

# GEO World

2ND QUARTER 2018

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



***GEOamey Joint Venture Signs Court Custody and Prisoner Escort Services Contract in Scotland***



# Chairman's Letter

**George C. Zoley**, Chairman, CEO and Founder

**"The selection of our GEOAmeY joint venture for this important contract is indicative of the high quality transportation services our joint venture has already been providing in the United Kingdom for the last seven years. Our ability to expand the delivery of our transportation services internationally is representative of our company's diversification not only in the scope of the services provided but also in our geographic reach."**

## To the GEO Family,

At the end of the first quarter of this year, our company achieved an important milestone which underscores the strength of our diversified global services platform.

In late March, our transportation joint venture in the United Kingdom, GEOAmeY signed a contract with the Scottish Prison Service for the provision of court custody and prisoner escort services. The contract will have a base term of eight years effective January 2019 with a renewal option period of four years. On an annual basis, this transportation contract is expected to generate approximately \$39 million in revenues.

Under this new partnership with the Scottish government, GEOAmeY will employ approximately 780 transportation professionals and will be responsible for overseeing 170 secure and non-secure vehicles. The contract is expected to encompass approximately 170,000 annual movements of

individuals, delivering services to 60 courts, 15 prisons, and 90 police custody units throughout Scotland.

The selection of our GEOAmeY joint venture for this important contract is indicative of the high quality transportation services our joint venture has already been providing in the United Kingdom for the last seven years. In 2011, GEOAmeY was selected by the U.K. Ministry of Justice to provide prisoner escort and court custody services in 80 percent of England and in all of Wales. Since that time, our joint venture has employed approximately 2,400 professionals and has overseen approximately 500,000 annual movements of individuals while providing services to 120 prisons, 200 courts, and 150 police custody units.

The provision of secure transportation solutions and logistics is increasingly becoming an important complementary service for

correctional and detention agencies not only in our international markets but also in the United States. Our GEO Transport, Inc. subsidiary employs approximately 450 licensed transportation officers and operates approximately 300 Department of Transportation-compliant vehicles to deliver services on behalf of federal and state customers in the U.S.

Our ability to expand the delivery of our transportation services internationally is representative of our company's diversification not only in the scope of the services provided but also in our geographic reach. As the world's largest provider of diversified correctional, detention, reentry, electronic monitoring, and secure transportation services, GEO is well positioned to pursue growth opportunities across the entire spectrum of criminal justice services both in the United States and internationally.

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# ***GEOAmey Joint Venture Signs Court Custody and Prisoner Escort Services Contract in Scotland***

On March 28, 2018, GEO's transportation joint venture in the United Kingdom, GEO Amey PECS Ltd. (GEOAmey) signed a contract with the Scottish Prison Service for the provision of court custody and prisoner escort services in Scotland.



On March 28, 2018, GEO's transportation joint venture in the United Kingdom, GEO Amey PECS Ltd. (GEOAmey) signed a contract with the Scottish Prison Service for the provision of court custody and prisoner escort services in Scotland. The contract will have a base term of eight years effective January 26, 2019 with a renewal option period of four years and is expected to have an annual revenue value of approximately \$39 million.

Under this partnership with the Scottish Prison Service, GEOAmey will employ approximately 780 professionals who will be responsible for 170 vehicles. The services provided are expected to encompass approximately 170,000 annual prisoner movements, delivering services to 60 courts, 15 prisons, and 90 police custody units throughout Scotland.

### GEOAmey Scotland Operational Highlights

- Contract projected start date: **January 2019**
- Service term: **8** years plus **4** year renewal option
- **170,000** annual movements
  - Core escorts = **128,000** movements
  - Non-core escorts = **42,000** movements
- **8** vehicle bases strategically located throughout Scotland
- **13** micro transportation clusters
- **780** professional staff
- **170** transportation vehicles
  - Cellular secure vehicles
  - Non-secure vehicle options including coaches
- Providing services to **60** courts, **15** prisons, and **90** police custody units

### Building on a Successful Public-Private Partnership in the U.K.

The selection of GEOAmey for the provision of court custody and prisoner escort services in Scotland marks an important milestone for the company. The signing of this important contract is indicative of the high quality transportation services GEOAmey has been providing in the United Kingdom for the last seven years.

In 2011, GEOAmey was awarded a contract by the U.K. Ministry of Justice to provide prisoner escort and court custody services in three geographic lots covering approximately 80 percent of England and all of Wales. Since that time, GEOAmey has delivered high-quality secure transportation services and logistics encompassing approximately 500,000 annual prisoner movements, delivering services to 120 prisons, 200 courts, and 150 police custody units in England and Wales.



#### Legend

-  GEOAmey Scotland Vehicle Base
-  GEOAmey England/Wales Vehicle Base



### GEOAmey England/Wales Operational Highlights

- Contract start date: **August 2011**
- Service term: **7** years plus **2** year renewal option
- **500,000** annual movements
- **19** vehicle bases strategically located throughout England and Wales
- **2,400** professional staff
- **400** transportation vehicles
- Providing services to **200** courts, **120** prisons, and **150** police custody units

GEOAmey has been committed to bringing best practices to the delivery of secure transportation logistics in the United Kingdom. The selection of GEOAmey for the provision of court custody and prisoner escort services in Scotland is a testament to the innovative and high quality service solutions GEOAmey has been delivering in England and Wales.



## Ravenhall Correctional Centre Opens

Written By **Emily Cunningham, Ravenhall Correctional Centre**

The Victorian Minister for Corrections Gayle Tierney officially opened the state's most technologically advanced prison, The GEO Group's Ravenhall Correctional Centre (Ravenhall), at a ceremony on October 19, 2017.

Located in Melbourne, Ravenhall opened on time and on budget with the first intake arriving on November 13, 2017.

The entire centre covers just under 40 hectares (98.8 acres) and is surrounded by a 6 metre (approximately 20 foot) high, 1.7 kilometre (approximately 1 mile) state-of-the-art perimeter wall; 22 hectares (54.4 acres) are within the perimeter. There are 920 cells, with the majority of them being singles cells.

More than 950 cameras will keep a close eye on the medium

security centre and the state-of-the-art security features include biometric verification (iris and fingerprint detection).

The centre includes a specialised unit providing dedicated forensic mental health treatment for up to seventy-five individuals; more than doubling the current capacity across the Victorian prison system. Ravenhall is managed by The GEO Group under contract with the Victorian Government. The contract has specific targets for reducing recidivism rates and the delivery of support programs for individuals released from custody.

GEO has partnered with Kangan Institute, Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Melbourne City Mission to offer a

range of rehabilitation and reintegration programs that will help prepare the individuals for life after release.

"After a three-year construction period involving more than 4,000 individuals, it is pleasing to have Ravenhall Correctional Centre operational and playing its role in keeping the community safe as part of the Victorian prison system," said General Manager Trevor Craig.

The centre employs 600 staff, many who have entered the corrections field for the first time after undertaking extensive training.

The first eighty-five custodial officers to graduate from the training course were acknowledged at a ceremony just prior to the official

opening in front of 400 family members. They were sworn in by then Corrections Victoria Commissioner Jan Shuard.

Pieter Bezuidenhout, Managing Director of The GEO Group Australia, spoke of the 'journey' the graduates were undertaking in a career that has much to offer in personal fulfillment. He emphasised GEO's Continuum of Care™ for Ravenhall inmates and the important role correctional officers play in supporting their rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

**Pictured: 1:** Ravenhall Correctional Centre is Victoria's most technologically advanced prison. **2: Front row from left:** General Manager Trevor Craig gives then Corrections Victoria Commissioner Jan Shuard and Minister for Corrections Gayle Tierney a tour of Ravenhall. **3:** General Manager Trevor Craig.



## Senior Executives Travel ‘Down Under’

Written By **Maria Buckley, The GEO Group Australia**

In December 2017, The GEO Group’s Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations David Donahue and Executive Vice President, U.S. Corrections Administration and International Services Kyle Schiller traveled ‘down under’ to learn more about GEO’s Australian operations.

David and Kyle took the opportunity to tour GEO’s five Australian facilities and held meetings with colleagues at GEO’s head office in Sydney and with senior jurisdictional representatives in three states.

Starting at Parklea Correctional Centre in New South Wales (NSW), David and Kyle inspected the new minimum-security unit before meeting

with Minister for Corrections David Elliott and Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin.

The duo then traveled to Brisbane to meet with Queensland Corrective Services Commissioner Peter Martin and visited Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. Housing over 1,000 adult males, GEO has continually managed the centre since 1992, making it the company’s longest established contract in Australia.

David and Kyle spent two days in Victoria. First, they spent time at the Fulham Correctional Centre where they enjoyed a special lunch showcasing the culinary talents of the inmates working

in the food services area. A tour of the facility followed including an inspection of units, accommodation, and industry areas.

The group then visited the newly opened, state-of-the-art Ravenhall Correctional Centre in Melbourne and its community reentry facility known as The Bridge Centre.

Meetings were held with Victoria’s then Deputy Commissioner of Corrections Rod Wise (now acting Commissioner), as well as members of the Ravenhall project team from both the state and GEO Consortium.

David and Kyle completed a busy week with a tour of Junee Correctional Centre in rural

NSW where they inspected the early stages of expansion works that will see the facility house an additional 480 beds. This will increase the centre’s population to 1,355.

“I had a great week in Australia,” said David Donahue. “The organization of the trip was efficient and the meetings with clients and visits to the facilities were extremely informative.”

**Pictured left to right:**

*David Donahue and Kyle Schiller (in foreground), ‘down under’ with The GEO Group Australia Managing Director Pieter Bezuidenhout (back left) and Fulham Correctional Centre General Manager Col Caskie.*

# GEO is Recognized as a 2020 Women on Boards Winning Company for 2017

In 2017, 2020 Women on Boards recognized The GEO Group, Inc. as a Winning Company for its commitment to Board Diversity. Winning Companies champion board diversity by having 20 percent or more of their board seats held by women.

2020 Women on Boards is a non-profit campaign dedicated to increasing the percentage of women on corporate boards to 20 percent by 2020.

GEO currently has six Board Members, a third of whom are women. These two distinguished women are Anne Newman Foreman and Julie Myers Wood.

