventure and injuries. Glenda Pym from WIRES said possums regularly come into their care as orphaned joeys due to motor vehicle impacts. "These beautifully made boxes, provided so generously by Junee Correctional Centre staff and inmates, are utilised as the youngsters grow in our care," she said.

Once it is ready for release back into the wild the possum, together with its ready-made home, are placed in a suitable location safe from the elements. Wildlife carers do not receive any government or non-government funding. The resources they require to rescue and care for wildlife are provided from their own pockets. This is why these wonderful community partnerships are so critically important to us being able to continue to make a difference for wildlife in need.

Luzerne County Electronic Monitoring Celebrates 20 years in Operation

Written By **Stacey Kittrick,**
Luzerne County Case Manager

This fall, GEO Reentry Services of Luzerne County Pennsylvania celebrated two decades of service. Staff commemorated the occasion with an open house, welcoming stakeholders in the community to tour the facility, observe programs and enjoy lunch.

Guests were able to see first-hand the various options for electronic monitoring (EM), including HomeGuard, TAD, SL2, ExacuTrack One, and LOC8. GEO Reentry Services staff also conducted tours of the Reentry Services Center (RSC). Luzerne County currently delivers electronic monitoring, reentry programming, and in-prison treatment programming in partnership with Luzerne County to provide innovative, outcome-based, rehabilitative, and technology services to enhance community safety and decrease recidivism.

GEO staff look forward to continued service in Luzerne County, and we congratulate all who have contributed to this successful partnership.



Pictured Left to Right: *Stacey Velez, Program Manager at Luzerne County Reentry Center, with John Hogan, Area Manager, Pennsylvania for GEO Reentry Services Non-Residential.*



Pictured: *CMRC Families and their pumpkins*

Family Fun at Cheyenne Mountain Reentry center

Written By **Pam Bennett, GEO Care Strategic Marketing**

The Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center (CMRC) held its first family event in October. Every child was provided with a pumpkin donated by the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility. Frank Gonzalez, National Manager of Family Services, provided refreshments and treat bags for the visitors and offenders. CMRC provided non-toxic paints and brushes for each family to decorate their pumpkins. Ten residents participated in this successful first event, with 31 visitors, including 21 children.

Tony Carochi, Facility Director, and Kevin Furton, Assistant Facility Director stated that this is the first time they've done anything like this. They wanted to find a way to help families bond and create a memory for fathers and their children. Representatives from the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) attended the event as well. The DOC likes to collaborate with the CMRC on events such as this to support the health and well-being of the residents.

When asked about the response from residents and staff, Director Carochi said, "Staff were really excited and the residents were smiling ear to ear. Our staff here have worked so hard do a great job."

Assistant Director Furton remarked, "A number of residents commented on how happy they were to have the opportunity to do something positive with their children." He added, "The children got to take their pumpkins home. They were really excited to have something to keep that they worked on with their dads."

Following the success of this event, CMRC plans to keep promoting family events. The Center also hosted a Christmas celebration where the residents were able to decorate two Christmas ornaments with their children – one to hang on the Christmas tree in the CMRC visiting room, and the other for the kids to take home to put on their own tree to keep as another reminder of memory of doing something positive with their fathers.

Deputy Director of ADAPPT Completes 25-Year Career

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



"I wouldn't have missed one day in these 25 years – I love my job!" said Sandra VanSickle, who retired after a 25-year career at ADAPPT (Alcohol & Drug Addiction Parole & Probation Treatment) in Reading, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 2018. Ms. VanSickle started at ADAPPT in 1993, working her way through the ranks to become Deputy Director of the residential reentry facility.

She has seen the facility move between four different directors and four company transitions. She completes her career as a GEO Reentry Services Deputy Director, proud of the changes made at the

facility through programming and of the help they have given to thousands of individuals. Ms. Van Sickle has been contacted by many residents who have expressed their gratitude for ADAPPT's programs for making a difference in their lives and being the pivot point for positive change.

"I have to thank her for her leadership as my Deputy Director," said Michael Critchosin, Director of ADAPPT. "She is an integral part of ADAPPT and maintains so many relationships with the State and our licensing agencies. She will be missed."

