

GEO World

3RD QUARTER 2017

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



30
years

AURORA DETENTION FACILITY CELEBRATES
Of Operational Excellence

AURORA, COLORADO - 1987



Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder

As we celebrate 30 years of sustained operational excellence at our Aurora Detention Facility, we look forward to the future confident in our ability to sustain that success in the United States and abroad through the delivery of industry-leading real estate, management, and programmatic solutions across the entire spectrum of correctional, detention, community reentry and rehabilitation services.

To the GEO Family,

Thirty years ago, our company began operations at our first detention facility in the United States. The Aurora Detention Facility, located approximately 20 miles east of Denver, Colorado, opened its doors in 1987 with 150 beds under a contract with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which was subsequently succeeded by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security in the early 2000s.

Since that time, the Aurora Detention Facility has undergone several expansions which have increased its total capacity to more than 1,500 beds. Through the years, the Facility has been at the forefront of innovation providing high-quality, culturally responsive services in a safe, secure and humane environment for individuals in the care and custody of federal immigration authorities.

The Facility, which currently houses U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and United States Marshals populations, is representative of GEO's long-standing partnerships with government agencies around the world.

Like the Aurora Detention Facility, GEO's partnership with federal immigration authorities has grown significantly over the years. Currently, GEO provides services for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at more than a dozen highly-rated facilities in compliance with the Federal government's performance-based National Detention Standards.

The continued success of our Aurora Detention Facility and of our broader partnership with the Federal government is rooted in our company's steadfast commitment to operational

excellence. This commitment has allowed us to grow into the largest private provider of diversified correctional, detention, community reentry and rehabilitation services worldwide with approximately 100,000 beds, including 10,000 reentry beds, at 143 facilities and a growing workforce of 23,500 employees.

As we celebrate 30 years of sustained operational excellence at our Aurora Detention Facility, we look forward to the future confident in our ability to sustain that success in the United States and abroad through the delivery of industry-leading real estate, management, and programmatic solutions across the entire spectrum of correctional, detention, community reentry and rehabilitation services.

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30 years

AURORA DETENTION FACILITY CELEBRATES *Of Operational Excellence*



The GEO Group's Aurora Detention Facility commemorated its thirtieth anniversary with a celebration held on June 1, 2017. Dr. George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO, and Founder, attended the ceremony as the guest of honor.

The Aurora Detention Facility became a reality thirty years ago based on Dr. Zoley's vision. In May of 1987, the Facility opened with a contract for 150 beds to serve the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). In only 150 days and at a cost of \$2.3 million, the Facility was financed, constructed, and furnished by The GEO Group. The Facility was built with an innovative approach; placing housing areas in a new design that extended from a central core which allows for both direct supervision and electronic surveillance. With so much of the design complementing the safety and security of the Facility, it quickly became a showcase for the INS.

The Aurora Detention Facility was built by Tom Wierdsma, GEO's Senior Vice President of Project Development, who at the time oversaw the project for Hensel Phelps, the

construction firm tasked with developing the Facility.

Matt DenAdel served as Aurora's original Business Manager, and given his unmatched dedication and professionalism, he was promoted to the Corporate Office eventually becoming GEO's Executive Vice President of Pricing.

In 1992, the Facility underwent its first expansion as The GEO Group simultaneously acquired and built more detention facilities across the country. Following a \$3.8 million construction project, the Facility's capacity doubled to 300 beds. This expansion allowed the Facility to provide even more specialized services to the INS for different custody levels of male and female detainees. Between 1998 and 2009, the Facility underwent several other expansion projects which increased its capacity to 432 beds.

In 2009, Dr. Zoley along with senior management of the company recognized the growing need for specialized bed space for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (the successor agency for the INS), and plans were put in motion

to develop a brand new building adjacent to the existing structure. By July 2010, a 202,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art detention facility totaling 1,100 beds was completed, and the operation at Aurora moved into its new quarters. The first building was closed and retired pending renovation.

Everyone at the Aurora Detention Facility was honored to have Dr. Zoley attend the thirtieth anniversary celebration which included a banquet held on-site.

Warden Johnny Choate assumed the role of host for the ceremony. Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations, J. David Donahue, Western Region Vice President, James Black, and Executive Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates, Peggy Rudden all made special remarks during the ceremony.

Dr. Zoley was presented with a bronze plaque from the Aurora Detention Facility, commemorating the Facility's thirty years of operational excellence. The plaque will be posted in the main facility in his honor. Dr. Zoley was also presented with an ornamental commemorative sword by Western Region Vice President, James Black as a token of the Western Region's appreciation for Dr. Zoley's continued support and guidance.

Dr. Zoley, Mr. Donahue, and Mr. Black took time during the ceremony to recognize and honor Aurora's employees who have given over twenty years of their service to the Facility. Their hard work, dedication, and professionalism have contributed to thirty years of operational excellence second to none. Congratulations, Aurora!

Pictured from left to right: 1: J. Dave Donahue, James Black, Dr. George Zoley, and Warden Johnny Choate. **2:** Warden Johnny Choate, James Black, J. Dave Donahue, and Dr. George Zoley. **3: Back Row:** Bill Maybee, Barbara Krumpelmann, Gary Smith, Hope LeBlanc, and Daniel Loera. **Center:** Dr. George Zoley. **Front Row:** Mitra Rezaei, Nancy Alonso, Lisa Romero, Zerrin Gann, Nora Ponce, Dawn Ceja, and Christopher Burton. **4:** Dr. George Zoley, Mrs. DenAdel and Matt DenAdel. **5:** Mrs. Wierdsma, Tom Wierdsma, Barbara Krumpelmann, and Fleet Technician Kenneth Krumpelmann.



Aurora's employees with over twenty years of service were honored at the celebration.



Matt DenAdel (right) served as the original Business Manager of the Aurora Detention Facility.



Then with Hensel Phelps, Tom Wierdsma (second from the left) built the Aurora Detention Facility in 1987.

GEO CELEBRATES NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES WEEK

During the week of May 7-14, 2017, GEO facilities around the United States celebrated National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Each GEO facility found unique ways to show appreciation and say thank you to all the correctional officers and employees for the work they do each and every day. Here are just some of the ways in which each facility celebrated!



East Hidalgo Detention Center: Staff hosted a breakfast and an ice cream social. Chief of Classification Stephanie Tovar is pictured cooking pancakes.



Allen Correctional Center: Nurses Ramona Poullard, Susan Hebert, and Hilda Campbell hold frappuccinos that were given to them from a local coffee shop.



Heritage Trail Correctional Facility: HTCF basketball champions played the Warden's team, with staff on site to cheer them on. The event raised over \$100 which was donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Western Region Detention Facility: Taco bar gets a thumbs up from Officers Juvera, Vidales, and Ahumada!



LaSalle Detention Facility: Warden D.C. Cole and LDF annual winners met with Mayor LaDawn Edwards for the annual signing of the Town of Jena's National Correctional Employees Week Proclamation.



Lawrenceville Correctional Center: During the week, staff were served omelettes, grilled cheese, ice cream sundaes, and hot dogs. Staff were also invited to a luncheon and received thank you gifts.



Central Arizona Correctional Facility: Warden Bennie Rollins served food to Officers Kara Macque and Neomi Rodriguez. Warden Bennie Rollins and Correctional Programs Officer Sherry Barkley.



Adelanto Detention Facility: Perfect attendance and other recognitions were awarded by Warden James Janecka followed by a facility recall ceremony and a cake celebration.



Rio Grande Detention Center: Transportation Officers George Rivera, Daniel Hernandez Jr., Jose Ruiz, Selena Canela, and Aida Cantu enjoyed the annual health fair!



Big Spring Correctional Center: Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan spoke to staff at the opening ceremonies. Senior Warden John Oliver talked to Domonique Marquez, who was this year's committee leader.



South Texas Detention Center: The facility held a family friendly picnic. Pictured are picnic helpers Sylvia Ontiveros, Sandra Valle, Jay Longino, Leodoro Martinez, Compliance Clerk Bryan Balli, and Imelda Machorro.



Folkston Processing Center: The center held a family day for all staff and family members. The day consisted of fun, food, prizes, and a bounce house for the children.



Mesa Verde Detention Facility: Pizza was served in the breakrooms. The employees pictured are Paul Litchfield, Salvador Ornelas, Faris Hussain, and Jennifer Tlatelpa. Ricardo Willis enjoyed the taco truck.



Guadalupe County Correctional Facility: Staff enjoyed lunch and cupcakes served by Warden Vincent Horton and Captain Cedric Gauna.

Eastern Region Office Raised Record Amount for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Written By **Laura Schwab, Eastern Region Office**



Pictured left to right: Eastern Region Department Secretary Tyra Subasavage, Eastern Region Vice President Blake Davis, Eastern Region Training Manager Kevin Sidebottom, and Eastern Region Office Manager Laura Schwab.

On June 15, 2017, The GEO Group's Eastern Region Office held the fourth annual St. Jude Classic Golf Tournament at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Eastern Region Vice President Blake Davis gathered with facility and regional staff, along with supportive vendor/partners, to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The financial goal was exceeded, and a check for \$205,755 was presented to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In the past four years, the Eastern Region has raised a total of \$638,000 for this worthwhile charity.

The Eastern Region looks forward to many more years of fundraising for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The Eastern Region has an admirable goal of raising \$1,000,000 by year eight of the St. Jude Classic Golf Tournament event.

GEO Group Foundation Supports Student Scholarships in AZ

Written By **Leah Connolly, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**



During the week of May 15-19, 2017, Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) and Arizona State Prison-Florence West gave a total \$31,000 in student scholarships to the Florence School District's three high schools.

