

GEO World

2ND QUARTER 2017

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



The GEO Group Acquires Community Education Centers

*In April 2017, GEO completed the acquisition of
Community Education Centers (CEC) for \$360 million.*

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Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder

Following the CEC acquisition, we now own and/or manage 143 facilities totaling approximately 100,000 beds worldwide, including more than 10,000 community reentry beds, with a growing workforce of 23,500 employees worldwide.

To the GEO Family,

During the first quarter of 2017, our company achieved a number of important operational and strategic milestones.

First in January, we began the intake process at our company-owned, 780-bed Folkston ICE Processing Center in Georgia under a five-year intergovernmental service agreement between Charlton County and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The Center is expected to generate approximately \$21 million in annualized revenues.

In February, we announced a definitive agreement to acquire Community Education Centers (CEC) for approximately \$360 million, and we closed on this important transaction in early April. CEC is a national provider of rehabilitation services through in-custody treatment programs and reentry facilities, which we believe represents one of the largest real estate portfolios of owned and/or managed community reentry centers in the country.

We have integrated CEC into our existing business units of GEO Corrections & Detention and GEO Care. Following the CEC acquisition, we now own and/or manage 143 facilities totaling approximately 100,000 beds worldwide, including more than 10,000 community reentry beds, with a growing workforce of 23,500 employees

worldwide. The acquisition of CEC is expected to add approximately \$250 million in annualized revenues and be accretive to our company's earnings and cash flows, while creating additional professional advancement opportunities for our combined employee workforce.

This important transaction will continue to position us to expand our delivery of tailored real estate, management, and programmatic solutions across the entire spectrum of correctional and rehabilitation services. As we build on this important acquisition, we are also expanding our organizational and financial commitment to be the world's leader in the delivery of evidence-based rehabilitation and community reentry services.

To this end, we have doubled our annual company commitment from \$5 million to \$10 million beginning in 2017 to expand the delivery of our 'GEO Continuum of Care' which provides enhanced in-custody rehabilitation programs including evidence-based treatment, integrated with post-release support services.

In March of this year, we completed the offering of 6.9 million shares of our common stock for total proceeds of approximately \$288 million and subsequently announced a 3-for-2 stock split effective April 25, 2017. We also recently completed the refinancing

of our term loan and revolving credit facilities increasing our available credit capacity by \$500 million. These important corporate actions have retooled our capital structure and have placed our company in the best position to pursue future growth opportunities.

In April, we were awarded a new contract with ICE for the development and operation of a new company-owned 1,000-bed Detention Facility. The \$110 million Facility will be designed, financed, built, and operated by GEO under a ten-year contract, inclusive of renewal option periods. This important project will be developed in Conroe, Texas, where GEO has had a long-standing partnership with ICE and Montgomery County through the ownership and management of the Joe Corley Detention Facility. The new contract, which was awarded to GEO following a lengthy competitive procurement process, is expected to generate approximately \$44 million in annualized revenues following the completion of construction of the new Facility in the fourth quarter of 2018.

We are proud of our extensive record of helping meet ICE's needs with facilities that are highly rated and provide high-quality, cost-effective services in safe, secure, and humane residential environments, and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with ICE and the local communities of Charlton County, Georgia and Montgomery County, Texas.

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The GEO Group Acquires Community Education Centers

In April 2017, GEO completed the acquisition of Community Education Centers (CEC) for \$360 million, excluding transaction related expenses. GEO plans to integrate CEC into GEO's existing business units of GEO Corrections & Detention and GEO Care.

Founded in 1996, CEC is a leading national provider of rehabilitative services through reentry and in-custody treatment programs as well as comprehensive management services for county, state, and federal correctional and detention facilities. CEC owns and/or manages over 12,000 beds nationwide. Through its Reentry Division, CEC owns or leases approximately 7,000 community reentry beds and manages approximately 200 beds at government-owned reentry centers. Additionally, CEC provides in-custody treatment services, including evidence-based rehabilitation programs, in more than 30 government-operated facilities. GEO plans to integrate CEC's Reentry and In-Prison Treatment divisions into GEO Care.

Through its Corrections Division, CEC operates approximately 5,200 beds at correctional and detention facilities. GEO plans to integrate CEC's Corrections Division into GEO Corrections & Detention. Following the acquisition, GEO will own and/or manage approximately 100,000 beds worldwide including more than 10,000 community reentry beds, making GEO the 5th largest correctional organization in the world.

This important transaction represents a compelling strategic fit for GEO as it further positions the company to meet the demand for increasingly diversified correctional, detention, and community reentry facilities and services across the United States.

Pictured from left to right:

Senior Vice President of Business Development, David Venturilla; Senior Vice President of Project Development, Tom Wierdsma; President of GEO Care, Ann Schlarb; President of GEO Corrections & Detention, David Donahue; Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Founder, George C. Zoley; Chief Financial Officer, Brian Evans; and General Counsel, John Bulfin.



WILLIAMS STREET CENTER, DENVER, CO



GEORGE W. HILL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, THORNTON, PA

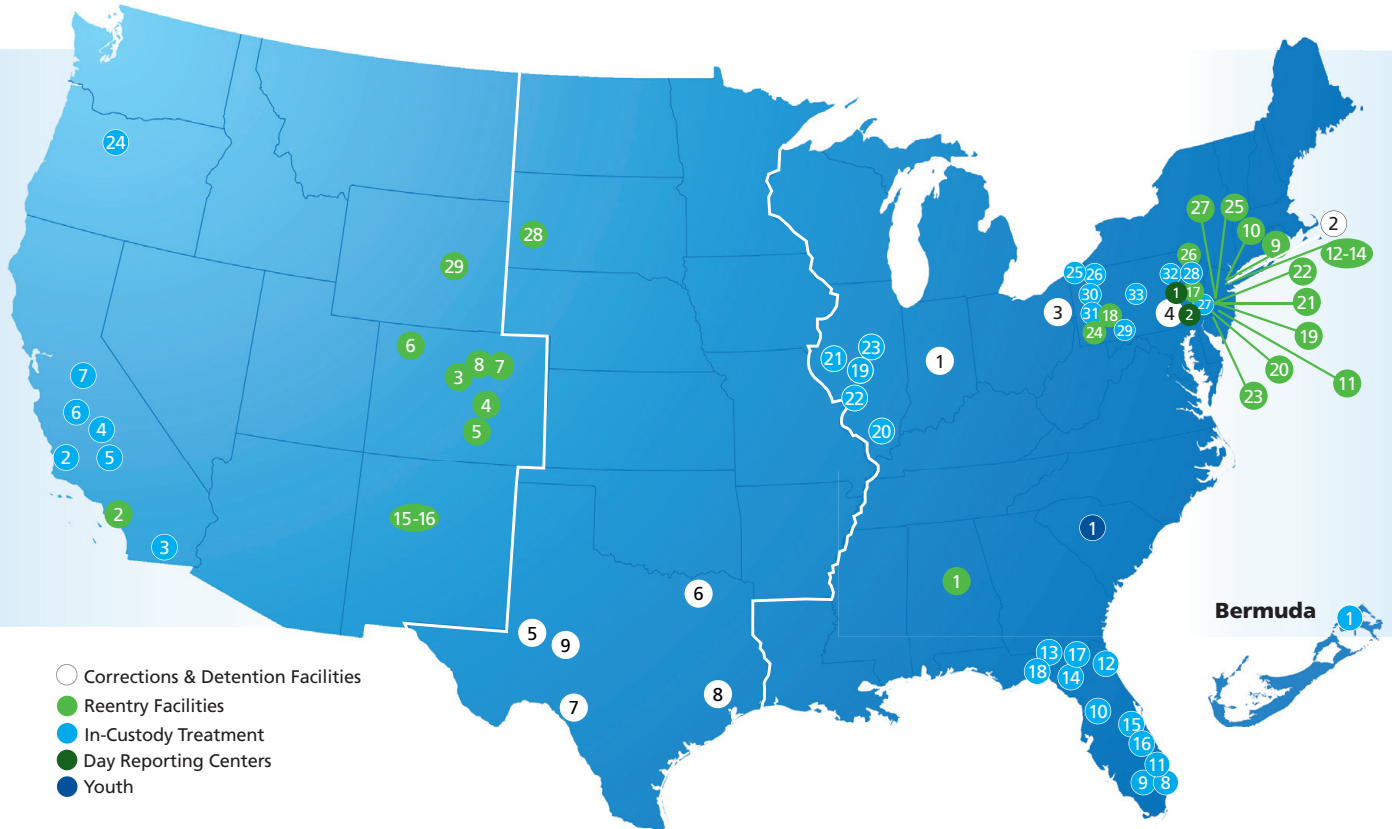


CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN REENTRY CENTER, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



DELANEY HALL, NEWARK, NJ

CEC Locations Map



12 ACA ACCREDITED GEO FACILITIES

At the January 2017 American Correctional Association (ACA) conference held in San Antonio, Texas, four GEO Group facilities received initial ACA accreditation and eight GEO Group facilities received ACA reaccreditation.

ACA established a national accreditation process to improve professionalism in corrections and reentry.

With 56 facilities currently accredited, GEO fully embraces this philosophy and welcomes the validation that the review process brings.

The ACA Commissioners were impressed with the quality of operations, sanitation, and professionalism of staff at GEO's facilities. GEO's facilities are always praised for their commitment to high operational standards.

Pictured are ACA Commissioners Marge Webster-Warren, Michael Graziano, Michelle Staples-Horne along with Catherine Price, GEO Director of ACA Accreditation and each GEO Facility Leadership Team. Congratulations to the following facilities!

Photos courtesy of the American Correctional Association.