Anne Newman Foreman has served as a GEO Board Member since 2002. She brings extensive legal, government contracting, and international experience to GEO's Board of Directors. Her experience as a Board Member of other companies strengthens the Board of Directors' collective knowledge, capabilities, and experience.

Her service in two U.S. Senate-confirmed positions in the U.S. Air Force and in private sector and government positions abroad provides leadership, government affairs, and international transaction skills.

Julie Myers Wood has served as a GEO Board Member since 2014. She brings extensive federal government, legal, and management experience to the Board of Directors. Her experience in the private sector, including in compliance and risk assessments, and in government positions, including as the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also strengthens the Board of Directors' collective knowledge, capabilities, and experience.

The following is an excerpt from 2020 Women on Boards' website, "Good

corporate decision-making requires the ability to hear and consider different points of view, which comes from people who have different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Companies that have women directors and executive officers lead by example. They send a clear message that they value diversity of thought and experience. Advancing women to positions of leadership is smart business."

To view The GEO Group on the 2017 Winning Company list, please visit 2020 Women on Boards website at [2020WOB.com](http://2020WOB.com).



**The GEO Group's Board of Directors: Back row: left to right: Clarence E. Anthony, Richard H. Glanton, and Christopher C. Wheeler. Front row: left to right: Julie M. Wood, George C. Zoley, and Anne N. Foreman.**





## Freezing for a Reason

Written By **Bradley W. Stelter, Aurora ICE Processing Center**

On February 10, 2018, Aurora ICE Processing Center (AIPC) fearlessly took the plunge at the Aurora Reservoir in order to support and help raise funds for the Special Olympics Colorado.

February 10, 2018, was not a typical winter day in Colorado. The sky was overcast and low to the ground, the air was wet with moderate to heavy snow, and the air temperature was 14 °F with a wind chill of 0 °F. A hole had to be chopped in the ice of the lake the day before the event. The water underneath the ice was a balmy 29 °F compared to the air temperature and wind chill factor. The participants were dressed in cold weather gear right up to the point where they charged into the freezing water and stripped to shorts and t-shirts or swimsuits. They are freezing for a reason!

Team GEO charged into the freezing water led by Warden Johnny Choate, Director Chuck Hill, Director Duke Hanson, and Manager Mark Rushworth.

This is AIPC's fourth consecutive appearance at the fundraiser which involved local law enforcement and private companies who joined together to support the athletes of this wonderful program which teaches determination, sportsmanship, pride in self, and pride in others. This year, team GEO was a multi-facility team consisting of AIPC, BI Incorporated, and Western Region Office employees. Team GEO won its fourth consecutive first place fundraising award by raising \$15,300 in volunteered contributions;

almost twice the amount raised the previous year. The GEO Group Foundation also donated \$5,000 to the charitable event.

The masterminds behind the fundraising program included Barbara Krumpelmann, Assistant Warden, Finance and Administration, and Kristina Weaver, Payroll, both from AIPC; Duke Hanson, Director of Financial Planning, and Mark Rushworth, Supply Chain Manager, both from BI Incorporated; and Chuck Hill, Director, Western Regional Business Management.

We would like to give special acknowledgment to all of the staff and their families from AIPC, BI Incorporated, and the Western Regional Office for

their outstanding participation in this fundraising event which helps build a better community.

**Pictured from left to right: 1: First row:** Zerrin Gann, Jamie Rezaei, Joseph Garcia, Johnny Choate, Saylor Choate, Halyee Diron, Sawyer Choate, Dawn Ceja, and Zane Amadi. **Second row:** Ricky Kvasnicka, Ashley Krumpelmann, Tammy Guinn, Chuck Hill, Andrew Krumpelmann, Mark Krumpelmann, Justin Hill, and Racheal Musenero. **Third row:** Duke Hanson, Brigitte Dolan, Barbara Krumpelmann, Rene Shook, and Marcus Fauth. **Fourth row:** Kristina Weaver, Michael Thompson Jr., and Jamie Davis. **2:** Erica Hill, Chuck Hill, Mark Krumpelmann, Barbara Krumpelmann, Johnny Choate, Nikki Choate, Saylor Choate, Halyee Diron, and Sawyer Choate. **Front to back: 3:** Jaime Davis, Justin Hill, Michael Thompson Jr., Joseph Garcia, Saylor Choate, Halyee Diron, and Sawyer Choate.



## PRE-DIABETES

*What you don't know can hurt you*

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

Remember the Road Runner cartoons featuring Wile E. Coyote chasing the Road Runner and finding the ground no longer beneath him? Now think about your busy life; work, family, and social commitments that often take precedence over scheduling preventive screening tests that can alert you to where or when the ground will bottom out beneath you. You don't want this to happen when a few steps now can prevent the fall.

According to statistics provided by our health care providers, approximately 1,000 GEO employees or family members are currently diagnosed with diabetes and require costly medications to control it. If you are not one of them, it is important for you to know that before you or a loved one develop diabetes, you almost always have prediabetes, but do not know it. Since there are no clear symptoms of prediabetes, it's critical to get a screening test so you can turn your health around before the inevitable fall from the cliff.

### **What are the recommended tests for adults with no symptoms?**

There are several tests to diagnose diabetes: A1C, Fasting Plasma Glucose, or an Oral Glucose Tolerance test. You should ask your doctor if any of these screening tests are appropriate for you or a family member, especially if you have one or more of the following risk factors:

- Relative with diabetes
- History of heart disease
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol or triglyceride level
- You are physically inactive
- Obesity
- You are 45 years of age or older
- You are African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, or Pacific Islander

If it is determined you are prediabetic, don't panic! Nobody wants to develop type 2 diabetes, which causes chronically high blood sugar levels. When your blood sugar is high, the energy you are giving your body isn't reaching the cells. That's like adding gas to a car that has a leak in the fuel line. But know this: many individuals have avoided or delayed full-blown diabetes with a few simple lifestyle changes.

### **Here's how you can prevent the onset of diabetes:**

#### **1. Maintain a Healthy Weight**

- If overweight and prediabetic, start a weight-loss program immediately
- Extra fat cells can cause your body to become more insulin resistant
- Lose just 5% to 10% of your weight to significantly reduce your risk of developing diabetes.

#### **2. Get Regular Physical Activity**

- Exercise assists in the management of blood sugar levels over time.
- It helps insulin absorb glucose into the body's cells and muscles for energy.
- It has the added bonus of helping to regulate your weight

#### **3. Eat Well: Add a Few Easy Eating Habits**

- Limit foods high in sugar
- Eat smaller portions
- Eat a variety of whole-grain foods, fruits, and vegetables every day
- Eat less fat

Don't bypass these important screenings. Get your blood sugar levels checked with your doctor. By doing so, you can see if danger is ahead and avoid falling off the cliff. Beep Beep!



## **City of McFarland, Recognized Amongst the Safest Cities in CA**

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

During a recent event sponsored by the McFarland Police Department, local citizens, businesses, and community organizations, were huddled in the local McDonald's restaurant for 'Coffee with a Cop,' an event which brings law enforcement and the community together in a relaxed atmosphere where trust and communication can begin to work together to make McFarland's Police force more effective. McFarland Police Chief Kimble was very proud to relay the National Council for Home Safety and Security ranked the City of McFarland as among one of the safest cities in California and the safest city in Kern County. Golden State MCCF (GSMCCF) regularly interacts with Chief Kimble by having him attend quarterly Community Relations Board Meetings. The meetings provide a platform to keep both GSMCCF officials and City of McFarland officials in tune with events which take place with both organizations. Assistant Warden Jeff Lavallee and Programs Manager Dan Meyer attended the latest 'Coffee with a Cop' event in February 2018. Chief of Security Bobby Bodirsky has participated in several 2017 'Coffee with a Cop' events. Chief Kimble noted, "We are fortunate to have organizations such as GEO and GSMCCF to be strong supporters and donate items and funds to assist us in facilitating these community events." Through its community involvement in the events sponsored by the McFarland Police Department, GSMCCF is also proud to be a part of the process which has helped to establish McFarland as one of the safest cities in California.

## The GEO Group Foundation Supports The Chipola College Foundation

Written By **Bryan Craven, Graceville Correctional Facility**



The GEO Group Foundation recently made a \$17,000 donation to the Chipola College Foundation. Funds will be used to establish the GEO Graceville Correctional Facility Scholarship that will be awarded at Chipola in the Fall 2018 semester. Scholarship applicants who are Criminal Justice or Corrections majors will be given first consideration for funding. Scholarship applications will be available in the Chipola Foundation office or online at [www.chipola.edu](http://www.chipola.edu).

**Pictured from left to right:** Julie Fuqua, Chipola College Foundation Director; Jeff Thomas, Warden, Graceville Correctional Facility; and Brent Jarzen, Human Resources Manager, Graceville Correctional Facility.

## GEO's McFarland Facilities Donate \$10,000 to the City of McFarland

Written By **Minga Wofford, McFarland Female CCF**



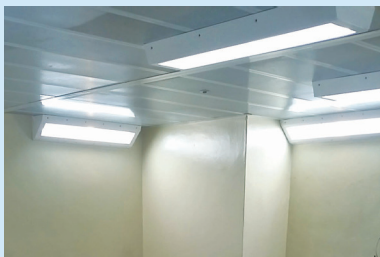
GEO's McFarland facilities including McFarland Female CCF, Central Valley MCCF, and Golden State MCCF donated \$10,000 to the City of McFarland to help sponsor the third annual McFarland USA Marathon. This event took place on April 15, 2018, in honor of legendary Coach White and the critically acclaimed film McFarland USA. Participants in the marathon had the opportunity to take a tour highlighting different scenes from the movie. This event was a huge success for the community of McFarland, California.

**Pictured from left to right:** Golden State MCCF Assistant Warden Jeffrey LaVallee, McFarland City Manager John Wooner, McFarland Female CCF Warden Minga Wofford, and Central Valley MCCF Assistant Warden Gerard Brochu II.

