

# GEO World

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.

2Q  
2014



**THE GEO GROUP REACTIVATES**  
**McFarland Female**  
**Community Reentry Facility**  
*with Industry-Leading Rehabilitation Services in CA*



# Chairman's Letter

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

## To the GEO Family,

During the first quarter of the year, we achieved several important milestones which highlight our company's continued growth and position as the world's leading provider of diversified correctional, detention, and community reentry services. In February, we assumed management of three existing facilities under contract with the Florida Department of Management Services. With the takeover of management functions at the 1,884-bed Graceville Correctional Facility, the 985-bed Moore Haven Correctional Facility, and the 985-bed Bay Correctional Facility, GEO has become the leading provider of correctional services and in-prison rehabilitation in the state of Florida. These three important facilities are expected to generate approximately \$56 million in annualized revenues.

Similarly, in the state of California, we completed the activation of 1,500 community correctional beds with the reopening of our company-owned

Central Valley and Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facilities, totaling 700 beds each, and the expansion of the contract capacity at our Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility from 600 to 700 beds. The activation of these important projects is expected to generate approximately \$33 million in annualized revenues.

Adding to our market leadership in California, we recently announced the signing of a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the reactivation of our company-owned, 260-bed McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility. The facility will house female inmates and will provide enhanced rehabilitation and recidivism reduction programs. The contract, which will be effective through June 30, 2018, is expected to generate approximately \$9 million in annualized revenues and includes a provision for a 260-bed expansion which can be exercised at the state's option within 12 months.

This important milestone is indicative of our company's leading market position in the delivery of in-prison rehabilitation and community reentry services. Throughout the United States, GEO's industry leading rehabilitation and reentry programs employ more than 1,500 dedicated programming staff who provide diverse rehabilitation, education, and vocational programming along with counseling, substance abuse, and

other treatment services to approximately 27,000 offenders daily, representing an annual investment of more than \$100 million. This unmatched level of offender rehabilitation programming has resulted in unparalleled success over the last decade.

In the past ten years, GEO has awarded more than 10,000 GEDs through our in-prison academic programs. Additionally over the last decade, approximately 40,000 inmates have achieved completion certificates from a variety of GEO vocational programs including computer support, carpentry, culinary arts, horticulture, masonry, electrical, and commercial driver's license courses. We have offered life skills programs to approximately 90,000 inmates who have completed cognitive behavior, problem solving, employability, and parenting courses. Furthermore, over 100,000 inmates have completed GEO's substance abuse and therapeutic programs in the last decade.

Our growth and investment strategy have positioned our company as the world's leading provider of offender rehabilitation and reintegration programs through a comprehensive "GEO Continuum of Care" which delivers significant savings for taxpayers and provides evidence-based programs that help offenders reenter society and lower the rates of recidivism.

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**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Editor  
**Esther D. Patton**

Contributors  
**George C. Zoley**  
**Pablo E. Paez**  
**Abraham Cohen**

**Equal Opportunity  
Employer  
AA M/F/Vet/Disability**

The GEO Group, Inc.  
One Park Place  
621 NW 53rd Street, Suite 700  
Boca Raton, Florida 33487  
561.893.0101

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# THE GEO GROUP REACTIVATES McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility

*with Industry-Leading  
Rehabilitation Services in CA*



On April 1, 2014, The GEO Group announced the signing of a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for the reactivation of the company-owned, 260-bed McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility located in McFarland, California.

Under this important contract with the State of California, the McFarland facility will house female inmates and will provide enhanced rehabilitation and recidivism reduction programs.

## REHABILITATION AND RECIDIVISM REDUCTION PROGRAMS:

- Pre-release and community reentry programs
- Evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatment
- Adult Basic Education, GED and other academic programming
- Vocational and career technical skills training programs
- Life skills programs including communication skills, money management, family and social interaction, and job application and interview skills
- Inmate work and training programs

GEO expects to begin the intake of inmates at the McFarland facility in the third quarter of 2014, and the contract includes a provision for a 260-bed expansion which can be exercised at the State of California's option within 12 months.

## Setting the Standard in California

This important milestone is indicative of GEO's leading market position in the delivery of in-prison rehabilitation and community reentry services. GEO's growth and investment strategy have positioned the company as the world's leading provider of offender rehabilitation and reintegration



McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility is adjacent to GEO's Central Valley and Golden State Community Correctional Facilities in California.



Offenders take part in life skills programs and Paws In Prison program where the inmates train shelter dogs for adoption.

programs through a comprehensive “GEO Continuum of Care” which delivers significant savings for taxpayers and provides evidence-based programs that help offenders reenter society and lower the rates of recidivism.

The provision of enhanced rehabilitation and recidivism reduction services at the McFarland facility is just the latest example of GEO’s growing network of rehabilitation and reentry programs in the state of California. GEO has partnered with state and local government agencies to open 21 Day Reporting Centers, which provide community supervision, behavioral assessments, treatment, education, and counseling services for approximately 1,500 parolees and probationers throughout the state.

GEO also manages four community reentry halfway houses, which provide temporary housing, employment assistance, rehabilitation and substance abuse counseling, and vocational and education programs for more than 400 federal and state offenders in California.



### **GEO’s Industry Leading Rehabilitation and Reentry Services**

However, GEO’s leadership in the provision of rehabilitation and reentry services extends beyond the state of California. On any given day, approximately 20,000 state and federal offenders are enrolled in evidence-based in-prison rehabilitation programs at GEO facilities around the United States, ranging from academic and vocational classes to life skills and treatment programs. Additionally, GEO’s Community Reentry Halfway Houses and Day Reporting Centers provide programs designed to help approximately 7,000 federal, state, and local offenders transition back into society on a daily basis.

Overall, GEO’s industry leading rehabilitation and reentry programs employ more than 1,500 dedicated programming staff; serve approximately 27,000 offenders daily; and represent an annual investment of more than \$100 million. This unmatched level of offender rehabilitation programming has resulted in unparalleled success over the last decade.

In the past ten years, GEO has awarded more than 10,000 GEDs through the company’s in-prison academic programs. Additionally over the last decade, approximately 40,000 inmates have achieved completion certificates from a variety of GEO vocational programs including computer support, carpentry, culinary arts, horticulture, masonry, electrical, and commercial driver’s license courses. GEO has also offered life skills programs to approximately 90,000 inmates who have completed cognitive behavior, problem solving, employability, and parenting courses over the last ten years. Additionally through GEO’s treatment services, over 100,000 inmates have completed substance abuse and therapeutic programs in the last decade.



## Adelanto Detention Facility Donates to Little League Team

Written By **Liz Lopez, Adelanto Detention Facility**

This past February, the management team at the Adelanto Detention Facility was approached by the local Pony League baseball team representative with a request for sponsorship. The Vipers 8U Green, a High Desert Pony League baseball team was in need of financial support, and were not certain they would be able to secure enough funding to participate in the upcoming season.

Thanks to the generosity of the Adelanto Detention Facility, and The GEO Group Foundation, the team received a sponsorship which will allow them to afford the cost of all

equipment and league fees. Diana Bonilla, an Adelanto employee, and the mother of a Viper's player, stated, "I feel very blessed and fortunate to work for a company that cares not only about their employees, but also the families of their employees. I know all the players' parents are extremely grateful for the generosity of The GEO Group Foundation." Neil Clark, Warden of the Adelanto Detention Facility commented, "We at the Adelanto Detention Facility recognize our children are our future and want to support them in all their positive activities when possible."

"We at the Adelanto Detention Facility recognize our children are our future, and want to support them in all their positive activities when possible."

**Pictured From Top to Bottom:** Vipers Round-up— Vipers team and the coaches take their game seriously; Vipers Green Team. Top Row: Coach Anthony Quiñonez, Coach Jeremy Watson, Coach Gabriel Arellano, Manager Shannon Madrid 2nd Row: Andrew Quiñonez #21, Ronnie Garcia #27, Kaleb Watson #23, Devin Watson #2, Talan Varner #11, Nathaniel Arellano #36, Ryan Martinez #4, Steven Bonilla #13, Bottom Row: Aslan Griffin #42, Cj Ortiz #52, Bronson Davis #33, Cayman Pluma #7, Kato Andross #5, and Cash Andross #25; From left to right: Greg Hillers, Business Manager; Diana Bonilla, GEO employee and Viper 8U Green team representative, A. Neil Clark, Adelanto Detention Facility Warden.



## NCCF's Kevin Jackson Receives Special Olympics Award

Written By **Mike Smith, New Castle Correctional Facility**



On Thursday, March 6, 2014, Kevin Jackson, Director of Support Services for the New Castle Correctional Facility, was recognized and presented an award for being chosen as the 2013 Spirit of Special Olympics Officer of the Year.

Kevin has been part of the Indiana Law Enforcement Torch Run, the Polar Plunge, and the Plane Pull competition for Special Olympics Indiana for over 20 years. He has been responsible for the participation of countless volunteers and funds. His

dedication has shown through numerous top fundraising events over his years in the program, and most recently, the New Castle Correctional Facility brought home the First Annual Commissioner's Cup Award at the Plane Pull.

Special Olympics Indiana wishes to thank Kevin for his continuous dedication to the 11,000 plus athletes of Special Olympics Indiana and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Indiana!



# A Breath of Fresh Air

Officer Roy Velyines Mission to Save his Sister

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

**W**hen we breathe we usually don't wonder if each breath we take may be dangerously close to being our last. In fact, most of us generally take the process of breathing normally for granted. But for some, the act of breathing is much more. How then do we put a price tag on this essential function of life?

Golden State MCCF officer of the Year Roy Velyines might have a better perspective of this than most. At 13, his sister, Monica, was diagnosed with a rare lung disease called Polymyositis. Polymyositis is an inflammatory disease that leads to muscle weakness, swelling, tenderness, and tissue damage of the respiratory system. People afflicted with this disease tend to develop shortness of breath and dry coughing due to the scarring that has developed in their lung tissue. This scarring or fibrosis, forces the lungs to become thicker. As a result, the lungs then lose their ability to transfer oxygen into the bloodstream.

Monica Velyines is now 27 years old, and she has been battling this disease for 14 years. Her

condition has gotten worse in the past year. She cannot do the things most of us do on a daily basis such as drive a car. Even the simple task of walking a few steps can take an immense toll on her ability to breath and because of this, she is on around-the-clock oxygen.