99.8%
Queens
Detention Facility



100%
Aurora
Detention Facility



100%
Bronx Community
Reentry Center



100%
Midtown Center



99.8%
Adelanto
Detention Facility



99.8%
Great Plains
Correctional Facility



100%
Mesa Verde
Detention Facility



100%
New Castle
Correctional Facility



100%
Newark Center



100%
Pine Prairie
Correctional Center



100%
Cordova Center



100%
South Bay
Correctional Facility



Leaders Instrumental in Academic and Vocational Achievement at Golden State MCCF

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

Foundations of academic and vocational achievement are rooted in the academic and vocational curriculum. However, instructors also play a crucial role in the implementation and development of academic excellence. Through their creative abilities as subject matter experts (SME's) in their fields, instructors at Golden State MCCF (GSMCCF) possess a passion and dedication similar to their reentry evidence-based counterparts in the 'GEO Continuum of Care' (COC) rehabilitative programs.

Pre-Release Instructor Jeffrey Moses stated, "What I try to do is help each student realize their future, value, and worth through a life plan, daily motivational

quotes, self-affirmations, and practical application of the knowledge learned in class." English as a Second Language (ESL)/Adult Basic Education I (ABE) Instructor Julie Placios-Wren claimed, "Reading and writing skills require active participation from the students, whereas grammar practice includes role playing to help students become proficient with their skills."

ABE II & III / Pre-GED Instructor Mari Edrada added, "My teaching method includes lectures and demonstrations using the Smart Board and the white board. One-on-one and small group teaching is common. For this, a curriculum is created to meet the needs specific to each student." GED/High School Equivalency (HSE) Instructor

Kristopher Silva indicated, "In 2016 at GSMCCF, the GED program had 92.70% of its test administered successfully completed with passing scores. As of December 2016, 47.5% of the GED graduates are currently enrolled in a college program offered at GSMCCF."

Basic Landscape/Horticulture Instructor Tony Herrera stated, "I use my Smart Board and white board to help with the students continued academic and vocational growth. My class runs on a group setting. The hands-on demonstrations require involvement and attentiveness." Electrical Instructor Mark Smith added, "I instruct my students in core basic and four levels of electrical, each increasing in difficulty." Vocational Computer Instructors Tim Lee

and Yolanda Manzo stated, "The vocational computer curriculum consists of Microsoft Office for Windows XP 2013 with an introductory Typing Tutor." Vocational Janitorial Instructor James Rowland concluded, "This class lays the ground work for students to enter the field of, or possibly start their own janitorial service."

Since Warden Wilson's return to GSMCCF, the culture has changed in the facility with academic and vocational programs, COC Reentry evidence-based programs, and the newly formed music program. Change for the better has definitely become a reality at GSMCCF.



Rivers Correctional Institution Becomes 'GEO Continuum of Care' Certified

Written By **Amy Gillus, Rivers Correctional Institution**

On December 7, 2016, Executive Vice President, 'GEO Continuum of Care' and Reentry Services, Derrick Schofield, 'GEO Continuum of Care' Divisional Vice President David Burch, and Eastern Region Director of Operations Kenny Cauley visited Rivers Correctional Institution in Winton, NC, to present Warden Brick Tripp and the Rivers Correctional Institution with the 'GEO Continuum of Care' certification.

The 'GEO Continuum of Care' (COC) program is specifically designed to align evidence-based principles of effective intervention for in-custody rehabilitation programs, and integrate them with post-release transition support.

The initial process started two years ago at Rivers Correctional Institution. All Rivers Correctional Institution employees received Core Correctional Practice training. Seven additional staff members were added to the roster to facilitate the 'GEO Continuum of Care' program. The 'GEO Continuum of Care' staff provide risk assessment, cognitive behavioral transitional treatment, case management, therapeutic programs, and substance abuse intervention.

The staff at Rivers Correctional Institution has accepted the challenge of changing the correctional culture of the facility. They have implemented all required programs in preparation for the certification process.

Pictured left to right: *Derrick Schofield, Warden Brick Tripp, David Burch and Kenny Cauley.*



An Author Among Us

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

You would probably guess as soon as you walk through the classroom door that Kathryn Glen is a bibliophile with an artistic bent. Overflowing book-cases and walls splashed with modern art, she specializes in English, Reading, and Language Arts, teaching forty students a day at New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF). In her first published novel (and first installment of what promises to be the Misadventures Trilogy), we find hapless history teacher Martin Hathaway falling through space and time to awaken and discover that he is in the center of a battle between competing factions in the alternate universe in which he's landed. The book is currently in production as a dramatized radio serial, available via podcast and streaming in June. Kathryn is on the Board of the Richmond, Indiana Shakespeare Festival, enjoys acting, and also owns and operate The Two Sisters Books and More, a bookstore in Richmond with her sister. NCCF is very fortunate and proud to count Kathryn among their valuable team members.



Moore Haven Correctional Facility Celebrates Academic and Vocational Graduation

Written By **Natoshi Jones, Moore Haven Correctional Facility**

On December 16, 2016, the staff and residents at GEO's Moore Haven Correctional Facility gathered to celebrate the achievements of the July-December 2016 educational term. The classes that were represented consisted of Carpentry, Commercial Driving License (CDL), PC Support, General Educational Development (GED) classes, and the Inmate Teaching Assistant (ITA) program.

This event marked the echoes of the new administration's desire to create a facility where educational efforts are praised and all efforts are directed to eliminate recidivism. The music was uplifting as the resident-member band played songs that spoke of "going beyond" and of "flying higher." The Assistant Warden Mr. R.D.

Oppelt, hosted the graduation and helped introduce various guest speakers. His emotional words did not go unnoticed as he spoke about his desires to transform Moore Haven Correctional Facility into an oasis of learning and betterment.

The keynote speaker was Angela Geisinger, National Director of Academic and Vocational Programs for The GEO Group. She opened with the phrase "Every great story begins with a sentence." As her story unfolded, she began sharing the value of education and what motivated her to continue her education. Angela Geisinger explained, "Fill your pages with success. Set goals, stay focused and know that inside each page are the keys to unlock your overflowing

potential. Today is the first chapter in your comeback story; Make it count!"

Adversity is never perceived as a treasure, but it makes people stronger because it challenges them in every conceivable way. One of the graduates here at Moore Haven Correctional Facility who continues to deal with adversity is Patrick Neal. Patrick was born with a severe vision impairment. While his disability would be seen as a disadvantage, Patrick's desire to achieve his goals at all costs has made it a stepping stone for his testimony. He was enrolled in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) class for only twenty days and he was quickly promoted to the Pre-GED class. Eventually in 2015, he made it to the GED class with

no special accommodations for his impairment. Squinting to see and headaches that often seemed unbearable, he fought through it all. Patrick stated that there were many individuals who encouraged him to push forward including, Education Hallway Officer A. Hobbs, Life Skills Instructor Mrs. Jones, Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) Administrator Mrs. K. Baysah, his GED Instructor, and his fellow residents.

On December 13, 2016, he passed the last section of the GED test, becoming the 51st and last graduate of 2016. What a proud day for Patrick and everyone at GEO's Moore Haven Correctional Facility who experienced his journey to success.

Pictured left: Patrick Neal

Aurora Supports Special Olympics

Written By **Bradley Stelter, Aurora Detention Facility**



Right to left: First row: Scott Blatnik, Richard Colunga, Zerrin Gann, Joseph Garcia, Zane Amadi, Rachel Musenero, John McGah, Jordyn Teixeira, Ronald Teixeira, Janie Teixeira, Nolan Domanico, and Sonia Vasquez. **Second row:** Kaleb Manriquez, Franklyn Manriquez, Lexxi Manriquez, Robert Lynch, Matthew Todd, Courtney Comardelle, Joseph Hanson, Dillon Meaney, Jaime Davis, Sergio Gallegos, Clayton Domanico, Manuel Vasquez, and Johnny Choate.

On August 13, 2016, GEO's Aurora Detention Facility staff and family members, along with fifty-two other teams from all over the Denver metropolitan area, met on the sweltering tarmac at the Denver International Airport. Each team was ready to match their strength against the beast! The beast is a Boeing 757 twin engine Jet aircraft, tail number N798FD, weighting at 164,000 lbs. The goal is to drag this monstrous beast a distance of 12 feet across the tarmac with nothing but muscle power! The purpose of this event is to raise money for the Special Olympics Colorado. The Special Olympics Colorado provides year round training, competitions, and leadership building programs for over 20,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities in Colorado. This year, GEO placed 7th with a time of 6.568 seconds. The event raised over \$110,000 and had over 2,500 people attend. Team GEO will participate again next year with the will to give their all for this worthwhile cause.

Did you know GEO has a monthly e-newsletter?

Get in the know!



Since 2014, GEO has been emailing an e-newsletter to all GEO employees and anyone interested in learning more about the abundance of positive GEO news stories. The newsletter includes stories about community involvement, facility recognition, and milestones. If interested in signing up, please visit our website (geogroup.com) and scroll to the footer to sign up for the GEO Newsletter. It is that easy! Want to view past newsletters?

Please visit our website at geogroup.com/Newsletters.



Breathe Easier

Written By **Susan Napolitano, Corporate HR**

What's better than taking in a long deep breath of fresh air? During a normal day, you breathe nearly 25,000 times. Every cell in your body needs oxygen and all parts of your respiratory system need to work together to keep that air coming in. Breathing is something most of us take for granted, yet for many people taking in a long deep breath is difficult due to respiratory disorders. These include:

Asthma a diagnosis that has no cure, but treating symptoms as soon as they occur helps prevent them from worsening. During an attack, your airways, the tubes that carry air into and out of the lungs, become inflamed and swollen, causing wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, and coughing.

In 2016, 173 GEO employees or family members were treated for an asthma diagnosis with an average claim cost of \$750 per visit. So it's important to manage your asthma, identify the triggers for your attacks, and try to avoid them to reduce the chances of an episode.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is an umbrella term for several lung diseases that leave sufferers increasingly breathless. Some conditions that fall under COPD are emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and asthma. Early screening and treatment can help prevent a major loss of lung function if your symptoms are diagnosed early.