## WRDF Installs New LED Lights

Written By **Christopher St. Jean**,  
Western Region Detention Facility

In July 2017, Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF) was presented with an excellent opportunity to utilize a rebate program from the facility's SDG&E utility provider. The rebate included replacement of the traditional fluorescent lights in the facility. A company called Bright Ideas worked with Assistant Warden of Finance and Administration (AWFA) Christopher St. Jean. WRDF was able to get approval to proceed on July 29, 2017, two days before the rebate deadline. AWFA Christopher St. Jean was managing the project daily, providing daily work plans for Bright Ideas and performing the installation, as well as following up several times a day on progress. "Mr. St. Jean was critical to making this project a success," said Warden Eric Noonan. "He kept everyone up-to-date, addressed the staff, answered questions, and was an excellent leader for this project." The majority of the work was completed by the end of September 2017. Over 1,000 light fixtures were replaced. Not only does the facility look better, but there have been over \$100 per day in energy savings. One year after the install, the facility has saved over 300,000 kWh, which according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website, has saved 223 Metric tons of Carbon Dioxide equivalent gases from being released into the atmosphere. This offset is roughly equal to the emissions of WRDF's GTI fleet for the seventeen plus years of operations.



## CACF Supports Arizona Special Olympics

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

On January 5, 2018, thirty-eight inmates from Central Arizona Correctional Facility in Florence, Arizona, attended a special check presentation for the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) by the Arizona Special Olympics. The inmates donated \$24,658 raised during a recent Sam's Club fundraiser. Present for the check presentation were Kelsey Hawker from LETR Special Olympics and two athletes who shared how the donated funds will be used.



## GEO Supports Louisiana Special Olympics

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

On March 12, 2018, Alexandria Staging Facility had the privilege of presenting a \$500 check to Louisiana Special Olympics representatives Tara Bounds and Phyllis Mitchell. Ms. Bounds is one of seventy athletes representing Louisiana in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games and the only athlete from central Louisiana. This year's event will be hosted in Seattle, Washington, in June 2018, with 3,000 athletes competing in fourteen different sports.

**Pictured left to right:** Warden Joseph Young, Tara Bounds, and Phyllis Mitchell.



## Popsicle Sticks: Ingenuity in a HUMV

Written By **Kathy Williams, New Castle Correctional Facility**

Among the housing units of the New Castle Correctional Facility is a program called H-Unit Military Veterans (HUMV). HUMV past projects have included scale models of the USS Indianapolis BB-1 and BB-58 ships. The HUMV men have once again produced an incredible replica of military history. In honor of Black History Month, they turned their attention to the famous Tuskegee Airmen and the Red Tails from World War II. Honoring the nation's first African-American combat pilots have taken the energy and talent of more than thirty HUMV residents. Hopefully, the 8' x 3' project depicting a Red Tails camp, air strip, and scene of a German air strike will soon be available for public viewing at the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum located in Columbus, Indiana. Using only popsicle sticks, pieces of cardboard, and fingernail clippers, the men produced stunning results, both in scope and detail.

Legend has it, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt requested to be taken for a ride in one of the Red Tails. Once activated into service, the Red Tails operated as the 332nd Fighter Group based from the Ramitelli Airfield in Italy. The Red Tails served as bomber escorts, as visible in the demolished building shown in the right-hand section of the photo. The model planes included details like cockpit controls, spinning propellers, working landing gear, and gun locations. Just like the original Tuskegee Airmen, the HUMV participants bring together cultural diversity and origins from all over the United States.

The construction of the model required over 3,000 man hours, 1,500 popsicle sticks, 1,200 tongue depressors, six toilet paper boxes, craft paint, and pieces of sanitizer bottles. The initial proposal was submitted in March 2017, and took the remainder of the year for construction and detailing.

**Pictured left to right: Front row:** Kyle Sheetz (Army), Larry Sloan (HUMV Supporter), and Lonnie Null (Army). **Center:** Norman Hess (Air Force and Vietnam Purple Heart Recipient). **Back row:** Bill Hensley (Air Force), Jason Boggs (Navy), L.C. King (National Guard), and Roddie Legg (Army).

## Pine Prairie's CASA Toy Drive

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

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center collected toys and hosted a few fundraisers in support of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). In Louisiana, a child is abused every forty-eight minutes and every ten and a half hours a child is confirmed to have been sexually abused. At any given time, there are over 5,000 children in foster care. Of those in foster care, 49 percent are under five years of age and every fourteen hours a child dies before his or her first birthday.

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center is happy to support CASA because with CASA, the children know they have an adult who is there to help simply because they care.

In December 2017, Warden Indalecio Ramos and staff were pleased to present CASA with a check for \$500 and numerous toys for the foster children. The staff are looking forward to contributing even more this year to support the children.

**Pictured left to right:** Elwood Terry, Ruby Trahan, Patrick Guidry, Ryan Gauither, Lorenzo Richard, Kizzy Shelvin, Indalecio Ramos, Alfonso Castillo, Dedria Laborde, Hollie Carrier, Jennifer Ivory, and Allen Dubroc. Kizzy Shelvin, Lorenzo Richard, Deborah Lucas-Stevens, Warden Indalecio Ramos, Denise Seri, Anthony Dessell, Assistant Warden Alfonso Castillo, and Timothy Guillory.



# Karnes County Second Annual Community Engagement Walk

Written By **Brittany Machado**, Karnes County Correctional Center

What started out as a tribute to Karnes County Correctional Center's local law enforcement turned into a tribute and a way to honor their entire community. Remembering the tragedy of the shooting and killing of Dallas, Texas police officers in July 2016, Karnes County Correctional Center's Officers Gable Tovar and Melissa Torres wanted to show their support for local law enforcement.

The Karnes County Sheriff's Office, Karnes City Police Department, and GEO's Karnes County Correctional Center and Karnes County Residential Center hosted the second annual community engagement walk in honor of their community. On October 14, 2017, the one-mile walk took place. Approximately 200 Karnes County citizens, including law enforcement and first responders, gathered at the GEO training building to begin the walk as a way to show support for their community. Karnes County Correctional Center and Karnes County Residential Center look forward to continuing this event annually as a way to promote unity amongst the Karnes County community.

**Pictured left to right:** Sheriff and his Deputies. Correctional Officer Gable Tovar. Karnes County coming together for the walk. Warden Bobby Thompson, Warden Rose Thompson, and Warden Waymon Barry.



## CACF Donates 174 Toys to Toys for Tots

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

Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) began collecting toys to donate to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation in October 2017. The generous staff at CACF donated over 174 toys to the Foundation. The funds raised during CACF's annual chili cook-off were used to purchase an abundance of toys. Warden Bennie Rollins and Deputy Warden Lisa Brewer agreed they would wear ugly Christmas sweaters during their work day if facility staff members collected three boxes of toys. CACF staff were able to collect over four boxes of toys. Sure enough, during the month of December, Warden Rollins and Deputy Warden Lisa Brewer wore their festive ugly Christmas sweaters. CACF is proud of the staff for all their generous donations and support of the Marine Toys for Tots.

**Pictured left to right: Top:** Shannon Sherlock and Lisa Brewer. **Bottom:** Warden Bennie Rollins and Cammie Burke.

## Arizona State Prison-Florence West Helps Over 200 Families in Community

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



On December 16, 2017, Arizona State Prison-Florence West participated in and donated to the second annual food and clothing drive in Pinal County. This event was hosted by Reach USA Ministries and the United Dance Crew of Coolidge, Arizona. Reach USA Ministries is an organization for young teens trying to make a difference in their community by working to keep kids away from gangs and drugs. Arizona State Prison-Florence West has assisted the organization with donating clothing and canned foods for the past two years. This year, staff at the facility donated 450 cans of food and twelve large bags of clothing. The successful event helped over 200 families in Pinal County. Reach USA Ministries were very appreciative of all the donations from the facility.

## Karnes County Residential Center's First Policy Review Committee

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



The Karnes County Residential Center recently implemented a Policy Review Committee that will meet every quarter to review current policies and post orders. Each quarter, the committee will consist of a different group of line staff members. The committee will have the opportunity to advocate changes and improvements to successfully achieve sustainable operational excellence. The committee is chaired by the Compliance Administrator Laura Guerrero who works closely with executive staff to discuss and consider recommendations from the committee and in turn, inform the committee of changes and/or revisions that have been made.

**Pictured: 1st Quarter Policy Review Committee: Front row:** Patsy Vasquez, Jesus Perez, Leona Wiatrek, Cynthia Garcia, and George Morales. **Back row:** Laura Guerrero, Patricia Constante, Graciela Estrada, Savannah Provow, Daniel Guerrero, and Rudy Morales.

# Heritage Trail Holds Third Graduation for the Men of Honor Program

Written By **Selina Lewis,**  
**Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**



On March 10, 2018, the Men of Honor program at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility in Plainfield, Indiana, held its third graduation in which fourteen new graduates received their certificates. In addition, twenty-five new participants were welcomed into the program during the ceremony.

The Men of Honor Outreach Ministry is a faith-based program that began in October 2016 at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility, piloted by former offender 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, never again returning to prison.”

Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Warden Donald Emerson reinforced Governor Holcomb’s pillar to take Indiana to the next level by creating a skilled and ready workforce.

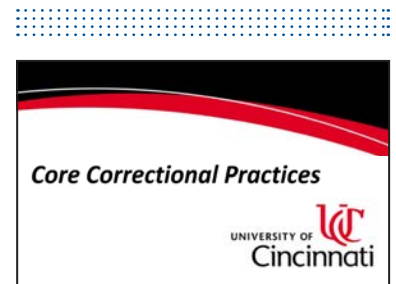
Additionally, he reiterated Heritage Trail Correctional Facility’s mission to teach job-ready skills that will assist in increasing employment opportunities upon their release into the community.

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

Several of the men who have completed the program transitioned to carpentry jobs shortly after their return to the community with the assistance of the Men of Honor program.

Men of Honor is a non-profit outreach program that is designed to help men being released into the community by providing the necessary tools for them to become successful in their journey to reintegrate back into society.

Many of the successful graduates of the program who have reentered the community and workforce come back to the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility to attend Men of Honor graduations and to provide inspirational words and encouragement to the graduates and the new classes.



## It Was Not Impossible

Written By **Tonya Adams,**  
**LaSalle ICE Processing Center**

In September 2017, LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LIPC) and Alexandria Staging Facility (ASF) were given the task of completing Core Correctional Practices (CCP) Training for 370 employees by December 31, 2017. Some would say it was impossible, but with an awesome team at both LIPC and ASF, it was completed! By December 31, 2017, 370 employees were trained. This logged in a total of 5,920 staff training hours over a three-month period at three locations. Such success required staff coming in on weekends and days off, and the Training Department dedicated three to four days a week to CCP training. This impossible task could not have been accomplished without the outstanding leadership and sacrifice of the staff.