According to Monica Velyines, "It's been a long journey for me. It's really hard to be a young woman and have to deal with my sickness knowing that it's not going to get better unless I have a lung transplant. I need \$10,000 for the 6 to 8 weeks stay that I will have to be in San Francisco just in case of any complications or rejection of the new lungs."

Monica has to see her doctor four days a week for monitoring and treatment. She does not know the exact date of the transplant because she is still getting tests done. As you can imagine with a surgery so sensitive, there are numerous tests that are required additionally, she is waiting for a donor match. Monica states, "the match of donor consists of the same body size and blood type. Once the donor is confirmed the call could come at any time to have the lung transplant done."

In response to our extended family members' needs, Golden State MCCF held a fundraiser through the Employee Welfare Fund (EWF) Committee on March 7th to help with the expenses. The EWF committee has raised a combined total of \$1,100 thus far. The funds received to date are from monetary donations, sale of tickets for a prize, a bake sale and a luncheon that was held at the facility on March 7, 2014. Upon hearing this information, GEO Western Region Vice President James Black personally matched the amount of \$1,100 raised from the Golden State MCCF fundraising events.

With approximately \$7,800 left to reach their goal of \$10,000, to include a co-payment of \$4,500 help is urgently needed! Please help us help Monica by donating to this worthy cause; the link to donate is [helpholive.org](http://helpholive.org)

With your help, Officer Velyines will accomplish his mission in assisting his sister to breathe again, "A Breath of Fresh Air."



Each perfect attendance recipient received a ribbon, blue thermal water bottle and packets of Crystal Light.

## Perfect Attendance At Arizona State Prison–Florence West

Written By **Shellie Stout and Rachel Neibarger, Arizona State Prison–Florence West**

During our February 2014 Staff Recall meeting, Warden Rick Mauldin acknowledged and passed out a token of appreciation to each staff member who achieved the status of Perfect Attendance. The following thirty-one GEO Group employees and officers were acknowledged for their perfect attendance for the last 6 months:

- Jazzmin Ramirez, FS Mgr.
- Paula Fridenmaker, CPO
- Brenda Duran, Business Mgr.
- Lydia Ramirez, CPO
- Rosa Fernandez, I/M Banking
- Cruzetta Sepulveda, CPO
- Deborah Jansen, Payroll
- Samuel Steelman, CPO

- Shannon Langan, Records Sup.
- Steven Turner, CPS
- Rick Mauldin, Warden
- Aisha Samuels, Commissary
- Orville Skelton, Officer
- Jazzmin Allen, Officer
- Charles Bedford, Officer
- Heather Burns, Officer

- Kirk Duggan, Asst. Warden
- Lisa Ferrick, Officer
- David Holmes, Officer
- David McWilliams, Officer
- Beatrice Munoz, Officer
- Billy Neal, Officer
- Mark O'Connor, Officer
- Bryan Palmer, Officer

- William Quigley, Officer
- Joshua Ramirez, Officer
- Eugene Rodriguez, Officer
- Gilberto Ruiz, Officer
- Christopher Sesma, Officer
- Allen Sherlock, Officer
- Ann Skelton, Officer



## Internal Career Site Campaign

Written By Gina Larsen, Corporate HR

**G**EO is proud to announce that last year, **1,109 employees received promotions**. With this exciting news, we have introduced our 2014 Internal Career Site Campaign. This campaign illustrates how to apply for internal positions at GEO via the Internal Career Site. The site is accessible via GEOnet or via an external computer at the following address:

<https://www.hrapply.com/gginc/Search.intl>

To market the campaign, posters were displayed at facilities and postcards were distributed to employees with details and instructions on how to apply internally. If you have questions or would like to order more postcards and flyers, please contact **Gina Larsen** at [glarsen@geogroup.com](mailto:glarsen@geogroup.com).

Will you be the next internal promotion? View GEO's internal positions today and apply! We look forward to even more internal promotions in 2014.

## Helping to Take the Bite out of Cancer

Written By Pia Zamora and Carolyn Heavington, Lea County Correctional Facility

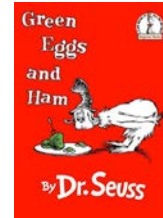


In March 2014, the staff at LCCF banded together to extend a helping hand to assist Ms. Garcia with her medical expenses by selling hotdogs/chili dogs, nachos and cokes, as well as held an auction of gift baskets and various baked goods. All the supplies were donated by staff so that all the funds collected would go directly to her. She will be starting her next round of treatment on March 18th in Houston, Texas and the staff wanted her to not have to worry about anything but the fight of getting well.

**E**sther Garcia, Mental Health Clerk at Lea County Correctional Facility (LCCF), is a very positive person to be around. She is rarely seen without a smile and she is well known for always being the first person to step in and help if someone is in need. This speaks very loudly about her as a person as she has been battling Carcinoid Cancer since 2006. This is a slow-growing type of neuroendocrine tumor. Every time she thinks she has it beat, it comes back. "But do not feel sorry for me" she said. "People come and say to me, 'I am so sorry. If I was in your shoes, I would die.' But I say 'Why? Why fear any illness? It is much better to stay positive.'"

LCCF has always been very good to help others in the community. Our staff is extremely giving, and when it is one of our own, the outpouring of love is even stronger. This was the largest showing in an individual fundraiser to date. After the sale/auction we had raised \$3,417. Generous donors gave an additional \$1,250 making the total presented to Ms. Garcia \$4,667. LCCF would like to wish Ms. Garcia a safe trip and a speedy recovery.

**Pictured Top:** Esther Garcia, Cancer Survivor.  
**Pictured Right:** Lunch is Served; From left to right: Valerie Naegele, Contract Monitor; Angela Wimberley, Admin. Assistant; Stacy Massengill-Munro, Mental Health Provider, and Katherine Brodie, QA/ACA Manager.



## "Do you like Green Eggs and Ham?"

Written By Amy Gillus,  
Rivers Correctional Institution

**A**sks Warden Brick Tripp- as Bearfield primary third graders gathered on the rug surrounding Warden Tripp. National Education Association Read Across America Day, an annual reading motivation and awareness program, calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on or around the birth date of Children's author Dr. Seuss. In recognition of this event, Warden Tripp selected the best-selling and critically acclaimed children's book Green Eggs and Ham.

During the academic year, Warden Tripp tries to take time out of his busy schedule to visit the local primary school to promote reading because he wants the younger students to know how important it is to read.





# Always Something Going On

## at Central Arizona Correctional Facility

Written By **Sheryl Augstums, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**

**I**n **January** 2014, we installed an OSHA approved electronic board that registers days without lost time due to work related injuries. Along with this heightened awareness of minimizing on-the-job incidents, a \$50 gift card incentive is awarded to four lucky staff members by a random drawing every two months. All you have to do to qualify for the drawing is to be Safe! Also in January, we held the Biggest Loser campaign. Weigh-ins are held every month, and as of March 6th, a collective 31.7 lbs. had been lost by thirteen staff members, with Fire/Safety Manager Dana Weaver leading the way. These thirteen dedicated losers have quite a fan club of those not participating, who are eager to cheer them on.

In **February**, Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) welcomed a new member to the CACF Team, Warden Bennie Rollins. Mr. Rollins actually served as our Deputy Warden from 2008-2011, leaving us to be the Warden at GEO's sister facility in Phoenix, AZ. He returns to Florence with some fresh ideas and his trademark "Can Do" attitude.

**March** came quick with an impromptu Food Bank Drive sponsored by Swing Shift. CACF is working in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Corrections, Pinal County and the Town of Florence to coordinate an effective Emergency Preparedness Team to work with FEMA, and the Arizona Dept. of Emergency Management and Military Affairs. Representing our facility are Training Manager Jonathan Hopkins and Security Lt. David Dowling.

In **April**, Basic Education Classrooms sponsored a GED Graduation. We were proud to be able to graduate over 100 inmates in 2013. The graduates wear caps and gowns and have photos taken to mark the occasion. Family members and friends who are on the approved visitation list are invited to attend and are served dessert courtesy of the CACF Food Service Staff. Also in April, GEO will be represented at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. This event will consist of several different activities, including the always emotional Survivor's Lap. Participants include Warden Bennie Rollins, DW Billy Massingill, Lt. Susan Ashworth, CPO's Sunni Sepulveda

& Cammie Valtierra, Correctional Officers Sheila Justis, Graciela Nicoletti, Victor Cooper, and numerous others.

**May** is always one of our favorite months, because we get to celebrate and support all the hard working officers, supervisors, Medical, Programs & Support staff in Corrections. Week long festivities are being planned including a luncheon, donuts and maybe even the occasional healthy snack.

**June** isn't too early to start thinking about back to school (at least not for parents!) and one of our very favorite activities is collecting backpacks & school supplies for organizations such as CASA Foster Care Services for Children and Head Start Programs. There are so many children in Pinal County who wouldn't have the excitement of new backpacks, notebooks and brightly colored pens and pencils for back to school to look forward to without the help of the facility donations.

Of course the day-to-day business of providing offender supervision and programs management takes center stage in all our activities. CACF is honored to be recognized by the Arizona Department of Corrections and outside agencies for our exceptional sex offender education and treatment programs. We are also very proud of our medical and dental unit.

That's a wrap for the first half of 2014. We have every reason to be hopeful that the next six months will be filled with just as much activity as the last six. We continue to strive to be a good neighbor to the town of Florence, Pinal County, and to help The GEO Group shine in the State of Arizona.





## Community Partnerships with PNC Bank

Plainfield Short Term Offender Program partners with PNC Bank to assist offenders in Financial Planning and Fiscal Responsibility instruction

Written By

David Burch & Rhonda Gardner  
Plainfield Short Term Offender Program

**T**he Plainfield Short Term Offender Program (STOP) has partnered with PNC Bank to assist offenders in Financial Planning and Fiscal Responsibility instruction. This includes Banking 101, Credit 101, Budgeting, Foundations of Money Management, Saving, and Homebuying.

PNC provides program facilitators from area branches to present monthly financial seminars. This opportunity will soon increase to a six week financial responsibility course. The goal of the course is to instruct and foster the basic fundamentals of financial responsibility enabling the offenders to better manage resources upon release.

