

Correctional Newsfront

The official newsletter of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections



2017 News ~ April to June

Week of June 19...

Corrections Secretary Applauds Bill to Help At-risk Children Succeed

Legislation would create first-ever public charitable trust to fund scholarships, programs and services

Corrections Secretary John Wetzel applauded a bipartisan bill introduced this week establishing a first-of-its kind public charitable trust to help children of incarcerated parents and other at-risk youth.

The fund will enable young people - who because of their family circumstances or poverty or both, may be predisposed to ending up in the criminal justice system – to access educational programming and other services they need to finish school and prepare for future success.

“This fund will change the trajectory that too often leads these vulnerable children to prison doors,” said Wetzel. “Let us not forget that children with parents in prison are victims, either directly or indirectly.”

There are currently more than 81,000 children with parents behind bars in Pennsylvania and approximately 65 percent of inmates have at least one child.

The “First Chance Trust Fund,” would be used to create scholarships and provide grants to programs that benefit those children and young people living in poverty.

The trust fund would be administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and would be funded by private, tax-deductible donations and a 1 percent surcharge on vendors that have a contract with the Department of Corrections exceeding \$5 million.

Other Pennsylvania agencies would also have the option to include a similar provision in their contracts. The fund would not require the use of taxpayer dollars.

Initially, the trust fund is anticipated to generate \$500,000 to \$1 million on an annual basis. The fund would be targeted to regions that have statistically higher high school dropout rates and risks of incarceration.

The absence of a parent -- which some psychologists have compared to the death of a parent -- through the formative years can have deleterious effects on a child. Dealing with the emotional, social and economic consequences of that loss can trigger behavioral problems, lead to trouble in school and the possibility of dropping out and continuing the cycle of crime.

"This legislation will be a game-changer for the many children with parents in Pennsylvania prisons," said Wetzel. "We know that not finishing school is very often the first step in the downward spiral that leads to incarceration. We need to ensure that these vulnerable children instead have a 'first chance' to get the education, programs and support they need for success."

Representatives and students from two organizations that work with at-risk children participated in the news conference and highlighted the benefits of investing in programs that are providing children with a "first chance."

POPS (Pain of the Prison System) the Club, located at Steelton-Highspire High School, offers students who have been impacted by the pain of the prison system — those with incarcerated loved ones and those who have been incarcerated themselves — with community and emotional support, as well as opportunities to publish the writings and artwork they create through the club.

"Any initiative that places an emphasis on our youth is critical to the future success of our world. Programs such as POPS shed a light on incarceration and the struggles associated with children and families when a loved one goes to prison," said POPS art teacher Jennifer Morrison. "POPS breaks the stigma and gives children an opportunity to heal, learn and grow from the experience through creative writing and visual arts. By creating ways to fund programs like this we can ensure that students who may face a hardship do not become defined by their circumstances."

Amachi Pittsburgh provides children impacted by incarceration and children facing challenges with a different path by establishing the consistent presence of loving, caring mentors. The initiative partners with secular and faith-based organizations working together to provide mentoring to children.

"Tens of thousands of young people in Pennsylvania will go to bed tonight while one of their parents goes to bed in prison. And many are worried whether they will also end up behind bars in the future," said Anna Hollis, executive director of Amachi Pittsburgh. "This groundbreaking legislation provides an innovative vehicle for children impacted by parental incarceration to have a viable first chance at a bright future, and for that, Amachi Pittsburgh commends Secretary Wetzel and our bipartisan state senators for advancing such a monumental effort."

The Department of Corrections has worked to provide resources for families of inmates and help maintain family bonds.

- Family days that feature activities for the kids and helpful information for parents, grandparents and guardians, facing the challenges of raising children with a parent in prison. For example, an event may feature speakers on areas of nutrition and dental health, while parents and guests are given examples of healthy snacks and easy-to-prepare meals.
- Virtual visitation sites in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Erie give families and inmates in far-flung prisons the opportunity to see and hear each other.
- Each facility visiting room has a “resource center” of brochures offering helpful information on how to access multiple assistance programs in Pennsylvania.
- Parenting programs are also offered for inmates across the state, teaching inmates how to interact in a helpful manner with their children.
- The “Read to Your Child” program allows inmates to be recorded reading a book aloud to their child. The book and recording is then sent home for the child to have.
- The Fathers and Children Together initiative at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford is an in-depth program that teaches fathers how to interact with their children and build relationship during weekly one-on-one visits. The program, developed by the inmates, is facilitated by the Mural Arts Program of Philadelphia.
- DOC works with the Pennsylvania Prison Society to provide transportation services for families to visit inmates.

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First Chance Trust Fund Legislation Introduced

At a press conference held in the Capitol Rotunda on June 21, 2017, a bipartisan group of state senators unveiled legislation to establish a public charitable trust to help children of incarcerated loved ones and reverse the direction of prison-bound youth in Pennsylvania.

Senate Bill 790, authored by state Sens. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia, Montgomery), Pat Browne (R-Lehigh), Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) and Richard Alloway (R-Adams,



Cumberland, Franklin, York), would create the “First Chance Trust Fund,” which

would be used to create scholarships and provide grants to programs that benefit children of incarcerated loved ones and children facing challenges.

The trust fund would be administered by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and would be funded by private, tax-deductible donations and a 1 percent surcharge on vendors that have a contract with the Department of Corrections exceeding \$5 million. Other Pennsylvania agencies would also have the option to include a similar provision in their contracts. It would not require the use of taxpayer dollars.

The lawmakers, along with Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel, highlighted the importance of this legislation during a news conference today at the state Capitol.

"This legislation will give organizations the ability to provide children who face challenges with more educational opportunities to help them stay in school, give them a sense of stability and belonging, and protect them from going down the wrong path," said Sen. Hughes, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "It's a wise investment that will help children, families, and the community."

"I am pleased to join my colleagues in introducing this important initiative aimed at providing our young people most at risk of dropping out of school or ending up incarcerated with scholarships and resources that may otherwise not be available to them in an effort to help ensure that they succeed both in school and later in life," said Sen. Browne, Republican chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Initially, the trust fund is anticipated to generate \$500,000 to \$1 million on an annual basis. The fund would be targeted to regions that have statistically higher high school dropout rates and risks of incarceration.

The fund, which would be the first of its kind in the country, will enable youth who are predisposed to the criminal justice system to access programs they need to complete school and become healthy and productive members of society.

"Children deserve a chance to grow and thrive and dream about what the future holds," said Costa the Senate Democratic Leader. "These programs – programs that recognize the potential that lives within each child, each family and each community are evidence of the opportunity we have to make a difference. When we invest in our kids and focus on their future, everyone wins."

"I am very pleased to join with Governor Wolf, Secretary Wetzel, and fellow legislators to take this major step in providing at-risk youth with the tools that they need to succeed," Sen. Alloway said. "This trust fund, which is unique in the nation, will provide targeted grants and scholarships at no cost to taxpayers. This program will be a model for states across the country and I am excited to play a part in assisting our neediest of youth."

Children continue to enter the justice system at alarming rates. Additionally, there are more than 81,000 Pennsylvania children with a parent in a prison, and approximately 65 percent of Pennsylvania state inmates have at least one child, according to the Department of Corrections.

The absence -- which some psychologists have compared to the death of a parent - - through the formative years can have deleterious effects on a child. Dealing with the emotional, social and economic consequences of that loss can trigger behavioral problems, lead to trouble in school and the possibility of dropping out and continuing the cycle of crime.

"This legislation will be a game-changer for the many children with parents in Pennsylvania prisons," said Secretary Wetzel. "We know that not finishing school is very often the first step in the downward spiral that leads to incarceration. We need to ensure that these vulnerable children instead have a 'first chance' to get the education, programs and support they need for success."

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Honoring a Fallen Sergeant

SCI Houtzdale Honor Guard honoring Georgia DOC Sergeant Christopher Monica in Milledgeville, Ga.



From left to right: Lt. Jeremy Jones, Corrections Officer 1 S. Martin, Corrections Officer 1 D. Francisco and Corrections Officer 2 E. Dyche.

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Highlighting SCI Pine Grove's Carpentry Class

The carpentry class at SCI Pine Grove last between four and six months. The basic things that are covered in the class the use of hand and power tools. Inmates also get an introduction on construction drawings, specifications and layout. They also learn to and practice layout floor systems, wall systems and roof framing. The last part of the class covers stair/steps layout and construction. Upon completing the course inmates receive a National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certificate. This course and certificate basically assists them in their pursuit of becoming a journey level carpenter.



Steve Thomas, SCI Pine Grove's carpentry instructor, stands with a construction model built by his Carpentry class for future use as a teaching tool.

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Wellness and Letting Off Steam

On June 10, the "DOC Tours" team ran the Laurel Highlands 5 person, 70.5 mile relay! This is the 17th year in a row for this team that was started by former Superintendent Lou Folino. Although he no longer runs, Supt. Folino is still actively supporting the team and offering his famous Lou advice!

"Running in the woods was tough but also helps clear the mind when you get out and enjoy the beauty of nature," said Tina Walker. "This was a good way to let go of some stress from our daily lives! It was a very rewarding day."



Pictured, from left to right are: Kriston Appleton, Dena Ferek, and Melissa Husenits, SCI Fayette Acting Superintendent Eric Armel, SCI Fayette Human Resources Officer Tina Walker and former SCI Greene Superintendent Lou Folino.

NOTE: To be included in the team you don't necessarily need to be a DOC employee just loosely associated -- like the 6 degrees of association to the actor Kevin Bacon. If anyone else would like to field a team next year, contact Acting Superintendent Armel.

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DOC Staffers Participate in Penn State Football Career Night

Regional Deputy Secretary Tabb Bickell, Major John Rivello, and Acting HR Director Karena "Kit" Parks participated in the Penn State Football Career Night Event on June 22.

"We spoke to a number of the players regarding internships and possible careers with the department," Parks said. "It was a successful event, and the deputy and major did a great job. One point of interest was that Deputy Bickell shared with the players that when the crowd roars at Beaver Stadium, they can hear them at SCI Rockview."



Above: Major John Rivello and Regional Deputy Secretary Tabb Bickell talk to students.

Right: Acting HR Director Karena "Kit" Parks also talks to students about potential corrections careers.

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Erie's 40 under 40 Includes Galbreath!



The Erie Reader (www.eriereader.com) once again features their annual 40 under 40 article in its June 21, 2017, issue. The article highlights 40 men and women and the difference they make.

We are proud to share that SCI Albion's Psychological Services Specialist Miranda Galbreath is one of the 40 individuals!

The article discusses her educational back ground and work at SCI Albion running therapeutic groups for sex offenders. Her work in the community also is highlighted. Visit the Erie Reader's website to read more.

And Congratulations, Miranda!

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Muncy Staff Participate in Camp Cadet

On Tuesday, June 20, the SCI Muncy Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT), along with Deputy Superintendent Wendy Nicholas and Major Bryan Boyer, participated in the Susquehanna Valley Law Enforcement Camp Cadet. The Susquehanna Valley Law Enforcement Camp Cadet covers Union, Montour, Snyder and Northumberland counties.

Deputy Nicholas spoke to the cadets about a career in law enforcement, and Major Boyer talked about the different specialized teams in corrections.

Muncy's part in the program ended with Sgt. Becker speaking about the CERT team and the team conducting a demonstration. This was followed with the cadets trying on the CERT gear.

The cadets were all enthusiastic and asked a lot of questions. SCI Muncy has been assisting with the Susquehanna Valley Camp Cadet since its inception in 2005.



Pictured: SCI Muncy's CERT leader Sgt. Becker talks to the cadets about the role of the CERT team.

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DOC Announces New CIT Program Director

Rhonda Tomcavage has been named the Training Academy's new Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training program manager, replacing Virgil Meyer. She has been at SCI Frackville since 2015, working as a unit manager with assignments to the behavioral management unit and the restricted housing unit.

Tomcavage graduated from Bloomsburg University in 1998. While there, she interned at SCI Coal Township in the psychology department. She began her corrections career in 2000 at Northumberland County probation, where she worked with both juvenile and later adult offenders. While working there, she was an active member of the Northumberland/Montour Drug Task Force and supervised the intensive drug and alcohol caseload. In 2006, she returned to SCI Coal Township as a corrections counselor, and in 2013, she transferred to the Office of Chief Counsel as a hearing examiner.



Lt. Virgil Meyer and Rhonda Tomcavage.

The first CIT program was developed in Memphis in 1988 and provided training in mental disorders and response techniques to law enforcement officers. CIT is a crisis response and diversion strategy for justice involved persons with mental health problems in which specialized corrections and law enforcement officers respond to persons with possible mental health problems. At the Training Academy, those serving as CIT training program manager hold the position on a rotating four-month basis. Staff serving in this role have completed the training program, are involved in championing the CIT implementation and response at a facility, and have a commitment to continue a high standard of excellence in the training.

Outgoing program manager Meyer came to the Training Academy in February from SCI Muncy. Lt. Meyer is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Pa. Army National Guard. He served in Operation Enduring Freedom, after which he was medically retired after 13 years of service which included Afghanistan.

The Training Academy extends gratitude and thanks to Lt. Meyer for his work as CIT training program manager and for efforts in helping the program continue down the path of "excellence."

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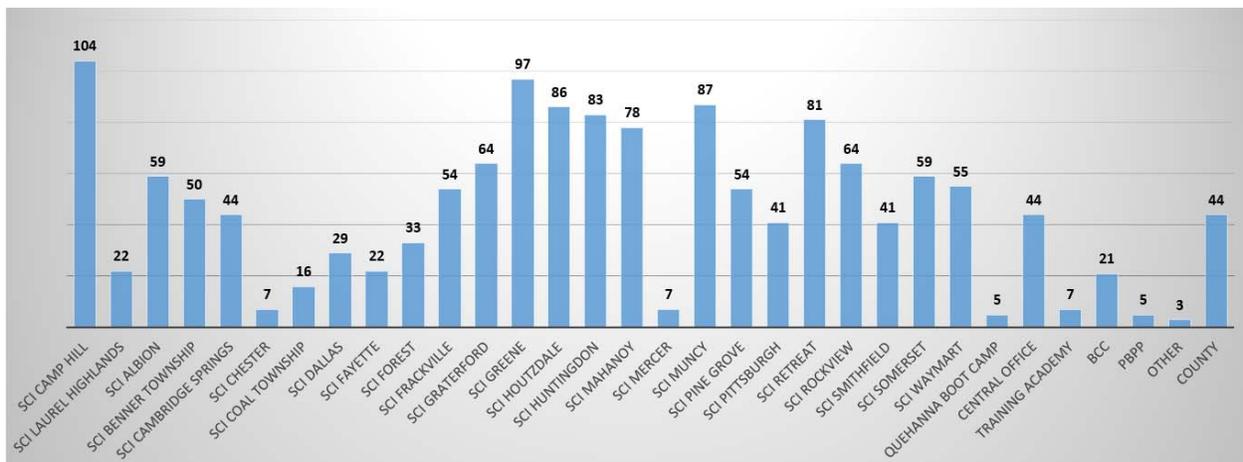
CIT Training for Second Quarter of 2017

The DOC is pleased to announce that, for the second quarter of 2017, 1,436 employees received CIT training. Classifications range from trade instructor to social worker and drug and alcohol treatment specialists to regional deputy secretaries.

This graphic shows the total number of employees trained, by year since, 2012:



This graphic shows the total number trained during this quarter, by facility/site:



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Drill Instructor Graduation

The Quehanna Boot Camp recently graduated 11 employees from the Pennsylvania Correctional Drill Instructor (CDI) program. PA CDI is an 80-hour instructor's course that officers successfully complete upon accepting employment with the Quehanna Motivational Boot Camp. This training is conducted after the officers complete basic training at the Department's Training Academy.

Candidates participate in both classroom instruction and practical application of lessons including goals and philosophies, drill and ceremony, physical training, cross-gender training, confrontation/self-control, facilitation of tests and inspections, cognitive restructuring behavior and routine day-to-day operations of managing boot camp housing units. Candidates must prove a thorough working knowledge of the course material through teach-backs and being evaluated by instructors.

The CDI program is facilitated under strict military customs and principles where the candidates develop a sense of dedication to each other, loyalty to the boot camp program, and becoming an asset to the department through buying into the role model concept and the principle that **"One person can make a difference; together we can achieve anything."**



First row from left are: Lt. Maney/CDI Instructor, COT Hill, COT Bisel, COI Duffee, COI Wilson, COT Rodriguez, Lt. Williams, CCPM Stover/Executive Staff. Second row from left are: Captain Carter/CDI Coordinator, Major Blake/Executive Staff, COT Folk, COI Gorbar, COT Brooks, COT Price, COI Cowfer, Lt. Salvanish/CDI Instructor, and COI Hess/CDI Instructor.

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Songs In The Key of Free



On Saturday, June 10, a concert was held at SCI Graterford. Since September 2016, volunteers have been working with musicians at Graterford to write and perform original music. The culmination of their efforts was displayed on Saturday with the concert.

The Anna Crasis Women's Choir joined the musicians for the concert, which was simulcast to the Free Library of Philadelphia, as well as the Songs in the Key of Free Facebook page.

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Dogs Graduate from Program

On June 14, dogs in SCI Chester's dog training program graduated. The prison is partnered with WAGs Rescue and Referral (www.wagsrescue.com). The dogs stay at the prison for six weeks while staff and inmates house train, socialize and teach them basic commands. Upon completion of the program they are up for adoption. Currently, of the 12 dogs they just had, eight were adopted, three are long term fosters with at SCI Chester and one returned to the vet to be neutered.

The next group of 12 dogs arrives on June 21. In total the prison will have 15 dogs. The dogs are given to the inmate trainers based on a "Dog Draft." Each inmate picks a number, and whatever number they pick is the order in which they get to pick from among the dogs that have been assigned to the prison.

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More Murals...

SCI Forest inmates have been busy painting various areas of the prison. Here are some murals of "commissary" that was painted on one of the units:



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Flag Retiring Ceremony

SCI Huntingdon's Honor Guard participated in a flag retiring ceremony held by the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks on Flag Day. This article appeared in the June 15, 2017, issue of The (Huntingdon) Daily News:

A patriotic observance

Civic organization hosts annual Flag Day ceremony

By APRIL FEAGLEY
Daily News Staff Writer
Reverence for the American flag and all that it symbolizes was at the heart of the annual Flag Day ceremony held at the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks (BPOE) Lodge 976, Huntingdon, Wednesday night.

Representatives from local civic and veterans organizations, local Boy Scout troops and community members gathered to take part in the observance.

"The purpose of this service is to honor our country's flag, to celebrate the anniversary of its birth and to recall the achievements attained beneath its folds," said BPOE exalted ruler Scott Casner. "It is quite appropriate that such a service be held by the Order of the Elks, an organization that is distinctly American, intensely patriotic and without counterpart."

Flag Day is observed June 14 each year in commemoration of the adoption of the flag of the United States June 14, 1777, through a resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of the colors by members of the state Department of Corrections Color Guard.

"The evolution of the American Flag marks the progression of the government of the American people. From the founding of Jame-



Charlie Watson of Boy Scout Troop 28, laid the first of many worn and damaged flags on the fire as his fellow scouts and members of the state Department of Corrections Color Guard looked on during a retirement ceremony as part of the Flag Day observance at the Elks Lodge 976, Huntingdon, Wednesday night.

stown in Virginia in 1607 until 1775, the flag of England was the flag of the people of America," Casner said.

Members of the BPOE and scouts from Troops 237, Orbisonia, and 25 and 28, Huntingdon, presented the history of the American flag, from its modest beginnings as the Pine Tree Flag which flew over a squadron com-

missioned under commander-in-chief George Washington in 1775 to the modern red, white and blue flag bearing 13 stripes and 50 stars.

"The Elks is the first and only fraternal body to require formal observance of Flag Day," he said. "This unique distinction as the strongest promoter of Flag Day is most becoming to the Order of the Elks. This order is distinctly

American. Only Americans are eligible to join and it has no foreign affiliation. It has linked our destiny to the destiny of our country and made this flag a symbol of self-dedication to country and to fellow man."

Through patriotic readings, the singing of the

See Patriotic

Page 3

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From Page 1

national anthem and "God Bless America," the place of the flag was emphasized as a national symbol.

Guest speaker BPOE district deputy grand exalted ruler Dan Nelson shared a message about the unique place the flag has in the nation's history.

"The greatest significance of this flag lies in the influence it has on the hearts and minds of billions of people," Nelson said. "It has waved over the unparalleled progress of a nation in developing democratic institutions, scientific knowledge, education and cul-

Nelson also offered a special presentation of the BPOE's Medal of Valor awarded post-

humously to state trooper Trooper Landon Weaver, who was killed in the line of duty Dec. 30, 2016. The award was accepted on behalf of Trooper Weaver's family by station commander Sgt. James Wagner and Trooper Ryan Speece of the Huntingdon barracks.

"This is only the second time the award has been given in the state," he said.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited corporately before the program was turned over to the representatives from the local veterans' organizations.

A solemn undertaking concluded the ceremony as the scouts and veterans together saw to the proper disposal by fire of flags tattered and torn due to exposure to the elements.

April can be reached at afeagley@huntingdondailynews.com.

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Corrections Employee Week at SCI Muncy

While Corrections Employee Week was in May, we just received information from SCI Muncy about how its employees celebrated:

The prison's Corrections Employee Week committee worked hard all year hosting fund raising opportunities and scheduling events to honor the dedicated staff here at SCI Muncy.

The week (May 7 – 13, 2017) started with a sweet little thank you from administrative staff as small bags of candy were given to each employee as they entered the Control Center area. Members of the local employee recreation association also were on hand to give out uniform approved flag pins.

Here's a list of just some of the highlighted events for the week:

- 1) the annual Changing of the Colors featuring our Honor Guard.



- 2) a Jail and Bail lock-up where monies raised were given back to staff in the form of gift cards added to the raffle prizes at the end of the week.

3) Bruster's Ice Cream truck was on-site as our first food truck permitted on property grounds.



and.....

4) our ever-popular Friends and Family tour where we hosted our largest tour group to date (217 guests). Guests were treated to a vocal performance by an organized inmate choir as they waited for the tour to begin. The choir concluded with a dedication to Superintendent Robert Smith as they honored him by performing (much to everyone's surprise) "Going Home" by Motley Crue.

A presentation by the dog training program capped off the evening...and we were all dog tired!

Other events throughout the week included e-mailed puzzles, a candy guessing jar game, bingo, treats such as cupcakes and bagels, lots of delicious meal selections and raffle prizes!!

The committee is back at it working to make the event for next year even better! Committee members are: Gary Lowe, Margaret Bitler, Matt Allis, Sandy Killian, Amy Ramiza, Eric Robbins, Jim Stroup, Dianne Guthrie, Cheryl Charles, Loretta Day, Sabrina Wilcox, Renee Shrimp and Jan Lamper.

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Success Story – Stephen Burley

Stephen Burley was released from a state prison in December 2015 and was transferred to the Wernersville Community Corrections Center. In January 2016 his counselor referred him to the **Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS) Workforce Development Program**. Stephen was eager to tell his story in his own words...

"I was released from state prison in December 2015. I only had a dollar and some change to my name and the only the clothes that the state prison had given me. It was my first time in Berks County. In January 2016, I received a part-time, minimum wage job at Arby's. After working there for two months, I knew that I was never going to be able to support myself on that wage. So I went to a job fair for ex-offenders held by BCPS and was offered a full-time job at Hofmann Industries through a temp agency. It only paid \$8 an hour, but it was a step up from what I was making, which was barely anything at all.



I moved into the Hope Rescue Mission and out of the Wernersville Correction Center in April 2016. The rent was cheap and it could help me save money. Shortly after, I got my first raise. I then got my own apartment through the help and guidance of the housing assistance program that BCPS offers.

I recently was hired permanently at my job, have been placed on the company payroll, received another raise and now even have medical insurance. I'm hoping for another raise within the next few months as well. I can now feed myself, pay my bills and I'm making decent money.

It has been a long and hard road to get to where I am today but it has all been worth it. Thank you BCPS!"

Stephen was the first reentrant that BCPS served through the DOC's contracted Workforce Development Program. Stephen was also provided assistance through the DOC's Housing Program.

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Peer Support Group Held for Released “Juvenile” Lifers

On June 19, 2017, the Philadelphia Community Corrections Center #2 held its first peer support group for released “juvenile” lifers (JLs).

Fourteen JLs, along with three previously-commuted lifers, participated in the support group. Some of the reentrants live at the center, while others live at home. The meeting was for the reentrants and coordinated by the reentrants. Staff and volunteers coordinated the event and were there to offer support.



In addition to the reentrants, six parole agents, four DOC employees and three members of the Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project attended the three-hour group meeting.

Many participants expressed great appreciation for the meeting and believe that it should be repeated on a monthly basis and that family and friends to be permitted to attend.

During the group meeting, there was a great sense of joy and happiness present as the men had the opportunity to spend time with some of the people they have spent the majority of their lives with behind the walls. They were happy to share experiences and support now on the opposite side. The meeting was informal and included a dinner consisting of fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, mac & cheese, green beans, cupcakes and refreshments.

Reentrants shared information about unique challenges they faced since their release from prison, such as: employment challenges; the need for financial resources for transportation; assistance with applying for SSI; grants for school; the need “hands on classes” for everyday living, such as how to use a cell phone, how to use ATMs, how to google and internet search, and how to fill out applications online.

They also mentioned need for more in-depth information and services in reference to family reunification, particularly when addressing timeframes as a period of adjustment and the reentrant’s new role in the family. In addition to this they discussed gathering more information on housing resources and independent living options.

Many thanks to Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) Regional Director Rich Dreisbach, Center Director Jacqueline Rupert, Clerk Typist Verna Summers and other CCC #2 staff for coordinating this awesome event. Center staff is hoping to facilitate this group meeting on a monthly basis and helping the BCC to expand the concept to the other two BCC regions.

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New Dogs in Prison

On June 21, 2017, SCI Chester received its next group of dogs to be trained. TWELVE dogs are now on their way to learning skills to help them become adoptable! This brings the total number of dogs-in-training to 15.



Inmate handlers and their back-up handlers pose with SCI Chester's latest group of dogs.

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Week of June 12...

DOC Houses Vermont DOC Inmates

For the first time to this extent, the PA DOC began housing 269 Vermont DOC inmates on June 12, 2017. While the DOC has housed inmates from other states one a case-by-case basis, this is the first time in the DOC's history that it has entered into an agreement with another DOC to house several hundred inmates under the Interstate Corrections Compact.



Vermont DOC inmates watch as a flight attendant provides the pre-flight safety instructions.

The need came about due to a private contractor in Michigan ending its contract with Vermont to house the inmates.



The inmates, who were transported by plane from Michigan to the Harrisburg International Airport in two waves, were then transported by bus directly from the airport to SCI Camp Hill, where they were processed and classified.



The PA DOC and VT DOC entered into a three-year agreement that has the option of two, one-year extensions. The PA DOC will house the VT DOC inmates at a rate of \$72 per inmate, per day.