Warden Bennie Rollins and Executive Secretary Alyssa Hiniker presented \$1,000 GEO Group Foundation scholarships to eleven seniors at Florence High School. The seniors who received GEO Group Foundation scholarships are Megan Calamari, Tatum Froman, Hanna Hall, 2017 Senior Class President Nathan Lamas, Jasmine Lorefice, Maxwell Mielke, Morgan Schenk, Steven Sprouls, Marissa Valencia, Mayia Victoria, and Kinsey Wood.



Bay Celebrates Vocational & Academic Graduation

Written By **Meriel Siemone Johnson, Bay Correctional Facility**

On December 21, 2016, the Valedictorian of Bay Correctional Facility's graduating class of 2016, Benjamin Westover, read his commencement speech. "You are not the worst thing you've done in your life. Your job is to be better than that moment, and your responsibility is to set out to be your best. That is what matters." He added, "My supervisor and mentor, Ms. Johnson, told me those same words when I arrived here and interviewed for a job in the food service department. I have carried that with me to this podium today to tell you the same thing."

Those words made an obvious positive impact on Benjamin because he not only graduated as Valedictorian, but he, along with Craig

Dean, also simultaneously procured his GED diploma, qualified for his Manage First certification from the National Restaurant Association, and worked part-time in the food service department.

The Manage First program offered at Bay Correctional Facility provides training and certification for inmates that gives them the tools and management skills they need to be job ready.

Participants in the food service department program must attain their GED diploma, be disciplinary free, and must be leaders in the activities throughout the facility, including their housing units. They are also required to mentor inmates inside the food service department. Their mentoring is not limited to

food service topics. In addition, each participant must complete 800 hours of work and is required to complete four competency examinations along with one elective to receive Manage First Food Professional (MFP) credentials.

The training topics include controlling food costs, hospitality and restaurant management, hospitality and human resources management, supervision, and Serve Safe. The electives range from customer service, principles in food and beverage management, purchasing, hospitality accounting, hospitality marketing, and nutrition.

Upon completing any food service program, each participant receives their black hat that reflects the level of their certification, and it may be worn as part

of their daily correctional uniform. There are currently three certification programs at Bay Correctional Facility which include the Manage First program, the culinary program, and the baking program.

In the 2017-2018 calendar year, Bay Correctional Facility will be adding Hospitality certification with certification from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute. It will utilize an in-house program that pairs food service workers who have completed training with workers who are in training and a reference library in a dormitory environment to aid and accelerate training and development. The future is bright for Bay Correctional Facility's inmates and their education.

The GEO Group Foundation Supports Local Angel Tree Sports Camp

Written By **Esther Patton, Corporate**

In May 2017, The GEO Group Foundation proudly supported the Prison Fellowship's June 2017 Angel Tree Sports Camp by donating \$5,000 to the three-day camp. Prison Fellowship is a nationwide organization whose primary focus is inmate rehabilitation and family reconciliation.

Angel Tree kids (children of inmates), ages seven through seventeen, as well as other at-risk children in the community are invited to attend the camp. Too often, these children have a wide range of emotional and behavioral problems. The purpose of the camp is to bring in high caliber former college and professional athletes who will dedicate their time for fun, positive role modeling and physical engagement — all for the purpose of helping build the children's character. This camp can be one of the most life-changing experiences the children can have. Children from all backgrounds are welcome at no cost to them. Over 300 children and 100 plus volunteers attended the June camp held in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Pictured Left to Right: *GEO Corporate Relations Analyst Christopher Ferreira, GEO Faith Based Services Manager Richard R. Glau, Prison Fellowship Field Director Tyrus McCloud, and GEO Foundation Executive Director Pablo E. Paez.*



GEO Recognized as a 2017 Most Valuable Employers for Military® Winner

RecruitMilitary, the national leader in helping employers connect with high-quality veteran talent, announced The GEO Group as a winner for the 2017 Most Valuable Employers (MVE) for Military Award.

The MVE recognition serves to help military-experienced job seekers identify the top employers to target for civilian careers. MVE's are selected annually based on those employers whose recruiting, training, and retention plans best serve military service members and veterans.

In observance of Armed Forces Day, the annual list of MVE's was released in the May/June issue of RecruitMilitary's Search & Employ® magazine. All previous winners can be found in the MVE Winner Archive section at <http://RecruitMilitary.com/MVE>.

GEO Employee Awarded 2017 FHIMA Outstanding Professional Award

Written By **Anne Mahalik and Esther Patton, Corporate**

Congratulations to GEO's Chief Privacy Officer Anne Mahalik on being selected as a recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Professional Award from the Florida Health Information Management Association (FHIMA). The Outstanding Professional Award recognizes a FHIMA member who has consistently demonstrated innovation and creativity in the practice of Health Information Management at the state and local level. After 32 years working at the State of Illinois Department of Human Services, Anne Mahalik started working at GEO's world headquarters in 2012. She is currently the Senior Director of Records Management and Chief Privacy Officer. Anne is a Registered Health Information Administrator, is certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security, and is a Fellow in the American Health Information Management Association. Anne humbly stated, "I am simply doing what I have always done; taking on leadership roles and challenges presented to me and encouraging others to do the same."



Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Celebrates First Graduates from Pilot Faith-Based Program

Written By James Parvin, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility



On March 11, 2017, the Men of Honor program, piloted at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF), held its first graduation. The program began with twenty students; all of whom graduated. The Men of Honor Outreach Ministry is a faith-based program that was founded in October 2016 by a former inmate,

Reginald Smith. The program is "designed to provide the keys of freedom for men to live a life without limits. It provides the necessary tools, training, counseling, mentorship, shelter, food, and provisions. The men are taught to be self-sufficient, positive role models, and leaders in their homes and communities."

The program provides jobs and other support to recently graduated and released inmates. It currently partners with Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters, and the Indiana Plan to provide employment opportunities to the inmates.

Men of Honor is a non-profit outreach program that is

designed to help men reenter society as productive citizens by providing the necessary tools for them to become successful.

Pictured: Men of Honor graduates with HTCF Warden Donnie Emerson, Assistant Warden Dan LeFlore, and program volunteers.

Guadalupe County Correctional Facility Honors Memorial Day

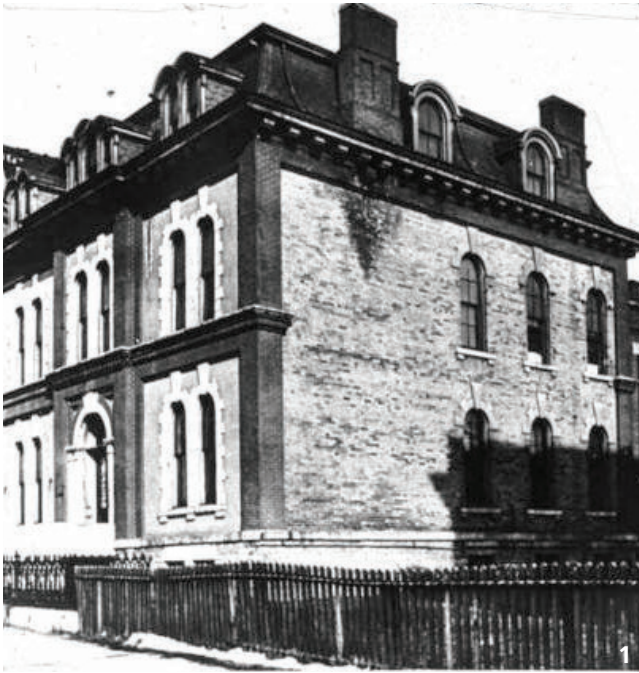
Written By Carlos Gonzales, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility



Inmates from the Guadalupe County Correctional Facility painted posters for Memorial Day which honored all veterans who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces. Inmates and staff at Guadalupe County Correctional Facility recognize the sacrifice and dedication all veterans have given of themselves, especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The posters were on display during the Memorial Day parade and at the New Veterans Memorial Center in Santa Rosa, New Mexico.

Pictured left to right: Standing: Richard Chapman and Moises Menchaga. **Kneeling:** Duane Mattson and John Hoover.



Working in Corrections runs in the Family

Written By **Esther Patton, Corporate**

Sometimes working in the same profession runs in the family — whether by choice or by coincidence. GEO’s Risk Management Director Chuck Leeper knew since he was a boy that his great-great grandfather Joseph Brodman was the Superintendent at the Peoria House of Correction in Illinois. However, he recently found documentation from a 1912 newspaper and photos of his great-great grandfather proving so. Joseph Brodman was also a delegate according to a 1896 American Correctional Association (ACA) conference document.

Here is a snippet from the 1912 newspaper stating, *“Joseph Brodman, Superintendent of the Peoria House of Correction, which position he has filled for twenty-two years, or since the 1st of July, 1890, has been a resident of this city for fifty-eight years. He gives his political support to the democratic party and could undoubtedly attain high political honors if his ambition lay in that direction. On the contrary, however, he does not seek nor desire public office, as is evidenced by the fact that he was twice nominated by acclamation for the position of alderman from his ward but would not consent to become a candidate. He is doing a good work in his present position and is content to remain there, and in the control of the institution he manifests a most kindly spirit and broad humanitarian purpose.*

He conducts the institution on the theory that it is the purpose of the state not only to safeguard the interests of others in limiting the liberties of his wards, but that it is also the purpose to give the inmates a chance for development along lines of betterment and improvement.”