Ms. VanSickle claims that one of the finest moments she experienced at ADAPPT was becoming licensed by the Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs of Pennsylvania (DDAP). She has seen in-patient care consistently grow to a larger population through the years, and with it more diversified staff and training to accommodate changing populations and treatment methods.

"I believe our success in treating residents at ADAPPT has come from the attitude of the staff," said Ms. VanSickle. "We impress upon residents that we are here and ready to help you, but it is their choice to make change; the decision lies with the resident to be willing to grab hold of the tools of the evidence-based programming we provide."

Ms. VanSickle will miss her work at ADAPPT but looks forward to spending time with her husband and sister who live nearby. A luncheon was held in her honor on Friday, September 28, 2018 with invited guests from the facility and community. We wish Ms. VanSickle a happy retirement and thank her for her dedication.

Pictured: Sandy VanSickle, Deputy Director of ADAPPT in Reading, Pennsylvania (left), receives a 25-year award from GEO's ADAPPT Director Michael Critchosin (right)



Pictured Left to Right: Stacey Ford, GEO Substance Abuse Counselor, Dr. Martija of Advanced Health Care, Delores Lane, GEO Substance Abuse Counselor

Chicago Heights RSC Team Receives Substance Abuse Training

Written By **Luke Lynch, Chicago Heights Reentry Services Center**

Providing quality services is a fundamental principle that the non-residential central Illinois team takes very seriously. One of the ways we ensure program fidelity is by investing in our growth. Last year, the Illinois team set a goal to become licensed by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA) to provide Substance Abuse treatment in all of our Reentry Service Centers. This involved hiring and training six substance abuse counselors, utilizing new assessment and treatment planning tools, implementing a new curriculum and completing an intensive license application process. We accomplished this goal and have continued to make strides towards enhancing our services through ongoing training and quality assurance practices.

In August, Illinois Program Managers and Substance Abuse Counselors participated in a comprehensive training on Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment Planning. This training, facilitated by Sonya Davis (Program Manager West Fulton) and Lillian Kinnison (Program Manager Decatur), gave us a better understanding of these clinical processes, improved our skill-set, and allowed us to practice together as a group where we could receive open feedback from our peers. During this training, we also had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Martija from Advanced Health Care. Dr. Martija is one of two doctors who review all of our assessments and treatment plans in order to further ensure fidelity. We would like to thank Ms. Davis, Ms. Kinnison, Dr. Martija, and all of the managers and counselors for taking the time to invest in each other to become a stronger more effective team. Their commitment to the professional development of our staff and to changing our clients' lives inspires all of us!

One Man's Trash is Another Man's Job Opportunity

Written By **Forrest Duffy, Lycoming County RSC**

On September 24, 2018, nine participants of the Lycoming County Reentry Service Center were able to begin employment at the County Landfill. This opportunity was thanks to a collaborative effort between the Lycoming County Adult Probation Office, the Lycoming County Landfill, and the Lycoming County GEO Reentry staff who worked to develop this employment program. The partnership began in July of 2018 with the three organizations working to provide employment opportunities and job training for reentry participants. With the work of these organizations, along with the help from The Roberts Company, a local temp agency, this initiative became a reality.

Leading up to their first day of employment, each participant had to complete several training hours. They had to complete applications for the Roberts Company, purchase work

boots, and attend two four-hour training sessions. In these trainings, they were certified in Lockout-Tagout and educated on the history of recycling, the processes at the Landfill's Recycling Center, and safety equipment training. The landfill plans to certify all participants on forklift operations, Lockout-Tagout procedure, and First Aid and CPR.

Participants began employment at the landfill three days per week, working eight-hour shifts. The landfill provides transportation to and from the Facility for participants and has worked with GEO Reentry staff to be able to continue to meet the programming and treatment needs of the participants. The participants have been grateful for the opportunity, and several have been outspoken about their gratitude. Mr. Moore said, "The program is great, and I am very appreciative about the job opportunity for people



in our situation." Ms. Lewis stated, "It smells, and it is hard work, but it's honest and a foot in the door towards a better opportunity and the right direction." Ms. Walker said, "I think it's awesome for the people involved to have believed in us enough to give us a second chance."

