

GEO Acquires Eight Correctional and Detention Facilities

More Than 6,500 Beds Added from LCS Corrections Acquisition



Pine Prairie Correctional Center, LA



East Hidalgo Detention Center, TX



Perry County Correctional Center, AL



J.B. Evans Correctional Center, LA



South Louisiana Correctional Center, LA



Caldwell Parish Detention Center, LA



Coastal Bend Detention Center, TX



Brooks County Detention Center, TX

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Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley

Chairman, CEO and Founder



"The LCS acquisition positions GEO as the world's largest private sector provider of correctional and rehabilitative services with 85,500 beds at 106 facilities, 19,000 employees and 2015 expected revenue of more than \$1.9 billion."

To the GEO Family,

Our company has achieved several significant milestones since the end of 2014. These important accomplishments are indicative of the continued demand in our industry and represent further validation of our company's diversified growth and investment strategy.

In late December, we signed two new ten-year contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons for the continuation of management at our company-owned, 1,878-bed Moshannon Valley Correctional Center in Pennsylvania and for the reactivation of our company-owned, 1,940-bed Great Plains Correctional Facility in Oklahoma.

The facilities will house up to a combined 3,818 federal inmates and are expected to generate approximately \$76 million in combined annualized revenues. The Great Plains Correctional Facility is expected to begin the intake process in the second quarter of 2015, while the contract for the continued management

of the Moshannon Valley Correctional Center will commence in the second quarter of 2016, following the expiration of our current contract.

In late January, we announced the signing of a contract for the reactivation of our company-owned, 400-bed Mesa Verde Detention Facility in California. The Facility will house immigration detainees under an intergovernmental service agreement between the City of McFarland and U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement. We completed a \$10 million renovation of the Facility at the end of 2014 and expect to begin the intake of detainees at the Facility during the second quarter of 2015. The Facility is expected to generate approximately \$17 million in annualized revenues for GEO.

Finally, in mid-February, we closed on our previously announced acquisition of eight correctional and detention facilities, totaling more than 6,500 beds, from LCS Corrections Services for approximately \$310 million. **This important transaction positions GEO as the world's largest private sector provider of correctional and rehabilitative services with 85,500 beds at 106 facilities, 19,000 employees and 2015 expected revenue of more than \$1.9 billion.** These valuable assets

have existing contracts primarily with federal correctional and detention agencies; however they have been historically underutilized. Our company has a successful, decade-long track record of integrating acquired facilities, and we expect to achieve substantial improvements in the operation and utilization of these important assets.

As we build on these important milestones, we are furthering our commitment to be the world's leading provider of offender rehabilitation and community reentry programs. **Beginning in 2015, we are making an additional annual investment of \$5 million to expand our 'GEO Continuum of Care' platform and will roll out 'GEO Continuum of Care' programs at several state correctional facilities around the country.** These programs will integrate in-prison rehabilitation with post-release services for inmates completing evidence-based programming in GEO facilities.

We believe our industry-leading diversified services position GEO to pursue additional opportunities in the delivery of evidence-based rehabilitation and reentry services, and we expect these opportunities to drive continued growth for our company.

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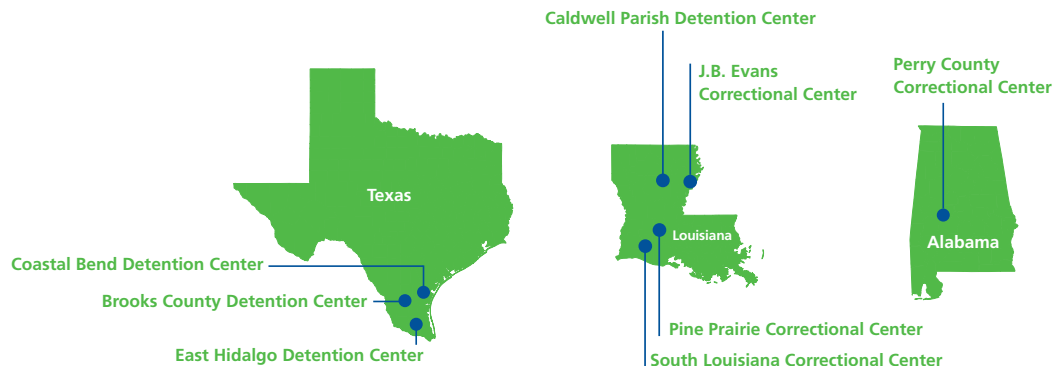
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EOE AA
M/F/Vet/Disability

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GEO Acquires Eight Correctional and Detention Facilities

On February, 17, 2015, The GEO Group closed on its previously announced acquisition of eight correctional and detention facilities totaling more than 6,500 beds from LCS Corrections Services, Inc.



On February, 17, 2015, The GEO Group closed on its previously announced acquisition of eight correctional and detention facilities totaling more than 6,500 beds from LCS Corrections Services, Inc. (LCS), a privately-held owner and operator of correctional and detention facilities in the United States. This important transaction was structured as an asset purchase.

GEO acquired the LCS Facilities for approximately \$310 million, or approximately \$47,000 per bed, in an all cash transaction excluding transaction related expenses. GEO did not assume any debt as a result of the transaction and financed the acquisition of the LCS Facilities with borrowings under its \$700 million Revolving Credit Facility. Following the transaction, GEO retained approximately \$260 million in available borrowing capacity to continue to support future growth opportunities.

LCS Asset Portfolio

LCS owned and operated eight correctional and detention facilities located in Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama, totaling more than 6,500 beds and approximately 900,000 square feet.

The LCS Facilities currently house offenders on behalf of federal, state, and local correctional and detention agencies, and more than two-thirds of revenues for the LCS Facilities are generated under contracts with Federal correctional and detention agencies.

Financial Impact

On an annualized basis, the acquisition is expected to immediately increase GEO's revenues by approximately \$75-80 million and be initially \$0.10-\$0.12 accretive to Adjusted Funds from Operations per share, excluding one-time transaction-related expenses.

The LCS Facilities have been historically underutilized with current average occupancy rates of approximately 50 percent. Following the integration of the LCS Facilities, GEO expects to achieve substantial improvements in the overall utilization of the facilities over the next 12-24 months.

Compelling Strategic Fit and Successful Acquisition Track Record

The acquisition of the LCS Facilities represents a compelling strategic fit for GEO. The recently announced reactivation of a significant portion of GEO's beds in inventory is indicative of the growing need for beds around the country, and this important transaction will further position GEO to meet the demand for correctional and detention bed space in the United States.

GEO has a three-decade long relationship with the Federal government and a successful track record of integrating acquired correctional and detention facilities. Since 2005, GEO has completed several acquisition transactions totaling more than \$1.5 billion and has integrated more than 30,000 owned and/or managed beds resulting from those acquisitions. GEO expects to seamlessly integrate the LCS Facilities into its existing regional operating structure and achieve substantial improvements in the utilization of these important assets over time.

With the acquisition of the LCS assets, GEO increased its residential bed capacity from 79,000 to 85,500 beds with more than 17 million square feet in 106 owned and/or managed facilities, including projects under development, and a growing workforce of approximately 19,000 professionals worldwide.



1

Brooks County Detention Center, Falfurrias, TX
Bed Count: 652



2

East Hidalgo Detention Center, LaVilla, TX
Bed Count: 1,300



3

Perry County Correctional Center, Uniontown, AL
Bed Count: 690



4

J.B. Evans Correctional Center, Newellton, LA
Bed Count: 388



5

Pine Prairie Correctional Center, Pine Prairie, LA
Bed Count: 1,094



6

South Louisiana Correctional Center, Basile, LA
Bed Count: 1,000



7

Caldwell Parish Detention Center, Grayson, LA
Bed Count: 232



8

Coastal Bend Detention Center, Robstown, TX
Bed Count: 1,176



The GEO Group Sponsors First Ever ACA Workshop

"Migrating Supervision Responsibility from State to County: A California Realignment Case Study"

Written By **Kathy Prizmich, GEO Care, Monica Hook, GEO Care, & Lauren Linville, Corporate**

During the 2015 Winter American Corrections Associations (ACA) Conference in Long Beach, California, The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO) was privileged to sponsor an expert panel in the fields of law enforcement, corrections/probation, and legislation. The panel discussed the California Public Safety Realignment movement, Assembly Bill 109 (AB109), and the lessons learned from realigning the responsibility from the State to the Counties.

Under AB109, California has spent the last four years driving an unprecedented and comprehensive overhaul of the state's criminal justice system. In response to a federal court order to reduce prison overcrowding, the California legislature approved AB109, transferring responsibility for supervising low-level offenders to California's counties.

Many states struggle with skyrocketing prison costs and overcrowding, so California lawmakers anticipated

that this realignment would not only help to reduce prison overcrowding and costs, but empower supervision at the local level to help alleviate California's recidivism rate.

With over sixty workshop members in attendance, ACA panelists Matthew Cate, Terri McDonald, Steven J. Sentman, and Benjamin Rice, alongside moderator Darby Kernan, discussed the complexity that AB109 has had on the California corrections system. The Panel discussed the implications, initial results, and lessons learned that might be applicable for corrections departments considering similar legislative or administrative changes.

Overall, the workshop received high praise from the members in attendance; one attendee calling it, "Educational and very informative." These motivating words have inspired GEO, while encouraging us to continue sponsoring similar workshops for future ACA Conferences.



"Educational and very informative."
- *Anonymous attendee*

Pictured Left to Right: Steven J. Sentman, Chief Probation Officer, Orange County Probation Department, Terri McDonald, Assistant Sheriff of Los Angeles County, Benjamin Rice, Assistant Secretary/General Counsel, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Matthew Cate, Executive Director of the California State Association of Counties, Darby Kernan, Legislative Representative, California State Association of Counties, Ann Schlarb, President of GEO Care and Kathy Prizmich, Director of National Reentry Business Development.

New Wellness Incentive Plan

Written By **Louise Williams & Dania McKinson,**
Corporate HR

For Healthroads, 2015 has been a year of change. The Healthroads website underwent a number of enhancements to help improve the user experience. In addition to the changes to the site, there were updates to the Wellness Incentive Plan. So, what's new?