Preparing offenders for re-entry as a responsible and successful citizen, parent, and spouse, is the goal at the STOP Facility. Partnering with community resources such as PNC contributes to building bridges between the offenders and community and reduces the likelihood of a return to incarceration. Offenders see the efforts of the community based resources inside our facility, and this delivers the message of belonging, self worth, and positive relationships. As the opportunity to educate the public grows, so does our volunteer base!

## Karnes County Civil Detention Center Partners with Afterschool Centers on Education

Written By Rhea Cantu, Karnes County Civil Detention Center

**I**n 2013, Karnes County Civil Detention Center (KCCDC) partnered with the Karnes County Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) Program. KCCDC staff donated bags of Halloween candy and in October, we were able to provide Halloween goody bags to all the students of this program. In December, KCCDC also collected donations to provide an ACE student and their family with all the trimmings for Christmas dinner.

Finding safe, affordable after school care is a major challenge for working families. Texas ACE is a program that working families can rely on. With the majority of ACE programs operating 12 or more hours, 4 to 5 days per week, ACE is there for you. While concerns about unsupervised children pressure families, they also profoundly affect employers. Invest in kids shows that 87 percent of working mothers say the hours after school are when they are most concerned about their children's safety and this "afterschool stress" can lead to distraction that causes lower productivity, high turnover and absenteeism for working mothers and fathers (Polling by Fight Crime). Parents in a 2004 TASC study said that afterschool programs helped them balance work and family life: 94 percent said the programs were convenient, 60 percent said they missed less work than before because of programs, 59

percent said it supported them in keeping their job, and 54 percent said it allowed them to work more hours.

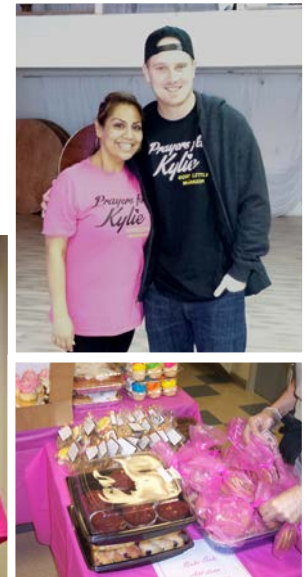
Texas ACE further assists working families by providing family engagement activities that include parenting skills, health and fitness classes, english as a second language classes, internet safety, GED assistance, budgeting classes, and even tax preparation. So, when asked what we do, these are the three points we share. Yet, ultimately Texas ACE Programs are making a difference every day in the lives of the youth who are served.

For this reason, Karnes County Civil Detention Center believes that ACE is a valuable asset to our community, and we are pleased to be able to support the students and staff.



# Western Region Detention Facility Show Love and Support for Kylie

Written By Tiffany Hartley, Western Region Detention Facility



The holiday season is typically filled with joy and laughter, spent among our most cherished loved ones. Unfortunately, one of our own had a completely different fate. A very tragic turn of events began to unfold just days before Christmas for the Rowand family.

Lt. Luke Rowand and his wife Bree noticed that their 19 month old daughter Kylie's eye appeared to be swollen. They quickly visited her doctor and were advised that she needed to be tested. Tragically, the tests revealed that Kylie was plagued with dozens of tumors all throughout her tiny little body. The diagnosis: High risk, Stage 4 Neuroblastoma. This terrible discovery would mark the beginning of a very long and emotionally bumpy road. Her childhood years will demand countless tests and therapies, some that will require her to travel to New York City as that is where the top-rated specialists practice. As I'm sure any mother would do, Bree quit her job to take care of Kylie full time and Lt. Rowand is fighting another battle; he must stay strong for his family yet still provide financially.

Her campaign, 'Prayers for Kylie,' was created by her mother to spread awareness of this disease. Fundraisers have been popping up all around the county to assist the Rowand family in obtaining the greatest possible care for Kylie, or God's Little Warrior, as nicknamed by her mother. Kylie quickly began chemo-

therapy and she is such a tough little cookie! One would never know the war she is battling as she is constantly smiling and laughing. Bree regularly updates her 'Prayers for Kylie, God's Little Warrior' Facebook page with photos and summaries of their days at the hospital. Videos of Kylie taking walks with her parents around the hospital grounds will undoubtedly bring tears to your eyes; she walks without a care in the world, just happy to be outside with her mommy and daddy.

We here at Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF) have also come together as one, to embrace our friend Luke and to show him and his family that we are here for them. We quickly sought out ideas for our own fundraisers and held a 'Prayers for Kylie' bake sale and shaved our heads!

The same day, our staff barber, George Bishop, volunteered his services to shave heads in support of Kylie and cancer awareness. First in line to shave their manes were Chief Carney, Deputy Warden Allen, Business Manager St. Jean, Warden Noonan and even our chaplain, Grace Lemus! Officers and other non-security staff from all shifts lined up to shave their heads as well, and some have even chosen to stay hairless until Kylie gets better; every day is a constant reminder that we together are fighting this war with Lt. Rowand.

Rosa Valdez, our payroll clerk, sponsored an event titled 'Zumbathon' which was held at the studio where she takes Zumba classes. The instructors at Illusion Dance Studio were excited to volunteer their time and donated all proceeds to the Rowand family. The two hour event was sold-out; well over a hundred people were packed into the studio to offer their prayers and dance their hearts out in Kylie's honor.

Kylie's story has touched all of our hearts. Lt. Rowand, we share your pain and we are here to help you endure this battle. As mothers and fathers, the last thing in the world we ever want to hear is that our child is severely ill; we don't wish this pain on anyone. Together we pray for Kylie and for the healthy life this beautiful, little angel deserves.

Please visit her Facebook page, "Prayers for Kylie, God's Little Warrior" and learn about her courageous fight against cancer. Her journey has just begun and she needs an army to help her conquer this horrific disease.

.....  
**Pictured clockwise:** - Staff that participated in the shaving their heads in support of baby Kylie; Rosa Valdez Payroll Specialist with Lt. Rowand father of Baby kylie; Items brought in by staff for Bake Sale.



**GTI Corner: Spotlight**

# Frank Thomas

Moshannon Valley Correctional Center

Written By Peter Provencher, GTI

**M**oshannon Valley Correctional Center (MVCC) is located in Philipsburg, PA which is in the central part of the state. Within a few miles of the facility is the town of State College home of the Penn State Nittany Lions. MVCC serves their client, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP), with great pride and dedication to excellence. The GEO Transportation Inc. (GTI) operation is managed by Transportation Supervisor Frank Thomas and his team of four dedicated Transportation Officers who maintain an impressive safety record with no USDOT reportable accidents.

Mr. Thomas and his team of professional Transport Officers have a unique assignment with transportation missions to one of the busiest cities in the country, Brooklyn, New York. In addition, the facility supports USMS JPATS air operations in Harrisburg, PA, Stewart, NY and Pittsburg, PA including a very challenging mission to the Eastern Regional Federal Bureau of Prisons Hub for federal inmates with a 2,500 inmate population that

rotates daily-hourly. MVCC GTI Transport Officers routinely maneuver a Motor Coach (MCI) bus in tight alleys and busy highways to get into the Metropolitan Detention Center facility, in the heart of Brooklyn. Mr. Thomas and his team maintain all local off site transportation missions and work security posts at MVCC on a daily basis.

Mr. Thomas is a GTI Driver Trainer. He has successfully completed the intensive GTI, Department of Transportation program and is licensed to train and certify GTI drivers on DOT Road Tests for GTI. Mr. Thomas takes great pride in his role in the safe GTI-DOT operation of the MVCC - GTI vehicle fleet. The MVCC team travels an average of 5,000 safe accident free miles a month. MVCC annually averages 50,000 miles traveled and moves 1,800 detainees with

600 off site secure transportation missions. Mr. Thomas and his team play a crucial role in maintaining GTI's outstanding safety record while upholding the GTI commitment to our client and to the public, **"To provide the safe and secure transportation of detainees and inmates with quality service second to none."**

**Pictured Top: Left to Right:** Transport Officer-Robert Chase Transport, Captain Frank Thomas-Transport Supervisor, and Transport Officer Mark Wisor.  
**Pictured Bottom:** GEO Transport Vehicles



## PACE supports Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Written By Millie Vargas & PACE Members, Corporate HR



**Pictured Left to Right:** PACE members: Millie Vargas, Cynthia Miranda, Jose Krasniansky, Renauri Castro, Miriam Lazar, Linda Tchet, Viola Antia, Lisa Clark and Jeannette Jordan.

**T**he Junior Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), the leading global organization focused on Type I Diabetes research, takes steps to raise funds and awareness through walks and various charitable functions each year.

The Planning And Coordinating of Events (PACE) corporate employee committee, for the third year, contributed their time and joined in the fight to cure Type I Diabetes. Some PACE members attended this year's JDRF Gala, with PACE and The GEO Group Foundation contributing a total of \$3,000. In past years, PACE members contributed their time, talents and treasures by attending the Walk or the Gala.

Knowing that we are trying to make a difference in finding a cure for Type I Diabetes is extremely rewarding. If not treated properly Type I Diabetes can be fatal.

I know from experience because a member of my family passed away 8 years ago from this deadly disease. There are many coworkers throughout GEO who deal with Type I Diabetes every day of their lives. It is because of this that PACE is committed to supporting the JDRF and their fundraising events. It is a charity that we, GEO and PACE, will proudly continue to support.

# Kicking The Habit

Written By **Traci Wright, Corporate HR**

This past year GEO created the “I Quit Tobacco” campaign to award those employees who have achieved the difficult task of overcoming their dependency on tobacco. Whether it was smoking cigarettes, cigars or pipes, using chewing tobacco or electronic cigarettes, many of you achieved this goal and shared your success stories with us. We have provided some winning suggestions that helped these GEO employees quit. Will you make kicking the habit your goal for 2014?



**Glenn Smith,  
Rivers Correctional**

“Get a partner. Once you have other people involved you are far less likely to fail.”



**Derek White,  
Blackwater River Correctional**

“Consulting my doctor and using prescription medication helped me quit.”



**Sara Fink, Cambria County Day Reporting Center**

“I used the tobacco cessation phone based coaching offered by Healthyroads.”