Lycoming County and the GEO Reentry facility will continue to work to promote and expand this program and the opportunities that it provides to reentry participants who are

seeking employment. Currently as part of the program, the Lycoming County Landfill is looking to fill opportunities for up to twenty openings. The Lycoming RSC will continue to host training sessions and will continue to collaborate with the County Landfill Staff and the Lycoming County APO Office in regards to the progress of the participants in the Landfill program. Together, Lycoming County and the Center will continue to provide employment and training opportunities to participants in Lycoming County.

ADAPPT AOD Unit Helps Out Local Library

Written By **Michael Critchosin, Director at ADAPPT & Karen Collins, GEO Care Strategic Marketing**



GEO ADAPPT's AOD unit is always looking for ways to give back to the community. So it is no surprise that our residents were eager to jump in and lend a helping hand no matter how big or small the project for the Northeast Branch of the Reading Public Library. ADAPPT reentrants have successfully assisted at reconstruction projects at the library over the last year, helping update areas making it easy to use and become tech friendly. ADAPPT was proud to have been asked to return to the library to assist with additional work continuing through July and August.

"Library Executive Director Gamble has been a strong supporter of GEO ADAPPT and our programs," said Michael Critchosin, Director of ADAPPT. "We are honored to serve the community by helping out at the library. This opportunity helps the City of Reading, and helps our reentrants by providing a venue to demonstrate positive behavior and give back," said Michael Critchosin, Director of ADAPPT.

A willing group of reentrants volunteered for this latest service at the library, helping reconstruct a desk with donated materials from a national retail chain. Both beneficial to the library and the reentrants, community service plays a large part in the reentry programming provided at ADAPPT. Supporting the community by volunteer commitments helps reentrants experience positive responsibility, learn trade skills, and experience the rewards of giving back to society.

ADAPPT, (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Parole and Probation Treatment), maintains an impressive record of community service to the City of Reading. Staff accompany reentrants to outside opportunities that include city and park cleanups, light construction projects, and general assistance with varied community projects.

BI Incorporated Employee Competes in Scottish Highland Games

Written By **Lindsay Koolis, GEO Care Strategic Marketing**

For the last five years, Joe Johnson, BI Incorporated Account Management Supervisor, has been an impressive participant in the Scottish Highland Games. The Scottish Masters Athletics International (SMAI) is organized and operated to foster international amateur sports competition for charitable and cultural purposes.

A quarter Scottish himself, while at a Highland festival in Estes Park, Colorado, years ago he watched in awe as athletes participated in stone and hammer throws, caber and shear tosses, and other similar traditional feats of strength. Joe joined the local chapter

five years ago and has been participating ever since. Early on, Joe self-trained, using YouTube videos to establish his foundation. As competition became fiercer and his interest amplified, Joe decided to fine-tune his skills by hiring field and strength coaches.

For Joe, this past year was filled with back to back competitions in Colorado, California, Wyoming, Kansas, and Arizona. Most notably, at the Colorado Scottish Festival in Edgewater he placed 2nd place in the Lightweight <200 lb. category, just one-foot shy of qualifying for the 2018 International Championships.

The next World Championships will be in Tucson, AZ, November 1 – 2, 2019 and he has a June 1, 2019 deadline to hit qualifying numbers. Joe is grateful for the support he receives from his coworkers and often tells them “thank you, but until I can qualify to compete in the World Championships, I’ll keep eating humble pie.”

To learn more about this tradition, view stats and join in support of Joe, visit:

Scottish Masters Athletics International
<http://www.scottishmasters.org>

North American Scottish Games Athletics
<http://www.nasgaweb.com>



Pictured: Joe Johnson competing in the Scottish Highland Games

ADAPPT Celebrates Veterans Day

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



Pictured left to right: Mark Brady, Michael Critchosin

In 2018, Veterans Day was commemorated at The GEO Group with a thank you letter from Chairman and CEO, Dr. George C. Zoley. The letter was distributed company-wide to thank every veteran staff member for their courage, dedication, and sacrifice in service of our country. The personal letter also included an expression of gratitude for their service to the company by the quality of operational excellence. The letter was delivered to every GEO facility along with a set of Veteran Coins of Appreciation meant to be distributed to every veteran staff member.

At ADAPPT Residential Reentry Center in Reading, Pennsylvania, Director Mike Critchosin was proud to thank Mark Brady, Assistant Director of Operations, for his military service and exemplary work at ADAPPT.

