

GEO World

3RD QUARTER 2018

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



CONGRATULATIONS

GEO Employees of the Year



17 ASP-KINGMAN CELEBRATES
SUCCESS OF GED GRADUATES

23 FULHAM CORRECTIONAL CENTRE
SUPPORTS FUTURE LIFESAVERS

32 LYCOMING RSC CELEBRATES
TRANSITION CEREMONY



Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder

"All of these important achievements underscore our leadership position within our industry and are underpinned by the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of our growing workforce. Please join me as we congratulate the GEO Employees of the Year and as we extend our gratitude to the approximately 23,000 GEO employees worldwide."

To the GEO Family,

As the first half of 2018 has come to an end, our company can reflect on several milestones that have strengthened our position as the world's leading provider of correctional, detention, community reentry, and evidence-based rehabilitation services.

In January, we were honored to accept the 2018 "Innovation in Corrections" Award from the American Correctional Association (ACA). This prestigious award was established to broaden the knowledge of successful program interventions throughout ACA and to annually recognize an outstanding correctional program.

Our company received this important recognition for the implementation of our GEO Continuum of Care® (CoC) at the Graceville Correctional Facility in Florida. Since our CoC program was first launched in 2015, the Graceville Facility has completed close to 900,000 hours of rehabilitation programming; awarded more than 2,900 academic, vocational, and substance abuse treatment program completions; and conducted approximately 8,400 individual cognitive behavioral treatment sessions.

The "Innovation in Corrections" Award is indicative of the commitment, diligence, and professionalism our employees exhibit every day to deliver services and programs that help those in our care reenter society as productive and employable citizens.

In 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 for our GEOAmeY joint venture. This important contract award is a testament to the high-quality transportation services our joint venture has been providing in England and Wales for the last seven years.

Finally in late June, we announced the signing of a contract with the Idaho Department of Correction for the housing, management, and supervision of approximately 670 medium-custody inmates at our company-owned Eagle Pass Detention Facility in Eagle Pass, Texas and our company-owned Karnes Correctional Center in Karnes City, Texas.

The contract will have a term of two years effective October 1, 2018 and is expected to generate approximately \$17 million in annualized revenues.

All of these important achievements underscore our leadership position within our industry and are underpinned by the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of our growing workforce. Please join me as we congratulate the GEO Employees of the Year and as we extend our gratitude to the approximately 23,000 GEO employees worldwide.

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WARDEN
OF THE YEAR

Bobby Thompson

Flightline Correctional Center

Congratulations to Bobby Thompson, Senior Warden at Flightline Correctional Center, who was selected for the prestigious award and honor of the 2017 Warden of the Year. Warden Bobby Thompson first became a Warden at the Frio County Detention Center and then transferred to Maverick County in 2008, Reeves County Detention Center III in 2009, and Reeves County Detention Center I & II in 2012.

From 2012 to August 21, 2017, Warden Bobby Thompson served as the Senior Warden at the Reeves County Detention Center I & II, where he led the facility through many successful contract facility monitoring audits.

“Warden Bobby Thompson has the ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles with a positive, can-do attitude.”

Although the performance of the contract under his leadership was stellar, the facility was not selected for a new contract and was notified of the order to deactivate on May 24, 2017.

Warden Bobby Thompson took on the challenge of retaining staff throughout the sixty-eight-day deactivation process



and maintaining the safety and security of the unit while transferring out over 2,300 inmates to other facilities across the nation.

Warden Bobby Thompson worked closely with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), U.S. Marshals Service, Justice Prisoner & Alien Transportation System (JPATS) and local GEO facilities to successfully complete the inmate transfer on July 31, 2017. The BOP congratulated Warden Bobby Thompson on his communication and organizational skills associated with the project and called it “the smoothest deactivation ever.”

On August 1, 2017, Warden Bobby Thompson was selected as the Senior Warden at the



Big Spring Correctional Center (BSCC), which is the largest BOP contractor-operated facility in the nation.

While maintaining the incredible operational pace of BSCC, he was tasked with developing a plan to split the single contract into two separate contracts.

He developed, planned, staged and executed the first ever split of a single BOP contract into two separate contracts with no operational issues. Even more impressive, he kept track of the staff and staged the staff rosters for both facilities.

On December 1, 2017, once the contracts were split, Warden Bobby Thompson was assigned as the Senior Warden

at Flightline Correctional Center. The BOP was extremely complimentary of his plan and execution, resulting in a successful transition.

Warden Bobby Thompson displays tenured and valuable leadership. He has the ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles with a positive, selfless, can-do attitude which makes him a well-respected leader amongst his peers.



EMPLOYEE
OF THE YEAR

Alisa Heggie

Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility



“Alisa Heggie always goes above and beyond in her responsibilities to find the best quality products and pricing for food service inventory purchases.”

at Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility. When she is not working, Alisa enjoys riding horses with her family, working in her flower garden, and reading.

Congratulations to Alisa Heggie on being selected as the 2017 Employee of the Year.

Alisa started working at GEO's Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility, located in Clayton, New Mexico, in October 2010. Her background in quality assurance made her an excellent fit for the Food Service Department.

Alisa always goes above and beyond in her responsibilities to find the best quality products and pricing for food service inventory purchases.

She is always conscious of the budget and keeps a good balance between price and quality, while taking suggestions from staff and inmates into consideration.

There is never a doubt that she is doing everything she can in the best interest of the facility.

Alisa was raised by her grandparents, Herbert and Audrey Singleton in Waldron, Arkansas. Growing up with her sister Mary, Alisa learned lifelong values of hard work, discipline, and determination.

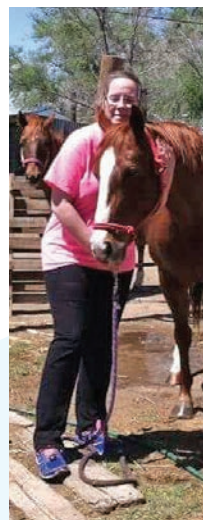
Alisa's grandparents taught them that strong morals, honesty, and determination are necessary for success.

After graduating high school, Alisa began working in the poultry industry specializing in quality assurance. During this time, she completed training and received Hazardous Analysis Critical Control Points

(HACCP) and HACCP-based Inspection Models Program (HIMP) certifications.

Alisa, her husband Felix, and sons Garrett and Noah moved to the Clayton, New Mexico area in 2007. Her son Garrett is currently a Correctional Officer

Alisa also has two grandsons, Orion and Bryson. Alisa's main motivation for being a diligent employee is to be a role model for her two sons. Alisa stated, "I want my sons to know that they have to work hard to earn what they want."





OFFICER
OF THE YEAR

Patricia Swiggett

George W. Hill Correctional Facility

Congratulations to Officer Patricia Swiggett who has been selected as the Correctional Officer of the Year. Officer Patricia Swiggett began her career in corrections at the George W. Hill Correctional Facility eighteen years ago, and has been employed with The GEO Group for nine years.

Pat, as her friends and family refer to her as, is the sixth of seven children who were born and raised in Chester, Delaware County, where she was taught at a very young age to work hard and strive for excellence. Pat has one son named Charles who she is most proud of and three beautiful grandchildren. In 2003, Pat was diagnosed with breast cancer. Over the next few years, Pat endured

highs and lows but always kept a positive attitude. In due time, Pat was given the news that she had defied the odds and was cancer free. She attributes this to the love, support, and prayers from her family, friends, and coworkers.

Pat is recognized by all who know her as a dedicated and caring person. She is always willing to listen and assist with any situation.

She certainly displayed this when an incident occurred in December 2017. On that particular day, Officer Patricia Swiggett was summoned to a cell and given a letter. Upon reading the first line, she recognized that an inmate may be in distress. She immediately began



searching in attempt to locate the individual. She discovered the individual was attempting to commit suicide. She immediately radioed for assistance and initiated life-saving measures. The individual was transported to a hospital where she remained until eventually making a full recovery. Pat not

only responded as a true professional to the incident, but she continued to follow up every day to check on her well-being. In fact, Officer Patricia Swiggett specifically asked the Chief if she could be assigned to her hospital detail. This request, coupled with the compassion shown by Officer Patricia Swiggett is a true testament to her character and truly highlights the type of Officer and person she is.



Officer Patricia Swiggett exemplifies what a true correctional professional stands for. Her dedication, loyalty, and attention to detail is what allowed her to be recognized as the Correctional Officer of the Year. When Pat is not working, she enjoys dancing, singing oldies, watching her grandchildren play, and attending family gatherings.



GTI OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Al Seda

Queens Detention Facility

In 2005, GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) Transportation Officer Al Seda began his career with The GEO Group working with a security company that was contracted to provide transportation services to the new Queens Detention Facility.

Al Seda immediately distinguished himself from his peers and became the go-to Officer for any high-profile transportation assignment. Al Seda became one of the first Officers hired when GTI started providing transportation services in 2009. Al Seda quickly established a reputation of professionalism and dedication.

On numerous occasions, GTI Transportation Officer Al Seda has volunteered to take on the responsibilities of a Transportation Supervisor.

His duties have included preparing daily missions to support the U.S. Marshals Service contract, staff and supervise hospital details, and ensure that all Department of Transportation and U.S.



Marshals Service policies and regulations are being followed. In addition to these duties, he has acted as an advisor and trainer within the transportation division, answering any questions that the officers may have and directing them in their duties.

Al Seda developed his leadership qualities during his twenty-five years of experience with the New York City Department of Corrections, which included over sixteen years as a Captain.

The skills he developed as an Administrative Captain, including supervising 500 staff members, have translated directly to the abilities he has demonstrated in his current position.

"GTI Officer Al Seda is a valuable and respected staff member of the Queens Detention Facility."

Al Seda is a devoted husband to his wife Debi and has been married for thirty-nine years. He first saw Debi in a department store forty-one years ago and immediately told his friend, "I'm going to marry her." They have two beautiful daughters, Brittany, who is a New York City third grade Teacher, and Jenna, who is completing her Master's program at John Jay College in Forensic Psychology.