## Tenth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Written By **Chaplain Donald G. Bowen, Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility**

On Thursday, November 2, 2017, the Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility held its tenth annual volunteer appreciation dinner, celebrating all the hardworking volunteers at the facility, as well as celebrating the facility's tenth year of operation. For the tenth consecutive year, the First Baptist Church of Lovejoy allowed the facility to use their fellowship hall to honor the volunteers. The dinner was catered by Broadway Diner, a local delicious restaurant.

Chaplain Donald Bowen opened the event with a grateful and heartfelt welcome and thanks to the valuable volunteers and staff. Warden Randy Tillman expressed to the volunteers how much they are appreciated and that he and all the staff consider each of them a very important part of their success. The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Paul Laird, Eastern Region Director of Operations. He expressed how humbling it was to be able to speak to such a fine group of volunteers, staff, and visitors. Attendees included volunteers, facility staff members, Clayton County Chairman Jeff Turner, Lovejoy Mayor Bobby Cartwright, Lovejoy Police Chief Wayne Woods, Sheriff Victor Hill, retired Assistant Warden of Finance and Administration B. Davis, Health Service Administrator E. Byars, and of course Paul Laird.

Chaplain Donald Bowen presented Warden Randy Tillman, Paul Laird, and volunteer John Davis (who has led the musical entertainment for ten years at the facility) with a surprise appreciation award for all they have done for the facility. Chaplain Donald Bowen and Warden Randy Tillman presented the 2017 Volunteer of the Year award to Stephen and Sharron Thomas. They have been faithful volunteers since March 2008. Certificates of appreciation and gifts were given to all volunteers. Everybody enjoyed an evening of fun, music, and fellowship, and we look forward to the 2018 appreciation dinner.

**Pictured left to right: Top:** Director of Operations Paul Laird. Volunteers Sharron and Stephen Thomas. **Bottom:** Director of Operations Paul Laird, volunteer John Davis, and Warden Randy Tillman. Chaplain Donald Bowen, volunteer Stephen Thomas, volunteer Sharron Thomas, and Warden Randy Tillman.

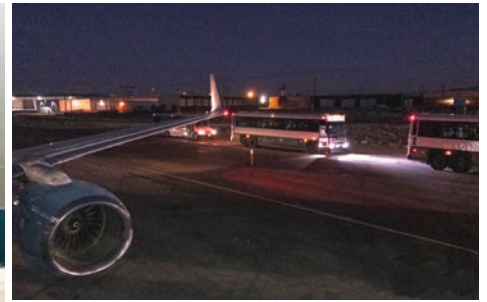


### GEO Celebrates Our New Arrivals!

'Celebrate Life' is a GEO initiative which provides a welcome gift package filled with baby items for new parents, along with reminders and instructions on how to enroll a new dependent in GEO's medical plan. In congratulating the new parents with these small gifts, GEO also wants to remind new parents to add their new dependent within 30 days of birth to their medical plan. In the past, we've found a common problem to be new parents missing the deadline to cover their babies or mistakenly believing they are automatically covered.

To enroll your new baby into your medical plan by phone, please call The GEO Group Benefits Service Center at **855-312-7363**, or visit **[geogroup.hrintouch.com](http://geogroup.hrintouch.com)**. Please remember you will need to provide proof of birth.

**Pictured:** *Miracle baby Ricardo Gabriel Herrera: Born at 31 weeks and 4.4oz on 11/1/2017. Son of Claudia Herrera, Assistant Director at Mid Valley House.*



## Above the Clouds: GTI Air Transport Mission

Written By **Bobby Sanchez, GTI Corporate**

On February 13, 2018, at 2 a.m., GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) Air Transport Officers (ATO's) met to conduct a pre-operation checklist. This review included an inspection of all operational equipment, staff assignments, and the responsibilities of each Officer. This operation was dubbed 'Above the Clouds' GEO mission #62.

The ATO's departed for the Idaho State Correctional Center (ISCC) and arrived at 3 a.m. They were met by Warden Jay Christensen, Senior Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) staff and IDOC Cert team members. This mission involved the secure transport of 150 IDOC inmates from Boise, Idaho, to GEO's Karnes County Correctional Center (KCCC) in Karnes County, Texas.

Prior to the loading process, an advanced GTI ATO's team conducted a thorough search

of the aircraft to ensure it did not contain any contraband or other security concerns. Once the search was completed the ATO's briefed the airline crew, confirmed all medical records and meals had been loaded, and properly secured the aircraft.

At 7 a.m., the inmates were ready to be boarded onto the aircraft. Once all inmates are loaded, they are informed that they are being transported by GTI's professionally trained and certified Air Transport Officer team whose primary concern is to safely and securely transport them to Texas and that their full cooperation is expected. They are advised that they will be provided with meals, use of the lavatory (under escort) and will also be shown movies throughout the flight.

Finally, at 8 a.m. wheels are up and GTI's Air Mission #62 is

underway. Approximately four hours later, the aircraft descends from above the clouds, and as it approaches the runway in San Antonio, GEO's GTI busses are lined up and ready.

In less than forty-five minutes, all 150 IDOC inmates are safely and securely boarded onto the vehicles and headed to KCCC.

In order to successfully accomplish this mission, numerous hours of planning were conducted by GTI's Vice President Ed Stubbs, Central Region Directors of Operation Gary Gomez and Randy Tate, Warden Waymon Barry, Warden Butch Head, Dr. Castillo, Nurse Bertha Villanueva, GTI Transportation Manager Colleen Robertson, GTI Transportation Manager Alicia Vargas, GTI Lieutenant Luz Montes, Officer in Charge Lieutenant Elihu Harper, Assistant Officer in Charge

Sergeant Todd Deweese, Greg Pearson, Jeremy Adkins, Luis Sanchez, Gilbert Leija, Eladio Caballero, Jacob Wright, David Robles, Daniel Loera, Mariano Cruz, and GTI Director Bobby Sanchez.

We appreciate the various ATO's Wardens for authorizing their participation. The IDOC led by Contract Manager Tim Higgins, Warden Jay Christensen and his senior staff, Emergency Coordinator Brett Kimmel, and Cert Commander Josh Overgaard are commended for their respective roles in assisting, organizing, and providing assets for the success of air mission #62. In summary, air mission #62's success is due to proper planning and execution accomplished in accordance with GTI's motto: safe and secure transportation with service second to none.

## Arizona State Prison-Florence West Supports United Food Bank

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



On January 4, 2018, Warden Rick Mauldin and Assistant Warden Brenda Duran from Arizona State Prison-Florence West delivered a \$3,250 check to the United Food Bank on behalf of The GEO Group Foundation. The donation made it possible to provide 13,000 meals for the local community. United Food Bank's mission is to stabilize the lives of hungry, low-income people within Eastern Maricopa, Gila, Pinal, and Southern Navajo and Apache Counties in Arizona by actively acquiring, storing, and distributing large quantities of wholesome and nutritious foods to its network of community and strategic partners. United Food Bank has helped over 48,000 families in 2017. They are able to give an average of 59,000 meals a day. United Food Bank was very grateful for the donation made by The GEO Group Foundation.

## Lea County Correctional Facility Supports Habitat for Humanity

Written By **Angela Wimberley, Lea County Correctional Facility**



In December 2017, Lea County Correctional Facility Warden RC Smith and Physical Plant Manager Eddie Solomon attended a touching ceremony for three families who were presented with a Habitat for Humanity home. Lea County Correctional Facility was welcomed to attend the ceremony since they are a huge part of the program's local success. The facility's wood shop workers recently finished their tenth house frame and all of them have been donated to Habitat for Humanity. Lea County Correctional Facility's wood shop is proud to support their community and continues to donate the frames and walls created in the wood shop to help the community.

**Pictured from left to right:** Warden RC Smith and Physical Plant Manager Eddie Solomon.

## Military Supporter and Patriot ESGR Award Winner

Written By **Brittany Machado,**  
Karnes County  
Correctional Center

Lieutenant Federico Vasquez's dedication, leadership, and commitment to his job has not gone unnoticed. He is a big supporter of the military and an inspiration to not only the staff at Karnes County Correctional Center (KCCC), but to the military members and veterans at the facility as well. Staff Sergeant Amy Greenwood of the United States Air Force, currently working at the 802 Security Forces Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base and also as a Correctional Officer at KCCC, nominated Lieutenant Vasquez for the Patriot Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) award. "I nominated him because I have been transiting back and forth from my civilian job and military profession for over four years. Lieutenant Vasquez has been helpful and supportive during the transition process. He has helped strengthen me into becoming a successful leader in both environments," Amy said. The Patriot ESGR award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range of measures. It is with great honor that this prestigious award was presented to KCCC's very own Lieutenant Federico Vasquez.



## Riverbend's Volunteer of the Year

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

Riverbend Correctional Facility and the Baldwin County Animal Shelter have partnered to establish a dog rescue and adoption program. Debra Campbell, a volunteer with the shelter, enthusiastically agreed to not only help identify dogs to participate in the program, but also generously offered to facilitate all training.

She devotes three days a week to training the dogs and their trainers. Ms. Campbell's passion, coupled with the amazing work she has done, has contributed to the success and expansion of this meaningful program. Ms. Campbell shows up each day and gives her time freely and enthusiastically. She is always finding ways to bring visibility to this program and to the local animal shelter. Since the inception of this worthwhile program, over 36 dogs have moved from death row to their forever home! Riverbend Correctional Facility was excited to recognize Debra Campbell as its very first Volunteer of the Year.

**Pictured left to right:** Warden Fredrick J. Head, Debra Campbell, Assistant Warden of "GEO Continuum of Care™" Angela Reaves, and Health Services Administrator Tammy Bailey.

## Rivers Correctional Institution's Mock Job Fair

D.C. Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs Newsletter



On December 6, 2017, the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) participated in a Mock Job Fair and an Employment Opportunities Forum with the Court Services Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) and other community partners, to deliver presentations about services and resources to Rivers Correctional Institution's inmates projected to return back to their community within six months.