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Vermont DOC Issues Press Release on Inmate Transfer

The Vermont Department of Corrections (VTDOC) announced on June 12, 2017, the successful move of 269 inmates by air and ground transport from Michigan to Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill. Vermont inmates were moved in accordance with an agreement between the two states under the Interstate Corrections Compact. Representatives from the VTDOC will be on site for next few weeks to assist with the transition. Information about this transfer can be obtained here: <http://doc.vermont.gov/information-for-inmate-families-and-friends/inmates-housed-out-of-state/>

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Scouting SCI Pittsburgh for a Filming Location



Pictured from left to right are: Lt. R. Washington, CO1 M. Ruchka, Mr. Stiller, Supt. Capozza, and CO1 J. Ferbiak

On Saturday, June 10th, Ben Stiller visited SCI Pittsburgh 'scouting' for a possible shooting location for a four part mini-series he is currently producing. Stiller and his crew were at the facility for approximately four hours and explored a number of areas throughout the "The Wall" including the 1882 housing units, the old Correctional Industries buildings, commissary, maintenance shops, basement of the 'old blocks', and walked the entire "Wall" of the institution.

Stiller is producing "Escape at Dannemora"- an eight hour, four part mini-series that will air on Showtime. It is based on the actual June 2015 prison escape in upstate New York which spawned an intense multi-agency man hunt for two convicted murderers who were aided in their escape by a female prison employee. Benicio Del Toro, Paul Dano, and Patricia Arquette, will star in the series. Interestingly, the Dannemora New York facility, Clinton Correctional Facility, is nearly 40 years older than SCI Pittsburgh, as it opened in 1845.

Stiller was extremely appreciative of the hospitality of the Pittsburgh staff in all areas of the facility. He introduced himself as "Ben" to our staff and asked about the closing, and how it impacted them as he toured the facility. Upon his exit, Mr. Stiller was gracious enough to eagerly honor a request for a photo-op with some of the Pittsburgh staff that were on-site.

It should be noted that two other movies scouted the prison for a filming location – one involves Sylvester Stallone and the other is a Lifetime movie.

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Wall Murals

At SCI Chester, the children's area of the visiting room has these wonderful wall murals which were painted by inmates.



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Murals at SCI Huntingdon

In an area just outside of the employee dining hall, staff worked to create an outside eating area for use by employees on nice days. To dress up the area, an inmate painted several murals on the brick walls.



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Reporter Job Shadowing at SCI Pine Grove

On June 9, SCI Pine Grove allowed a reporter inside the prison, which is located just outside of Indiana, Pa., to learn about and to job shadow Corrections Counselor 2 Mike Weaver.

We think the reporter was in awe of all that the Young Adult and Leadership Development program does for juveniles who are convicted as adults. The youngest inmate there was 16. 16... Let that sink in.



Mike and his staff are terrific in the way they interact with their inmate population.

On our way out of the prison, the small group, which was led by Public Information Officer Judy Smith, stopped for lunch. The prison has transitioned over to having Aramark manage food inventory and ordering (the DOC continues to control the menus, and its prisons continue to make the food). Lunch was spaghetti with meat sauce, and guess what... It was good.



You can read more about this day from the reporter's perspective whenever he prints the article. By the way, the reporter was Chauncy Ross of the Indiana Gazette, with whom our DOC Press Office has had the pleasure of working with for many years.

Kudos to SCI Pine Grove employees. We look forward to Chauncy's article!

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SCI Huntingdon Also Permitted Reporter Job Shadowing

Last week, SCI Huntingdon allowed a Huntingdon Daily News reporter to job shadow the prison's food service manager, Herve Glorioso.

The reporter, by the way, is the daughter of the prison's former PCI print shop manager, Fred Hearn.

We showed April Feagley the food line in action and the work going on behind the scenes, where there are eight of those huge, 80-gallon cauldrons, grills, dish washing equipment, etc. She also made a visit to the prison's bakery and was shown how the prison keeps control over its kitchen equipment, such as knives. Yes, inmates in the kitchen use knives.

http://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/2017-06-08/Front_Page/Prison_food_service_a_24_7_operation.html

Prison food service a 24/7 operation

By APRIL FEAGLEY

Daily News Staff Writer

At the heart of SCI Huntingdon, the oldest continuously-operating correctional institution in the state, is a hub of 24/7 activity in the prison's bustling food service operation.

After passing through many security gates and walking through hallways dating back to 1889 when SCI Huntingdon was opened as a reformatory for young men, the aroma of fresh-baked bread and cinnamon is the first impression upon entering the large dining hall.

"We're one of the only state correctional institutions to bake our own bread," said Herve Glorioso, corrections food service manager at SCI Huntingdon. They bake 400



See Service
Page 2

Inmate workers filled trays in the serving line at SCI Huntingdon, where the food service operation prepares 200,000 meals each month.

Service

From Page 1

loaves of bread a day as well as cakes, cookies, cinnamon rolls and pies."

Food service at SCI Huntingdon produces meals for the 2,100 inmates housed within the walls, as well as inmates at the Huntingdon County Jail. Staff meals are also provided.

"In years past, the menu was geared more toward 'comfort foods' and more localized. The manager chose the meals and diet options were provided, which pushed the price up," said Glorioso. "Now, the menus are standardized across the DOC (Department of Corrections), which eliminated the need for diet options."

Special options are provided for those inmates with

food allergies, but the allergy must be confirmed by medical staff.

"Staff members are fed the exact same menu," said Susan McNaughton, DOC communications director.

With the exception of those living in the "mod" units on the grounds of SCI Huntingdon and those at the county jail, nearly 2,000 inmates fill the dining hall, which seats approximately 400, in shifts for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"At full staff, we have four supervisors and 20 instructors with about 150 inmates," said Glorioso. "There is a long wait list for employment for inmates."

Instructors and supervisors working within the prison's food service undergo the same training as corrections officers, as well as being trained in food safety.

Those inmates working in

food service receive 19 cents an hour at entry-level, with top pay being 42 cents.

"We offer an alternate protein in the serving line every day," he said. "The inmates working in the serving line use measured serving tools to help eliminate waste."

Glorioso said the food service operation at SCI Huntingdon turns out 200,000 meals a month using 7,000 pounds of potatoes. Mille and produce are delivered twice a week.

All of the meals are prepared in the updated 1930s-era kitchen, outfitted with several 80-gallon kettles, three large griddles and deep fryers, now seldom used due to the move to healthier menu options.

"We take very good care of our equipment," Glorioso said.

Cooking implements and

cutlery are carefully stored and distributed, with detailed safety measures in place to prevent misuse or theft.

Inmates also have the opportunity to pursue training to equip them for work in the food service industry following their release.

"There is a state program with a culinary academy in Elizabethtown," he said. "Once an inmate meets the criteria, they can interview to attend. They only take eight to 10 inmates at a time."

Food service procedures are altered somewhat during the month-long observance of Ramadan, observed by Muslims worldwide. This year, Ramadan began May 26 and will end Saturday, June 24.

As the observance of Ramadan dictates a strict regimen of fasting, measures are put into place to provide meals outside of the regular schedule.

"About 20 percent of the inmates participate in Ramadan," he said. "That's about 440 inmates."

To help control the amount of overtime utilized, the evening meal is packaged in containers and distributed to those inmates fasting, along with a "suhoor" bag (the meal taken before dawn) filled with breakfast items. These meals are intended to be eaten during the permitted dusk to dawn time period in the inmate's cells.

Glorioso has worked in food service at SCI Huntingdon since 1992.

"I couldn't have asked for a better career," he said. "Every day is different."

April can be reached at afeagle@huntingdondaily-news.com.

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Benner Township Names Volunteer of the Year

Superintendent Tammy Ferguson was proud to present Pam Graci with an award, naming her as SCI Benner Township's Volunteer of the Year. Graci volunteers with the canine program at Benner Township called "A Dog's Tale From Jail." With more than 16 years of experience in dog training, Graci was nominated by the inmate population and employees who believed that she was perfect to receive this award.

Her belief that focusing on the positive is key to changing the behavior of man's furry friends, translated to the mission of the DOC as well. Graci is the owner and trainer of Wags and Woof, a positive reinforcement dog training program, in the State College and surrounding areas.



Pictured are SCI Benner Township employees who are dedicated to A Dog's Tale From Jail and provide assistance to Ms. Graci. From left to right: Corrections Counselor 2 A. Nelson, Volunteer of the Year Pam Graci, Volunteer Coordinator Chaplin McCoy and Corrections Counselor 2 B. White. Absent from the Photo was K Block Unit Manager B. Rupert.

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An Example of an Agility Program

The Department of Corrections, SCI Albion and PennDOT's Erie County Maintenance Office coordinated efforts and services to meet the needs of both departments through a state endorsed program entitled Agility.

The Agility program encourages state departments to work together on projects utilizing resources that are within their means. In this case, the paving of the perimeter road at SCI Albion was the defined project.

Planning began last fall with PennDOT coordinating equipment and staff resources. The project was completed in mid-June. SCI Albion will reciprocate by scheduling the prison's inmate community work program -- which is a group of 8 to 10 lower security inmates who are supervised by prison staff -- to assist with a number of projects that need to be completed at PennDOT for which they do not readily have staffing or expertise to do.



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Security Threat Group Monitoring

According to BetaGov, from Feb. 1 to March 10, 2017, SCI Smithfield ran a pilot to determine whether having a full-time intelligence officer for monitoring of security threat groups (STG) would reduce prison violence and drug activity. The enhanced monitoring included closer monitoring of phone calls and emails, observation of STG inmates via the prison camera system, development of sources and additional urine drug screens and cell searches.

Results show that the enhanced monitoring identified and eliminated potential threats before they happened. For example, seven additional STG members were identified who had previously operated under the radar, and intelligence gathered at the prison led to the arrest of a gang-affiliated drug trafficker in the community. A large group, "The Big Money Gang," organized prior to the trial in order to control all drug and gambling activity within the facility, was identified and dismantled due to the enhanced monitoring of the trial. This resulted in the largest Suboxone drug seizure in the history of SCI Smithfield.

Activity	Intervention	Control
Newly identified STG members	7	0
Drug-related misconducts	4	0
Positive drug tests	5	0
Newly identified gang relationships	2	0
Newly identified drug relationships	9	5
Drug confiscations	2	0
Arrests in community	1	0

According to BetaGov, increased STG monitoring allowed employees to be proactive and respond to identified threats before violence occurred or drugs could be brought into the facility.

Kudos to SCI Smithfield staff!

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Pathway to Success

For two days during the week of June 12, about 30 Central Office and facility staff gathered at the DOC's Training Academy to be instructed to present "Pathway to Success" curriculum to inmates.



This new pre-vocational program will be pilot tested at the following state prisons: Coal Township, Dallas, Fayette, Houtzdale, Mahanoy and Pine Grove. The skills learned in this course also will be reinforced with inmates who work for Pennsylvania Correctional Industries and who utilize transitional housing unit and reentry services.

Training participants included principals, vocational teachers and academic teachers who were instructed by the developers of the course – Dr. Blaire Willson Toso and KayLynn Hamilton.

Toso is a research associate for the Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy (ISAL) and Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy. She conducts research on a variety of topics, such as parent engagement and leadership and the benefits and outcomes of literacy for adults. She is also involved in professional development projects that focus on career pathways for adult basic education students, teaching reading to adults, and English as a second language (ESL). Her work continues to build on her studies and her past experiences as an ESL teacher, curriculum designer, and ESL and bilingual methods instructor.

Hamilton, serves as the workforce education liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education Division of Adult Education. She is primarily responsible for providing leadership to the development of effective local partnerships with workforce development and postsecondary partners. She also leads the technical support effort for the implementation of the Division's Career Pathways for Adult initiative.

This new course consists of 11 units that – over 60 hours -- instruct inmates to identify employment interests and to break those interests down into reasonable and attainable goals. The course helps inmates to better understand job opportunities and those jobs that are not available due to their having a criminal record. It also helps inmates to create a career plan, prepare resumes and cover letters and complete applications. Interview skills, a section on what to expect when paroled and a final career pathway plan rounds out the curriculum.

Facility staff will begin instruction with the next semester. Through their instruction they will note any issues or tweaks that may be required to the curriculum.

The development of this new curriculum and this training is made possible thanks to a three-year, \$1 million “Improving Reentry Education” grant that the DOC received from the U.S. Department of Education.

This training was a cooperative effort involving the DOC’s Bureau of Correction Education, the DOC’s Grants Manager and the DOC’s Career Pathways Program Manager.

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Closing SCI Pittsburgh/Western Pen

As you may know, the last inmate at SCI Pittsburgh was transferred out of the prison on May 19. Several employees remain at the prison to help with the relocation of equipment to other state prisons.

Many wonder to where the DOC transferred all of the inmates.

Here is an image that shows you exactly that:



As you can see, the facility that received the most inmates was SCI Graterford, with Pine Grove being second and Coal Township being third. SCIs Greene and Camp Hill saw the fewest Pittsburgh inmates, with 8 and 12, respectively.

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Graterford Holds Quarterly Women's Leadership Meeting

On June 5, 2017, Lt. Col. Lisa Christie, from the Pennsylvania State Police, met with various female SCI Graterford employees at the prison's Quarterly Women's Leadership Meeting.

Lt. Col. Christie discussed leadership qualities and provided 10 leadership points to the ladies attending her presentation.



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Eastern State Pen Hosts Prison Food Weekend

Eastern State Penitentiary recently hosted its "Prison Food Weekend" where visitors got to experience the dreaded prison "food loaf" first hand. But not at the PA DOC booth.

Chef Todd Lewis, director of the DOC's Culinary Arts Training Program, was serving up strawberry and white chocolate Petit Fours made by inmate students at the Training Academy. Chef Lewis reports that it was baking week in the program and they made 400 sweet treats that were gobbled up by visitors.

The folks at Eastern State said they were grateful to the DOC for the opportunity to collaborate and raise awareness about the program.

The DOC thanks the historic site for inviting us. It was the first time the culinary program -- which trains soon-to-be-released inmates in skills needed for jobs in the food and restaurant industry -- participated in a public event.

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Second Chance Grants – Key to Successful Reentry

In the following opinion editorial, Secretary Wetzel makes the case for federal Second Chance grants as key to successful reentry. The secretary and Michigan Director of Corrections Heidi Washington penned the op-ed that was published in The Hill, a Washington D.C. media outlet that covers politics and government:

The Hill (06/12/2017)

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/crime/337430-prioritizing-corrections-reform-will-keep-offenders-on-right-track>

Prioritizing corrections reform will keep offenders on right track

By John Wetzel and Heidi Washington

One of the most significant developments in criminal justice policy over the past 15 years has been the fundamental shift in thinking about the primary purpose of prisons and jails.

Not long ago, corrections administrators saw their main responsibility as essentially ensuring the people they supervise didn't jump the wall.

Our focus was the care, custody and control of the people inside our facilities. What happened upon their release was out of our hands.

We define success much differently today: Reducing the likelihood of someone reoffending once they're released is a core objective of corrections administrators across the country. We now recognize that pursuing anything short of this objective compromises public safety and wastes taxpayer dollars.

This shift began taking root on a national level in 2004, when President George W. Bush declared America "the land of second chances" during his State of the Union address, insisting that "when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."

Congress then set to work on the Second Chance Act, which the House and Senate passed in 2008 with overwhelming bipartisan support. With that legislation, elected officials made clear that ensuring the safe and successful transition from prison and jail to the community wasn't a partisan issue, but simply good, smart policy.

Thirteen years since Bush's clarion call, and nearly a decade since the enactment of the Second Chance Act, it is time for a critical question: How has the field of corrections changed, and what difference has that made?

Some states can point to data showing clear reductions in measures of recidivism — the likelihood of offenders to commit another crime after their release — to try to illustrate an impact. A new report from The Council of State Governments Justice Center and the National Reentry Resource Center highlighted examples of seven states that have significant reductions in recidivism, including Michigan, Georgia, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Colorado and Arizona.

But states are very different, and one of the many differences is the way in which they measure and define that progress. The same is true for jurisdictions across the country. Because of this, it is difficult to compare trends from one jurisdiction to the next, or establish a reliable national examination of recidivism trends.

But another new report released last week highlights key ways in which state and local governments' approach to reentry and recidivism reduction is fundamentally different today than it was 15 years ago. They include:

- Making recidivism reduction a core part of corrections administrators' missions;
- Enlisting a remarkably diverse set of constituencies in making a person's transition from prison to the community safe and successful; and
- Dramatically improving and applying the science of what works to reduce recidivism.

Much more needs to be done to realize the vision of ensuring a successful transition from prison. Just like other ambitious goals that local, state and federal leaders embraced long before setting their sights on reducing recidivism — such as reducing teenage pregnancy or improving high school graduation rates — full success will require decades of work.

The improvements we're seeing in states have been aided by Second Chance Act grants. Those grants have helped us implement practices in our local agencies and courts that improve outcomes for people under community supervision, establish employment training programs in our prisons to prepare people for technology-based jobs upon release, improve pre- and post-release care for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders and provide people with pre- and post-release mentoring and transition services, among other things.

Overall, Second Chance Act grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in 49 states and the District of Columbia, ultimately serving

more than 137,000 people. Having Congress reauthorize this legislation is crucial to helping states continue on the productive path they are on.

As we look forward to the next phase of this work and continuing to reduce recidivism rates, we must maintain the critical support for these reentry programs. We've made remarkable strides nationally in our collective effort to ensure that when a person leaves prison or jail they don't return.

We can't turn back now.

John Wetzel (@johnwetzel) is the chair of The Council of State Governments Justice Center, vice-chair of the Association of State Correctional Administrators and director of Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections.

Heidi Washington (@HeidiWashington) is the director of Michigan's Department of Corrections and an executive committee member of the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

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Deputy Superintendent Retires

On June 14, SCI Mercer employees gathered to say farewell to Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Michael Mahlmeister, who will be retiring at the end of the week with over 19 years of service with the DOC. Deputy Mahlmeister worked at SCIs Greene, Albion and Mercer during his DOC career.



The Mercer Employees' Association presented him with a Mercer challenge coin, and his co-workers presented him with a shadow box depicting relics from his DOC career.

Please join SCI Mercer staff in wishing Deputy Mahlmeister well in his retirement and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

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Cleaning Up the YMCA

In June, York Community Corrections Center reentrants answered the call of the YMCA to clean up the yards of the YMCA-owned residences on Newberry Street. This is the first of many project resulting from the redeveloped relationship between the CCC and YMCA.

BEFORE...



AFTER...



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Renovation Work Recognized

In May, the City of Reading presented certificates of recognition to ADAPPT employees for contributing time, funding and exceptional spirit to the renovation project at Southeast Branch Reading Public Library.



Donna Conely, ADAPPT Group Home supervisor who coordinated the community service (left) and Bronwen Gamble, executive director of the Reading Public Library.



ADAPPT Deputy Director Sandra Van Sickle and Ms. Gamble.

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Beautifying a Community Pool

In May, reentrants and employees from the ADAPPT alcohol and other drug unit spent a week beautifying a community pool.

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HACC's STEP Academy

Please view this video -- produced by Harrisburg Area Community College -- which highlights a cooperative program between the college and the Harrisburg Community Corrections Center.

<https://youtu.be/J0Outsb1Rh8>

This program is geared for individuals who are under-employed or under-skilled... including those who were previously incarcerated. Individuals take the STEP program to better themselves or because they are tired of being stuck in a dead-end job that only makes \$10 per hour. It is a self-improvement and skill-building program that focuses on the skills required in the workplace so individuals can be successful. The four-week program covers team building, problem solving, conflict resolution and leadership, and includes how to conduct an interview, write resumes and thank you letters. It also teaches individuals how to act properly in the workforce and how to keep a job.

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Week of June 5...

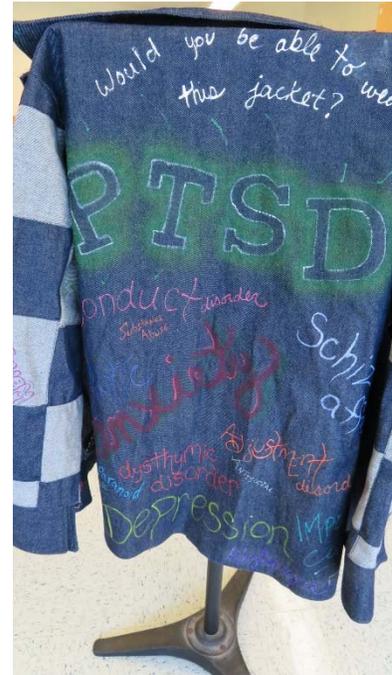
Mental Health Awareness Day

On May 31, 2017, Certified Peer Specialists at SCI Greene hosted a Mental Health Awareness Day. On display was an exhibit containing art projects, poems, textiles and essays created by the inmates.

There were informational tables on mental illness, the Certified Peer Support Specialist Program, Supporting Incarcerated Veterans, Canine Partners for Life and alternative therapies.

Both inmates and staff participated and enjoyed the event. Non-uniformed staff who wore green in support of Mental Health Awareness were permitted to dress casually.

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Waymart Holds Day of Responsibility

The Day of Responsibility is an event that is aimed at creating inmate awareness of what it really means to accept responsibility for one's offense. This is done by taking into account, from multi-faceted perspective, the impact of crime on victims, families' and communities.

The Day of Responsibility is powerful for the inmate population, because it helps them fully understand their choices, reinforces what they have learned in programming and encourages them to pledge to make better choices in their lives.

The special event is part of the Impact of Crime class that is completely voluntary. Through the use of outside victim speakers, inmate who participate in this program gain an awareness of the impact of crime on victims and obtain a better understanding of their own behaviors.

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SCI Huntingdon 10K Run

On May 31, 2017, the Altar Rock Jaycees inmate organization sponsored the second annual Mental Health Awareness run at SCI Huntingdon. The run was an effort to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness month.

This year, there was a total of 245 participants which included volunteer workers from the prison's residential treatment unit (RTU). Each inmate runner/walker was asked to make a \$5 donation to participate in the event. With those contributions, the Jaycees will make a donation to an organization that provides mental health services in the community.

This year's event was also an opportunity to bring attention to mental health needs among the inmate population. The run was opened with words by Leslie Plymale, a counselor who is assigned to the RTU. Her goal was to bring recognition to the issues, treatment and successes which surround the inmates in that unit. At the completion of the event, each inmate was given a 12" Subway sandwich and a bottle of Lipton Green Tea, all purchased by the Altar Rock Jaycees.



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PAWS Walk Held at CBS

The SCI Cambridge Springs Puppy Program held a PAWS Walk fundraiser on Saturday, May 20, 2017, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the facility and to recognize the great partnership between Canine Partners for Life and SCI Cambridge Springs.

The PAWS Walk gave the facility an opportunity to inform the Cambridge Springs population about the positive effects of the prison puppy program on the community. Inmate participants got a chance to interact with the service-dogs-in-training by walking them around the track.

In addition to the CPL puppies, there were events such as a Newfoundland cart demonstration, search and rescue dog demonstration, therapy dog work demonstration and more. Darlene Sullivan, founder of CPL, was present for this event.



Two inmates pet Lucy during the PAWS Walk. Lucy is a search and rescue dog with K-9 Team Liberty.

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Adult Corrections Professional of the Year

In May at the annual training institute of the Pennsylvania Association on Probation Parole and Corrections (PAPPC), Lacosta Mussoline was awarded Adult Corrections Professional of the Year.

Mussoline serves as regional reentry administrator for the eastern region and reports directly to Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal.

"Lacosta's attitude, work ethic, job knowledge and willingness to assist anybody with anything is part of the reason she is so deserving of the Adult Corrections Professional of the year award," said Moore Smeal. "Her enthusiasm for doing the right thing is contagious and results in positive outcomes being achieved."

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Prison Holds Blood Drive

A blood drive was held at SCI Cambridge Springs on May 25, 2017. The American Red Cross was able to collect blood donations from 30 employees. This can potentially help up to 90 patients.

Kudos to Cambridge Springs employees!

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Save the Date for the 2017 Reentry Conference!

The DOC's 2017 Reentry Conference will be held Aug. 16-18, 2017, at the Training Academy.

The target audience is DOC reentry staff, including social workers, reentry specialists, unit managers & center directors, counselors (SCI & BCC), CCPMs to include BCC PMs; Parole RPAs, ASCRAs, etc.

Additional direction is forthcoming, so until then, please save the date!

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Mural Dedicated

In the fall of 2016, Corrections Counselor Cynthia Bryant of Philadelphia Community Corrections Center (CCC) #2 reached out to the Philadelphia Mural Arts program to discuss partnering with them for a project that would promote positive encouragement for the reentrant population as well as the community. During that time she started an art therapy workshop at the center for the reentrants. Artist Jesse Krimes worked with the reentrants at these workshops to gather ideas and create artwork for a mural to be placed on the center's wall. Others involved in the creation include inmates at SCI Graterford and members of The Guild (an apprenticeship program teaching job readiness skills to reentrants and inmates). This month, Bryant's community networking and vision became visible to all.



On Friday, June 2nd, the Philadelphia Mural Arts Restorative Justice Program conducted a dedication of the mural placed on Philadelphia CCC #2. Mural Arts founder and Executive Director Jane Golden hosted the event. Golden, artist Jesse Krimes, Center Director Jacqueline Rupert, SCI Graterford Superintendent Cynthia Link, and a member of the Guild Program spoke of the importance of having a voice by utilizing art to promote positive change and support within the criminal justice system. Others that participated in the dedication included Bryant, Bureau of Community Corrections Regional Director Rich Dreisbach, reentrants from CCC #2, community juvenile lifer reentrants, other members of The Guild and SCI Chester's Administrative Officer Mande Quinn and Corrections Counselor Ryanne Piorko.

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RN and LPN Job Fair Held

DOC Bureau of Human Resources, SCI Muncy Human Resources and Lesley Blair-Morrison, Corrections Health Care Administrator (CHCA), hosted a RN & LPN Job Fair on June 7, 2017, from noon to 6 p.m. at SCI Muncy.

HR Analyst Paulette Smartschan said that the DOC considers this event a huge success due to the fact that 13 registered nurses and six licensed practical nurse candidates came to the event.

Twelve RNs and five LPNs took part in the tour of the medical facility. Some of the candidates expressed their nervousness about the thought of working in the institution; however, once they came back from the tour they were very excited about the opportunity to work at SCI Muncy.

We believe that this event was successful for a few reasons:

- Lesley, CHCA, was very welcoming and made the candidates feel secure and comfortable at all times. She also answered all of their questions prior to and after taking them on the tour.
- HR Analysts, Jamie, Sabrina, and Amanda provided information to the candidates regarding the benefit package, salaries, etc.
- Pedro and Paulette were there to help candidates through the civil service process.

When a candidate said they applied but never received a score or tried to apply and couldn't, the State Civil Service Commission was contacted and the candidates were able to verify their account and how to make necessary changes.