**Dan Hutchinson, Northeastern New Mexico Detention Center**

“Using the American Cancer Society smoking cessation program helped me quit.”



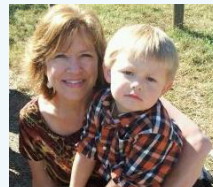
**Leeanna Logan,  
Abraxas Ohio**

“I used [www.whyquit.org](http://www.whyquit.org) to keep my momentum going; it really helped me track my progress.”



**Armando Mireles,  
Big Spring Correctional**

“Don’t just say you wish you could quit, do it! Get help with a smoking cessation program.”



**Sheri Howell,  
Rivers Correctional**

“Take it one day at a time. Take away the factors that make you want to smoke. Hold a pencil in place of a cigarette, it helps.”



**Ken Douglas,  
Big Spring Correctional**

“Surround yourself with the support of friends that don’t smoke and encourage your smoking friends to quit with you.”



**Jovanny Hernandez,  
Grossman Center**

“Keep your goal in mind and close to you. It’s a mindset. You can reach your goal!”



**Shirley Holmberg,  
Northstar Center**

“I went to a stop smoking class that was offered free by a local health entity.”

For more information and advice on how to quit log on to [www.healthyroad.com](http://www.healthyroad.com).

They offer a comprehensive tobacco cessation program, including phone based coaching programs and online resources to give you every chance to succeed.



## Employee Recognition at LDF

Written By **Betty Beckham, LaSalle Detention Facility**

**Pictured Left to Right:** Ms. Joan May, Ms. Sangria Fitch, Mr. Charles Coleman and Warden D.C. Cole.

Congratulations are in order for the LaSalle Detention Facility's (LDF) Employee Recognition 2013 for Ms. Joan May, Ms. Sangria Fitch and Mr. Charles Coleman. Each month LDF selects three employees to be recognized for their accomplishments, dedication and hard work. Their names are submitted at the end of the year for the selection of the employee of the year for LDF. It is a hard decision to make for both the Warden and his Executive Staff. When a decision is finally made, it is a recognition we are proud to share with our Regional office, our staff, and the community.

**Payroll Clerk, Ms. Joan May,** began her employment with LDF two years ago as the receptionist and was promoted to payroll just over a year later. She quickly picked up on the payroll responsibilities and according to her supervisor, is the "best payroll clerk that she has ever had at LDF." She understands the importance of the timeline and the problems that can arise with employee pay. She meets everyone with a smile, exercises patience and never gets defensive when discussing problems or payroll issues with an employee. Along with her payroll duties, she has cross-trained to pay invoices and is the back up to all GTI travel needs. Not only does she handle payroll and other duties, she volunteers to assist with employee events and yearly fund raisers. Joan's computer skills are excellent and she never hesitates to assist someone who

may be having a problem with understanding programs, printing issues or copy jams. She works well with everyone inside and outside the office. She remains professional and friendly every day.

**Correctional Officer, Ms. Sangria Fitch,** began her employment with LDF five years ago and is assigned to the Intake/Property Department of LDF. This requires flexibility, dependability, punctuality and responsibility. She displays all of these qualities each and every day while performing her duties. She has single handedly streamlined the process for inventorying detainee property, to include all valuables, and developed strategies for ensuring no property is left behind when a detainee is released from LDF. She often takes on additional duties in readying property for the other officers on different shifts. She willingly accepts any duty given to her regardless of the task and never hesitates to respond to any emergency and demonstrates her training received as part of the CERT (certified emergency response team). She is a great asset to the facility and to GEO. She demonstrates great work ethic and self-motivation and performs her duties with little to no supervision required and takes the completion of every task personally and does it with pride. She has a great working relationship with the facility supervisors, her peers and our client ICE. Her reports, both verbally and in writing, are always detailed and complete.

**GTI Officer, Mr. Charles Coleman,** began his employment with LDF four years ago. He is an industrious and versatile individual who approaches any task enthusiastically and is confident of his abilities. Mr. Coleman expresses his highest degree of acceptance and understanding of his job duties. He has a positive attitude, uses good common sense and thorough professional knowledge. These attributes contribute to the daily success of the GTI fleet. He is a proven performer with endless potential and ability and on a daily basis supports exceptional performance and a strong sense of duty. He is a self-starter and he initiates a daily program of excellence as it applies to preparing logs, vehicle inspections and operations.

Mr. Coleman performs well in all situations and uses sound judgment and logic to solve difficult and ever-changing problems and situations. He is a poised and mature officer with a thirst for knowledge and a desire for challenge. He adds more to his job than expected as he takes the time to understand the mission and demonstrates the willingness and patience to execute it with an impressive record of accomplishments. He gives complete, optimistic and energetic support to his superiors while symbolizing the top quality professionalism within by demonstrating these values to others.

## GEO Receives

# American Heart Association's Platinum Fit-Friendly Award

Written By Susan Napolitano, Corporate HR

The GEO Group has been recognized as a **Platinum Level Fit-Friendly Worksite** by the American Heart Association for the 3rd year in a row, having jumped up from our Gold level in prior years.

This year, we also earned the Worksite Innovation Award resulting from the many creative and effective programs we've introduced to increase physical activity and wellness opportunities for our employees through our GEOfit-for-life wellness program. GEO recognizes the importance of making the health and wellness of our employees a priority and offers employees encouragement and support to increase their physical activities, lose weight, eat healthy and stop smoking.

We've encouraged participation in the National Walking Day campaign throughout our locations; we participated in the AHA's Heart Walk, and last year we sponsored "Kick Butt Day" to encourage and support Tobacco Cessation. We're proud to report that year over year, many employees have stopped smoking—one of the best things you can do for your heart!

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke. We're proud to join them in their efforts to provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases.

As a reminder, here are the warning signs:

### Heart Attack:

Chest Discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain. Discomfort in other areas of the upper body and shortness of breath are other signs.

### Stroke: (F.A.S.T.)

**Face Drooping:** ask the person to smile;

**Arm Weakness:** does one arm drift downward when arms raised?

**Speech Difficulty:** slurred speech, unable to speak or hard to understand

**Time to call 9-1-1:** if the person shows any of these symptoms, call immediately.

### Cardiac Arrest:

Sudden loss of responsiveness;  
No response to tapping on shoulders;  
No normal breathing.

### Call 9-1-1 Immediately

We can't be reminded enough about these life-saving tips. As you can see, getting to a hospital quickly is important and having a trained EMS team available via 911 will save precious moments and lives.

## timeline



The GEO Group, Inc.

March 27, 2014

GEO representing at a community career fair in Fairbanks, Alaska! How many likes can we get from AK????



47 People Like this.



The GEO Group, Inc.

March 24, 2014

Have you checked out The GEO Foundation's Photo Book?



The GEO Foundation's Photo Book

The GEO Group Foundation's mission is to support the community and charitable involvement of employees and facilities of The GEO Group.



The GEO Group, Inc.

March 17, 2014

Here are exclusive behind the scene photos of The #GEO Group employees being filmed for Healthyroads short video about being a healthy and fit company. What do you do to keep healthy and fit? #healthy #fit #healthyworkplace #active



16 People Like this.



Be apart of our story.

facebook.com/GEOGroup



## Spotlight on the Star: **Officer David Ortega, Jr.**

Written By **Shihpei Stevenson**, Northwest Detention Center

**S**potlight on the Star is a series that showcases staff members at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) for their admirable community involvement or unique life stories. In our second installment of the series, I would like to introduce to you Detention Officer David Ortega, Jr.

Officer Ortega has been working at the NWDC for almost seven years. He also served on the Focus Group, a body of employees who act as a liaison between management and line staff, since its inception in 2010. During that time, he also served on the Party Planners Committee and helped organize numerous facility functions. Officer Ortega's contribution to the overall welfare of the work force is definitely noticed by many at the NWDC.

On the personal side, Officer Ortega is a founding member of a car club named "Ortega Familia." Five years ago, Officer Ortega got together with his friends and family and decided to do something about their passion for classic cars. They began going to car shows together. They enjoyed showing off their prized classic cars and had lots of fun admiring other people's cars; the thing that all "car people" do. One thing led to another, and the club grew. Now they meet at least once a month and more often if there are more shows to attend.

Members of the Ortega Familia not only attend car shows together, they are also very active in serving the community. They have done toy

**Northwest Detention Center  
Tacoma, WA**



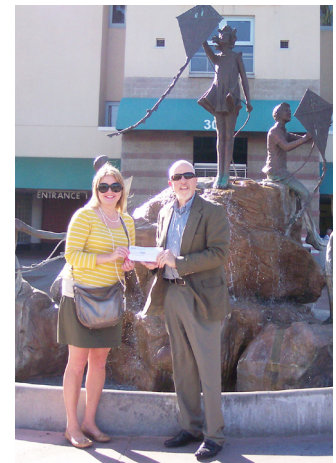
drives for the kids, car washes that benefit the community, and even passed out blankets at a homeless shelter. It is not surprising to us that the car club is involved in this type of community services; Officer Ortega is in it!

Another reason that prompted Officer Ortega to build the car club is so that he can instill a sense of appreciation for cars in his five-year-old son. Officer Ortega learned all about cars from his father, and he wanted his son to have the same opportunity to continue that tradition. Now his son's most cherished toy is a small wagon that he made for him. In a few years, he'll be old enough to start working on cars with Officer Ortega; there is nothing more precious than that in the eyes of Officer Ortega.



**Pictured Top:** Detention Officer David Ortega. **Pictured Bottom:** Examples of cars that belong to the Ortega Familia; Officer Ortega's son, Santos Ortega, and his toy cars.





## Giving Back to the Community

Warden Noonan presented a check for \$5,000 to Alyssa Skon, from Rady Children's Hospital.

Written By **Rosalie Smith,**  
**Western Region Detention Facility**

## Activation Success

### Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility

Written By **Alex Calvo, Central Valley MCCF**

On October 23, 2013, the Central Valley MCCF began receiving its first group of inmates as part of the facility's diligent and focused effort in bringing this institution on-line. Located in McFarland, California, the facility is designed and equipped to house 700 male inmates entrusted to us by our client, the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation (CDCR).