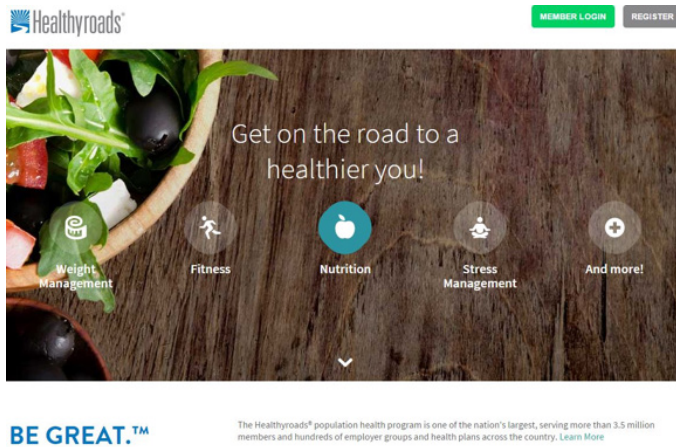
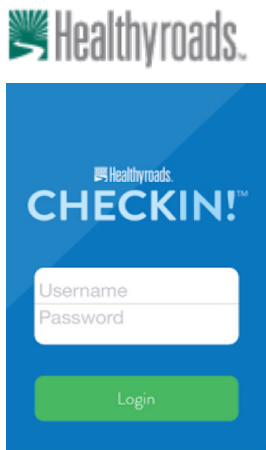
The new incentive plan introduced activity points, which are converted to incentive points, and outlines the new ways you can earn your 1,000 incentive point requirement. With activity points, employees can now earn points for activities that cannot be tracked by steps, such as weight lifting, using certain exercise machines

such as the elliptical, cycling, or swimming. Healthroads integrated their site with over 70 wearable fitness devices and apps that can now be used to track multiple types of physical activity. The data is then uploaded to Connected! and first converted to activity points, then to the corresponding incentive points.

Another new feature was the introduction of the CheckIn! app. By simply downloading an app on a smartphone, users are able to check in for a workout using their smartphone each time they visit one of the listed fitness facilities. The CheckIn! must last for a minimum of 30 minutes to get credit for the activity.

If users do not have a listed CheckIn! facility near them, they can register one directly through the app.

To ease everyone through the new changes, we hosted several webinars with demos of the updates to the website, and explanations of how the new incentive plan works. While there is a bit of a learning curve, the improvements will help GEO further its mission to offer our employees the best possible resources to live healthier lives. We are pleased with the many initiatives Healthroads has taken to make the overall wellness experience an even better one for GEO Employees. Here's to continuing to improve our health for the rest of 2015!



Hired From Chowan University

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



Rivers Correctional Institution is proud to announce the hiring of Ms. Jena'y Nelson, a graduate from our own Chowan University in Murfreesboro, NC. Jena'y has taken on the role of our Accounting Clerk. She graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. Previous to Rivers, Jena'y was employed at Chowan University as a admissions counselor and at Southern Bank as a teller. Jena'y is a very bright young lady who is always happy.

As a student, Jena'y received various accolades such as being named Homecoming Queen, Miss Chowan University 2011-2012, and second Runner-up for Miss CIAA 2012. She was a Leadership Scholar, received the Benjamin Conrad Sutton, Sr. Award for Business Leadership, and was inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society. In March 2011, Jena'y was featured as the Student of the Month, for the School of Business and was nominated for the 2011 edition of "Who's Who among Colleges and Universities." Furthermore, she was chosen for the Order of the Silver Feather Service Award, which is the highest service award given by Chowan University. Currently, Jena'y is featured in the gallery of Distinguished Alumni at Chowan University and is an active member of the Chowan Alumni Council. She is also a member of the Ahsokie Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

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

The Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF) Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held on February 13, 2015. There were many milestones accomplished within the last few months for which we had to say thank you to our staff.

We successfully completed our NCCHC audit in December 2014, just a few months after the ACA re-accreditation audit took place from February 2nd to the 4th. The ACA auditors commented on the cleanliness of the facility, the professionalism of the staff, and the contentment of the inmates. At the end of the audit, we received a score of 97.5%. The day after the ACA audit, our transportation unit went through a Public Utilities Commission (PUC) audit which was conducted by the California Highway Patrol. This audit was another huge success with the team earning the highest attainable score possible of *Satisfactory* with no discrepancies.

Staff felt very appreciated as they enjoyed a meal catered by Famous Dave's BBQ in San Diego. Everyone enjoyed hearty servings of pork ribs, brisket sandwiches, chicken baked beans, and corn bread.



Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility & Chaplain Donald G. Bowen Are Honored

Written By **Garry Ross, Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility**

The Lovejoy City Council honored The GEO Group's Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility on January 20, 2015, at their City Council Meeting. Mayor Bobby Cartwright presented Warden Ralph Cherry and his staff with a commendatory plaque. Mayor Cartwright stated The GEO Group was one of Lovejoy's biggest supporters, and can always be counted on to assist the City of Lovejoy. He thanked Warden Cherry and his staff for their continued support.

The Lovejoy City Council also honored Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility's Chaplain Donald G. Bowen. Mayor Bobby Cartwright presented Chaplain Bowen with a plaque for unselfish service to the community. The Chaplain has

provided council to the Police Department, the Mayor, and his staff and has assisted at numerous city functions. Mayor Cartwright stated Chaplain Bowen is always willing to assist the city and available whenever the Mayor requests his help.

.....
Pictured Top to Bottom: Mayor Bobby Cartwright, Warden Ralph Cherry, AW Danny Horton, Chief Herbert Walker III, Compliance Manager Teresa Mims, HSA Tracy Kinder, Safety Manager Alfred Kimbrough, AWF Arlene Charles, City Council Members Tommy Green, Marci Fluellyn, Rebekah Holland Wright and Mary Ann Camp. Mayor Bobby Cartwright, Chaplain Donald Bowen, City Council Members Tommy Green, Marci Fluellyn, Rebekah Holland Wright and Mary Ann Camp, Chief Herbert Walker, HSA Tracy Kinder and Chief Herbert Walker III.

20+ Years and Counting

Written By **Stephanie Jones, Big Spring Correctional Center**

In 1989, the Big Spring Correctional Center, operating under the City of Big Spring, opened its doors. GEO assumed operations of the Big Spring Correctional Facility during the acquisition of Cornell Companies in August, 2010.

The facility started as a five hundred bed facility and currently houses over three thousand five hundred inmates. Big Spring Correctional Center was originally operating under an Inter-Governmental Agreement and now operates under a performance based contract for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. However, amidst all the change and growth, there has been a select group of dedicated employees who have remained. The dedication and commitment of these individuals have greatly impacted the overall success of the facility and their service is truly appreciated.

The following people have been employees at Big Spring Correctional Center for over 20 years:

Eddie Word

Steve McDaniel

Janice Bishop

Celestino Correa

Michael Hilario

Michael Doporto

Loretta Murphy

Samuel Gamboa

Joe Valle

Barton Neighbors

Eddie Baeza

Eugene Vasquez

Jimmy De Los Santos

Not Pictured:

Tim Strain

Juanita Muniz

Frances Pesina

Esmeralda Reyes

Francisco Cruz

Debra DeHoyos

Pascual Porras

Jose Ortiz

Billy Cox





Pictured Left to Right: Dacia Sutton, Deanna Bissett, Glenn Smith and Tina Roberts

During 2014, it seemed as if Rivers Correctional Institution (RCI) was never more than a few weeks away from the next audit. Rivers successfully completed a Contract Facility Monitoring, mock Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit, PREA Audit, mock American Correctional Association (ACA) Audit, ACA Audit, Corrections Information Counsel (CIC) Audit, Office of Inspector General (OIG) Review, Annual Corporate Audit, and two Operational Reviews.

Recently the RCI compliance team was recognized by the Warden, Compliance Manager, and Assistant Wardens for their work in 2014, and three members received special recognition for their inspiring efforts. The compliance manager reviewed the difficulty, quality, and timeliness of audits completed. Dacia Sutton, Deana Bissett, and Tina Roberts not only rose to the top in those categories, but they also completed the most audits. Did I mention they did it voluntarily? Yes, they voluntarily selected audits and followed them through to completion, with a smile and a can do attitude.

How do you prepare for that kind of schedule? Well for RCI it starts with a team of dedicated internal auditors that make up the compliance team. In addition to the audits mentioned above, the team of 38 auditors completed 80 internal audits consisting of 1,581 questions.

Always Audit Ready!

Written By **Glenn Smith & Amy Gillus,**
Rivers Correctional Institution

Purposeful Living Units Serve (P.L.U.S.)

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

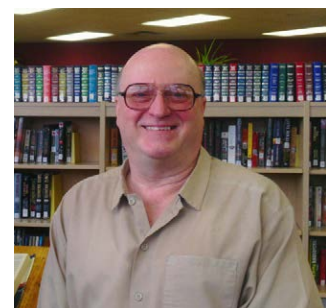
The P.L.U.S. Program (Purposeful Living Units Serve) is a voluntary, live-in, faith/character based program for offenders in the facility, with a desire to leave the criminal thinking and behaviors behind. It's an opportunity for them to live and work in a structured environment and find new ways of behavior, while focusing on core values such as honesty, respect, and tolerance, and while providing some form of community service.

In addition to raising and donating money to local

charities, some of the projects this past year included making quilts. Some quilts were donated to charitable organizations.

Artwork on the State Fair quilt was drawn by Offender Pressley, who serves in the PLUS program. The State Fair Quilt features the PEPSI Coliseum, which is being refurbished. When work on the Coliseum is finished, the quilt is destined to hang in the Coliseum. The participants of the program are always looking for and developing ideas that will not only

impact their local community, but will also benefit the other communities surrounding the facility. This is the essence of programming at New Castle Correctional Facility.