Mr. Brady served in the U.S. Navy, after which he spent more than twenty years at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in various roles. He retired as a Lieutenant in May of 2018 and began employment with GEO at ADAPPT in June of 2018.

“We’re proud to recognize Mark’s military service and are honored to have him as a member of the ADAPPT team,” said Director Critchosin.

To celebrate Veterans Day, a ceremony was held at the facility to honor Mr. Brady, where the coin of appreciation and framed letter from Dr. Zoley were presented to him.

GEO is proud to honor those who have served the country and employs over 1,800 men and women veterans. The ADAPPT center was pleased to hold the ceremony in honor of Veterans Day that acknowledges the sacrifices made by the brave men and women of the military.

Elizabeth CRC Celebrates 60+ Graduates this Year

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



The Elizabeth Community Resource Center is proud to have graduated more than sixty graduates in 2018. A transition ceremony was held on August 31, 2018 that hosted many special guests and speakers. The Center provides evidence-based reentry programming to male and female participants in New Jersey.

"We are delighted to see so many past participants leading successful lives after receiving reentry programming at our facility," said Jennifer Volpe, Program Manager of the Elizabeth CRC. "I have amazing staff who are willing to go above and beyond to

assist participants in changing their lives. Days like this are very rewarding. We are thrilled to see so many lives on a positive track."

Robert Kantor of the New Jersey State Parole Board was the honored keynote speaker and delivered an inspiring speech to the graduates. Additional guest speakers were Daniel B. and Chris B., former parolees who were volunteer speakers, and Sameerah D., a former client and regular speaker at celebrations who brought along Valeria Seymour, known for starting the non-profit organization 'Beauty for Ashes,' a community outreach program that helps those struggling with addiction.

GEO Reentry Services provides a program designed to create behavioral change for each participant based on individual criminogenic risks and needs at Elizabeth CRC. Services include substance abuse education, life skills, family services, gender-specific programming, gang awareness, employment readiness, and educational assistance.

Graduates proudly received their certificates, and each gave a short speech on how much the program and staff helped them establish a positive lifestyle. It was a personal testament of change, hope for the future, and pride. Gift cards for perfect attendance and most positive attitude were awarded. The event ended with an amazing lunch and cake.

Transition celebrations are an uplifting day for all, providing the opportunity to recognize the power of reentry programming to change lives and reduce recidivism. Elizabeth CRC is proud to have had a hand in helping 60+ individuals gain the tools for change!



Delaney Hall, Newark, Staff Support Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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

Kudos to the staff at Delaney Hall Residential Reentry Center in Newark, NJ, for their support of the Susan G. Komen Cancer Foundation in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Staff collected \$150 in donations, joining other GEO Reentry Services staff who contributed to the worthy cause in a company wide effort.

"Thank you to those who donated to this great cause. We are very appreciative of your generosity and willingness to contribute," said Richard McCourt, Senior Area Manager Northeast, GEO Reentry Services.

Contributions to the Susan G. Komen Foundation are used to further the search for a cure for breast cancer. The disease is estimated to claim more than 40,000 lives per year.

"I am proud of the teamwork demonstrated by the staff," said Taurean James, Director of Delaney Hall. "I am grateful to GEO for choosing the Susan G. Komen Foundation. It has special meaning for me and many staff members."

Delaney Hall chose a day during which employees wore pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The staff felt rewarded to have had a role in this successful effort in the fight against Breast Cancer.

Congratulations to the first 18 participants to complete GEO Reentry Services' in-prison treatment program at the Clark County Detention Center. A ceremony was held November 15, 2018 at the Las Vegas, Nevada facility for the first group who completed the pilot program.

The unique program provides a cognitive behavioral treatment approach with community-based reentry services at an in-prison location, partnering with jail administration and community resource agencies, aimed to contribute to a successful reentry upon program completion and return to the community.

"This program has hopefully taught you that you don't have to remain in the dark sky; that words like self-

First 18 Successfully Complete Pilot Program in Clark County

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

discovery, change, and choice are in your control. That through this process you can shine and are learning to shine better, and brighter, and clearer than before. This process gave you the opportunity and power to once again be the luminous figure in your life and to shine; to "Be a Star," said

Lorin Fishman, Program Director, in her address to the participants.

Each participant had an opportunity to express their gratitude towards the program, and many pointed to specific staff members who helped them makes positive changes in their lives.