Prior to his retirement from the New York City Department of Corrections, Al Seda was instrumental in adopting an

annual scholarship program through the Correction Captain's Association that is now in its twentieth year. The annual event has raised over \$400,000 and has awarded 266 scholarships to date.

Al Seda is the ultimate team player and always exceeds expectations. He is a valuable and respected staff member of the Queens Detention Facility. Congratulations to GTI Transportation Officer Al Seda for being chosen as GTI Officer of the Year.





AUSTRALIA
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

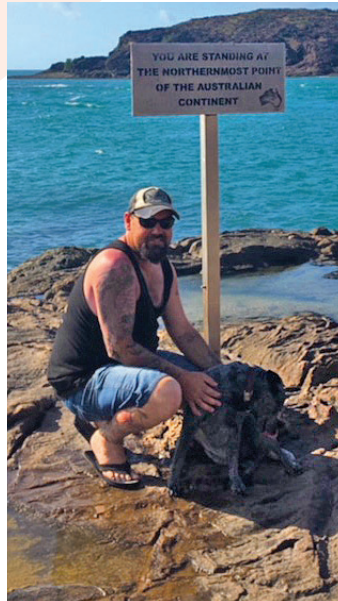
Peter Holt

Junee Correctional Centre

With a focus on developing the skills of inmates working in industries and a strong commitment to supporting local charities and community organisations, Peter Holt is a worthy recipient of the 2017 Australia Employee of the Year award. The Industries Manager at Junee Correctional Centre, Peter is described by management as a “brilliant example of an employee who takes note of opportunities and issues and follows through by developing innovative solutions.”

“His commitment to innovation and continuous improvement has seen significant growth in the centre’s industries business,” said Finance and Administration Manager Chris Moor. Peter’s corrections career spans a decade, starting initially as a Correctional Officer before moving into industries in 2016.

As the Industries Manager, Peter oversees a team of seventy inmates. Metal fabrication is the most prominent trade with students building trailers, scrap steel bins, and other items for a number of commercial customers. Carpentry is another popular activity offered with students learning cabinet-making skills and also crafting timber furniture and toys that are donated to local charities.



Holding ongoing manufacturing contracts with six customers, the metal fabrication area is kept very busy. In addition, approximately fifty projects are completed each year.

“Peter’s commitment to innovation and continuous improvement has seen significant growth in the centre’s industries business.”

Peter’s day revolves around quoting jobs, ordering materials, making sure everything is going well on the workshop floor, and ensuring that the items produced meet the centre’s high quality standards. With a passion for automotive



work, Peter was the driving force behind a challenging project that saw students enrolled in Technical and Further Education (TAFE) New South Wales trade courses fully restore an early 1980s WB Holden coupe utility (ute) last year.

The car was raffled to raise funds for Can Assist Junee, an organization that helps people gain access to cancer treatment and care. The huge tally of \$78,020 AUD was more than double the charity’s average annual fundraising income.

“Hopefully by working on projects such as the ute, there is a possibility that the students will try and do something similar on the outside. That is the whole

idea — to give them skills so they can keep a job and earn a regular pay cheque,” said Peter.

When asked how many hours of his own time he put into it, Peter laughed and said, “It would be hundreds. My dad died of cancer. I understand how it affects people and if you get the chance to help why wouldn’t you?” Peter enjoys outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, shooting, and four-wheel driving.

The other two impressive candidates for the award were Belinda Howard, an Industries Administrative Support Officer at Fulham Correctional Centre, and Clive Hilton, a Correctional Manager at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre.

UK EMPLOYEE
OF THE YEAR

David Teece

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre



The 2017 GEO Group UK Employee of the Year award is proudly presented to David Teece. David is employed as the Facilities Maintenance and Procurement Coordinator.

David has shown continuous focus, determination, and dedication to learning and excelling in his Facilities Maintenance role whilst continuing to coordinate procurement. David always exceeds expectations and delivers a high level of service. Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre (Dungavel) Manager Sarah Lynch was full of praise, "David has excelled in the role of coordinator. He is committed, hard working, and a credit to the company." David has completed and passed Asbestos

Management and Institute of Occupational Safety and Health Managing Safely certificates. He is currently working towards his Legionella Management and Procurement certificates.

David has become very knowledgeable in his areas of responsibility. He has built and maintained an excellent relationship with the UK Home Office. David facilitates monthly maintenance inspections with the Home Office and on many occasions has received positive feedback regarding the performance of the centre and of him personally.

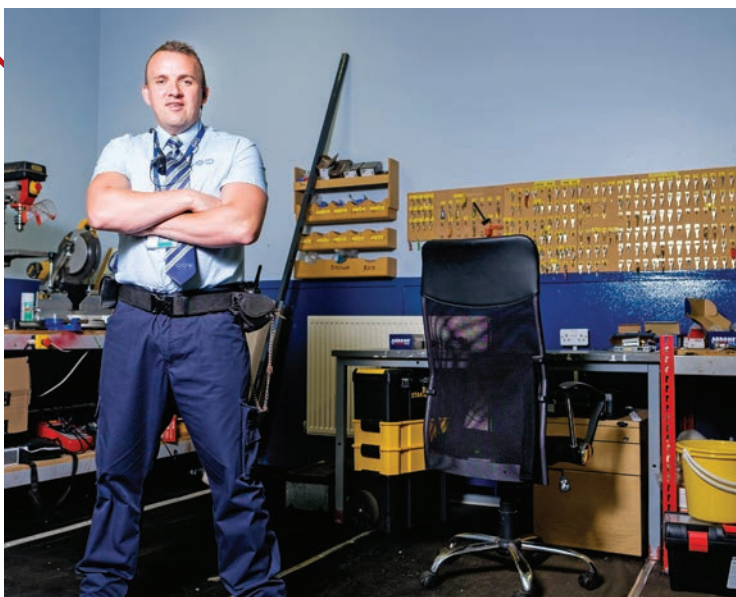
David is currently playing an active role in delivering a Dungavel site upgrade. GEO UK Financial Controller



Parmeet Jagdev, who is David's Line Manager said, "David is an enthusiastic, smart, and innovative employee who has shown steady growth professionally. David's contributions to Dungavel are highly valued. He is a great asset and has my highest nomination."

Chief Operating Officer for The GEO Group UK Joanne Henney added, "Over the last twelve months, David has played an integral role in improving the services we provide at Dungavel, as well as improving his knowledge in role specific training courses. David has received Employee of the Year nominations over the last three years and fully deserves the award for his hard work and dedication. He has earned the respect of his peers and has built up an excellent relationship with the Home Office. David truly deserves to be recognised with this award."

In his spare time, David likes to spend time with his family. They enjoy taking holidays together with one of their favourite destinations being Florida.





BI EMPLOYEE
OF THE YEAR

14 YEARS AT BI

Diane Gentry

BI Incorporated

“Diane always approaches her work and tasks with energy, enthusiasm, and a smile.”

Grand Junction, Colorado, for his HVAC Technician career. Jacob is currently at Fort Campbell in Kentucky as an Aviation Specialist pending deployment to Afghanistan. Sarah just finished her junior year at SIUE (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville) where she is studying psychology. Hannah just graduated high school and is enrolled at Trinity International University.

In her spare time, Diane enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, and cook-outs with friends and family. Her favorite authors are Jodi Piccolt and John Grisham.



Diane Gentry joined BI Incorporated (BI) fourteen years ago as a Correctional Specialist. Through her dedication and hard work, Diane became a part of the Quality Assurance Department in April 2015, where she has continued to excel.

As a Quality Assurance Specialist, Diane monitors and critiques alarms and calls taken by specialists, completes audits, participates in calibrations with clients, and assists in the operations as needed. She completes one-on-one sessions with new hires to ensure they understand what is expected of them from a quality standpoint and to make them feel comfortable with the process. Diane stated, “I thoroughly enjoy working with the new hires because

it reminds me of when I first started and it allows me the opportunity to encourage every new hire at the beginning of their BI journey.”

Diane assisted in the successful implementation of BI's newest customer. During the onboarding process, she continuously made herself available to work weekends, overnights, and as needed while BI continued to hire and train additional staff. Diane even volunteered to drive in during a snow storm to work a double shift, stay overnight at a nearby hotel, and then work another double shift the following day to accommodate low staffing during the inclement weather. “Diane always approaches her work and tasks with energy,

enthusiasm, and a smile,” said Manager of Training and Quality Assurance Kristen Schirmer. Diane has been married to her husband, Errol, for almost thirty years and they have four children: Nicholas, Jacob, Sarah, and Hannah. Nicholas recently relocated to



REENTRY SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Clemente Rodriguez

Reality House



Congratulations to Clemente Rodriguez, Social Services Coordinator at Reality House in Brownsville, Texas, on being chosen as GEO Care's Reentry Services Employee of the Year. Through his hard work and determination, Clemente has facilitated partnerships with local agencies that are willing to assist with the residents' employment, medical treatment, and counseling.

Clemente began his career at Reality House in 2013 while completing a Criminal Justice internship with the University of Texas at Brownsville. While an intern, Clemente displayed a high level of professionalism and following the internship, he was hired as a Program Monitor I.

“Regardless of the size of the project, Clemente positively impacts the facility, residents, staff, and community.”

Clemente was quickly promoted to Case Manager. In June 2017, Clemente was promoted to Social Services Coordinator based on his work ethic and performance, as well as his ability to build a positive rapport with staff and residents.



In his new role, Clemente immediately engaged with local agencies. Clemente's efforts have resulted in Reality House gaining many resources and improving the facility's rapport with various community entities. His work is really making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Through Clemente's efforts, Reality House entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with New Horizon Clinic to provide medical, dental, and pharmacy services for low income residents without insurance free of charge or at affordable prices. As a result of his proactive and strategic efforts, Reality House developed strong ties with Behavioral Health Solutions, which now provides free pre-



sentations to staff and residents; held a job fair and clothing drive; donated Dr. Seuss books to the Special Education Life Skills Unit class for the IDEA Brownsville Public School; and organized a blood drive to benefit United Blood Services.