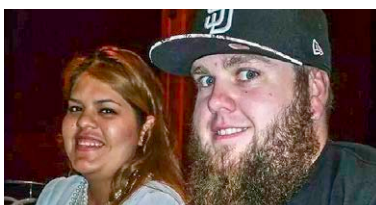
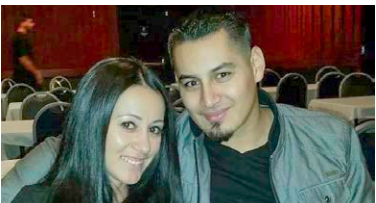
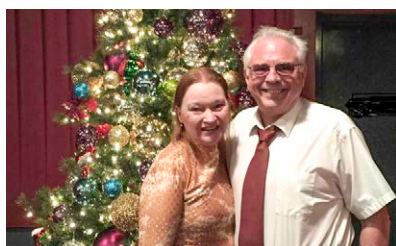


Adelanto Detention Facility Christmas Celebration

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

On December 6, 2014, the Adelanto Detention Facility held its Christmas Celebration at Dave & Buster's, a popular and well-established venue. Employees enjoyed a buffet-style luncheon with an assortment of food and dessert. According to Chaplain Edgar Stephens, "The food was good and the company was fun." Library Technician Lynda Stephens added, "The Christmas party sparkled and shined!"

The Employee Event Committee that organized the Christmas Celebration worked extremely hard to bring this event together. Committee member Vanessa Martinez stated, "It's great to see our hard work come to life. Being able to enjoy a day with our co-workers and their families is very rewarding." The Employee Event Committee was extremely grateful to those employees that made the event a success.



Pictured Left Column to Right Column Down: HR Assistant Kristine Wozniak enjoys the event with her husband Michael and their daughters Harmony and Melody. Detention Officer Roman Camacho enjoys the event with his daughter Frida and son Diego. Detention Officer's Lourdes Palacios and Irving Palacios. Detention Officer's Elizabeth Marquez and Joseph Harris. Library Technician Lynda Stephens and Chaplain Edgar Stephens. Detention Officer Manuel Trillo and Transportation Officer Joseph Lugo. Warden James Janecka poses by the beautiful Christmas tree.

timeline



The GEO Group, Inc.
March 18, 2015

The following people have been employed with The GEO Group at Big Spring for over 20 years! We appreciate all your hard work!



51 People Like this.



The GEO Group, Inc.
March 13, 2015

The GEO Group Foundation is proud to support Step Up For Students!



15 People Like this.

2 Shares



The GEO Group, Inc.
February 9, 2015

What a sweet and thoughtful idea Rio Grande! Every year for the past five years Rio Grande Detention Center team purchases hundreds of toys, shoes, and goody bags to donate to the kids at three Head Start schools in Texas. The Head Start program is a comprehensive child development and early education program for low-income children, ages 1 to 5 years old.



22 People Like this.

4 Shares

Be a part of our story.
[facebook.com/GEOGroup](https://www.facebook.com/GEOGroup)



Turning Heartbreak Into Something Positive

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

The staff at Adelanto Detention Facility know Allise Vogler as a hardworking Detention Officer. Few know about her heartbreak that led her to the path of becoming healthy.

Allise and her mother Rita had always been very close. Rita had previously served as Mayor of Hesperia, California. She was also a well-respected individual and an avid volunteer in the High Desert community. Allise could always be found at Rita's side volunteering. In March 2014, Rita passed away from cancer at the young age of 65, leaving Allise feeling alone and in a state of despair.

The grief caused by her mother's death led her to be more conscious of her health. Allise started eating healthier and working out daily. She decided not to let the grief win, and to do something positive for her well-being.

Since her mother's passing, Allise has participated in competitive running and was able to complete her first half-marathon in Long Beach, California last year.

In just these few months of 2015, she has participated in more marathons including, Winter Wonderland 5K in Santa Monica, where she placed first in her age bracket, and I Try 5K in Laguna Niguel, where she placed third. She has earned numerous medals and is currently preparing for the Disney Tinker Bell half-marathon which will be held on Mother's Day.

Allise's story has encouraged others who have suffered a loss. She has earned recognition in a local newspaper and has been chosen as an ambassador for Girls Gone Sporty, a health and fitness website for girls.

When asked what she hopes to accomplish, Allise stated, "My hope from doing this is to be able to help others who are going through a loss, heartbreak, or hardship. I want others to know there is a healthy way out. I have learned it is up to the person going through the pain to make those changes."

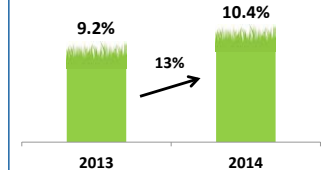
Allise is also hoping to dedicate herself as a public speaker. In the future, she plans to speak at schools about her experience and to let our younger generation know there are positive options besides negativity.

Pictured: Allise holds up some of the medals she has won from competitive running. (Photo courtesy of Victorville Daily Press, Rene Ray De La Cruz, and James Quigg)

GEO STATISTICS:

**THE GRASS ISN'T ALWAYS GREENER...
10.4% of U.S. New Hires last year were former GEO employees.**

Welcome back Alumni!



25.9% of GEO's U.S. New Hires were referred by current employees!

**You're our #1 source of hires...
keep on referring world class friends and neighbors --- you can car pool!**



CACF Lights Up Florence

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

Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) got into the holiday spirit by entering a float in the Annual Christmas on Main Street Parade, held by the Town of Florence on December 5, 2014. This event included activities such as pictures with Santa, food vendors, entertainment, and a light parade. This was CACF's first year entering the light parade, but we hope to make it an annual event to be a positive presence in the local community.

Bikers Help Santa Out With Toy Deliveries

Written By **Jesse Burns, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**

December in South Central Arizona is perfect motorcycle weather, and the perfect time for dedicated bikers to participate in bike runs to help Santa bring joy to underprivileged children. Over three hundred bikers joined forces to collect toys to be distributed by the local Salvation Army Center, based in neighboring Casa Grande, AZ.

Jesse Burns, John Popp, and Adolphus Alexander from Central Arizona Correctional Facility, and David Bell from ASP-Florence West, participated in the Toy Run, delivering the message that "Every child deserves a christmas." The Band of Brothers Bike Ride is also held annually, collecting donations and holding raffles to benefit families of fallen officers. Events for 2015 include a Community Bike Night and numerous Bikers Against Diabetes Bike Runs and Raffles.



Breaking Down Barriers at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

Written By **David S. Burch, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

The Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) continues to strive for operational excellence and is committed to providing a full Continuum of Care by providing each offender with available resources once they are released into the community. This includes finding healthcare, housing, food, mental health treatment, job opportunities, and substance abuse counseling.

This also includes maintaining an open line of communication with facility staff that will assist them in successfully reintegrating into their home communities.

HTCF has recently implemented, as a phase of their transformation into a "GEO Continuum of Care" Facility, a 24-hour Continuum Connect hotline. Each man released from the facility will be provided the hotline number. HTCF will track each call coming into the Continuum Connect and log the type of service requested and the location of the request.

In summary, The Continuum Connect Line is an innovative and first of its kind tool that will ensure the men released from the facility are seamlessly transitioned, by connecting them to vital resources that will assist in maintaining a stable and productive lifestyle as they transition home. Metrics captured from the hotline will be utilized to better assess the needs of offenders released from HTCF, allowing the facility to tailor and improve its Pre-Release Re-Entry Program.



Heritage Trail Correctional Facility
We want you to "stay connected"

CONTINUUM CONNECT



Employment
Housing
Food Bank

Substance Abuse
Counseling

1-888-509-8444

Pictured Left to Right: Assistant Superintendent Dan LeFlore and Unit Team Manager Ashley Smith returning a call from a released offender.

There's a New Elf in Town

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

On December 11, 2014, Warden Cole represented the LaSalle Detention Facility, dressed up as a Christmas Elf, and attended the annual LaSalle Nursing Home Christmas Caroling event. The staff was challenged to raise all the items they decided to provide as gifts to the residents.

LaSalle met their goal and provided one hundred and ten nursing home residents with picture frames for their room. As they sang carols, Warden Cole, dressed in his Elf suit, passed out cookies to the residents. Warden Cole and his Staff at LaSalle Detention Facility enjoy working together and giving back to their community.



GEO STATISTICS:

10.5% of GEO's U.S. Employees were promoted last year!
Congratulations!



GEO's promotion rate is higher than the 9% reported in the 2014 Promotional Guidelines Survey conducted by World at Work

98.1% of GEO's U.S. Employees received their Performance Evaluation on time last year.
Congratulations to all involved!



Victims Impact Panel Has Sobering Effect on Inmates & Staff

Written By **Sherry Buck, ASP-Florence-West**

What better place to share stories of love and loss at the hands of an impaired driver than at Arizona State Prison, (ASP)-Florence-West, in Florence, Arizona. The majority of the five hundred inmates housed at this facility are there due to a DUI related charge. Founded by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) is the nation's largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunk driving and underage drinking.

On December 9, 2014, we were honored to have the Phoenix based chapter of MADD present a Victims Impact Panel to an audience of one hundred inmates who volunteered to attend. The comments by the inmates immediately following the presentation reflected a feeling of understanding and thanks for the heartfelt stories shared by Sonia Diaz and Jennifer Thompson, both of whom lost a daughter to a vehicle accident caused by an impaired driver. Also in attendance were facilitators David Rivas, Programs Specialist, and Ray Nichols, State Executive Director. Their Power Point presentation provided basic alcohol education and detailed statistics in alcohol related accidents and deaths. Normally, this panel charges on a per attendee basis. However, there was no charge for this presentation at ASP-Florence West. Feedback from the inmates has been extremely positive and MADD is anxious to plan for future events at ASP-Florence West.



"The presentation was very enlightening and sobering."

"The comments by the inmates immediately following the presentation reflected a feeling of understanding and thanks for the heartfelt stories."

GEO wins "Corporate Salute Award"

For outstanding commitment to gender diversity, by having two women on the Board of Directors

Written By **Stephen V. Fuller, Corporate HR**



Pictured Left to Right: Celebrating this achievement are Board member Julie Myers Wood, Board Chairman, CEO and Founder George C. Zoley, and Board member Anne N. Foreman.