# The Opioid Crisis: Who Is Affected?

Written By **Kasia Kijanczuk, Michele Iannucci, & Jason Boggs, GEO Continuum of Care™ Division, Corporate**

“An estimated two million Americans are addicted to opioids, and approximately twenty-five million suffer daily from chronic pain” (*National Institute of Health, 2018*). It is estimated that every day in America, more than 115 individuals die from an opioid overdose making this the leading cause of death for Americans under the age of fifty. Most common opioids include prescription pain relievers such as hydrocodone, oxycodone, oxymorphone, morphine, codeine, along with the illegal drug heroin and synthetic opioids (i.e. fentanyl). The prescription drugs are safe to take when prescribed by a doctor and when taken for a short period of time to treat acute pain (*National Institute of Drug Abuse, 2018*). Statistics show that over 30% of opioid overdoses also involve benzodiazepines, which are a prescription sedative commonly used for anxiety or to help fight insomnia. Benzodiazepines calm or sedate a person by raising the level of inhibitory neurotransmitters. These sedatives include diazepam (Valium), alprazolam (Xanax), and clonazepam (Klonopin) (*National Institute of Drug Abuse, 2018*). Combining opioids and benzodiazepines is especially unsafe because both types of drugs are known to sedate and suppress breathing, in addition to impairing cognitive function. These drugs are often prescribed simultaneously.

Given the opioid crisis in recent years, National Institute of Drug Abuse highlights that opioid dependence also “imposes a significant economic burden to society, not only in terms of directly attributable health-care costs (e.g. treatment), but also in terms of its impact on other budgets (notably social welfare and criminal justice services)” (2018). The growing problem is not isolated to adults; the National Institute of Drug Abuse funded *Monitoring the Future* survey found that 11% of surveyed high-school seniors reported taking nonmedical opioids (NMO) prior to graduating.

According to the National Institute of Health, opioid treatment programs that offer medication-assisted treatment are not widely available, and only 18% of people suffering from prescription opioid use disorders received specialized treatment in 2015. Roadblocks to treatment have significant, detrimental consequences including a transition to illegal substances, overdoses, and an increase in other diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C (2018).

Within the criminal justice population, about half of the state and federal inmates are identified as having some form of substance abuse disorder (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2004*). Furthermore, over half of the state inmate population have been identified as having a drug dependence during 2007 - 2009 (*Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2017*). The

concern with this population is the lack of treating opioid use during time of being in-custody, which in turn tends to lead to use once the individuals are released (*National Institute of Health, 2018*). “Many states currently do not offer appropriate access to or utilize medications to treat opioid use disorders among arrestees or inmates, even though research has shown many benefits of incorporating medication-assisted treatment into criminal justice treatment programs. Inmates who receive buprenorphine treatment prior to release are more likely to engage in treatment after their release than inmates who only participate in counseling. Participants who engage in methadone treatment and counseling in prison are more likely to enter community-based methadone treatment centers after their release (68.6%) than those receiving only counseling (7.8%) or those in counseling and referred to a treatment center (50%)” (*National Institute of Health, 2018*).

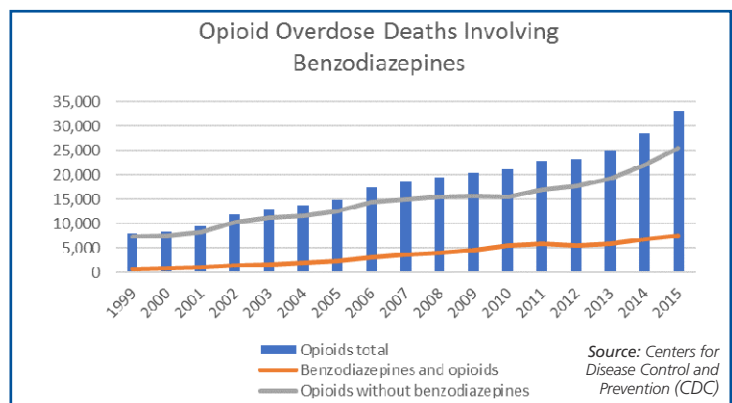
With the urgency of the opioid crisis reaching a national level in recent years, this topic requires our attention as it directly impacts the many men and women whom we serve daily in our facilities. To better understand the impact that this crisis has had on the corrections industry, we wish to expand our readers' knowledge by presenting a series that focuses on the opioid crisis. The first segment provides background information about opioids and some general statistics that show the extent of the crisis, whereas the upcoming segment will provide information about the challenges of providing adequate treatment for opioid dependency, especially as it affects in-custody individuals.

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Mumola CJ, Karberg JC. *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report: Drug Use and Dependence, State and Federal Prisoners, 2004*. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 2004.

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# Staff of the Year at New Castle

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

It is an exciting time of year for Warden Keith Butts and the staff at the New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) as they recently named the Correctional Employee of the Year, Employee of the Year, and Partner of the Year. The honors went to Sergeant Dustin Patton, Payroll Clerk Lisa Conyers, and Aramark Food Service.

Sergeant Dustin Patton has been a GEO employee at NCCF for over twelve years. He is best known for his distinct radio voice, impeccable capability to investigate and find contraband, as well as his never wavering professionalism. In 2017, Sergeant Patton was responsible for thirty-seven contraband finds. He also has a dynamic relationship with staff at NCCF as evidenced by the three standing ovations he received during the presentation of his award. Sergeant Patton recently earned his Certified Corrections Supervisor certification through the American Correctional Association.

There isn't enough to be said about Payroll Clerk Lisa Conyers. She is the epitome of a loyal, committed, and positive employee. In the past year, the facility updated their time-keeping software. Ms. Conyers answered questions, emails, phone calls, and complaints all while making the necessary adjustments. Without it being required or without even being asked, Ms. Conyers will report to the facility on evenings, weekends, and holidays to make sure staff receive a paycheck. Ms. Conyers is a true asset to NCCF.

Aramark Food Service at NCCF was presented with the Partner of the Year award for the second year in a row. Aramark team members deliver and serve over 8,600 meals per day and include special diets for health and religious purposes. They received 100% compliance on their last audit in the areas of food preparation, food service, and sanitation. Also, twice in the past year the team was named 'Outstanding Food Service Facility' for all correctional facilities in Indiana and received a traveling trophy from the Indiana Department of Correction. Please help us congratulate each of these remarkable individuals on a job well done!



**Pictured left to right:** Aramark staff: Michael Cecil, Dawn Ellis, Warden Keith Butts, Brenda Felix, and MaryAnn Wilkinson. Warden Keith Butts and Sergeant Dustin Patton. Payroll Clerk Lisa Conyers and Warden Keith Butts.



## Coastal Bend Food Bank Receives Donation From GEO Group's Prison Commissary Arm

Published In: **Caller Times**

State Rep. Abel Herrero and The GEO Group on Thursday (December 21, 2017) announced a donation of more than \$137,000 in food to the Coastal Bend Food Bank. "We identified that the Coastal Bend Food Bank was the best place that we would be able to extend the most help to individuals in our community," said Herrero, D-Robstown. "We want to make sure this donation will obviously go a long way in helping families share a meal with loved ones this holiday season." Beatriz Hanson, executive director of the food bank, said the donation will help ensure area residents will not worry about having food in their homes this holiday. "We want to help the families that need help so they won't have to go grocery shopping," Hanson said. "They can use the money they have on other things they need." The GEO Group is a for-profit company that operates detention centers. Brothers Commissary, a GEO Group vendor, donated the \$137,969.28 in food Wednesday on behalf of three correctional facilities it services, including the Coastal Bend Detention Center, as well as Hidalgo and Brooks County Detention Center. "We're honored to play a small part of providing food for the less fortunate, especially at this time of year," Ty Foreman, president of the Brother Correctional Services, said. "Through the efforts of GEO's assistance, the spirit of Christmas, joy, peace and happiness will come to so many." "The GEO Group is very appreciative of this very kind donation to the Coastal Bend Food Bank and together we hope it will provide food to both those effected by Hurricane Harvey as well as others in need," GEO Group Inc. Vice President Pablo E. Paez stated in a news release.

**Pictured left to right:** Brooks County Detention Center Warden Javier Aleman, Coastal Bend Detention Center Warden Butch Head, Coastal Bend Food Bank Executive Director Beatriz Hanson, State Representative Abel Herrero, and Brother Commissary President Ty Foreman.

## Dreamtime Interpretations

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



Three offenders in the Yeerung Unit who have a strong connection with their culture have created illustrations of Dreamtime stories of the Gunaikurnai people, the tribal group which have inhabited the local region for at least 18,000 years.

The image of Jiddelek, a gigantic frog, tells the story of how he started to drink from a water hole and ended up consuming all the water from the creek and river as well. The Gunaikurnai Dreaming painting depicts the Dreamtime Spirit Ancestors of the first Gunaikurnai man and woman - Borun (the pelican) and Tuk (the musk duck). The five shields represent the five clans of the Gunaikurnai tribe. All the Dreamtime paintings in and around the Yeerung Unit add to the positive atmosphere of the surroundings and for some of the inmates, provide an inspiration for contemplation and reflection on indigenous traditions and culture.

**Pictured top left:** A work in progress. **Right:** Gunaikurnai Dreaming. **Bottom:** Jiddelek, the giant frog.

## Student of the Year

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

In a moving graduation ceremony, fifty-seven students at Junee Correctional Centre were honoured with certificates at the ninth annual Technical and Further Education (TAFE) New South Wales (NSW) graduation ceremony. Successfully completing a course or skill set within a correctional centre setting is extremely difficult. It takes great dedication and application to study and for many of the students the graduation ceremony was one of the proudest days of their life.

The unique and award-winning partnership between TAFE NSW and GEO enables inmates to enroll in customised courses to assist them in their reintegration back into the community. Currently 60 percent of the centre's population is enrolled in twenty courses with TAFE NSW. It is one of the highest participation rates of any correctional centre in the state.

Over the years, Junee Correctional Centre has been recognised by TAFE NSW for the important role it plays in education, winning several awards such as the 2017 Industry Community Partnership award and the 2016 Outstanding Support to Technical and Further Education award. The GEO Group Australia is committed to its ethos of 'Better Corrections, Safer Communities' and that is why the partnership with TAFE NSW is so important — it gives inmates real-life skills that can be used to gain employment upon release.

Mathew, thirty-four, who graduated from several courses and was named 'Student of the Year', echoed these sentiments. Mathew started with TAFE NSW in 2015 and has completed a Certificate I in Engineering and a Certificate I in Digital Media and Technology. He demonstrated great perseverance and commitment to both the practical and theoretical aspect of his courses and became a role model for his peers, encouraging them to persevere with their learning. His maturity, leadership, determination, and skills were identified early on and he was trained and worked in the centre as a barista, obtained a forklift license, and mentored inmates in Aboriginal art — all while completing the certificate courses.