- Some of the issues that were found:
 - RN Applicants only applied for RN Supervisor and had to wait six months to reapply for RN (two candidates)
 - RN Applicants only applied for RN (local government) and has to wait six months to reapply (three candidates)
 - LPN applicants could not apply up until a month before graduation (four candidates)
 - Applicants never applied and did not know how to apply (three candidates)
 - Applicants said they would follow the directions on the letter to apply and call us if they had any problems (two candidates)
 - Applicants forgot their password and did not know how to retrieve it.

Officials set up two DOC canopies -
- one table for registration and to sign the waiver for the tour, and the other was setup with "Careers in Corrections" booklets, RN job duties flyers, LPN job duties flyers and tickets for a raffle. Two HR analysts were at the table to answer any questions the candidates had. There was a picnic table under a pavilion nearby that was used to set up the laptops in order to help candidates with their civil service application etc.



Special thanks goes to those from SCI Muncy who helped with the setup and the teardown of the job fair, including the trade instructors, maintenance, healthcare and security.

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Benner Township Assisting Local Authority

Inmate workers from SCI Benner Township's Community Work Program were hard at work recently providing spring clean-up to Porter Township's Water Authority.



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SCI Houtzdale Holds Friends & Family Day

On May 23, 2017, SCI Houtzdale held a Friends and Family Day for its “juvenile” lifers. The purpose of the event was to create a support network for the juvenile lifers and their family and/or friends and to provide an opportunity for them to interact with Department of Corrections staff and a number of community agencies.

The event started with opening remarks from Deputy Superintendent David Close and DOC Staff Assistant Robert Hammond and was then followed with an open forum where the inmates and their guests could visit informational stations to ask questions and receive information on an individual basis.

Representatives from the following entities were on hand: Office of Vocation and Rehabilitation, the Clearfield County Assistance Office, the Bureau of Community Corrections and the PA Board of Probation and Parole. Also, a number of prison and DOC employees were present to provide information about resentencing and the reentry process.

SCI Houtzdale’s inmate organization, Journey for Change, helped support the event by providing refreshments and a photo of each juvenile lifer with his guests.



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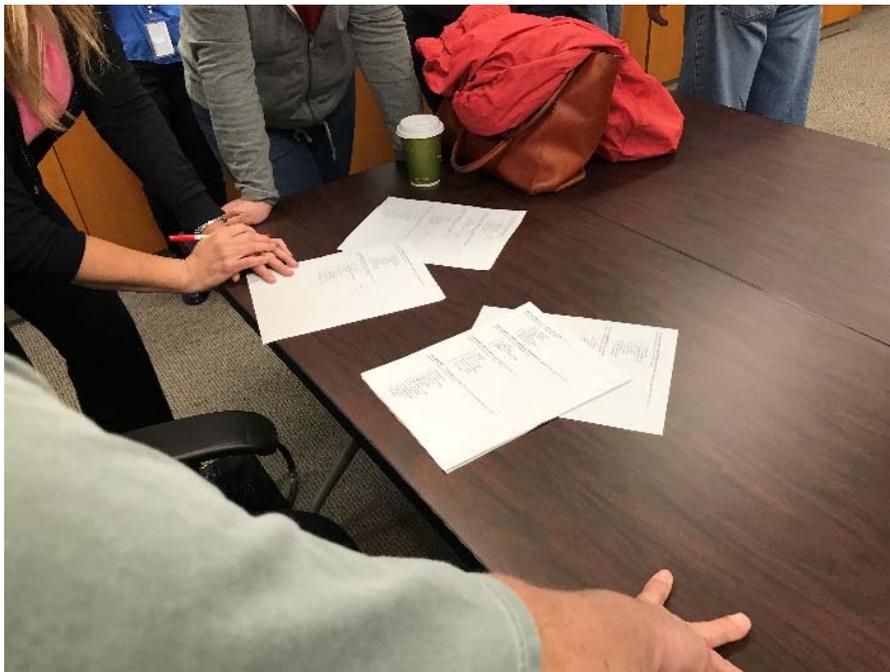
Week of May 29...

Community Service

May 30, 2017, was a day of community service for the Department of Corrections Leadership.



The DOC Leadership Team gathers to venture out to serve nonprofits.



Making sure everyone is signed up and that every nonprofit is covered.

Prison superintendents and deputy superintendents, along with Central Office directors and deputy secretaries, gathered forces to provide services to a number of Central PA nonprofits. Services included serving lunch at a women's center/shelter; cleaning and yard work; helping elderly residents with Bingo; helping in gardens and feeding and watering animals; and preparing and serving lunch and warehouse work.

At the Jewish Home, five volunteers joined certified nursing assistant students and other volunteers to help elderly residents play Bingo. While some residents slept through the games, others were quite active and even vocal as they played traditional Bingo along with some other specialty games of Bingo. Afterward volunteers helped escort residents to the lunch room. One volunteer said the time "was moving," while another said "it was great to see the variety of volunteer efforts going on at the same time." The biggest take-away from the service was the gift of time and companionship, which was believed to be the group's greatest contribution.



At the Jewish Home: Lynn Patrone, Diana Woodside, Kimberlee Drum, Harry Jones, Sue McNaughton and Paul DeRosso.

The group of volunteers who helped out at the Bethesda Mission said they enjoyed seeing the varied talents of their coworkers – talents they don't normally get to see during work – such as watermelon carving skills and dish washing. Others said that the goals of the mission and the DOC align ... keeping



At the Bethesda Mission, Janet Kelley and Terri DeBalso work in the kitchen.

individuals and children out of prison. Another volunteer had a one-on-one discussion with a woman at the women's shelter who told her story of how she came to be at the shelter. The volunteer said this was a story that will remain with him for quite some time. Finally, the volunteers said they were struck by how much the mission relies on donations and how important those donations are to them.

At the Ronald McDonald House, which provides 37 rooms for use by families whose children are being cared for at the Hershey/Penn State Medical Center, volunteers realized just how fortunate they really are, especially when they learn how difficult things can be for some families and their sick children." They said it was "very humbling to know people are spending very sad days with very sick children. One volunteer said that her family had used the house's services in the past and that this was a way for her to give back and to show her gratitude for the services they provided her family.



At the Ronald McDonald House: Mark Capozza, Jamie Luther, Trevor Wingard, Mary Natoli, Robert Gilmore and Tracy Smith.



The Water Street Mission in Lancaster impressed upon that group of volunteers the fact that so many people in Lancaster County need their services. The mission serves 700 plus meals each day. Medical services also are donated there. The group spent time in the warehouse sorting bins of donated items, while others worked in the kitchen. One volunteer said that the spirit of the volunteers was unbelievable. Another said it was a very thought-provoking day.

The final group of volunteers spent time at the Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association, which is home to 72 horses and a variety of other animals. He said that while it was not glamorous work, it certainly was appreciated.



Scott Bowman, Bill Nicklow, Ed Baumbaugh, Vince Mooney and Carole Mattis.

The Leadership Team is thinking about doing something similar in other parts of the state as the meetings move from host location to host location.

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Celebrating a Special Month

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, SCI Mercer dietary staff prepared AAPI cuisine for staff meals on May 31. The menu included broccoli-n-chicken stir fry, rice and sugar donuts.



Pictured are dietary staff, left to right: Food Service Instructors Robert Butler, Sandra Harding, Clarence Bakker, David Huffman, and center, Food Service Manager Dennis Sansotta.

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Week of May 22...

Retiring The Colors

On May 19th, SCI Pittsburgh held a "Retiring of The Colors" ceremony where the flags that have flown over the state prison were retired. Honor Guards from SCIs Fayette and Greene and the Allegheny County Jail assisted SCI Pittsburgh Honor Guard.



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A Family's Thanks

A counselor at the Quehanna Boot Camp recently received a letter from an inmate's family:

"As we approach our grandson, Tyler's, graduation from Boot Camp this coming Monday, May 15, my husband and I would like to thank you for all of your hard work, dedication and input into Tyler's having successfully completed this very rigorous program. Each time we called you to inquire about specifics, you consistently assisted our family in a highly professional and competent manner.

This is the first time in Tyler's 21 years that he was able to embrace all of the services available to him as the staff presented classes, therapy, readings and expectations in a way that balanced the real learning process with the appropriate discipline necessary to acquire the desired results. Tyler has become a highly motivated, goal setting, self reflective young man who is eager and excited (albeit anxious) about having this second chance, and confidently being in a position mentally and physically to take advantage of it.

We would like to thank all of the staff at Quehanna for the important work that they do and will continue to be an advocate for this program as a most important and critical part of our State's justice system."

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DOC Employee Receives Governor's Award for Excellence

Susan Dent, who led the creation of the veterans' service dog training program at SCI Dallas, is among the recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence, which were awarded on May 22, 2017.

The awards recognize commonwealth employees for exemplary job performance or service that reflects initiative, leadership, innovation and increased efficiency. Dent is one of 37 state employees to be honored for 2016.

Dent, an administrative officer, instituted the training program at Dallas in conjunction with America's VetDogs, a national organization that specializes in training canines to become service dogs for disabled veterans and first responders.



In addition to her regular duties, Dent spent many additional hours researching, designing and coordinating the institution's dog program. She recruited and interviewed all interested inmate candidates to be potential handlers, coordinated the training that needed to be completed, ensured equipment was purchased and drafted policies and procedures prior to the first canine arriving.

"The employees being recognized today have gone above and beyond their job requirements to provide outstanding service and make government more responsive and effective," said Governor Wolf. "Their accomplishments are truly exemplary and inspiring. We are fortunate to have such outstanding public servants working for the people of Pennsylvania."

"During her 24 years in public service, Dent has always gone beyond her assigned duties," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "While performing her job as an administrative officer flawlessly, Dent was able to institute the dog training program."

In December 2016, the first three puppies, all Labrador Retrievers, arrived at the facility. Currently, the prison has six puppies and will be expanding the program to 12 dogs. Each canine has a lead and a backup handler and will have between 12 and 15 months of training before being paired with a disabled veteran.



This was the first group of puppies from December 2016.

SCI Dallas Superintendent Lawrence Mahally said the service dog training program is one of the best programs that has ever been offered at SCI Dallas and that the institution is proud to work with America's VetDogs.

"It is a great feeling that this program could potentially change the life of a disabled veteran or first responder," said Mahally. "Susan Dent continuously displays excellent leadership and analytical skills that ensure our canine program is beneficial to the inmates who train and handle the dogs and will change the lives of the veterans receiving with these well-trained service dogs."

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New Berlin Technical School Marks 20th Visit to SCI Coal Township

SUN Area Technical Institute's Criminal Justice Instructor Susan Lovejoy and criminal justice students toured SCI Coal Township on Monday, May 22nd. This tour marked the 20th year Lovejoy and her class have visited the prison.

"I have toured the facility many times over the years and the staff does a remarkable job," Lovejoy said. "They are always professional, informative, and I learn something new each year."

The students were guided by Coal Township staff who provided a presentation, including a slide show of the history of the prison, instructed on careers available in the state prison system and provided a tour of the facility.



Shown with the SUN ATI instructor and students are Coal Township staff members Corrections Counselor 2 Mike Wegrzynowicz, Captain Joe Bucher, Corrections Counselor 2 Danielle Picarelli and Corrections Counselor 2 Jason Gatewood.

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Johnstown CCC in the News!

Reentrants from the Johnstown Community Corrections Center recently were in the news for their work helping to clear knotweed from the Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail.

Five reentrant volunteers from the center helped with goats who were used to graze on the invasive species that invades the ecosystem. The goats came from the Trinity Farms Center for Healing. Many cities across the country have begun using goats, instead of chemicals, to control such invasive plants.

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Rockview/Benner Township Hold Job Fair

The Human Resource Office for SCIs Benner Township and Rockview conducted its first local DOC Job Fair on May 12. Staff from various departments within the facilities attended to provide information about their respective areas, and HR staff provided information about to apply for DOC employment.

Staff recruited for corrections officers, food service, maintenance, nursing, counselors and all other areas of the facilities.

Attendance was very good and steady throughout the day.

Staff participating along with SCI Rockview/Benner Township Human Resources staff included: Ms. Coffman RNS, Ms. Collins PSS, Ms. Campbell RNS, Lt Hardy, Lt. Graham from SCI Rockview; Mr. Weaverling, Lt. Muir, Mr. Stewart from SCI Benner Township; Ms. MacInnis from SCI Muncy; Ms. Brooks from SCI Houtzdale; Ms. Boyd from Quehanna Boot Camp; Pedro Gratacos from the DOC Bureau of Human Resources and the DOC's K-9 Unit.



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Reentrants Positively Engage with Community

Wernersville Community Corrections Center (WCCC) reentrants recently participated in a community project where they worked with YMCA South Mountain Camp staff to refurbish a building.

Because of the hard work put in, good job and positive impact, YMCA South Mountain Camp and WCCC staff are working on future plans for WCCC reentrants to continue to do on-going community service as needed with this facility!



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SCI Albion Helps Clean Up PA

On May 17, SCI Albion's Community Work Program (CWP) Crew participated in the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania which is a statewide beautification effort. The crew collected 30 bags of litter along I-90 in Erie. Staff that also helped out were, Labor Foreman Robert Harvey, Lt. Jason Zillman, Fire Safety Manager Robert Glenn, Superintendent's Assistant Michele Tharp and Clerk Typist 2 Ashley Tatman.

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National Crimes Victims' Rights Week – Inmate Donate

Every year, the inmate organization at SCI Mercer hosts a fundraiser during National Crimes Victims' Rights Week for AWARE, a local domestic abuse center.

This year the inmate organization raised \$900 for AWARE by selling pies and a novelty to the general population. This is one program of several held throughout the year in which the inmates at SCI Mercer raise money to help a local charity or community center.

When the inmates picked up their pies they also were given information on the hazards of synthetic marijuana and heroin.



Pictured presenting the donation to AWARE Counselor Advocate Maegan Matthews are Superintendent Brian Thompson; Ms. Matthews; Activities Manager April Harvey; and Classification and Program Manager Michelle Wagner.

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Staff Treated to a Picnic

During Corrections Employee Week, which was May 7-13, SCI Graterford employees were treated to a picnic served by some of their favorite department heads. Hamburgers, hot dogs and even veggie burgers were served, as well as coleslaw, macaroni and potato salads and a pineapple upside down cake. The prison's employees association provided the food items.



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Motivation and Inspiration

SCI Coal Township's Empowerment Committee recently sponsored an afternoon of employee motivation and inspiration provided by Dr. Christian Conte. The event was well attended by staff.



According to his website: "Dr. Christian Conte is one of the country's leading authorities on Emotional Management and how it affects our personal and professional lives. He is a prolific author and a familiar face to many from his television work, most notably as the co-host of the Spike TV show *Coaching Bad*, and as a featured counselor on VH1's *Family Therapy*."

Dr. Conte's methods are proven to improve interpersonal communication, reduce group tension and conflict, and increase collaboration and productivity.

The Inmate General Welfare Fund sponsored Dr. Conte's presentation to the general population inmates during the evening.

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National Crime Victims' Rights Week @ Coal Township

SCI Coal Township's Impact of Crime Class Instructor, Corrections Counselor 2 Megan Fetterman and the institution's LIFELINE Organization presented April Kemp as a speaker for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Kemp's daughter was the victim of a violent crime, and she spoke to those in attendance about the multiple impacts this crime dealt to her family and how they transitioned this tragedy into helping other child victims of traumatic events through the creation of Marley's Mission.

<http://www.marleysmission.com/>

LIFELINE received a thank you letter for their recent donation to Marley's Mission and for the organization's mission to assist and support the surrounding communities.



"Marley's Mission is where hope comes alive for children and their families who have experienced trauma."

May 5, 2017

The Lifeline Association
SCI Coal Township
1 Kelley Dr.
Coal Township, PA 17866

RE: Donation

To all of the members of The Lifeline Association:

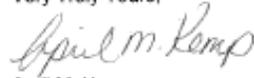
On behalf of the treatment teams, board members and most importantly "our" children we serve here at Marley's Mission we want to extend our deepest thanks to you for your generous donation to Marley's Mission.

Marley's Mission arose from the personal tragedy experienced by my family and our five-year-old daughter who was sexually assaulted. The Mission aspires to be a sign of hope, healing and strength for her and all survivors of trauma.

As you may know, Marley's Mission provides Equine Assisted therapy for children and their families who have experienced trauma free of charge. Since our grand opening on July 5, 2010, we have treated over 600 children from 12 counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Equine-assisted psychotherapy yields a variety of benefits such as: confidence, self-efficacy, self-concept, communication, anxiety reduction, and most importantly, trust. The Mission aspires to be a sign of hope, healing and strength for all survivors of trauma.

In 2011, the Mission was selected as the "Best New Charity" in the United States at the 3rd Annual Classy Awards in San Diego, CA for its impact in such a short time as well as its dedication to countless families.

Very Truly Yours,


April M. Kemp
Founder / Program Director
april@marleysmission.com
(570) 587-HOPE

It means a lot to me that you all care enough to make such an amazing donation! I wish you all the best!



Tax ID: 27-1458718

www.marleysmission.com

PO Box 505 Scranton, PA 18505

In addition to LIFELINE's donation, Coal Township's inmate organization, Triumph will present a donation to Marley's Mission at their upcoming banquet.

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Fayette Superintendent Set to Retire

Even though June 2nd is the official date of retirement for Superintendent Jay Lane's, on May 19th the administrative staff at SCI Fayette said their good byes and expressed their thanks to him during a retirement luncheon.

Lane started his career as a corrections officer I at SCI Graterford in 1993. During his career he worked his way up through the ranks from COI to superintendent. Lane worked at SCI Graterford, Central Office, Pittsburgh, Laurel Highlands and finished up at SCI Fayette.



Pictured in the photo with Superintendent Lane is DSFM Scott Nickelson and DSCS Eric Armel. We wish Superintendent Lane well in whatever path he may take during his retirement.

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Legislative Visit Held at SCI Cambridge Springs

SCI Cambridge Springs had the honor of hosting 22 state and local officials for a Legislative Visit on May 18.



In the meeting prior to the tour, Representative Brad Roae presented Superintendent Joanne Torma with a Citation from the House of Representatives recognizing the 25th anniversary of the facility.

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DOC Recognizes Employees for Outstanding Performance and Valor

On May 24, 2017, at the Department of Corrections' Elizabethtown Training Academy, Corrections Secretary John Wetzel was joined by other agency officials in order to honor employees for their outstanding performance.

This agency has been recognizing its dedicated and exceptional employees since the early 1980s. The recognition improves employee morale and also provides examples of employee character and performance for others to strive to achieve. This year, 100 of the DOC's more than 15,000 employees were nominated by their peers for the outstanding performance award, medal of valor, mentor of the year award, and the DOC's Thomas Fulcomer Award.

"I am extremely proud of our employees," Secretary Wetzel said. "They are highly trained and dedicated individuals who often go above and beyond the requirements of their job descriptions in order to get the job done. Without them none of our successes would be realized."

Approximately 160 people gathered at the Academy to observe the award presentations:

Thomas A Fulcomer Award – Amy Boylan, SCI Cambridge Springs, Crawford County --

Amy Boylan was nominated for her outstanding interaction with all facility offices and departments and in particular for her work as the superintendent's assistant. As such, her duties over the past 10 years have included conducting tours of the prison, coordinating research, serving as the public information officer, litigation and grievance coordinator, and accreditation coordinator. She also is tasked with comforting and guiding inmate families through inmate deaths and funeral processes.

She is recognized for spearheading the prison's Angel Tree project, the Salvation Army bell ringing initiative during the Christmas season and for collecting, wrapping, organizing and mailing gifts to an orphanage in Latvia. *Thomas Fulcomer was a DOC regional deputy secretary who died in 2002 following a courageous battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Due to his exceptional work ethic and dedication to his coworkers and his agency, this award was named for him to keep his spirit alive.*



Medal of Valor – Michael L. Smith, SCI Houtzdale, Clearfield County

-- While driving home from work on the afternoon of March 25, near Tyrone, Blair County, Corrections Officer Michael Smith stopped at the scene of an accident and was told that a man was pinned under a farm tractor. He joined the group of onlookers who noticed a seriously injured man. Smith rendered first aid and worked to lift the tractor off of the injured man. Smith stayed with the man until emergency personnel arrived. The man was flown to a hospital and is recovering. A graduate of Kennett High School in Coatesville, Smith is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He has worked at SCI Houtzdale as a corrections officer since joining the DOC in September 2009. In his spare time, he coaches Logan Elementary School basketball and Little League baseball. He also volunteers with the Blair County African American Heritage project and Home Helpers annual events.



Mentor of the Year – Latricia Jones-Barefield, SCI Graterford, Montgomery County

-- Latricia Jones was presented with this award for her work over the past 10 years as a mentor. She goes out of her way to help and guide others, making sure their needs are addressed and that they have a positive experience. A member of the SCI Graterford Mentoring Committee, Jones has worked with five mentees – all of whom have been considered successful and positive. Some have gone on to become mentors themselves and volunteer with the mentoring committee. Jones' dedication to the department over the years and her excellent quality of work as a corrections officer enhances her role as a mentor. In addition to the mentoring committee, Jones volunteers her time with the SCI Graterford Employees' Association Committee and the hostage negotiation team. After high school, she earned her cosmetology license before joining the Department of Corrections in 2002.



Outstanding Performance Award Recipients:

Wendell Patz, SCI Albion, Erie County – Wendell Patz, a psychological services specialist at SCI Albion, has been described as an asset to the team for consistently doing outstanding work and for his dedication to his work. He takes personal pride in the success of inmates and works extremely hard in preparing a challenging population for reentry into the community. He is also a mentor to the younger members of the psychology staff, providing guidance and sharing his expertise. He has taken the



lead on transitioning the facility to electronic health records and creating an analysis to improve suicide prevention within the facility. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Patz earned his master's degree in clinical psychology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He joined the staff at SCI Albion in 2001, working in the Special Needs Unit. In 2014, he transitioned to the facility's new Residential Treatment Unit. Patz has served as the mental health coordinator at SCI Albion and the institution's liaison to the Social Security Administration since 2002. He has been a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management team since 2005 and is on the Suicide Prevention Committee.

Madeline Quinn, SCI Chester, Delaware County – Madeline “Mandy” Quinn was nominated for this award due to her strong work ethic, perseverance and commitment to her duties as administrative officer 1. She always maintains a positive attitude, goes above and beyond her job requirements and remains professional even in times of adversity. She has been a vital leader in the Chester PAWS program, which recently received 10 dogs. Quinn has consistently demonstrated a dedication to the department as well as aspirations to continue growing professionally. Having worked at SCI Graterford and Wernersville Community Corrections Center before moving to SCI Chester, Quinn began her employment with the DOC in 2006.



Jason Albert, SCI Frackville, Schuylkill County – Lieutenant Jason Albert, who began his employ with the DOC in 2005, received this award for his work in leading the establishment and operation of the DOC’s first behavioral management unit, a special unit that houses some of the most problematic and difficult individuals in the correctional system. As with any new program, there was a need for adaptability and perseverance to overcome numerous challenges, which Albert surmounted with innovative thinking and an open mind. He supervised his staff with professionalism and consistency. His communication skills and patience also allowed him to develop a positive rapport and



relationship with inmates and prevent difficult situations from escalating. He has been a strong mentor for newly commissioned staff and a positive role model for all corrections employees. He is currently the assistant Corrections Emergency Response Team leader and a member of the prison's Honor Guard. A graduate of Coughlin High School in Wilkes-Barre, Albert has served with the Pennsylvania National Guard since 1999 and has been deployed on two occasions. He is currently assigned to Battery B, 1st Battalion 109th Field Artillery. He is a member of the Homeland Response Force and most recently helped provide security for the Presidential Inauguration. In his spare time, he has been a coach and volunteer umpire with Little League baseball and midget football in the Wilkes-Barre area.

Brian Kovac, SCI Houtzdale, Clearfield County --

Lieutenant Brian Kovac, who began his DOC career at SCI Smithfield in April 1998, is currently assigned to the security office at SCI Houtzdale. His primary responsibilities include intelligence gathering, security threat monitoring, and contraband interdiction. He has created a positive impact on fellow employees and the inmate population at this facility. His efforts have led to the discovery of serious contraband in the facility in addition to preventing the

introduction of contraband narcotics through the visiting room on multiple occasions. He is providing a safer environment for staff and inmates alike. A graduate of Hollidaysburg High School, Kovac enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1993, earning the rank of sergeant. He continued to serve with the Army Reserve and the Pennsylvania National Guard until 2011. An active member of the Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT), Kovac is currently the Assistant CERT Team leader at SCI Houtzdale. He also volunteered as a Little League baseball coach in the Altoona area.



**Bradley McDermott, SCI
Laurel Highlands,
Somerset County**

– Food Service Manager 2 Bradley McDermott has been recognized by the prison's administrative staff as a natural leader. Since his arrival at the prison, overall operations have become more efficient, and the department has excelled in audits and inspections. He has streamlined procedures and reduced costs by reducing overtime.

McDermott was recruited to participate in a committee to develop, implement and monitor a limited privileges housing unit pilot program. He is also a member of the statewide administrative segregation reduction committee and a committee member for developing a leadership curriculum. His decision-making is grounded in ethical and moral standards, using practicality and common sense. One of his greatest skills is his ability to see the big picture, while reliably managing all the smaller details. A graduate of Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg, McDermott served in the U.S. Marine Corp. After four years of military service he earned a culinary arts certificate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and then worked in corrections food service management in Phoenix, Arizona. He returned to Pennsylvania and joined the DOC in May 2000 as corrections food service manager at SCI Cresson. In 2013, he became the corrections food service manager at SCI Laurel Highlands. McDermott has volunteered to mentor a new staff member at SCI Somerset, offering guidance, training and assistance. Additionally, he volunteers with Canine Partners for Life, a non-profit organization that trains service dogs.



Nathan Wynder, SCI Mahanoy, Schuylkill County -- Since first joining the DOC in 2001 at SCI Mahanoy, Lieutenant Nathan Wynder has proven to be an exceptional employee. He has consistently exhibited a level of dedication and excellence that far exceeded standards. Always calm under pressure, patient and professional in all interactions with staff



and inmates, he is flexible when the situation dictates but still offers firm guidance and supervision for inmates. In addition to his assigned responsibilities, Wynder also is a volunteer member of SCI Mahanoy's Corrections Emergency Response Team, Fire Emergency Response Team and Honor Guard. He has also volunteered for and serves on the mentoring committee, is the prison's State Employee Combined Appeal coordinator, active in Correctional Police Officers Foundation, and serves on the Statewide Violence Reduction Committee. As a mentor, he is consistently used to observe, coach and teach younger staff members as they begin their careers with the DOC. A graduate of Pittston Area High School and Luzerne County Community College, Wynder is foremost a dedicated husband and father of two young girls. He volunteers with the Pittston area Cheerleaders Booster Club, Duryea Mini-Football Association and the Avoca Youth Basketball Referee/Coaches Association.