Women Executive Leadership, in collaboration with 2020 Women on Boards released its 2014 Florida Census of Women Directors and Executive Officers. This Census reports the number of women occupying Board of Director seats and Senior Executive positions in the State of Florida's 100 largest public companies.

GEO was one of only 10 companies in the State of Florida recognized by Women Executive Leadership, on November 20, 2014 as a "Corporate Salute Award" winner for outstanding commitment to gender diversity, by having two or more women on the Board of Directors.

These two experienced and talented women are Board members Anne N. Foreman and Julie Myers Wood. Anne N. Foreman has served as a GEO Board member since 2002. Mrs. Foreman served as Under Secretary of the United States Air Force from September 1989 until January 1993. Prior to her appointment as Under Secretary,

Mrs. Foreman was General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, a member of the Department's Intelligence Oversight Board and the Department's Chief Ethics Officer. Mrs. Foreman earned a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, in history and French, and a master's in history from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She holds her juris doctor, Law Review, cum laude from American University in Washington D.C. and was awarded an honorary doctorate of law from Troy State University. Mrs. Foreman was twice awarded the Air Force Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service.

Mrs. Foreman brings extensive legal, government contracting, and international experience to the board of directors. Her service in two Senate-confirmed positions in the Air Force, and in private sector and government positions abroad provide leadership, government affairs, and international transactional skills. Her experience as a board member of other companies strengthens the board of

directors' collective knowledge, capabilities, and experience.

Julie Myers Wood is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Guidepost Solutions ("Guidepost") after joining the organization in 2012 as president of its Compliance, Federal Practice and Software Solutions division. Guidepost acquired ICS Consulting, LLC, a company founded by Mrs. Wood, in September 2012. Prior to founding ICS Consulting, LLC, Mrs. Wood served as head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the Department of Homeland Security where she led the largest investigative component of the Department and the second largest investigative agency in the federal government with a budget of nearly \$6 billion and 15,000 employees. Mrs. Wood serves as Commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration and is a member of the ABA Task Force on Human Trafficking. Mrs. Wood earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Baylor University and a Juris Doctor cum laude from Cornell Law School.

Ron Champion Retires from International Services

Written By **Eileen Roth, Corporate**



Ron Champion's career started in 1972, in Texas with positions as Judicial Education Director, Municipal Court Judge and Criminal Justice Advisor to two Texas Governors. He also worked for the state's prison system. Ron's hire date for The GEO Group (GEO) in 1989 was historically significant, as his first contract win was in 1990 for the Lockhart Facility.

He also had the privilege of working for the company and living in Australia in the early 1990s, as well as the UK and South Africa in the 2000s. Ron worked mostly on International Business Development and Operations. During his tenure as Vice President of International Services, he contributed greatly on matters of business development, client relationships, operational challenges and problem resolution for GEO's operations in South Africa, England, and Australia. He served as GEO's corporate office "eyes and ears" for international operations and fostered clear communications to the corporate office for GEO's Managing Directors in all three countries representing GEO's presence. Over the years, Ron always exceeded all expectations with his thoroughness to details and guidance whether it was a simple or complex matter.

Everyone at GEO wishes Ron the very best on his retirement. Thank you for all of your hard work and service to GEO.

Christmas Wishes on the Rio Grande



Every year for the past five years, Warden Butch Head, Assistant Warden Brigett Bowers, and the Rio Grande Detention Center (RGDC) team celebrate "Christmas Wishes on the Rio Grande." The RDGC team purchases hundreds of toys, shoes, and goody bags to donate to the kids at three Head Start schools located in Laredo, El Cenizo, and Rio Bravo, Texas.

In 2014, The GEO Group Foundation with the help of other organizations and individuals such as the U.S. Marshals Southern District Laredo Office, Keefe, Global Tel*Inc (GTL), Target Texas Consulting, and GEO's Central Regional Director, Reed Smith, were able to donate approximately 500 gifts to 250 kids.

RGDC always invites guests such as the representatives from the Federal Judge's office, U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar's office, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and most importantly Santa Claus.

"Christmas Wishes on the Rio Grande" is a true reflection of RGDC's great work and commitment to their community.



Diabetes Awareness

Written By **Susan Napolitano, Corporate HR**

Did you know that there are almost 30 million Americans living with diabetes? Of that number, more than 8 million are undiagnosed. Based on those statistics, that means that approximately 4,000, or 27% of GEO U.S. employees, are undiagnosed. The high prevalence of undiagnosed cases signals the importance of visiting your doctor regularly and doing routine blood work to ensure that you know your numbers.

Diabetes is often called the "silent killer," and for good reason. Because there aren't always clear symptoms of diabetes, millions have the disease and don't even know it. One study on the rise of diabetes reported that 2 in 5 adults today will actually develop diabetes during their lifetime. That equates to 40% of the population being at risk, with the numbers rising steadily. The increase in new diagnoses nationwide is due to a number of factors,

mainly attributed to poor eating habits and a lack of physical exercise. If left undetected or untreated, complications from diabetes can progress gradually, leaving damage in their wake. Common complications can range from skin infections and glaucoma, to more severe ones such as heart disease, neuropathy (nerve damage), kidney failure, and even amputation. Early detection is vital, and the sooner a diagnosis is made, the fewer complications are likely to arise.

Because many employees and dependents in our GEO family face the challenges of diabetes daily, we used the opportunity to send out a series of Newsletters during the months of November, December, and January to raise awareness about this disease. The newsletters highlighted some of the more common early warning signs, myths,

facts, and even healthy recipes. The holiday edition focused on ways to manage diabetes and still enjoy the various holiday treats. All articles are available on GEO's benefit portal at www.geogrouphrintouch.com, as well as www.GEOnet.com.

Although there is no cure for Type 2 diabetes, the disease can be managed and even reversed with a balanced diet, adequate physical activity, and medication (if prescribed). It is also important to note that prevention is key. It is always possible to prevent the onset of diabetes, even if one has many of the risk factors. Taking that into consideration, our goal is to encourage healthy lifestyles with good nutrition, exercise and wellness exams. The GEO Group remains committed to our employees by providing the resources needed to stay active, lose weight, and eat healthy.



30 million Americans are living with diabetes. Of that number, more than **8 million** are undiagnosed.

27%

or 4,000 of GEO U.S. employees are estimated to be undiagnosed.

2 in 5 Adults

will develop diabetes during their lifetime.



When most people think of someone making a sacrifice for their country, they think of military service members, police officers, and sometimes firemen. Military spouses are overlooked even though their personal sacrifice allows many military men and women to serve and protect our country. Military spouses work to support the household and raise the children, all the while wondering if their spouse will make it back home safe. Even if they are fortunate enough to have their spouse with them at home, military spouses have to leave their jobs and friends, and start fresh every two to three years when their military spouse is assigned a new duty station. Military spouses know the meaning of devotion, hard work, and working together for the common good. For these reasons and many more, GEO is honored to have military spouses as part of its workforce.

"I like the fact that we help others, especially people in our community," says Concepcion Vanburen, Case Manager for Merced County Jail Reentry Program and a military spouse. She was hired in September 2014 as a Client Service Specialist and within two months received her first promotion to the Case Manager position she is in now.

Concepcion's hope to be able to continue to grow with the company is still a great possibility even if she would have to

move because of her husband's next military assignment. Military spouses, like all GEO employees, are given additional consideration when it comes to transfers to other GEO facilities. No position is guaranteed, but internal candidates such as Concepcion would be given additional consideration during the selection process.

This is one of the reasons The GEO Group was awarded the designation of Military Spouse Friendly Employers® for 2015 from Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs® and Military Spouse magazines. This is GEO's first year winning the Military Spouse Friendly Designation®. According to the Vice President for Victory Media, Sean Collins, the designation shows that The GEO Group is in the preeminent tier of companies with strong military recruitment programs for transitioning service members and military spouses.

"It is very hard to find employment because companies know you are going to have to move in two or three years," said Kristie J. Atkinson, Security Clerk for Blackwater River Correctional Facility. Kristie was unemployed for about a year before she found her job with GEO in September 2014.

Military spouses make sacrifices to help protect our country. GEO is doing its part by helping these employees retain employment when the military calls.

Taking Care Of Those Making Sacrifices For Us

The GEO Group was awarded the Military Spouse Friendly Employers® for 2015 from Victory Media, publisher of G.I. Jobs® and Military Spouse magazines.

Written By **Thomas Arntz, Corporate HR**

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 Top Right: Marine Sergeant Johnathan and Concepcion Vanburen.
 Top Left: Navy Lieutenant Commander Todd and Kristie Atkinson.



GTI at Karnes County Residential Center

Written By **Melody Mooter**, Karnes County Residential Center

On August 1, 2014, Karnes County Residential Center (KCRC) and GTI took on a new mission with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The former all-male inmate population was converted to a residential housing center for mothers with children.

GTI transportation staff is required to transport residents to and from medical appointments and emergency medical runs, and later this year, transport residents on day outings. From the beginning of this new contract through February 2015, the GTI Transportation Officers have driven approximately 42,000 miles while transporting 595 residents. The GTI team at KCRC has accepted this new challenge by redesigning transport vehicles and implementing ICE standards for resident transportation with safety as their number one priority.

While we in the U.S. may find the use of seatbelts and child car seats routine, KCRC residents are predominately from Central America where seatbelts and car seats are not enforced or used routinely.

"KCRC Transportation Officers prepare for transports by getting a car seat, diaper bag, bottles, sack lunches, snacks, coloring books and toys for transport missions."

KCRC Transportation Manager, Melody Mooter determined quickly that to ensure this new transport requirement met the highest degree of safety and security, she had the staff participate in training courses that focused on the proper installation, adjusting, and sanitation of the cars seats and vehicle seating arrangements.

KCRC Transportation Officers, due to ICE standards and low security risk, are unarmed during these transports of mothers and children and the screening process is limited to the mother either walking through a metal detector or the use of a hand wand.