Congrats to the hard-working staff at Clark County Detention Center for their efforts in giving an opportunity for those reentering the community to "Be A Star!" They can be proud of the program being off to a productive start.



Louisville Employee Honored by Metro DRC

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

Congratulations to Ms. Arrica Spearman-Cleasant, Case Manager at the Louisville Day Reporting Center, for being honored as Employee of the Month for September 2018. The Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC) chose to award Ms. Spearman-Cleasant for her accomplished work at the Center. Ms. Spearman-Cleasant is an on-site employee for the LMDC and is an essential member of the team who assures that the daily operation is running smoothly for both staff and participants.

"We are thrilled that Ms. Spearman-Cleasant has achieved this well-deserved honor," said William West, Program Manager of the Louisville Center. "We could not run the program without her. She helps make our day to day operation a success."

As a Case Manager at the center, she has thorough knowledge of participant needs, is supportive of other staff, and uplifts all with a pleasant attitude. Ms. Spearman-Cleasant started at the facility as a liaison for the LMDC, and her role has evolved into a full-time, on-site position appointed by the LMDC.

She has proven to be effective in supporting participants. GEO's Louisville Center provides a complete program of non-residential services aimed at securing a successful lifestyle in the community. The Center provides services that help attain a substance free lifestyle and introduce participants to educational and vocational opportunities.

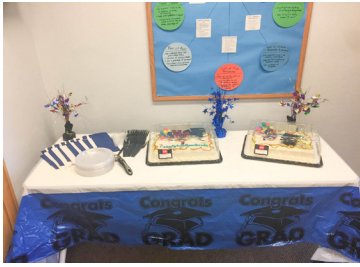
Appreciated by both the LMDC and the staff at the Louisville Day Reporting Center, Ms. Spearman-Cleasant is honored to be an integral part of the team that helps restore lives and provide a new start to so many. Thank you for your dedication!



Pictured: Steve Durham, Assistant Director of the Louisville KY Metro Department of Corrections (left) awards Arrica Spearman-Cleasant, Case Manager at the Louisville Day Reporting Center, Employee of the Month recognition.

Rockford Reentry Center Celebrates Transition Celebration

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



Rockford Reentry Services Center, in Illinois, celebrated a Transition Celebration on September 14, 2018 sending off fifteen graduates of the non-residential reentry program with an opportunity for a new start on life. The day was a hallmark for all, including participants, staff, and family members. The evidence-based treatment program is designed to assist participants, recommended from the Illinois Department of Corrections Parole Division, transition successfully back into society.

Lori Bridge, Commander of Parole for Winnebago County, was the special guest and keynote speaker who delivered a message of encouragement to the graduates. Agent Lombardo from Winnebago County also attended and spoke to the crowd, as well as Sherry Pearson, Program Manager of the Rockford RSC and three Case Managers. All wished the graduates well and hoped they would take a message of recovery and positive reentry back with them to their communities.

“The evidence-based programs we provide are tools for change,” said Sherry Pearson, Program Manager. “Transition Celebrations are very rewarding for our participants and staff. We have seen many former participants move on to a positive lifestyle using the tools provided at the program.”

The GEO Reentry Services program averages approximately five to nine months in duration and includes various reentry services designed to help individuals successfully transition back into society. Recently, the center partnered with the community in an effort to give back, joining the “Love Rockford” event.

The purpose of the event is to link community members in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual support with local services such as food, clothing, and counseling. It was a successful event, which demonstrates the Rockford Reentry Services Center’s commitment to healing and community support.

Wichita Kansas Holds Uplifting Celebration

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

The Wichita Day Reporting Center celebrated a successful Transition Celebration on October 5, 2018 that marked program completion for 27 males and females. Participants that complete the programming will have been provided with the tools designed to increase chances of a positive reentry to the community. The non-residential programming is provided by GEO Reentry Services and focuses on substance abuse programming, intensive case management, and domestic violence education at this Kansas facility.

“This important celebration highlights GEO’s pursuit of changing the behavior and the lives of program participants, while also providing effective community based cost-saving programming to the City of Wichita,” said Andrew Young, Area Manager, Central Region for GEO Reentry Services.