Jamie Miller, SCI Muncy, Lycoming County --

Jamie Miller, a psychological services specialist, provides treatment and support to some of the most challenging inmates at SCI Muncy, creating individual recovery plans for inmates with severe mental health conditions and personality disorders, and conducts group therapy with the capital case inmates. An extremely reliable and professional member of the SCI Muncy staff, Miller works extremely well with security and treatment staff and can be relied upon to collaborate with other departments. She is humane and objective when working with even the most challenging inmates and helps them to identify relevant and obtainable treatment goals to promote personal growth. She is an advocate and positive role model for inmates, demonstrating a cool demeanor and professional attitude, managing even those with severe behavioral and psychiatric conditions. Miller started her career with the DOC at SCI Muncy in December 2013. She is a graduate of Lock Haven University and earned her master's degree in counseling at Capella University.



Lee J. Estock, SCI Pittsburgh, Allegheny County --

During his tour at SCI Pittsburgh as major of the guard, Estock has overseen various specialized units, helped prepare for outside audits and, most recently, taken a leadership role in the closure process of the facility. Estock began his DOC career as a corrections officer at SCI Pittsburgh in 1999, working in all areas of security including the long-term segregation unit where the most problematic inmates were housed. When SCI Pittsburgh was mothballed in 2005, he transferred to SCI



Forest where he was promoted to sergeant. He then returned to SCI Pittsburgh in 2007. He has served as a facility critical incident manager and assisted other law enforcement agencies during the G-20 summit held in Pittsburgh in 2009. He was promoted to captain in 2010, major in 2011 and served as the facility's acting Deputy Superintendent for Facilities Management in 2014. During his time at SCI Pittsburgh, Estock has led the force as services were expanded with the addition of mental health, diversionary treatment and residential treatment units for inmates. He also supervised the addition of a Veterans' Services Unit, Diagnostic and Classification Center and the Transitional Housing Unit. In January 2017, when the announcement was made to close SCI Pittsburgh, Estock organized a plan for the systematic closure of the various inmate housing units, along with the redeployment of correctional officers throughout the facility and maintaining security at various area medical care facilities. He also developed a process for staff to move to their new facilities as well as managing retirement. Estock served in the U.S. military as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division seeing combat duty in the first Gulf War in 1990-91 as an airborne artilleryman. He also served as commander of the VFW post in East Pittsburgh. A graduate of Woodland Hills High School, Major Estock attended Community College of Allegheny County.

Terry McMullen, SCI Smithfield, Huntingdon County -- Corrections

Officer Terry McMullen has worked as the telephone monitor at SCI Smithfield since January 2011. His superior performance is evident in his ability to gain intelligence through the performance of his duties. McMullen's intelligence gathering has assisted the Office of Special Investigation and Intelligence's field intelligence unit in providing assistance to outside law enforcement in both investigations and convictions of individuals who have committed offenses in the public sector. His efforts have also led to the confiscation of weapons and drugs from multiple sources. McMullen has spent his entire career, beginning in 1993, at SCI Smithfield. After graduating from Mount Union Area High School, McMullen served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1981 to 1987.



Married and the father of two daughters, McMullen participates in the annual "Wing-Off," to benefit Huntingdon County PRIDE, Inc. which provides programs for persons with developmental and/or physical challenges.

**Susan Duff, Bureau of
Community Corrections,
DOC Central Office,
Cumberland County --**

Susan Duff joined the Bureau of Community Corrections in March 2016, bringing with her fiscal and contract management experience from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Department of Health. She has incorporated many performance improvements in reentry services' invoice processing procedures by developing a data sheet to ensure consistency in review

and tracking invoice processing procedures. Duff also worked with staff and providers to ensure efficiencies by determining how to download data weekly from the referral database to avoid duplicative manual data entry and errors. She is managing the resolution of the invoice backlog by setting goals for the staff, most of which have been achieved early, and led an innovative procurement effort for community service lots for the BCC. Reentry Services invoices are on track to be current before the end of this fiscal year because of Duff's initiative and desire to build a team that works well together and succeeds. This was one of the major goals for BCC during this fiscal year and it has been achieved by working smarter with the resources at hand.



Laura Theurer, Office of Special Investigations and Intelligence, DOC Central Office, Cumberland County --

Laura Theurer joined the DOC as an intelligence coordinator for the Office of Special Investigations and Intelligence in December 2015. From the outset, she organized the information collected over the years and produced intelligence alerts, briefs and reports that anticipated events that would have occurred without prior warning.



Recognizing the need for an intelligence management system (IMS) to improve the collection and distribution of actionable intelligence, Theurer took the lead in development of IMS which will be launched this year. This central repository for all intelligence gathered throughout the DOC will allow each state prison's security office access to all information collected on every problematic inmate and gang throughout the system. Under her leadership, the Analytics Unit was formed in August 2016. Intelligence products have expanded and proved crucial in anticipating disruptions throughout the prison system. She embraced valuable relationships with federal, state and local law enforcement and implemented a system of exchange intelligence with those agencies. Theurer's efforts have made Pennsylvania's state prisons safer and as she launches IMS, intelligence gathered statewide will be in the hands of every security office in the state. Theurer was the first corrections intelligence coordinator to join the Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts, and she will be presenting the Pennsylvania Model of Intelligence Led Corrections to the national meeting later this year in Minnesota.

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Class Tours SCI Mercer

Dr. Yvonne Eaton-Stull, assistant professor of social work at Slippery Rock University, and five of her students in the Forensic Social Work class participated in a tour of SCI Mercer on May 23, in order to learn more about the environment and the services available to the inmate population.

Students in this course are particularly interested in working in the criminal justice system and having the opportunity to learn from professionals working within the system is invaluable to their educational experience. Additionally, seeing firsthand the environment of a prison will help guide them in their future career choices.

Prior to the tour, the class met with Dr. Cynthia Wright, LPM, and Lisa Foust, LSW, Treatment Specialist Corrections Counselor, for a presentation and question/answer period about the psychological needs and services of the inmate population.



Pictured with Dr. Cynthia Wright, who is in the back, are, left to right: Lisa Foust, five Slippery Rock University students, and Dr. Yvonne Eaton-Stull.

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Rockview Holds Annual Turkey Hunt

SCI Rockview hosted the 3rd Annual Wounded Veteran Turkey Hunt May 9-10, 2017, in partnership with the Nittany Valley Longbeard Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Five veterans were invited to participate in a two-day Spring Gobbler hunt, and a turkey calling contest was held among employees to determine which SCI Rockview employees would serve as guides during the hunt.

A meet and greet dinner was held at the Pleasant Gap Legion on May 8, 2017. The hunters were each presented with items that included a Jack Paluh painting that encompassed the spirit of the event. All items were purchased with proceeds raised during the year through SCI Rockview employee fundraisers.

The veteran hunters include Brandon Rumbaugh - US Marine; Jay Willard – US Marine; John Hartt – US Army; and Kevin Broderick (representative from It's About the Warrior Foundation). In addition, this year's hunt included World War II veteran Glenn Righter – US Marine.

Two of the five hunters were successful in harvesting a gobbler on the first day of the hunt. The hunters were then given the opportunity to participate in the Corrections Employee Week barbeque at the facility. While only two birds were harvested, four of the five hunters got opportunities. Guides included Sgt. M. Intallura, Corrections Officer 1 E. Hall, Maintenance Foreman 1 J. Payne, CETI Matt Foster, and Warehouse SC Jessie Reigel.

An additional Jack Paluh painting was raffled off during Corrections Employee Week with the fundraiser being led by Acting Major Paul Lechner. Staff raised \$561 that will be put toward the 2018 hunt. Corrections Activities Specialist Davis (also a veteran) was the lucky winner. SCI Rockview is honored to host this event each year. None of this would be possible without the support and fundraising efforts of SCI Rockview employees.

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Wounded Warrior Speaks to DOC Basic Training Class

As part of Mental Health Awareness Month, wounded Afghanistan veteran Earl Granville spoke to Department of Corrections trainees and employees on May 22.

Granville, while recovering from his injuries from a roadside bomb in 2007, lost his twin brother to suicide in 2010.

About 150 attendees including students from the current corrections officer basic training class, were on hand for the speech and a question-and-answer period. Granville encouraged those in attendance to seek help if faced with an overwhelming situation.



“If you see something wrong with yourself, there’s no reason not to reach out – especially when we have the resources available,” Granville said. “The resources are out there. Let’s start using them.”

Granville also shared stories of his deployment and his recovery from both losing his left leg in Afghanistan and coping with his brother’s suicide.

Both brothers joined the Army National Guard and were bunk mates in basic training – later deploying together twice overseas. After returning home, his brother, Joe, became a corrections officer at SCI Waymart. When Earl returned to Afghanistan and was seriously injured, requiring a lengthy rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Joe took his brother’s injury hard. Still other factors, such as losing friends in combat, all contributed to him eventually committing suicide.

Granville impressed upon the trainees how important it is to not keep stress to themselves.

“As humans, we’re going to face in life anxiety, stress, loss of a loved one – sometimes things might not go the way we planned it,” Granville said. “Most of the time, we can take it on our own. But sometimes we may need a little push –

whether it's a counselor, a battle buddy, a fellow corrections officer, whatever it may be. Go get help."

On a return trip to Afghanistan, Granville shared with other wounded warriors the difficult recovery process for soldiers, their family and friends. It was there that he was able to open up about his brother's suicide, and it led him to realize the importance of helping others to be more vigilant in looking for potential signs of suicide.

Granville now works for Operation Enduring Warrior, an organization that provides support and services to help wounded service members through physical, mental and emotional rehabilitation. He also works with the Oscar Mike Foundation, which sells apparel and forwards the proceeds to help keep wounded veterans "on the move." O.M., or "Oscar Mike" in military radio jargon, means "on the move."

The Training Academy has been selling Oscar Mike t-shirts this month. Academy staff and cadets donated \$300 to the Oscar Mike Foundation in Granville's name. Additional donations totaling \$200 were also given by both the Academy's Employee Activities Association and members of the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association.

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Corrections Employee Week

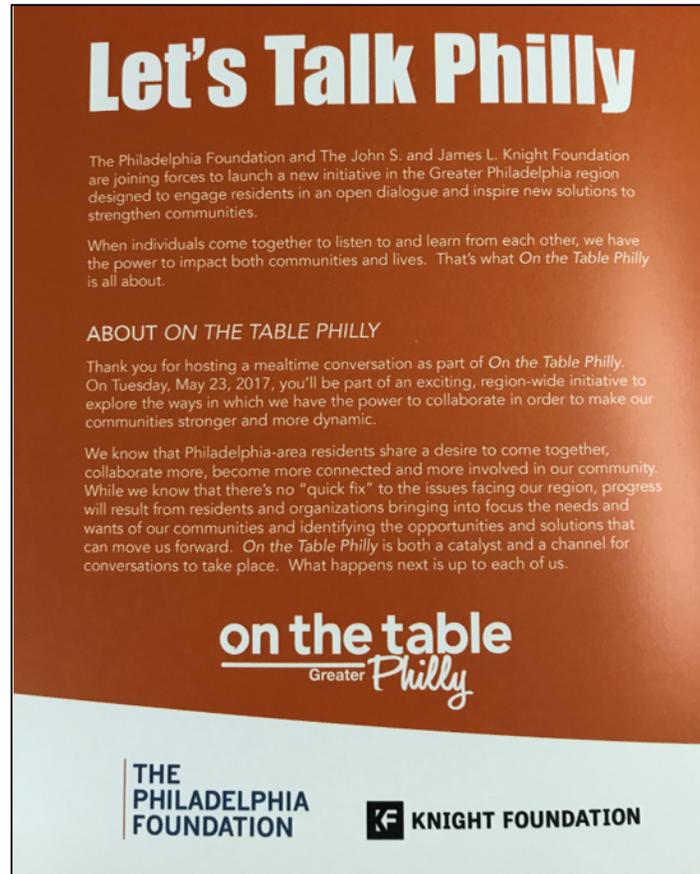
While Corrections Employee Week was earlier in May, the facilities continue to share stories and photos about how they celebrated the one week of recognition they receive for the difficult work they do. Here's info from SCI Cambridge Springs:

Corrections Employee Week 2017 was a fun and festive event for staff at SCI Cambridge Springs. The prison's Employee's Association planned a full week of special meals and activities for all employees. A candy bar fundraiser was held prior to Corrections Employee Week to raise money for food and prizes.

Staff enjoyed the baked potato bar, popcorn and ox roast sandwiches in Dietary, as well as a cookout with hamburgers, hotdogs, a friendly game of Corn Hole and all the picnic fixings.

A Friends & Family Day Facility Tour was held on May 10, with more than 60 guests present. Staff also participated in a Putt-Putt contest on their way in and out of work on May 10. Prison administrators and Food Service Supervisor Myers recognized 3rd shift staff by coming into the facility and personally cooking a meal for them on May 11.

provide reentry services, representatives from the PA Prison Society and Weidner School of Nursing.



Gathered over what Supt. Lamas called the ultimate equalizer – food – the participants broke bread and then began discussing how the DOC could become better at helping individuals return home after incarceration.

The shared opinion was that reentry is not just a job to be done by the inmate or the DOC, it is a cooperation involving everyone.



The DOC posted to Twitter throughout the event. You can review the tweets on Twitter at @CorrectionsPA.

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Week of May 15...

Governor Wolf, Attorney General Shapiro Announce Launch of Reentry Council

Council efforts will help incarcerated individuals' successful reentry into communities



Supporting Gov. Tom Wolf are, from left to right, Ted Dallas, secretary of the PA Department of Health and Human Services; David Volkman, Department of Education deputy secretary; Shirley Moore Smeal, executive deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections; Leo Dun, chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole; Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General; and Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm.

On May 15, Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro, along with members of the governor's cabinet and legislators, announced the launch of the **Pennsylvania Reentry Council (PRC)**, created to educate the public, members of law enforcement and criminal justice, and policymakers on why supporting prisoner reentry efforts is essential to reducing crime and violence. The council will provide a forum for the sharing of best practices on reentry and will help to identify barriers to successful reentry for persons with criminal records.

"In Pennsylvania, 90 percent of the prison population will return to their community," Governor Wolf said. "And if we are not successful at getting them the services they need to make it home, then all of our work, all the rehabilitative programming, all the money we've spent to get them ready to return home is rendered useless. Pennsylvania has had a large but fragmented network of reentry services, but today with the announcement of the Reentry Council, we can unite the state's multiple reentry partners into one statewide reentry council."

"For too long, we've relied solely on incarceration to prevent crime and violence," said Attorney General Josh Shapiro. "By working collaboratively with law enforcement, state and local government and communities, we can create new strategies to expand opportunities and assist returning citizens as they reenter their communities, and make our commonwealth safer as a result."

The Department of Corrections (DOC), the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), 21 regional reentry coalitions and numerous reentry services providers work regularly to improve the outcomes of reentrants and increase public safety—but often in silos and without clear direction.

Members of these state agencies and the departments of Human Services, Labor & Industry, Education and Transportation, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Office of Victim Advocate and the existing 21 regional coalitions will be part of the new PRC, which will be the center of reentry efforts for the commonwealth to establish common goals, promote evidence-based practices and encourage collaboration and coordination across all stakeholder groups. PRC will build on the individual successes of reentry organizations and identify and eliminate weaknesses.

The PRC will work to promote collaboration between federal, state, local and community reentry stakeholders and identify and implement successful evidence-based reentry programs.

"The reentry process begins upon an individual's admission into the correctional system and continues through release and into their community," Governor Wolf said. "To continue Pennsylvania's historic inmate reduction – more than 2,000 individuals since January 2015 – we must expand reentry services and build on the good work already being done by stakeholders. The new Reentry Council will do just that."

"One of the most impactful ways to lower our recidivism rate is meaningful re-integrative services and removing the barriers to re-integration," Representative Jordan Harris said on behalf of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus. "We applaud the governor and the Attorney General for their foresight to establish this council and look forward to working with the council for the betterment of our commonwealth."

At the state level the Wolf Administration continues to implement policies and expand services to improve reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. Among those efforts, Governor Wolf introduced a 'Ban the Box' Fair-Chance hiring policy for state agencies that will remove the criminal conviction question from both civil and non-civil service employment applications for agencies under the

governor's jurisdiction. Ban the Box allows for reentry services in Pennsylvania to work by providing applicants a fair chance to be judged on their qualifications, not their criminal history.

Also, Governor Wolf signed Act 5 of 2016 into law, which removes barriers to employment by sealing minor criminal records for those who have been crime-free for 10 years. Farther reaching 'clean slate' legislation is anticipated later this year to provide for "automatic" sealing of non-violent misdemeanor records after 10 years.

Following the press conference, the first meeting of the Reentry Council was held at the Attorney General's Office.

According to the Governor's Office, policies and expanded services that will be implemented to improve reentry, reduce recidivism and increase public safety, include:

- **Department of Criminal Justice:** The unification of the DOC and PBPP into the Department of Criminal Justice is paramount to the improved reentry of the Pennsylvania state prison population. Individuals will have a single point of contact to access community resources for reentry. Through employing cohesive, research-driven strategies that support successful, permanent reintegration the unification is anticipated to result in a 5% recidivism over the five-year period. The creation of a concise and smoothly run system will allow for community reinvestment through increased field staff resulting in reduced caseloads and enhanced individual supervision.

Mission of the Pennsylvania Reentry Council (PRC):

General the purpose of the PRC is to make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization. The outlined purpose is:

(1) Expand the education of the public, members of law enforcement and criminal justice, and policymakers why supporting prisoner reentry efforts is essential to reducing crime and violence;

(2) Provide a forum for the sharing of best practices, including reviewing successful, existing evidence-informed programs and initiatives;

(3) Identify barriers to successful reentry for person with criminal records including:

(a) Access to housing;

(b) Removing barriers to employment;

(c) Access to effective treatment for healthcare, addiction, mental health, and trauma;

(d) Facilitating access to driver's licenses, social security cards, and other identification documents essential to obtaining employment, housing, and other government assistance;

(e) Expand access to education; and

(f) Provide guidance for the creation of Reentry Courts, Veterans Courts, and Drug Courts.

(4) Revisit and work to change policies & practices of state agencies, that are not directly related to reentry, that create some of the biggest reentry barriers, such as DOT (licenses & ID), Department of Labor (training etc.), Department of Education (GEDs etc.), & DHS (MA suspension & enrollment, though work on this is underway).

(5) Promote collaboration between federal, state, local, and community reentry stakeholders and identify and implement successful evidence-based reentry programs.

-Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Pennsylvania has undergone two Justice Reinvestment Initiative through the Council of State Governments Justice Center. Passed into law in 2012, the first initiative focused on developing responses to major parole violations with shorter periods of incarcerations (6-18 months) with stronger supervision and treatment upon completion. Governor Wolf request JRI 2, which will save an estimated \$91 million over 5 years and reinvest over half in the county probation system to strengthen reentry services. Savings will be realized by addressing ineffective short state prison sentences and improving pretrial and sentencing policies to further reduce recidivism.

-Removing Barriers to Employment:

- **Ban the Box:** Governor Wolf's 'Ban the Box' Fair-Chance hiring policy for state agencies that will remove the criminal conviction question from non-civil service employment applications for agencies under the governor's jurisdiction. The Civil Service Commission agreed to extend this policy to civil-service employees. Ban the Box allows for reentry services in Pennsylvania to work by providing applicants a fair chance to be judged on their qualifications not their criminal history.
- **Clean Slate:** Governor Wolf signed Act 5 of 2016 into law, which removes barriers to employment by sealing minor criminal records for those who have been crime-free for 10 years. Farther reaching clean slate legislation is anticipated later this year to provide for "automatic" sealing of non-violent misdemeanor records after 10 years.

-Expanding Services:

- **Rolling Invitation to Quality (ITQ) for Reentry Services:** The DOC and PBPP have a joint ITQ for vendors who provide evidence-based reentry programming for inmates and parolees. There are 11 service categories related to assisting reentrants with a successful return home after state prison incarceration (e.g. Housing Assistance Program, Mentoring, Sex Offender Treatment, Outpatient Mental Health Services, Transitional Client Workforce Development Services, etc.)
- **Specialty Courts:** Pennsylvania has one of the most robust court systems in the country but still cannot meet the need for all qualified justice involved individuals. Governor Wolf included \$3.4 million in PCCD's 2017-2018 budget to support the drug court system and a separate \$1.1 million continued appropriation for the AOPC problem-solving court program. An additional \$3.5 million for expansion and treatment services was funded through the CURES Act.

- Medicaid Suspension: Governor Wolf signed Act 76 of 2016 into law, which suspends Medicaid benefits rather than terminating for anyone who will be incarcerated for less than 2 years.

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Letter to the Editor

A win-win for everyone

Editor
The Daily News
Dear Editor:

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP) take issue with the article "Possible Merger Could Hurt DOC" that ran in the May 10 edition of *The Daily News*.

Contrary to the portrayal in the article, the two agencies strongly support Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed merger of the DOC and PBPP as a way to improve public safety, seamlessly transition individuals back to society and save taxpayer dollars.

As the leaders of the two agencies, we have expressed significant concerns about the impact a proposed \$261 million cut in the House budget would have on the capability and efficiency of the new agency.

We do not believe the department can responsibly absorb this additional cost reduction and maintain that safety.

The DOC has already closed one prison this year because of anticipated cuts to the agency's budget. We believe an additional cut of the size the House proposes could lead to further prison closures, which could have devastating effects to local economies, particularly in rural areas.

The new unified agency, to be known as the Department of Criminal Justice, will increase public safety and improve outcomes by providing services and programming to inmates in state correctional institutions. And it will provide comprehensive reentry services and supervision to those returning to the communities, all while aggressively controlling costs.

We believe it's a win-win for everyone.

John Wetzel
Secretary

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
Leo Dunn
Chairman

Pennsylvania Board of Probation and
Parole

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Forensic Treatment Center (FTC) Licensure Survey

As is done annually, the staff of SCI Waymart's Forensic Treatment Center participated in a licensure survey May 11, 2017. The survey was conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) survey team, which included:

Dr. Dale Adair, DHS Chief Medical Officer and Acting Deputy Secretary for DHHS
Ms. Jessica Penn Shires, Human Services Program Rep.
Ms. Trisha Mader, Director of Clinical Review & Consultation
Ms. Teresa Mislinski, Human Services Program Rep.
Ms. Wendy Heatley, Human Services Program Rep.

The survey team met with FTC directors and various staff to discuss audit questions ranging from pharmacy use, restraint use to training issues. Dr. Adair stated that both he and his team were very appreciative of the time and effort everyone puts in while working in the FTC. He was also impressed with the facility's procedures and equipment for the Telepsychiatry pilot program. It is a program he recommended that SCI Waymart will continue to monitor and to improve upon. Dr. Adair told SCI Waymart staff that they can now move ahead and no longer consider this a pilot program. It can now be considered to be part of the prison's regular procedures.

The team also spent time touring the units of the FTC, speaking to various staff and inmates. They saw staff interacting with inmates in the team rooms, in group activities and the shops.

The prison received complimentary reports from each member of the survey team during the exit interview. Block cleanliness, staff professionalism and staff enthusiasm were all mentioned. Ms. Mislinski and Ms. Penn-Shires noted the prison's unique culture of cooperation between treatment and security employees and the good rapport and excellent communication among all disciplines. Ms. Heatley noted the prison's positive use of specially trained inmate certified peer support specialists and encouraged their continued use. She was also impressed with the prison's dog program and their presence on specialized units.

The final report is expected in about four to six weeks.

"I cannot name all the FTC staff who were involved in this effort without leaving someone of significance out, so I will ask each FTC department head to share with their staff the results of this survey and the gratitude of both Superintendent John Sommers and myself for their efforts in not only preparing for this survey but also in the great job they do on a daily basis with some of the most difficult special population inmates in the DOC," said Deputy Superintendent Paul DeRosso.

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Revolutionizing Inmate/Reentrant Educational Computer Systems

The Department of Corrections, through its Bureau of Information Technology (BIT), is currently undertaking a project to revolutionize the inmate and reentrant educational computer systems within each SCI. This project will:

- Replace outdated desktops with newer, more reliable, more secure, zero client machines,
- Enable the DOC to react quicker to improved software, systems, and applications for the educational teams,
- Allow for the standardization of the educational experience across every SCI.

The same systems will be used at every SCI location, for consistency purposes. Additionally, the DOC expects to become more efficient by utilizing systems that can remain functional for much longer than traditional desktops. This, combined with the capability of deploying new applications in hours instead of months, positions DOC as a leader in the educational arena.

As we look toward the future, the DOC is also testing various biometric devices, which would allow inmates and reentrants to securely log into educational systems, without the possibility of password sharing or account lock-out.

The DOC is excited about this initiative and its resulting benefits, combined with further enhancing the security posture of the educational system.

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Update on Pennsylvania DOC's "Juvenile Lifers"

In 2012, the United States Supreme Court held in *Miller v. Alabama* that it is unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile offender to *mandatory* life-without-parole. The *Miller* Court did not determine if the decision should be applied retroactively, and left that question to the states. In 2013, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided in *Commonwealth v. Cunningham* that *Miller* was not retroactive.

In January 2016, however, the United States Supreme Court disagreed. It held in *Montgomery v. Louisiana* that *Miller* should, in fact, be applied retroactively and thus apply to cases decided prior to the 2012 ruling.

In practical terms, this means that those juvenile offenders previously sentenced to mandatory life-without-parole can seek resentencing by the trial court.

Since 2012, the DOC and its employees at every facility and at Central Office have been working to identify “juvenile” lifers in the DOC. In addition, because this group of inmates previously was never going to be released from prison, the DOC worked provide these juvenile lifers with treatment and educational programing, and they worked to help the inmates obtain their birth certificates, Social Security cards and other identification necessary upon release from prison. We’ve also worked to provide the inmates with information about how to sign up for and receive medical assistance and services from the Veterans Administration, should they be eligible.

“We want to do all we can to set these individuals up for success,” said DOC Secretary John Wetzel. “This is what we have done since 2012 and this is what we will continue to do until every case is handled.”

The DOC identified 516 juvenile lifers in its system. Employees held regular meetings with the inmates and prison staff that included bringing into the prisons representatives from a number of outside agencies that could provide services to the juvenile lifers should they be successful in obtaining a resentencing that would result in their release or parole. The facilities also included inmate families and friends in this endeavor in an attempt to help the inmates restore the family support they will need upon release from prison.

In addition to the meetings with outside representatives, DOC officials held regular video conferences, or focus groups, with the inmates to discuss their concerns and needs and to answer questions.

As of May 15, 2017, two of the juvenile lifers have died, leaving a total of 514 such inmates. Of the 514 inmates, 40 have been released, 93 have been resentenced and 56 have been paroled. Please note that these figures are constantly changing as cases are resolved.

Our work in this area continues as the rest of the juvenile lifers continue to work with their attorneys to be resentenced or released, depending upon the circumstances of their convictions.

“We want to do all we can to set these individuals up for success,” said DOC Secretary John Wetzel. “This is what we have done since 2012 and this is what we will continue to do until every case is handled.”