As a result of cooperation, dedication, commitment and a great deal of hard work the Central Valley MCCF was re-activated as a correctional institutional after a period of over two years in which it had been rendered as inactive. Through a concerted effort and unwavering commitment to excellence, Central Valley MCCF was able to accomplish this over a very short period of time; just twenty-four days after its first group of employees started their orientation.

Over the course of the past four and half months, staff at Central Valley MCCF have worked tirelessly and diligently at recruiting the highest quality staff who embody The GEO Group's vision, mission, and values. Each department at our local facility has put forth a tremendous effort at recruiting and maintaining a fully staffed team.

A stand out performance and effort has been made by our Programs Department in the recruitment and training of educational/vocational staff so as to meet the institutional needs of providing our inmate population at Central Valley MCCF with access to an array of educational and vocational classes. Classroom subjects now offered at Central Valley MCCF consist of classes for Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education (GED), English as a Second Language (ESL), Pre-Release, Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC), Painting/Drywall, and Office Services Related Technology (OSRT).

Central Valley MCCF will continue in its constant pursuit of excellence in 2014 and in the years ahead. It is with this commitment in mind that the staff at Central Valley MCCF embrace and welcome opportunities for personal and professional growth while aspiring to be the industry leader in providing the best correctional services in our community.

**Pictured Bottom:** Facility Entrance; Central Valley's doors opened for inmates on October 23, 2013.

Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego is a nonprofit, 520-bed pediatric-care facility dedicated to excellence in care, research and teaching. Rady Children's Hospital is a major pediatric clinical research center, working in collaboration with world-renowned institutions, including UC San Diego, the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, The Scripps Research Institute, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

In October 2010, they opened the Acute Care Pavilion, making them the largest children's hospital in California and the sixth largest hospital in the country. Parents and children come to Rady Children's from across the country to see nationally renowned physicians.

In addition, Warden Noonan presented a check for \$5,000 to the Monarch School in San Diego, which is exclusively for students in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade, who are homeless.



## Broward Has Done It Again!

Broward Transitional Center is proud to announce they became reaccredited with the American Correctional Association for the fifth time, receiving a score of 100%.

Written By **Sarah Spiro**,  
Broward Transitional Center

**B**roward Transitional Center (BTC) is proud to announce that during the week of March 17, 2014 they became reaccredited with the American Correctional Association for the fifth time. Not only did BTC pass but they received a score of 100% compliance with all 358 standards in both mandatory and non-mandatory for the second time in a row.

The audit team commented on how professional staff were, the sanitation of the facility along with all of the renovations since the last ACA audit and the atmosphere of the facility. BTC staff has worked together and through their teamwork was able to accomplish the goal of scoring 100%.

Broward would also like to thank the regional and corporate offices for providing assistance throughout the accreditation period to ensure the reaccreditation.

**Pictured Left to Right:** Warden Joel Ziegler, Sarah Spiro, Compliance Administrator and Michael Bradley, Director of Accreditation.



## H-Unit Military Veterans Program

### New Castle Correctional Facility

Written By **Richard Burke**, New Castle Correctional Facility

**O**ne of the first orders given by Warden Keith Butts was to establish a unit that would house military veterans and provide programming tailored to meet their needs. Beginning February 13, 2013, Unit Team Manager Richard Burke, and Case Work Manager Hugh Applegate, started identifying and moving offenders with prior military service to H-Unit, thus establishing the H-Unit Military Veterans (H.U.M.V.) unit at the New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF).

Additional duties included compiling resource materials for offender facilitated programs that would be suitable for offenders with prior military service. In short order, program aides were identified and classes like Personal Finance, Thinking for a Change, 12-Steps, Anger Management, and other cognitive restructuring programming were up and running.

In addition, unit team staff developed a database to track all veterans incarcerated at New Castle Correctional Facility, not just the initial 108 participants of the program. The purpose of the database was to enable the program aides to deliver important Veterans Administration benefits, health-care and housing information to veteran offenders not participating in the program. This practice has evolved into Operation +1 Month. The +1 Month mission is to provide all incarcerated veterans at NCCF the contacts, referrals and tools to assist the offenders within thirty days into their re-entry.

Warden Butts required that there be a community service component to the H.U.M.V. Program. In response, the unit conducted their first fundraiser over the Memorial Day weekend 2013. The H.U.M.V. Cookout food sale was extremely successful and allowed the program to donate \$2,000 to the Building Homes for Heroes organization. H.U.M.V. participants also write letters to currently deployed and injured soldiers through Operation Gratitude. By late August of 2013, the H.U.M.V. was honored with the establishment of their very own self sufficient American Legion Post 830. The veteran offenders and staff are constantly looking for other avenues that will provide an opportunity for community service.

The practice of housing like offenders together is not new in corrections, but sometimes it yields unexpected results. Since the inception of the H.U.M.V. there have only been four conduct reports issued to participants of the program and only one of a serious nature. H-Unit itself stays inspection ready and decorated in full military regalia. The offenders show the staff and visitors to the unit the upmost respect and are willing to comply with any orders issued. Warden Butt's vision for the program is ever growing and continues to inspire the offenders to better themselves and the facility.

# Veteran to Veteran Alliance

Written By David Burch and Rhonda Gardner, Plainfield Short Term Offender Program



Plainfield Short Term Offender Program  
Plainfield, IN

Addressing the needs and the challenges of the men who served our country has become one of the focuses at the Plainfield Short Term Offender Program (STOP). The STOP Facility seeks to restore veterans to a productive life by empowering and equipping the men to obtain and maintain gainful employment upon re-entry. The Mission is to educate, train, and motivate through partnership and participation.

The STOP Facility has partnered with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to provide a program that is unique to Indiana. The Vet to Vet Alliance Program provides intensive services to veterans who have significant barriers to employment and are economically or educationally disadvantaged. Cathy Kynard, Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist, as well as a veteran herself added: "In today's highly competitive workforce, having a criminal background, especially a felony conviction, is probably the greatest barrier to obtaining employment-particularly employment that pays a family wage. It's our responsibility to equip veteran offenders with the skills to be as successful in the workplace as they were on the battlefield. They have honorable military service to be proud of, and they can be empowered to return to an honorable civilian life."

The Veterans at the STOP Facility are housed together in a specific unit. This decision was made to acknowledge their service while providing them with an opportunity to recall their honorable service to our nation with each other. This arrangement allows for the Veterans to support one another while facing

the challenges and opportunities ahead. The Unit's Case Manager, Arnold Jenkins, is also a veteran and understands the importance of their service and the challenges many Veterans face adjusting to their new life outside the military.

The facility Chaplain, James Barker, who served in the U.S. Air Force, oversees the Veterans Program working with Ms. Kynard. "I believe the program aides in giving back what may have been lost and assists our veterans in adjusting to civilian life and the community they will face upon release," said Barker.

The planning for the Vet to Vet Alliance at the Plainfield Short Term Offender Program (STOP) began in October of 2013. The first Vet to Vet Alliance meeting was held in February 2014 with great anticipation. One offender stated, "I didn't think anyone cared anymore, like my time in the service didn't mean anything." The Vet program reinforces the commitment the STOP facility honors to prepare incarcerated veterans to re-enter society with plans, goals and skills necessary to be successful. All veterans received a care package and other approved items donated by The Path Home during the initial meeting.

The STOP Facility is currently scheduling a Career Search Program for Veterans. This will be a 12 week program providing veterans a framework for career direction as well as an effective strategy on how to prepare for release. This includes formal training sessions, educational videos, presentations, along with individual assistance and mentoring. All areas covered are crucial to the long term success upon re-entry.

Veterans will enjoy a Career Resource Center as part of this program. This Center will provide employment information, training opportunities, job search strategies, computer aided instruction, as well as career exploration and assessments to match interest, skills and abilities to a career. This Career Resource Center serves as the bridge between the facility and community resources.

On May 20th, the facility will host an "Official Vet to Vet Alliance Kick Off" to include community dignitaries. Kelley Bernadean, President LAVFW Post 6128 will be making the Presentation of Flags to Superintendent David Burch. Tony Cross, Chief Executive Officer of Operation Job Ready will be a guest speaker. Robert Luenebrink, Co-Founder of The Path Home, will present a check for the STOP Career Resource Center.

## Vet to Vet Alliance, preparing Veterans for Re-Entry.





## The GEO Group Earns **Gold** in Healthyroads Fit Company Wellness Award

Written By **Susan Napolitano, Corporate HR**



**F**or the second year in a row, GEO has earned the Healthyroads “GOLD Fit Company Wellness Award,” thanks to the hard work and effort of all of our employees. Our employees are getting more active, our biometric risk numbers are decreasing, and many have quit smoking.

As the Chairman and CEO of Healthyroads, George DeVries proclaimed, “GEO’s wellness program holds true to its name—GEOfit-for-life.” We were selected based on our creative contests such as “I Quit Tobacco” and “Step It UP with Steve,” communications, employer commitment to worksite wellness and most importantly, our employee participation (which at 96%, we are proud to say is unique in the wellness industry!).

**Particularly impressive were the 706 million steps our employees walked in 2013.**

Judges included leading wellness experts from Healthyroads and other top-ranked organizations. We’re delighted to have been chosen and wish to congratulate all of you who have made this award possible.

As part of this award, Healthyroads came to our Corporate offices in March to film a short video, capturing our employee’s experiences first hand and showcasing our culture. We will announce when the video will be available for viewing on GEOnet, HR InTouch and on the Healthyroads portal.

**Pictured:** Dr. George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder of The GEO Group, and Steve Fuller, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, holding the Gold Fit Company Award for 2013.



1st

## Advisory Committee Meeting

Written By **Craig Hanks,**  
Moore Haven Correctional Facility

“It is good  
to have  
GEO back.”

**O**n Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at 11:00 am, the Moore Haven Correctional Facility conducted our first Community Advisory Committee Meeting. Community Leaders representing education, government, religious and service organizations accepted our invitation and enjoyed an information filled lunch.

Special Program guests included Mr. Randy Tift, Regional Director Florida Department of Corrections and Neal Morris, Manager, Florida Department of Management Services. Before lunch, each participant received a current copy of GEO World Magazine and an overview of the Company. Warden Craig Hanks led introductions and expressed, “It is good to be back.” This was a reference to the three-year absence from the Moore Haven contract; The GEO Group has returned as the facility manager effective February 1, 2014.