Junee Correctional Centre General Manager Scott Brideoake delivered a powerful speech to the graduates, imploring them to use their education as a platform for positive change.

"You're not here today as inmates, you're here as students," he said. "This is all about your life outside, not your life inside and I hope it helps you participate in a normal life outside with your families." His sentiments were echoed by TAFE NSW Deputy Regional General Manager Belinda Mackinnon, who warmly congratulated the students for their dedication and perseverance.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world," she said.

**Pictured left to right:** Mathew and General Manager Scott Brideoake.





## Arthur Gorrie's Strong Fencing Partnership Leads to Employment

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

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and The Advance Group have celebrated the milestone of manufacturing 20,000 concrete blocks used as support bases for temporary fencing.

The strong, eighteen-month partnership has also seen four former inmates who were part of the manufacturing team gain employment through The Advance Group.

The project has two manufacturing components. Inmates working in Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre's metal workshop repairs and fabricates temporary fencing panels while another group makes concrete blocks to support the panels.

Under the watchful eyes of Trade Instructor Heath Maslen, a team of twenty have been learning metalwork skills including welding, bending, and cutting.

Trade Instructor Jacobus Havenga teaches a group of fifteen inmates the concrete trade including operating a concrete mixer, mixing, pouring, and curing concrete.

In 2017, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre inmates repaired and fabricated almost 13,000 panels or more than thirty kilometres of fencing. The mesh fencing is used on construction sites primarily in southern Queensland and on the Gold Coast.

"The nature of the work is relatively easy to learn and builds specific skills which makes it ideal for a training environment and very promising in terms of employment opportunities," said Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Finance and Administration Manager Sidd Mehta.

"The employment element of the partnership has been very successful for both parties. The Advance Group gets trained and skilled workers who are positioned into the job straight away. The fact that we are able to help inmates find employment immediately upon release is a great result for the individuals and for GEO in our efforts to reduce recidivism."

**Pictured:** Trade Instructor Jacobus Havenga, Finance and Administration Manager Sidd Mehta, The Advance Group Contractor Shane Gallamore, and Trade Instructor Health Maslen.



## Crisis Care Bears

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

The Morwell Lions Club's (MLC) decision to distribute care bears to agencies providing support to children affected by family violence revived the soft toy program at Fulham Correctional Centre (FCC). Whilst undertaking a placement in MLC as part of his studies for a Social Science diploma, the Wellington Unit's Resettlement Correctional Officer Prinesh Narayan met with MLC's Director Max Williamson. "The gift of a trauma teddy helps to comfort a child when accompanying parents attending counselling sessions, and there are many other traumatic events such as road accidents where these bears alleviate stressful situations," Mr. Williamson said. The program's Coordinator, Industries Officer Helen Dolan organised the workers who were keen to get the course underway once again. Following a recent donation of twenty-one colourful bears from FCC, MLC will be able to continue their project.

**Pictured left to right:** Officers Helen Dolan and Prinesh Narayan with the care bears donated by FCC.



## A Scouting Donation

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

Inmates at Junee Correctional Centre (Junee) have made a generous donation to the Junee Scouts that will help children attend their first Australian Jamboree. The inmates participated in a series of 'Big Bash' cricket competitions organised by Activity Coordinators Michael Perkins and Daniel Halliburton to raise funds to support the local community. They decided to donate the money to the Scout group after hearing of their request to help members attend the eleven-day jamboree held at Taillem Bend in South Australia — over 800 kilometres (500 miles) away from Junee. A \$1,000 cheque was handed to Junee Scouts leader Jackie Starr who said the centre's generosity would help create a once in a lifetime opportunity for the children.



**Picture:** Trevor Coles, Michael Perkins, and Daniel Halliburton handing over the cheque on behalf of the inmates to Jackie Starr and Daniel Wattie along with some of the children from the Junee Scouts.

## Waitangi Day Celebrations at Ravenhall Correctional Centre

Written By **Dr. Fiona Murphy, Ravenhall Correctional Centre**



**Picture:** Indigenous inmates at Ravenhall Correctional Centre perform a traditional dance as part of Waitangi Day celebrations.

Ravenhall Correctional Centre started its cultural events calendar with a bang in 2018. Its first-ever event celebrated Waitangi Day and the cultural heritage of Maori, Pacific Islander, and New Zealand inmates and staff in the centre. Waitangi Day is the national day of New Zealand and commemorates the signing on February 6, 1840 of the Treaty of Waitangi by more than forty Maori chiefs and representatives of Britain. A core group of twenty inmates and several staff members representing GEO and its alliance partners rehearsed for over a month to put together a showcase of their cultures including a traditional welcome, a range of songs and the 'haka' (a traditional Maori war dance). Over 150 people attended the event. It was a wonderful Waitangi Day ceremony that truly represented the ethos of the centre — to build on the strengths of the inmates and work towards positive outcomes for both them and the community.



## Big Heart Reaches Out to Youth

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

"I come back every year because my heart tells me to." These few words say a great deal about 24-year-old Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Officer Ayrлие Timmermans who for the past three years has taken a group of young Australians over the demanding Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a leader in the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program.

Ayrлие first walked the track in 2009 as a 16-year-old when she was part of the program. The following year, four days after finishing school, she joined the Army, and two years later she was deployed to Afghanistan.

"I was discharged from the Army in late 2014 and in May the following year my heart brought me back to the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program to be a leader for a new generation of kids," she said. Each year, Ayrлие works with twelve children. They participate in physical training on Wednesday afternoons and bushwalks all day Sunday in preparation for the trek.

During training, Ayrлие teaches the children about the World War II battle of Kokoda so they understand what Australian troops went through fighting the Japanese and why the Kokoda Track has a special place in Australian history.

The Kokoda Challenge Youth Program accepts children from all walks of life. It is a fifteen-month commitment; they train for five months then spend eight months doing community service (once a month) after returning from PNG.

The trek itself covers 96 kilometres (60 miles) over gruelling mountainous terrain and takes nine days to complete from Owers Corner to Kokoda Village. "Seeing the change in the kids from day one is absolutely phenomenal," said Ayrлие. "It's why I get up every single day."

The program is government funded but also raises money through events such as the Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge. Last year, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre employees Brett James, David Mears, Alan Rugg, and Travis Young took part in the event to raise money for the program.

Three other volunteer leaders work with Ayrлие with each group. "We volunteer our time because we love what this program does for the youth of today; it truly does make them better members of the community," she said.

**Pictured: Front:** Ayrлие Timmermans. **Standing:** Lynley Mangin. **Sitting:** Emma Hughes.

## 25 Years of Service at Junee

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

Twenty-five years is a long time in anyone's books — especially twenty-five years in jail. That is how many years Junee Correctional Centre Chaplain Sister Rosemary Terry has spent providing exceptional service to the centre's inmates and staff. Now it is time for her to enjoy retirement. When Junee Correctional Centre opened in 1993, she rang the the chaplain at the time and asked if she could volunteer. With twenty years experience as an educator, she was able to bring teaching skills in literacy and numeracy along with many other attributes to the centre. When the chaplain retired, Sister Rosemary took on the position and up until her retirement was spending three days a week at the centre. Sister Rosemary said she has taken great delight in seeing inmates turn their lives around and considers Junee Correctional Centre a place of hope. Last year, Sister Rosemary was recognised for her outstanding service to the Catholic church and the community with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM).

At a recent retirement celebration, Sister Rosemary was presented with a plaque from Corrective Services NSW in appreciation of her religious ministry. She was also presented with a plaque from GEO that recognised her many years of service and commitment. Brother John Wright, who also retired from the centre, shared the day with Sister Rosemary and also received commemorative plaques.

Junee Correctional Centre General Manager Scott Brideoake said Sister Rosemary would be greatly missed. "Her dedication to providing chaplaincy services to both inmates and staff over twenty-five years has been nothing short of exceptional and we wish her all the very best in retirement."





## Santa Ana DRC Stays Active in Community Year-round

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

The Santa Ana Day Reporting Center in Santa Ana, California, regularly stays active in the community and with its participants throughout the entire year. From taking part in resource fairs and volunteer work, to hosting employment seminars and pro-social events, the center had some great moments in 2017. Here are some highlights:

### **February: Project Rebound**

Participants had the opportunity to attend Orange County Re-Entry Partnership's (OCREP) Reimagining Reentry conference, which provided valuable information on legal barriers participants face and how they can navigate them. The center's employment group visited and even dressed up for the day to make an impression.

### **April: Interview Workshop**

In April, the center held an Interview Workshop, which was

very successful. Participants were provided with new interview clothing while staff presented on the "dos and don'ts" of interviewing. The workshop also included mock interviews between staff and participants. Employment can be a huge barrier to reentry, so providing guidance and helping participants gain employment is a core goal for GEO Reentry Services.

### **May: Transition Ceremony**

The center held a transition ceremony in May for twenty-five graduates. The graduation was very emotional for participants, family members, and staff alike. Held at the Business Expo Center in Anaheim, the ceremony was attended by parole officials who have also worked closely with the graduating participants.

### **June: Third Annual Reentry Resource Fair**

In June, the center helped to organize the Reentry Resource Fair, held in partnership with OCREP. The event offered information on resources, including employment, child care, health-care, sober living, and schooling. Probation officers and parole agents also attended.

### **October: Cancer Awareness and Career Day**

In October, the center held a Cancer Awareness pro-social event. Participants came together to make goodie bags for UC Irvine Medical Center. Participants wrote messages of hope for patients undergoing chemotherapy, and inside each bag included chapstick, snacks, nail polish, mints, hand sanitizer, and tissues. The bags were donated to UC Irvine's Chao Family Comprehensive

Cancer Center and staff were incredibly thankful for the gifts! Rounding off a busy month, community members from local businesses and community connections attended Career Day at the center, providing job opportunities and tips for a successful interview. A representative from Hilton held mock interviews, which was very helpful for participants.