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SCI Pittsburgh Preparing to Close

On Friday, May 5, 2017, SCI Pittsburgh hosted a Friends and Family Tour night as part of planning for the closure of the prison by June 30, 2017. In spite of the 'not so perfect' weather that eve, which included both rain and a rainbow over the City of Pittsburgh in the background, nearly 700 employees and their families and friends attended.

Up to now the DOC has been reducing the inmate population and also has relocated the prison's employees. Today, only 10 inmates remain, and a crew of employees who will remain to the end are on site.



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Caring About Animals

As part of Corrections Employee Week, DOC Central Office employees set up collection jars with each one benefitting a different animal-related organization. Altogether \$238.11 was raised with the amount breaking down to the following donations: Speranza - \$61; Perry County Animal Rescue - \$20; Harrisburg Humane Society - \$58.72; Feline Solutions - \$51; Mastiffs to Mutts - \$45.65; and Mostly Muttz Rescue - \$21.74.

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Workforce Development

DOC staff recently offered a session to workforce development professionals at the PA Workforce Development Association's 33rd Annual Employment, Training, and Education Conference in Hershey, Pa.

The session was titled "Working Together Inside and Outside the Walls: Collaborating with PADO.".

The session allowed DOC staff to share what it does to prepare reentrants, including the new Career Pathways framework that the DOC is implementing at pilot institutions. The audience was engaged in a discussion on how the DOC can work more closely with outside workforce partners to better prepare reentrants for employment upon reentry.

DOC Reentry Coordinator Janeen Christ, Correction Education Bureau Director Terri Fazio, Career Pathway Programs Manager Dorenda Hamarlund, and Executive Policy & Grants Specialist Kelly Martini participated.

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NURSES ARE APPRECIATED!

In honor of National Nurses Week, SCI Cambridge Springs Superintendent Joanne Torma presented the prison's nursing staff with a cake to show appreciation for the wonderful job they do all year long!



SCI Cambridge Springs Nurses --
Back row, left to right: Jeff Moles,
Paul Smith. Front row, left to right:
Tamara Coburn, Kurt Ferry, Brenda
Chizmar, Donna Irwin, Bill Muroff

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Retiree Picnic Held

SCI Benner Township and SCI Cresson retirees spent the day with Benner Township staff catching up, laughing, eating and talking about “old times” during the retiree luncheon held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017.



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Mercer Holds Career Fair for Inmates

On May 2, 2017, SCI Mercer’s Education Department held a career fair in the gymnasium for inmates within two years remaining on their minimum sentence. This event was organized as an effort to assist inmates with making community connections in preparation for their imminent release from prison. The event was well attended by 261 inmates who were able to connect with 41 representatives from local organizations, including:



Mercer County CareerLink, Laurel Technical Institute, Mental Health Association, PennLine, Gaudenzia Erie, Amachi Pittsburgh, Greater Erie Community Action, Mercer County Assistance Office, Mercy Hospital, Mon Valley Initiative and SCI Mercer’s Library’s Career Center, Inmate Employment Office and Vocational Education Class Instructors.

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Recognizing Maintenance Employees

On May 15, 2017, SCI Mercer Superintendent Brian Thompson held a Chili Dog Luncheon for employees of the prison's Maintenance Department.

"I wanted to honor and recognize the hard work and dedication the facility's maintenance staff continuously displays," Superintendent Thompson said. "Under the supervision of Facility Maintenance Manager Larry Boggs, the maintenance team recently completed the renovation of housing unit D and turned it into a tertiary unit in only two months."

Thompson said that not only was the renovation completed using quality work, it was performed while keeping up with the regular institutional daily maintenance routine and any unscheduled issues that arose.



Kudos to the Maintenance Department!

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Staff Wellness

In support of the DOC's Staff Wellness Initiatives, SCI Waymart employees participated in a Staff Wellness Walk, one of the activities offered during Corrections Employees Week. Staff joined together during lunch time to walk approximately one mile, the length of the perimeter road surrounding the facility. Nala, one of the prison's dogs that is available for adoption, accompanied the group.



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DOC K9's Participate in "Bark For Life!"

On May 7, 2017, two of the DOC's Drug Interdiction Unit K9s and their handlers participated recently at the American Cancer Society Bark For Life of Mifflin Juniata. The event is a noncompetitive walk event for dogs and their owners to raise funds and awareness for the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer.

By supporting Bark For Life, individuals help the American Cancer Society save lives and moves the organization closer to its ultimate goal of a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

The fun-filled day starting with a walk and then continuing with demonstrations, contests and games. Coordinators of the event said they raised more than \$3,500.

DOC K9s and their handlers, Sgt. Grove and Sgt. Greendonner, demonstrated the K9s' drug detecting skills.



Here Sgt. Grove and K9, Gaston, demonstrate the general drug detection skills of a DOC K9



DOC K9 handler Sgt. Greendonner and Kees demonstrate the "passive search" technique used to detect drugs on an individual without the dog touching the person. The dog simply sniffs the air around a person.

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DOC Provides CIT Training for County Prison Officials

By Lt. Virgil Meyer, CIT Training Program Coordinator

On April 24, 2017, the DOC Training Academy hosted a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for county prison officials. Thirty-one participants, working as officers, social workers, security staff, medical staff and one deputy warden, from the following counties attended the training: Berks, Bradford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Northumberland, Philadelphia and Schuylkill. In addition, three employees from SCI Coal Township and one individual from Management and Training Corporation also attended.

During the course, participants were provided with an understanding of mental illness through presentations by both consumers and community members having experience with mental illness. There were also two days of verbal de-escalation training.

This part of the training was made possible due to a recent train-the-trainer seminar attended by Lt. Virgil Meyer and SCI Frackville Unit Manager Rhonda Tomcavage. Provided by the University of Memphis CIT Center, the goal of this training was to give staff the ability to recognize an inmate in crisis, possibly suffering with a mental illness (or not), and use the "four plays and 12 guiderails of verbal de-escalation in a CIT "first responder role."

Also at this April training, Vivian Spiese was on hand as a community representative. Also affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Spiese shared her heartfelt story of dealing with a family member diagnosed with a mental illness and the process of treatment and incarceration for that member of her family. She is turning 91 years old this May and attends every CIT course held by the Training Academy.

In addition to CIT Program Director Virgil Meyer, training staff on hand to deliver this material at the April CIT training for county prisons included DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone, DOC Bureau of Health Care Services Director of Clinical Services Dr. Paul Noel, former SCI Waymart superintendent/current annuitant Joseph Nish, former DOC Chief of Psychology/current annuitant Dr. Lance Couturier, SCI Frackville Unit Manager Rhonda Tomcavage and SCI Mahanoy Unit Manager Joe Holly.

Here's what some participants had to say about this training:

"Easily, the most beneficial part of the training, was the role-play scenarios and portions on PTSD and staff wellness. The scenarios allowed us to see 'where the rubber meets the road,' and the instructors did a great job of reminding the students that these situations can have numerous outcomes. Hearing Lt. Meyer's story on living with PTSD and working in corrections was invaluable when it comes to staff wellness. This training isn't just about inmates, it's about us (staff) and can be used in our everyday life."

"I hate role playing, but I will have to admit that it really worked with this. I dreaded coming to this training, but the instructors made me feel comfortable, even when I had to step out of my comfort zone. They were very informative and you can tell that they love what they do. The role playing and the handouts were instrumental in this training. Also the hearing voices activity was really eye opening. I think this training is great. It made me think about past situations with inmates and how I could have dealt with them differently. The instructors were patient and shared their experience and expertise well. I hope security staff from my county will attend this."

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Senator Langerholc Visits Quehanna Boot Camp

On May 15, 2017, Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr. visited the Quehanna Boot Camp for a tour and to attend Boot Camp graduation.



During the tour, Senator Langerholc had an opportunity to address the graduating male and female teammates. He expressed how impressed he was with how they carried themselves and reminded them that they should be proud of their achievements. He also visited with the next graduating male platoon and a male State Intermediate Punishment (SIP) program housing unit to ask about their experiences both in life and at Quehanna Boot Camp.

When one SIP inmate was asked if he had a job lined up upon his release, the inmate responded that he was a graduate of Temple University and planned to go back to further his education.

After visiting a few housing units, Senator Langerholc met with some key staff to discuss reentry initiatives, educational classes, such as GED and Adult Commonwealth Secondary Diploma, and vocational classes which include Fiber Optics and OSHA. He learned that Quehanna Boot Camp has the highest rate of passing GEDs in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Also, he learned that the facility, since August 2016, has been successfully administering Vivitrol -- a medication assisted treatment program to combat Opioid dependence -- to inmates prior to their release.



Senator Wayne Langerholc, Jr. and Quehanna Boot Camp Commander Mary Natoli

Following the tour, Senator Langerholc attended the Boot Camp graduation ceremony. The graduating platoons were comprised of 43 males and three females. Approximately 200 inmates and 75 family and friends of the graduating inmates attended.

Since the beginning of the Boot Camp program in June 1992, approximately 8,600 inmates have successfully completed the program. Nearly 4,200 inmates completed Phase 2 of the SIP program at Quehanna Boot Camp since 2005.

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Remembering Totti

K-9 Totti, the two-year-old Labrador retriever who was a member of the DOC Drug Interdiction Unit, who died in a tragic accident last summer, was honored last week in Washington D.C. as part of National Law Enforcement Week.

Kali Gardner, an assistant district attorney for Mille Lacs County Minnesota, participated for Team Minnesota in Ruff Ride, an annual 187-mile bike ride from Cumberland, MD to Washington D.C. along the historic C&O Canal, that honors all law enforcement K-9s who died in the line of duty in the prior year.



DOC Chief of Security Major Scott Bowman met Gardner at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C., where she presented him with an honorary dog tag bearing Totti's name.



"We were honored to share this event with the C.O.P.S. (Concerns of Police Survivors) and Ruff Rider groups to remember our fallen brothers, sisters and canine partners," said Bowman. "Moments like this are healing."

Totti, died when his handler accidentally left him in a hot vehicle last July at the DOC K-9 facility at SCI Rockview. DOC staff members rushed Totti to a veterinarian but he was unable to be saved. Bowman said he shared with Gardner information about the range of steps DOC has taken since then to ensure such a tragedy never happens again. The new policies are:

- All state correctional institutions have been provided two portable/collapsible kennels.
- At no time will the K-9 remain in the car while out of eye sight of the handler. If the handler goes inside a facility, the K-9 will be brought inside and placed in the portable/collapsible kennels.
- While on deployment and staying in hotel, the K-9 will not remain in the vehicle. The K-9 will be brought inside the hotel room and placed in kennel provided. Warning signs will be placed on the outside of hotel room door to alert hotel staff that a K-9 is present.
- Vehicle temperature warning placards have been placed inside every vehicle in view of the handler.
- All vehicle's equipped with tint and window visors.
- New 24 hour/7 days-a-week vet care service for canines.

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Handlers/K9s Participate in Peace Officer Memorial Service

On May 17, 2017, the DOC's Assistant Drug Interdiction Coordinator Lt. Timothy New, along with Sgt. J. Webb/K9 Focusz, and Sgt. J. Burger/K9 Julia, attended the Indiana County Peace Officers Memorial Service held at Hilltop Baptist Church in Indiana, Pa.



From left to right: Sgt. J. Burger and K9 Julia; Lt. Timothy New; and Sgt. J. Webb and K9 Focusz.

The service was coordinated and run by Indiana County Sheriff R. Fyock, who gave the welcoming remarks followed by the Presentation of Colors by SCI Pine Grove's Honor Guard. Several state and local dignitaries were in attendance and gave speeches about the importance of law enforcement in our communities. The special speaker was Director/Warden Mark Rockovich from the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. He gave a very emotional presentation about the day Corrections Officer Kristopher Moules was killed.

The SCI Pine Grove Honor guard conducted a Flag Folding Ceremony, and a salute to the fallen was given. While each of the names were read, a bell sounded and an officer representing that department laid a rose at the base of the wreath.

"I had the honor of representing the DOC and read the names and bios for K9 Totti of the Drug Interdiction Unit and CO1 David Weaver of SCI Graterford," Lt. New said. "Sgt. Webb laid the rose for K9 Totti and Lt. J. Minor from SCI Pine Grove laid the rose for CO1 Weaver."

The Salute was then followed by the local VFW playing Taps and Pastor Jack Lucas (Hilltop Baptist Church) playing Amazing Grace on bagpipes. SCI Pine Grove retired the colors, and Sheriff Fyock made closing remarks.

“The entire experience was very humbling,” Lt. New added. “It brings into perspective that we live in dangerous times and, in our profession, how quickly our lives can change or end. It was an honor to represent the Department of Corrections.”

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Environmental Stewardship

SCI Camp Hill recently was recognized by one of its vendors for its “environmental stewardship” for use of a patented automatic brine delivery system. The vendor, AUTOBrine, reports that the prison has reduced its carbon dioxide footprint by using bulk salt rather than dried bagged salt – an action which has avoided the prison sending 44,672 plastic bags to the landfill each year as well as pallets and stretch wrap.

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Upcoming Events

Prison Healthcare and Reentry Summit

As part of AIDS Education Month events being coordinated by Philadelphia FIGHT, the “Beyond the Walls: Prison Healthcare and Reentry Summit” will be held June 28, 2017, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia.

As part of the summit, DOC Mental Health Advocate Lynn Patrone and Office of Health Care Systems Advocate Kimberlee Drum will serve as panelists in a workshop entitled “The Changing Faces of Living Behind and Beyond the Walls.”

According to summit organizers, its goal is to bring together communities that are affected by the parallel crises of HIV and mass imprisonment. With a focus on community led responses to the crisis in the criminal justice system, workshops reflect the needs of prisoners and former prisoners and will highlight the work being done to improve conditions inside the prison walls and in the communities to which prisoners are returning.

According to their website, Philadelphia FIGHT’s Community Health Centers provide culturally competent comprehensive primary care and state-of-the-art HIV primary care to low income members of the community, including formerly incarcerated persons. Learn more at <https://fight.org/>

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Simulcasting Music LIVE from SCI Graterford on June 10!

You may recall that earlier this year, SCI Graterford inmates had the honor of working with visitors from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Through a program called "Songs in the Key of Free," the visitors tutored inmates and provided them weekly with two-hour workshops. One end result of this program is a live concert with inmate and visitor performances held at Graterford on June 10 and simulcast at the Philadelphia Free Library. In fact these workshops are expected to continue after this concert event. Will more concerts be held later? Only time will tell.

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On The Table Philly (#LetsTalkPhilly)

On May 23, SCI Chester will host its "On the Table Greater Philly" event that will include a lively discussion about "how incarceration is not a one man sentence and how it affects the family."

This event, which will include about 15-20 invited guests, including a reporter from the local newspaper, is intended to foster a discussion about inmates and how society accepts them and supports them and their families while they are in prison and after their release from prison.

[On the Table Philly](#) is a forum designed to engage area residents in an open dialogue, foster new relationships and inspire solutions to strengthen communities. On May 23, 2017, Philadelphia area residents will gather in small groups across the region to share a meal and discuss the opportunities and issues faced in the region. It is hoped that these conversations can inspire new ways for people to work together to make communities stronger and more dynamic.

The Philadelphia Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation are partnering to bring On the Table to Greater Philadelphia.

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Week of May 8...

It's Corrections Employee Week!

Governor Tom Wolf has proclaimed May 7-13 as Corrections Employee Week in Pennsylvania to recognize the important role these employees play in protecting public safety.

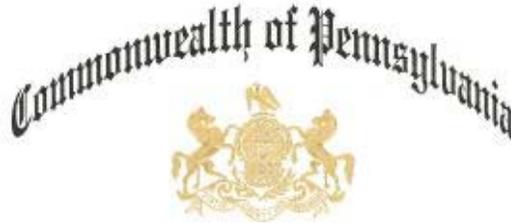
"We have great respect for corrections employees," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "They work each day, often facing challenging and dangerous situations, to ensure public safety and to provide inmates with meaningful opportunities to change their criminal ways of thinking so they return to society as law-abiding, productive individuals."

Pennsylvania has observed Corrections Employee Week every year since 1986.

"This proclamation honors all Pennsylvanians who work in the field of corrections, including county, state and federal facilities – all of whom have excellent reputations as leaders in this field," Wetzel said.

According to the proclamation, there are more than 31,000 individuals employed in the field of corrections across Pennsylvania. The state Department of Corrections has 15,000 employees.

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Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK
May 7-13, 2017

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's correctional system is the oldest in the nation, evolving from the establishment of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Jail in 1773 and the Eastern Penitentiary in 1829; and

WHEREAS, the "Pennsylvania System," as it became known, was the leading influence in the development of penology throughout the 19th century and the forerunner of modern corrections; and

WHEREAS, today, Pennsylvania faces new and difficult challenges in corrections. With 25 state correctional institutions, one motivational boot camp, a training academy, 14 community corrections centers and 43 contract facilities, 63 county prisons and jails, and 15 federal facilities and offices, our correctional facilities house approximately 91,000 inmates; and

WHEREAS, the secure and safe operation and management of those facilities on a daily basis rests in the hands of nearly 31,000 trained, skilled and dedicated corrections professionals. They are administrators, corrections officers, counselors, treatment specialists, educators, clerical support staff, business administrators and purchasing agents, personnel and labor relations specialists, clergy, medical professionals, food service specialists, computer technicians, planners and research analysts, and skilled craftspeople upon whose skills, efficiency and professionalism the functions of the Pennsylvania correctional system depends; and

WHEREAS, although each of these dedicated professionals works in a different field and specialize in a specific area, all are committed to a common goal: the secure, safe and humane operation of our Commonwealth's correctional facilities where employees work to reduce future crime through the delivery of programs to change offenders' criminal behavior.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim, May 7-13, 2017, as CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize the vital role these dedicated professionals play in ensuring the effective operation of our correctional system in the interest of public safety.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this eighteenth day of April two thousand seventeen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-first.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor

Fair-Chance Hiring Policy Announced



Governor Tom Wolf recently announced a Fair-Chance hiring policy for state agencies that will remove the criminal conviction question, otherwise known as “banning the box,” from non-civil service employment applications for agencies under the governor’s jurisdiction.

“In Pennsylvania, we have a robust system of supervision and rehabilitative services that gives reentrants to the community all the tools they need to put their lives back on track, get the skills they need to get a job, and get moving again. But too often, one small checkmark can jeopardize the future that we all need them to pursue and reach,” Governor Wolf said. “Banning the box will allow prospective applicants with criminal records to be judged on their skills and qualifications and not solely on their criminal history, while preserving a hiring agency’s ability to appropriately screen applicants as part of the hiring process.”

The governor, speaking alongside Representative Jordan Harris at a drug and alcohol recovery facility in Philadelphia, said the policy reaffirms the Wolf Administration’s commitment to reducing barriers for Pennsylvanians who seek the opportunity to work and contribute to their communities, and recognizes that everyone should have a meaningful chance to compete for jobs in the commonwealth.

“I am happy to stand with Governor Wolf today to continue moving Pennsylvania forward with regards to criminal justice reform,” Rep. Harris said.

"Today's action will directly help people with criminal records gain access to employment through our state government."

The new policy will be effective July 1, 2017 for non-civil service applicants. The Office of Administration will provide guidance and training to agencies prior to the implementation of the policy, and anticipates that the policy will be applied to civil service applicants by December 2017.

"I fully support the efforts of Rep. Harris and Governor Wolf on this critical issue," said Senator Anthony Williams, who attended the announcement. "A conviction should not be a life sentence. We need to provide ex-offenders with a meaningful path to rehabilitation. Banning the box and Clean Slate legislation will help us do just that."

"Individuals who have paid their debt to society and are committed to becoming productive, upstanding citizens face challenges due to their past, including seeking employment," said Sen. Vincent Hughes, who has introduced "ban the box" legislation in the Senate. "This Fair-Chance Hiring Policy gives individuals the opportunity to seek good employment and continue on the right path. Additionally, removing this barrier in the job application process and giving individuals the opportunity to work helps to reduce recidivism, which will make communities safer. I applaud the governor for recognizing that folks deserve a second chance."

Exceptions to the policy will be made for positions where a criminal conviction makes an applicant ineligible under law and for positions responsible for the safeguarding or security of people or property, law enforcement or those involving contact with vulnerable populations.

Agencies are to continue to use the EEOC guidelines in determining whether an applicant's criminal history affects their candidacy for the position they are seeking.

Visit <http://www.oa.pa.gov/Policies/hr/Documents/TM001.pdf> to view the full policy.

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Wolf Administration Highlights Efforts to Improve Public Safety, Reduce Prison Populations

John Wetzel, Corrections Secretary under the Wolf Administration, was the keynote speaker this week at the Safety and Justice Challenge Network meeting in Denver, which brought together 350 criminal justice professionals from 40 jurisdictions across the country to discuss ways to safely reduce prison populations and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system.

Wetzel highlighted sweeping efforts under way in Pennsylvania to ensure inmates achieve success after release, including making comprehensive changes in mental health and substance use disorder treatment, reducing the use of restrictive housing and using data-driven approaches to reduce recidivism.

Wetzel also discussed successes achieved by the Department of Corrections in reducing the prison population – especially of minority inmates - and efforts to reduce incarceration for low-risk individuals under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. He urged participants to take a hard look at their prison systems, as he did in Pennsylvania, and change course if necessary.

“It’s a measure of courage to acknowledge that your system is not where it should be,” Wetzel said. “If people think the only way achieve public safety is to lock people up when the data says otherwise, then something’s wrong. That’s why Governor Tom Wolf and the Corrections Department put a high value on measurable outcomes and individual focus.”

Governor Wolf has demonstrated a commitment to public safety and has advocated forward-looking initiatives to ensure that those entering prison - 95 percent of whom will be released one day - return as better people and productive citizens.

Governor Wolf supports the use of Medication Assisted Treatment to ensure state inmates with substance use disorder do not relapse when released and included federal grants to support similar treatment in county jails. Wolf recently announced he would eliminate the criminal conviction question from applications for most state jobs. This week the Civil Service Commission announced its intention to do the same.

The Safety and Justice Challenge is a national effort aimed at reducing over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. An initial five-year, \$100 million investment by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation features a competition to help jurisdictions across the country create fairer, more effective local justice systems.

Two Pennsylvania jurisdictions were awarded grants as part of this initiative. Philadelphia will invest in strategies to safely reduce its average daily jail population over the next three years. Allegheny County will use its innovation grant to build computer dashboards to integrate data and monitor key points in the criminal justice system to help reduce its prison population.

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Employees Participate in Candlelight Vigil

On May 3, 2017, SCI Benner Township's Major Timothy Graham, Psychological Services Specialist Jamie Eaton and Deputy Superintendent Bobbi Jo Salamon, along with Honor Guard members Sgt. Bowman, Sgt. Davis, and Sgt. Irvin, participated in the 12th Annual Candlelight Vigil hosted by the Opportunity Centre Clubhouse of Skills of Central PA. The Vigil featured firsthand stories from those who have made the journey to recovery and highlighted the importance of creating an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding for those diagnosed with a mental illness.



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Inmates Donate Painting

In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, inmates from the Quehanna Boot Camp recently competed in a painting contest that focused on the theme of strength, resilience and justice. The winning painting was selected by Boot Camp employees and was then donated for permanent display at the county courthouse. The painting will be displayed in the Office of Victim Witness Advocate.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Churner, who served as the security lieutenant for the Boot Camp for 10 years and retired as a captain from the Department of Corrections, said that "this painting reflects the efforts of the Quehanna Boot Camp to encourage inmates to recognize the harm they have done not only to crime victims, but also to themselves and their families."

Churner said that "enabling inmates to take responsibility for their actions is a critical step toward rehabilitation." The goal of the Quehanna Boot Camp is to motivate individuals to prevent further criminal conduct, and this painting goes a long way toward achieving that goal, Churner said.

Shaw stated that the inmates have clearly given this painting some thought. Represented in the painting are fire, wings, and a scale. The fire represents strength: Intensity, power of resisting attacks. The wings represent resilience: Possessing power of recovery. The Scale represents justice: Quality of being just, rectitude and integrity.



Pictured, from left to right, are Activities Specialist Vincent Tarantella; Unit Manager Clint Youngfleish; Superintendent/Commander Mary Natoli District Attorney William A. Shaw Jr.; and Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Churner.

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Condolences to North Carolina DOC

SCI Waymart's Honor Guard represented the Pennsylvania DOC recently at funeral services for Sergeant Megan Callahan who was killed in the line of duty in North Carolina.



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Pet Food/Supply Drive

Kenneth Jordan coordinated a pet food/pet supplies drive for the Scranton CCC during April 2017. The reenrants donated more than \$1,300 worth of pet food, snacks, toys, grooming products and beds. The donations will benefit the Lackawanna County Humane Society.



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Mental Health Art Show

SCI Albion Unit Manager Kevin Lantz recently spoke at a Meadville, Pa., art show that is showcasing artwork by inmates from SCI Albion's Residential Treatment Unit.

The "Care for Your Mind: The Mental Health Show," is a Meadville Council on the Arts exhibit that is taking place in Meadville through May 27 at the Heeschen Gallery. Exhibits include a variety of mix-media items from SCI Albion inmates.

Lantz spoke about the various programs provided to inmates in the Residential Treatment Unit and how art is one of the unit's most favorable programs.

Residential Treatment Units house inmates who have been diagnosed with serious mental illness.



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National Day of Prayer

On May 4th, 2017, SCI Fayette's Chaplaincy Department participated in the National Day of Prayer. During the program employees, volunteers, members of the Brownsville Area Ministerial Association and inmates alike participated in the prayer service.

Participating SCI Fayette employees included Facility Chaplaincy Program Director Frank Lewis, Pastor Renita Crable and Contract Chaplain Charles House who delivered the National Day of Prayer Meditation. Music was provided by the "House of Grace Choir" which is SCI Fayette's Inmate Choir. Approximately 40 individuals attended.

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Graterford Holds Reentry Event

On April 28, 2017, SCI Graterford hosted a Reentry Event in the auditorium. Various agencies throughout the Commonwealth including Center for Employment Opportunities, Justice Works Youth Care, WIRES, Counsel for Community Advancement, Attorney General's Office, PBPP staff and DOC staff met with more than 100 inmates to provide information for a successful reintegration back into the community.



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Berks Connections/Pretrial Services – SUCCESS STORY

Patrick F. was discharged from Quehanna Boot Camp to the Wernersville Community Corrections Center (CCC). His counselor referred him to the Berks Connections/Pretrial Services (BCPS) Workforce Development Program. Patrick was eager to tell his story in his own words...

"My counselor said BCPS could help me in the area of seeking employment. After going to the classes that prepped me for interviews and creating a professional resume, they provided me with the proper clothes and bus passes to go out and seek employment.

I have never been one to ask for help as I have always done things for myself, but at this low point in my life I desperately needed help and these great people did not judge me or look down on me. They were more than happy to help.