After lunch, a group discussion was initiated with emphasis on identifying all the partners and their roles at the facility. Mr. Neal Morris,

DMS, spoke about their role and responsibility in contract monitoring and the service they provide to the State of Florida. Mr. Randy Tift, DOC, spoke to the fact the inmates are received from the Florida Department of Corrections and The GEO Group is obligated to follow Florida Department of Corrections policy and procedure. Warden Hanks, Mr. Morris and Regional Director Tift acknowledged how essential cooperation and meeting contract requirements are to providing services to the State of Florida and to insure a safe and meaningful environment for the inmates during their incarceration at the Moore Haven Correctional Facility.

Margaret Blackmon, Healthcare Services Administrator, Correctional Health Care, spoke about the medical services and CHC’s role as a medical contractor to The GEO Group. The community participants asked questions concerning emergency training and security at the facility. Several members commented, “It is good to have GEO back.”

## Reeves County Detention Center Honor/Color Guard wins Pecos Chamber of Commerce "Hidden Hero" Award

Written By **Donna Garcia,**  
Reeves County Detention Center I, II & III

**P**art of the criteria for the Pecos Chamber of Commerce "Hidden Hero" category states "Serves others with a modest, humble, quiet and unassuming character." Needless to say this year's winners are very deserving. The winners of the Hidden Hero Award for 2014 are the members of the Reeves County Detention Center Honor/Color Guard.

They have contributed many hours volunteering either lifting the spirits of others or providing a valuable service for our community. Over the past several years the Reeves County Detention Center Honor/Color Guard has participated in multiple events. Whether it is the rodeo parade in 100+ degree heat or the Christmas Parade when it is below freezing, they have led the way. They have been present at parades, sports events, dedications, Christmas lightings, funerals, special events, and the list goes on.

Not knowing if providing this service was considered "part of their job" or whether they were "on the payroll" or not when providing their service - their employer was called and we were told that "this service is above and beyond their normal job duties."

They have provided this service over and over again. They are always polite and

professional and arrive at the designated time, regardless of the weather conditions. When they have finished presenting the colors for an event, they leave as quietly and inconspicuously as they arrived. Always very distinguished in their uniforms, they make a fine impression whenever and wherever they are in attendance.

Major Oscar Solis from RCDC III and Adam Rodriguez, who is the Warehouse Manager for RI & II, are the two gentlemen who have been a constant in the RCDC Honor/Color Guard. They are both Certified Emergency Response Team Commanders for their respective units.

**"They have contributed many hours volunteering either lifting the spirits of others or providing a valuable service for our community."**

Members of the RCDC Honor Guard are Adam Rodriguez, Ernesto Gonzalez, Jeremiah Lozano and Casey Rico from R I&II and Oscar Solis, David Ramirez and Jose Noriega from RIII. RCDC and the community of Pecos are very fortunate to have them in our institutions and community and the Pecos Chamber of Commerce has chosen to honor them as this year's "Hidden Heroes."



**Pictured Top to Bottom:** Adam Rodriguez and Oscar Solis holding the hidden Heroes Award; R/III and R/II employees attend Pecos Chamber Banquet- RIII Warden Ric Martinez and wife; R /II Major Luciano Reyes and wife; Reeves County Detention Center I, II & III.

## Ready, Set, Action!

For the second year in a row, The GEO Group has earned the Healthyroads GOLD Fit Company Wellness Award, thanks to the hard work and effort of all of our employees. As part of this award, Healthyroads came to our Corporate office in March to film a short video, capturing our employee's experiences first hand and showcasing our culture. **To read the full article about the award, please turn to page 18.**





# Central Region Succession Planning

Written By Jimmy Dugger, Central Region Office

We are now well into our second year of the Central Region Succession Planning project and are now able to evaluate what has been taking place here in the Central Region.

The ultimate goal for us was to identify and develop the future leaders of our company. Through vast research into the initiation phases of a succession planning project, we realized that the two biggest questions to be answered were how do we identify the potential successors and how do we effectively train them into successors? In our initial efforts to create this match between the future needs of GEO and the aspirations of individual employees, we soon realized that we were facing a challenge.

### How to Identify Successors?

The first thing that we agreed upon was the potential successors had to possess the aspiration to succeed. We did not want to push anyone who believed they were not ready to pursue additional responsibilities. Only volunteer candidates were accepted.

Secondly, we wanted candidates who had the support from their Facility Administration, their Supervisors, and from those they supervised or worked along-

side. Questionnaires were developed and completed by all three levels of the people directly impacted by the candidate's decisions and actions. The potential participants were given proficiency tests to reveal their report writing skills and ability to convey thoughts. It is our belief that the ability to write an effective report is a necessary skill for communicating in our environment.

Points were assigned to the different levels of collected data and with the 2013 class, the top 11 candidates from across the Region were selected to participate in the inaugural program. For the 2014 class, we selected the top 13 candidates. We were excited about the composition of both classes and had students from several different areas of expertise including security, medical, human resources, training, and business.

### How Do We Train Them Into Successors?

Over the course of the year, the candidates were summoned to the Regional Office in San Antonio for several training sessions. The Regional Directors facilitate the majority of the topics presented which allowed the participants to be presented with an "inside" look into operations and expectations at the Regional level with each

Regional director presenting information on their field of responsibility including Operations, Business, Maintenance, Training, Auditing, and Human Resources. The classes were also formally introduced to Mr. Hurley who offered them words of encouragement and congratulations for them being involved in the program.

With the 2014 class still ongoing and the 2013 class having already been completed, we would like to offer the results from our 2013 class as a scale of program success: Nine out of eleven candidates received promotions during their first year of involvement within the succession planning project. A working succession system made it easier for us to identify and develop those employees with the potential advancement within GEO.

A well-developed succession planning process increases the retention of skilled employees as the participants recognize that the time, attention and skill development is being invested in them for the purpose of career development. When you continue to challenge and reward talented employees, you eliminate their need to seek opportunities elsewhere.



**Pictured Left to Right: Top Row:** Reed Smith (Facilitator), Danny Coronado, Lawrence Gillett, Robert Garza, and Zenon De Los Santos. **Bottom Row:** Danna Coapland (Facilitator), Jimmy Marr (Facilitator), Anita Garner, Betty Oliva, Destiny Mozingo, Miguel Acuna, and Jimmy Dugger (Facilitator). **Not Shown:** Robert Harding, Gary Turnbull, and Erma Welch

# Improving the Lives of local Disabled Youth

Written By Tammi Levine, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

Arthur Gorrie inmates from the timber workshop have manufactured and modified tables and furniture for the residents at the Youngcare Apartment.



**Pictured:** Industries Trade Instructor Andy Rocks (left) and Finance & Administration Manager Sidd Mehta (back right) with residents and carers at Sinnamon Village Youngcare Apartments.

Inmates from the Arthur Gorrie timber workshop have manufactured and modified tables and fabricated outdoor furniture to meet the specific requirements of residents at the Youngcare Apartment complex in suburban Brisbane.

The apartments are supported by Wesley Mission and offer a superior quality of life for young people with disabilities or injuries. Most of the residents are restricted to wheelchairs.

Before Youngcare existed the options were limited for young people who, because of disability or injury, had high care needs.

Most lived in aged care facilities as there was no alternative. The Youngcare Apartments provide more suitable accommodation and a service support system in a youthful and invigorating environment.

**Pictured Right:** Finance & Administration Manager Sidd Mehta (back right) trying the new furniture at Sinnamon Village Youngcare Apartments



**Pictured Left to Right:** Correctional Manager Jamie Clohesy and Open Place clinician David Hartmann.

## Forgotten Australians

Written By Regina Regulka, Fulham Correctional Centre

During the last century as the result of a government initiative to try and protect “at risk” children, more than 500,000 were removed from their families and placed in institutions or out-of-home care for a variety of reasons, mainly relating to poverty and family breakdown. It was a time when there was little support for families in crisis.

In Victoria, children who spent all or part of their childhood in a home or orphanages prior to 1990 are known as Forgotten Australians, a term used specifically by the 2004 Senate Committee Inquiry into children held in institutional care.

Open Place, which is a support, and advocacy service that coordinates and provides direct assistance to them are addressing the needs of these Forgotten Australians.

Since 2011, these services have been provided to former wards of the state incarcerated at Fulham Correctional Centre.

The Open Place program at Fulham was implemented after correctional manager Jamie Clohesy became aware of the group’s services and arranged a meeting with Fulham’s counsellors.

Discussions on how the Open Place program could assist affected inmates deal with the legacy of their childhood experiences and the support available to improve their health and well-being were the catalyst for the program being introduced at Fulham.

Now counsellors from Open Place attend the Centre two days a month and talk privately with inmates offering support, advice and new perspectives on their issues.

The counsellors provide help in accessing specialist services, financial assistance and individual advocacy.

After the success of the program’s introduction at Fulham, the Open Place services are now provided to a number of Victorian prisons.

# Parklea Supports Youth

Written By Simone James, Parklea Correctional Centre

**P**arklea Correctional Centre is providing support to the B.E.A.C.O.N Program facilitated through Community Care Services New South Wales.

B.E.A.C.O.N stands for 'Be Encouraged, Achieve Change, Overcome Negativity.' The program targets students identified as difficult to manage who come from disadvantaged families and/or backgrounds. It is currently being staged at high schools in the Mount Druitt and Fairfield areas in Sydney's west.

The program seeks to provide support and mentoring to the target group of students to help address negative behaviour and provide encouragement and motivation to achieve set goals.

Parklea Correctional Centre employees volunteer as B.E.A.C.O.N mentors with the aim of providing a positive influence to the students.

The Centre is also providing food parcels in the form of breakfast and lunch packs which are allocated to the students on the days of the program.

In an effort to expand its support, Parklea will also donate a number of bicycles constructed in its bicycle recycling program to those involved in B.E.A.C.O.N.



**Pictured Top to Bottom:** Parklea Correctional Centre General Manager Peter Ma'a addresses students at Fairfield High School as part of the B.E.A.C.O.N program; Parklea Correctional Centre will donate bikes constructed in its bicycle recycling program to students involved in the program; A group of students at Fairfield High School listen attentively to an address by Parklea Correctional Centre general manager Peter Ma'a.