Interestingly, Chuck and his great-great grandfather share the same birthday of November 8. Whether by fate or coincidence, Chuck is proud of his family history.

Pictured: 1: Peoria House of Correction. **2.** Chuck Leeper's great-great grandfather Joseph Brodman. **3.** Chuck Leeper.



Cadets Donate Supplies to Neighboring Fires

Written By **Karen Vieites, Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility**

It all started with strong winds in the early evening of March 7, 2017. Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility's (NENMDF) surrounding neighbors, Texas and Oklahoma, were devastatingly on fire. The Tuesday night fire consumed more than one million acres and took four lives. Three lives were taken trying to save their cattle and homes in Texas. A sixty-three year old woman died of a heart attack while fighting the fire alongside of her husband in Oklahoma. One of NENMDF's Cadets' family had to evacuate in Oklahoma. She took initiative and collected donations from the Cadets of Academy #340 at NENMDF. They then purchased water, paper goods, and food and donated the supplies to the victims and the firefighters.

Cadets: *Crystal Montoya, Tristin Gibson, Cody Linville, Victoria Gish, Phillip Griffith, Mariah Allen, Matthew Shriner, Nathaniel Griffin, Alex DeBoer, and Jason Torres.*

Mesa Verde Detention Facility Supports CASA

Written By **Taquishia Parker,**
Mesa Verde Detention Facility

Mesa Verde Detention Facility (MVDF) in Bakersfield, California, is dedicated to supporting their community. MVDF proudly donated \$500 to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Kern County, an organization that helps represent the best interests of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect.

On April 1, 2017, MVDF staff participated in the CASA Superhero Run. This annual 10K, 5K, and 2K race helps children in Kern County by supporting the CASA program. MVDF staff appreciated the incredible opportunity to be a true "superhero" and help the children of their community.

Pictured left to right: Associate Warden of Finance Wayne Melson, CASA Executive Director Colleen A. McGaully, and Case Manager Taquishia Parker hold the big check. Sergeant Anita Vasquez, Case Manager Taquishia Parker, Security Clerk Ryanna Morua, Commissary Clerk Alex Gody, and Detention Officer Evelyn Jaramillo Granados participated in the CASA Superhero Run.



Ladies Afternoon Tea at KCRC

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

On April 26, 2017, the executive office staff at the Karnes County Residential Center (KCRC) hosted an afternoon tea party in honor of Administrative Professionals Day. Program Director Rose Thompson wanted to recognize staff for their hard work and commitment to the facility so this year she decided to have an afternoon tea party celebration. One-of-a-kind invitations were made and distributed. The tea party consisted of a "best tea hat" contest, games, tasty sweets, tea, of course, and gifts for the staff.



Law Enforcement Torch Run

Written By **Andrew Beamer,** Arizona State Prison-Phoenix West

On May 4, 2017, staff from Arizona State Prison-Phoenix West (ASP-PW) took part in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics. Staff purchased torch run t-shirts to benefit the Special Olympics and to signify themselves as one of several law enforcement agencies that were able to contribute to a very worthwhile cause. Additionally, the inmates at ASP-PW raised \$7,593 for the Special Olympics. Everyone had a great time, and we hope to have more participation and a longer portion of the run to carry the torch next year.

Pictured left to right: Assistant Warden Blanca Ochoa, Lisa Allen, Eboni Williams, Catherine Pfeiffer, Brandon Swapp, Judith Richardson, Michael Munoz, Andrew Beamer, Ike Timbreza, Carlos Soqui, and Francisco Perez.

Bacon & Waffles Breakfast at CACF

SOETP Therapists host their Third Annual Officer Appreciation Breakfast

Written By **Thomas Selby,**
Central Arizona Correctional Facility



Appreciation and bacon are a lot alike — you can never have too much of either. And for a perfect complement, may we suggest homemade waffles with maple syrup or another favorite topping? Experts say breakfast is an important foundation for health. I'm not sure they meant limitless bacon and waffles topped with Nutella, but it does bring smiles to the faces of our sometimes-overworked teammates who keep this yard safe and functioning.

As Sex Offender Education Treatment Program (SOETP) therapists, we expect inmates to get healthier and that also starts with a new foundation, one of accountability for both past and current actions. We expect them not only to prepare for a rehabilitative future, but also to respect the rules and the officers enforcing them.

Officers and therapists are partners in accountability training. If an officer discovers an inmate breaking rules, they write an incident report. But if the inmate is in the SOETP, many officers also stop by and let our therapists know so we can hold the inmate accountable in treatment.

The more we have gotten to know our officers, the more we realize how important they are, not only to our daily safety but also to the success of our rehabilitative mission. It's amazing how energizing it is to get to do this work where we know the officers have our backs and believe in our work as much as we do theirs.

Three years ago, SOETP wanted to do something special to show our appreciation for our hard-working officers at Central Arizona Correctional Facility. What started as a desire to show appreciation has turned into an annual tradition. So once a year, SOETP's therapists put on cooking aprons and cook up thirty-five pounds of bacon and made-to-order waffles for twelve hours to make sure we reach all shifts and that all officers get to enjoy the homemade breakfast.

We know who makes our jobs possible. Our officers create a safe environment and make the effort to collaborate with us. So here's to our comrades in promoting inmate accountability and rehabilitation. Thank you for all you do!

Pictured left to right: *Mark Coppers, Lorena Hirsch, John Vella, Ashley Hippler, and Sam Hardwig cooking up a delicious breakfast for Central Arizona Correctional Facility's officers.*



Coastal Bend Donates Easter Baskets

Written By **Aileen Pfister,**
Coastal Bend Detention Center

On April 14, 2017, Coastal Bend Detention Center (CBDC) employees donated forty Easter baskets to the children who reside with their mothers at the Women's Shelter of South Texas. CBDC took on this project in an attempt to bring some happiness and joy to these families. The employees came together to purchase Easter baskets, toys, candy, pencils, crayons, and other fun treats.

Pictured Left to Right: *Detainee Records Supervisor Nikki Haught, Classification Manager Lucy Carabajal, Executive Assistant Aileen Pfister, and Chaplain Candace Rackley.*

Participants not pictured: *Warden Butch Head, Assistant Warden Andrade, Jeanna Alaniz, Shanna Swindle, Sally Gutierrez, Lala Zuniga, and Officer D. Salinas.*

LaSalle Detention Facility Invests in Students

Written By **Melinda Parker, LaSalle Detention Facility**

Each year, through The GEO Group Foundation, the LaSalle Detention Facility (LDF) has the privilege of awarding twelve \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors. As part of the process, each year the LDF, in conjunction with the LaSalle Economic Development District (LEDD), sponsors a scholarship reception to honor LaSalle Parish businesses and organizations that sponsor scholarships and to recognize those who receive the scholarships. Warden D.C. Cole had the idea to start the scholarship reception as a way for local businesses and organizations to meet and personally recognize the accomplishments of the graduating seniors from the Parish. Over the last six years, the event has grown with more local organizations participating. This year a total of fifty-eight graduates received scholarships totaling approximately \$57,000 at the scholarship reception. LDF is proud to be a part of such a great event each year.



Right to left: Front row: Candace Decker, Amanda Windham, and Warden D.C. Cole. **Back row:** Human Resources Manager Melinda Parker, Krysta Harville, Colby Ferrington, and Cly-Iesha Bowens.

Great Plains Supports The Lone Survivor Foundation

Written By **Denise Hannebaum, Great Plains Correctional Facility**



Great Plains Correctional Facility (GPCF) employees and staff have been working hard to raise money for the Lone Survivor Foundation. GPCF set a goal of \$10,000 for 2016. During the year, GPCF held monthly fundraiser luncheons, silent auctions, started an annual softball and bowling tournament, and also ran a booth at the local Hinton fair selling cold water, soft drinks, and cotton candy. On April 14, 2017, through the generosity of GPCF staff and the Hinton community, GPCF exceeded their goal and was able to send a check to the Lone Survivor Foundation for \$15,379.

Pictured: R. Farley, B. Lierle, A. Floyd, K. Mooter, K. Kusick, B. Trimpey, N. Upchego, M. Davis, D. Hannebaum, S. Taylor, J. Smallwood, K. Little, and D. Fulgham.

Blackwater River Provides OSHA General Industry Safety Outreach Training

Written By **Michael Stanton, Blackwater River Correctional Facility**

Under the "GEO Continuum of Care," Blackwater River Correctional Facility (BRCF) has initiated a ten-hour general industry outreach safety certification. Inmates who qualify can earn their Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification at BRCF. Once the inmates complete the test, they will earn an OSHA safety card that registers them in the OSHA ten-hour certification database which helps when searching for work.

The program itself provides entry level general industry workers ten hours of information about OSHA itself, employer responsibilities, and how to identify, abate, avoid, and report to prevent job related hazards on the job site. This course covers a variety of general industry safety and health subjects which a worker may come in contact with.

This training establishes a great baseline of outreach safety training and certification. The baseline of skills acquired easily cross over into many areas of general industry including maritime, construction, and agriculture. However, each of these specialized areas have specific requirements as well. The basic general industry outreach safety training covers broad subject areas which are fundamentally useful and most employers recognize the certification as skill training they like their employees to have. **Pictured:** *The second OSHA general industry safety outreach training graduating class.*



NCCF Career Development Training Center

Written By **Jennifer French, New Castle Correctional Facility**

On May 17, 2017, Indiana Department of Correction/Prison Enterprise Network (IDOC/PEN) Apprenticeship Director Lisa Martin and four staff members from the Iowa Department of Workforce Development visited New Castle Correctional Facility's L-dorm Career Development Center. The guests were participants in the IDOC/PEN Offender Workforce Development Specialist training. The three-week training session was located at the Correctional Training Institute. The participants are new to the concept and curriculum of an offender Career Development Center, and the facility Coordinator, Shane Nelson, was able to demonstrate the center, its facilitators, and the curriculum. Positive feedback was given for what appeared to be an eye-opening experience, as Iowa doesn't have anything similar at the present moment. Director Lisa Martin was complimentary of the progress of the program and grateful for the hospitality.