KCRC Transportation Officers prepare for transports by getting a car seat, diaper bag, bottles, sack lunches, snacks, coloring books and toys for transport missions. The GTI Team takes pride in making sure they arrive for each appointment on time and safely. When a resident has a medical appointment, the transport team is responsible for locating the mother in the facility and verifying how many children she has. The mother is required to be with their child at all times. If the resident has children that are school aged, the transport officers have to

make arrangements for them to be supervised until school starts. Transportation Officers also have to explain car safety rules before the mother gets in the vehicle. Before the transport takes places, the Transportation Officers explain to the resident how important it is to stay buckled up at all times and not take the child out of the car seat until the officers pull over to a safe and secure location.

As the demand grows on this unique residential facility, the GTI team is ready to meet the transport challenges of our customer and the facility, while delivering safe and secure transportation with service second to none.

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Pictured Left to Right: Shannon Monroe, Mario Garza, Melody Mooter, Darrell Hernandez and Leona Wiatrek.

“They Had No Voice: Denny Abbott’s Fight for Alabama’s Forgotten Children”

Written By Eugene Herrmann, Ph.D., Corporate

During the civil rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated for nonviolent activism in a struggle to obtain civil rights for African-Americans which were equal to those of whites. On August 28, 1963, Dr. King made his famous “I have a dream speech.” His dream was, “that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

The Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, Florida, presents The Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Awards annually to honor individuals and organizations that have made major innovative contributions toward improving the lives of others, particularly the underserved, through leadership, service and/or programs. I would like to tell you about one of this year’s winners, my father-in-law, Denny Abbott, who received the award on January 19, 2015, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

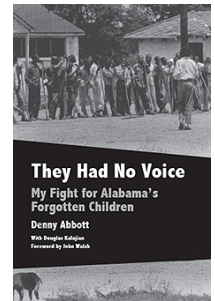
“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Strength to Love, 1963.

On March 25, 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led thousands of nonviolent demonstrators from Selma, Alabama, to the

steps of the state capitol in Montgomery. Denny was standing on the state capitol steps in Montgomery on that day in 1965 when Dr. King and thousands of others marched from Montgomery to Selma. Denny grew up in Alabama and was a youth probation officer in Alabama during the 1960s when he observed that young African-American children were being abused at an all black state training facility. They were used as slave labor in the fields to assist local white farmers to harvest their crops. They were often physically and sexually abused by the staff and they were housed in deplorable conditions.

Denny made repeated requests to state officials to stop the abuse, but it appeared that no administrative relief would be implemented because no one seemed to care about black children at that time. To speak out against the abuse would be to put himself and his family at risk. “Why is this my fight?” he asked himself. Although it would have been much easier to look the other way as many others did, Denny filed a federal court class action lawsuit in 1969 with the goal of ending the abuse of these African-American children within the Alabama court system. The system soon thereafter was reformed, the entire staff fired, the farm program stopped and meaningful programs were established. Denny was later suspended from his job for filing this suit.

In 1972, he filed a second class action federal court lawsuit to stop the unfair treatment of orphaned African-American children who were being housed



Pictured Left to Right: Denny Abbott holding the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award with Eugene Herrmann, Ph.D., Corporate Director, Mental Health Services. Denny Abbott's book entitled “*They Had No Voice: My Fight for Alabama’s Forgotten Children.*”

in correctional facilities instead of foster-care facilities. Major reforms were established and the children were accepted to foster care without regard to race. Denny was then fired for filing this second lawsuit.

Although Denny asked himself “Why is this my fight?” he decided that he could not stand by while children were being abused even though he was threatened by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Denny stood up to injustice while demonstrating the character, courage, and integrity to end the abuse of children and to be a catalyst for societal change resulting in major reforms in the State of Alabama.

Denny Abbott epitomized and lived the words of Dr. King and was well deserving of the Martin Luther King, Jr. award. He demonstrated that one person could make a difference. Denny was later responsible for the operation of juvenile detention

facilities in Florida. He continued his fight to end the abuse of children by working with John Walsh in starting the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 1984 and serving as the national director of the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center from 1981 to 1989. In 1990, he became the coordinator for victim services in Palm Beach County, Florida. He has been responsible for victim’s rights legislation, which became law in Florida during the mid-1990s. He has served as an expert witness in court proceedings, has addressed Congress as an expert in the area of child abuse, and has been an expert source for major media outlets.

Denny has written a book about his past struggle to end the abuse of African-American children in Alabama entitled “*They Had No Voice: My Fight for Alabama’s Forgotten Children.*”
www.theyhadnovoice.com.



POW WOW

Pow wow at Central Arizona Correctional Facility Is A Positive Influence To Native American Inmates

Written By **Chaplain Sylvester Ajagbe,**
Central Arizona Correctional Facility

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The word pow wow derives from the Narragansett word powwaw, meaning "spiritual leader"

The Native American Inmates at Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) in Florence, Arizona held their third annual Pow wow on November 19th, 2014.

The Pow wow ceremony was a day of traditional, singing, speaking, and praying. The four winds drum group, led by Mr. Sheldon Escalante of the Tohono O'odham Nation, brought a large Pow wow drum to the ceremony. They sat along side the Native American Inmate drum group and played many traditional Pow wow songs throughout the ceremony. The sound of the drum, considered as the spiritual heartbeat, filled the visitation area.

Mr. Albert Pooley, a Navajo/Hopi representative and founder of Native American Fatherhood and Family Association spoke on the importance of family and being good fathers. His message of "You are worth more than the worst mistake in your life," touched the hearts of all in attendance.

Guests from the Tohono O'odham Nation spoke on topics ranging from obstacles and achievements in the military, to all of their struggles with their families which reinforced the message that "Love is not to be feared,"

and "you have to feel it to heal it." These heartfelt accounts and lessons were a comfort to all.

Various speakers representing Navajo, Hopi, Tohono O'odham, Pima, Apache, Lakota, and other tribes spoke on many positive subjects, including the importance of traditional Native American religion in rehabilitation, the importance of family, and expressed their gratitude to all who help achieve their goals. Also in attendance were Chaplain Ajagbe, Correctional staff, SOETP counselors, and Self Improvement teachers. The Native American Inmates offered a prayer to end the wonderful day of singing and inspirational speeches.

The CACF Pow wow has grown over the last three years and serves as a prayer and inspiration for rehabilitation and the eventual reunification of Native American inmates to their families. The Native American Inmates thank all who were involved in making this year's Pow wow a success, and look forward to next year's event.



Health Services Directors Conference in Boca Raton

Written By **Lucie Taylor, Corporate**

"Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." This is

the theme the Correctional Health Services team has adopted for the 2015 year. On January 26, 2015, the Regional Health Service Directors and Managers joined the Corporate Health Services Staff for a week of strategic planning. Our goal was to discuss our plans for this upcoming year so we would have purpose and direction as we move forward. In addition, new policies and procedures, audit tools, chronic care forms, as well as new programs and operations were rolled out that will enhance our Performance Improvement and Clinical Care programs.

Guest speakers included dignitaries such as our own John Hurley, President of GEO Corrections and

Detention, Patricia Persante, Executive Vice President, Contract Compliance, and Jose Rosario, Director, Business Operations as well as the Corporate Health Services team.

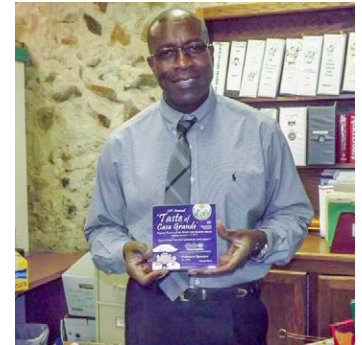
A seminar on National Performance Measures presented by Dr. Ada Rivera, was one of the highlights of the week. A pilot program was rolled out to D. Ray James Correctional Facility, Moshannon Valley Correctional Center and Rivers Correctional Institution in October last year.

The goal of the program is to assure the inmates are provided appropriate medical care that affects their health positively, as set forth in the GEO clinical practice guidelines. Measurable results were reported by the sites quarterly and are so far very impressive.

This program demonstrates that GEO Health Services is outstanding in the correctional field. All GEO facilities will be participating in this program beginning in July 2015. We hope to be able to compare our results against those of the Bureau of Prisons by the end of the year.

While the week was very busy and the team worked long hours, it was very productive. The results are amazing when a group of highly motivated, intelligent people get together to brainstorm.

Pictured Left To Right: Group of Regional Health Services Directors and Managers with Corporate Health Staff. **Back Row:** Patricia Thompson, Lucie Taylor, Dyana Ortiz, Pratap Misra, and Eugene Herrmann. **Middle Row:** Bertha Villanueva, Jeanne Keel, Jennifer Isham, and Veronika Newman. **Front Row:** Connie Danley, Christina Fortunato, Melinda Ingvarsen, Danny Boyd, and Dr. Ada Rivera.



The GEO Group Foundation and CACF Help Support Against Abuse, Inc.

Written By
Sheryl Augstums, Central Arizona Correctional Facility

The Taste of Casa Grande is a celebration and party that is held annually to benefit Against Abuse, Inc. This is a non-profit organization that The GEO Group Foundation and Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) have helped support since CACF opened in 2006.

Each year, local restaurants donate their finest culinary efforts, volunteer servers, and booth decorations. Attendees purchase tickets to sample all the specialties. Against Abuse, Inc. is proud to have among their contributors other large corporations such as McDonalds and Walmart. This year CACF was honored to receive a plaque recognizing their sponsorship. Accepting on behalf of The GEO Group and CACF was Warden Bennie Rollins.



Jena Mayor Retirement Reception

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

On December 18, 2014, Warden David Cole and several of his staff attended an informal retirement reception held for Mayor Murphy McMillin at the Jena Town Hall, to honor nine years of service as Mayor. During the reception, a plaque was presented by Warden Cole to Mayor McMillin from The GEO Group, Inc./LaSalle Detention Facility which read:

“In appreciation of your devotion and commitment to the town of Jena, in support of The GEO Group, Inc., and the LaSalle Detention Facility.

We will miss your vision, drive and positive attitude.”

Mayor McMillin assumed office following a special election in early 2006, when the town of Jena was \$1.2 million in debt. When he officially ended his term on December 31, 2014, he left the town debt free with many accomplishments under

his leadership. He emphasized that all of the achievements were attributed to a team effort between him, the town council, town employees, and the citizens of Jena.