### **November: Second Annual Public Safety Open House**

In November, law enforcement officials and community connections members were invited to an open house at the center. Staff shared the importance of the center's work to representatives from Santa Ana College and the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

**Pictured:** *Santa Ana DRC graduates.*

## ADAPPT Participants Lend a Hand for Community Service

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



Alcohol & Drug Addiction Parole & Probation Treatment (ADAPPT), a residential reentry center in Reading, Pennsylvania, was pleased to serve the community once again by assisting with several local projects over the fall season.

Security Supervisor Donna Conley and Clinical Supervisor Dawn Martin, with the support of Director Michael Critchosin, skillfully coordinated community projects for the participants to volunteer. During the fall and early winter of 2017, participants had the opportunity to assist at the Reading Public Library twice, City of Reading Adopt a Block, the Berks County Recovery Walk, and the organization We Agape You, Inc., which renovates houses in the Reading area.

"We are very proud of the staff from ADAPPT who recognize the importance of community service for our participants," said Senior Area Manager Monique Hendricks. Volunteering is an important component of reentry programming and at ADAPPT, it is consistently put into action in cooperation with the City of Reading's ongoing projects. The GEO Group is committed to upholding this important service through participation of ADAPPT's staff and participants and will continue to find ways to give back to the community we are a part of."

ADAPPT completes a large volume of community service which exceeds 500 hours monthly on average. Volunteers are often welcomed by organizations who have remarked how hard the participants work and how positive their attitudes are. Library staff rewarded the ADAPPT team with coffee and donuts in appreciation of a hard day's work.

"Our participants are always willing to lend a helping hand to the community," said ADAPPT Director Michael Critchosin. "We take pride in giving back to the community in whatever way we can. It is an important lesson for our participants to experience a productive work effort while at the same time repaying a debt to society."

At the library, ADAPPT volunteers removed shelving and did general cleanup, tidied up North Sixth Street in Reading for Adopt a Block, and put up fencing and painted for We Agape You, Inc. They accomplished all this while maintaining their normally scheduled community service including work at the homeless shelter and foundation event work.

**Pictured left to right: Top:** Participants Shaheed Ellington, Enoc Villanueva, Kenneth Wright, Mark McCoy, Rafael Ortiz Jr., Craig Brennan, Reading Public Library Executive Director Bronwen Gamble, Participants William Porter Jr., Joel Medesto, and Librarian Betty O'Neil.



## NJ Alumni and Staff Pay Tribute to Dr. King with Day of Service

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

On January 15, 2018, a GEO Reentry Services group made up of New Jersey alumni and staff proudly volunteered for a day of service to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Volunteers accepted an invitation from the City of Newark to join a 'Paint Party' at Technology High School. The GEO Reentry Services group spent the day at the high school brightening the hallways with a fresh coat of paint and painting canvas banners that will hang as murals inside the school. "We are proud to give back to the community on this day that honors Dr. King," said Director of NJ Alumni Services Arthur Townes. "Dr. King envisioned unity to create a better community and we are glad to perform community service as a tribute to his great mission."



## Young Alumni Attend Pathways To Success Summit

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

New Jersey Manager of Alumni Services Arthur Townes accompanied several young graduates of GEO Reentry Services' programs on February 27, 2018, to a 'Pathways to Success Opportunity Summit,' sponsored by My Brother's Keeper in Newark (MBKN). The summit was designed for young men of color ages sixteen to twenty-nine, to be presented with vocational opportunities. Community representatives were on hand to assist young men with establishing career goals and a plan to attain those goals.

"It was rewarding to see ten of our young alumni in attendance at the summit," said Mr. Townes. "At least one of our alumni received a job offer as a result of attending the event. It was a tremendous resource and MBKN did a great job in presenting so many valuable opportunities to the young men."

The 'Pathways to Success Opportunity Summit,' was held at the Prudential Center in Newark and was a free event. Representatives were on-site for interviews and hiring, writing a resume, financial literacy and leadership workshops, mentoring, and legal services. The summit also provided celebrity guest speakers, free food, live music, and even free haircuts!

"It is especially good to see lives changed at a young age after completing our reentry programming, and our members are especially pleased to support our young alumni who are interested in positive

pursuits," continued Mr. Townes. GEO Reentry's Alumni Services group consists of members that have graduated programming and volunteer their time to help current residents and other alumni reenter the community successfully.

Alumni members help others transitioning back to society with informational assistance that includes community resources such as continued treatment for substance abuse and mental health services, educational and vocational training, employment opportunities, and housing. Members act as mentors for those reentering the community and act as proof that living a positive lifestyle is attainable.

GEO Reentry in New Jersey provides individuals with cognitive-based reentry programming. Services offered include substance abuse treatment, counseling, family services, educational and vocational services, and alumni and aftercare services.

The New Jersey alumni is an active group that holds regularly scheduled meetings that offer a chance for alumni to address current residents by sharing promising stories of their reentry.

**Pictured:** Former Delaney Hall participant Lamar Hutchins, 19, works at composing a resume.



## Abraxas Youth Pay Tribute to Veterans & Gold Star Mothers

Written By **Rhonda Stewart,**  
Abraxas Academy

On December 16, 2017, Abraxas Academy had the honor of participating in the National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day for a second year. Intake Supervisor April Bytof played a vital role in establishing a partnership with the WAA and volunteering as a liaison and mentor to the youth and staff. Twelve youth from Abraxas' Secure Treatment Program donated fifty handmade balsam remembrance wreaths, with an additional fifteen gold star family wreaths. Four faculty members including April Bytof, Rolando Rolon, Richard Youpa, and James Brunner and two youth personally placed wreaths in the arms of the Gold Star Mothers. The following staff were also in attendance: Pat Metcalf, Daniel Stringfellow, Tiffany Jacobs, and Lucy Ebersole. These youth were afforded the opportunity to learn more about the cost of freedom, to remember those served and fallen, understand humility, as well as being given a chance to give back to the community.



## Zero the Hero

An Australian Shepherd has joined the staff at Abraxas Leadership Development Program to work with the youth at the program in a variety of ways.

Written By **Amy Randt**,  
**Abraxas Leadership Development Program**

.....  
*Australian Shepherd Zero sitting for a photo.*

Over the course of 2017, the Leadership Development Program (LDP) has given the youth at the program an opportunity to develop empathy in an exciting and creative way. Welcome Zero, a twelve-month-old Australian Shepherd who has joined the staff at LDP to work with the youth at the program in a variety of ways.

Through the personal efforts of the LDP Nurse Manager Amy Randt, Zero has already garnered plenty of training and experience in a very short amount of time.

Since he was four-months old, Zero has worked directly with the youth at LDP on a weekly basis including sitting in on therapy groups, helping educate the youth on animal care, and assisting with the reading programs to enhance literacy. Thus far, the results have been nothing short of amazing and Zero's weekly visits are widely anticipated by the children and staff. Over the last year, Zero's support for the program has well exceeded over 100 hours of direct support for the youth and staff at the program.

Zero has a natural disposition that is docile and that shows care and concern for everybody he comes in contact with. In addition to his ability to be a great companion, Zero also completed multiple levels of obedience training, scent classes, herding competitions, and trick classes. He was also recently recognized and awarded his American

Kennel Club (AKC) Good Canine Citizen title at seven-months old and received his AKC Farm Dog certification title at eight-months old. To aid in his development, his trainer and handler, Amy Randt, has attended extensive classes and training that included the 2017 Pet Partners National Conference and she completed Pet Partners Handler Training course in the fall of 2017.

The addition of Zero at LDP started as an educational opportunity to teach younger children how to properly approach and care for dogs. Since that time, Zero has extended his services and influence at the program far beyond what was initially thought.

During his weekly visits, Zero has introduced himself across all of the Abraxas South Mountain programs. His most significant impact has been seen on the female program and with the younger population of kids who have experienced a high level of trauma and neglect in their past. After his visits, the children report feeling calmer, more engaged, and demonstrate a more positive attitude towards the program with hopes to be involved in future visits with Zero.

When visiting LDP, make sure to ask about Zero and what activities he is involved in. Zero will be more than happy to spend some time showing you what he does and making you feel welcome to the program.

## Perth Amboy CRC Celebrates Winter Transition Graduation

Written By **Peter Conerly, Perth Amboy CRC**



**Pictured left to right:** Program Manager Peter Conerly, graduates Gabriel Bay, Ricky Williams, Mark Botero, New Jersey State Parole Hearing Officer Robert Kantor, and Education/Employment Coordinator Dana Carbone.

On December 20, 2017, the Perth Amboy CRC held their winter transition celebration. The event serves to recognize recent program graduates for their accomplishments in successfully completing the program. The celebration was attended by participants, staff, and invited guests. State of New Jersey Parole Hearing Officer Robert Kantor was the guest speaker for the event. His presentation included helpful information regarding health care, housing, employment, and transportation resources available to the participants. Mr. Kantor often volunteers his time and meets with participants to address their particular concerns and needs. Three participants were presented with certificates of successful program completion, spoke of their experience, and offered words of encouragement to other program participants. All three obtained employment while at the CRC with the assistance of Education/Employment Coordinator Dana Carbone. The event concluded with a catered lunch served by staff.

## Abraxas Marienville Staff Dress Up For Charity

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**



From Batman to scarecrows, Abraxas Marienville staff dressed up in costume with the hope of donating to their favorite charity. Each Abraxas Marienville staff member who participated had their picture taken in costume. The pictures were then mounted onto cans and all of the staff voted for their favorite costume by placing funds of any amount into the appropriate can. The staff member who raised the most funds was given the opportunity to donate all of the funds to their favorite charitable organization. Congratulations to Jodi Lepley (pictured in the center as a life size Operation Game) who donated \$60 to the ABC Crisis Pregnancy Center in Franklin, Pennsylvania.



## Talbot Hall Resident Helps Others By Teaching Business Class

Written By

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

Talbot Hall, a GEO Reentry residential reentry center in Kearny, New Jersey, strives to better the lives of inmates by holding peer-led, skills-based vocational training. After an evaluation process, residents experienced or certified in specific vocations are approved to conduct classes aimed at teaching skills to fellow residents that will be beneficial in finding employment after release.

'Introduction to Owning Your Own Business,' is a new class that is becoming more popular with Talbot Hall residents. The class is taught by resident Patrick T., a business owner, who presented the idea to Talbot Hall Director Sheila Leonardo. He saw a need amongst residents who dream of opening their own businesses, but have no idea how to start the process.

"We encourage residents to think, advance themselves, and make good use of their time here," said Director Sheila Leonardo.