Additionally, due to Clemente's efforts, Reality House is an active member of the Positive Community Impact Coalition and provides free monthly HIV and AIDS testing administered by the Valley Aids Counsel. These are just some of the events and initiatives in which Clemente has been involved. Regardless of the size of the project, he positively impacts the facility, residents, staff, and community.

Prior to Clemente assuming his current role, he collaborated with local partners and began a new in-house GED program at the facility which now has nine residents enrolled.

In addition to being a dedicated employee who is committed to excellence, Clemente is studying Clinical Mental Health in pursuit of a Master's Degree at Walden University.

Clemente truly exemplifies the meaning of a team player. He continuously interacts with the residents, encourages and motivates them to change, provides resources, and assists them in any way possible to help ensure their success.



YOUTH SERVICES
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Margaret Veloz

Southwood Interventions

Congratulations to Margaret Veloz, Business Manager at Southwood Interventions, on being selected as the 2017 Youth Services Employee of the Year. Margaret, also known as Peg, has been a dedicated employee for over sixteen years. Her professionalism and impeccable work ethic have made a positive impact on the facility, its residents, and the community.

As the Business Manager, Peg is passionate about meeting financial expectations. She manages expenses at Southwood Interventions as if they are her own and closely monitors payroll, overtime, and operating expenses.

Southwood Interventions has multiple billing and funding

sources including the Illinois Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA), Medicaid, Managed Care Organizations, and many other contracts. Peg is critical to managing the complexity of the billing and collection efforts.

While Peg is instrumental in the Finance Department, she is also always willing to embrace and spearhead new responsibilities and assist with administrative needs at the facility.

She manages the drivers, medical records clerks, and receptionists. Peg also works closely with Human Resources and assists with managing overtime, Kronos, and workers' compensation claims.



"Peg is always willing to spearhead new responsibilities and assist with administrative needs at the facility."

Building and maintaining long-lasting relationships is another one of Peg's talents as she has strong relationships with the community as well as divisional and corporate employees. Peg's work with the Engelwood Community Garden and Veteran's Garden has helped the facility establish a positive reputation in the community. In addition, Peg has established relations with the community to identify opportunities for residents to attend events such as University of Illinois basketball games and the local theatre at little to no cost.

Peg is truly a team player who is dedicated to the success of Southwood Interventions, Abraxas, and GEO. We are proud of her numerous contributions and well deserved recognition as the 2017 Youth Services Employee of the Year.



Hobbs GEO Prison Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Published in: **News-Sun (July 12, 2018)**



The Lea County Correctional Facility held a party on Wednesday to celebrate 20 years of operations and recognize longtime employees there from the start.

Prison employees, The GEO Group officials, community

leaders and others packed into the prison late Wednesday morning for commemorative coins, lunch, speeches and cake during the anniversary celebration. In May 1998, the 350,000-square-foot private prison on West Millen Drive received inmates. Jumping ahead 20 years, LCCF or the GEO prison, remains in operation and provides more than 300 jobs in the Hobbs community. J. David Donahue, Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections and Detention and International Operations, said the 20-year anniversary is a reflection of the community's dedication and the facility staff's hard work.

"This industry is an old industry," Donahue said. "Corrections has been around since the state was a territory, but the opportunity for individuals to serve their time of confinement in a facility that is grounded in principles of safety, security, professionalism. They pay their debt to society, they get out of prison and we hope they become contributing members of the community when they go home. So, 20 years of excellence at this facility and dedication has allowed people to change their lives and hopefully for a better way."

Earlier in the day, GEO Group Western Region Vice President Paul Laird thanked community partners that included law enforcement, EMS, hospital staff and universities, which Donahue also discussed. He said

a partnership is instrumental because a community provides resources that are "inherent to their community" and later talked about giving back. "We want to be a good neighbor and in order for us to be a good neighbor, we need to be part of the community. We're a company that likes to give back," Donahue said. "Annually, we give anywhere between \$12,000 and \$15,000 a year back to the community public education system. Scholarships for kids that want to go onto post-secondary education. So, we think it's our obligation to be a good partner to the community itself and then obviously to the employees that come to the facility for contribution of daily activities."

Donahue added the employees live, worship and spend money in the community. "So, really, it's an interwoven fabric of partnerships that make a correctional facility like this successful," he said. One of the celebration's highlights came when LCCF Warden Dwight Sims announced the names of several 20-year employees and their month of hire in 1998. He also made presentations that included giving a portrait to GEO Group Founder, CEO and Board Chairman George Zoley.

The employees who received 20-year service plaques are: Records Manager Carolyn Heavington, Correctional Officers Arthur Sosa, Melanie Cox, Robert Burris and Rosa Richardson, Education Registrar Melissa Leake, Sgt. James Pennell, Compliance Administrator Katherine Brodie and Mental Health Provider Stacy Massengill-Munro. Those in attendance received the plaque, flowers and a watch from GEO officials and posed for photos. "I hope I can make it another 20," Cox later laughed. Cox gathered with her co-workers at a table following the ceremony where two other corrections officers reflected on Wednesday's recognition. Richardson said it "means a lot" and is an honor that the company recognized them, which echoed Sosa's sentiments in appreciation.

Pictured: Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Founder George C. Zoley and Lea County Correctional Facility Warden Dwight Sims.

Reed Smith Retires After 21 Years of Dedicated Service to GEO

After twenty-one years of dedicated service to The GEO Group, Reed Smith has announced his retirement. After an accomplished career of eighteen years with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Reed Smith joined GEO in March 1997 as Warden of the Kyle Correctional Center. Soon after, he was selected to be the first Director of Operations of the Central Region. In 2009, he was promoted to Central Region Vice President where he has lead over 4,000 employees and cultivated numerous relations with clients across the country. In an all-encompassing way, under Reed's leadership, the Region has been in the forefront on innovation for the company. Reed's big heart and love of children and support of veterans has led the Central Region to raise over a million dollars for both the Special Olympics of Texas and the Lone Survivor Foundation, and he served on the Board of Directors for both organizations. We wish Reed all the best in his future endeavors.

Pictured: Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Founder George C. Zoley presented Reed Smith with a framed resolution in April 2018.



2018 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

Written By **Jill Parker,**
**Graceville Correctional and
 Rehabilitation Facility**

Volunteers at Graceville Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (GCRF) are compassionate individuals from all walks of life. Their goal is to change an inmate's heart, mind, and direction in order for them to become an asset to their family and community. GCRF celebrated its 10th annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on April 19, 2018. More than seventy volunteers gathered for fellowship and a catered dinner in their honor. Words of appreciation were spoken by Warden Jeff Thomas, Assistant Warden of Programs Ricky Cloud, and special guest speaker Richard Glau, Manager of Faith Based Services for The GEO Group.

An engraved crystal clock was presented to each volunteer group as a token of gratitude. Chaplain David Hendricks closed out the evening by thanking all those who partner with the volunteers in GCRF's faith-based programs. Preparing newly released inmates with hope and a renewed outlook on life will improve their chances for a successful and long-lasting return to their community. GCRF looks forward to the opportunities and challenges that await as they enter another year of faith-based programs.

Pictured left to right: Jeff Thomas, Ricky Cloud, and John Haley.



Therapy Dogs Visit Central Valley MCCF

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

Marley's Mutts Dog Rescue is a non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates, trains, and find homes for dogs from Kern County's high-kill animal shelters. The organization also utilizes the rescued dogs to transform people's lives. Through the power of the human-canine bond, Marley's Mutts empowers dogs and people to live healthy, happy and productive lives. Studies have proved that human interaction with dogs is beneficial for one's physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Miracle Mutts is Marley's Mutts' community outreach and education initiative, through which volunteers utilize therapy dogs for comforting interactivity, emotional and social enrichment, addiction recovery programs, and job-skills training for a wide range of youth and adult populations across Kern County. On March 23, 2018, Marley's Mutts volunteers graciously donated their time to visit participants at GEO's Central Valley MCCF. The interest in the visit was extremely popular, causing the need to host several educational sessions in order to accommodate all who expressed interest. The participants expressed appreciation and joy when interacting with the dogs.

Great Plains Correctional Facility Supports Caddo County Sheriff's Office

Published in: **The Anadarko Daily News (May 12, 2018)**



Caddo County Deputy Jared Martinez was presented a check for \$1,000 from The GEO Group's Great Plains Correctional Facility by Senior Warden Farley. The facility donated \$1,000 to the Caddo County Sheriff's office towards their canine fund to purchase equipment and other training tools.



BOTTLE TOSS:

Discard Unused Prescriptions and Prevent Drug Abuse

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

There could be danger lurking in your family medicine cabinet. Many people are prescribed medications and hold onto the unused pills in case they are needed later. What if those medications were accidentally ingested by a child or a pet? Or intentionally taken by a family member or friend suffering from substance abuse? Expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs can present an opportunity for abuse and poisoning. Pain medications such as opioids pose a particularly dangerous problem in your home. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that more than 40% of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths in 2016 involved a prescription opioid. In the last twelve months, there were over 3,000 opioid prescriptions written for GEO plan members. How many of those are still in our homes? Among GEO covered employees and family members, opioid dependence has increased by nearly 8% in the last two years.

Now that you are aware of the dangers, follow these steps to clean out your medicine cabinet and properly dispose of these unneeded drugs. Due to the national awareness of prescription drug abuse, there are several options to choose from:

Medicine Take Back Programs

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has declared October 27th as the national prescription drug take back day. In addition, many communities offer additional drug collection days throughout the year for residents to bring in prescription drugs to a designated location. Visit the DEA website at <https://takebackday.dea.gov> to search via your zip code or city and state to find a collection site at any time.

Collection Receptacles

Most pharmacies offer prepaid mailers for

unwanted medicines. Walgreens has even installed kiosks for safe drug disposal in numerous stores nationally.