A highlight of the celebration was the keynote speaker, Nathan Emmorey, the Municipal Court Administrator, City of Wichita. Mr. Emmorey delivered an uplifting message to the participants emphasizing the importance of education and living well. He was encouraging to all in attendance, and gave the program graduates a boost of hope for their future and pride in their accomplishment.

“Our goal is to provide evidence-based GEO Reentry programming that helps our participants establish a new beginning, with the ability to engage with the community as productive citizens,” said Terri Snyder, Program Manager of the Wichita Day Reporting Center. “The client testimonials at the celebration were extremely heartfelt; we are rewarded to hear that our message is getting across about the values of a positive lifestyle.”

Family and friends were welcomed at the event that took place at the Wichita center. The programming lasts for approximately six months to one year, with a minimum of 26 weeks. Participants are recommended from the Municipal Court, City of Wichita and are provided with a full program of reentry services for non-residents. Additional services include risks and needs assessments, meetings, and a behavioral change plan.





Marlton Donates to Local Food Bank

Written By **Sean Thomas, Program Manager**

On January 22, 2019, the Marlton ISAP Team presented, on behalf of GEO/BI, a donation of \$800 to the Food Bank of South Jersey, located in Pennsauken, NJ.

The Marlton ISAP office partners regularly with the Food Bank of South Jersey by referring our ISAP clientele who are in need of meal packages from NGO resources.



Luzerne County Judge Donates Neckties to Participants

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

Participants at the Luzerne County Day Reporting Center were extremely grateful to receive a special gift from the Honorable Jennifer L. Rogers, Family Court Judge in Luzerne County. The judge donated a bag full of men's neckties for the male participants to use for court appearances, job interviews, and special occasions.

"This was a very thoughtful gesture on behalf of Judge Rogers, and we are very appreciative," said Stacey Velez, Program Manager at the

Luzerne DRC. "The men were honored by the gesture. It was a boost for their self-esteem and it brought them hope for a better future and working towards continued success in life."

GEO Reentry Services provides evidence-based reentry programming at the Luzerne County DRC. Amongst the many services is a class in Employment Readiness, which prepares participants to seek employment that will help establish a successful reentry to the community. In the class, participants are taught to tie a necktie as part of the preparation for interviewing and presenting their best self for employment.

"Four participants didn't know how to tie their necktie, so they were shown by GEO male staff," continued Ms.

Velez. "All were extremely proud of their newly acquired skill. Being able to tie your tie is a rite of passage some had never experienced. This gift was beneficial, ensuring commitment to programming and a desire to live a positive life. One individual stated he never even owned a tie."

The members were so impressed that they had their photo taken and framed "sporting" their new ties. The framed photo was given to Judge Rogers. One member of the group plans to wear his new tie to his upcoming court hearing when he sees the Judge.

Individuals who secure employment are less likely to reoffend, lessening the chance for recidivism. The Luzerne County DRC offers a non-residential program of reentry

services for those referred from the criminal justice system, providing services for substance abuse treatment, life skills, and educational and vocational preparation. Its goal is to return individuals to society as productive citizens and reduce recidivism.

Many respond positively to the reentry programming provided and are able to turn their lives around and stand proudly, jacket and tie, ready to begin a new and positive lifestyle.



Pictured Left to Right: Terrence Bobbitt, Brandon Sirak, Darryl Elliott, Douglas Woodward

Congratulations Mom Who Attained Degree at New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy

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



Carmen with her baby

The New Mexico Women's Recovery Academy (NMWRA) in Albuquerque is proud to share in the recent success of resident Carmen F., who was awarded her high school diploma while at NMWRA. Carmen gave birth to a baby boy just before coming to NMWRA and was able to walk the graduation line holding her new baby - to the delight of many in attendance.

"We are extremely proud to provide GEO Reentry's evidence-based programming here which includes the "Mothers with Children," program," said Michael Betrus, Director of both the New Mexico Women's & Men's Recovery Academies. "We host a very special program that helps mothers get a new start while living with their children at the facility. The families are treated with family-oriented therapeutic services."

Being a resident in this unique program, Carmen is able to live with her child at the "Mother's House." The staff feels rewarded to see GEO Reentry Services' programming working through Carmen, who worked hard to achieve her degree. Reportedly, she was extremely focused in her efforts to grab hold of the reentry services provided and achieve her lifelong goal of being a high school graduate.