Bronchitis is an inflammation of the airways that carry air to the lungs. There are two types of bronchitis, acute, and chronic. Acute is short term. Chronic, or long-term bronchitis, is categorized as COPD. Cigarette smoking is the most common cause of bronchitis, resulting in about 90% of the cases. If you were diagnosed with bronchitis, perhaps you were one of 164 Florida Blue members who incurred a medical charge in excess of \$600. Think twice before you light up that next cigarette.

Influenza and pneumonia: Influenza or the flu is a viral infection that can lead to pneumonia. We all know the flu is highly contagious as it is spread easily by a cough or sneeze—but are you aware of how easily it can progress into pneumonia if not properly treated? Pneumonia is a serious infection of the lungs, blocking oxygen from reaching the blood stream. GEO family members had 483 pneumonia visits in 2016.

Protect yourself and others from flu virus.

Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting a flu vaccine every year. Flu strains change each year, so it's important to get a flu shot each year to protect against the most current strain.



Lung cancer: Strongly correlated with cigarette smoking, about 90% of lung cancers arise as a result of tobacco use. Having COPD slightly increases the risk of developing lung cancer as well.

Overall respiratory diseases accounted for 14,200 medical services or visits by GEO family members in 2016 at a startling cost of just under \$2 million. That's a lot of individuals who at one point last year thought about their next breath.

What can you do to help keep your lungs and airways healthy?

The body has a natural defense system to protect the lungs from dirt and germs, but there are still steps we can take to keep our lungs healthy. Some important things you can do to reduce the risk of lung disease are:

- ✓ Do not smoke.
- ✓ Avoid pollutants. Chemicals in the home and workplace, air pollution, and radon exposure can all cause lung disease.
- ✓ Prevent infection. Respiratory infections can become serious. Get an annual flu shot and talk to your healthcare provider to find out if the pneumonia vaccine is right for you.
- ✓ Get regular exams. Check-ups with your provider help prevent diseases, even when you are feeling well. Lung diseases often go undetected until they become serious.
- ✓ Improve lung capacity. Aerobic exercise and some specific breathing exercises can also improve lung function.

Months, years, or even decades of struggling with lung problems may lead to respiratory failure, where the lungs simply stop working. Don't take breathing for granted; keep your lungs healthy by taking the necessary steps to keep air going in and coming out.

Moshannon Supports Their Community

Written By **Vincent Cahill,**
Moshannon Valley Correctional Center



Throughout the month of December, Moshannon Valley Correctional Center staff collected new teddy bears to be given to local hospitals for children who would not be home for the holidays. The staff collected so many teddy bears that staff were able to donate them to three hospitals including Clearfield, State College and Altoona.

While some staff members were busy delivering the teddy bears, others were out delivering ninety Christmas meals to those less fortunate. The delivery of the meals covered an area equal to the state of Rhode Island! The meals were paid for by fund raising activities that the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center staff had organized during the fall months and prepared by The Fort Worth Restaurant in Dubois, PA. Staff didn't stop with just these activities; they also jumped in and had an angel tree. The angel tree grants the Christmas wishes of children in need. Staff sponsored fifteen local children in need, producing over one hundred gifts! The efforts of the staff at Moshannon Valley Correctional Center helped bring friendship and joy to many people in central Pennsylvania during this past holiday season.



Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Supports St. Jude Children's Hospital

Written By **James Parvin,** Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

On September 24, 2016, more than seven staff members and 110 individuals from the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility participated in a walk/run in support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Indianapolis, Indiana chapter. The walk/run was conducted at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility. All the participating inmates had been effected in some way through the help and support of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

This year's event raised over \$639 for the non-profit organization. Once the staff and individuals from Heritage Trail Correctional Facility donated money to the cause, Purposeful Living Units Served (PLUS) individuals designed, drew, and painted a memory bag with their loved one's names who had survived or had passed away from cancer. The bags were then placed around the walkway so everyone can honor and see the names while participating in the walk/run.

Quanetta Cobb, Purposeful Living Units Served (PLUS) and Reformative Residential Reentry Program (RRRP) Coordinator at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility, has been a sitting Board Member for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Indianapolis, Indiana chapter for the last few years and is the primary organizer for this fundraising event.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has helped push the overall survival rate for childhood cancer from less than 20% to 80% today. Locally, this program serves many of the children in Indiana in an effort to end childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

GTI OPERATIONS

Karnes County Correctional Center

Written By **Jeri Hughes,**
Karnes County Correctional Center



The Karnes County Correctional Center is located in Karnes City, Texas. Karnes County Correctional Center houses United States Marshals, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Hidalgo County Jail, and Karnes County Jail individuals.

The Karnes County Correctional Center's GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) team consists of Transportation Supervisor Jeri Hughes, five full-time transportation officers, and one part-time officer. In 2016, Transportation Officer Kenneth Mishler was selected as the Karnes County Transportation officer of the year.

Transportation Supervisor Jeri Hughes and Transportation Officer Jacob Wright are committed to providing excellent service to their customers by providing the officers with GTI training on policy and procedures. In addition to being a certified Drivers Trainer, Jacob Wright is also certified as a GTI air operations team member. The GTI team works together on and off duty. They are involved in their community and have proudly supported the Lone Survivor Foundation, Toys for Tots, and participated in the Karnes County parade.

The Karnes County Correctional Center's GTI team works together to meet every customer's need based on the different United States Marshals, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and state standards. Last year, Karnes County Correctional Center GTI drivers drove 122,412 miles while transporting 6,321 passengers without any serious accidents or incidents. The Karnes County Correctional Center's GTI team travels from Karnes City to Edinburg, Del Rio, and San Antonio, Texas. The officers transport all throughout the southern Texas corridor. In addition to incoming and outgoing movements, they also transport passengers to medical appointments, hospital emergency transports, court movements, and any other location designated by the customers.

Karnes County Correctional Center's GTI team continually plays its part in fulfilling the GTI mission statement, "To provide safe and secure transportation with quality service second to none."

Pictured left to right: *Kenneth Mishler, Jacob Wright, Jeri Hughes, Marcelo Camacho and Mark Baker.*



Mr. Joseph Augustine

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

Congratulations to Joseph G. Augustine for fifteen years of service with GEO! Joseph G. Augustine (Mr. A) is currently the Food Service Administrator at Alexandria Staging Facility (ASF) in Alexandria, Louisiana. He manages a staff of seventeen food service workers including five food service supervisors. Although ASF is a 400-bed facility, he and his staff prepared over 70,000 meals in 2016. Mr. A brings a wealth of food service experience to The GEO Group. As a certified Corrections Manager, his experience includes having served as Food Service Director at two other GEO facilities, Allen Correctional Center and LaSalle Detention Facility.

Also, Mr. Augustine is an honorable discharged U.S. Army veteran. He retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Pictured left to right: *Warden Joseph Young and Mr. Joseph Augustine.*

GEO Corporate Risk Management OSHA Course

Written By **Chuck Leeper, Corporate**

The GEO Group has long been an industry leader in Safety and Risk Management. Nine years ago, an idea was launched to partner with Eastern Kentucky University's (EKU) Criminal Justice program to create a correctional officers safety course. After many years of success and hundreds of GEO students attending EKU, the decision was made to bring the course to GEO's Corporate training facility. After six months of planning, development, and creating the curriculum, the first class was conducted in December 2016.

Bringing the course in-house was a huge success! Not only did we complete the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) thirty-hour credentialing for all students, but the big win was the ability to focus on GEO safety and how it fits into each of their respective work flows. Thirty-eight students represented all divisions and regions of GEO, as well as multiple departments such as Human Resources, Maintenance, Security and Compliance.

This added diversity was well received by all who attended and afforded an opportunity to learn about how The GEO Group works as different divisions.

Several instructors presented lessons throughout the week including Compliance, American Correctional Association, and of course a host of Safety and Risk Management topics.



"I want to thank the Wardens and Facility Administrators for their continued support in the daily efforts to ensure our employees and the individuals in our custody are safe and secure. The investment in this program certainly adds tremendous value to our safety culture, level of compliance, and injury reduction." - **J. David Donahue, Senior Vice President & President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations**

I want to personally thank everyone who dedicated their time and effort to put the course together, as well as all presenters who shared their knowledge and experience with the class. We are looking forward to our 2017 course!

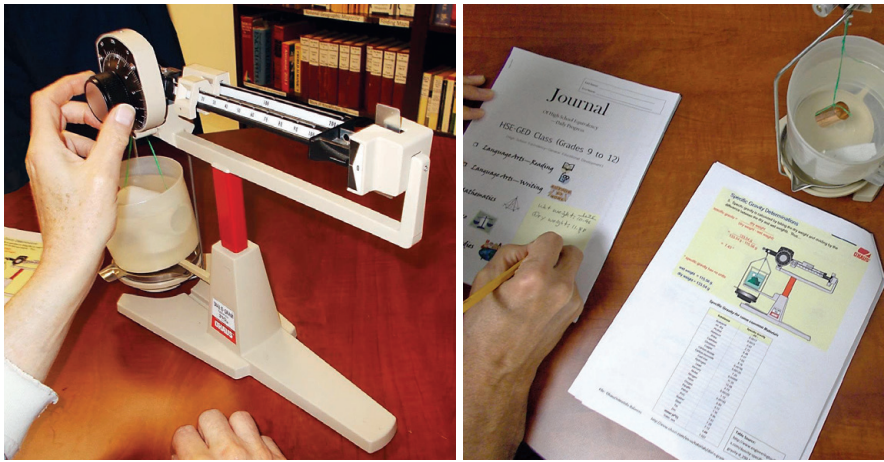
NCCF Chaplain Dr. Kathy Williams Receives Doctorate Degree

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



Pictured: Dr. Kathy Williams

Dr. Kathy Williams, as she is affectionately called these days, is a favorite here at New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF). Her dynamic and non-judgmental personality is why she makes a great Chaplain and irreplaceable employee. She recently did the unthinkable and completed a seven-year doctoral program from Regent University in just three years. She also accomplished two other challenges, as one of her professors stated, "impossible feats." She received straight A's and completed her final project in one semester. Kathy stated that when her mother was sick last year she thought about taking a break. After speaking with some family members, they told her that her mom would "kick her butt," so the reason she had to quit then became her reason to carry on. Her mother ultimately passed away and she says she remembers her mother's sweet words daily that she "will always be with her" and how her father, who is still living, is very proud of her. Dr. Kathy Williams has been an unstoppable force in the Chapel. She is constantly using her creative thinking to construct programs and events, with the most recent being a class on creative dance. She will be traveling to Virginia Beach for her commencement ceremony, and she plans on making her final project, "The Seventh Dimension of Leadership" into a book, so be on the lookout!