Flushing

The Food and Drug Administration has created a “flush list” for certain medications that are considered especially dangerous and potentially fatal with just one dose if used by someone other than the person who is prescribed that medication. If you have an unwanted medication on the list, flushing them down the toilet is an option, with very low environmental risk. Some of the medicines on the list include:

- Morphine Sulfate (oral solution and tablets)
- Oxycodone Hydrochloride (oral solution and tablets)
- Oxycontin (extended release tablets)
- Percocet (tablets)
- Demerol (oral solution and tablets)

Trash

If there is no take back program or collection receptacle, prescription drugs can be disposed of in your household trash. Mix the medicines, but do not crush the pills, with an undesirable substance such as dirt or kitty litter. Then place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag and throw away in your household trash. Remember to scratch out all personal information on the prescription bottle label to make it unreadable. ***But keep in mind opioids are considered too dangerous for this method.***

If you have any questions about disposing of unwanted medicines please call your local pharmacy for additional guidance. The important thing is to take action now and not put it off. You will sleep better tonight knowing you did the right thing.



D. Ray James Celebrates Correctional Workers Week

Written By **Mike Castagnola,**
D. Ray James
Correctional Facility

Staff at the D. Ray James Correctional Facility (DRJCF) recognized National Correctional Officers and Employees Week during the week of May 7, 2018. The festivities commenced on Monday when staff from both the Folkston ICE Processing Center and the DRJCF joined together and honored staff who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Special treats throughout the week included ice cream sundaes and smoothies, breakfast served by the executive staff, and a staff picnic. A tradition at DRJCF staff picnics always includes the family fishing tournament. This year's winner was Doc Rodgers, the twelve-year-old son of Case Manager Garrett Rodgers, who reeled in a 12.11 lbs. bass!

Pictured:

Doc Rodgers proudly holds his newly caught 12.11 lbs. bass.



Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Supports Boggy Bayou Festival

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

On April 5, 2018, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center donated \$1,000 to the Boggy Bayou Festival, a local non-profit organization that raises funds to help support Prairie Manor Nursing Home. On April 6, 2018, the festival hosted their first VIP event for those with special needs to enjoy carnival rides and a magic show. The Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center staff were honored to be recognized as contributors, as well as given the opportunity to serve lunch during the wonderful event.

Pictured left to right: 1: Donna Keeven, Bernice Ardoin, James Fontenot, Durwin Carter, Cindy Welch, and Warden Indalecio Ramos. **2:** Back row: Deborah Stevens, Hollie Carrier, Brenda Jason, Allen Dubroc, Jennifer Ivory, Debra Fontenot, and Paula Carrier; Front row: Chona Leggins and Megan Esquivel. **3:** Allen Dubroc, Warden Indalecio Ramos, Assistant Warden Alfonso Castillo, and Assistant Warden Hollie Carrier.

ACA-Certified Correctional Supervisors

Written By **Harvey Church & Jackie Laroche, Corporate**

In March 2017, The GEO Group began an initiative to certify all Correctional Supervisors through the American Correctional Association (ACA). The certification course is a self-study course comprised of four study manuals and a book on correctional law. GEO Supervisors must study this material in order to take a final examination proctored at the facility. Currently, GEO has over 400 Supervisors certified through this program and many others are enrolled. David Donahue, Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations at The GEO Group, would like to pass on his gratitude to GEO's loyal and dedicated Supervisors who have completed this certification.

Pictured left to right: Top: Anita Vasquez, Justin Tidwell, and Tonya Andrews from Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center. **Bottom:** Jennifer Blackford, Thurston Moore, Evelyn Barakat, Elezar Sanchez, and Matthew Wiltshire from Desert View MCCF.



A Day with the “Miracle Mutts”

Written By **Minga Wofford & Claire Calvo, McFarland FCRF**

McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility (MFCRF) in partnership with Marley’s Mutts Dog Rescue, hosted a day with the “Miracle Mutts.” Marley’s Mutts Dog Rescue is a local non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and trains dogs. In addition to rescues, Marley’s Mutts has a group of volunteers, called the “Miracle Mutts,” which includes MFCRF’s very own Assistant Warden Claire Calvo. The volunteers spend months training and certifying their personal dogs for the purpose of therapy work within the community. These volunteers and their dogs visit senior centers, hospitals, behavioral health facilities, cancer treatment centers, libraries, veteran events, schools, juvenile detention facilities and correctional facilities. The goal of the event was to provide a safe emotional and respectful space, where inmates can give and receive affection through canine/human interaction. The goal is to increase the inmates’ willingness and ability to engage, increase the awareness of their and others needs and emotions, and increase their sense of self-esteem and social value.

Pictured left to right: Assistant Warden Claire Calvo and Jasmin Clark with Miracle Mutts Dexter and Teddy. Miranda Truppa and Miracle Mutt Ginger.



Work Safe OSHA and Forklift License Program

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

The Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) has successfully graduated a total of 350 participants in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-Hour General Industry and Forklift License program which included Basic First Aid/CPR/AED courses. The Work Safe OSHA program started on April 10, 2017 at HTCF. The program consists of two days (thirteen hours) of classroom components along with hands-on OSHA inspections, Forklift operation and inspection, and CPR compression training.

On May 17, 2018, HTCF celebrated the accomplishments of the most recent graduates from the OSHA program. David Donahue, Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations at The GEO Group, Warden Donald Emerson, Deputy Warden of Reentry Dan Leflore, Major Shane Rice, and Fire Safety Manager/OSHA Instructor Nathan North each offered encouraging words and support during the ceremony as they congratulated the graduates for their participation in the program. David Donahue informed the class, “The certification you received today and trades in general are very important. This is a very important component of our GEO Continuum Of Care® mission that assists you with employment opportunities as you transition into the community.”

Going Bald For the American Cancer Society

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



In September 2017, as LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LIPC) began its annual fundraising for the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life, Warden D.C. Cole issued a seemingly unattainable challenge. He challenged his Relay For Life team to raise \$10,000; nearly double their average annual donation, and if LIPC met this goal he would shave his head. After countless bake sales, raffles, item sales, and donations, not only did LIPC meet Warden D.C. Cole’s challenge, but they exceeded it and raised \$12,000! Chief of Security Bruce Spence supported the event and also shaved his head. Every year LIPC is proud to support the American Cancer Society.

Basic Transportation Training

Written By Jackie Laroche & Harvey Church, Corporate



During the week of October 24-26, 2017, GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) Vice President Ed Stubbs sponsored a basic transportation training course in Aurora, Colorado. David Donahue, Senior Vice President and President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and

International Operations at The GEO Group, requested a class to be formed to review proper procedures and methods of transportation. David Donahue stated, "We have to ensure that our staff are properly trained and equipped." Twenty-six staff members

from different regions and backgrounds were selected to attend the thirty-two hour training curriculum.

The instructors have gone on to share the training information with several facilities throughout GEO.

If your facility is interested in hosting a basic transportation training course, please contact Harvey Church or Jackie Laroche from Employee Development at GEO's Headquarters for information on instructors in your region.

LaSalle Hosts Annual Student Scholarship Reception

Written By Melinda Parker, LaSalle ICE Processing Center



Pictured from left to right: Front Row: Leslee Bennett, Alyssa Bass, Daniel Wesson, Bailey Turnage, and Angelique Davis. **Back Row:** Will Budemer, Ali Long, Madeline Karam, Zachary Long, Taylor Bignar, Michaela Hulsey, Warden D.C. Cole, and Melinda Parker.

Each year, through The GEO Group Foundation, the LaSalle ICE Processing Center has the privilege of awarding twelve \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors. As part of the process, each year the LaSalle ICE Processing Center, in conjunction with the LaSalle Economic Development District (LEDD), hosts a scholarship reception to honor LaSalle parish businesses and organizations that sponsor scholarships and to recognize those who receive them. In 2011, Warden D.C. Cole envisioned a scholarship reception as a way for local businesses and organizations to meet and personally recognize the accomplishments of the Parish's graduating seniors. The first scholarship reception was held in 2012 and has become an annual event since then.

The Opioid Crisis: Treatment Challenges

Written By **Beth Ellefson, Kasia Kijanczuk, Jason Boggs, & Michele Iannucci,** Continuum of Care® Research Department, Corporate

The National Institute on Drug Abuse noted that in regards to the treatment of opioid use disorder in the criminal justice system, “sixty-five percent of all in-custody individuals meet the criteria for substance use disorder,” yet the use of medication as a part of treatment is limited (NIDA, 2018). In order to overcome some of the identified treatment obstacles, and to commit to providing assistance to opioid dependents, the following strategy has been adopted by The GEO Group: NARCAN training, opioid-specific assessment, enhanced substance abuse treatment including opioid specific treatment groups, and expanded opioid intervention including medication-assisted treatment (MAT).

The **NARCAN training** can be delivered to all correctional staff as well as anyone who is interested. This is the most immediate step to impact the opioid overdose epidemic. NARCAN is the brand name of an injectable medication called naloxone. The medication is an opioid antagonist; it pushes the opioid drug bound to the brain receptor out of position and binds itself into place (Elements Behavioral Health, 2015). This form of overdose intervention, administered by trained individuals, has been found to increase the odds of recovery from an opioid overdose (2015).

Opioid-specific assessment (TCU) – The Texas Christian Institute offers an opioid drug supplement to the main drug screening. This opioid specific tool contains seventeen questions regarding opioid use and is designed to collect crucial information about potential risks of opioid drug overdose. By a way to assess an opioid dependent individual, we are able to focus on a specific treatment and assist in locating appropriate referrals within the community.

Medication-assisted treatment includes offering behavioral treatment along with administering of medications, such as buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone, in Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) certified programs by American Society Addiction Medicine (ASAM) accredited physicians. Although the World Health Organization recommends using these medications in treatment and relapse prevention for in-custody individuals, there is some evidence that these interventions are still underutilized (2009).

Spending tax dollars on programming without effectively identifying and treating opioid addiction yields less than positive results. Just as it is vital to assess one’s criminogenic needs to provide effective programming, opioid dependence must be identified and treated before we see a meaningful reduction in the current epidemic. The National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that medication-assisted treatment provided to opioid dependent inmates reduces the likelihood of rearrest, compared to those who are detoxified in-custody. Furthermore, majority of individuals who receive medication-assisted treatment while in-custody are willing to continue their treatment after release (2018).