Central Arizona Correctional Officer Rex Gardner Wins TV Giveaway

Written By **Leah Connolly, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**

Correctional Officer Rex Gardner won Central Arizona Correctional Facility's TV giveaway on May 12, 2017. As an employee, he strives to do his very best in every aspect of his career. You can tell he truly loves his job as a correctional officer by just looking at his attendance. He has had perfect attendance for four consecutive years since being hired in 2012. We would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication as a correctional officer at Central Arizona Correctional Facility. **Pictured left to right:** *Warden Bennie Rollins and Correctional Officer Rex Gardner.*



When to Use or Avoid the Emergency Room

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

All too often, an illness or injury appears out of the blue. When this situation occurs, we're often faced with uncertainty about where to go for care, especially if the symptoms seem severe and our regular doctor's office is closed. When you need immediate medical care, the first line of advice has traditionally been, "Go to the nearest **emergency room.**" But is that advice the best course of action? While the answer is not always simple, knowing what your options are and where to seek treatment could save your life in a medical emergency.

Recognizing the difference between 'emergency' and 'urgent care' can be confusing because both terms imply your symptoms need to be addressed quickly. **Urgent care clinics** fill a vital gap when you become sick or injured after hours, or when your regular doctor is not available and you can't wait for an appointment. If a sudden illness or injury is something you would typically address with your primary care doctor, then an urgent care setting may be more appropriate with a co-payment similar to an office visit.

Hospital emergency departments provide medical care any time, day, or night, but many health issues and injuries can be treated outside of the emergency room (ER). Unlike urgent care clinics, they are staffed and equipped for the most complex or critical needs, including life-threatening and limb-threatening situations. However, unless it's a true emergency, you'll likely get quicker medical care, and at a much lower cost, from an urgent care clinic, a retail health clinic such as in Target or CVS, or telephonic advice via Teladoc, Kaiser Nurse Advice line, or your primary care physician's after-hours service.

ER use continues to rise nationally, and within The GEO Group, our costs exceeded \$6 million in the last plan year. There were 4,400 visits to the ER, with an average cost of \$1,363 per visit. While most of these visits were indeed emergencies, almost 900 were classified as non-emergency and cost our employees far more than they should have paid. These visits, which included non-life threatening conditions such as bronchitis, pharyngitis, strep throat, strains/sprains, and back pain, could have easily been avoided with a visit to an urgent care clinic or retail health clinic.



Employees enrolled in a Florida Blue medical plan do not even need to leave home for these non-life threatening conditions. Simply call **Teladoc at 800-835-2362** or go online to www.teladoc.com. The physicians at Teladoc are able to treat or resolve many medical issues via phone, online, or video consultation for less than your normal office co-pay. Teladoc provides 24/7/365 access to a national network of U.S. board-certified physicians. Teladoc providers are also able to write prescriptions and send it to your local pharmacy.

Kaiser Permanente members have the option to speak with an advice nurse. Call the **Nurse Advice Line at 866-454-8855** for guidance to help avoid visits to the ER. Advice nurses are registered nurses who have special training to answer your health questions and can assist you in managing minor illnesses and injuries.

With visits to the ER at an all-time high, wait times have skyrocketed and emergency room treatments for non-emergency medical conditions contribute to the rising cost of our healthcare. The ER is one of those places that you can feel grateful for when you really do need it. But stay mindful of avoiding the ER when you really don't need that level of immediate care. Armed with the information above, you will be able to make the best decision for you and your family members when you need care after the physician's office is closed. This may ultimately save you time, money, and unnecessary diagnostic tests or treatments. Remember, when seeking care for you or a loved one, always use your best judgement.

East Hidalgo Detention Center Receives ACA Accreditation

Written By **Jason Jones, East Hidalgo Detention Center**



In February 2015, the East Hidalgo Detention Center (EHDC) became part of The GEO Group family with the acquisition of LCS. EHDC, located in the sleepy little south Texas town of La Villa, has 1,300 beds. EHDC had set a goal to become accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA). On August 29, 2016, Warden Jason E. Jones was assigned to the facility and immediately the preparations for the ACA audit began. With the unwavering assistance and support from the Central Region Office, neighboring facilities, as well as the corporate office, the facility made great strides daily. On May 1, 2017, the EHDC began its initial accreditation and by May 3, 2017, the facility had completed and achieved ACA accreditation with an overall preliminary score of 99.12%. Warden Jones stated, "I am very proud of the dedication and hard work that all the employees showed."

Great Plains Correctional Facility's 2nd Annual Softball Tournament

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



Great Plains Correctional Facility held its 2nd annual co-ed softball tournament on May 6, 2017. The tournament brought in five teams to compete and raised over \$1,400. All proceeds from the tournament entry fees, concession stand, and YETI raffle sales were donated to the Lone Survivor Foundation. The first place trophy went to the atlas fitness team, second place went to the boos crew team, and third place went to the Oklahoma twisters team.

Pictured left to right: *First place winners—Atlas Fitness team. Front Row: Breanna Waugh, Megan Meche, Karly Murray, and Kaleil Pendleton. Back Row: Kale Golabowski, Joe Smallwood, Kory Kusick, Saraya Hunt, Zach Hunt, Austin Park, Jason Cooper, Jaylen Flynn, Robert Spencer, Shane Daugherty, Zac Zanowlak, and Robert Farley.*



GEO Nurses Celebrate Nurses Week

Written By **Angela Prestia PhD RN NE-BC, Corporate Chief Nurse**

For National Nurses Week, the American Nurses Association designated 2017 as the “Year of the Healthy Nurse.” This year’s theme explores, “Nursing: The Balance of Mind, Body and Spirit.” In keeping with this theme, we asked each of our facilities to nominate a nurse of the year, who exemplifies this balance as they work to improve the health and well-being of those in their care. Each winner received a special certificate signed by Dr. Ernesto Alvarez, Executive Vice President of Health Services.

EASTERN REGION

Judith Mosely LPN (In Memorium): Dedicated to the compassionate care of others, Nurse Mosely succumbed to her own battle with cancer.

Robyn Shirk LPN: Robyn is hard working and detail oriented.

Christian Herrera LPN: Mr. Herrera has been named the facility nurse of the year.

Debra Iheanacho RN: Nurse Deb exemplifies quality in all she does.

Vivian Lewis LPN: Ms. Lewis is always willing to help.

Hayley Thomas RN: Ms. Thomas’ “can-do” attitude has set the tone for the team.

Paul Ehret RN: Paul has a truly holistic approach to nursing, utilizing his sense of humor to brighten our days.

Cynthia Baker-Alexander LPN: Cynthia is always willing to go the extra mile.

Susan Kendra: Susan advocates for program enhancements that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Susan Herbert LPN: Susan was voted non-security staff of the year for her excellent clinical skills.

CENTRAL REGION

JoAnne Dumas LVN: Ms. Dumas is described as a hard worker with a great sense of humor.

Steven Martinez LVN: Mr. Martinez always has a positive nature about him and is always willing to help.

Christy Anson RN: Ms. Anson is described as a testament to what nursing is all about.

Jennifer Rocha LVN: It’s difficult to select her one best quality; is it her “wicked” sense of humor or her big heart?

Michael Engelskirger RN: No job is too big or small for Michael.

WESTERN REGION

Joyce Balanon LVN: She is constantly educating and reinforcing the importance of healthy habits.

Faris Hussain RN: Mr. Hussain’s compassion and positive behaviors are contagious.

Debra Mood RN: Nurse Mood works diligently to insure the smooth operations of the health services unit.

Hannah Willis LPN: Loyal and reliable describe why Ms. Willis was this year’s winner.

GEO Employee Supports Habitat For Humanity

Written By **Vanessa Genao, Corporate**

This year, I was fortunate to participate in Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County’s “Women Can Do It” Build event.

One hundred women worked together with a fundraising goal of \$1,000 each with the total amount going towards the construction of the home. I approached Divisional Vice President of ‘GEO Continuum Of Care’ David Burch in regards to the opportunity to participate in this event and was able to obtain sponsorship through The GEO Group Foundation. I was able to meet the future homeowners and hear their story. It was truly an amazing experience to be able to work and help a family in need towards achieving their dream of home ownership.



Employee Appreciation Lunch

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens, Pine Prairie Correctional Center**



Warden Ramos and the executive staff of Pine Prairie Correctional Center (PPCC) showed appreciation to the staff the best way they know how in Louisiana — by cooking! Warden Ramos likes to reward employees for the hard work and dedication that they give on a daily basis. The executive staff pulled it off by serving brisket, sausage links, and assorted sides. PPCC staff have accomplished many missions with great outcomes and without any incidents.

Star Party II at Central Valley MCCF

Planet Mars and Beyond!