NMWRA is a peer-led community program, encouraging interaction between members that reinforces positive socialization skills. In addition to Carmen's daily programming

(RDAP, Anger Management, Drug & Alcohol, and Seeking Safety), she also attends Gordon Bernal Charter School three times a week. The school is very special, as they work with NMWRA residents to attain a High School Diploma, as opposed to a GED. Carmen also worked especially hard completing community service opportunities, which allowed her to qualify for an elective course at the school.

"It was very special for us to see Carmen in cap and gown, holding her baby and her diploma that she worked so hard to earn," said Renee Mollineda, Counselor at NMWRA. "Our goal at NMWRA is to uplift individuals to a higher standard of living. We are pleased to help residents accomplish positive goals of education and parenting, through the provision of the GEO Reentry cognitive-behavioral treatment structure."

GEO Reentry Services takes pride in its ability to provide a combination of evidence-based services and specific reentry services to assist individuals with a successful transition to society and to meet the goal of recidivism reduction. For many in our care who are able to embrace GEO programming, these services enable them to begin a new start on life.

The staff at NMWRA wish Carmen and her baby the best going forward, and we are proud to be part of the foundation that supports a new positive lifestyle after her program completion in February 2019.

Perth Amboy CRC Winter Transition Celebration

Written By **Dana Carbone, Supervising Case Manager**



Pictured: Graduating program participants pose with completion certificates

On Wednesday December 19, 2018, The Community Resource Center of Perth Amboy, NJ celebrated their 10th anniversary with a transition ceremony, honoring eight of their graduating participants who have successfully completed the program. Twice a year, Perth Amboy hosts both a Summer and Winter transition ceremony in order to recognize those participants who have successfully completed the program. Each participant completed the expected program requirements of the CRC as well as attained employment through the help of the staff and additional resources from the CRC.

Also present at the ceremony were New Jersey State Parole officials, along with several returning staff members. Graduating participants were presented with certificates of completion and gift bags. Program Manager Peter Conerly commended the graduates for their efforts and achievements followed by congratulatory remarks by Assistant Program Manager Dana Carbone, Case Managers Bryant Madera and Jose Batista, and Employment Specialist Myrna Torres. Following the presentations, participants and staff enjoyed a catered buffet lunch to celebrate both the holiday season and the accomplishments of the graduating participants. Perth Amboy will host its next transition event in the Summer of 2019 to recognize the program completion of participants from January through June.

Transitions in Action

Written By **Craig Spatara, Continuum of Care- Post Release Services**

On December 14, 2018 several Continuum of Care Post Release Case Managers had the opportunity to visit the James Club, a GEO post-release housing Preferred Provider and partner, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. GEO provides housing assistance for newly released Continuum of Care participants who are in need of somewhere to stay. The James Club is dedicated to helping men when they first get out of jail or prison who are looking to turn their lives around. They have produced numerous success stories. The James Club offers a six to nine-month program, providing employment placement services and support as individuals re-integrate into society. Their goal is for returning citizens to become self-sufficient, productive, and honest members of society.

This visit provided an opportunity for GEO's Case Managers to connect with their clients and check in on their progress, as well as to provide support and encouragement. The clients residing at the James Club are getting the community support that they need. Prior to release, the Post-Release Case Managers and participants have a minimum of three telephone calls in order to develop an individualized Release Action Plan/Transition Plan that is based on a risks and needs assessment. This plan provides a roadmap and the tools necessary for a smooth transition back into becoming a productive member of society. Participants in the program are provided with basic needs, food, clothing, and shelter while they receive assistance and guidance in addressing more progressive needs such as employment, family reunification, substance abuse, or mental health issues. Program participants check in with their Case Managers once a week along their journey for up to a year. The participants pictured were ecstatic to meet their Case Managers for the first time and incredibly grateful for the assistance provided through the GEO Continuum of Care.

The GEO Care Post-Release Support Services are designed for individuals returning to their communities after completing their sentences at a GEO facility. The voluntary program assists participants' efforts to become productive and contributing community members and to reduce their likelihood of reoffending.