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ASP-Kingman Celebrates Success of GED Graduates

Written By **Lisa Black,** Arizona State Prison–Kingman

Arizona State Prison–Kingman (ASP–Kingman) recently celebrated educational achievements with two formal GED ceremonies. As of mid-May 2018, ASP–Kingman had sixty-nine participants earn their high school equivalency diploma. A total of 161 participants earned a GED in 2017.

Having family support is one major key to success. Family members of the graduates traveled from all over Arizona to commemorate their educational milestone and were actively involved in both graduations.

Dedicated education staff and a supportive classroom environment are also a key to success. The instructors implement adult learning theories and focus on critical thinking strategies.

Computer labs and SMART boards are used extensively and help create enthusiasm for learning.

The best motivation for the students are grateful graduates who return to class to thank the instructors. Students see the glow of their success and state, “I want that! I want to know what that feels like.”

Pictured: *Instructors Keith Mitchell and Dr. Rosemary Reigle.*



Chemistry and Constellations Classes at Central Valley MCCF

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

The academic classes at GEO's Central Valley MCCF have recently participated in a number of science lab activities. These activities included paper chromatography, capillary action, chemical hydrolysis, and astronomy constellations. Chromatography involves separating colored chemicals by using the movement of water on a hanging paper strip. Each student prepared his own paper chromatography strip by layering a watercolor ink at the base of the strip. The various chemical substances in each dye migrated up the paper, stopping at different places. This showed students that what appears to be one color of dye is actually several chemical components mixed together.

Capillary action involves the movement of liquids through pores, against the pull of gravity. Students assisted in setting-up and witnessed an experiment where four colors of dyed water were transferred against gravity from their own cups into empty cups. As the colored waters merged in the empty cups, the colors mixed into new colors. Students witnessed a physical force that defies gravity and also learned about color theory. Chemical hydrolysis was demonstrated by using a 9-volt battery to split ordinary tap water into pure oxygen and hydrogen gasses. The lesson involved familiarization with the periodic table of elements, concepts of electricity of the atom, chemical bonds, and the difference between atoms and molecules. Constellations and the planets Mercury and Venus were the celestial subjects of the 5th star party at Central Valley MCCF. Students used their eyes and special astronomy binoculars to note how the position of stars and planets changed over two hours.

These hands-on science lessons promoted a sense of confidence about science mastery and educational competence. The instruction-based GEO Continuum Of Care® events were made possible by Warden Gerald Morris, Assistant Warden Gerard Brochu, and Education and Programs Manager Sabrina Aguilar. Students were from the classes of four academic instructors, including Mr. Cantu, Ms. Gallegos, Mr. Gillem, and Mr. Davenport. Inmate-tutors with chemistry, physics, and astronomy expertise provided assistance with some activities. Security for the events was provided by Lieutenant Lucas Spray and Chief Eric Perez.

Pictured left to right: Top: Capillary action exercise. Assistant Warden Gerard Brochu checks on the functioning and safety of the chemical hydrolysis experiment. **Bottom:** Ms. Gallegos gets acquainted with astronomy binoculars that were used for Star Party V. Chromatography exercise.



God Behind Bars Transforms Lives at Kingman

Written By **Calvin Robinson, Arizona State Prison-Kingman**

In 2017, GEO Corporate Chaplain Richard Glau proposed to Arizona State Prison-Kingman (ASP-Kingman) staff an opportunity for God Behind Bars to provide religious services and programs for the inmates. Chaplain Richard Glau's idea materialized in August 2017, when

God Behind Bars launched its first service at ASP-Kingman. The services are conducted each Sunday in which video-recorded church services are telecasted.

About 230 inmates participate each week. In 2018, ASP-Kingman Senior Chaplain Calvin Robinson presented an idea for God Behind Bars to conduct a live worship service. On April 23, 2018, ASP-Kingman hosted its first God Behind Bars live worship service. The service included a large band, gospel messages, and ministry. The service was so well received that the inmates never sat down throughout the entire service.

OWDS Team Indiana: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

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

In 2009, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), in partnership with the National Career Development Association (NCDA), introduced the Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) certification program. The program is a direct response to the compelling evidence that unemployment is a key factor in increased rates of parole revocation. The program delivers a wide array of training materials for corrections and community stakeholders to assist inmates in developing a comprehensive set of workforce development skills. OWDS certification training is a four-month commitment. Totalling more than 180 hours of curriculum, the comprehensive course includes 120 hours of classroom work, 68 hours of homework, and applicable fieldwork. A comprehensive final exam is administered to participants and is required to obtain certification. Since the program's introduction in 2009, the State of Indiana has had 375 graduates, including fifteen from GEO's New Castle Correctional Facility. Locally, there are twenty-one OWDS graduates in Henry County. It is our belief that their willingness to engage in this area will benefit numerous inmates as they transition into the workforce, providing them the skills and ability to become productive employees and law-abiding citizens. As we continually seek programs that align with GEO Continuum Of Care® objectives, we have found the OWDS certification program to be a very valuable tool.

Pictured from left to right: Front row: Robin Blair, Shane Nelson, Stephanie Whitehead, and Shawn O'Connor. **Back row:** Kimberly Wagley, Darcy Rader, Blake Huber, Stephen Bunker, Skyler Miller, Karen Yancey, and Anecia Vanest.



HTCF Holds Blood Drive

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

On May 3, 2018, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) held its annual spring blood drive in partnership with the Indiana Blood Center. There is a tremendous need for blood donations worldwide, and HTCF is proud to do its part in helping. "Every day is a constant fight to keep blood on the shelves," says Indiana Blood Center Representative Nicole Brosseau. Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States. Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three lives. In only a few hours, HTCF collected nineteen units of blood that will have the ability to save up to fifty-seven lives.

Warden Craig Hanks Is Inducted Into the IDOC Hall Of Honor

State of Indiana Department of Correction Press Release

The Hall of Honor was designed to recognize and memorialize individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving the citizens of Indiana and to remember those who have had a significant impact on the field of corrections. The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) has selected Craig Hanks to join the 2018 class of honorees. Craig Hanks served as the first Warden of Wabash Valley Correctional Institution and was heavily involved in the initial planning, staffing, budgeting, construction, and implementation of the facility. Craig Hanks retired from the IDOC in 2005 after thirty-four years of service, but not from corrections. He now works for The GEO Group as the Warden of Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility near Panama City, Florida. Craig will always be remembered as a compassionate, encouraging, and trusting leader.



Pine Prairie Supports Local Youth Sports

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



Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center, located in Pine Prairie, Louisiana, has been very active in giving back to their community. On April 5, 2018, the Center donated \$1,000 to the Pine Prairie Dixie Youth Softball team and \$1,000 to the Pine Prairie Dixie Youth Baseball team, a non-profit organization that promotes and encourages local youth to be active and teaches them sportsmanship. The donations will be used towards purchasing equipment, uniforms, and needed improvements on the fields.

Pictured left to right: Top: Warden Indalecio Ramos, Benjamin Bordelon, Zachery Leggett, Donna Keeven, Chasessia Basco, and James Fontenot. **Bottom:** Benjamin Bordelon, Zachery Leggett, Assistant Warden Alfonso Castillo, Donna Keeven, James Fontenot, and Chasessia Basco.

McFarland Complex Hosts Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Written By Sabrina Aguilar, Central Valley MCCF



The GEO Group promotes education, cognitive behavioral therapy, and rehabilitation services founded on the basis that one has the ability to look beyond troubled pasts and to brighter futures. Volunteers play integral roles in contributing to participants' rehabilitative journeys. Volunteers graciously donate their time and effort toward improving the lives of others. As a token of appreciation, Central Valley MCCF, Golden State MCCF, and McFarland FCRF extended a welcoming invitation to all volunteers to the first annual volunteer appreciation dinner. The event was hosted at the McFarland Community Center. Words of encouragement and gratitude were shared by several staff speakers. The Chief of Police for the McFarland Police Department, Mr. Scot Kimble, also spoke on behalf of the community. The community is actively involved with the facilities in an attempt to foster positive relationships and build everlasting ties. The evening concluded with the presentation of certificates of appreciation for all volunteers. The event was greatly appreciated by all attendees.

Mother's Day Breakfast at McFarland

Written By **Minga Wofford, McFarland FCRF**

McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility (McFarland FCRF), located in McFarland, California, hosted a Mother's Day breakfast for the inmate population. The event was a joint effort between the Culinary Arts program, Food Services Department, and the GEO Continuum Of Care® staff. The menu consisted of a variety of breakfast favorites and was well received. The celebration provided a community atmosphere for the women to share stories and memories. Participants were encouraged to bring photos of their mother and post them on a display in the dining hall. McFarland FCRF staff celebrate many holidays and traditions throughout the year in hopes of encouraging the same habits upon release.

Pictured left to right: Top: Culinary Arts students at McFarland FCRF: Trina Alanis, Kristin Tidwell, and Christine Kelsay. **Bottom:** McFarland FCRF program staff members: Angela Brown, Rosalinda Cuellar, Micha Stewart, Tasia LaFlor, Summer Head, Erica Rodriguez, Nichella Fischer, and Maria Sandoval.



HTCF Kairos Reunion

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

On May 5, 2018, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) held its monthly Kairos Reunion. Almost one hundred inmates attended along with thirty volunteers. Kairos' mission is to share the transformation of love and forgiveness through their faith in Christ. Their goal is to impact the lives of men, women, and youth, as well as their families, to guide them toward becoming loving and productive citizens in their communities. During the reunion, volunteers shared how Kairos has impacted their lives and offered their testimonies. For many participants, Kairos created a desire to become a Christian or rediscover their desire for spiritual growth. A difference is being made within HTCF because of the impact of this program and its volunteers. The program is very well received by the population and their families.

Contributing to the Community

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



Local charities and non-profit organisations are supported by the Fulham Correctional Centre through the provision of community assistance crews from the Nalu Challenge Community. The three crews support projects which enhance the local environment for the residents and visitors to the area. When the need arises, the crews are also involved in providing assistance and relief during major disasters such as bushfires and floods. In recent months, the crews applied a great deal of time and effort to assist with the landscaping at the new Port of Sale Cultural Centre. The \$14.6 million project upgrade included a new library and regional art gallery. The community crews regularly support sections of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail, and members of the public often comment positively to committee members on the much improved condition of the trail. The community crews are a vital resource for both the residents of Wellington Shire and the wider community, contributing approximately 20,000 hours annually to projects in the district.