Central Valley “Weighs-in” for 'GEO Continuum of Care'

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

High School Equivalency (HSE) students at Central Valley MCCF in McFarland, CA, recently completed a math and science unit, using a science laboratory mechanical scale. The scale was on-site for several weeks to allow each of the twenty-four students a hands-on experience weighing objects of different sizes and determining the identity of unknown items by finding their specific gravity. This exercise was in support of a comprehensive high school curriculum and GEO's emphasis on the 'GEO Continuum of Care.'

Several math principles were involved in the weighing process. Students performed addition of five numbers derived from the scale indicators, each representing a different decimal place-value. Since this scale used metric units only, students became familiar with the tens and tenths basis of the metric system. They got a thorough idea of weights that represent everything from 0.01 to 310 grams. In order to determine the hundredths-place, students learned how to read a vernier device. Addition, subtraction, fractions, and fractions-to-decimals operations were performed to find specific gravity. The mechanical scale also demonstrated several principles of science. Balance theory was presented to explain how the physics principle of torque applies to mechanical weighing devices. The principle of universal gravitation was also presented as the rule that makes mechanical balances extremely accurate. Students weighed five different objects that represented weights from the low end to the high end of the scale's range. Students learned how to weigh an object in and out of water, in order to determine its specific gravity (also called relative density). By comparing the specific gravity values obtained with the balance, students could compare them to a table of known specific gravities, and determine what material the object was made of.

This special activity was facilitated by Warden M. Bowen, Assistant Warden G. Brochu, and Education Manager S. Aguilar. Hands-on instruction was provided by HSE Instructor David Davenport and three inmate clerks with math and science backgrounds. Security Chief E. Perez provided oversight and tool inventory control.

Veterans Give Back at Heritage Trail

Written By **James Parvin, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**



During the annual Prisoners of War/ Missing In Action Remembrance ceremony on November 9, 2016, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) inmates belonging to the Richard L. Blakely American Legion Post 198, along with dignitaries from other Central Indiana Legion Posts, presented Warden Donald Emerson with a donation of toys for the facility's visitation room. Recently, inmates from the post recognized the need for better, newer, and safer toys for the visiting children. Under the supervision of their post commander, fundraising efforts began in September 2016. Post 198 was then able to purchase \$436 worth of new toys all with the help of HTCF volunteer and U.S. Air Force veteran, Cathy Kynard. During the same ceremony, Post 198 also answered the call to provide financial assistance to the Plainfield Correctional Facility with the start-up of their own Legion Post. HTCF Legion Post inmates raised an additional \$349.50 for the purchase of flags for the Chancellor A. Keesling Post 306. Flags purchased by Post 198 were formally presented to Central Indiana Legion dignitaries who graciously accepted. In 2016, Post 198 has raised \$7,779 and donated \$6,212 for various causes around the local community.

Rivers Correctional Institution Donates Inclement Weather Structure to Local School

Written By Amy Gillus, Rivers Correctional Institution

Rivers Correctional Institution donated an inclement weather structure to Ahoskie Elementary School in Ahoskie, NC, in early 2017. Inmates at Rivers Correctional Institution constructed the building as part of the vocational building course. The course teaches construction including roofing, carpentry, and masonry. The program accepts approximately forty-five students per semester and encompasses sixteen weeks of classroom and hands on technical training. The Assistant Principal at Ahoskie Elementary School, Ms. Moore said, "We are very happy to accept this donation. With the number of activities planned outside, this structure will be an asset." Warden Brick Tripp plans to continue the program and to donate to other eligible organizations.



Pictured: Ahoskie Elementary School Assistant Principle Camille Moore, Warden Brick Tripp, and students from Ahoskie Elementary School.

HTCF Shows Appreciation to Volunteers

Written By James Parvin, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

On Friday, December 16, 2016, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) executive staff along with Rick Rosales, Indiana Department of Correction, Director of Community and Mentor Engagement, participated in the holiday appreciation meal and ceremony that recognized volunteers at HTCF.

Approximately forty volunteers along with their spouses attended the recognition ceremony. Everyone expressed their appreciation for the meal and the efforts of HTCF staff in organizing the event.

During the ceremony, staff recognized specific volunteers for their commitment and service to the facility. To date, seventy volunteers have provided religious and life skills programs at the facility.



Aurora Supports the Special Olympics Polar Plunge

Written By **Bradley Stelter, Aurora Detention Facility**



February 12, 2017, was not your typical Colorado winter day. The sun was shining with scattered high clouds, the temperature was 51 degrees, but with the wind out of the northwest at 17 miles per hour, it was more like 45 degrees. The water was 35 degrees and the crews had spent the morning clearing a hole in the ice for the event. Why are we here you ask? We are freezing for a reason! GEO's Aurora Detention Facility staff and family participated in the 8th annual Special Olympics Polar Plunge fundraiser at the Aurora Reservoir in Aurora, Colorado. This year marked GEO's fourth year at the event.

Every year, the event is festive with local vendors providing food and hot drinks. Local law enforcement agencies all came together to raise money for this worthwhile and often forgotten cause. This year, team GEO won first place again with the highest amount of funds raised by a private corporation reaching \$8,705. This gave team GEO the right to be the first team to go into the water. For safety reasons, only ten team members are allowed in the water at a time. Team GEO charged into the water in three waves of enthusiastic, wet, and very cold volunteers.

Team GEO was led by Warden Johnny Choate, Assistant Warden Finance and Administration

Barbara Krumpelmann, Assistant Warden Dawn Ceja, and Major Jaime Davis. GEO had an excellent performance and achieved the high standard of top fundraiser for the third year in a row. We are three-peat champions!

Team GEO consisted of the following GEO employees and their families: Choate Family; Krumpelmann Family; Ceja Family; Davis Family; Todd family; Dittmar family; Quezada family; Huerta family; Rezaei family; Teixeira Family; Lorenz family; and the following individuals: Lieutenant S. Blatnik; J. Hill; S. Schumacher; C. Comardelle; S. Gallegos; M. Howarth; Z. Gann; K. Weaver; B. Dolan; and R. Shook. And the people behind the scenes including: J. McGah; P. Pinkonsly; M. Furst; J. Beatty; R. Kvasnicka; B. Stelter; as well as all the staff and their families who supported the fundraising efforts.

Pictured left to right: Courtney Comardelle, Brigitte Dolan, Brandi Dolan, Tierney Scurshinsky, Nicholas Dittmar, Kate Lynn Jillian, Sawyer Choate, Saylor Choate, Joyce Quezada, Ashley Krumpelmann, Matthew Todd, Raymond Todd, Scott Blatnik, Kristina Weaver, Ronald Teixeira, Rudy Huerta, Rudy Huerta Jr., Johnny Choate, Rene Shook, Barbara Krumpelmann, Kenneth Krumpelmann, Sergio Gallegos, Mike Howarth, Samantha Schumacher, Justin Hill, Jaime Davis, and Jaime Davis-Coates.

Risk Management Department Gains OSHA Instructor Credentials

Written By
Chuck Leeper, Corporate

During the second half of 2016, the Corporate Risk Management department earned valuable credentials to benefit the department's training and safety programs. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) outreach program is a training course sponsored by universities across the country which includes a set of education and training classes enabling students to earn "Trainer" status in OSHA General Industry or Construction Safety. In 2016, Vice President Philip Dugger, Directors Chuck Leeper and Harvey Church earned OSHA Outreach Trainer designations. 2017 has seen the same activity in the GEO Corrections & Detention division with facility Fire/Safety Managers Kendria Turner-Carr (Bay Correctional Facility), Ian Barland (Broward Transition Center), Michael Stanton (Blackwater River Correctional Facility), Regional Safety Manager Elijah Kimble (Western Region Office), and Assistant Warden Richard Oppelt (Moore Haven Correctional Facility) earning their qualifications. Several others will be attending class in Q2 2017.

GED Attainment Goals Exceed Expectations

Written By **Craig Chalmers,**
D. Ray James Correctional Facility



In December 2015, GEO educators were challenged to increase the number of High School Equivalency (HSE) diplomas being awarded throughout all GEO facilities. The D. Ray James Correctional Facility Education department, guided by Dr. Bonnie Davis, immediately began a systematic and comprehensive review of the Education department in order to fully realize the population's potential for HSE attainment. By reducing classroom size, use of Smart Board technologies, introducing computer-based learning systems to enhance teaching and self-paced learning, the development of tutors to provide peer mentoring, and one-on-one and group learning sessions, D. Ray James Correctional Facility was able to attain a total of 203 HSE diplomas, 101 GED diplomas, and 103 Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos (INEA) certificates in 2016. During a recent INEA graduation, the visiting Mexican Consulate from Atlanta, GA, proclaimed that the one hundred plus graduates awarded diplomas during his visit was the single largest graduating class the Consulate had the pleasure to attend. Dr. Bonnie Davis and staff at D. Ray James Correctional Facility continue to enhance learning techniques and promote student enthusiasm by influencing an environment conducive to achieving academic excellence.