I am a certified welder and have a strong work history, but it was still hard to find something decent due to my felony record. My DOC Reentry Coordinator Erin gave me job leads and met with me faithfully every week to fill out applications online. After months of rejection and being told that I will never work for certain employers because of my record, I went to a job fair sponsored by BCPS. It was there that I met with a Human Resources Representative from Morgan Corp. Upon meeting with them they looked over my resume and set up an interview.

With the help of BCPS I made it to my interview and am now working for the company full time as a welder.

When I asked the great people of BCPS how I could ever repay them, they said all they want in return is for me to succeed. Without this organization I would have never been able to do it. I am truly grateful to Erin and the entire staff at BCPS."



Morgan Corporation is North America's premier manufacturer of dry freight and refrigerated truck bodies. Patrick was hired as a welder at an hourly rate of \$20 and has received a raise in his hourly wage since that time. Patrick was recently referred to the BCPS Reentry Housing Program and is currently working with the Housing Program Coordinator to find an apartment.

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Race Against Racism

On April 29, several DOC Central Office employees participated in the 13th Annual Race Against Racism, which was coordinated by the YWCA. Nearly 700 participants ran or walked the brand new route through the Capitol Area and Midtown neighborhoods.

Following the race, everyone made their way back to Soldier's Grove for the Humanity Festival and performances from the Bumbadda Drummers, PA Regional Ballet and Shakil Shamji.

It should be noted that Maria Macus came in first place for her age group.

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Providing Employment Information

At the recent YWCA Race Against Racism, which was held April 29th at the Capitol Complex, Pedro Gratacos provides DOC employment and recruiting information to a group of students mentored by the Latino Hispanic American Community Center (LHACC), a non-profit Community Based Organization in Harrisburg. The information was provided thanks to a request for us to do so from LHACC Executive Director Gloria Merrick.



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SCI Graterford Major Recognized by PPS

On May 3, 2017, the Pennsylvania Prison Society (PPS), the oldest inmate advocacy organization, celebrated its 230th anniversary.

[Learn more about the Pennsylvania Prison Society](#)

Also at this event, which was held at Eastern State Penitentiary, the Prison Society recognized Major Gina Clark for her commitment to assisting juvenile lifers transitioning back into the community.



SCI Graterford Superintendent Cynthia Link with Major Gina Clark.

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Telling Her Son's Story

Vivian Spiece, a member of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), visits the DOC's Crisis Intervention Team Training (CITT) monthly to share her journey with her son's mental illness. On this particular visit on May 10, 2017, she is celebrating her 90th birthday. **Happy Birthday, Vivian!**



Pictured with Vivian Spiece are, left to right: Dr. Lance Couturier (former DOC employee and now annuitant); CIT Program Manager Lt. Virgil Meyer; and Joseph Nish (former SCI Waymart superintendent and now annuitant).

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Retreat Employees Cook Out

As part of Corrections Employee Week, employees at SCI Retreat held a cookout on May 11. Here are some pictures.



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Mokychic Drive

SCI Graterford staff were pleased to learn this week that the road to SCI Phoenix has been named "Mokychic Drive," by Skippack Township officials.

Captain Felix Mokychic (pronounced make-eh-check) was brutally beaten by an inmate at SCI Graterford on the afternoon of March 20, 1979. He was checking passes as the inmates were returning from the yard when an inmate began assaulting the Captain with a bat in the main corridor. He later died at an outside hospital



SKIPPACK TOWNSHIP
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Skippack, PA 19474
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Board Of Supervisors
Franco D' Angelo - Chairman
Paul Fox - Vice Chair
William H. Perkins, Jr.
Jesenne A. Pridl
Nicholas Fountain

March 29, 2017

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The address for the new Graterford Prison (SCI Phoenix) currently under construction in Skippack Township along Skippack Pike with the entrance on Prison Road is as follows:

1200 Mokychic Drive, Collegeville, PA 19426

**Owner: PA Dept. of Corrections, SCI Phoenix
P O Box 246, Graterford, PA 19426-0246**

Please make a note of this for your records. Thank you.

Very truly yours,
Peggy J. White
Peggy J. White

/p/jw
CC: Montgomery Co. Board of Assessments, Attn: Joanna McKinney
North Penn Water Authority
S.E.M.S.
Skippack Fire Co.
Montgomery Co. Communications Div.
Perkiomen Valley School District
Owner, PA Dept. of Corrections, Attn: Joe Seilus
Post Office (Collegeville)
Lt. Walt Grunder, SCI Graterford
State Police
Tax Collector
PECO
Verizon

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Cleaning Up Litter

SCI Pine Grove's inmate Community Work Program crew recently was picking up trash from along Route 286 in Indiana County.



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Cambridge Springs Employees of the Month for May

SCI Cambridge Springs' Employee of the Month Award for May 2017 recently was announced. Two employees re being recognized – Corrections Officer B. Sumpter and Corrections Officer J. Davis. The two are recognized for their exemplary work performance with search team duties throughout the institution, making for a safer environment for staff and inmates.



Pictured, left to right, are: Captain Michael Dodds, CO1 B. Sumpter, CO1 J. Davis and Superintendent Joanne Torma.

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SCI Retreat Celebrates National Reentry Week

April 24 - 28, 2017, marked National Reentry Week. SCI Retreat celebrated the week by bringing 20 vendors into the prison for a Reentry Fair. Every inmate at the prison was given the opportunity to spend time speaking with vendor participants in an effort to have a successful transition into the community following incarceration.

Participants included the SPCA, who spoke about importance of volunteering; local education providers, who talked about available programs and funding; and treatment providers, who discussed pathways to recovery. Many others

participated in and spoke at the event, and SCI Retreat employees also helped each inmate to apply for a non-driver's license ID and Social Security card.



Jeff Gibson, Director of Scranton CCC, showing a Virtual reality headset.



Dunmore CTC, Treatment Provider for AOD Services.

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Therapeutic Garden

Thanks to the planning of Chaplain David Boyles, and funds provided by the Inmate General Welfare Fund, SCI Retreat was given permission to have a Therapeutic Garden.

There are 10 raised vegetable beds inside the fenced area along the chapel building. The garden will be maintained by six inmates, and the first crop of vegetables will be cabbage, cilantro, tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, parsley and rosemary.



Planting will soon begin!

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Statewide CIM's Meet

The DOC's statewide Critical Incident Managers (CIM) meeting was held at SCI Graterford last week. Time was set aside to provide a tour of SCI Phoenix. CIMs are responsible for coordinating facility response to emergencies using the National Incident Management System's Incident Command System. While training on a variety of incidents is always taking place, our CIMs meet periodically as a group for training and updates to policies, etc. In large scale incidents, CIMs from sister facilities are sometimes asked to bolster the Incident Command structure. In order to make them easier to identify, the CIMs have been issued distinctive blue shirts for deployment. The CIM cadre is pictured here at the entrance to SCI Phoenix.



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Lunch with Veterans

On May 9, 2017, DOC Central Office employees participated in a “Lunch with Veterans” event at the Robert M. Jackson Veterans Center in Harrisburg. The veterans center is a non-profit organization, which provides food, shelter and services to veterans in need of assistance. Pizza and beverages were provided and shared with the veteran residents, while taking the time to converse and show appreciation and support.

In addition to the visit, various donations of clothes, food and supplies were collected at Central Office and delivered to the center at the time of the luncheon.



DOC Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder visits with a veteran at the center.

Pictured, from left to right, along with some veterans are: Dan McIntyre, Janet Kelley, Amie Whitman, Amy Schwenk, Carla King, Melanie Novinger, Angela Cline, Paulette Smartschan and Ryan Yoder.

(Photos taken by Gina Orlando)

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Corrections Employee Week at SCI Fayette

By the middle of this special week, SCI Fayette employees found themselves busy in their celebration.

The prison's Cultural Change Committee and Empowerment Committee made arrangements for special food to be available for all employees for the entire week.

On Monday, SCI Fayette's Developing Animals with Goals (D.A.W.G.) Program officially started. Akuma, a 6-year-old black Pitbull, and Jack, a year-old tan Pitbull arrived at the prison and were taken to their new home on K Block. Both Akuma and Jack settled in well.



On Wednesday, along with current staff members, 48 retirees returned to SCI Fayette to participate in a picnic sponsored by the Employees Association. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad and chips were included in the menu.



Superintendent Jay Lane, Deputy Superintendent Nickelson, Major Mankey, Classification and Program Manager Deb Hawkinberry and Field Human Resource Officer Tina Walker enjoyed the festivities while they thanked employees for all the work they did for Corrections Employee Week and throughout the year.

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Dallas Hosts Breakfast

On May 10, and in conjunction with Corrections Employee Week, SCI Dallas hosted an annual retirees' breakfast. The prison's Honor Guard presented the colors for this joyous occasion, and Superintendent Lawrence Mahally addressed the group and spoke about the changes made over the years.



In particular, the superintendent spoke about the Vetdog program, which benefits the inmate handlers and the veterans that will benefit once the dogs are trained. He also spoke about the huge amount of savings the GESA project had on the institution. Chaplain Jackson also mentioned the employees that passed away in the last year and said a prayer before the meal.

Superintendent Lawrence Mahally address retirees at a recent breakfast held at SCI Dallas during 2017 Corrections Employee Week.

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Granville to Address DOC Basic Training Class

In support of Mental Health Awareness Month, the DOC's Training Academy has invited Earl Granville to address trainees and employees about staff wellness and suicide prevention.

Granville is an Afghanistan Veteran who lost his twin brother, Joseph, to suicide. Joseph, 27, was one of our fellow corrections officers, having been employed at SCI Waymart.

Granville will address the class at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, May 22, in the Elizabethtown Training Academy's auditorium.

In addition to the speaking engagement, Academy employees also are selling T-shirts with all proceeds being donated to the [Oscar Mike Foundation](#). The foundation works to keep injured veterans "on the move" in all aspects of their lives. They use proceeds from the sale of Oscar Mike Apparel and any donations to provide financial support to injured veterans looking for an opportunity to stay active.

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Waymart Recognizes Long-Time Employee



SCI Waymart Superintendent John Sommers, left, presents Deputy Superintendent of Centralized Services Paul DelRosso, right, with a certificate in recognition of Deputy DelRosso's 30 years of service to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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Week of May 1...

PA DOC to House Vermont DOC Inmates

On May 1, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the Vermont Department of Corrections (VDOC) announced that they finalized an agreement under the Interstate Corrections Compact for Pennsylvania DOC to house Vermont DOC inmates.

The states began exploring the possibility of the interstate transfer after a private prison company in Michigan announced in December 2016 that it would be terminating its contract with the Vermont DOC.

The new agreement will have an initial term of three years with the option of two, one-year extensions. The DOC will house the VDOC inmates at a rate of \$72 per inmate, per day.

"Across the system, we have roughly 5,000 empty beds," said Corrections Secretary John E. Wetzel. "Vermont is looking for beds at the same time we have available beds, so it works out for both states."

The agreement allows for the initial transfer to Pennsylvania of the 270 VDOC inmates currently housed in Michigan pursuant to the GEO Group contract. The terms of the agreement allow VDOC to house up to 400 inmates in Pennsylvania.

"If our state cannot house all of our inmates in Vermont due to a lack of beds in our system, we feel bringing them back to the northeast would be the next best thing," said Lisa Menard, commissioner for the Vermont Department of Corrections. "We are looking forward to working with the PA DOC as a partner."

The agreement allows inmates to be housed will be housed in two of Pennsylvania's 26 state correctional institutions: SCI Camp Hill and the SCI Graterford.

The DOC was selected above the other vendors after VDOC looked at variables such as the number of available beds, the ability to house all custody levels, the location, and cost.

The inmates will begin transferring from Michigan to Pennsylvania in June.

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Top Guns

Members of Pennsylvania DOC's Corrections Rifle Specialist Team (CRST) swept the sniper competition at Mock Prison Riot held recently in Moundsville, West Virginia.

First place went to N. Farabaugh, SCI Houtzdale electrical trades instructor; and second place was taken by S. Weyant, a corrections officer at SCI Huntingdon.

There were approximately 35 individuals that competed in the Open Urban Terrain Sniper Challenge portion of the Moundsville WV, Mock Prison Riot SKILLS competition. PADOCC finished with three in the top five, with N. Farabaugh securing the first place position and S. Weyant securing second place.

There were folks from all across the world competing, including Hong Kong, Nigeria, Haiti, and several State and County DOC's (Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia).

The course was a stress induced, timed, 25 to 100 yard course where shooters had to sprint to, and shoot from, a variety of shooting positions such as standing, sitting, kneeling, prone and squatting.

According to SCI Huntingdon Lieutenant and Regional CRST Leader Jeffrey Knode, "The course was challenging, but stress drills and position shooting are something we train for on a regular basis, so good training paid off."

Congratulations to Farabaugh and Weyant!

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From left to right: N. Farabaugh and S. Weyant.

DOC's Career Pathways Program Manager

Dorenda Hamarlund joins the Pennsylvania DOC after nine years with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. She also worked eight years with California Prison Industry Authority (CAL-PIA), California's equivalent of PA's Correction Industries, the last four of which were spent as manager.



Dorenda Hamarlund

Hamarlund has extensive experience in implementing training and certifications for inmates and worked with outside organizations and companies to increase the use of industry-recognized credentials within CAL-PIA.

As career pathways program manager, Hamarlund manages implementation of a career pathways framework within state correctional institutions. This work is funded by a three-year, \$1 million "Improving Reentry Education" grant that the DOC received from the U.S. Department of Education.

Six institutions (Coal Township, Dallas, Fayette, Houtzdale, Mahanoy, and Pine Grove) have been selected to pilot this framework, which includes a new "pre-voc" class entitled "Pathways to Success," as well as training for education, inmate employment and Correctional Industries employee about how to better collaborate to implement career pathways.

"Career Pathways" is a term that is very common in the workforce development world, but which we have not done much work on in our DOC. Career pathways focus on leading individuals into in-demand jobs with family-sustaining wages. It's pretty intuitive, and most people are aware of career pathways, though maybe not by that name. It means starting at the entry level of a career field and gaining additional education to move into a higher-skilled, typically higher-paying job. Education doesn't have to include college; it can include employer-recognized certifications that can be gained over weeks and months, rather than from years of study.

Hamarlund reports to Kelly Martini who serves as the DOC's Executive Policy & Grants Specialist within the DOC's Office of Policy, Grants & Legislative Affairs. Martini is responsible for coordinating the department's grant activity and serves as the point of contact, both internally and externally, for grants and other funding opportunities. She was formerly with the PA Department of Labor & Industry.



Kelly Martini

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Rev. Tami Hooker Recognized

On April 26, SCI Pittsburgh Facility Chaplaincy Program Director Rev. Tami Hooker was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Alumna Award in Specialized Ministry from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Upon graduation from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and ordination by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, Hooker served the prison as its Protestant chaplain. During a two-year period when the prison closed temporarily, she was promoted and transferred to SCI Greene. She then returned to SCI Pittsburgh upon its reopening in 2007.



Hooker received the PA DOC's Outstanding Performance Award in 2007 and was nominated for its Thomas A. Fulcomer Award in 2013. She is a past president of the PA Prison Chaplains Association, and in March 2016 she became quarter-time pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Mt. Washington.

Hooker earned her bachelor of arts from Duquesne University, then worked in computer and network support before enrolling in the joint degree master of divinity/master of social work program at PTS and University of Pittsburgh. She completed internships for Prison Fellowship Ministries, The Program for Female Offenders and Sexual Assault Services; served as a theological delegate to the 2000 PC(USA) General Assembly; helped develop and implement a pre-release program called HOPE, still in operation at the Allegheny County Jail; served on a 2003 task force that wrote the PC(USA)'s position on private prisons; and served on the Strategic Aftercare Committee for Christian Associates of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

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Shively Named DOC Educator of the Year!

At a Corrections Education Association conference, which was held in Altoona in late April, SCI Muncy Special Education Teacher Matthew Shively was awarded the 2017 Department of Corrections Educator of the Year.



Pictured, from left to right: DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal; DOC Director of Correction Education Terri Fazio; Matthew Shively; SCI Muncy School Principal Karen Oliver-Rider; and DOC Bureau of Correction Education Bureau Chief of Specialized Facilities & Programs Elizabeth Hnylanski.

Taken from the conference program, Shively discusses his work:

My philosophy for education in my classroom is one of fluidity. As the environment in which we live changes, so must the learning atmosphere to accommodate that change. Students in the correctional setting are, at times, unaware of these changes occurring outside the fence. I feel it is our responsibility to better prepare them for the change occurring through the introduction of technology, new learning strategies and job applicable skills.

My classroom also allows for the one thing that incarcerating takes from them: freedom. I allow them to freely express opinions, creativity and "out of the box" thinking. The escape of the mind can be a powerful tool when the teacher can allow the students to be a key player in the learning process, and not simply another number in a seat because they have to be there.

My philosophy encourages the students to "buy into" the learning process. Being mandated to go to school does not develop the mentality that a student needs to be successful. By encouraging the student to learn because they want to learn and want to improve their academic abilities, allows the student to feel responsible for their own learning. Improvement in self-esteem and self-awareness becomes apparent to their eagerness to learn.

Their enthusiasm is what keeps me current in my teaching style, excited about the learning process and motivated to give my all. A quote from Buddha says it all: "If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your path."

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Trash Pick-Up

SCI Waymart's Community Work Program (CWP) inmates are busy at work, taking part in the Great American Clean Up of PA. The Community Work Detail performs litter pick-up in four Pennsylvania Counties: Wayne, Pike, Lackawanna, and Susquehanna.

As of May 1, the CWP has collected nearly 300 bags of trash from local highways. They plan to continue their roadway clean-up efforts through the fall.

Here, members of the CWP are clearing trash from the Casey Highway near Jermyn.



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Muncy's Inmates Work to Clean Up Litter

A number of DOC facilities have sent their crews out to clean up litter from along Pennsylvania's roadways as part of the Great PA Clean Up. That includes SCI Muncy's inmates. Here are some pics of work they did in April. The Great PA Clean Up runs through May.



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Pine Grove Holds Career, Education & Reentry Fair

SCI Pine Grove hosted its 2017 Career, Education and Reentry Fair on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, from 8 to 11 a.m. Thirty-one representatives from 20 different organizations came together to provide information, literature and guidance to more than 400 inmates and staff in the gym at Pine Grove.

Some of the agencies present included Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Foundation of Hope, Indiana University of PA, Community Action Center at Chevy Chase, Gaudenzia, Peer Star, Domestic Relations, Marketplace Insurance and the Mon Valley Initiative.

Inmates were able to walk away with direct contacts and applications for reentry programs, community mentoring and job training/placement as part of their Reentry Planning.



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Huntingdon Employees Donate to Worthy Cause



Wendy Barton, from The Abuse Network, poses with items SCI Huntingdon employees donated as part of Crime Victims' Rights Week. Facility employees, through their Employee Morale Committee, raised part of the money through bake sales during March Madness, and those funds were then used to purchase items that will go directly to victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse served by The Abuse Network.

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Inmates Donate to Shriners Hospitals

SCI Cambridge Springs' Activities Manager Tami Caruso recently presented a check donation in the amount of \$2,111.68 to the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Erie. The donation was made by the SCI Cambridge Springs Phoenix Organization, a group of inmates that aims to provide community and inmate services and promote good will and self-growth to members of the general population.

Pictured, left to right, are: Micheal Widrig and Rick Liebel.



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Discussing How to Keep At-Risk Individuals Out of Prison



On April 27, DOC Secretary John Wetzel joined Ray Lewis and Christian Conte for their next podcast. In the chapel annex of SCI Graterford, Wetzel, Lewis and Conte were joined by 13 inmates -- three of which were convicted for crime they committed as juveniles/under the age of 18 (aka "juvenile lifers") -- to discuss the issues and circumstances that led to their incarcerations and what they believe should be the areas of focus needed to prevent the next generation from becoming inmates. We can't give away too much, you'll just have to listen to the podcast once it's uploaded to iTunes. Make sure to look for "Tackling Life."

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Reentry Week at SCI Albion

SCI Albion held several presentations on April 27th and 28th for Reentry week which included key speakers from PennDOT, Social Security, Erie Community Corrections Center, the Office of Victim Advocate and Community Reintegration of Offenders with Mental Illness and Substance Abuse (CROMISA). This was well received by the inmate population as there were over 150 individuals in attendance.



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Nursing Students Tour SCI Waymart

University of Scranton nursing students and instructors recently met with SCI Waymart's administrative staff and toured the institution.

Addressing the health care needs of an aging prison population and dealing with the complexities of treating mentally ill



inmates are topics that are covered in the senior year nursing curriculum. The students and instructors toured the Restricted Housing Unit, general population housing units, infirmary, Personal Care Unit, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Unit, Forensic Treatment Center, Education Department, and Activities Department. SCI Waymart has provided tours for the university since the prison opened in 1989.

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Job Fair and Take Your Child to Work



While the DOC doesn't participate in the annual "take your child to work day" for obvious reasons, the DOC's Diversity Recruiter, Pedro Gratacos, had the opportunity to interact with a number of youngsters who went to work with their non-corrections parents. At a recent job fair held at the Mifflin County Career Link Office, Pedro gave a recruitment presentation

to all, including the children. It looks like he had their undivided attention!

You can learn more about career opportunities with the DOC by visiting www.cor.pa.gov and clicking on the EMPLOYMENT link. The DOC also posts recruiting events on its Facebook page: Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

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Decades of University Tours

For the past two decades, East Stroudsburg University nursing students and instructors have traveled from Monroe County to Wayne County to evaluate the medical services provided to inmates at SCI Waymart. Senior nursing students, as part of their curriculum, meet with medical staff and discuss a wide range of issues such as the treatment of HIV patients, programs for the mentally ill, coping with the onset of dementia and procedures for sick call in a prison setting. Students tour all areas of the facility and conclude their visit with a question and answer session with medical staff.



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Retreat Names EOQ

SCI Retreat Superintendent Vincent Mooney named Corrections Counselor 2 Mark Grohowski as Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2017.

He was nominated by his peers due to his always going above and beyond his required job duties, for his being a dedicated employee who approaches challenges head-on, and for being a quiet force at the prison where he leads by his action. It was noted that Grohowski was vital in the prison's success during a recent audit.



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Correctional Industries News

Inmate Laundry Training Program

Pennsylvania Correctional Industries laundry facilities processed nearly 18 million pounds of laundry in Fiscal Year 2015-16. In addition to providing quality laundry services for its customers, PCI offers inmates the opportunity to participate in the National Association of Institutional Laundry and Linen Management coursework that leads to the award of nationally recognized certifications. Inmates gain transferable skills obtained in state-of-the-art laundry facilities that mirror real world experiences.

Here are brief descriptions of the two available certifications:

Certified Washroom Technician (CWT) targets frontline washroom technicians with a self-study module that covers the various types of washers, wash procedures, water quality, chemical action, wash formulas, stain removal, washer programming and much more. Inmates are eligible for the certification upon successful completion of a 100-question final examination.

Certified Linen Technician (CLT) is a course designed to provide development of a skill. This module teaches linen product selection, inventory management and distribution systems. Enrolled inmates have three months to complete the program and take the final exam to receive the certificate of completion. The inmates must have a high school diploma or G.E.D. in order to participate. It's required that the exams be taken within a year or their eligibility will lapse. These certification programs are initially paid for by the inmate at a cost of \$75 each. As an added incentive for inmates to complete the coursework, PCI will reimburse inmates upon receipt of their certification.

PCI has four laundry locations with 258 employed inmates. Of the employed inmates, 26 are interested and 12 are enrolled in the programs. Presently 36 inmates have received the CWT certification and 61 hold the CLT certification.

Upon release from prison these inmates have real life laundry knowledge and experience which will provide opportunities for employment at industrial and institutional type laundries.

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Meet PCI's New Director

Khelleh Konteh became the new director of the Bureau of Correctional Industries on January 30, 2017. Konteh has an impressive career history with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, where he most recently directed the Office of Ohio Penal Industries.

Prior appointments included regional director of prisons, warden, administrative assistant for the regional director, assistant division chief for business administration, deputy warden for administration, business administrator for the training academy, and regional sales manager for penal industries.

Additionally, he received numerous recognitions including the 2014 Impact Award for making the department's correctional industries a profitable entity.



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Donation to Local Organization

Patches of Love - was able to supply Son Light House with seven quilts of various sizes, 12 cloth books for toddlers and six totes of various sizes. Each tote contained a small quilted clutch purse, one toothbrush, one full size toothpaste and one body wash, shampoo, conditioner and deodorant. These toiletries were provided to Patches of Love by SCI Muncy's Inmate Organization.

Patches of Love is a chapel outreach. SCI Muncy is trying to exemplify Restorative Justice principles.

"We do quilts that go to groups to auction off, bears are given to police departments, bibs go to Geisinger and UPMC, walker caddies and wool lap blankets with ties for the wheelchairs go to local county nursing homes and medical hats go to the cancer society," said Facility Chaplaincy Program Director Rev. Debra Reitz.

Rev. Reitz said that they've donated to Transitions in Lewisburg as well, and that they are very interested in helping the women's safe houses.

"I had tags made that go on every item made," Reitz said. "The front reads Patches of Love, SCI-Muncy Chapel, Muncy, PA (570) 546-3171. The back reads Hand made with pride by the Women of the Muncy Chapel Patches of love quilting program."

Son Light House, Inc. has been run by Ken and Deloris Frey since its opening in 1982. It supplies clothing, shoes and food to an average of 300 families per month to help people get on their feet. It is a faith-based ministry that relies on grants on the federal and state levels.



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The Generosity of SCI Huntingdon Employees

In just the first quarter of 2017, SCI Huntingdon employees were able to do the following:

- \$487.31 was sent to the family of fallen PSP Trooper Landon Eugene Weaver. This money was collected from non-uniform employees who paid to dress casually on one day in January.
- \$280 was donated to Relay for Life from the February Pit Stop hoagie sale.
- \$112.63 was donated to Relay for Life from the 3/10/17 casual dress day.
- \$121.91 was donated to Relay for Life from the 3/24/17 casual dress day.
- In recognition of Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 2nd – April 8th), a portion of the bake sale proceeds was used to purchase items for a victim advocacy agency.

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Pawsabilities - Huntingdon's Dog Program

In seven months the program at Huntingdon has grown considerably. The dogs are regulars in the RTU and the rest of the Institution. We now have 15 trained inmate handlers, with multiple volunteers waiting for openings.

SCI Huntingdon had its first pup complete the training program for CPL and moved on to the CPL kennels to complete his training. Draco was with us for 7 short months. In that time, he steadily progressed, getting better every day. Draco came to SCI Huntingdon very cautious and nervous, but he is now very outgoing. As you can see in the picture below, when he wasn't ready to hear you, he ignored you. He is a very intelligent dog.

Comments from Draco's handlers, "Draco is the strongest willed dog I've ever met". "He will do well in the future." "Training him made me realize how life-changing a service dog can be to someone in need."