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

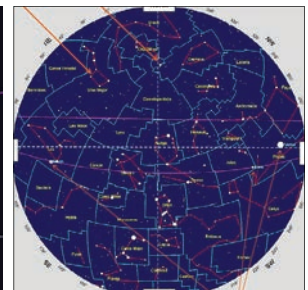
For the second star party held on March 10, 2017, a clouded afternoon sky transformed into a clear night for viewing the heavens over McFarland, California! Like the event last November, this sky-watching experience included the use of celestial charts, a marine sextant, books and models about astronomy, and large astronomy binoculars. The small refracting telescope from last autumn was replaced with a medium reflecting telescope that revealed more sky objects. This six-hour event supported the Space Science segment of the academic programs provided at Central Valley MCCF.

The indoor session allowed the students to examine the astronomy equipment in the well-lit academic dorm. Students learned how to set eyepiece focus and spacing to get the best results from astronomy binoculars. Working with the eight-inch reflecting telescope included assembly of the mirror and truss structures, inspection of the optical mirrors, and collimating the optical path.

Both the telescope and the binoculars were pointed through the dorm windows to look at palm trees that were blocks away. Students also examined astronomy books, tools, and models at a resource table. Teachers and tutors were on-hand to answer any questions. The final part of the indoor session was handling and taking sightings with a marine sextant—pretending that a sign high on the dorm wall was the Moon.

The outdoor session was conducted on the recreational yard. The same equipment demonstrated indoors was now pointed at the night sky. With the telescope and binoculars, students viewed the Moon, Mars, Venus, and nebulae in the constellation Orion. Using only their eyes, the budding astronomers took angle-sightings on the Moon with the marine sextant. They also examined the entire southern sky to locate the Winter Hexagon with its seven first-magnitude stars with their naked eye. Students were able to get good views of two planets, the Moon, and the principal stars in the constellations Orion, the Big Dog, the Little Dog, Gemini, the Charioteer, and Taurus.

This event was made possible by Warden M. Bowen, Assistant Warden G. Brochu, and Programs/Education Manager S. Aguilar. Astronomy supervision and expertise was provided by two academic instructors, Mr. Cantu and Mr. Davenport. One student commented that he had never participated in such an event and now found science to be a remarkable thing.



Pictured top to bottom: A tutor (kneeling) assisting a student in pointing the 8-inch reflecting telescope at the planet Mars. A student using astronomy binoculars on a big tripod to observe details of the Moon's craters, maria, and terminator. The Moon was 98% full on March 10, 2017. Whole sky and Moon charts from McFarland on March 10, 2017.

Rivers Hosts First INEA Graduation

Written By **Horatio Douglas & Amy Gillus,**
Rivers Correctional Institution

On May 24, 2017, Rivers Correctional Institution (RCI) held its first National Institute of Adult Education (INEA) graduation ceremony. There were 120 inmate graduates recognized during this event.

The guest speakers included Consulate General Maria Gomez-Arnau and Monica Colin-Gutierrez, both from the Mexican Consulate of Raleigh, NC. This event was filled with excitement as the graduates were recognized and honored for their achievements through song from the RCI inmate choir, poetry readings, and various inspirational speakers. A video-taped congratulatory message from Mauricio López Velázquez, Director General of INEA in Mexico City, Mexico was played as part of the program. Warden Brick Tripp was recognized and presented with a framed certificate by the Mexican Consulate of Raleigh for his outstanding efforts and support of the INEA program at RCI.

Pictured Left to Right: Education Director Horatio Douglas, Assistant Warden Wallace Branch, Warden Brick Tripp, and INEA Coordinator Anjelica Lewis. Warden Brick Tripp talking to the graduating class.



Pine Prairie Awards Employees of The Year

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens,** Pine Prairie Correctional Center

Warden Indalecio Ramos and the entire staff at Pine Prairie Correctional Center would like to congratulate Employee of the Year Margaret Vidrine, GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) Officer of the Year Jacqueline Bellard, and Officer of the Year Allison Savory. These dedicated individuals are well deserving of the honor through their hard work and willingness to help others wherever and whenever needed.



Western Region Detention Facility Supports the San Diego Crime Stoppers

Written By **Pat Thomas,** Western Region Detention Facility

On April 20, 2017, eight staff members from GEO's Western Region Detention Facility attended the annual San Diego Crime Stoppers Luncheon. Crime Stoppers began thirty-three years ago to improve San Diego County's community safety. The organization operates anonymous telephone, text, and websites to submit information on any past felony crime or suspected criminal activity. Crime Stoppers has evolved from a good idea to a strong and vital presence in the region.

The luncheon presented key speakers who gave special recognition to honorees in nineteen local law enforcement agencies. The GEO Group was honored to be among the nineteen corporate sponsors who made the event possible.



Desert View MCCF Supports Victor Valley Animal Protective League Humane Society

Written By **Rayshel Haidinyak**, Desert View MCCF



Victor Valley Animal Protective League (VVAPL) Humane Society provides shelter to homeless animals relinquished by their guardians, rescued from abuse or neglect, and stray or abandoned animals.

VVAPL's mission is to provide and maintain a safe, clean, and humane environment for the unwanted animals in the Victor Valley communities.

In support of VVAPL, Desert View MCCF staff donated twenty blankets, twenty towels, bags and boxes of dog and cat treats, pet hygiene supplies, and over 150 pounds of cat and dog food.

Desert View MCCF staff are always proud to support their community.

Pictured left front: *M. Alimonti.* **Left back:** *Officer W. Battee and R. Haidinyak.* **Right:** *D. Willey.*

TSU Academy Graduation at Arizona State Prison–Kingman

Written By **Sergeant David Khalaf**, Arizona State Prison–Kingman



TSU Academy Graduates: *Officers Evelyn Ogden, Travis Ogilvie, Scott Emerson, Gonzalez Giovanni, Israel Reza, Steven English, Joel Saravia, Erika Hall, Steven Fiora, Patrick Rider.*

On March 6, 2017, Arizona State Prison–Kingman conducted a Tactical Support Unit (TSU) academy for seventeen officers. From the beginning, the officers were challenged mentally and physically. In the classroom, the officers learned about policies and self-defense training, among other things. Outside the classroom, they were pushed to the limit physically while being trained. These cadets were on call twenty-four hours a day for the seven-day academy, never knowing if and when they may have to immediately respond back to the facility. The only thing which kept them showing up and asking for more was the heart and drive to become a TSU member, as well as the support of their fellow officers. By the end, ten of the officers endured the most rigorous and intense training this institution has to offer to become members of an elite team. The pictured ten new TSU members will be available 24-7-365 to restore order in the event of an emergency at the facility.



Queens Detention Facility GTI Transportation

Written By **Ralph Burnside, Queens Detention Facility**

The Queens Detention Facility (QDF) provides detention and transportation services on behalf of the United States Marshals Service (USMS) for the southern and eastern districts of New York and the bordering USMS Districts of New Jersey and Connecticut.

All forty-eight GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) officers are retired and/or active law enforcement personnel. The GTI officers are assigned to court support details, sequestered trials, off-site details such as hospitals and clinics, transports to and from federal courts within the area, QDF, and/or other facilities. The furthest district court operation transport is thirty-five miles one way. A typical thirty-five mile transport can take two to three hours depending on the time of the day in New York. In 2009, the unit averaged 6,000 miles per month. Now in 2017, it has almost doubled the mileage per month in excess of 11,000 miles per month with eleven vehicles. To meet maintenance requirements, one vehicle is under mechanical inspection and repair every week. Although QDF is designated as a small facility, the transportation unit is a large and ever-increasing asset to the overall operations to the USMS.

All mandatory GTI training is handled in-house by skilled, retired law enforcement personnel and includes mandatory weapons training for both USMS (semi-annually) and NYS Armed Guard (once per year). While the USMS contract requires a 3-year minimum for Law Enforcement experience, the QDF GTI Officers exceed that requirement with each GTI Officer having a minimum of 20 years' experience in corrections or active law enforcement.

QDF is a valued partner to the USMS because QDF never fails to assist when called, no matter the hour or mission. In doing so, QDF provides best in class service with safety and security second to none.

Pictured: *Albert Jones on the car passenger side, Tara Jones on the driver passenger side, Michael Shaw on the left side near the van, Dean Brown on the right side near the van.*

Summit Lake Partnership

Written By **Rich Guffey,**
New Castle Correctional Facility

New Castle Correctional Facility recently partnered with the Indiana Department of Corrections and Indiana Department of Natural Resources to build twenty-eight new floating docks for Summit Lake State Park, just a few miles from the facility.

Eight inmates from the New Castle Correctional Facility who worked on the project not only gained valuable trade and teamwork experience, but also saved Indiana taxpayers thousands of dollars. The partnership enriched both the inmates who participated and the community. The successful partnership sets the groundwork for similar projects in the future.