Blackwater River Employees Recognized for Providing Exceptional Healthcare

Written By **Sheila Mock,** Blackwater River Correctional Facility

On February 21, 2017, Dr. Adres Molina, Nurse Angela McLeod, and Nurse Robert Fowler received a certificate of recognition for providing exceptional healthcare at GEO's Blackwater River Correctional Facility (BRCF). Executive Vice President of Health Services, Dr. Ernesto Alvarez, awarded the certificates via teleconference and thanked the staff for the outstanding job they executed. At BRCF, under the guidance of the Health Services Administrator Dana McGowan, medical staff recognize first and foremost they are healthcare providers. Their mission is to deliver safe, effective, and proficient healthcare services using best practices. With a Chronic Care Clinic case load of approximately 1,300 inmates, it is not an easy task to give each inmate the individualized time required. BRCF medical staff pulled together as a team and their hard work was recognized when an inmate wrote to GEO's Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Dr. George C. Zoley, about his care at BRCF.

He wrote, "Dr. Molina performed a procedure to relieve the accumulation of blood in my right thumb. I encountered several medical personnel that were attentive to my concerns about getting an infection, as well as the pain and severe discomfort that the injury caused my thumb. They did everything possible to address all my concerns and alleviate the pain that caused the severe discomfort to my right thumb. I was treated with both respect and dignity. I was provided with exemplary medical attention." The medical staff at the facility do not work for praise, as they simply are dedicated to their jobs. For those who have spent time working in corrections, you are well aware a thank you is scarce, making them all the more special when received.

Pictured left to right clockwise starting from top left: Warden Charles Maiorana and Nurse Angela McLeod. Warden Charles Maiorana and Nurse Robert Fowler. Warden Charles Maiorana, Nurse Robert Fowler, Nurse Angela McLeod, Dr. Adres Molina, HSA Dana McGowan, and DON Colleen Carver. Warden Charles Maiorana and Dr. Adres Molina.



What is Fidelity and Why is it Important?

Written By **Jason Boggs, Kasia Kijanczuk, & Brittney Thigpen, GEO Continuum of Care Research Department, Corporate**

The concept of fidelity within corrections is an important measure of how well a model or a program has been implemented; it is the concept of adherence to specific practices intended within the design of a model or a program.

In our business of delivering evidence-based treatment for correctional participants, it is imperative that we deliver programming as it has been designed. By adhering to the design, we ensure that our treatment intervention is based on evidence that research has proven to positively impact criminal behavior and reduce future recidivism.

In general, there are three common reasons why a proven program fails to produce desired outcomes:

1. improper or insufficient training
2. improper program delivery (fidelity)
3. and data/record keeping issues

These reasons are all related and fixable, but fidelity is often the most difficult to detect and correct. A relatable example of the complexity in detecting fidelity within an implemented program can be illustrated in administering a correctional risk assessment.

Validated risk assessments are designed to classify current risk, and future criminal behavior, of an individual, and are widely used in correctional and reentry settings.

Implementing the standardized training of administering a risk assessment and entering risk scores into a database is relatively simple to manage.

Ensuring that the trained staff are following protocol, applying what they were taught during training years later is a much more difficult task.

As the saying goes, anything worth doing is worth doing correctly, and, as is often the case, bad data is worse than no data. It is imperative that we provide our staff with exhaustive training on all the tools and the mechanics of the program that we implement in our facilities.

Furthermore, it is our responsibility to evaluate the accuracy of data entry and record keeping. Operating a treatment program with fidelity requires a collaborative effort; below are a few tools/steps that can be utilized to ensure general program fidelity.

Tools for Implementing and Maintaining Evidence-Based Programming:

Quality Assurance Standards
Thorough Program Orientation
Booster Trainings Geared Towards Elements of the Implemented Model/Program
Group Observations
Evaluation of Staff Skill Sets
Keeping Updated on Relevant Research
Program Evaluation



Arizona State Prison-Kingman Raises Money For Special Olympics

Written By **Shannon Hilton, Arizona State Prison-Kingman**

On February 15, 2017, Arizona State Prison-Kingman Warden Jeff Wrigley presented a check for \$30,000 to Arizona Special Olympics on behalf of staff and inmates who combined their efforts to organize a holiday season fundraising event for the organization.

Case managers at Arizona State Prison-Kingman's Cerbat and Huachuca facilities organized a fundraiser in which inmates were allowed to purchase food items from Walmart not ordinarily available in the commissary. The case managers publicized that the event would help raise funds for Arizona's Special Olympics.

Cerbat and Huachuca inmates responded enthusiastically to the event by completing hundreds of money transfer authorization forms. Case managers and business office staff dedicated long hours to gather and process the forms needed to order items. Sales were so strong that the inmates in Arizona State Prison-Kingman's custody generated \$29,000 to donate to the Special Olympics. Arizona State Prison-Kingman staff then donated money to raise the total donation to just over \$30,000!

Special Olympics Coordinator Sam Simpson and eight athletes accepted the check and thanked The GEO Group for organizing such a large donation. Mr. Simpson also noted that the Arizona State Prison-Kingman raised over \$50,000 for Special Olympics during 2016. He and the athletes expressed their appreciation to the staff and inmates for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

Training for Success at Central Valley MCCF

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

Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility has partnered with WESTEC, Inc. to offer a nationally certified program to inmates that are within 180 days of release. The Train for Success program is taught over the duration of two weeks, for approximately six hours per day. Upon successful completion of the program, inmates are awarded a certification card that is recognized by employers throughout the United States.

Individuals are afforded the opportunity to earn certificates in the following:

- Safety Passport Training
- Basic Employee Safety for General Industry
- Forklift Safety
- Pediatric First Aid/CPR
- Confined Space
- 40-Hour class training for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
- Defensive Driving
- Supervisor Safety
- California Commercial Driver's License Permit Preparation

The training program enables participants to confidently apply for employment in various industries. We firmly believe that a steady foundation for employment may assist in contributing to an overall stable lifestyle upon release.



LaSalle Detention Facility Community Food Drive

Written By **Lindsey Vercher**, LaSalle Detention Facility



LaSalle Detention Facility staff members dedicated their time and efforts to making their community food drive a notable success. In Louisiana, 23% of senior citizens, nearly one-in-four, face the threat of hunger. This ranks Louisiana as the second worst state for senior hunger. Warden D.C. Cole and his team proudly donated twenty food baskets to elderly residents of their parish.

LaSalle Detention Facility is dedicated to giving back to their community. A wonderful blessing occurred as they were able to increase their amount of unselfish giving. LaSalle Detention Facility staff members donated food items and personally delivered the baskets to the elderly residents within the community. LaSalle Detention Facility could not have completed this heartwarming task without the help of their dedicated employees.

Pictured: Back row: Jeffrey Free, Denise Carson, Major Elwood Waterfield, Kimberly Waterfield, Georgia Vault, and Lakena Shepherd. **Middle Row:** Kenneth Gurganus, Becky Francis, Sergeant Tommy Harter, Gary Cloud, and Captain Jessica Adams. **Front row:** Corrie Roark, Melinda Parker, Warden D.C. Cole, Theresa Isaac, and Lindsey Vercher. **Pictured bottom:** Crystal Cripps.



GCCF Represents at Metro Public Safety Day

Written By **Marilyn Dodge**,
Guadalupe County
Correctional Facility

On May 21, 2016, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (GCCF) took part in New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services Metro Public Safety day and recruitment event in Albuquerque, New Mexico. GCCF had Security Threat Intelligence Unit (STIU) K-9 dog Neeka and her handler K-9 Officer Heather Lowery, STIU Sergeant Mike Campos, Human Resource Specialist Liz Tapia, and American Correctional Association (ACA) Compliance Administrator Amy Campos represented at a booth with information on The GEO Group and available jobs. Officer Lowery was able to show off some of Neeka's skills including demonstrating a K-9 sniff of vehicles. She also explained Neeka's important role at GCCF. Overall, the event was a success with over one hundred visitors to GCCF's booth.

Aurora Detention Facility Proudly Supports Their Community

Written By **Bradley Stelter, Aurora Detention Facility**



The Aurora Detention Facility staff members proudly participate in numerous community events and fundraising programs throughout the year including the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, the mud run, and the Special Olympics Plane Pull, just to name a few. Our staff is busy all year long with gathering food for local food banks, donating used serviceable soccer balls, basketballs, and board games to local community children's centers. Socks, underwear, and blankets are gathered and donated to homeless veterans, baby blankets are donated to needy mothers, and monetary donations are given to all types of worthy causes. Including the most important, but least talked about commodity of all, a staff member's personal time is donated to a cause.

In 2016, the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services had 400 families in need of assistance. On average, each family member will receive an allotted amount of gifts worth a total of \$100. Some examples of the needed gifts are everything from skateboards, scooters, bicycle helmets, headphones/earbuds, hand held electronic games, alarm clocks, reusable water bottles, dolls, toys, wagons, art supplies, craft kits, puzzles, board games, books, winter coats, hats, gloves, and wrapping paper.

Thousands of people and local businesses including the Aurora Detention Facility have come together to help provide these gift and give needy families a wonderful holiday season that otherwise would not happen. This past holiday season, two semi-tractor trailer truckloads of gifts were piled in a room that needed to be organized, divided, wrapped, and distributed to the families. Four Aurora Detention Facility staff members along with several other volunteers answered the call to give the most valuable gift of all, their personal time, to help with this monumental task which had to be finished in just three days.

I would like to ask everyone to join me in recognizing Assistant Warden Dawn Ceja, Programs Manager Kevin Martin, programs staff members Rene Shook and Susan Armstrong for their sacrifice to a greater need than their own, volunteering their time to help others this past holiday season. These staff members demonstrate what The GEO Group family is all about—commitment to the betterment of our community!