Draco



Draco left Huntingdon on 11/8/2016, and the Institution received Denali. Denali is a 3 month old black lab. Denali has quickly adapted to his new home and is doing very well. He is extremely smart and already knows a number of commands.



Denali



Sailor



Major

On 3/8/2017, Sailor left Huntingdon to begin the second part of his training at the CPL kennel. He was replaced by Major, a 5 ½ month old black lab.

Weeks of April 10, April 17 and April 24...

What's coming up?

The month of May is all about **Mental Health Awareness**, and as such DOC facilities will be coordinating events that help to raise awareness among employees and inmates.

Also, the second week in May has been proclaimed "**Corrections Employee Week in Pennsylvania**" by Gov. Tom Wolf. Please make sure to recognize your county, state and federal level corrections employees. They all work hard to run your prison systems, to keep your communities safe and to return to society individuals who have been changed for the better.

The DOC has been working with various SCIs to highlight individual employees to help the public to better understand the work they do every day. Through reporter/employee job shadowing, reporters have been invited inside our fences and walls, one-on-one, to learn about the various jobs and services provided. The first article involving SCI Camp Hill is expected to run this weekend (April 30) in the Carlisle Sentinel. Other facilities/newspapers job shadowings included the Somerset Daily American and the Daily Collegian. Keep an eye out for those articles!

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Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK May 7-13, 2017

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's correctional system is the oldest in the nation, evolving from the establishment of Philadelphia's Walnut Street Jail in 1773 and the Eastern Penitentiary in 1829; and

WHEREAS, the "Pennsylvania System," as it became known, was the leading influence in the development of penology throughout the 19th century and the forerunner of modern corrections; and

WHEREAS, today, Pennsylvania faces new and difficult challenges in corrections. With 25 state correctional institutions, one motivational boot camp, a training academy, 14 community corrections centers and 43 contract facilities, 63 county prisons and jails, and 15 federal facilities and offices, our correctional facilities house approximately 91,000 inmates; and

WHEREAS, the secure and safe operation and management of those facilities on a daily basis rests in the hands of nearly 31,000 trained, skilled and dedicated corrections professionals. They are administrators, corrections officers, counselors, treatment specialists, educators, clerical support staff, business administrators and purchasing agents, personnel and labor relations specialists, clergy, medical professionals, food service specialists, computer technicians, planners and research analysts, and skilled craftspeople upon whose skills, efficiency and professionalism the functions of the Pennsylvania correctional system depends; and

WHEREAS, although each of these dedicated professionals works in a different field and specialize in a specific area, all are committed to a common goal: the secure, safe and humane operation of our Commonwealth's correctional facilities where employees work to reduce future crime through the delivery of programs to change offenders' criminal behavior.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim, May 7-13, 2017, as CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEE WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to recognize the vital role these dedicated professionals play in ensuring the effective operation of our correctional system in the interest of public safety.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this eighteenth day of April two thousand seventeen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-first.

Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor

IUP, Pine Grove Partner for Pell Grant Initiative

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) President Michael Driscoll along with DOC Secretary John Wetzel visited SCI Pine Grove on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. SCI Pine Grove is partnered with IUP for the Pell Grant initiative to provide post-secondary education to inmates.

During their visit, Driscoll and Wetzel observed the classroom of Dr. Jamie S. Martin, IUP professor. Pine Grove currently has 10 inmates in the program. Also, visiting were Deb Sahd, Central Office Special Assistant; Madeline K. McPherson, Central Office Senior Policy Analyst; and Heather Erwin, from the Vera Institute of Justice.



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Wetzel Tours New Unit at Pine Grove

While visiting Pine Grove recently, Secretary Wetzel toured the prison's PORTAL program.

This program has been designed specifically to provide therapeutic program, education and socialization opportunities for individual confined to a maximum-security setting for extending periods.

The goal of the program is to provide the skills necessary to gain recommendation for placement into a step-down unit and disciplinary custody (DC) and administrative custody (AC) status.



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Students Visit Benner Township

SCI Benner Township employees spent the afternoon of April 26th touring the facility with criminology students from Penn State University. The tour route consisted of the Medical Department, special needs unit, residential treatment unit, Program Services therapeutic community, K Unit (Dog Unit) and Correctional Industries' Laundry.



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Your call is important to us!

Suicide prevention is an important goal of the DOC. In fact, every state prison has a phone extension you can call to report information about an inmate who may be threatening to hurt himself or herself.

If you have information that could save an inmate's life, please do not hesitate to contact the prison where the inmate is housed. We are available 24/7 to take your call.

State prison phone numbers can be obtained at www.cor.pa.gov

*Note: Facility messages may vary, but you always can obtain immediate attention by dialing zero.

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Hot Off the BetaGov Presses!

"We Want to Do What Works": An Interview with Bret Bucklen

<http://www.betagov.org/blog/general/we-want-to-do-what-works/>

by Lauren Rilling

Reprinted with permission from BetaGov

Dr. Kristofer (Bret) Bucklen, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' Office of Planning, Research & Statistics, discusses the department's relationship with BetaGov, the logistics of gathering innovative ideas from a 15,000-person agency, and how practitioner-led trials have changed the way PADC discovers what works.



What inspired you to enter the corrections field?

After high school I lived in Chicago and did some volunteer work, and really got interested in criminal justice and urban problems. I went on to get a sociology degree and then a master's in public policy. Out of grad school I took a job here at the department and also completed a Ph.D. in criminology and criminal justice. My first job at the state was in an executive fellowship program, where I did rotations around different agencies such as State Police, the Board of Probation and Parole, and the Department of Corrections.

How are BetaGov-assisted trials different from other types of research you've been involved with?

I think BetaGov really turns the traditional research model on its head, and I've worked with a lot of academics over the years on a number of different research products. Typically the research model is that we go after a grant, we may not hear about that grant for six to eight months, and assuming we get the grant, then it's usually a year-long project, sometimes a two to three year project. By the time we get the results, the fast-moving policy world has changed, and the results we get may be old news and not even a priority anymore. So the traditional model is very slow. A lot of times it's very academic-driven and not necessarily attuned to the "real world" problems that we're facing. The BetaGov model is the exact opposite of that: quick results, practitioner-driven, which is huge for me, having staff from the ground generating the ideas and getting the quick turnaround.

Tell us about the devoted email portal that you set up for staff to submit their ideas.

Basically, this started when BetaGov became involved with us. We had identified a couple of problems in our department that we wanted to tackle. One, how can we reduce the use of solitary confinement, and two, how can we reduce in-prison violence that was occurring? Those two issues formed the beginning of our relationship with BetaGov, and they came out of a need to respond to the national momentum to use solitary confinement less, while at the same time we saw an uptick in assaults in some of our prisons. Secretary Wetzel brought in a task force of over 100 staff— correctional officers, counselors, nurses, jobs in all different classifications— and charged us with coming up with a game plan. Shortly after, I was introduced to BetaGov, and I thought it would be perfect to have our staff come up with ideas for how we can tackle these two goals. Of course, Angela [Hawken] and the team were happy to be on board, and we brought them to the training academy for a task force meeting. As part of that day, we started to brainstorm about how we could expand this to the whole department. We

have more than 15,000 staff at the PADOc and we wanted to give everyone a voice, so someone came up with the idea to create a portal so that any of our staff can submit an idea to BetaGov. So we thought we could create an email address that we would blast out to the whole department. All of our staff have been given that email address. And we created a form with 5 questions to standardize the process. We sent that form out to the whole department three or four times to solicit ideas, and we've had well over 100 ideas come in through that email address so far. Even aside from the content of the trials, the engagement with staff and the process itself has value.

As a leader in PADOc, you have a bird's-eye view of all the trial activity within the department. What have been some of the challenges you've encountered or observed with the ideas for RCTs or the trials themselves? Can you describe how you overcame or learned from those challenges?

One challenge is that it's a constant effort to build what you call "pracademics." Most people are not academically-oriented. They're good at what they do: they're good officers, nurses, and chaplains, but even after going through the pracademic training, there are questions like, what is random assignment? Sometimes they think they are doing random assignment and they aren't. It's a constant education thing. We're getting more people trained.

Another challenge is figuring out the timing of when and where to do these pilots, because in some cases I get feedback that we're moving too slow and everybody has all these great ideas that they want to move now on, and then in other cases I get feedback from others saying we're going too fast and doing too much. My role is to be the go-between in the department. We want to be responsive to staff who are submitting ideas, but on the other hand we don't want to overwhelm institutions with too many projects that can become unmanageable. It's a balancing act, and part of what I bring to the process is helping the team balance out the pace. Not everyone sees the bigger policy picture either, so that can be a challenge balancing priorities and managing the speed of the projects.

A third challenge that I've seen is that a lot of the ideas that staff have submitted have been incentive-oriented and in other places, like on our social media sites, we have received complaints about the trials coddling inmates. What I'd like to see are some deterrence-oriented proposals that are of course legal and ethical, but try to pull in some of those staff who are harder to reach or convince. If we're truly open to ideas, then we need to hear those, too. If part of this whole process is giving everyone a voice, then we need to encourage them to submit their ideas. We want to do what works,

and doing what works is separate from what's politically correct. I think we have to not be afraid to consider all ideas from all perspectives.

What advice do you have for a practitioner who has an idea but is hesitant to run their own trial?

I would say give us and BetaGov a chance and let us collectively prove to you that we will take your idea seriously. It involves trust. We mean it when we say we're going to take every idea seriously and that they're not going to get in trouble for having an idea that might not be the direction the department is going in. I've also received a lot of positive feedback from the people who have submitted ideas. They feel rewarded, and feel like they've been given a voice.

I want to see so many more government agencies do BetaGov, and I've told our executive team here at staff meetings that practitioner-based research is the way of the future. For the first 10 to 12 years of my career I was used to doing it the traditional way, and focusing primarily on the priorities for management. I wish everyone could experience this, and I think [practitioner-led research] has a better chance of succeeding and making a difference.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Learn more about BetaGov by visiting www.betagov.org

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Training Dogs at SCI Greene

Training Day – SCI Greene Maximum Security Prison
By Michael Schwarz, Freelance Photojournalist

Reprinted with permission

Twelve maximum security inmates, five community volunteers, and five puppies. This is the group of dedicated individuals making up the Canine Partners for Life (CPL) training program in SCI Greene Maximum Security Prison.

The non-profit program enables inmates in Pennsylvania and Maryland to train prospective service dogs for 12-18 months inside the prison before the pups move on to formal training at the Canine Partners for Life headquarters.

After graduating from the two-year program the service dogs go on to assist the handicapped or mentally disabled. Over the course of their 26-year existence Canine Partners for Life has placed over 650 service dogs in 45 states across America.

The process begins in Cochranville, PA where the CPL team breeds, trains, and cares for dozens of service dogs a year. At 8-weeks old the new pups are transferred to their respective prison facilities around Pennsylvania (eight participating prisons) and Maryland (one participating prison).



6-week old puppies being cared for at the Canine Partners for Life Headquarters in Cochranville, PA. The dogs will stay here for another 2-3 weeks before being transferred to a prison in Pennsylvania or Maryland.

The group at SCI Greene meets once every two weeks inside the visitors' room to train and evaluate the dogs. Volunteers and CPL trainers arrive first. Erica, the head trainer, goes over the day's objectives as the morning light illuminates the beautifully crafted mural painted on the overhead wall. It was completed in March of 2017, and took the inmates over seven months to create.

It is 9:00 am and the inmates begin entering the room. They greet the volunteers warmly and begin prepping their dogs for training. Erica calls everyone to attention and begins the session with some simple walking exercises. Four teams of two stand up and begin leading their dogs through a variety of stations set up around the room.

Each dog is assigned to a pair of inmates responsible for its training and care. One is the primary handler while the other is the secondary handler. Dogs live in the inmates' cell, and accompany them

throughout every part of their day. This includes going to work, using the bathroom, eating, sleeping, and anything in between.

The dogs are impeccably trained, reacting instantly to commands given by their handlers. Treats were placed on the floor to tempt them out of position. No one budes, and the exercise concludes with zero mistakes. Expressions of pride and approval can be seen upon the inmate's faces. It is clear they take their work seriously.

The inmates are given permission to participate in the program based on good behavior. The men involved have been convicted of crimes ranging from petty theft to murder and manslaughter. At first the program did not have enough volunteer inmates to operate. "They didn't have enough people, and just needed me on paper," Paul, Cassidy's handler, explained. "I was hesitant at first, but agreed. Then I saw what the dogs would be doing. That won me over. Never thought I would like it like I do now."

Each morning the dogs practice commands with their handlers and are expected to pass monthly progress evaluations during training sessions with CPL staff and local volunteers. That day, Nike, an 8-month old black lab, was up for her 4-month evaluation. "We're ready," Ralph, Nike's handler, said confidently. "She's really smart. I'm not worried."

Erica instructs the rest of the group to practice commands as Nike and her handlers prepare. After a few moments, Ralph walks to the center of the floor with Nike, and the evaluation begins. Glancing down at her clipboard, Erica runs through a list of commands including proper walking, obedience, nail cutting, and grooming.

Nike maneuvers through each task with ease; her handlers Ralph and Stephen showering her in praises as Erica checks off the last box on her evaluation. This is an important step toward graduation.

Erica announces Nike's seamless performance to an applause from the rest of the inmates. Glancing at the clock, Erica ensures the dogs are given 20 minutes to play outside in the yard.

"I believe there are consequences for our actions," Erica explained. "At the same time, I also believe we humans tend to judge a person's worth based on their actions, rather than on the fact that s/he is a human being who is inherently worthy of respect & compassion."

As the pups emerge into the bright open air you can see the excitement in their step despite their best efforts to hide it. The dogs are taught that their harnesses dictate the difference between work mode and play mode. Harness on means work. Harness off means play.

The inmates begin to unfasten the harnesses, and before they even have a chance to hit the ground, the dogs are off. Bounding, leaping, barking, and running all over the walled-in yard. It was quite the sight to see.

When training concludes at 10:30 am, the inmates are sent back to their respective prison blocks. Ralph and Stephen live in Block K with Nike. The two men ambled back across the large barbed-wire lined quad, occasionally stopping to let Nike sniff something.

Arriving at their cell, Nike has one last task to complete before moving on to her next stage of training. She must get inside her crate and stay there without making a sound for two full minutes. Ralph walks Nike to her crate and we all leave the room as Erica starts her watch. 30 seconds. Silence. One minute. Not a sound. One minute 30 seconds. Still nothing. Two minutes. Nike is home free. Ralph walks over to the cage, rewarding her with a pat on the head.

Since its integration into the prison system three years ago, CPL has yielded nothing but positive results. Tina Staley, the Program Manager at SCI Greene, commented on the program's long-term effects: "The Canine Partner's for Life Program has had a tremendous impact on both the inmates and staff at this facility," Tina said. "The program has not only changed the handlers who train the dogs, it has changed the entire atmosphere of the institution."

After dogs complete their training in the prison, they are transferred back to the CPL headquarters in Cochranville, PA. There they are trained for another 8-12 months before being assigned to their future owner. Currently there is a one to three year waiting list for a CPL guide dog. This list is not first-come-first-serve, but rather based on the needs of the applicants. The match process is a complicated one, complete with personality tests, extensive evaluations, and several in-person meetings.

Canine Partners for Life is a non-profit organization that charges nothing for their services. Each of their dogs cost an estimated \$30,000 to fully train and comes with lifetime support. After matching you with a service dog, they request a donation of \$1-\$3,000, or less than 10% of their investment.

CPL receives no federal funding and acquires their 1.8 million dollar yearly budget through private donations. Their new kennels can hold around 28-30 dogs, but the prisons play an integral role in training the newborn pups during their adolescent months.

"The program is a win-win-win for everyone involved," said Jennifer Swank, the CPL Prison Program Coordinator. It benefits CPL by giving us well trained puppies, benefits the puppies' future recipients, and benefits the correctional institution as a whole."

The Vera Institute of Justice's 2012 study showed that our prison population has grown by over 700% in the past four decades, and cost taxpayers an estimated \$39 billion. This continual growth makes public outreach programs like CPL more important than ever. Canine Partners for Life is a shining example of prison reform benefitting the community, and helps to display the immense potential of our incarcerated population.

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Access and Opportunity

On April 12, 2017, DOC staff attended the Access and Opportunity event in Lancaster, Pa. The event featured four guest speakers who discussed ideas to increase diversity and inclusion at all levels in the workforce.



Pictured, left to right, are: John Harris, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Office of EEO; Cindy Rowe, Facility Human Resources Officer, SCIs Benner Township and Rockview; Robert Smith, Superintendent, SCI Muncy; Kevin Kauffman, Superintendent, SCI Huntingdon; Laurel Harry, Superintendent, SCI Camp Hill; Tammy Ferguson, Superintendent, SCI Benner Township; Tiffany Epoca, Director, DOC's Office of EEO; and Lawrence Mahally, Superintendent, SCI Dallas.

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Pittsburgh's Last Volunteer Banquet



On April 20, SCI Pittsburgh held its final Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Forty-two volunteers attended and were honored by prison employees and inmates for their years of service to the facility.

The evening opened with a double blessing from Imam Dawud Abdul-Alim and Rabbi Brian Idell. The dietary department provided a wonderful dinner highlighted by their chicken broccoli Alfredo and a carrot cake with ice cream.

After dinner and brief words of welcome from Facility Chaplaincy Program Director and Volunteer Coordinator, Rev. Tami Hooker. She was joined by DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services' Religious Services Administrator Rev. Ulli Klemm, who offered a speech entitled, "If These Walls Could Speak."

Klemm's speech was followed by an original presentation from nine of Pittsburgh's remaining inmates who had created a skit entitled, "Gifts to Take with Us."

During the skit which took place in a fictional property room, the men had their boxes ready for transport and noted gifts they had received from their interaction with the volunteers and how they would be carrying those gifts with them to their next facility and throughout the rest of their lives. The skit concluded with the men singing, "It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday."

The skit was followed by the presentation of gifts. The men participating in the program had decorated boxes with the evening's theme for each volunteer. Inside the boxes were mementos, all bearing logos of SCI Pittsburgh. Each box also included a copy of a poem which had been part of the men's presentation and a picture of the facility.

Gifts were presented by Acting Deputy of Centralized Services Rene Adams and Unit Manager Chris Sorbin. As each volunteer was called up by Rev. Hooker to

receive a certificate and their gift, they were asked to share how they served as a volunteer, for how long, and a memory from their time at the institution. Since some of the volunteers had served for more than 40 years, many had a number of memories to choose from.

Next, Superintendent Mark Capozza offered remarks thanking the volunteers for their service and noting the positive impact they had on the men of SCI Pittsburgh, the staff and the institution as a whole.

The evening concluded with a benediction by Fr. Malcolm McDonald. In addition to those mentioned, six additional staff members and Daniel Lorditch, activities coordinator from the DOC's Bureau of Treatment Services, attended to honor the volunteers' work.

Although the evening was bittersweet in light of the upcoming closure, nonetheless, all who attended enjoyed the evening and the volunteers reported they were both touched and honored by the event. Gifts and certificates were mailed to the other 17 volunteers who were unable to attend.

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Smithfield's Inside Out Program

According to SCI Smithfield Superintendent Eric Tice, the prison held a closing ceremony on April 26 for the Inside Out program, which is a collaborative project with Juniata College.

"I was blown away by the positive comments of the students who participated," Tice said. "Both the inside students/inmates and outside students were very emotional about the positive experience."

Juniata College President Troha and several Juniata staff attended the ceremony. In fact, each Juniata student who completed the sociology course that was part of the program received three educational credits.

"To my surprise, President Troha informed the group that the board of trustees of the college is generously granting three educational credits to each of the inmate students as well," Tice said.

Tice said that he is very proud of Smithfield's staff, Juniata College staff and both the inside and outside students who participated.

"President Troha and I believe this collaboration will continue to grow as we move forward. We are hoping to offer this program once a year," Tice said.

The Inside Out program, allows students from the college to meet with inmates on a regular basis to discuss issues relative to the sociology course. Several other PA DOC facilities offer a similar program.

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Highlighting SCI Pittsburgh's Inside Out Program

In 2007, the Inside Out program was introduced at SCI Pittsburgh by Professor Norman Conti, associate professor of sociology at Duquesne University.

The program brings students and inmates together to focus on concepts of Restorative Justice. Developing from the class, the Elsinore-Bennu Think Tank and Pittsburgh Police Department created a curriculum to be implemented as part of the police academy in early 2017.

In keeping with the Inside Out concept, for several weeks, inmates and police cadets participated in class sessions to discuss community oriented policing. The first group of cadets completed the program on April 25, 2017.



Pictured from left to right are Superintendent Capozza, Professor Norman Conti, and Pittsburgh Chief of Police Scott Schubert.



First class of Pittsburgh Police Cadets along with the SCI Pittsburgh inmate participants.

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DOC Podcast, "Bustin' Walls"

Give a listen to the DOC's latest podcast "Bustin' Walls" with Secretary John Wetzel.

The new episode features an interview with the DOC Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder and highlights his work overseeing services provided to inmate veterans at three DOC veterans' service units, as well as working with veteran inmates system-wide to ensure they have access to services to which they are entitled.

Secretary Wetzel says Yoder, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps, has a "unique combination of experience and education" that allows him to assist the more than 3,300 veterans serving in our state prison system.

<http://www.cor.pa.gov/About%20Us/Newsroom/Pages/Podcasts.aspx#.WP4iVGkrLRa>

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Supporting a Sister DOC

SCI Forest employees recently hosted a recent fundraiser for the families of those affected by the Delaware prison hostage incident. The day-long event on March 29 featured a chili cook off, raffle and K-9 demonstration. Food was donated by the SCI Forest Employee Association. Dietary and administration staff cooked the food and whipped up delicious desserts. When it was over, the staff had raised \$1,300 for the Delaware prison families.

Forest employees have a long tradition of supporting one another in difficult times and they are more than happy to extend that support to fellow brothers and sisters in the corrections industry across the nation. Many thanks go out to all staff who dedicated their time and efforts to making this event such a success. To those

individuals and families affected by the Delaware hostage incident, the prayers and thoughts of SCI Forest employees are with you.





Unit Manager Y. Perrin and Employee Association Representative A. Meck.



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Frackville Inmates have been Busy!

The Community Work Program (CWP) crew inmates at SCI Frackville have been busy!

Recently they resurfaced the Frackville Borough Teener League field, under supervision of Frackville mascot, Feye.



And they also repainted garbage cans for the Shenandoah Rotary Club.



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National Reentry Week @ Laurel Highlands

In honor of National Reentry Week, SCI Laurel Highlands hosted its 3rd Annual Transitional Housing Unit (THU) Friends and Family Reentry Day on April 27th. The Friends and Family Reentry Day involved THU participants and their support systems visiting and talking one-on-one with THU staff and many of the outside providers who regularly assist in the reentry programming at the prison.

The Friends and Family Day event was followed by a "Thank You" luncheon for the regular providers to express the prison's ongoing gratitude to the providers for their assistance in the participants' successful reentry.

Additionally, throughout Reentry Week, numerous reentry workshops were provided throughout the institution to all housing units, mandatory program groups and the therapeutic communities in order to educate the other populations about the reentry program, answer questions and provide information regarding reentry resources available upon release.



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Wetzel Joins NFL Hall of Famers

On April 12, DOC Secretary John Wetzel joined NFL Hall of Famers Darrell Green, Anthony Munoz and Aeneas Williams at Heinz Field for Youth Summit. The Strong Youth Strong Communities event brought together 400 Pittsburgh teens to talk about bullying, self-esteem and other topics to help teens share, learn and build community.



NFL Hall of Famer Darrel Green and DOC Secretary John Wetzel.

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Camp Hill Honored Crime Victims' Rights Week through Speakers

SCI Camp Hill, during National Crime Victims' Rights Week had a number of speakers address inmates. One pair was the father and mother of an individual who was killed, Mark and Mary Sweitzer. Mary provided the following, which is just a snapshot of what she and her husband shared with inmates:

"Zac Sweitzer's life was cut short on Thanksgiving morning of 2008 when an underage impaired driver struck his vehicle while he was traveling home early that morning. Zac suffered a traumatic brain injury and was declared brain dead three days later. His parents, Mark and Missy Sweitzer, are determined to make sure as much good as possible can come from Zac's death, including the six lives that were saved by Zac's decision to be an organ donor. That's why they share their story wherever and as often as they can. They choose to share Zac's story with the hopes of changings lives through the painful but inspiring story of their tragedy and that of their son's legacy, both while he walked this earth and since his death."



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SCI Pine Grove Holds “Day of Responsibility”

On April 10, 2017, Debbie Borza was one of six presenters to deliver messages to inmates during SCI Pine Grove’s first “Day of Responsibility.”

Ms. Borza spoke to approximately 75 inmates about the day she lost her daughter, Deora, the youngest victim of Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001.

Other presenters included Karen McMillan, who lost her son to addiction; Rob Hamilton, the director of Veteran’s Place; Jerry Overman, the Indiana County Coroner; Michael Kiel, who is paralyzed as the result of a shooting; and Audia Boyles, director of the Alice Paul House.

The mission statement for the event, which was coordinated by Corrections Counselor 2 Amy Mottin, states “To discuss the need for personal responsibility and accountability for past, present and future actions. It also provides the opportunity to explore the impact of crime on communities and encourage incarcerated individuals/community members to live a more responsible life and have hope for the future.”



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Houtzdale Hosts Symposium

SCI Houtzdale hosted its first annual Women's Symposium on Wednesday, April 19th. The symposium -- whose theme was "Rising Above the Glass Ceiling: Women Helping Women" -- provided training on equal employment, fraternization and mentoring.



Attendees were also enlightened by the panel which discussed career advancement and making the most of the opportunities as they arise in law enforcement.

The panel included DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal, SCI Camp Hill Superintendent Laurel Harry, Quehanna Boot Camp Superintendent Mary Natoli, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist Supervisor Christine Smith, DOC Staff Assistant Jennifer Pawling, Senior Deputy Attorney General Mary Friedline, Cambria County District Attorney Kelli Callihan and Trooper Abby Blazavich.



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Mental Health Awareness

For the month of April, SCI Mercer's Activities Department held a Mental Health Awareness Art Contest. Inmates submitted artwork on the topic of mental health and staff voted on their favorites. This is the 1st place winner.

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Cleaning Up Pennsylvania

Even though SCI Mahanoy's inmates participate every year in the Great PA Clean Up, the prison's Community Works Program inmates take care of 80 miles of Interstate 81 both North and South.

It takes the crew approximately 30 days to clean up the litter and then it's time to start again.



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Suicide Prevention Speaker Visits Mercer

One of the goals of SCI Mercer's Suicide Prevention Committee, chaired by Dr. Cynthia Wright, is to identify opportunities for training that is available from the local community.

Guest speaker, Pete Albert, who serves as the suicide prevention coordinator for the Butler Veterans Administration, spoke recently to the committee about Operation S.A.V.E. and Safety Planning.

He provided information relevant to veterans, which is important for Mercer's Veterans Housing Unit as well as for the employee veteran population. Albert provided a lot of useful tools and resources.