Dreaming Inside

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



After launching the sixth volume of *Dreaming Inside – Voices from Junee Correctional Centre*, Wadi Wadi Elder Aunty Barbara Nicholson told *The Wagga Weekly*, “The project gives the men a voice and a platform to express how they feel.” *Dreaming Inside – Voices from Junee Correctional Centre* is a collection of Indigenous writing that includes poetry, creative prose, and songs written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates at Junee Correctional Centre.

The annual compilation has been published since 2012 and is the culmination of writing workshops held at the centre over three days, twice a year. The *Dreaming Inside* writing program started from a 2009 visit to the centre by Aunty Barbara Nicholson and colleagues from the South Coast Writers Centre. A team of Indigenous writers, known as the Black Wallaby Writers Group, delivers the program. It is a testament to their hard work and dedication that what started out as five inmates contributing eleven pieces for the first book, became over sixty inmates contributing ninety-eight pieces for volume five, the anniversary edition.

The writing workshops do not teach literacy as the primary purpose is therapeutic — encouraging inmates to express themselves and tell their personal stories. The themes tend to focus on families and life in the centre. Professor Elena Marchetti from the School of Law at Griffith University in Queensland is evaluating the impact of the program as part of a study of Indigenous criminal justice programs. She has no doubt that *Dreaming Inside* changes lives. Professor Elena Marchetti told *The Wagga Weekly*, “It not only assists in teaching the men to trust others, but it helps raise feelings of pride, self-esteem, and confidence in these men. These are success stories.”

A secondary reason for the evaluation is to assist with securing funds to run the program and publish the book. The GEO Group Australia and the South Coast Writers Centre currently carry all of the costs associated with the program and publishing. Booranga Writers Centre President and Adjunct Senior Lecturer in English David Gilbey launched volume six with Aunty Barbara Nicholson at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. Junee Correctional Centre Offender Services Manager Trevor Coles spoke at the launch and said the program had a huge impact on the men by connecting them to their community and culture.

Pictured: Senior Lecturer of English David Gilbey and Aunty Barbara Nicholson at the book launch for volume six at the Charles Sturt University.



Supporting Future Lifesavers

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



The Woodside Beach Surf Life Saving Club continues to benefit from its long partnership with Fulham Correctional Centre, having received a cheque for \$1,500 for the Nippers program's current season.

Earlier in the year, members of the Fulham Correctional Centre's senior management team were welcomed to the beach where they were thanked for their ongoing support of the club, and in particular the Nippers program.

Safety around the beach and life-saving skills form a large part of the program which is aimed at children between the

ages of five and fourteen. The Nippers program is a great way for children to make friends, be active, and enjoy the beach in a safe environment.

This national program is structured specifically to their ages and abilities. The program gradually teaches the children basic life-saving skills required to be safe around an aquatic environment as well as developing their skills to compete in surf sports.

The GEO Group Australia has sponsored the club over the last three years, and this has enabled them to purchase boards for the ever-increasing number of youngsters joining the program.

The provision of meals to the general public on a Saturday night forms part of the club's fundraising efforts. The most recent donation from The GEO Group has contributed to the club's efforts to purchase a commercial grade dishwasher. The clean up in the kitchen after a busy night will soon be much easier!

The GEO Group's support of the Woodside Beach Surf Life Saving Club through the Fulham Correctional Centre is much appreciated.

Ms. Brydie Hurrell, a highly qualified surf lifesaver who runs the Nippers program, acknowledged the assistance and said, "The committee and

members of the Woodside Beach Surf Life Saving Club would like to thank The GEO Group at Fulham Correctional Centre for their ongoing support of our club and our Nippers program. We value your support."

Pictured left to right:

1: Happy little Nippers. **2:** Nippers with Woodside Beach Surf Life Saving Club committee and senior management team members. **3:** Woodside Beach Surf Life Saving Club President Tony Banik, Nipper Jai Williams, and Fulham Correctional Centre Operations Manager Phil Munnings.



Dolly's Dream Foundation Donation

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

An initiative by an inmate at Ravenhall Correctional Centre has seen the centre raise \$1,000 AUD to help prevent bullying and youth suicide. The funds have been given to Dolly's Dream Foundation, a charity established by the family and friends of Amy 'Dolly' Everett.

Dolly, who lived on an 'outback' station some 300 miles (500 kilometres) southwest of Katherine in the Northern Territory, was the victim of cyberbullying and ended her own life at the age of fourteen in January 2018. News of this tragedy struck many people, including the men in Community One at Ravenhall Correctional Centre where inmate Daniel headed a fundraiser across the entire centre. Community One alone raised nearly \$500 AUD in donations with a total of \$1,000 AUD contributed across the centre by both inmates and staff. The funds will help Dolly's Dream Foundation deliver information on the mitigation of bullying, including cyberbullying, to school-age children as well as provide support for charities that work to prevent youth suicide. Community One Correctional Manager Garry Cliffe praised the efforts of the centre and in particular acknowledged Daniel as the driving force.

Pictured left to right: Community One Correctional Manager Garry Cliffe at Ravenhall Correctional Centre congratulates Daniel on raising \$1,000 for Dolly's Dream Foundation.

Tertiary Scholarship Celebrations

Written By **Jessica Heycott & Philip Goslin, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**



Each year, The GEO Group Australia awards tertiary scholarships to children. Valued at \$500 AUD, the scholarships assist with the costs of tertiary education including fees, books, and accommodations. In 2018, GEO awarded seven scholarships to local children. They are studying a range of subjects including nursing, criminology, psychology, and nutrition. A morning tea at the centre with the students and their parents celebrated the presentation of the GEO scholarships and the students' desire to their further education.



Africa Day

Written By
**Godefa Berhane G'her,
Ravenhall Correctional Centre**

On May 10, 2018, Ravenhall Correctional Centre (RCC) in Melbourne, Australia, celebrated its inaugural Africa Day. The event was developed to celebrate African culture and create a sense of belonging and cohesion within the centre.

RCC has a broad multi-cultural population with a significant contingent of inmates of African origin.

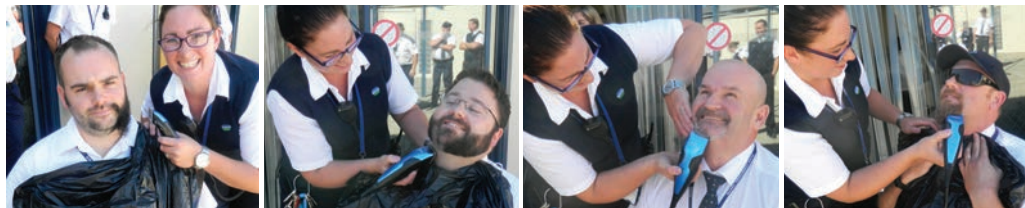
RCC Cultural Advisor Godefa Berhane G'her said it was important that inmates from African backgrounds felt included and acknowledged.

At the event, inmates from different cultural backgrounds came together to celebrate African culture through music, food, and sport.

A dynamic musical ensemble called Super Mande Percussion visited the centre to perform traditional West African music. The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Berhan Ahmed, a social activist, academic, community leader, and Chief Executive Officer of African-Australian Multicultural, Employment, and Youth Services.

A Clean Shave

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



Pictured from left to right: Top row: Kelvin Brown, Richard Kors, Chris Slotje, Justin Munnings, Jessica Semmel-Manning, Col Caskie, Trevor Bell, Colin Reid, Phil Munnings, and Michael Young. **Bottom row:** Jessica Semmel-Manning and Chris Slotje. Jessica Semmel-Manning and Justin Munnings. Jessica Semmel-Manning and Phil Munnings. Jessica Semmel-Manning and Colin Reid.

Early in 2018, Corrections Victoria announced the introduction of a statewide policy on facial hair which would affect correctional officers who may be required to respond to a fire emergency where a breathing apparatus is utilised. Knowing there were a number of officers who would be directly impacted by the new policy, Correctional Supervisor Trevor Bell issued a challenge to colleagues to participate in a 'must shave' event which would raise funds for the annual Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday appeal. Cheered on by colleagues, eight volunteers bravely stepped forward and had their beards trimmed or removed by Correctional Officer Jessica Semmel-Manning. With The GEO Group agreeing to match funds raised by staff, a total of \$2,506 was donated to the Royal Children's Hospital appeal, which this year raised a record amount of over \$18 million.

Inside Out Program at Ravenhall Correctional Centre

Written By **Abril Garcia Negrón, Ravenhall Correctional Centre**



Pictured: Dr. Marietta Martinovic and Robin Goodman.

The newly opened Ravenhall Correctional Centre (RCC) in Melbourne has completed its first Inside Out program. The program employs an education model that brings together in-custody 'inside' students with 'outside' students from RMIT University to learn about crime and criminal justice systems around the world. Led by Dr. Marietta Martinovic from the Criminology and Justice Studies faculty at RMIT University, the program ran for twelve weeks at RCC and was undertaken by fourteen inmates and fifteen university students. The sessions looked at legal systems, legal traditions, and international perspectives on policing and corrections. The completion of the program was celebrated with a graduation ceremony at RCC on May 16, 2018. The ceremony was attended by family, friends, and senior personnel from RCC, RMIT University, and Corrections Victoria. At the graduation, students presented their critical analysis of criminal justice systems in various countries. The quality of the presentations and reflections shared by the students demonstrated the positive outcomes that have come from RCC's first Inside Out program.



Ravenhall Staff Support Homeless Youth

Written By **Rebecca Bochtler, The Bridge Centre, Ravenhall Correctional Centre**

A group of seven staff members from Ravenhall Correctional Centre in Melbourne, Australia, were part of the 1,500-plus crowd that raised nearly \$1 million AUD for homeless youth at the 2018 ‘Sleep at the G’ event.