Pictured left to right: *Susan Armstrong, Assistant Warden Dawn Ceja, Programs Manager Kevin Martin, and Rene Shook.*



Heritage Trail Receives Top Honor in Indiana Adult School Rankings

Written By **James Parvin, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

On Wednesday, February 1, 2017, GEO's Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) received a congratulatory letter from John Nalley, Director of Education, Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), advising that the facility finished number one out of fifteen facilities with regards to the second quarter Adult School Rankings (school year 2016/2017). Mr. Nalley noted this as a remarkable achievement. The programs receiving recognition are Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) and Literacy. These programs are offered through a partnership with IDOC, HTCF, and Oakland City University.

Recruit, Retain, Ready: Corrections & Detention New Employee Mentorship Program

Written By **Harvey Church, Steffanie Bodnar, & Angela Prestia, Corporate**



Starting a new job can cause anxiety and uncertainty even for the most experienced professional. It is staggering to think that new employees determine whether to leave or stay within the first ten days of employment. Under the direction of Mr. Dave Donahue, Senior Vice President, & President, U.S. Corrections & Detention and International Operations, and the leadership of Mr. Harvey Church, Director of Employee Development, the new employee mentorship program was created.

Through the development of this program, GEO leadership expresses its dedication to operational excellence. The mentorship program will

provide all new employees an exceptional introductory experience. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to enhance the skills of current staff members, which fosters leadership growth.

January 17, 2017 marked the first round of an incremental roll out for the Corrections & Detention mentorship program. The purpose of the mentorship program is to foster employee development, align mentees with GEO business goals, improve recruitment and retention of talent at The GEO Group, and provide the mentee with professional and personal growth opportunities. Every new employee will be assigned

a mentor for the first six months of employment, with the understanding that an informal dyad may continue. The new hire mentorship program is divided into four units each with a specific focus: orientation and knowledge development; enculturation; leadership skills; and transition.

Mentors are expected to provide consistent and effective communication with each of their mentees in order to guide, teach, and coach them through the transition to the GEO culture. Eligible employees may become a mentor through an application or at the request of the facility staff mentorship committee.

The Corporate employee development team, Corporate Human Resources and the regional training managers are very excited about the program's potential.

Three pilot sites including Adelanto Detention Facility, Central Texas Detention Facility, and Riverbend Correctional Facility have received education and have begun their programs. As the program grows, its success will be measured by data collected on retention rates, performance reviews, and program evaluations.

Pictured clockwise starting from top left: GEO Mentors from Riverbend Correctional Facility, Adelanto Detention Facility, and Central Texas Detention Facility.



Western Region Detention Facility Donates to the Homeless

Written By **Nicole Allen, Western Region Detention Facility**

Staff and detainees at the Western Region Detention Facility ended 2016 with a focus on giving. The San Diego Rescue Mission and the Urban Street Angels were chosen to receive hand-made woven floor mats and canned foods from the facility food drive. The San Diego Rescue Mission focuses on helping those who are homeless or displaced, and finds a way to get them back on their feet. Mrs. Alexis Rodarte came up with a project which allowed the detainees at the facility to give back to the community while teaching lessons of conservation and recycling. Using discarded t-shirts and blankets from the facility, detainees wove strips of the materials into 3'x5' floor mats to give the homeless shelters. The detainees soon became very excited about the project and a total of thirty floor mats were donated to the San Diego Rescue Mission.

Western Region Detention Facility staff members were presented with a challenge to see which department could collect the most non-perishable items and food for a food drive. The drive organized by Officer J. Del Rio and Officer C. Williams soon became competitive with all three Security shifts, Administration, and the Medical department participating. A total of 2,000 cans/items were collected with the third shift giving close to 1,000 cans. All were donated to the Urban Street Angels, a non-profit organization located in downtown San Diego. Urban Street Angels is a homeless organization that is geared towards helping the homeless community, especially between the ages of 18-26. Special thanks to Recreation Specialist A. Rodarte, Officer J. Del Rio, and Officer C. Williams for organizing these events and making a positive impact in the community.

Pictured left to right: Officer Del Rio with donations bound for The Urban Street Angels. Officer B. Guiterrez along with Recreation Specialist A. Rodarte displaying the mats made at the facility.

Revival in Prison Ministry Visits Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

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

Over 300 inmates a day were able to participate in activities spearheaded by the Revival in Prison Ministry. The activities took place under a massive tent set up on the grounds of the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF). Throughout the weekend of September 30 through October 2, 2016, these inmates experienced a fellowship outreach including singing, praying, laughter, and tears brought forth through praise and testimonials.

Inmates were able to draw inspiration from their shared faith that helped identify goals and ambitions for self-improvement, while understanding the mistakes they have made. David and Debbie Brewer led the Indiana-based Revival at HTCF along with HTCF Chaplain Betty Alexander. They and a core group of volunteers provide religious outreach services at various facilities. HTCF is looking forward to next year's Revival.





Fulham Graduation Marks First Step in Major Recruitment Drive

Written By **Philip Goslin**, Fulham Correctional Centre

The ranks of custodial staff at Fulham Correctional Centre have increased significantly following the recent graduation of twenty-four recruits.

The graduation ceremony marked the first step in a major recruitment drive by the centre with two further correctional officer intake courses to be staged in the first half of 2017 to meet additional staffing requirements. Some officers will also have the opportunity of transferring to the new GEO Ravenhall Facility that is being constructed in Melbourne and will open in late 2017. A focus on rehabilitation and case man-

agement was a key part of the seven-week pre-service course.

Corrections Victoria's Deputy Commissioner, Operations Rod Wise presented certificates to the graduates and said while the job they were about to undertake was difficult, it was also very rewarding.

Three pre-service course awards were presented at the graduation ceremony. Chelsea Hurley received the Overall Participation and Achievement award, David Edwards received the Leadership and Teamwork award, and Natasha Hunt received the Academic

Excellence award for the highest overall score from test results and ongoing assessments. Among the graduates was the mother/daughter combination of Vivienne and Georgia Everett. Initially, Vivienne went along to the information night to support her daughter, only to be so impressed with the presentation, she put her hat in the ring as well. With a background in community services, Vivienne said she found the course "challenging but extremely rewarding." Currently in the third year of a Psychology degree with a minor in Criminal

Justice, Georgia said being a correctional officer would give her career a good start. The graduation ceremony also provided an opportunity to present Peter Wilksch with a National Medal awarded for more than fifteen years of diligent service as a correctional officer.

Pictured top: Squad with Dom Karauria, Col Caskie, Rod Wise, and Richard Kors. **Bottom row left to right:** Vivienne and Georgia Everett. Natasha Hunt and Col Caskie. Dom Karauria and Peter Wilksch. Chelsea Hurley. David Edwards. Deputy Commissioner Rod Wise.

Annual Melbourne Cup Day Fundraiser

Written By **Elizabeth Wilcox,**
Parklea Correctional Centre

On November 1, 2016, Parklea Correctional Centre (PCC) held its annual Melbourne Cup Day fundraising event. This event was first started by the late Elaine Adams who was the Executive Support Officer to the General Manager here at PCC, prior to her having to step down due to ill health.

It has now become a tradition, and this year PCC raised funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation. The day relies primarily on donations with items being donated by local businesses and staff. This year, participants working in the cabinet shop made an array of toys and furniture to be auctioned, raffled, and purchased. A great day was had by all staff, with probation and parole running the sweeps, a silent auction, lucky door prizes, raffles, and a staff sled race. Overall, an impressive total amount of \$5,275 was raised for the Starlight Children's Foundation.



Junee Chaplain Receives National Honour

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



Photo of Sister Rosemary courtesy of the Daily Advertiser.

GEO's Junee Correctional Centre Chaplain Sister Rosemary Terry has been recognised for her outstanding community service with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). A member of the Society of Presentation Sisters in Wagga, Sister Rosemary was awarded the medal for "service to the Catholic Church and to the community." The Order of Australia is an honours system established in 1975 by Queen Elizabeth II to acknowledge Australian citizens for achievements or service to the nation.

Sister Rosemary has worked at Junee Correctional Centre for twenty-four years. When the facility opened in 1993, she rang the then Chaplain and asked if she could volunteer. With twenty years experience working in schools throughout New South Wales, she was able to bring teaching skills in literacy and numeracy along with many other attributes to the centre. When the Chaplain retired, Sister Rosemary took on the position and currently spends three days a week at the centre.

Sister Rosemary recently told Wagga's Daily Advertiser newspaper that she takes great delight in seeing the individuals turn their lives around and considers Junee Correctional Centre a place of hope. "We need to respect people, I think a lot of that is missing from today's society," she said. "I think it is a case of trying to support and encourage (the inmates), but at the same time challenging them to look at what is causing their offending behaviour."

Sister Rosemary said she was humbled and overwhelmed to receive the award and felt she was doing so on behalf of many people including those she worked with at the centre. Junee Correctional Centre General Manager Scott Brideoake said management and staff were thrilled when they learned Sister Rosemary had been honoured when the awards were announced on Australia Day. "Sister Rosemary plays an incredibly important role at the centre and her commitment over more than two decades is simply amazing," he said. "She is highly respected by staff and the inmates at the centre and is certainly very deserving of this prestigious honour that has been bestowed upon her."

Didgeridoo Lessons at Fulham

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

About twenty-one years ago, a chance encounter with a didgeridoo player at a market stall has resulted in lessons being offered to Aboriginal inmates at Fulham Correctional Centre by a non-Indigenous correctional officer.

Klaus Schneider's interest in the musical wind instrument which is believed to have originated some 40,000 years ago in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia, was stirred after he heard a fascinating noise whilst wandering around the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne soon after arriving in Australia from Germany in 1996.