Pictured (Top): Left to Right; PRCM-Tony Berrios, Ray Rapaglia- The James Club, Director of Post Release Services- Craig Spatara, PRCM-Veanna Ganishlal, PRCM-Liboria Pernice, PRCM-Monet Vaughn, Tracey Castillo- The James Club, PRCM-Kristen Heller, PRCM-Maria Sarmiento-Zamudio

Pictured (Bottom Left): Post Release Case Manager Veanna Ganaishlal (Right) meets client Eric at the James Club (Left)

Pictured (Bottom Right): Post Release Case Manager Liboria Pernice (Left) meets client Jourman (Right) face to face for the first time.

Community Connections

Building Relationships in the Community

Annual Alumni Holiday Dinner in NJ Shares the Message of Hope & Possibility

"Share the Hope!" was the powerful message brought by GEO Reentry Services' alumni members to a group of residents at the annual Alumni Holiday Dinner & Meeting on December 5, 2018 at Talbot Hall in Kearny, New Jersey. The annual dinner was attended by alumni, guests, and staff from New Jersey facilities and representatives from GEO's Corporate headquarters in Florida.

Members participated in an evening of fellowship with others and had the opportunity to thank staff for their help. The dinner was followed by an alumni meeting, where ten members voluntarily spoke to approximately 300 residents currently at Talbot Hall, sharing their stories of hope, recovery and living productive lives after being provided with GEO's evidence-based reentry services. GEO Reentry Services is the service provider for Education and Health Centers of America, Inc. in New Jersey.

Elizabeth CRC Staff & NJ Alumni Join Reentry Conference at Kean University

Congratulations to members of New Jersey Alumni Services and staff from the Elizabeth Community Reentry Center (CRC) for participating in a simulated reentry conference hosted by Kean University's School of Criminal Justice. The event took place in Union County on November 9, 2018 and focused on finding ways to improve the reentry process for offenders in their first month of release. Employees from the criminal justice system volunteered to participate as well to identify the challenges of reentry that ex-offenders face as they reenter the community.

Communities Enjoy a Thanksgiving Meal Courtesy of GEO Care

Tears of gratitude were observed along with hugs and smiles as local area residents received free Thanksgiving frozen turkeys donated by GEO Care for the holiday. Members of NJ Alumni Services and staff from Talbot Hall Residential Reentry Center took pride in a day of volunteering to distribute approximately 200 turkeys to the needy around New Jersey.

"Our mission is to help those in our facilities with evidence-based reentry services, so that individuals can create a better life for themselves and their family," said Richard McCourt, Senior Area Manager Northeast, GEO Reentry Services. "We are honored to extend the message of helping others out into the community during the holidays."

Merced DRC Hosts 3rd Annual Soberfest Event

The Merced (Day Reporting Center) DRC, in partnership with the Merced County Sheriff's Department, Merced County Probation Department, and the Tsunami Collaboration, hosted their annual Soberfest event in September. The event is held in honor of National Recovery Month, which celebrates life and second chances for individuals who have dealt with or overcome addictions. Many local non-profits and support organizations were present at the event to share information on the services they provide.

Residents Share Message of Hope With Second Chance Canines

On a late September Saturday, several residents from GEO's Scranton Residential Reentry Center volunteered their time at the "Ruff Life Rescue North East Animal Shelter." Residents gave time to help with feeding the dogs, cleaning kennels, and doing general tasks that help the shelter care for the dogs while waiting to be adopted.

"Our residents experienced a rewarding day at the shelter, sharing a message of a better life to come with a second chance," said Gardnia Simeon, Director of the Scranton facility.

Annual NJ Alumni BBQ Shows Reentry Works

A little rain and clouds did not dampen the spirits of the large group gathered at Merrill Park in New Jersey on Saturday, September 8, 2018, for the annual alumni barbecue. Alumni members are graduates of New Jersey residential reentry facilities, who are now living drug and crime free after completing evidence-based reentry programming.

"Today is a day of celebration. We are celebrating the power of positive programs, community partnerships, and new beginnings," said Angela Geisinger, Senior Director, Education and Programs, GEO Care. "The Alumni Services division is a proven service model and a component of GEO's Continuum of Care."

It was an uplifting day that was enjoyed by all. A multitude of individuals expressed their gratitude for the reentry programs that helped them create change in their lives. New Jersey Alumni Services has a large group of members that continue to attend regularly scheduled meetings, carrying the message to current residents that a positive lifestyle can be achieved and is worth working for.

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