Mayor McMillin will remain in the community he loves and looks forward to his new position as Executive Director of the LaSalle Economic Development Board.

He gives up his Mayorship to Mrs. LaDawn Edwards following a run-off election late last year.

Mayor McMillin, is an upstanding community leader and family man. He will be missed by the staff of the LaSalle Detention Facility.

Pictured Left To Right: Front Row: Warden David Cole, Jena Mayor Murphy McMillin, and Major Priscilla Doggett. **Back Row:** GTI Transportation Manager Jeffery Free, A.W. Finance and Administration Brenda Sullivan, and H.R. Manager Melinda Parker.

ROBERT A. DEYTON DONATES 450 GIFTS

Written By
Donald Bowen & Garry Ross,
Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility



450 gifts, unselfishly donated to the children of families less fortunate than ourselves, speak volumes on who we are as individuals and as The GEO Group. What a great way to show our thanks for the blessings we have received, through our willingness to share with others.

When we set the target at 350 gifts, I have to admit, I thought it was ambitious and only hoped we would get close. I should have known better. Every time GEO employees at Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility have been asked to help someone else, they have not only met but exceeded all expectations.

I am humbled to have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding, charitable, group of individuals. Thank you for your efforts to make this facility the best it can be and your unfailing generosity toward those whose lives have been made better by your actions.



Volunteering at the Soldiers Home

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

On December 31, 2014, a group of Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) staff volunteered at the Soldiers Home in Orting, Washington, to help with their New Year's Eve celebration. The Soldiers Home provides 24-hour nursing and medical care to veterans and/or their family members who are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Our day started with helping the residents move from their housing wings to the recreation center. A steady stream of wheelchairs lined the hallway as volunteers assisted residents to where the New Year's Eve party was being held.

Once inside, volunteers served pizza to residents as the musician played. Some of the residents require more

assistance than others—GTI Manager, Colleen Robertson actually spoon-fed one of the veterans throughout the entire event! We were all very touched by Colleen's patience and care for the residents. But it wasn't surprising to us that Colleen has a soft spot for the veterans; she herself was a Marine after all!

Those of us who volunteered at the Soldiers Home were Assistant Warden Bill McHatton, Compliance Administrator Bruce Scott (Air Force), Human Resources Specialist Michelle Ziegwied, Assistant GTI Manager Gary Del Castillo (Army Reserve and Army National Guard), Payroll Clerk Becky Blanchette, GTI Officer James Williams (Army), Intelligence Officer Norm Wiemer (Air Force), GTI

Manager Colleen Robertson (Marine), GTI Fleet Technician Dale Daisley (Army), and Administrative Assistant Shihpei Stevenson (not pictured).

Taking a quick glance at the list above, one might suspect that a large percentage of the NWDC's workforce has prior military experience. As a matter of fact, 41% of our workforce is made of veterans!

It is a privilege to serve the military community through volunteering and similar means. The NWDC is appreciative of the services that our veterans provided to our country and is proud to be a supporter of our military personnel. One of NWDC's security supervisors, Lt. Marcus

Hoffmeister, is a recipient of the Patriot Award for his support of our Reservists in 2014.



Pictured Top To Bottom: Assistant Warden Bill McHatton, Compliance Administrator Bruce Scott, Human Resources Specialist Michelle Ziegwied, Assistant GTI Manager Gary Del, Payroll Clerk Becky Blanchette, GTI Officer James Williams, Intelligence Officer Norm Wiemer, GTI Manager Colleen Robertson, and GTI Fleet Technician Dale Daisley. GTI Manager Colleen Robertson.



Australia Zoo Project

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has formed a new partnership with Australia Zoo, home of the world-renowned 'Crocodile Hunter', Steve Irwin.

Written By **Selena Landman,**
Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

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Pictured: Sidd Mehta, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Finance and Administration Manager and Andy Rocks, AGCC Trade Instructor visiting Australia Zoo.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Australia has formed a new partnership with Australia Zoo, home of the world-renowned 'Crocodile Hunter', Steve Irwin.

A 100-acre zoo located on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia Zoo is owned by Terri Irwin, the widow of Steve Irwin, whose wildlife documentary series, *The Crocodile Hunter* made the zoo a popular international tourist attraction. Following its debut on Australian television screens in 1996, *The Crocodile Hunter* became very successful in the United States, the United Kingdom and over 130 other countries, reaching an estimated audience of 500 million. Through the series, Steve Irwin achieved worldwide fame and became well known for his exuberant presentation style, his khaki uniform and his trademark catchcry of "crikey."

Steve Irwin died in September 2006, after being pierced in the chest by a stingray barb while filming an underwater documentary. A passionate conservationist, Steve Irwin's vision was to make Australia Zoo the biggest and best wildlife conservation facility in the world. Today his conservation work is continued by Terri, daughter Bindi, son Robert and the team at Australia Zoo.

As part of the zoo's expansion process, Bindi's Island opened in December 2014. Offering an island adventure, this area features a three-story treehouse inspired by Bindi's role as Nim in the television series *Return to Nim's Island*. Described as a tropical paradise, the exhibit features an array of animals from macaws to boa constrictors.

Arthur Gorrie Industries helped produce fence posts for Bindi's Island and will continue to supply posts for new enclosures created during further zoo development.

Additionally, over 50 timber bench seats were constructed by inmates for use throughout Bindi's Island and other areas of the zoo.

A group of six inmates are dedicated to the Australia Zoo project. The inmates benefit by gaining a woodworking qualification from a technical and further education (TAFE) institution, as well as hands-on experience. The qualification and woodworking skills will prove valuable when the inmates seek to gain employment upon release.

The Children's Hospital at Westmead

Written By **Simone James, Parklea Correctional Centre**

Parklea Correctional Centre holds an annual fundraising event, the Elaine Adams Memorial Cup, which raises funds for The Children's Hospital at Westmead, towards the purchase of much-needed equipment.

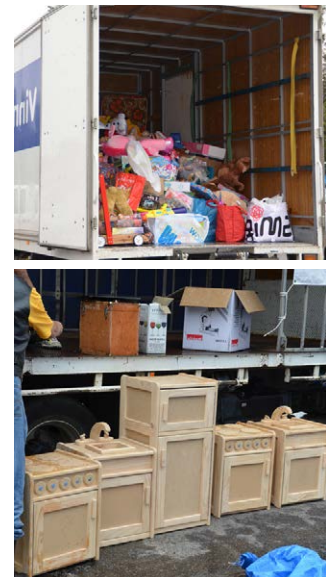
The day consists of a staff and guest luncheon, staff and inmate raffles, an auction with items donated by local businesses and/or suppliers,

and our industries cabinet shop. Novelty events are held with the main affair being the Elaine Adams Memorial Cup race as the day is held on Melbourne Cup Day.

Our 2014 event was very successful, with \$6,156 raised for the Children's Hospital. The check was recently presented to the Fundraising Events Coordinator who was thrilled with the amount

raised. The money will be utilized to purchase humidicribs in the hospital's Special Care Unit.

Pictured Top to Bottom and Left to Right: Natalija Milic and Milica Milic, Fundraising Events Coordinator at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, receive the check for \$6,156 from Simone James of GEO. Monies were raised in collaboration with Parklea Correctional Centre, Justice Health, NSW Corrective Services and TAFE NSW staff and inmates housed at the Centre. Jeremy O'Brien, Sharon Killen, William Tuitupou, Lauren Lafo, Jeff Deal, Simone James, Anthony Howard-Santi, Sagafili Aupaau and Brent Jones.



Toy Run

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

Filling two trucks with toys to be distributed to needy families during Christmas was another successful community engagement involvement by the Junee Correctional Centre.

More than 200 motorcyclists participated in the GEO/Ron Crouch Toy Run, riding through the streets of Wagga collecting toys along the way. The ride finished at picturesque Bolton Park with a BBQ Lunch, and the auction of items donated by Wagga businesses as well as an impressive array of wooden toys made by Junee inmates which generated more than \$2,000.

The money raised was used to buy additional toys and then all toys were distributed by the Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul. This was the 25th annual ride and, supported by GEO for the past five years, is regarded as an outstanding initiative to assist families in the local community when they are often at their most vulnerable.

Christmas Gifts Donation

Written By **Simone James**,
Parklea Correctional Centre

The NSW Council for Pacific Communities (NSWCPC) attended Parklea Correctional Centre for the purpose of donating over 150 Christmas gifts for children with parents or guardians currently at Parklea Correctional Centre.

The gifts were obtained from the results of a toy drive NSWPC organised within the local community. Events such as movie nights were held with the admission fee being the donation of a toy.

The community, including local businesses, rallied together to provide such a generous result. Parklea's management look forward to a long and valued partnership with the NSWCPC.



Pictured: Representatives from The Council of Pacific Communities attended Parklea Correctional Centre with a donation of over 150 Christmas gifts for the children of inmates housed at the facility.



Kutama Gives Back To Community

Written By **Tshifhiwa Given Mukwevho**, Kutama Sinthumule Correctional Centre

It was a great moment of happiness when the Songozwi Victim Empowerment Programme (SVEP) received their newly renovated and furnished building from the South African Custodial Management (SACM) on January 6, 2015.

SACM, which operates the Kutama Sinthumule Correctional Centre (KSCC) in Louis Trichardt, renovated the dilapidated house on 24 Burger Street, upon the SVEP's request, and donated beds and bedding, kitchen furniture, a TV, a lounge suit, room divider, dinner set and fans. The office equipment which was donated included office chairs and desks.

The Director for the Kutama Sinthumule Correctional Centre, Mr. Lazarus Ncongwane, said thieves broke into the building during the renovation progress and vandalized and stole electrical cables. New cables were

purchased, and the house was rewired.

"We take delight in giving back to the community," Mr. Lazarus Ncongwane said. "We also want to believe that the trauma center will be able to realize its duties for rendering good services to the victims of crime in a spacious house now."

"It is truly amazing that the centre is not only focused on meeting the offenders' rehabilitation needs, but that they are also engaged in supporting the community."

The victim empowerment office previously operated from one office in the police station where there was hardly enough space for them. The SVEP's chairperson Mr. Tshinyalani Matumba said, "SACM has really made us feel proud. They showed true love to us and the community that we continue to serve."