‘The G’ is the colloquial term for the world famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) — the iconic sports stadium that hosts Australian Rules Football matches, international cricket, and many other major sporting events.

‘Sleep at the G’ participants and volunteers spent the night at the stadium to support the 6,000 vulnerable young

people in Victoria experiencing homelessness. Being a participant meant committing to actively fundraise.

For a registration fee of \$70 AUD, participants received a cardboard box to sleep on, dinner (soup), coffee, tea, and a basic breakfast. The participants from Ravenhall Correctional Centre included Kellie O’Dea, Kim Sayer, Rebecca Bochtler, Lorna Murphy, Sarah Burns, Abril Garcia-Negron, and Trent Jansz. The group raised \$1,470 AUD, exceeding their original target of \$1,000 AUD.

Rebecca Bochtler, the acting Manager at Ravenhall

Correctional Centre’s community reintegration centre, The Bridge Centre, was thrilled with the support the group received from colleagues.

“It was definitely an experience we won’t forget anytime soon and it was very worthwhile to raise awareness and funds for youth homelessness,” she said.

The ‘Sleep at the G’ event supports the Melbourne City Mission — one of GEO’s alliance partners at Ravenhall Correctional Centre. The funds will go towards building Australia’s first fully integrated response to youth

homelessness — a 24/7 youth crisis accommodation centre.

The centre will provide emergency accommodation along with housing, health, education, and employment support, and will help young people break the cycle of homelessness and prevent them from falling into long-term adult homelessness.

Pictured left to right: *Trent Jansz, Lorna Murphy, Sarah Burns, and Abril Garcia-Negron were part of a Ravenhall Correctional Centre team that raised funds for homeless youth by sleeping at the Melbourne Cricket Ground sports stadium.*

20 Years of Service

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



Congratulations to Patricia Smith, Clinical Supervisor of ADAPPT (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Parole and Probation Treatment) who is being recognized for twenty years of service at the facility. Ms. Smith has been an integral part of ADAPPT's operational functions, maintaining many key roles at the facility that provides evidence-based reentry programming to residents referred from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. "Her reliability and continuous support has been valuable to the safety and progress of the residents on a daily basis," said ADAPPT Director Michael Critchosin. Ms. Smith began her career as a Counselor at Berks County Prison, a program run through ADAPPT. She then joined the ADAPPT staff as a Counselor, and has worked her way up through the ranks to the position of Clinical Supervisor. "I am grateful for the opportunity here at ADAPPT to have developed a rewarding career in treatment counseling," said Ms. Smith. "I am proud to be part of a staff that is making a difference for recidivism reduction in the State of Pennsylvania."

Participants Proudly Graduate at Shreveport DRC

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



On March 8, 2018, the Shreveport Day Reporting Center (DRC) in Louisiana was proud to host a transition celebration for participants who graduated or successfully completed the reentry programming provided by GEO Reentry Services at the DRC. It was a joyous day for the graduates, who shared the ceremony with staff and invited guests that included officers, family members, and friends.

"It is very rewarding to see the change in our participants after completing the GEO Reentry programming we provide," said Shreveport DRC Program Manager Justin Jones. "Individuals leave with high hopes for the future and often move on to accomplish goals that they identified through working with our staff." The DRC provides participants with a thorough program of reentry services that focus on individual development of positive lifestyles after program completion. Through cognitive behavioral treatment delivered through three phases, individuals are provided with a variety of services including employment readiness and job search assistance, parenting skills, anger management, substance abuse education, and GED preparation assistance.

***Pictured left to right:** Case Manager Morgan Brian, Case Manager Chantha Ly, Program Director Justin Jones, Case Manager Dyanmond Banks, and Client Services Specialist Jake Jacobs.*

ADAPPT Residents Help Modernize Public Library

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



Residents from ADAPPT (Alcohol and Drug Addiction Parole and Probation Treatment), volunteered to help the local library with an ongoing renovation project. Accompanied by staff, the ADAPPT group went to work moving furniture and taking down old shelves to help construct a new technology-friendly library space at the Northwestern branch of the Reading Public Library. This is the third community service visit for ADAPPT to the library. These visits allow residents to have an opportunity to give back to the community, an action that promotes positive living and recovery from substance abuse. "Residents volunteer for community service as a way to give back to the community, it reinforces positive behavior that creates a change in their overall outlook and approach to life." said ADAPPT Director Mike Critchosin.

Talbot Hall Honors Memorial Day

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



Veteran residents at Talbot Hall in Kearny, New Jersey, had the opportunity to honor Memorial Day by participating in a special ceremony at the residential reentry center. Ten residents who are veterans took part in a ceremony that was coordinated by Talbot Hall Deputy Director GinaMarie Di Maiuta. The veterans attended a Memorial Day ceremony that included folding the flag and a moment of remembrance. The veteran residents were able to select a movie and were treated to festive desserts, cupcakes, and coffee. "We are very proud to honor those who served our country," said Senior Area Manager, Northeast, GEO Reentry Services Richard McCourt. Veteran residents meet on a voluntary basis to address issues relative to those who served in the military. Members support each other through the reentry process and have an opportunity to share resources that will be helpful when reentering the community. GEO Care provides a full program of evidence-based reentry treatment services at Talbot Hall through its contract with Education and Health Centers of America (EHCA).



New Jersey Alumni Services Members Inspire a Crowd of 300+

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

"Knowledge is power. It's up to you; it's your choice. My past is my asset," said Cassandra S., one of many New Jersey alumni speakers who brought a powerful message of hope to over 300 residents at Talbot Hall's alumni night, a residential reentry center in Kearny, New Jersey, on May 2, 2018. Cassandra was one of approximately thirty alumni members who volunteered to attend the special alumni event in order to pass on the message that change is possible as a result of reentry program completion. Talbot Hall is an assessment and treatment center that accommodates male residents referred from the New Jersey Department of Corrections. GEO Care provides a full program of evidence-based reentry treatment services at Talbot Hall through its contract with Education and Health Centers of America (EHCA).

In attendance were Human Resources Director Rita Darden and Employee and Labor Relations Director B.J. Shelton from the GEO Corporate Headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida. Fifteen alumni members went to the podium to share their message that their lives can be transformed by embracing the reentry program being provided to them. Alumni Altorice F., a fourteen-year alumnus, and Tyrone B., were awarded plaques of appreciation for going above and beyond to reach out to help others. All expressed gratitude for experiencing the joy of living a positive lifestyle after program completion. "It is very satisfying to see individuals who were once residents experiencing lives of fullness and success and returning to carry the message to others," said Talbot Hall Program Coordinator Melissa Craten. Powerful testimonials were repeatedly delivered as members shared their experience of achievements, graduations, new careers, building quality relationships, and the joys of being a good parent. Several members gave tribute to Director of New Jersey Alumni Services Arthur Townes, reflecting on their days as residents and the impact his visits at alumni meetings had on them.

Pictured left to right: Top row: Alumni Steve G., Manuel R., Shahid R., Abdul M., Cassandra S., Peter B., Director Arthur Townes, and Jermaine B. **Bottom row:** Back row: Jermaine B., Kareem N., Al-Tariq W., Altorice F., Tyrone B., Abdul M., Director Arthur Townes, Shahid R., Manuel R., Peter B., Cassandra S., Steven G., and Darris H. Front row: Dorothy B., Glosheen S., and Juan V.

ADAPPT Holds Successful Open House

Guests Include PA DOC Representatives and Community Partners

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



Pictured left to right: Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Community Corrections Daniel McIntyre, Pennsylvania Parole District Director Fred Riccio, Pennsylvania Parole Deputy District Director Eric Pennypacker, Pennsylvania DOC Press Secretary Amy Worden, Facility Director Michael Critchoshin, and Pennsylvania BCC Region 1 Director Christy Ulrich.

Alcohol and Drug Addiction Parole and Probation Treatment (ADAPPT), a residential reentry center in Reading, Pennsylvania, proudly hosted an open house on May 25, 2018, welcoming guests from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC), the Reading City Police Department, and various community partners. Held on-site at ADAPPT, facility staff welcomed the honored guests for a luncheon and meeting. Discussions took place that support the GEO Reentry Services' mission to provide residents with the best possible options to reintegrate back to the community and become productive citizens. "We were proud to host the open house, bringing our partners together in a shared mission of successful reentry," said ADAPPT Director Mike Critchoshin. Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Community Corrections Daniel McIntyre addressed the crowd with a specific message regarding the importance of community partnership and strengthening the mission of assisting residents with ways to a successful return to the community.

Muttonchops For Mental Health Awareness at Abraxas I

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas I**



As part of Mental Health Awareness Month, Abraxas I, located in Marienville, Pennsylvania, held its second annual Muttonchops for Mental Health competition and fundraiser. Over twenty team members participated in the event. Each team member paid an entry fee, shaved in an attempt to sport the best looking muttonchops, then waited for staff to judge who looked the best or the funniest. Donation cans, one with each participant's photo on it, were displayed in the administration mail room. Staff voted for their favorite by placing donations in the cans. One penny equaled one vote. Whoever received the most funds in their can was able to choose which mental health charity received the total funds raised.



Tully House Celebrates Reentry Services Awareness Month with BBQ for 330+

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

On May 24, 2018, Tully House, a residential reentry center in Newark, New Jersey, celebrated Reentry Service Awareness Month by hosting a barbecue for the entire population. The event highlighted important resources for reentry and provided a platform for a positive experience aimed at strengthening a successful return to the community. The weather was superb for residents and staff to be outdoors, fire up the grills, and enjoy music and games. Tully House accommodates male residents referred from the New Jersey Department of Corrections. GEO Care provides a full continuum of evidence-based reentry programming at Tully House through its contract with Education and Health Centers of America (EHCA). "We are very proud of the accomplishments of our residents and the work that our staff provides to promote educational and vocational services at Tully House," said Office Administrator Paula Lord. "Our staff at Tully House work hard to provide a comprehensive reentry program that reduces recidivism, thus creating safer communities and productive citizens." The Reentry Services Awareness barbecue brought smiles to many and was enjoyed by both staff and residents alike.