In his role as suicide prevention coordinator, Albert's objectives for group attendees included:

- Having a general understanding of the scope of suicide within the United States
- Knowing how to identify a veteran that may be at risk for suicide
- Knowing what to do when you identify a veteran at risk

Albert spoke about Operation S.A.V.E., which will help others act with care and compassion if they encounter a veteran who is in suicidal crisis. The acronym "S.A.V.E." helps one remember the important steps involved in suicide prevention:

- **S**igns of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- **A**sk the most important question of all
- **V**alidate the veteran's experience
- **E**ncourage treatment and Expedite getting help

Albert presented information on safety plans. A brief clinical intervention, safety planning can serve as a valuable adjunct to risk assessment and may be used with veterans who have made a suicide attempt, have suicide ideation, have psychiatric disorders that increase suicide risk or who are otherwise determined to be at high risk for suicide (cf. Stanley & Brown, 2008).

A safety plan is a prioritized written list of coping strategies and sources of support that patients can use during or preceding suicidal crises. The intent of safety planning is to provide a pre-determined list of potential coping strategies as well as a list of individuals or agencies that veterans can contact in order to help them lower their imminent risk of suicidal behavior. It is a therapeutic technique that provides patients with something more than just a referral at the completion of suicide risk assessment.

By following a pre-determined set of coping strategies, social support activities, and help-seeking behaviors, veterans can determine and employ those strategies that are most effective.



Attendees pictured included: Mercer County Prison Counselor Ed Hedglin, Counselor and Lt. James Baker; and SCI Mercer employees Dr. Cynthia Wright, Corrections Classification Program Manager Michelle Wagner, Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services William Woods, Corrections Health Care Administrator Karen Feathers, Deputy Superintendent for Facility Management Michael Mahlmeister, Dr. Adam Ligas (MHM Psychiatrist), Major Rodney Painter, Psychological Services Specialist Stephen Laufer, Unit Manager Wendy Rouda, Sergeant Eric Ediburn, Unit Manager Lisa Graves, Unit Manager Marcia Combine, Unit Manager Randy Rickert and Clerk Typist 2 Betty Tarcy.

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Mahanoy Hosts "Day of Responsibility"



On April 6, 2017, a Day of Responsibility was held at SCI Mahanoy.

Presenters were Karen Laird, director of Victim Services, who gave a presentation on Apology Bank and Victim Awareness; Penny L. Sines, parole manager, who gave a presentation on The Reentry Division of Probation and Parole; Inmate Harry, who gave a presentation on "Changing Your Thinking"; and Inmate Erik, who spoke about his past experience and how he's changed his life.

The Day of Responsibility was attended by approximately 314 inmates and was very well received by them. They participated when asked questions and seemed very interested in the topics presented.

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OVA Victim Services Director Comments on Mahanoy Day of Responsibility

In an email to DOC Secretary John Wetzel and other DOC leaders, Karen Laird, director of Victim Services for the Office of the Victim Advocate, said:

"I was at SCI Mahanoy last week for their Day of Responsibility and was speaking to a large group of inmates about impact of crime and taking responsibility for their actions. In speaking about how every crime has a victim and people that were negatively impacted by the crime, an inmate raised his hand and told me he was in for drugs and never thought he had any victims. Until that is he heard a victim speaker at Camp Hill last year during their Crime Victims' Rights Week event. He said that hearing the victim's story (which was about her son's heroin addiction and death) changed his life and he now understands the people he impacted due to his drug use/dealing, which he always considered to be a victimless crime.

I was blown away by his honesty as he spoke about this in front of the whole group. And I wanted to thank you all for allowing and supporting victims/survivors to come into your institutions and speak at events like the Day of Responsibility and Crime Victims' Rights Week as well as the Impact of Crime Class. I was able to reach out to the victim to let her know the above and she was so incredibly grateful to know that sharing her son Danny's story is making a difference."

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Rockview Inmates Help Beautify Bellefonte

As part of this year's Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania that began March 1 and runs through May 31, SCI Rockview provided its Community Works Program inmate detail to help clean up streets in Bellefonte, Pa.

The cleanup is sponsored each year by PennDOT, the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and other partners. Groups participating in PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program, which involves volunteers cleaning roadsides year round, are also encouraged to participate in the cleanup.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SCI Retreat Hosts Juvenile Lifers Friends & Family Day



On April 20, 2017, SCI Retreat Superintendent Vince Mooney welcomed all juvenile lifers and their guests to SCI Retreat as part of the prison's "Juvenile Lifers Friends & Family Day." Also in attendance were guest speakers, DOC Staff Assistant Robert Hammond and Attorney Helen Levine from the Philadelphia Public Defender's Office.

The event is intended to allow friends and families to reconnect with inmates who were juveniles at the time they committed their crimes and who received life sentences as a result. A recent court ruling has changed how juveniles (who are convicted as adults and sentenced to the state prison system) can be sentenced in Pennsylvania. Many juvenile lifers are facing a change in their sentences which may result in their eventual release from prison. The DOC has been working to provide these inmates with programming that will prepare them for release and for a successful return home. This process starts with holding a variety of events, such as friends and family days.

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Another Day of Responsibility – We Take this Seriously in the DOC!

SCI Cambridge Springs held its first Day of Responsibility on April 5, 2017. This was an opportunity for the inmates to reflect upon personal accountability for their past, present and future by utilizing speakers from the community that have been victims themselves. Cambridge Springs had several excellent speakers of various backgrounds. All were well received by those in attendance.



Superintendent Joanne Torma kicked off the event with a heartwarming speech, sharing her personal experiences and the life lessons that she has gained throughout the years. The list of speakers included Walter Everett whose son was murdered in

the 80's. He spoke about the importance of responsibility and forgiveness. Nancy Everett spoke about her son passing away from a drunk driving accident that he caused and how it took years for her to forgive him. Rochell Ulrich spoke about her brother and soon-to-be sister in-law who were in an accident caused by a drunk driver. The soon-to-be sister in-law was killed at the scene and the brother committed suicide shortly after the accident. Ulrich took the time to explain to the inmates how important it is for them to take responsibility for their actions in order to help the victim's family to heal and move on. Debbie Borza spoke about her daughter being killed on the 9/11 plane crash in Shanksville.

SCI Cambridge Springs also had the honor of having two DOC employees -- Rebecca Coull and Lynn Patrone -- speak. Coull spoke at length about not using past experiences, like domestic violence, as an excuse for not taking responsibility for your own actions. Patrone, who is the DOC's Mental Health Advocate, spoke about some personal experiences and the path and importance to making amends.

The Day of Responsibility concluded with Deputy Superintendent Paul Ennis giving some very powerful closing remarks about the importance of this day and the future programs that will be facilitated at Cambridge Springs.

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EDS Moore Smeal Participates in Reentry Discussion

DOC Executive Deputy Secretary Shirley Moore Smeal and her Staff Assistant Robert Hammond recently joined Philadelphia City Mayor Jim Kenney, social justice advocates and others for a discussion in Philadelphia on the barriers to reentry. Moore Smeal talked about the importance of reentry work in the state prison system and efforts to reach out to community groups to provide a "smooth handoff" for individuals upon release. The event was covered by The Philadelphia Tribune: http://www.phillytrib.com/news/advocates-ask-for-more-reentry-efforts-in-phila/article_51dfbc0c-4883-54cb-bdaa-5179bb594392.html

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Albion's Community Work Program Crew in Action!

SCI Albion's Community Work Program inmates recently provided services to the Greenfield Volunteer Fire Department.

The crew stripped and waxed the floors, washed and waxed fire trucks, and painted the entire interior of the building.



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Phila CCC #4 Recognition from House of Representatives

DONNA BULLOCK, MEMBER
195TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
165A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202195
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2195
PHONE: (717) 787-3480
FAX: (717) 772-8853
2835 W. GIRARD AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19130
PHONE: (215) 684-3738
FAX: (215) 235-4829
WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/BULLOCK



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES
AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
STATE GOVERNMENT
DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE
CAUCUSES
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS,
VICE CHAIR
PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION

Mrs. Fanrak
Acting Director
Community Corrections Center #4
1628-30 N 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19121

Dear Mrs. Fanrak,

I write to you to recognize the efforts of your facility. I strongly support the sentiments of your work because of the remarkable dedication, commitment, sacrifice, and service given by Community Correction Centers such as yours.

I understand the importance that your facility has on the quality of life in our communities. I am very impressed with your mission. I honorably support your goal of lowering the rate of recidivism by providing correctional and reentry services. Furthermore, I applaud your public service and stewardship for the community.

I wish to thank you, your staff, and the residents for the work you all do through your facility and otherwise. I look forward to continuing to support your efforts and ask you to call me on me at any time that you wish to share a concern or question or need assistance with any matter. Please also know that my office can provide assistance on the many services offered by the state. I look forward to hearing good things from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Honorable Donna Bullock
State Representative 195th Legislative District

Laurel Highlands Employees Hold “Biggest Loser” Contest

From January 3 until April 3, 2017, employees at SCI Laurel Highlands participated in a “Biggest Loser” competition.

“It was a great way to start the new year and keep employees on track with healthy eating and exercise and also mix in some good old friendly competition,” said Superintendent Jamie Luther. “We had 48 employees participate this year with the goal of getting a bit healthier.”

The contest resulted in employees taking first through fifth place. Weigh-ins were done each month, and winners were determined by the total percentage of weight lost.

Here are the BIG WINNERS – or in this case – the BIG LOSERS:

- 1st Place \$400 Robert Lushko
- 2nd Place \$200 Roger Mason
- 3rd Place \$100 Jodi Stapleton-Nichols
- 4th Place \$ 50 Jason Sossong
- 5th Place \$ 25 Beattie Knecht (not in the photo)

Participating employees lost a total of 431 pounds!



Pictured, from left to right, are: Roger Mason, 2nd place; Jodi Stapleton-Nichols, 3rd place; Robert Lushko, 1st place; Jason Sossong, 4th place. 5th place Beattie Knecht (not pictured)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

University Student Visits Cambridge Springs



Kayla Frick, a junior from Edinboro University who is studying journalism and public relations, recently visited SCI Cambridge Springs. During her visit, Frick interviewed Unit Managers Kim Sittig and Jamie Rodriguez for an assignment about "Women in Prison."

Frick asked questions about a day in the life of an inmate, positive and negative experiences, reentry, recidivism and inmate family ties. This interview not only gave Frick an opportunity to hone her interviewing skills, but also gave our unit managers a chance to talk about the importance of their role within the Department of Corrections.

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Saying Goodbye

As many of you know, SCI Pittsburgh is slated for closure by June 30, 2017. The staff shared in camaraderie and enjoyed a catered luncheon last week, sponsored by the institution's Employees Association and Empowerment Committee. Also joining in the luncheon were a large number of the facility's retirees who came back to share this memorable time with current facility staff. SCI Pittsburgh's staff are beginning their new assignments, with the first wave of employees departing this week. Wishing everyone the best in their new posts.



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Mentoring Employees



The Department of Corrections has a mentoring program whose goal is to provide mentors to employees who want them. SCI Graterford's mentoring program has been in existence for quite some time and is thriving. The members of the program at Graterford gathered recently in the prison's main corridor for a photo opportunity.

PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Mentoring Program

MISSION OF THE DOC MENTORING PROGRAM

"It is the policy of the department to support a statewide mentoring program to work toward promoting effective communication, interaction, training and support in order to facilitate an understanding of the issues important to both female and male correctional employees. It also is the policy of the department to facilitate a statewide mentoring program that shall improve retention and support upward mobility within the department."

<p><u>Mentoring Program Benefits</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Competence ➢ Security ➢ Teamwork ➢ Knowledge ➢ Empowerment 	<p><u>What is a Mentor?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A person who helps another learn and grow. ➢ A person who provides guidance and direction on setting and achieving goals. ➢ A teacher, guide, coach, counselor, trainer, instructor, or tutor.
<p><u>Effective Mentors Are</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Understanding ➢ Adaptable ➢ Committed ➢ Willing to learn ➢ Flexible ➢ Structured ➢ Knowledgeable 	<p><u>Personal Qualities of a Mentor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A positive attitude ➢ Excellent work ethic ➢ Excellent listening skills ➢ Excellent attendance ➢ Career-oriented ➢ Goal-oriented ➢ DOC employee for a minimum of (2) years
<p><u>Effective Mentors Are</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Patient ➢ Honest ➢ Open ➢ Respectful ➢ Trustworthy ➢ Accessible 	<p><u>Roles of a Mentor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Guide ➢ Support ➢ Role-model ➢ Cheerleader ➢ Sounding Board ➢ Listener ➢ Critic ➢ Advisor ➢ Link

Are you interested in passing on your knowledge and experience to help others achieve their career goals and to assist them in becoming successful Corrections professionals?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MENTOR OR MENTEE AT YOUR FACILITY, please contact the local [Mentoring Coordinator](#) for more information.

1/5/2017
AS, CSR, MER

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Legislators Visit Pine Grove

SCI Pine Grove hosted its 2017 Legislative Tour on April 13, 2017. Local dignitaries were invited to a meet-and-greet session and then were given a tour of the facility. Areas of the prison that were visited included the Young Adult Offender Unit, program services, a housing unit where the dog training program inmates reside, among other areas.



Inmates talk to visitors about the Young Adult Offender Program.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Recipient of Trained Dog Visits Prison

On April 18, 2017, Lindsay, a recipient of Canine Partner's for Life, and her service dog, Amber, visited SCI Greene.

Amber is a graduate from SCI Greene's first litter of pups.

Prison employees, inmate handlers and volunteers attended the gathering where Lindsay spoke about how Amber has given her the gift of independence. Amber serves as a cardiac alert dog and has allowed Lindsay to move from her home in Colorado to attend graduate school in Philadelphia.

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Certified Peer Support Specialist Graduation

SCI Houtzdale held its Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPS) training April 3rd-7th and April 17th-21st.

The class started with 23 inmate participants, with 22 of them earning a certificate to become a CPS. SCI Muncy Corrections Officer 1 Shoeman and SCI Coal Township Corrections Counselor 2 Christopher Christian were the instructors for the class.

During the training, all participants, along with 13 of the current CPS' received Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training. The training concluded with a graduation ceremony that was attended by a number of prison employees.

Peer Support Specialists are inmates who have had experience with mental health systems and who are now able to complete training to become certified in this area. The CPS' are employed in a number of areas within a facility to help serve the inmate population. In many cases they are able to help deescalate situations. They also are helpful to staff in the day-to-day operation of the facility and are used in specialized housing units and even infirmaries.

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Pistol Shoot Held

On Saturday April 1, SCI Muncy hosted law enforcement professionals from around the state for the Second Annual Pistol Shoot to benefit SCI Muncy's Employees Recreation Association. This year, the prison did a three gun shoot, with the participants using either a semi-automatic pistol or revolver; then transitioning to a 12 gauge shotgun and then to an AR15. Prizes were awarded for first and second place in both the semi-automatic and revolver categories. The winners were as follows:

Semi-automatic:

- 1st Aaron Magnot – SCI Dallas
- 2nd Mike Elbayly – SCI Houtzdale

Revolver:

- 1st John Koelsch – SCI Camp Hill
- 2nd Joshua Schrader – SCI Camp Hill



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Benner Twp. Named EOQ

SCI Benner Township Superintendent Tammi Ferguson announced that CO1 Ryan and Corrections Counselor 2 Vogt have been selected as Benner Township's Employees of the Quarter.



Counselor Vogt (left) was nominated due to the incredible amount of service he provides to the prison. While he is counselor of the Residential Treatment Unit, he also volunteers for the prison's emergency response team, serving as its alternate leader. He also is a certified instructor and leads employee trainings in a number of vital areas.

Officer Ryan was nominated due to his leadership skills, his dependability and reliability and the firm-yet-fair way he communicates with inmates and staff.

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Teaching Inmates About Finances

On April 24, 2017, Becky MacDicken, an outreach specialist for the PA Department of Banking and Securities, provided reentry related financial training to the juvenile lifers at SCI Greene. The DOC is working throughout the prison system to prepare lifers for a possible release from prison if they had committed their crime as a juvenile but were convicted as an adult and sentenced to a life sentence.



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Palm Sunday Service at Graterford

On the eve of Palm Sunday, the Archbishop of the Philadelphia Archdiocese visited SCI Graterford. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput greeted inmates and employees, as well as conducted Mass.



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Listen Up!

WITF -- Secretary Wetzel discusses mandatory minimum sentences and explains why restoring them for lower level drug offenses is a bad idea.

<http://www.witf.org/smart-talk/2017/04/mandatory-minimum-sentencing-pa-traffic-deaths-in-decline.php>

WHYY Radio Times – Secretary Wetzel talks about pioneering new ways to address the rising number of inmates with serious mental illness in prisons. He is joined by Fred Usher, the Council of State Governments health systems policy director and Bruce Herdman, chief medical director of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons.

<http://whyy.org/cms/radiotimes/2017/04/11/mentally-ill-inmates-overwhelm-pa-jails/>

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Week of April 3...

DOC Commemorates Crime Victims' Rights Week

The annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week, held every April, raises awareness of victims' rights and honors victims and those who serve them. This year's commemoration is April 2-8.

For inmates at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' 26 institutions this week provides an opportunity to give back and reflect on those they have harmed.

"The institutions have recognized that Crime Victims' Rights Week is not simply about putting up a poster, it's about recognizing the consequences and impact of their actions while hopefully discovering a better person within," said Corrections Secretary John Wetzel. "Our goal is to ensure that individuals go back to the community less likely to commit crime again."

Across the state this week, state prisons hosted dozens of programs, fund-raisers for victims' services groups and events to recognize victims of crime, among them, art and essay contests, theater performances, chapel services and presentations from guest victim speakers, all focusing on this year's theme "Strength, Resilience and Justice."

"I am beyond impressed with the level of compassionate events the staff and inmates at every state correctional institution planned to honor victims and raise awareness of victims' rights," said Pennsylvania's Victim Advocate Jennifer Storm. "The leadership and accountability this requires is admirable and we are so thankful for Secretary Wetzel's ongoing commitment to crime victims and its trickle-down

"This year's theme provides SCI Muncy with the unique opportunity to emphasize the importance of responding and building the capacity of our population through greater understanding of their roles as both victims and victimizers," said Robert L. Smith, superintendent of SCI Muncy, one of the state's two women's prisons. "The goal this year is to highlight and strengthen their understanding by identifying their resilience as survivors while simultaneously raising awareness of how to assist and support communities in the ongoing healing of victims and survivors."

impact on all the staff and inmates."

The focus of the DOC and Office of Victim Advocate on victims' rights in prisons extends beyond the week of special recognition to include:

- **Day of Responsibility.** Most prisons have victim-related speakers come in to speak to inmates one day each year, followed by group breakouts for the inmates and citizens who are invited to attend.

- Impact of Crime classes. A voluntary, interactive and educational program designed to raise inmates' awareness about the impact of crime on victims, and increase their level of accountability and empathy toward those they have harmed.
- Inmate apology bank. Inmates may write letters to victims or victims' families, which are then sent to Office of Victim Advocate where they are reviewed and held until such time as victims wish to receive them.
- Crime victim restitution. DOC inmates work at various jobs to pay their fines, restitution and victim compensation. In 2016 the total distributed from state prison inmates was \$5.7 million.

“The loss that crime victims feel is a pain that is never ending,” said Tammy Ferguson, superintendent at SCI Benner Township. “Participating in Crime Victims’ Rights Week provides an opportunity for SCI Benner Township staff and inmates to enter the world of the victim, even if only momentarily.”

For more information on DOC or OVA visit www.cor.pa.gov or www.o.va.pa.gov

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Honoring National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

On April 5, 2017, during the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, Heather Snyder, from Cambria and Somerset County Victim Services, delivered a Victim Impact and Awareness workshop to Transitional Housing Unit inmates at SCI Laurel Highlands.

During her visit, the THU presented Snyder with the “Healing Hangers” and various pieces of artwork for their agency. Additionally, a representative from the Phoenix Group, which is the Inmate Betterment Organization, met with Snyder and made a monetary donation to the agency in acknowledgement of the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.



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Pittsburgh Inmates Donate to Victims Organization

Due to the impending closure of SCI Pittsburgh by June 30, 2017, prison staff hadn't planned any inmate events in honor of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. But that doesn't mean that crime

victims aren't on the minds of prison employees and inmates. In fact, the Inmate Activities Committee, which is being disbanded due to the closure, had its members vote to donate the funds in their account to a worthy organization. They voted to donate \$3,000.34 to the Center for Victims in Pittsburgh in observance of Crime Victims' Rights Week.

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SCIs Hosts Victim Speaker

On April 6, Debbie Borza visited SCI Houtzdale as a guest speaker during the prison's Victim Awareness Week. Borza's oldest daughter was killed on September 11, 2001, as the youngest female passenger of Flight 93. United Airlines Flight 93 was a domestic scheduled passenger flight that was hijacked by terrorist on board as part of a complex attack against America. Borza shared her dynamic story on how she has been affected by violence. After she spoke she held a question-and-answer period. The event was attended by approximately 125 inmates.



Borza also spoke at SCI Benner Township on April 4. She continues to participate in transformation work where she has attended seminars and programs on leadership, communication and other areas of personal growth and development. The staff and inmate population at SCI Benner Township will continue to participate in activities for National Crime Victims' Rights Week for the remainder of the week.



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Graterford Holds Special Victims' Program

On April 6, 2017, SCI Graterford presented a special program in the chapel annex entitled "A Call to End Harm" for National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Participants included staff from the Office of Victim Advocate, volunteers from Restorative Justice, SCI Graterford staff and 58 residents of Graterford's inmate population. The topic of discussion was the impact of crime on victims.



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Teaching Financial Responsibility

Recently at SCI Waymart, Becky MacDicken continued her tour of DOC facilities as she teaches inmates about financial issues.

MacDicken, who is a Department of Banking and Securities employee, is spending a period of time helping the DOC in this area of financial learning.

Topics covered include banking basics, understanding credit reports and scores, budgeting and other financial matters.

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Pine Grove Hosts “Friends and Family Day”

SCI Pine Grove hosted a Friends and Family Day for the prison’s “juvenile lifers” on March 30, 2017. Five juvenile lifers participated in the event and had family and friends join them for the special event.

Classification & Program Manager Cheryl Henigin introduced Superintendent Eric Bush, Deputy Superintendent Jamie Boyles, Major Fogle and attending employees.

Guest speakers included (from Central Office) Executive Staff Assistant and (juvenile lifer project manager) Robert Hammond, Statewide Veterans Coordinator Ryan Yoder and Reentry Coordinator Janeen Christ and Bureau of

Community Corrections Counselor William Robert Warren. Also present were Parole Manager Penny Sines and PA Prison Society’s John Hargreaves.

Also deserving acknowledgement for their assistance and participation are the prison’s Reentry Specialist Stephanie Ackley and Psychological Services Specialist Rebecca Bollinger.

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Mercer Renovates Infirmary

Recently, SCI Mercer finished renovations of housing unit D into a tertiary medical unit. Kudos to Mercer’s maintenance staff for completing the renovations in only two months in preparation for more inmates coming from SCI Pittsburgh due to the closure of that prison by June 30, 2017.

Along with removing all of the old housing unit equipment, bunks, cabinets, etc., renovations included installation of an emergency call button system for every individual bed as well as for the shower room and bathrooms, shower renovations, installation of cameras and monitors, lighting, privacy curtains, nurses’ station and much more. The work by the maintenance staff was outstanding in quantity and quality.

The renovations were coordinated by Deputy Superintendent William Woods and Facility Maintenance Manager Larry Boggs.





SCI Mercer’s maintenance staff along with Facility Maintenance Manager Larry Boggs, Corrections Health Care Administrator Karen Feather and Deputy Superintendent for Centralized Services William Woods celebrate the successful renovation of housing unit D into a tertiary medical unit.

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Cambridge Springs Inmates Give Back to Society

In 2008, in order to enhance community responsibility and involvement, SCI Cambridge Springs implemented an “in-house” Community Work Program designed to involve inmates who are serving a long-term sentence.

This program is a joint effort between the local Lions Club and the prison. Currently, 15 inmates participate in the program, using their time and talents in service to the community and earning a small wage to support themselves.

The inmates use their creative energies to make sweaters, mittens, small throws and other projects.

The Lions Club furnishes all of the supplies and has individuals volunteer who can provide ideas and instruction, while others distribute the creations. This long-term partnership has provided countless gifts for children in surrounding communities and a sense of contribution and community for the involved women at SCI Cambridge Springs.



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Can a Rescue Dog be Trained as a Drug Detection Dog?

This is something the Department of Corrections' Drug Interdiction Unit (DIU) is testing right now with the introduction of Tara, a Pit Bull, to the K9 corps.

DOC Chief of Security, Major Scott Bowman said that Tara had been surrendered to a rescuer because her family was unable to care for her. The rescuer reached out to Captain Dan McMahon knowing that he was the DOC's DIU coordinator.

"When I got the call asking if I was interested in Tara, I quickly took the opportunity to take her in and give her a chance at becoming part of the DIU/K9 family," McMahon said.



He then talked to the DIU's lead trainer Lt. John Hustosky who also was excited to give Tara a chance. The DIU/K9 Unit had three previous Pit Bulls that were certified narcotic K9's that worked out great for the DOC. So the expectation is that Tara should do so as well.

The DOC normally procures its K9's from various vendors who go overseas to purchase K9's that are strictly "working dogs," and the cost is normally around \$6,000 per dog. As with all dogs, it usually takes five weeks to "pre train" narcotic K9's. The training consists of odor recognition, search patterns and basic obedience, with the end result of manipulating their hunt/prey drive to suit our needs.

Bowman said that K9 Tara will begin her training next week at the K9 academy, which is located on the grounds of the State Correctional Institution at Rockview, Centre County.

K9 Tara is pictured with Captain Dan McMahon.

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Kings College Students Visit SCI Retreat

On April 6, 18 Kings College students visited the prison. They were provided a tour of the facility and also met with inmates to talk about their sentences, crimes and life in prison. They also met with prison staff, who talked to them about their daily duties.



Posing with Kings College students during their recent visit to SCI Retreat are Chaplain David Boyles (front row left) and Joy, the prison's geese dog.

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Thanking Staff

Over the last several months, SCI Laurel Highlands suffered the deaths of three employees. As a result, the prison's Crisis Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team and its Honor Guard went over and above to comfort employees and to honor the deceased. To thank these two groups – CISM and the Honor Guard - - for their voluntary efforts and dedication, the prison recognized them at a special luncheon on March 27. The special meal was purchased using donations of several administrative employees.

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Lifer Reunification Day Held at Graterford

On April 6, 2017, SCI Graterford hosted the Graterford Juvenile Lifer Reunification day. This event allowed “juvenile” lifers and their family members the opportunity to meet with a variety of community organizations, along with staff from Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole and Department of Corrections, to receive necessary information for a successful reintegration back into the community. This was a very successful event.

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