When receiving the donation from SACM, the commander for the Makhado cluster (SAPS), Brig Alex Seopa, said that it is truly amazing that the centre is not only focused on meeting the offenders' rehabilitation needs, but that they are also engaged in supporting the community.

"I was saddened when we heard about the burglary and vandalism in the new house. We have since improved security measures to make sure that nothing of that nature happens again," Brig Seopa said. "Thank you again SACM. This kind of work cannot go unnoticed and it is praiseworthy."

Pictured Left to Right: Handing over of renovated building to Songozwi Victim Empowerment Programme. Prison Director (Mr. M.L. Ncongwane), Brigadier Alex Seopa (SAPS Makhado Cluster Commander), Mr. Tshinyalani Matumba (Chairperson SVEP) and members of the SVEP Board.

GEO Focused On Youth

Each Australia Day, Junee Correctional Centre awards scholarships to outstanding local youth.

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

Each Australia Day, Junee Correctional Centre (the Centre) awards scholarships to outstanding local youth. This year, the Centre also introduced encouragement awards as part of its Youth in Focus program to assist winners to achieve their next goals. The scholarships and encouragement awards are in three categories: academic, creative arts, and sporting distinction. This year, a Financial Hardship Award was also initiated.

Ebony Becquet won an Academic Excellence scholarship. It is the second time that Ebony has been awarded a Youth In Focus scholarship, receiving the Creative Arts Scholarship in 2012. Ebony graduated this year as school captain and honours student,

achieving 17 various awards at the completion of her HSC. Ebony intends to undertake a law degree, specialising in commercial law.

Gabriel Newman also received an Academic Excellence scholarship as well as the Financial Hardship scholarship. Gabriel has been studying for her primary school degree at Charles Sturt University and commenced a double degree in arts and secondary education in 2013. Gabriel intends to become an English and history teacher in a rural school – perhaps even Junee High school, which she attended.

Lucy Clarke, a sufferer of epilepsy, received an Encouragement Award for Creative Arts. For the past three years, Lucy was chosen

in the choir to perform in the Combined Secondary Schools' "In Concert" held at Sydney Town Hall and in 2014, was selected to take part in the NSW Public School Choir performance at the Sydney Opera House.

Jasmine Phillips received the Sporting Distinction Encouragement Award for swimming. In recent years, Jasmine has competed at various events setting and breaking records, some of which had remained unbroken at Junee High School for more than 30 years. Her coach Noel Poynter, who has known Jasmine since she was seven, said her work ethic and her time management skills are excellent, allowing her to combine school work and training.

Joel Kelly was awarded the Sporting Distinction Encouragement Award for his rugby achievements. His goal is to secure a contract with the National Rugby League. Last year, he was awarded Junee's Ray Blundell Memorial Trophy for the most promising player. Joel is also a qualified referee and offers his time through the football season to umpiring junior games as well as assisting with training. General Manager Andy Walker said the applications received were a good indication of the local talent, skill and ability.

Pictured: John Myers and Ainslie Wood are the Scholarship and Encouragement Award recipients. **Pictured Back to Front Left to Right:** Joel Kelly, Gabriel Newman, Ebony Becquet, Lucy Clarke and Jasmine Phillips.





Women Working For The GEO Group

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

As part of the long standing and ongoing relationship with the local secondary school, the Junee Correctional Centre was delighted to participate in Girls Welfare Day.

The day was designed by Junee High School to assist female students with career planning but also to assist them with self esteem and self confidence.

The school's motto is "To dream, to create, to succeed" and the various workshops mirrored those ideals featuring a series of workshops and information sessions by local business women and community leaders.

Subjects ranged from beauty tips, preparing for interviews and mental health to changing tires.

Staff members from the Centre attended and discussed the various benefits and challenges involved in working for The GEO Group.

Kelly Eisenhauer, Ainslie Wood, Nicole Clark, Samantha Ainsworth and Chontel Flaws spoke about their role within the company, career opportunities and what to expect being a female in a male dominated workplace.

"Staff members from the Centre attended and discussed the various benefits and challenges involved in working for The GEO Group."

They also spoke of the equal opportunities female staff experience and of the opportunities for promotion, secondment, and career progression that are offered through the company. The school described the day as a huge success. The Centre's Human Resources Manager, Kelly Eisenhauer said that the students asked staff numerous questions, and GEO has been asked to return again next year.

Pictured: Kelly Eisenhauer speaking with the students at the Workshop.

RAFFLE REAPS LOCAL REWARDS

Published In: **Southern Cross**

Three local residents have been drawn out as winners of the Junee Business and Trades (JBT) Christmas raffle. With a considerable donation from The GEO Group, the proceeds from the raffle helped fund the Christmas on Broadway celebration.

JBT President, Tony Butt said, "It was thanks to The GEO Group and inmates at the Junee Correctional Centre for building and donating a cubbyhouse, box trailer and rocking horse."

Winner of the cubbyhouse, Shirley Buckley said she was excited to have won the grand prize. Junee resident Robert Hatch said his raffle win was the first time he'd won a raffle and the box trailer was a "much needed" prize.

For Old Junee resident, Maria Turner, the news she had won a rocking horse was the second piece of good news of the day with her son and his wife sharing the news they were expecting.

Mr. Butt said "It was thanks to the support from the community, not just through donations, but attendance which made it a success." JBT would also like to invite anyone who has a passion for making Junee a better place to live, has a positive attitude, has ideas, and is prepared to follow them through, to join our enthusiastic team," Mr. Butt said.

"You can be a multinational company like The GEO Group, a business person, a trades person, a farmer, a cottage industry. We look forward to talking with you," Mr. Butt said.



Welcome For New Minister

The Honourable Wade Noonan MP visits Fulham Correctional Centre, following his recent appointment to the portfolios of Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections.

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

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Pictured Top to Bottom: Inspecting the industries workshop. Corrections Victoria Gippsland regional director Will Crinall, Corrections Minister Wade Noonan MP, Fulham Correctional Centre general manager Trevor Craig, Corrections Victoria commissioner Jan Shuard, and deputy commissioner Rod Wise. Maori and Pacific Islander welcome. Indigenous welcome.

The Honourable Wade Noonan MP included a short visit to Fulham Correctional Centre as part of a regional tour, following his recent appointment to the portfolios of Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections.

Mr. Noonan was accompanied by Corrections Victoria Commissioner Jan Shuard, Deputy Commissioner Rod Wise, and other ministerial staff. The visit commenced with a brief overview of the Centre's operations by the senior management team and then the visitors were led to the plaza for a tour of the facilities.

Among the group of staff and inmates who had gathered in the plaza, were indigenous inmates, clad in traditional attire and colorful body paint, who proceeded to welcome the special guests with a ceremonial dance. At the completion of the indigenous welcome, a second group of about 20 Maori and Islander inmates who were lined up in three rows and clad

in white t-shirts and green shorts, suddenly removed their tops and let out a loud roar, signaling the start of a formal Maori welcome ceremony, and the traditional Haka. Following these proceedings, the Minister mingled with the performers and spoke with many of them.

The group was then given a guided tour of the facility, inspecting the recently constructed 54-bed cabin accommodation and the new manufacturing equipment set up in industries, visiting a unit and speaking with staff, and checking out the facilities in the medical centre.

The powerful performances by the Indigenous, New Zealander and Pacific Islander men left an unforgettable experience on all who witnessed them and were no doubt, the highlight of the Minister's visit to Fulham Correctional Centre.





Graduation Day at Luzerne County DRC

The Luzerne County Day Reporting Center (DRC) honored 58 program graduates on November 18, 2014.

Pictured: 58 program graduates in a ceremony held at the historic Luzerne County Courthouse located in Wilkes Barre, PA,

The Luzerne County Day Reporting Center (DRC) honored 58 program graduates in a ceremony held at the historic Luzerne County Courthouse located in Wilkes Barre, PA on November 18, 2014. The well attended ceremony showcased the accomplishments of those who have successfully completed the program over the past several months.

Local county officials provided words of encouragement including the Honorable Judge Jennifer Rogers, Luzerne County Head of Correctional Services Director J. Allen Nesbitt, Luzerne County Treatment Coordinator Grace Franks, and Luzerne County Probation Officer Erika Hilburt.

Other highlights included the personal testimonies of several participants, including an emotional speech by a U.S. Veteran discussing his struggles with addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder. A former graduate also discussed her success since finishing the program three years prior. Graduate Jonathan K. stated, "This place

has helped me to regain my independence and I couldn't have done that on my own." Graduate Jennifer P. reflected on her experience, "By attending the DRC, I learned what was getting in the way of me reaching my goals. I definitely see the world in a new way now and look forward to being a better role-model for my daughter."

Using evidence based principles, participants receive industry-leading rehabilitation treatment to help break the cycles of criminal behavior through individual counseling and group classes, including:

- Substance Abuse Treatment & Education
- Anger Management
- Parenting Skills
- Life Skills
- Academic Programing
- Moral Reconation Therapy® (MRT) Cognitive Skills Rehabilitation
- Community Connections, where participants are linked to local resources as needed
- Employment Readiness and Job Search
- Parenting Skills

The GEO Group (GEO) is the world's leading provider of offender rehabilitation services. GEO programs are rooted in consistent delivery of programming, and evidence-based principles driven to change criminal behavior. GEO's approach has been proven to reduce recidivism, target employment or full-time school enrollment upon program completion, alter criminal behavior, and generate savings for taxpayers.

Congratulations to the graduates of the Luzerne County Day Reporting Center!

After 41 Years of Service, Abraxas Marienville's First Team Member Retires

Written By James Town, Abraxas Marienville



Pictured: Abraxas Marienville staff presented Sue with a personalized Pirates jersey as one of her retirement gifts.