DRCs in CA Celebrate Anniversaries

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Three non-residential GEO Reentry centers in California recently celebrated their anniversaries: the Shasta County Day Reporting Center (DRC), Imperial County DRC, and Stockton DRC. In May 2018, the Shasta County DRC celebrated five years of operation with an open house event. In the last year, the DRC has expanded its staff and fostered employee development while continuing to offer quality care to participants. On May 30, 2018, the Imperial County DRC celebrated its four-year anniversary. Since opening, the DRC has added numerous program offerings, including its Inside Out initiative, which helps participants interested in careers, such as substance abuse counselors, apply to and attend college. On July 11, 2018, the Stockton DRC celebrated its ten-year anniversary. The center is proud to have served the community for a full decade and to have created a lasting partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. GEO Reentry is proud to see its centers making a positive, lasting difference in their communities as well as the lives of participants.

South Dakota Residents Benefit from "Credit When Credit is Due" Class

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

Residents at the Community Alternatives of the Black Hills (CABH) in Rapid City, South Dakota, are now actively involved in a new class called "Credit When Credit is Due." A joint collaboration between Director Tessa LaHaie and volunteer teacher and Consumer Credit Counselor Mr. Terry Mills, the new class is experiencing great success at the facility.

Director Tessa LaHaie met Mr. Terry Mills on the facility's Community Relations Advisory Board and they agreed on the need for residents to understand basic credit fundamentals and expand their personal financial knowledge. Mr. Terry Mills now voluntarily conducts the financial information class at CABH. "So many of our residents had no understanding of credit and basic finance, how it affects them, or the importance of it for maintaining a positive lifestyle after release," said Director Tessa LaHaie.

As of April 1, 2018, the center graduated fifty-nine residents from the class. These graduates have gained an understanding of basic credit principles that will benefit them after program completion. After seeing the success and getting all positive feedback, "Credit When Credit is Due" is now mandatory for all residents entering the facility and has become an important part of the main curriculum.



Tully House Residents Awarded High School Equivalency Diplomas

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

Ten residents at Tully House in Newark, New Jersey, were officially awarded their high school equivalency diplomas on May 9, 2018. Staff, family members, and fellow residents attended the uplifting graduation ceremony. The result was a diploma earned by participating in the educational training provided by GEO Reentry Services and Education and Health Centers of America (EHCA). Tully House Deputy Director of Program Services Ronald Morrison welcomed all and thanked Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Darcella Sessomes; Supervising Program Support Specialist-Office of Communities Programs at the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Garyn Nathan; and Tully House Director, Darryl Hooper for their efforts in making the class accessible to the residents.

GEO's National Director of Academic and Vocational Programs Angela Geisinger was the motivational speaker who addressed the graduates with an inspiring message of beginning anew. She distributed gifts of books and pens to honor their graduation, stating, "Every great story begins with a sentence."

"These residents worked hard to make the worthwhile commitment to this achievement," said Tully House Deputy Director of Program Services Ronald Morrison, "Returning to the community as high school graduates will help them with a better start to pursue additional educational or vocational opportunities."

Staff and graduates thanked Education Manager Ms. Samantha Brooks who taught

the residents and prepared them for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) test. Everyone at Tully House is very proud that all ten residents who took the test passed. "She gave me the motivation to pursue education," said one resident. "I never thought it would be possible to get my high school diploma. Ms. Samantha Brooks said she would help me and thanks to her I had the courage to keep going."

"These graduates asked questions, had good attendance, and deserve this achievement," said Ms. Samantha Brooks as she addressed the crowd. Additional speakers included Tully House Director of Special Services Leighton Newlin and Unit Manager Geraldine Morgan who presented the graduates with their diplomas. Mr. Newlin secures opportuni-

ties for residents to attend college or vocational trainings. Two of the current graduates are already pursuing higher education and have enrolled at the county college with the help of Mr. Newlin. Office Administrator Paula Lord is also an integral figure at Tully House. She assists in helping residents with community connections and preparation to reenter society upon program completion.

Pictured left to right 1: Graduates J'quan Seegers, Xavier Lucret, George Lennon, Rakeem Connor, Sean Williams, Jesse Velez, Jahon Loyal, Devon Wells, Aa'Zhone Edwin, and Robert Santiago. Seated: Education Manager Ms. Samantha Brooks. **2:** Education Manager Ms. Samantha Brooks with her aides: Mr. Oluwasegun Akinola, Mr. Michael Ayler, Mr. Rashawn Bryant and Mr. Odell Roy. **3:** Graduate Robert Santiago receiving his diploma from Education Manager Ms. Samantha Brooks.



Lycoming County RSC Celebrates Successful Transition Ceremony

Written By **Samantha Koch, Lycoming County RSC**

On May 22, 2018, the Lycoming County Reentry Service Center held its seventh transition ceremony at the Community Theatre League. The ceremony saw the most participants that have graduated from the program since its inception in September 2014. Out of the forty-eight graduating participants, twenty-eight attended the ceremony.

Among the guest speakers for the event were Lycoming County Prison Warden, Brad Shoemaker; Lycoming County Judge, Marc Lovecchio; and Lycoming County Commissioner, Tony Mussare. Warden Brad Shoemaker commented on how he was grateful for programs such as those provided at the Lycoming County Reentry Service Center because they help former inmates learn the skills needed to be a successful member of society and reduce recidivism.

Judge Marc Lovecchio had five rules of advice for the graduating class which included leaving your ego behind, letting go of regrets, being honest with not only others but yourself, catch yourself before you fall, and use your support system. Commissioner Tony Mussare told the participants to never doubt this accomplishment in their lives because they should be proud of how far they have come.

Several graduates of the Lycoming County Reentry Service Center spoke about their history of addiction and the positive effect the program had on their lives. All graduates were announced and presented with a certificate of completion and a small gift for successfully completing the program.

After the ceremony, everyone was welcomed back to the center for a light lunch, refreshments, and an open house. Several members of the alumni services group and the community participated in the open house to help show support for the graduates.

ADAPPT Residents Help Start Summer Pool Days

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

Residents from Alcohol and Drug Addiction Parole and Probation Treatment (ADAPPT) donated their talents and time to painting and repairing the local community pool over the course of April and May, accomplishing an astounding 120 hours of volunteer service at this location. ADAPPT has consistently maintained an impressive record of community service lending a hand at various local venues when needed. The facility never hesitates to send staff and resident volunteers whenever called upon in the community. "I am very proud to work for GEO Reentry Services, who allows our residents to give back to the community so generously on a regular basis," said ADAPPT Director Mike Critchosis. Staff accompanied residents who over the course of several days restored and painted the baby pool, complete with painted cartoon characters. The volunteers assisted with pressure washing the large pool and helped with masonry work that repaired damaged areas. The ADAPPT group also assisted in cleaning and organizing the kitchen, bathrooms, and pavilion for the community pool, which will open for the summer to accommodate Reading, PA residents. GEO Reentry Services provides reentry programming that includes case management, supervision services, and cognitive behavioral treatment to change addictive and criminal behaviors for ADAPPT residents. All residents expressed a sense of reward and satisfaction from performing positive actions that give back to the community.

Pictured left to right: Residents Luis Garcia, Mario Moyer, Jesse Miller, Damian Doyle, Joshua Bellman, Joshua McGovern, Mary Powell, Brittany Graybill, John Lebzeiter, Jackie Harbaugh, and Christopher Rodriguez.





New Jersey Alumni Bowl for Kids

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

Go Team Change!, a group of New Jersey alumni services members who volunteered at a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties-Bowl for Kids Sake! On May 12, 2018, New Jersey Alumni Services Director Arthur Townes arranged for bowling team volunteers to participate in the event. This is the third bowling event that GEO alumni services members have participated in for the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters. They enjoyed the day as they joined other teams representing corporate sponsors and local organizations for a good cause. Alumni services is comprised of individuals who have completed GEO Reentry programming and are now living successful lives in the community. As former residents, participants received a full continuum of evidence-based reentry programming that promotes a pro-social lifestyle. New Jersey alumni services is an active group that holds monthly meetings at facilities around the state. Members continue to participate in community service events, using the opportunity to continue to give back to society in a positive way and demonstrate that change is possible. "We return to let current residents know change is possible," said Mr. Arthur Townes.

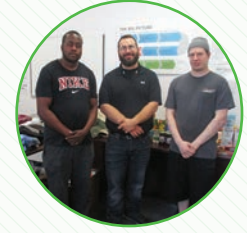
Pictured left to right: Alumnus Sean Birthwright, New Jersey Alumni Director Arthur Townes, Alumni James Moore and Manuel Ross.

Changing Lives, One Coffee at a Time

Written By **Samantha Hepler, Abraxas Youth Center**



In Mrs. Hepler's math class at the Abraxas Youth Center, something new has given the students a different learning perspective. The class is now operating a coffee cart to teach students how to use basic math in everyday situations. This project developed out of a need for students to improve their basic math skills; including using coupons, ordering from a menu, and calculating discounts. Twice a week, students took orders, made coffee, and exchanged money with staff. The students also decided that all the proceeds from the coffee cart would be donated to the East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue, a non-profit animal sanctuary located in Fairfield, PA. Over the course of just one month, the classroom atmosphere had improved dramatically. Students are invested in the coffee cart outcomes and have started to view their peers as teammates. The project has already provided unanticipated rewards and has motivated the students to look at other ways in which they can impact their own communities.



Lycoming County Alumni Organize Food/Clothing Drive

Written By **Samantha Koch, Lycoming County RSC**

Alumni services members of GEO Reentry's Lycoming County Reentry Service Center (RSC) organized a food and clothing drive for the local American Rescue Workers organization. Mr. Shank Valentine and Mr. Thomas Stark helped distribute food and clothing to the shelter and food pantry. The clothing was donated to the shelter and the food donated was given to the pantry to help feed 700 families a month. Director of American Rescue Workers Mike Kane accepted the generous donation. The donations were given by current participants of the Lycoming County RSC and staff. Mr. Shank Valentine and Mr. Thomas Stark, successful participants of the GEO program, thought of the idea to give back to their community and continue to organize events held by the alumni group.

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