## Fulham Programs

# Interest GEO Group Corporate Visitors

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

**D**uring their recent visit to Australia, GEO Group Vice Presidents John Thurston and Gary Templeton traveled to Fulham Correctional Centre in eastern Victoria to study the variety of programs being offered to offenders.

They spent much of their time with offender development manager Phil Munnings who gave a comprehensive overview of the courses on offer at Fulham.

**“It was especially pleasing to be able to showcase the MOVED program developed exclusively for Fulham and introduced with such positive**

Of particular interest was the new GEO Mindfulness Overcoming Violence and Emotional Dysregulation (MOVED) Program, which has been endorsed by Corrections Victoria for delivery at Fulham.

The MOVED Program assists violent offenders achieve a better understanding of the causes of their offending, strengthens their motivation to change, and develop skills that will reduce the chances of them committing violent offences in the future.



**Pictured Left to Right:** GEO Group Vice President, Continuum of Care, John Thurston, Vice President Correctional Programs, Gary Templeton with Offender Development Manager, Phil Munnings.

A total of thirty three inmates have completed the MOVED program since it was implemented in August 2012.

The visit was beneficial to both parties with Phil Munnings saying that the opportunity to spend time with two senior members of The GEO Group discussing offender programs was a worthwhile and extremely valuable experience.

“It was especially pleasing to be able to showcase the MOVED program developed exclusively for Fulham and introduced with such positive results,” he said.

The two visitors also toured the medium/minimum security level facility noting that the open campus layout and painted lines on roadways delineating inmates out of bounds areas was an unfamiliar sight.

## Want to Know What's Going On at GEO?



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read our latest news features, learn  
about our services, and look at all our  
locations world-wide.



## Koori Court Explained at Fulham

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

**Pictured Left to right:** FCC Aboriginal Liaison Officer Daniel Skipper, Latrobe Valley Koori Court Officer Trevor Terrick, Latrobe Valley County Koori Court Officer Bronwyn Mongta, Bairnsdale Koori Court Officer Scott King and FCC General Manager Trevor Craig.

**A** boriginal inmates at Fulham Correctional Centre now have the opportunity to learn first-hand about the workings of the Koori Court, a relatively new division of the Magistrate's court.

Three officers from the local Koori Courts and the County Court met with inmates at Fulham to explain how the court system worked. It was extremely well received and has resulted in regular visits.

The laws administered in the Koori Courts are exactly the same as in any Australian courthouse, but the format of the hearing is different.

A Koori Court hearing is an informal gathering where the magistrate or judge sits at a large table with the defendant and other participants such as family members,

Koori Elders or Respected Persons and the Koori Court Officer. Family members are able to participate and contribute at the hearing during which legal terminology is avoided and simple English is used.

**"Having a better understanding of the operation and role of the Koori Court in the criminal justice system can be of great benefit for the indigenous inmates at Fulham."**

Koori Courts commenced in Victoria in 2002 and are an initiative of the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement, a joint partnership strategy between the Victorian Government and the Victorian Koori Community developed to reduce Indigenous over-representation

in the criminal justice system and to improve justice outcomes for the Koori Community.

Allowing the participation of the Aboriginal community and culture in the legal system, the Koori Courts have been successful in not only reducing recidivism but also strengthening the role of community elders and family structures.

Having a better understanding of the operation and role of the Koori Court in the criminal justice system can be of great benefit for the indigenous inmates at Fulham as it encourages defendants to appear in court, reduces the amount of breached court orders and also explores sentencing alternatives to imprisonment.

## Easing Transition

### For Youthful Offenders

Written By **Tammi Levine**, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

**T**he Red Cross and Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre have initiated a program to support offenders aged between 18 and 25 with their return into the community.

Selected offenders are being provided with an exit pack containing phone cards, public transport travel cards, food vouchers, notebooks, a diary, pens, and information booklets and other practical items to assist with their transition.

It is hoped they will provide the support these youth require to actively participate in the community again and reduce the likelihood of them re-offending.

Red Cross staff will be attending the centre to deliver life skills training prior to their release and also assist them in accessing support services in the community.



**Pictured :** Prisoner Development Manager Hanah Walton (middle) holding exit pack with Charlotte Hodges and Gabriel Kheirallah of the Red Cross Young Centre.



Tumut Life Long Learners who attended the Centre's Visit.

## Life Long Learners

Visit Junee Correctional Centre

Written By Haley Robertson, Junee Correctional Centre

Junee Correctional Centre's offender services manager Trevor Coles was recently asked to speak to a local community group called Tumut Life Long Learners about the operation of the centre.

Trevor spoke with the group and extended an invitation for them to visit the centre, so they could experience a correctional facility first-hand.

**"I was truly impressed with the cooperation between the residents and staff; it was exceptional."**

More than 50 members of the group accepted the invitation. Upon arrival they were put through the procedures of entering a correctional centre and as they are all senior citizens they gave the metal detectors a workout with a number of metal knees and hips.

Once inside, the group visited the Cultural Centre where they talked with inmates and learned their stories

and ambitions. They were treated to a repertoire of songs from the centre choir including a few hits from The Time Machine as well as a rendition of a scene from Les Miserables. They were also treated to what one member described as a "delectable" morning tea.

"I was truly impressed with the cooperation between the residents and staff; it was exceptional," said group organiser Nick Browning.

"The Cultural Centre treats all as equals, which is great to see. They all share in each other's special religious days and the centre demonstrates the happy mix of all cultures. I was impressed."

The group was presented with two paintings; beautiful Australian landscapes painted by one of the inmates that they intend to raffle to raise funds for future excursions.



Pictured Left to Right: Nick Browning and Trevor Coles presenting the two paintings, and inmates Neal and Paul.



## Outstanding Youth Awarded

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

**Pictured Top:** Left to Right: General Manager Andy Walker, Tamsyn Scott, Jasmine Corbett, Felicity Davis and Human Resources Manager John Barnes. **Pictured Bottom:** Harriet Fletcher received her award at a later date as she was unable to attend the ceremony on the day.

The annual GEO Youth In Focus Scholarships presented by Junee Correctional Centre were awarded on Australia Day as part of the town's awards ceremony.

This year there were 16 nominations that general manager Andy Walker described as "outstanding" leading to four recipients who each were awarded a \$2,000 scholarship. The scholarships were presented in three categories — academic excellence, sporting distinction and creative arts.

The award for academic excellence went to Jasmine Corbett who gained a place in the Undergraduate Medicine Program at the University of New South Wales after receiving all band 6 results in her Higher School Certificate and an ATAR of 95.65. After completing university, Jasmine intends to become a general practitioner and focus on delivering medical care to rural and remote areas.

Also receiving an award for academic excellence was Harriet Fletcher who was dux of her school in 2013 and secured course prizes in all of her subjects in years 11 and 12. Harriet will study at the Australian National University with her focus on international relations, politics and globalisation. She wishes to work as an advocate for change and social equality.

The sporting distinction award went to 13-year-old Tamsyn Scott. A member of the NSW Cricket Academy Riverina Squad from the age of nine, Tamsyn was nominated for Most Outstanding Cricketer of the Year in 2012/13. Last year, she won the Junee High School Distinction Award for outstanding achievement in the sport of cricket.

Felicity Davis collected the creative arts scholarship. Felicity has been involved in music since the age of seven and is currently enrolled in a double degree (music and teaching) at the University

of New England. In 2013, Felicity received the university's music prize. During her holidays she returns to Junee to teach piano to primary and secondary students. Felicity's passion for teaching music stems not only from watching her students develop their skills, but also for the opportunity music provides them to connect with the community.





# Be Brave and Shave

Written By Regina Regulska, Fulham Correctional Centre



**F**ive volunteers from Fulham Correctional Centre joined the multitudes across Australia in this year's "World's Greatest Shave." This annual event raises money for the Leukaemia Foundation and its research into lymphomas, myeloma, leukaemias and related blood disorders.

The Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to this research as well as the care of patients and families living with these blood disorders. More than 11,500 Australians annually are diagnosed with blood cancers and related blood disorders. Although survival rates are improving, blood cancer is this country's second biggest cause of cancer death.

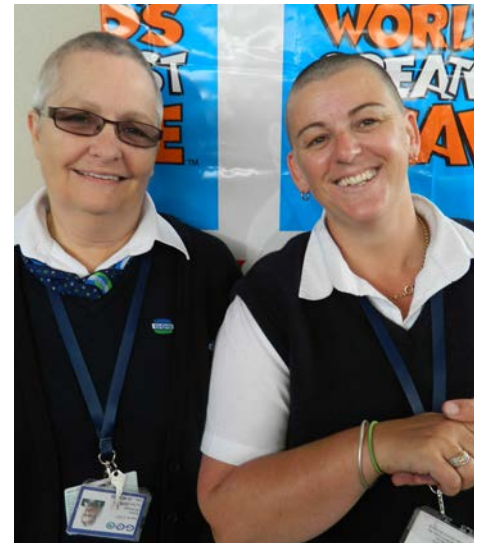
Plans for the event began when administrative support officer Cindy Visser decided that 2014 was the year she would be bold enough to go bald, having watched a former general manager and correctional supervisor lose their long locks for the worthy cause at Fulham in 2012.

Once word got out, it wasn't long before a number of other colleagues, ranging from correctional and medical staff to senior managers, also volunteered. The plaza at Fulham was filled with interested onlookers as the courageous staff underwent their transformations. Some shaved their heads, facial hair or both. Others opted for multi-colouring their tresses.

Cindy's family was very supportive and watched as mum's long locks disappeared, and were replaced with an extremely short style.

Following its success, Fulham Correctional Centre plans to make this event its major annual fundraiser and hopes that many more staff will volunteer to "Be Brave and Shave" in 2015.

**Pictured Clockwise Starting from Top Left:** Before the shave: Aboriginal Liaison Officer Daniel Skipper, Correctional Manager Dave Lothian, Finance & Administration Manager Jill Morris, ASO Cindy Visser & Human Resources Manager Kelvin Brown; Group after the shave; Cindy & family; Correctional Officer Robyn Oldham snips away at Cindy's locks. Two brave ladies – Jill Morris & Cindy Visser



# Rhythm N Rail *Helps Out Aged Care Hostel*

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

**T**he 4th Qube Rhythm N Rail Festival was held in Junee recently and GEO provided strong support as a 'Festival Partner' of this annual event and in the process helped to raise much needed funds for Cooinda Court.