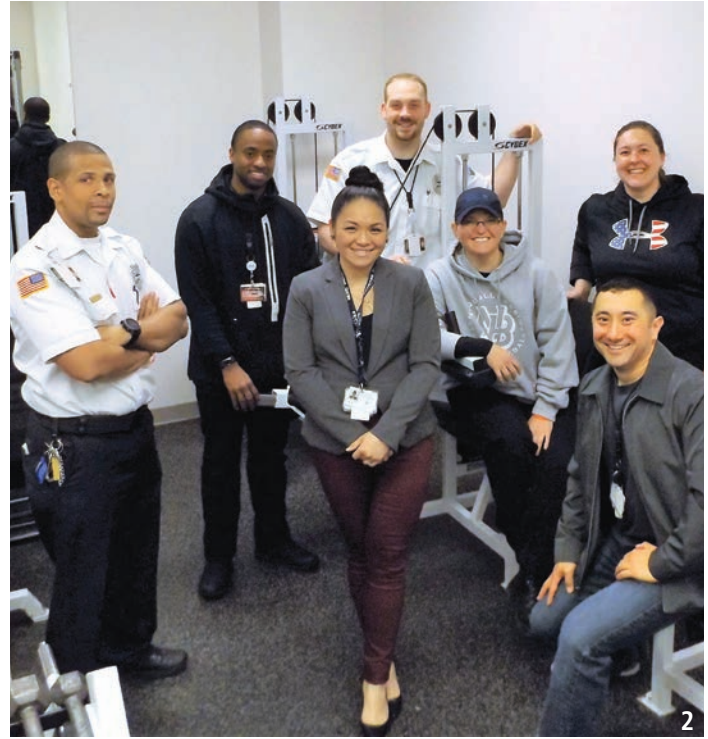


Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off

Written By **John Oliver,**
Big Spring Correctional Center

Recently, twenty staff members and their families from Big Spring Correctional Center (BSCC) participated in the "Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off" community event. BSCC staff volunteered and picked up trash on a rugged two-mile road in Big Spring, Texas.

This year, BSCC was able to gather sixty bags of trash and the "Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off" committee was extremely pleased with the amount of trash collected from the staff's efforts. BSCC staff had a great time, enjoying the company of each other while helping out the community. There were a number of individuals from the community who stopped by and told everyone thank you for helping!



Marathon Running in the Himalayas and the Northwest

Written By **Derek Martinez, Northwest Detention Center**

Officer Derek Martinez, a Bailiff at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, has always possessed a passion for running and the outdoors. In 2016, Officer Derek Martinez logged over 2,600 miles on foot, competing in six Spartan obstacle races across the country. He also participated in several long-distance trail races and capped the year by racing in the Seattle Marathon.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Officer Derek Martinez kicked off 2017 by traveling to Bhutan, a small Himalayan country located between India and China, where he competed in the fourth annual Bhutan marathon and half-

marathon. After the race, he spent a week trekking the Himalayas. What was that like? "Trekking was incredibly hard. It was cold, I got severe altitude sickness the very first night, and I was covered in sweat and filth and didn't shower for six days. It was great! I had so much fun."

In recent months, Officer Derek Martinez decided to share his joy of running by forming a marathon training team at Northwest Detention Center (NWDC). "It started small. I posted signs and made announcements. Most people laughed when I told them that barring a preexisting injury, anyone can run a marathon. They see it as something

they'd never be able to do. But they're wrong. You just need a little discipline and a lot of believing in yourself."

The NWDC marathon training team have set up a closed, invitation-only Facebook group to coordinate training runs, organize races, and support one another. Each member is given a copy of Jeff Galloway's book, "Marathon: You Can Do It" considered by Officer Derek Martinez to be the perfect training book for first-time marathon runners. "We only have a handful of officers that will run the 2017 Seattle Marathon. But just like any other endurance event, you finish by going forward no

matter how small a step you take." What's next for Officer Derek Martinez? "Well, I'm still going to run and hike. I'm still going to grow the NWDC marathon training team. But I think I'd like to start climbing mountains!"

Pictured from left to right: Picture 1: Derek Martinez in the Himalayas displaying his Bhutan Half-Marathon finisher's medal. **Picture 2:** NWDC marathon training team. Kouvon Stephens, Kyle Thompson, Ana Thompson, Jaden Cox, Miranda Brooks, Derek Martinez, and Amanda Ackley.

KCRC Supports Child Abuse Awareness Month

Written By **Esther Patton**



On April 21, 2017, members of the community and over forty-five Karnes County Residential Center employees attended a balloon release in support of Child Abuse Awareness Month at Kenedy's Joe Gulley Park in Kenedy, Texas. Karnes County Residential Center employees enjoy participating in community events and giving back to their community.

Children released blue balloons in the sky to help raise public awareness of the epidemic of child abuse, neglect, maltreatment, exploitation, and bullying.

Kenedy and Karnes City Fire and Police Departments were on hand as well as the Karnes County EMS and Karnes County Sheriff's Office.

The community proudly came together to give a voice to the voiceless.

GEO Flag Transition Ceremony at Fannin County Jail

Written By **Kourtney Standlee-Semlinger**



On April 13, 2017, The GEO Group held a flag ceremony at Community Education Centers' (CEC) facility, Fannin County Jail. In April 2017, GEO completed the acquisition of CEC.

Transition team lead Danny Coronado and Director of Operations Gerry Maldonado welcomed the CEC employees to the GEO family along with the facility Warden, Fannin County Sheriff Mark Johnson, and all of the transition team members.

The flag ceremony represented the transition to The GEO Group and as a welcome to all staff, customers, and the community. Following the ceremony, refreshments were served including donuts, juice, and coffee.



GEO Acknowledged for Commitment to Vocational Education

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

The GEO Group Australia and Junee Correctional Centre (Junee) have again been acknowledged for a strong commitment to vocational education and training by Technical and Further Education (TAFE) New South Wales (NSW) Riverina Institute. The partnership between The GEO Group and TAFE NSW Riverina Institute commenced in 2009 with a contract that saw a campus established inside the centre.

This year, GEO Group Australia received the 'Industry/Community Partnership' award at the 25th annual awards ceremony. The awards ceremony acknowledges an organisation that demonstrates unique,

exemplary, or innovative achievements in partnership with TAFE NSW and have demonstrated excellence in training. Each year, TAFE NSW conducts this important event to celebrate the achievements of the most outstanding students from across nineteen campuses.

TAFE NSW and The GEO Group are proud to have the opportunity to provide additional training and skill sets for inmates while housed at Junee. The sets range from cultural arts, horticulture, automotive, and logistics, which equips graduates with certificates specifically designed to provide

immediate employment opportunities. Inmates also undertake practical life-skills training such as preparation for obtaining a driver's license and basic information technology skills.

In 2016, Junee won a TAFE NSW Riverina Institute award for 'Outstanding Support to Technical and Further Education.' "The GEO Group Australia is committed to its ethos of 'Better Corrections – Safer Communities' and programs that provide vocational education." said Junee's Service and Programs Manager Trevor Coles.

Currently, 60% of the centre's inmates are enrolled

in thirty-three different courses throughout the institute, which tailors courses for the students to ensure the graduating inmates receive practical employability skills.

In February, more than fifty inmates graduated with a wide range of 'ready for work' qualifications. Junee programs work closely with TAFE NSW to identify skill shortages within the business community, thus providing the inmates with the greatest opportunity for meaningful employment upon release.

***Pictured:** General Manager Scott Brideoake with Regional General Manager Kerry Penton and Member of NSW TAFE Commission Board Duncan Taylor.*

Arthur Gorrie Employees Cycle to Support Local Charities

Written By **Philip Goslin, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**

Recently, two employees at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (AGCC) in Australia participated in the Heritage Bank Ipswich 100 cycling event to raise funds for local non-profit organisations, charities, and Lions Clubs.

The event, organised by the Moggill Mt Crosby Lions Club, comprised a number of courses covering distances ranging from a five kilometre family ride to a challenging 170 kilometre route. About 700 riders participated.

John Murray and James Wedmaier tackled the fifty kilometre course known as the 'Fun Filled 50' with the

route taking riders through the rolling countryside to the west of Ipswich. John is a Work Health Safety Rehabilitation Specialist at AGCC, while James is an acting Intelligence Manager.

Riding under the 'Behind Bars Cycling Gang' banner, the pair participated in the event adorned in GEO colours.

"GEO was very pleased to support John and James in this endeavour," said AGCC General Manager Troy Ittensohn. "Their participation provided another opportunity to highlight the role that GEO plays in helping make our communities safer."

John and James are planning to undertake other charity cycling events in the future.

"By participating in events such as the Ipswich 100, we help make our society a better place as Lions Clubs play an important role in the community," said James. "Both John and I were proud to wear the GEO colours while raising money for the Ipswich community."

While some of the funds raised through the Heritage Bank Ipswich 100 are returned to the community through Lions Clubs, the majority is channelled directly to community service

organisations including Epilepsy Queensland, Cycling Safety Fund, Ipswich Hospital Foundation, Youth Outreach, Team Cupcake (cancer support), McIntyre Centre Riding For Disabled, and the State Emergency Service.

Lions Clubs International is a service organisation with over 46,000 clubs and more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries around the world. Lions Australia is the country's largest service organisation with more than 1,200 clubs.

Pictured left to right: James Wedmaier and John Murray at the Heritage Bank Ipswich 100.



BARK Focuses on Rehabilitation

Written By Philip Goslin, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

A successful partnership between Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (AGCC) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has entered its fifth year with ongoing benefits for both parties. The partnership is centred on the RSPCA's Bars and Rehabilitation Kanine (BARK) foster care program that sees inmates caring for dogs that need extra attention prior to them being adopted by members of the community.

The animals are either too young for immediate adoption, may be injured, sick, or have a behavioural issue that needs addressing. Eleven inmates are currently involved in the program. Selected from specific units, the handlers undergo the RSPCA foster care training program.

They are also taught animal training methods by RSPCA staff and are provided with specific goals for each dog. The handlers also need to obtain an Occupational Health and Safety certificate and a First Aid certificate. The inmates work towards ensuring the dogs learn basic manners and obedience and provide them with a safe and caring environment.

Inmate Peter* said he enjoyed the course presented by the RSPCA and was pleased to have the opportunity to care for 'Tip', a six-year-old Kelpie that came into the centre overweight following a fractured hip. "I am really enjoying caring for Tip," he said. "This program provides me with a sense of responsibility and a purpose each day."