Being lured by the captivating sound emanating from the curious device being played by the salesman, Klaus soon headed home armed with a didgeridoo, an instructional video tape, a couple of books, and CDs. Thus began his long association with the didgeridoo, which on several occasions when played intensively, had a deeply meditative effect on Klaus, relaxing the mind and soul. The history which weaves through what researchers believe to be the world's oldest musical instrument had certainly struck a chord with Klaus. Mastering the circular breathing technique required to produce the drone sound is fundamental to playing the didgeridoo. Klaus recalls that it took him a number of lessons to become proficient at it, but once mastered, he progressed in leaps and bounds.

Klaus' interest in Aboriginal culture was again enthused when he was transferred to the Yeerung Indigenous unit about six months ago.

At a recent correctional officer graduation ceremony, Indigenous inmates and staff from Yeerung performed a "Welcome to Country" dance. Klaus had a major role in the choreography of the dance and to the amazement of all in attendance, he played the didgeridoo during the performance.

The lessons are currently run two or three times a week with six regular participants. Not having any written music to refer to, the teaching is all about explaining the technique and a hands-on approach. The program covers circular breathing, vocalisations, rhythms, animal calls, and overtones.

The popular area at the Yeerung unit known as the "Yarning Circle" is often utilised during fine weather, with classes also taking place throughout the unit.

With continued interest and success with the program, it is anticipated that the classes will ultimately extend to manufacturing the wooden didgeridoos. The inmates will



Pictured top: Klaus with a group of Indigenous students. **Pictured bottom:** General Manager Col Caskie with Correctional Officer Klaus Schneider. Klaus' didgeridoo collection.

create their own instruments working on local forest timber. Whilst congratulating Klaus on his achievements and keenness to work with the inmates, Fulham Correctional Centre's General Manager Col Caskie stated, "Your participation and collaboration with the Aboriginal inmates demonstrates a real commitment and understanding of the principles around our commitment to rehabilitation."

Klaus is looking forward to the next occasion when the men will get the opportunity to display their newly learned skills with pride, having reconnected with their heritage, culture, and country.

Rescuing Cuddly Koalas Carefully

Written By **Megan Barkle, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**



Pictured: AGCC Finance and Administration Manager Sidd Mehta, Queensland Corrective Services Officer Peter Luker, AGCC Deputy General Manager Brad Kidd (holding baby Koala) and AGCC Correctional Service Officer Selena Landman.

Australia's world famous koalas, those cuddly creatures that are featured in tourist advertisements internationally, often lead a hazardous life. Koalas inhabit open eucalypt woodlands and young offspring are particularly vulnerable to predators. With an increasing number of people living in close proximity to the koala's habitat, there are thousands of deaths due to dog attacks each year.

But individuals from Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (AGCC) are busy assisting this national icon by producing cages to assist wildlife rescuers. The custom-made metal cages are designed to capture wildlife in a safe manner. Volunteer members of Koala Rescue Queensland in the Ipswich West region will use the cages to capture injured koalas so they can be nursed back to health before being released into the wild.

Before AGCC became involved, local wildlife rescuers were waiting up to two weeks to use a shared cage to catch an injured animal. Now each carer in the Ipswich West region has a dedicated cage, allowing them to undertake more rescues.



Parklea Supports Blacktown PCYC Football

Written By **Elizabeth Wilcox, Parklea Correctional Centre**

On December 12, 2016, as part of the ongoing support given to the Blacktown Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC), GEO's Parklea Correctional Centre staff attended the Blacktown PCYC football presentation awards at the Riverstone pools. This day is put on by the Blacktown PCYC, with lunch being provided by The GEO Group. The day is attended by parents and children with trophies being presented to all the children who played football for the Blacktown PCYC. GEO's Parklea Correctional Centre was presented with a framed Africa United team jersey by the President of the Blacktown PCYC Steve Warwick in recognition of the ongoing support GEO's Parklea Correctional Centre provides to Blacktown PCYC. **Pictured:** GEO's Parklea Correctional Centre Manager Allison Lang being presented with the framed Africa United jersey by Blacktown PCYC President Steve Warwick.

Focus on Cultural Identity Through Art

Written By **Philip Goslin, Fulham Correctional Centre**

Indigenous inmates at Fulham Correctional Centre have contributed twenty pieces of artwork to the Confined 8 Exhibition staged in Melbourne. The annual exhibition features new works by Indigenous artists currently in, or recently released from, centres in Victoria.

It is the most significant annual event for the Statewide Indigenous Arts in Prisons and Community program delivered by The Torch organisation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are in-custody. The program focuses on the role of cultural identity in the rehabilitation of the individuals in-custody and supports the development of self-esteem and confidence through art.

This year's exhibition featured 185 artworks including many acrylic on canvas paintings as well as ceramic pieces, paintings on traditional Indigenous items such as boomerangs, and even intricate paintings on a football and sunglasses. A total of 103 pieces were sold during the month-long exhibition, many in the first few days, generating more than \$60,000 in sales. Under the Aboriginal Arts Policy Model implemented by Corrections Victoria and the Victorian Government in late 2015, Indigenous artists who are in-custody may sell their artworks if they participate in The Torch program.

With a focus on enhancing connections with community and culture, the policy provides the inmates an opportunity to support themselves financially while in-custody as this may improve reintegration outcomes post-release. The majority of the proceeds from artwork sales are held in a trust account until they are released and any interest generated is allocated to a victims of crime fund.

The art program at Fulham Correctional Centre has a high level of participation, with a teacher attending the dedicated art room in the Indigenous unit on a weekly basis to help them develop their artistic skills. Pieces from seventeen inmates who are currently or were formally at Fulham Correctional Centre were accepted for the Confined 8 Exhibition. Fulham Correctional Centre staff attended the official exhibition opening at The Gallery in St Kilda Townhall, including Offender Development Manager Phillip Munnings who oversees the art program.

Pictured: Offender Development Manager Phillip Munnings and Senior Education Officer Chris Paynter with one of the paintings prepared at Fulham Correctional Centre.



Holiday Gift Drive

Written By **Elizabeth Wilcox, Parklea Correctional Centre**

For the second year in a row, Parklea Correctional Centre's (PCC) Offender Services and Programs Manager Allison Lang attended a charity function hosted by the NSW Council for Pacific Communities at the Dumaresq Street cinemas in Campbelltown.

Attendees were asked to bring a gift appropriate for children and donate it as the entry fee into the cinema. With assistance from Crossfit Gym Ingleburn, there was a total of 300 gifts donated for the children of the inmates at PCC. The gifts were delivered to PCC and any child who attended the centre in December received a gift from their father, brother, uncle, or grandfather. The Chairperson of the NSW Council for Pacific Communities Mrs. Malaemie Fruean and her husband Charles have a very good relationship with PCC as Cultural Mentors and volunteers, and we hope they continue to do so in the future.



Covington DRC Hosts Louisiana Dignitaries

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

The Covington Day Reporting Center (DRC) recently faced a major challenge that ultimately led to a huge success. Akeisha Penn, Program Manager for the Covington DRC in Louisiana, remembers when Emanuel Barr asked the program managers at the Eastern Regional Business Review last June, “Who can you count on in your community to be a champion for your center?” That really hit home for her. Louisiana had recently closed three facilities due to severe budget cuts in the state, and Akeisha didn’t want that to happen to Covington DRC.

Akeisha began speaking with judges, attending drug court, and making regular visits to the 22nd Judicial Court. This community involvement led to her being asked to be involved on a committee of the Louisiana

Prisoner Reentry Initiative Board which was organized to find gaps in community resources for reentry. In August 2016, the judges for the 22nd District Court sent a letter to James LeBlanc, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, commending the Covington DRC saying “Akeisha Penn and her staff have created a cost-efficient and effective alternative.” When Secretary Leblanc read the letter, he decided he wanted to see it for himself.

The Covington DRC took this opportunity to host an open house on November 30, 2016. Not only was the Secretary there, but also state representatives, judicial court judges, probation and parole directors, managers, supervisors, executives, and staff from The GEO

Group – more than fifty people attended in total.

The open house featured a continental breakfast, tours of the DRC, information tables with reentry information, and a technology table with the latest electronic monitoring products and services. The event opened with an overview of the Covington DRC emphasizing the importance of reentry to the community. The attendees then went around the room introducing themselves before going on tours where they saw classes in process, and met participants who answered questions and shared their stories. The Secretary said he would work to get the DRCs that shut down back in operation.

Akeisha said, “Not only did the meetings help save the Covington DRC, but it has

resulted in opportunities to participate in other community organizations. We are getting to know many people in the community and these organizations now understand the great work GEO is doing!”

Pictured: Front row: District Administrator for the Covington District Kevin Hidalgo, Senior Vice President and President, GEO Care, Ann Schlarb, Executive Management Advisor for the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) Angela Whittaker, Program Manager for the Covington DRC Akeisha Penn, DPS&C Secretary James Leblanc, DPS&C Deputy Director Pete Fremin, and DPS&C Regional Director Patricia Murphy. **Back row:** DPS&C Assistant Secretary Rhett Covington, DPS&C Covington District Supervisor Cline Jenkins, GEO Reentry District Manager Tracy Stevens, and DPS&C Deputy Director Bobbie “Jamie” Lee.

Abraxas Marienville – 31 Employees With Perfect Attendance

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**

Of approximately 200 full-time team members, Abraxas Marienville had thirty-one with perfect attendance in 2016. Additionally, there were twelve full time team members hired during calendar year 2016 who also can boast perfect attendance for the duration of their employment to date. In honor of this outstanding accomplishment, Abraxas Marienville's Culinary Arts department made and served an amazing luncheon on February 16, 2017 to the thirty-one team members who did not miss a day for an entire year.

Pictured: Row 1: Doug Lockwood, Jim Bailey, Kurt Nesbitt, and Ray Hanson. **Row 2:** Jeanne Godlesky, Doug Thomas, Brenda Nesbitt, Barb Yarchuk, Michelle Means, John Mayor, Regina Taylor, Steve Maines, Scott Jackovitz, Rick Williams, and Doug Schneider. **Row 3:** Suzie Brosius, Andrew Cauley, Dave Fitch, Cole Fitch, Jim Town, Dave Dunn, Greg Mashensic, Kevin Smail and Brian Sandrock.