A local aged care hostel, Cooinda Court needs to install a fire sprinkler system at a cost of around \$250,000 and can only afford to do so with help from the community. Junee Correctional Centre has been helping to raise funds through a number of activities.

This year the Rhythm N Rail Festival committee decided that the proceeds from a fund raising auction that is part of the event should go to a local charity and GEO suggested that Cooinda Court would be a worthy recipient.

Junee Correctional Centre donated timber products, toys and paintings for the auction held at the festival's official opening night. The auction raised approximately \$4,000.

This year the festival attracted nearly 5,000 people to the Junee township, doubling the population for the weekend. All accommodation in the town was booked out and according to a survey carried out over the weekend people travelled from as far as 450km away.

The festival is a celebration of the town's rail heritage and includes a display of a steam train as well as old and new cars and motorcycles. Various market stalls operate throughout the weekend and there is live music and much more. As part of the event the local licorice factory broke the world record for the longest piece of licorice.

According to festival chairman Neil Smith, the festival was the best one yet. Junee Correctional Centre donated a further \$1,400 to Cooinda Court from the sale of items at its stall showcasing timber products made by inmates and an additional \$200 from a Chinese New Year celebration held at the centre.



**Pictured :** General Manager Andy Walker with some of the auction items.

## Feel Left out?

Want to see your facility included in the next GEO World Magazine?

Look out for emails from Corporate Relations Graphic Designer Esther Patton, reminding you to send in articles for 3Q2014 GEO World Magazine. If you do not receive the emails, please email **Esther Patton (epatton@geogroup.com)** and she will be happy to send you the GEO World submission guidelines.

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## Providing a Safe Place to **Live in Delhi**

Written By **Elisa Di Trolio, BI Incorporated**

**A** safe and secure home is something many of us take for granted; not realizing that many staples, such as basic sanitation, are luxuries for many people around the world. This was what BI employee, Suzanne Pelletier, set out to change when she partnered with Habitat for Humanity International and Chetanalaya during a recent trip to India.

Last November, Suzanne traveled to the Savda JJ Colony, located in West Delhi, to help build a new house with basic sanitation for two families who had been relocated to the colony. After being relocated to the area, residents had been given 150 square feet to live on until they could contract with Habitat for Humanity for a house. The cost of each house is \$800. Families identified had experienced poverty, unemployment, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and poor sanitation. Without a safe house or sanitation facility, they were living in constant fear and poor health. For this particular project, the Habitat for Humanity Global Village also partnered with a women's empowerment group in India which teaches women sustainability skills while providing assistance.

For two weeks, Suzanne and other volunteers lived and worked side-by-side with residents of the Savda JJ Colony while providing a hand up, not a hand out. "I've always had a passion for traveling, but my favorite way to see a country is through the lives of those less fortunate," said Pelletier. "It's very humbling."

This was the fourth international build trip for Suzanne. She had previously volunteered in Ghana, El Salvador and Cambodia. Next year, she plans to travel to either Madagascar or Malawi. This year, Suzanne became a Team Leader and is now certified to lead international teams on her own to support the Habitat for Humanity mission, where everyone has a decent place to live.

.....  
**Pictured Top to Bottom:**

Suzanne Pelletier working on one of the new houses for a family in need; Suzanne getting to know local residents of the Savda JJ colony; Suzanne posing with one of the recipients of a new home.





## Atlantic City CRC Celebrates Black History

Written By Hilary Brown, Atlantic City CRC

In observance of Black History Month, several staff and a number of clients of the Atlantic City Day Reporting Center attended a theatrical presentation titled *Growing Up in the Other Atlantic City*.

The stage presentation is an adaptation from Turiya Raheem’s memoir of the same title. The show is meant to bring a personal history to life. Following the Washington family from the 1920s through the 1970s, the show demonstrates how a family helped build and shape a vibrant and thriving African American community in Atlantic City’s Northside neighborhood. As the show moves through each decade of this true history, the audience is exposed to the laughter, tears, ingenuity, hard work and commitment of one family’s pursuit of the American Dream.

The staff of the Day Reporting Center recognized the importance in educating the clients on the history and evolution of a family and a city as they prepare to effect positive change in their personal lives.

**Pictured Left to Right:** Client Irshad Jackson, Assistant Program Manager India Hall, Client Zachary Howard, Client Kareem Jones, Program Manager Hilary Brown and Client Kenneth Coursey.



## Toys for Tots Holiday Event at Perth Amboy CRC

Written By Lori Coleman, the Perth Amboy CRC

On December 31, 2013 the BI/The GEO Group Perth Amboy Community Resource Center was presented with a certificate of appreciation for “outstanding support of the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots.” The certificate was presented to Assistant Program Manager Lori Coleman, by Chief Warrant Officer 4, Nick D’Andrea, USMC Reserve Center in Edison, New Jersey.

The clients who participated were told that the gift donations must be new, unwrapped and accompanied with a receipt and be \$10.00 value. In return, participating clients received a facility reward.

The toys were collected at the CRC and taken to the Reserve Center by Lori on December 20th. A total of 40 toys were donated by clients and staff for this year’s event.

**Pictured Top to Bottom:** Left to Right: Charles Chiriboga, Education / Employment Coordinator, Shante Edelen, Assistant Case Manager, Pete Conerly, Program Manager, and Lori Coleman, Assistant Program Manager. BI Boulder Office; Certificate from USMC.







## Abraxas South Mountain Facilities Earn National Commission on Correctional Health Care Reaccreditation

Written By Amy Randt, Abraxas South Mountain Programs

On September 16-17, 2013, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) conducted its review for continued accreditation at the South Mountain, Pennsylvania Residential Youth programs Abraxas Youth Center (AYC) and Leadership Development Program (LDP). Collectively, the programs provide services for up to 200 male and female youth that includes short-term shelter care, short-term residential treatment and specialized treatment for youth with a history of fire setting and sexual offending behaviors.

NCCHC sets the standards for health services in correctional facilities and is widely recognized in the correctional industry. Established by health, legal and corrections professionals, NCCHC's Standards are recommendations for the management of a correctional health services system.

The NCCHC team utilized the NCCHC 2011 Standard for Health Services in Juvenile Detention as the basis of its health services analysis. These standards have helped facilities improve the health services for their youth, (and the communities to which they return), increase the efficiency of their health services delivery, strengthen their organizational effectiveness, and reduce the risk of adverse client outcomes.



**"This is the fourth successful accreditation of 100% for the South Mountain health care team."**

NCCHC assesses compliance on 39 essential standards; of those, 37 were applicable to the South Mountain Programs. The accreditation process was led by the South Mountain Programs' Nurse Manager, Amy Randt and supported by Medical Assistants, Brenda Hamby and Darlene Huff.

Together with the rest of the medical department staff, they pulled together all relevant policies and procedures, reviewed and then updated to ensure compliance standards were met. Weeks of training and additional monitoring followed to keep the programs standards high. Following all preparation and ongoing monitoring of procedural implementation at both facilities, the health care department at South Mountain was found to be in 100% compliance of all standards. The NCCHC team commended the health care team and the entire operational staff for their professional conduct, assistance and candor during the course of the review.

On February 6, 2014, the NCCHC Accreditation Committee awarded the facility full re-accreditation. This is the fourth successful accreditation of 100% for the South Mountain health care team.

# Northstar Center's Indoor and Outdoor Winter Activities

Written By Shirley Holmberg, Northstar Center



Due to inclement weather, the Northstar Center residents participate in limited outdoor activities and can choose to participate in several indoor activities. The temperatures have ranged this winter from a high of 51 degrees to a low of -39 degrees Fahrenheit in Ester, Alaska.

Recently an indoor activity that some residents chose to participate in was the development of attractive, artistic bulletin boards to display information for residents and staff throughout the Northstar Center.

Two other indoor activities that were recently implemented were two Native based support groups: Warrior Down and Talking Circle. Each support group happens every other Monday for residents that choose to take the time to participate in helping themselves get well.

Warrior Down is a relapse prevention and recovery support program for all residents completing treatment, returning to the community from incarceration, or who have been working on their recovery journey using traditional methods or 12 Step methods and who wish to provide support to others experiencing the same issues. The program was developed by White Bison, Inc. and is facilitated by trainer Carol Rose and is open to all residents.

The Talking Circle is used as a tool to release stress through talking and is open to all residents. A facilitator leads the participants in the process. The beginning of the Talking Circle is a prayer, next is the talking part, and the end is a prayer. An object (stone, feather, stick, coin) is used to pass around as each person takes a turn in talking. The Talking Circle first came to the interior through David West, a Potawatomi educator in the early 1980's and was done in the local correctional center. Community Work Service Coordinator Shirley Holmberg has been facilitating Talking Circle since the 1980's and is the facilitator of the Northstar Center's Talking Circle.

The Northstar Center has in-house recreational and exercise equipment that can be used daily at scheduled times as well as outdoor recreation if the weather is reasonable.

Despite "weather permitting," the Northstar Center residents continue to participate in the limited outdoor activities and the many indoor activities.

### Pictured Top to Bottom:

Resident Archie Wholecheese getting ready to throw the football; Anthony J. Davis carrying equipment outside; Resident Crystal Brown with one of the new bulletin boards; Warrior Down Trainer Carol Rose; Residents Tammy Johndro and Ginger Lee Delgado taking a walk.



## Recent ACA Accredited GEO Group Facilities

At the recent 2014 American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conference at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida, there were 13 GEO Group Facilities that received recognition for being either first time accredited or reaccredited. Here are just a few pictures of the facilities and their scores.

**Congratulations to the following Facilities!**



**100%**

**Adelanto Detention Facility**



**99.80%**

**Allen Correctional Center**



**96.49%**

**Central Texas Detention Facility**



**100%**

**Cleveland Correctional Center**



**100%**

**Cordova Center**



**99.76%**

**Lockhart Secure Work Program Facility**



**100%**

**Midtown Center**



**100%**

**Parkview Center**



**100%**

**New Castle Correctional Facility**



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One Park Place  
621 NW 53rd Street, Suite 700  
Boca Raton, Florida 33487  
561.893.0101