In just over four years, AGCC has cared for sixty-five dogs and General Manager Troy Ittensohn said the relationship between the RSPCA and the centre are strong. "Developing good relationships and meaningful programs with community organisations like the RSPCA is very important for the centre," he said. "This program rewards well-behaved inmates, gives them responsibility, and plays a role in their rehabilitation. By helping the RSPCA to prepare an animal for placement with a family, the inmates are also making a positive contribution to society. With each successful adoption the rewards for the RSPCA, the inmate, and the family are beyond measure."

* The inmate's name has been changed for this article. **Pictured:** Tip with his handler. Arthur Gorrie has cared for sixty-five dogs during its four-year relationship with the RSPCA.



Award Winning Retiree

Written By Haley Robertson,
Junee Correctional Centre

Gypsy, a retired passive alert drug detection dog at Junee Correctional Centre (Junee) in Australia, has won a prestigious award at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The fourteen-year-old border collie was named a 'Royal Canine Hero' — a prestigious service dog award presented by the Australian Animal Registry. The award is bestowed upon dogs that displayed bravery or transformed human lives through their training and dedication. Gypsy, who retired in 2013, spent nine years working at Junee with her handler Chontel Flaws. "Gypsy not only made our workplace safer, but she saved many lives by locating drugs that people were attempting to smuggle into the jail," said Chontel. In 2013, Chontel and Gypsy won the detection section in the Australian Service Dog Trials. The judges at that event described Chontel as, "The epitome of what a dog handler should be." and said her first place was well deserved. Gypsy now enjoys her days in retirement living with Chontel.



Abraxas LDP Supports Neighboring Hospital

Abraxas Leadership Development Program residents continue a 22-year long community service project that produces meaningful interactions and staggering numbers.

Written By **Shane Sloat & Michelle Nolan,**
Abraxas Leadership Development Program



Pictured above: Abraxas LDP residents going to participate in service opportunities at SMRC. **Right:** Historical picture of the South Mountain Restoration Center.

Nestled in the mountains of the Michaux State Forest in south-central Pennsylvania, the Abraxas Leadership Development Program (LDP) was established on the grounds of the South Mountain Restoration Center (SMRC). Unit one of SMRC construction was completed in 1939 and it served as a fully functional hospital servicing tuberculosis patients until 1966 when the state began to phase out treatment of the disease. The hospital shifted focus and changed names several times; focusing on treatment of geriatric patients being housed in mental hospitals. Today, SMRC continues to serve a diverse population of patients in need of full-time care. The history of the hospital can be found all over the beautiful grounds and in 1994, Abraxas would be introduced as a piece of the ongoing legacy.

Abraxas LDP opened in 1994 in what was founded as the nurse's home of the hospital. By 1996, a relationship with the SMRC was formed as a way to provide community service to the patients of the hospital. This would also enable the residents of Abraxas LDP to earn community service hours while focusing on the Restorative Justice Vision of Balanced and Restorative Justice groundworks. These included support from the community and participation in decision making about steps for repair, community involvement, and most importantly, understanding

the human impact of the residents' behavior through their criminal actions.

Abraxas LDP residents have participated in many community service tasks over the past twenty-two years servicing the SMRC community. The primary job set-up in 1996 included approximately twelve Abraxas LDP residents going to the hospital on Sunday mornings and escorting patients into the auditorium for religious services and then returning them to their housing units following the service. Other projects have included participating with staff in emergency preparedness drills, participating in recreation activities and interacting in social outings with patients, grounds clean-up projects, and various other activities. Since 1996, this relationship has fostered over 1,520 Abraxas LDP residents and over 26,400 hours of volunteering at the SMRC. There have also been over 13,000 one-to-one interactions with patients living at SMRC since 1996.

The Abraxas Leadership Development Program looks forward to continuing to provide vital services and strengthening relationships with the South Mountain Restoration Center. This relationship and the lessons learned provide Abraxas LDP residents with life-lasting experiences and positively impacts both the residents at Abraxas LDP and the patients of the South Mountain Restoration Center.



A New Home in Fiji

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

In September, Suzanne Pelletier, Divisional Director of Human Resources at BI Incorporated, once again took part in a humanitarian effort working with Habitat for Humanity to help build a home for a family in need — this time in Nadi, Fiji.

Habitat for Humanity started working in Fiji in 1991, and with 31% of the total population of over 915,000 living in poverty, there have been plenty of things to do. Adding to the challenges that so many were already experiencing, Cyclone Winston struck Fiji on February 20, 2016. Reaching peak winds of 145 mph, the cyclone damaged or destroyed 40,000 homes, killing forty-four people. Cyclone Winston was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Fiji in recorded history.

Suzanne and her team of eleven people from the U.K. and the U.S. worked on a home for Mrs. Rukshana, a single mother with four children. Since her husband passed away in 2014 due to an illness, the family have been surviving on the \$85 a month she earns from working at a clothing shop.

When her husband died, the home was unfinished. She had to pay for his medical bills and did not have the financial capabilities to finish the home nor try to rebuild what was left after Cyclone Winston. The family had no home to live in and had been staying with her

brother whose small house had no running water and was also partially destroyed by the cyclone. Suzanne's team and the family completed the new home and named it the 'House of Many Blessings.' When the family was presented with the keys, there were a lot of tears of joy and gratitude. Mrs. Rakshana explained that her late husband had secured this land for the family long ago and "he is surely smiling up in heaven that she and their four girls now have a house of their own!"

In addition to the joy and fulfillment that comes with helping a family in such desperate circumstances, one of Suzanne's favorite experiences was learning more about Fijian traditions and culture. "Specifically, kava root tea ceremonies — such a fun and unique tradition!" A kava ceremony is an important aspect of visiting any village and after sharing the kava tea in the ceremony, everyone celebrates with music and dancing.

Suzanne already has her next trip planned for Myanmar in November. Suzanne says, "I have 'Volunesia' — that moment you forget you are volunteering to help change lives because it is changing yours."

Pictured left to right: The team including Habitat for Humanity members, family, and friends in front of the house they built. Suzanne at the site of the new home as the framing gets completed.



York Participates in "100 Men Read"

Written By **Kalen Macon, York County RSC**

On a daily basis, staff at the GEO York Reentry Service Center (RSC) utilize prosocial modeling to elicit behavioral change among participants. But what if we could be prosocial models to individuals at a much younger age? On May 8, 2017, Program Manager Kalen Macon and Job Developer Joseph Spencer participated in the "100 Men Read" program in York City, PA. Spending time in three different classrooms for twenty-five minutes each, Macon and Spencer read age appropriate books to both kindergarten and first grade children, spoke about their profession, and encouraged students to work hard in school and make positive choices. "For many of these students, this will be the first time a man has ever read a book to them," stated the Superintendent of the York City school district. "Anyway that we can give back to our community, I'm proud to be a part of that." said Joseph. Kalen added, "We look forward to participating in the program again next year."



Harbor Residents Achieve Milestone as Certified Welders

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

The Harbor, a residential reentry center in Newark, New Jersey, is proud to announce the facility's first group of residents to receive their certification as structural welders as a result of a six-month program in conjunction with Essex County College, Eastwick College, and the Hohokus School of Trade.

The Essex County College introduced the innovative initiative with the award of a grant.

It is designed to equip residents with vocational training that serves to release individuals with skills for employment, aiming to

reduce recidivism, and support a crime-free lifestyle. "This is a milestone for our residential reentry program here at the Harbor," said Deputy Director Christopher Tomkins. "This is the first time this opportunity was offered to Harbor residents, and they did an outstanding job. We are proud to provide the residents reentering the community with a trade that will help them become employable and have a second chance at life."

All six Harbor residents that were offered the program have successfully completed the training. As part of their school and work release programming, they attended

the Paterson campus of the Hohokus School of Trade which provided rigorous in-depth training.

"We are so proud of the residents who worked so hard at this extraordinary opportunity," said Assistant Program Activities Manager Lorne Lawrence.

Mr. Lawrence aided in the organizational setup for the residents to participate in the program.

Each resident was awarded a Structural Welding AWS d1.1 certification, which will enable them to work in many capacities including construction, fabrication,

welding, and Tig and Mig welding. Each resident worked extremely hard and enjoyed the process of accomplishment, scoring all A's on their difficult test for certification.

After three to four months of book study, hours of hands-on welding practice, and three different hands-on tests, certified welder/resident Ezra Strong claims that this opportunity at the Harbor was the best opportunity of his life and looks forward to a new start with a career that he loves upon release.

Pictured: Staff with the first graduates in the Essex County College Welding program.

Abraxas Marienville Males Walked a Mile in Her Shoes

Written By **Jeff Polley & Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**



April 23, 2017, found five male residents and counselor Jeff Polley putting on their high heels to 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' in Venango County in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Each April, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is held to raise awareness of sexual violence against women.

Abraxas Marienville's young men had an opportunity to put on their heels, participate in the catwalk, compete for the team spirit award (they came home with the trophy by the way), and walk a very long mile in high heels.

Most importantly, they heard survivors' stories, stories of abuse, and statistics of the violence that occurs in Pennsylvania. These young men were appreciative of this experience, the opportunity to learn about such an important subject, and to return to sneakers!

Abraxas Marienville is a residential youth facility located in Marienville, Pennsylvania. The males, ages fourteen to eighteen, participate in a variety of therapeutically structured activities.