Those not pictured: Bill Ban, Kristi Goldthwaite, Nickie Irwin, Jim Lariviere, Jeff McLaughlin, Charlie Scott, and Dave Wildauer.

Team members hired during calendar year 2016 who had perfect attendance include: Angela Crary, Stephanie Dattoli, Danielle Ditz, Jeff Grabiak, Dawn Hornburg, Erin King, Chelsea Kuntz, Tom McCloskey, Amber Siar, Heath Silvis, Sarah Yoder, and Kassie Zafuto.

Congratulations to all – hopefully there will be many more recognized in 2017!



Abraxas Marienville & American Red Cross Team Up

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky,
Abraxas Marienville**

In 2015, Abraxas Marienville Human Resources Assistant Wendy Silvis contacted the American Red Cross (ARC) and organized the first on-site blood drive. Abraxas Marienville held three drives in 2016. Per the ARC, the holidays are one of the most crucial times of year for blood donations and replenishing the blood supply. It is an amazing thing to be a part of someone receiving the greatest gift of all – the gift of life! Abraxas Marienville donated eleven units that day and a total of forty-one units during 2016. A thank you note from the ARC noted that Abraxas Marienville staff donated enough blood to potentially save 123 lives! The next blood drives are scheduled on May 3 and August 23, 2017. Abraxas Marienville's goal is to schedule several more blood drives this year, exceed the number of units donated in 2016, and continue to partner with the ARC to help save even more lives.



SANS Institute Award Winner: Eric Alexander

Written By Pam Bennett, GEO Care Strategic Marketing

Eric Alexander, Senior Network and Security Engineer at BI Incorporated (BI), was chosen by the SANS Institute to receive a SANS 2016 Difference Makers award. The award celebrates individuals whose innovations and skills have resulted in important increases in information security. Eric was nominated by Cheryl Wahlheim, Manager of Information Systems at BI.

The SANS Institute was established in 1989 as a cooperative research and education organization and is now the largest provider of cyber security training and certification worldwide. Eric is a Certified Information Security Systems Professional

(CISSP) and has worked to receive many of the institute's certifications, including those required by the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Eric says, "With such a fast-paced changing industry, certifications have a lot more relevance. We're starting to see the industry shift to having to provide proof of security, rather than just being more of a 'scouts honor' system. Our federal customers are starting to ask for Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) compliance, while our state and local agency customers are starting to ask for

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance."

When asked about receiving the award, Eric said he was absolutely surprised and honored. He didn't know that Cheryl had nominated him. And according to Cheryl, she had good reason to do this. Eric managed security and network issues through the expansion of the company from two sites, to over ninety field offices, the addition of an offsite data center, and the purchase of another company.

Cheryl said, "Eric is usually the smartest person in the room. Plus, he cares about BI succeeding, and wants us to be a secure company," She added, "Eric really worked

hard to standardize BI's firewalls, always pushes to get preventative measures in place, and constantly monitors network security. Eric's bottom line is to make us secure and to prove that we do what we say we do."

Eric enjoys working at BI. "It's an interesting industry, and BI is a good company. I like being involved in security conferences, and attending conventions to stay on top of security innovations and issues." He appreciates how supportive BI and GEO have been with his continued education and industry involvement. "Having this awareness adds credibility and expertise to my role at BI."

Abraxas Marienville Supports Magee-Women's Hospital

Written By
Jeanne Godlesky,
Abraxas Marienville



After nine long months of the Abraxas Marienville female residents loom knitting baby hats, their hard work finally paid off. Jeanne Godlesky and Monique Bowling began teaching the girls how to loom knit early last summer. Under the guidance of Ms. Boling and Mrs. Godlesky, twenty-one girls worked for a total of sixty-three community service hours to produce nearly seventy-five baby hats.

On February 16, 2017, Mrs. Godlesky and Ms. Boling along with driver/photographer Dave Dunn delivered the hats to Magee-Women's Hospital's Delivery Unit in Pittsburgh, PA. The girls met Special Events Assistant Alison Grachen who guided them to the third floor of Magee-Women's Hospital where they met the Unit Director Kristen. Kristen spent some time conducting an impromptu career path discussion with the girls and answered many questions they had about pediatric nursing and

childbirth. Since the unit was under construction, they did not get to tour the actual unit, but they were promised that with additional donations in the future, they will be able to do so next time. Abraxas Marienville was very proud of their seventy-five hats until they learned that Magee-Women's Hospital's Delivery Unit delivers an average of 800 to 1,000 babies per month – they jokingly told them they cannot knit that fast!

The girls and staff spent additional time asking Kristen about other needs patients may have at Magee-Women's Hospital. Some suggestions talked about were more baby hats, baby blankets, larger hats for women going through chemotherapy, and blankets or shawls. The girls at Abraxas Marienville are excited to begin new projects and provide more comfort and warmth for those in need.

Cordova Showcases Office Upgrades

Written By Pam Bennett, GEO Care Strategic Marketing



The Cordova Residential Center in Anchorage, Alaska, recently undertook some major changes after having a close look at their center to see what improvements they could make. As a result of this examination, The GEO Group decided to implement a new unit management model, add programming, increase security, and enhance aesthetics at the Cordova Residential Center.

The unit management model that Cordova Residential Center implemented provides for staff to be permanently assigned to resident floors and a security desk with case managers on each floor who are matched to resident needs

on that particular floor. Each floor also has a computer station where residents can look for employment and work on online training and programs. Cordova Residential Center also added MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy), LSI-R assessments, substance abuse treatment, evidence-based programming, and intensive staff training to improve services.

Improvements in aesthetics included cleaning, painting, and adding murals painted by the residents. The facility added gates and fences, modified the exit system, and added more security with cameras. All of this promoted increased customer

engagement resulting in a more welcoming center overall.

After seeing what GEO did, Commissioner Dean Williams said he wanted to have an open house at the facility so others in the community could see the improvements for themselves. The Cordova Open House was held at the center on January 12, 2017. There was a full house with a total of approximately eighty people – including representatives from the Department of Corrections, law enforcement, local media, community resource providers, and GEO staff and executives from both Alaska and GEO's Corporate Headquarters in Florida.

Trey Watson, Senior Area Manager for Alaska said, "Having the open house really gave us an opportunity to showcase what we can do for the customer and how we can help reduce recidivism and increase public safety." He added, "The improvements we made demonstrated a tremendous value for the customer. We went above and beyond all the compliance requirements, and as a result made the community safer - all within a very short timeframe."

Pictured left to right: *The Facility Director Stacy Cross addressed the Cordova Open House attendees. Commissioner Williams addressed the Cordova Open House attendees.*

Community Connections

Building Relationships in the Community

Santa Ana DRC Partners With Local Non-Profit to Teach Self-worth

The Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC) recently partnered with a local non-profit that will provide training to participants on self-knowledge, self-esteem, rebuilding family, and assertive communication within a 10-week program. The partnership came about thanks to the Office of Restorative Justice of Orange County. The personal growth and development group, facilitated at Santa Ana DRC, will be a great new service for participants.

Napa County DRC's Participants Develop Their Culinary Skills

Napa County DRC's partnership with its local probation department has led to a great new opportunity for the DRC participants to take part in culinary arts training offered by the Salvation Army of Napa. The Chief of Probation informed the DRC of the program, which will allow participants to develop their culinary skills and gain employment in the hospitality industry. Participants who finish the program will earn a certificate.

Cordova Center Volunteers at Local Anchorage Fur Rondy Festival

The residents of GEO's Cordova Center regularly give back to the community through volunteer work and recently helped the city of Anchorage in setting up for the Anchorage Fur Rondy Festival. Residents helped set up fences and the downtown area for the famous Iditarod and Iron Dog Races. It was a great way to share some good will and play a part in a beloved event!

Merced DRC Staff Recognized By Local Congressman

Congratulations to GEO's Merced DRC staff who were recognized by the Office of Congressman Jim Costa, Office of Assembly Member Adam Gray, and Senator Anthony Canella's Office for Merced DRC's hard work and dedication to the County of Merced and to the participants attending the DRC. What an honor to receive!

Southeast Texas Transitional Center Provides Toys for Tots

Southeast Texas Transitional Center employees came together to provide donations for the local fire department's "Toys for Tots" toy drive. Staff were able to gather dozens of toys to donate to underprivileged children in the area who might not have received a gift otherwise. The fundraiser was a great way to help the local community while also forging a partnership with the local fire department.

Tuolumne County DRC Helps Habitat for Humanity

Tuolumne County DRC participants recently volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, turning out in great numbers to help the organization. Not only were participants able to engage in meaningful work, they could also see the direct result of their efforts in what they built. Tuolumne County DRC also donated \$1,000 to the charity. Great job!

Taylor Street Center Supports United Playaz

United Playaz (UP) is an organization in San Francisco aimed at stopping violence with a focus on the youth in the inner city. UP provides after school activities, picks the kids up at local schools, helps them with their homework, and participates in other prosocial activities. Taylor Street Center participants visit city schools and speak to at-risk youth. This organization is about getting the youth to consider the thought process while living a criminal life. Some Taylor Street Center participants take on mentoring roles to young adults which has shown positive results. During the holidays, Taylor Street Center had their first annual toy drive. Staff and participants each picked a UP child and purchased gifts for them. The program was able to provide over a hundred children with a holiday present who would probably not have gotten one otherwise. Many of the residents at Taylor Street Center are involved and thoroughly enjoy helping UP.



GEO's Chatham RSC Supports Back to School Drive

This is the second year GEO's Chatham Reentry Service Center (RSC) hosted a back to school day for the children of the Center's participants. This year's event was held on August 20, 2016 and included a mobile dental care van for participants at Chatham RSC, in addition to the school supplies donated by Chatham RSC staff, parole agents, and other participants.

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