"We welcome residents to pass on knowledge that builds skills. Talbot Hall is fortunate to have professionals who come to teach, and we are open to residents conducting peer-led instruction. Many successful careers in the trades have started here."

Patrick recognized teaching as a benefit to himself and others. The first class started with eight individuals; and after five sessions with five classes each, 105 residents have completed the class.

He is pleased when he sees residents staying after class to continue learning, working with their materials in their dorm rooms, anxiously asking questions, and writing their marketing plans.

"I knew if I could do it, they could do it," said Patrick. "The response to the class has been overwhelmingly positive. I am very grateful that we each have learned something."

Director Sheila Leonardo supports the class by requiring an established curriculum.

Materials are prepared at the facility in an organized fashion and distributed, with an emphasis on presenting the workbooks in a professional manner.

The class starts with Patrick sharing his story and an eight-page curriculum packet, authored by the SCORE Association, is distributed to class participants. Topics include 'How to Create a Business Plan', marketing, LLC and S Corporation information, financing, and networking. Many residents have ideas to create businesses that encompass a wide range of occupations including food trucks, landscaping, plumbing, barbering, and others.

The class works by actually forming a model business. The class then walks through all the steps required to build that business.

"My biggest challenge has been to convey the concept

of 'building' a business," said Patrick. "Teaching the difference between instant gratification and deferred gratification is paramount when first starting out. Good things come with time, and patience is required to build a successful business."

'Introduction to Owning Your Own Business,' adds to the cycle of vocational training offered at Talbot Hall.

Other classes have included Commercial Truck Driving certification, Cleaning-specific classes, Chemical Use and Pesticide classes, Boiler maintenance, and ServSafe food preparation. Talbot Hall is planning to add additional skill-based training to its roster and is proud that the business class has been so well received.

**Pictured:** Patrick T., resident conducting the peer-led class 'Introduction to Owning Your Own Business'





## Library and Computer Lab are Improved at Taylor Street Center

Written By **Jennine McFarlane, Taylor Street Center**

In December 2017, Taylor Street Center located in San Francisco, California, started a book drive event to add more reading material and improve the center's library. Within three weeks of connecting with the community, over 200 books, mostly brand new, were collected and donated to Taylor Street Center.

The Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (one of the temporary agencies the center works with), Acrobat, and The Berkeley Public Library all contributed and donated to the center. Taylor Street Center's staff also helped donate books to the center.

The Taylor Street Center's computer lab was improved recently, as well. Eight new computers were added to the computer lab for the residents to use. The residents use the computers during job development training, which includes learning how to put a professional resume together.

With so many books gathered, the center also created a interfaith section for all religions to be celebrated. Books continue to be donated and the residents enjoy all the new spaces at the center.



## York County Resident Given Second Chance

Written By **Kalen Macon, York Reentry Service Center**

After being sentenced to life in prison at the age of sixteen, Scott Griffin took it upon himself to obtain his GED, receive numerous legal assistant certifications, and maintain many jobs while in-custody. Mr. Griffin was ultimately referred to GEO's York Reentry Service Center (RSC) in York, Pennsylvania, for assistance with transitioning back into society. Since being released, Mr. Griffin has had difficulty obtaining his State Identification card. With the help from York RSC and other service providers in the city, he ultimately obtained his driver's license. Within the center's workforce development program, he learned how to use the internet, how to send an email, and how to be interviewed. Staff also assisted Mr. Griffin in developing his resume. Mr. Griffin ultimately secured a position as an Inventory Associate. He credits much of his success to community support. "I never gave up hope. I feel blessed to have this opportunity," states Mr. Griffin.

**Pictured:** Scott Griffin.



## Los Banos Day Reporting Center Meets Congressman Jim Costa

Written By **Krystle Heinrich-Skipworth,**  
**Los Banos Day Reporting Center**

Congressman Jim Costa requested a visit to the Los Banos Day Reporting Center (DRC) to not only learn about the program and how it helps offenders, but to learn more about the participants themselves. Congressman Jim Costa had the opportunity to sit down with three participants; Jose Barba, Jonathan Hannagan, and Bobby Rivera. Congressman Jim Costa was very interested in learning more about each participant. His main question for all of them was what keeps them motivated to continue moving forward in life and to not go back to where they came from.

Congressman Jim Costa enjoyed all the positive words on the walls of the building, but he liked 'Motivation' the best and that is why he chose to take a picture with the three participants under it. Staff had the pleasure of sitting down with the Congressman and explaining how the program works. The Chief of Probation Jeff Kettering shared his enthusiasm for GEO and the DRCs as well.

**Pictured left to right: Top:** Substance Abuse Counselor Michael Reyes, Program Manager Christina Garibay, Congressman Jim Costa, Case Manager Krystle Heinrich-Skipworth, and Chief of Probation Jeff Kettering. **Bottom:** Participant Jose Barba, Congressman Jim Costa, Participant Jonathan Hannagan, and Participant Bobby Rivera. Congressman Jim Costa speaking with participants Bobby Rivera, Jose Barba, and Jonathan Hannagan.

## Annual Staff Perfect Attendance Luncheon

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky,**  
**Abraxas Marienville**

On January 31, 2018, Abraxas Marienville once again honored employees who had perfect attendance for the previous year. During 2017, Abraxas Marienville had a total of forty-four employees that came to work every day as scheduled. This number increased by thirteen from 2016. What an accomplishment!

Additionally, there were ten employees hired in 2017 who had no absences from the time of hire through the end of the year. These employees included Melissa Bruner, Erin Hannon, Anthony Harvey, Drew Johnson, Erikka Long, Scott Rendos, James Richardson, Nicholas Risher, Becki Schreiber, and Dalton Siar. Abraxas Marienville's Culinary Arts Department prepared and served an amazing meal with a choice of steak or chicken for the event. Thank you and congratulations to all for your dedication and hard work.

**Pictured left to right: First row:** Angie Cratty, Christa Park, Michelle Means, Jeanne Godlesky, Regina Taylor, Sarah Yoder, and Clyde Hilyer. **Second row:** Alissa Shelander, John Mayor, Brenda Ciancio, Brenda Nesbitt, Leonard Nelson, Cindy Russell, Scott Jackovitz, Tom McCloskey, and Adam Carpino. **Third row:** Lindsey Mautino, Jaime Confer, Doug Thomas, Rick Williams, Brian Sandrock, Todd Baggaley, and Jeff Grabiak. **Fourth row:** Kurt Nesbitt, Kevin Smail, Dave Wildauer, Jim Town, Greg Mashensic, Erica Niznik, Charlie Scott, Andy Schrecengost, and Bill Ban. **Not pictured:** Jim Bailey, Nichole Buck, Andrew Cauley, Kevin Gabler, Nickie Irwin, Erin King, Steve Maines, Kathy Ream, Paul Rogowski, Doug Schneider, Adam Smith, and Travis Troutman.



# Community Connections

## Building Relationships in the Community

### Covington DRC's Participants and Staff Volunteer Around the City

In February 2018, participants and staff from GEO's Covington Day Reporting Center (DRC) conducted a neighborhood cleanup, filling over ten grocery bags of trash from ditches and streets. Additionally, a group of participants helped a neighborhood venue, Playmakers Theater, organize their backstage area and prop room and cleaned out a storage shed that was damaged in a recent storm. Participants also helped one of the DRC's new community partners prepare and box hot meals for low-income Covington residents.

### Napa CCSC Partners with AA and NA

Through newly created partnerships with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA), GEO's Napa CCSC will now begin to offer Dual Addiction AA and NA meetings to its participants. Community partnerships are a great way for the centers to expand their services and better assist participants.

### Merced DRC Hosts All Dads Matter

Merced Day Reporting Center (DRC) recently hosted All Dads Matter for its monthly Community Connections event. All Dads Matter is an organization that supports the same population that Merced DRC serves and encourages men to understand the important role that fatherhood plays in a child's development. GEO is happy to see local partnerships benefiting the participants and helping bolster what participants are learning in their Parenting classes.

### Contra Costa DRC Attends Diversity Employment Fair

Staff from the Contra Costa Day Reporting Center (DRC) recently attended the 2018 annual Diversity Employment Day in California which gives employers access to the largest pool of diverse, multi-cultural, and qualified professionals in the country. At the fair, they had the chance to connect with numerous providers including EastBay Municipal Utility District, U.S. Foods, Employment Development Department, Sutter Health, Remington Hotels, the City of Oakland, and Alameda County. They hope to refer the center's participants to these organizations in the future and continue helping them contribute to a diverse workforce.

### Taylor Street Joins MLK Day March

Several participants from the Taylor Street Center participated in a MLK Day March with its community partner United Playaz. A few participants spoke to the crowd against violence, using their own violent history as an example of the harm it creates. The center is proud to see the participants use their past experiences to make a positive impact in the community.

### Fresno DRC Attends Community Corrections Partnership Meeting

Fresno Day Reporting Center's (DRC) program manager recently attended Fresno's Community Corrections Partnership's quarterly meeting. She had the chance to connect with the county sheriff, probation officers, and other community partners.

### Ventura DRC Attends Community Council Meeting

Ventura DRC staff recently attended a Reentry Community Council meeting which included representatives from the probation department, Interface Family Services, and the commander of Todd Road Jail. The Reentry Community Council focuses on sharing resources to assist the probationer population with successful reintegration into the community. Being part of the council enables the Ventura DRC to further GEO's mission and create valuable connections with referral sources and other community organizations.

### Mid Valley House Collects Toys for Salvation Army

Mid Valley House recently participated in the annual Angel Tree event for The Salvation Army of McAllen. The event is an annual drive to collect toys and clothing essentials for children in need. Mid Valley House proudly donated more than \$1,500 in toys and clothes. Giving back to those in need is a great way to show support for the communities in which GEO operates.

### Shasta DRC Attends Event on the Community's Opioid Crisis

Staff from the Shasta Day Reporting Center (DRC) attended a local community event put on by the Shasta County District Attorney's Office, Board of Supervisors, and Health and Human Services Agency aimed at stopping the opioid addiction crisis in Shasta County. Award-winning author and former LA Times Reporter Sam Quinones, who's written on the opioid crisis in his book "Dreamland," spoke at the event. Shasta DRC staff also had the chance to meet with other local agencies and service providers to discuss next steps for ending this crisis in the community.

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