Oxford Facility & Broad Street Volunteer in Philly Spring Cleanup

Written By **Emmanuel Ehirim, Sullivan Hall/Oxford Facility**



On April 8, 2017, Oxford Facility and Broad Street residents participated in the tenth annual Philly Spring Cleanup. Fifteen residents from Oxford Facility and five residents from Broad Street were assigned to clean up a high school in the neighborhood that was shut down for some time. The cleanup is part of the restoration process to reopen the school. Oxford Facility residents proudly served under the supervision of staff and were led by community activist Mr. Donnie Moore. State Representative Donna Bullock, Operation Manager Charles Owens, Broad Street Case Manager Gail McCrae, and Operation Counselor Christopher McCrae were also in attendance at the cleanup.

Muttonchops For Mental Health

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**



In recognition of May as Mental Health Month, Abraxas Marienville's Program Director, Jim Town, challenged male staff to grow their facial hair until May 11, 2017 to then shave their facial hair into a muttonchops design to participate in Muttonchops for Mental Health Day. Over thirty male team members accepted the challenge and appeared that day with muttonchops! Not to be outdone, six female team members also sported muttonchops. They may have cheated a little by using stickers, fake beards, and coffee grounds. The challenge spread to include the support of our Divisional Director Pat Metcalf and his muttonchops!

Each participant donated to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Over \$250 was raised and then matched by NAMI for mental health research.

A smile is the best way to fight mental illness and on May 11, 2017 at Abraxas Marienville, there were a ton of smiles and lots of laughs for a great cause!

Pictured left to right: Doug Lockwood, Mark Divins, Bobby Morrow, Chris Yaworsky, Cole Fitch, Jim Town, Nate Bowser, and Leonard Nelson.

ISAP Gives Back to the Community

Written By **Ken Berthiaume, St. Louis ISAP and Orlando ISAP**

The Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) is BI Incorporated's largest contract with the Department of Homeland Security. The program is often considered a supervision program since participants are electronically monitored for portions of their time in the program.

Many people don't realize that ISAP is primarily a case management program, providing hundreds of community referrals every month across the United States. The following are two referral highlights from our St. Louis, Missouri, and our Orlando, Florida ISAP offices.

Case Specialist Jessica Pacheco, in the St. Louis ISAP office, met with a participant who reported domestic violence abuse at her residence and said she did not feel safe. Ms. Pacheco contacted the St. Louis City Civil Court, verified the release process, and obtained the required protection order documents. The participant successfully filed a protection order, and accepted a referral to a local safe house. Ms. Pacheco worked with both community resources

and was able to confirm with the participant that the protection order was successfully filed and safe shelter was secured.

Orlando Case Specialist Maheva Fiallo noticed that a participant's face seemed swollen. The participant explained that she had a tooth pulled two weeks prior by someone a friend recommended. Ms. Fiallo explained that she should seek professional dental help, and that it's not safe to let a non-professional pull her tooth. Ms. Fiallo referred the participant to two dental offices. In a follow-up visit, the participant stated that she had developed an infection and was put on antibiotics.

These examples are representative of the many successes ISAP Case Specialists perform every day. Way to go Maheva and Jessica!

Pictured left to right: Orlando Case Specialist Maheva Fiallo, Case Specialist Jessica Pacheco, Administrative Assistant Virginia Cuadra, and Program Manager Matt Johnson. Jessica Pacheco.



Bossier DRC Celebrates Their Move to Shreveport

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

To celebrate their recent move, Shreveport DRC held a highly successful open house.

Although the Bossier Day Reporting Center (DRC) has been a staple in the community since 2010, at the urging of Probation and Parole, GEO Reentry Services (GEO) decided to move the office from Bossier City to Shreveport in early April 2017.

The new location is collocated with the Probation and Parole office where officers are able to easily refer participants to the DRC by walking them right over. In addition, it used to be a 15-minute drive to the Bossier location, and being right next to each other, DRC staff is building even greater relationships with probation and parole officers now that they see them on a daily basis. The new location is more convenient for participants as well.

The open house was held on April 24, 2017, and had a long list of attendees – sixty-six people in total – including several people from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections including Secretary James Leblanc and Deputy Secretary Malcolm Myer. Other attendees included representatives from Louisiana Probation and Parole, District Judges, Shreveport Probation and Parole, Caddo Parish and Bossier Parish Sheriff, KTBS 3 News, The Shreveport Times, KSLA News 12, and KTAL/KMSS News.

Justin Jones, Program Manager for the Shreveport DRC, began the event by giving everyone an overview of the program and discussing the importance of being collocated with Probation and Parole. Several DRC graduates and participants were recruited to be guest speakers.

Secretary James LeBlanc is very supportive of what GEO is doing in Louisiana, commenting on the quality of GEO's programs and commitment to Louisiana's Criminal Justice Reform initiative. The Secretary has seen all four of the reentry centers in the state, including two operated by GEO. The open house was a huge success all around. When a reporter asked the Program Manager, "Why do you think this works?" Justin responded, "The program changes criminal thinking. That is our main objective."



Pictured top: Secretary James Leblanc being interviewed by the media at the Shreveport open house. **Pictured bottom:** Cake to celebrate!



Hoffman Hall Continues Successful GED Program



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



With another round of residents who enrolled in the GED program in May 2017, Hoffman Hall is proud to continue to provide educational training as part of its mission of rehabilitation. The Philadelphia facility has successfully helped more than twenty residents achieve their GED, which allows residents to reenter the community equipped with their high school equivalency. Hoffman Hall places an emphasis on educational training as a means of transitioning to a more positive lifestyle upon release.

“We are pleased to continue to provide quality educational programming to our residents as part of our reentry

treatment model at Hoffman Hall,” said Darrell Gregory, Campus Administrator for Coleman and Hoffman Halls. “It has been rewarding to see residents change their lives and express a desire to continue educational pursuits. We are honored to partner with the Community College of Philadelphia and see many former residents enrolled in higher education.”

Hoffman Hall held its first official graduation ceremony in 2013 which included a celebratory day for graduates and their families. Achievement of GED’s at the facility extends prior to 2013, as education has long been a focus of the

reentry programming at the facility. As time progressed, the education program has been updated with the help of evidence-based research studies and has seen an increased success rate of GED graduations.

“It is our belief that residents of Hoffman Hall can benefit tremendously from the GED program,” said GED Coordinator Lorraine Watson at Hoffman Hall. “By providing classes that enable those who are in need develop their workforce literacy skills, residents will be prepared to compete in our knowledge-based economy, complete secondary education, and

prepare to participate in post-secondary programs.”

The Hoffman Hall reentry program begins with a comprehensive assessment of the resident that determines their risk and needs factors. The information gathered in the assessment process serves as a guide to an individualized course of treatment that will assist them in creating change to a positive lifestyle. The treatment phase of the program utilizes an evidence-based model that employs a modified therapeutic community approach.

Pictured: Hoffman Hall’s GED class with GED Coordinator Lorraine Watson. Hoffman Hall.

ADAPPT Supports City of Reading with 1,100+ Hours of Community Service

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

Spring of 2017 is keeping the residents and staff of ADAPPT (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Parole and Probation Treatment) busy with activities that give back to their local community in Reading, Pennsylvania. Community volunteer work by residents reinforces ADAPPT's message of the importance of living constructive lifestyles and practicing responsible citizenship. During March and April, residents completed 1,100+ hours of community service by volunteering at local organizations and providing help to the city.

"I am grateful to the City of Reading for their continued support and partnership with programming for our residents," said Director of ADAPPT Mike Critchisin. "Our Group Home Supervisor Donna Conley does a great job and works hard to organize participation in events that provide the city with volunteers. Our residents and staff are very proud of their contributions that serve as an opportunity to give back to the community."

On March 24, 2017, volunteers cleared furniture and bookshelves at the Reading Public Library to allow for a new room to be constructed there. On April 22, 2017, volunteers cleaned up trash from public areas, parks, and roadways at the annual Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Local organizations that ADAPPT volunteers at regularly include the Hope Rescue Mission, the Rudden Foundation, City Lights, and New Hope Church, amongst others. ADAPPT has assisted locally with cleanups, snow removal, event assistance, food drive assistance, and local fairs.

ADAPPT is proud to demonstrate a sustained history of local involvement which supports the community service element that is an important component to the rehabilitative reentry services provided by the facility.



Oxford Facility Recognition

Written By **Emmanuel Ehirim, Sullivan Hall/Oxford Facility**

Oxford Facility was recently recognized by State Representative Donna Bullock for their remarkable dedication, commitment, sacrifice, and service to the community.

In the letter addressed to Facility Director Emmanuel Ehirim, State Representative Donna Bullock states, "I write to you to recognize the efforts of your facility. I understand the importance that your facility has on the quality of life in our communities. I am very impressed with your mission. I honorably support your goal of lowering the rate of recidivism by providing correctional and reentry services. Furthermore, I applaud your public service and stewardship for the community. I wish to thank you, your staff, and the residents for the work you all do through your facility and otherwise. I look forward to continuing to support your efforts."

Abraxas Marienville Celebrates National Walking Day

Written By **Joe LaBenne & Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**

In recognition of National Walking Day on April 5, 2017, Abraxas Marienville staff and residents set a goal of walking a total of 150 miles. A one-mile route was mapped out with all participants signing in upon departure and collecting and wearing a "I Walked a Mile" sticker upon completion. Abraxas Marienville exceeded their goal by walking a total of 274 miles cumulatively. To put their achievement into perspective, they could have walked from Marienville to Toronto, Canada, or Morgantown, WV, or to Abraxas' Pittsburgh office and back again! Besides being a healthy effort, it was great fun!