Sue Hepinger, Night Supervisor at Abraxas Marienville and Marienville's first employee, is moving on to enjoy her retirement years while working hospitality at PNC Park for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Originally hired as a receptionist at the inception of the program in 1973 by Arlene Lissner, the founding matriarch of Abraxas, Sue has been one of those rare team members who can say that she has almost done it all in her career. Prior to the first client stepping on grounds, Sue had the opportunity to work hand in hand with Arlene and her team members planning and visioning what the program would be all about. Sue said the exciting thing about her early years with Abraxas was the creativity, comradery and family community that the original "TC" (Therapeutic Community) model provided for both team members and clients.

Sue fondly remembers Arlene telling her that someday she would be running her own department for Abraxas; Sue

laughed at that at that time and said "no way," however, over the years she has done that and much more.

During her 41 year career, Sue has worked in almost every capacity at Abraxas. She was Arlene's personal assistant for a time, worked in the research department for Ken Pompei, was a Certified Addictions Counselor, ran an Abraxas re-entry house in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh for several years and then, as Abraxas Marienville expanded, she returned home to become one of the first four Treatment Supervisors ever hired at Marienville.

While working as a Treatment Supervisor, Sue also assisted in developing and helping to operationalize several other programs for Abraxas to include working as the Interim Clinical Director at the Abraxas program in Parkersburg, WV. Upon her return from West Virginia to Marienville, she helped develop the Transitional Living Program in the old employee housing units that became a five dorm, 40 bed program that thrived through

the 1990s. From 1996 to 2005, Sue once again responded to Marienville's needs and took on the role of Night Supervisor. After a brief break working in the Arlene Lissner High School as an Administrative Assistant and Teacher's Aide, Sue returned to the Night Supervisor position.

Sue stated throughout her career with Abraxas, she has many fond memories of both clients and team members. As Sue reminisced of what she has obtained from her career, she focused on the idea that every day brought on a new adventure with new challenges and opportunities to make an imprint on the lives of the young people in her care. Sue valued the relationships she has built with her Abraxas Family. When asked what wisdom she would like to pass on to current and future team members, Sue said that the most important things that she would like to pass on are, "Learn to laugh at yourself and have fun. It's ok to say no, because it is always easier to go back and give permission, be consistent, follow up, and if you say you are going to do something then make sure you do it."

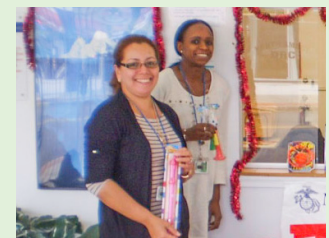
Sue has been more than just an employee of a company. She has spent her life helping to change both kids' and team members' lives. She has acted as a coach, mentor, leader, sounding board, friend, and an all-around asset for everything that Abraxas stands for. As Sue closes the chapter on her Abraxas career, we wish her well in her new career at PNC Park as a hospitality greeter for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Perth Amboy CRC Toys for Tots

Written By Pete Conerly, Perth Amboy CRC

The Perth Amboy CRC participated in the annual Toys for Tots Drive, sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. The Program collected the toys donated by clients and staff. On December 19, 2014, Perth Amboy CRC delivered a "sleigh full" of toys to the Marine Reserve Center in Edison, New Jersey.

Perth Amboy CRC was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for "Outstanding Support" for the 2014 Toys for Tots Drive.



Pictured: Assistant Case Manager Marangeli Martinez, Employment/Education Coordinator Jorr Mbye, Supervising Case Manager, Lori Coleman, and Client Service Specialist Samuel Jean.

Reality House Celebrates 40 Years of Service to the Community

Written By **Marko André Treviño, Reality House**

On October 1, 2014, Reality House celebrated its Forty-Year Anniversary of serving the community as a Residential Reentry Center. A sit down luncheon was held thanking the community partners for their assistance in helping make this program a success. Special guests in attendance were State Representative Eddie Lucio III, Cameron County Judge Carlos H. Cascos, and Cameron County Commissioner Sofia C. Benavides. They each awarded the facility a Proclamation for 40 years of Service to Cameron County, Texas. Also in attendance was Shawn McAlpine, Residential Reentry Safety Specialist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Michael Gonzalez, Chief U.S. Probation Officer and his staff, and Alejandrina Magallanes, Chief Pre-Trial Officer.

In addition to the Anniversary celebration, GEO Reentry Divisional Vice President Loren Grayer, Central Regional Director Bob McCracken, and Texas Regional Director Terry Garcia awarded Reality House the 2013 Chairman's Best In Class Facility Operations. "This facility has a history of operational excellence, great community relations, and they are an asset to the company and this community," Grayer said.

Reality House opened its doors on October 1, 1974. Reality House was located at 405 E. Washington St. in Brownsville, Texas in the middle of historical downtown area. The facility was in an old Victorian Mansion built in 1912 by the Fernandez family of Brownsville. In 1974, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) awarded the first contract to Reality House for 25 male beds. In 1980, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) awarded Reality House a contract to house 20 male beds for State inmates. In 1986, the owners decided not to pursue a new contract with TDCJ and instead submitted a proposal with the BOP. In 1996, the facility was sold to Correctional Systems Inc. In 2002, CSI sold to Cornell Companies and increased the bed space to 70. In 2010, Cornell merged with The GEO Group, Inc. In 2011, Reality House was awarded its 10th contract from the BOP which required an additional 10 beds. On September 1, 2011, the facility was relocated to 5965 N. Expressway 77/83 in Brownsville, Texas. The facility currently has a bed capacity of 94 beds. Reality House was issued a License by the Texas Department of State



Health Service to provide Drug and Alcohol In-Patient Program treatment for residents with drug and alcohol addiction problems. The program is licensed for 16 beds.

The Mission of Reality House is to provide a safe and secure facility for our residents and members of our community. Our goal is to provide quality residential, treatment and educational services to those entrusted to our care. Working in partnership with contracting agencies, community leaders and families to ensure the residents successful re-enter back to their community. Reality House hires staff with proper credentials, training, education and skills to meet the needs of the offender population in our care. The program offers services to Offenders being released in this area to help them successfully reintegrate back into their community. Reality House remains the only Residential Reentry Center in Brownsville, Texas.

Pictured: Reality House Staff, GEO Reentry Divisional Vice President Loren Grayer, Central Regional Director Bob McCracken, and Texas Regional Director Terry Garcia.



Ja'Sani At Clarion University Kinson.

After 10 months of working through treatment, making changes in himself, earning his diploma, running track, playing football and planning for his future, Ja'Sani is college bound.

Instead of returning to his home, in the District of Columbia in January, Ja'Sani moved into his college dorm room at Clarion University. As he wrote in his admissions essay, "My main reason for wanting to attend Clarion University is to further my education. Furthering my education will enhance the possibilities of success in my future, whereby I will be able to create and sustain a productive life."

He intends to study Political Science because he would like to work in the government. Ja'Sani said, "Learning about politics while at Clarion will expose me to the necessary education to understand the range of concepts shaping local, national and global policies around which we are governed. While studying this major, I will think critically and independently, concerning pressing political issues and agreed upon conclusions. In addition, I will be able to rationalize the life we share with our fellow citizens and millions of people around the world."

Ja'Sani is busy working through his first semester and he is adjusting quite well to college life. Although academics come first, his other goal is to earn a spot on Clarion University football team in the fall. As Ja'Sani will tell you, "Growing up in D.C., football was my life." Thanks to the support from The GEO Group Foundation, Abraxas Marienville was able to make a financial contribution toward Ja'Sani's tuition, thus helping him to realize his educational and athletic dreams.

Ja'Sani called Abraxas "a blessing" in his college essay.

"Abraxas was a blessing because it got me away from old friends and put me in a positive atmosphere. I improved my grades and earned a spot on the track and football teams. I had the opportunity to continue my education and learn good decision making and life skills. I became very determined and dedicated to my education and my future. I will continue building upon the foundation I have established while at Abraxas, and work toward a positive, productive future. "

We are proud to have been a part of Ja'Sani's journey and wish him continued success.



Abraxas Marienville Grad Begins Next Chapter At Clarion University

With support from The GEO Group Foundation, Ja'Sani is college bound and on an upward path to receiving a degree in political Science and playing on Clarion University's football team.

Written By **Mary Beth Sembrot, Abraxas Marienville**



Participants Celebrate Graduation From Franklin County DRC

The GEO Group is pleased to announce that 19 participants at the Franklin County Day Reporting Center (DRC) have graduated and earned a certificate of completion. Since its inception in April of 2006, the Franklin County DRC held its 35th transition ceremony on January 16, 2015. Graduates attended the ceremony at the Franklin County Agricultural Building in Chambersburg, PA.

The ceremony began with the presentation of 19 graduates who all received a plaque for their completion of programming. Each Case Manager shared a brief reflection of their individual participants' time with the program, noting success following personal struggles, personal growth in general, and success within the program. Theresa Komes, the winner of the

significant behavior change award, expressed the impact everyone at the DRC had on her including The GEO Group staff, the county officials, and her fellow participants.

"The GEO Group is pleased to announce that 19 participants at the Franklin County Day Reporting Center (DRC) have graduated and earned a certificate of completion."

Following the transition ceremony, graduates and their families were treated to a catered fellowship dinner with the staff of the DRC as well as a congratulatory cake. Transition ceremonies provide an opportunity for graduates to be rewarded for their efforts, as well as show their families what

they have accomplished. The Graduations also allow The GEO Group staff to see their efforts recognized and maintain their focus on the company's mission of providing leading offender rehabilitation services.

Using evidence based principles, participants receive industry-leading rehabilitation treatment to help break the cycles of criminal behavior through individual counseling and group classes, including:

- Substance Abuse Treatment & Education
- Anger Management
- Parenting Skills
- Life Skills
- Academic Programing
- Moral Reconation Therapy® (MRT) Cognitive Skills Rehabilitation

- Community Connections, where participants are linked to local resources as needed
- Employment Readiness and Job Search
- Parenting Skills

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Congratulations to the graduates of the Franklin County Day Reporting Center!

Richmond Transition Ceremony

Written By **Stephanie Saucier, Richmond, VA DRC**

“Our Greatest Glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” -Confucius

The Richmond Day Reporting Center (DRC) had their first 2015 Commencement ceremony on January 8, 2015. The Honorable Mayor of Richmond and the Commonwealth attorney were guest speakers and cheered on 21 graduates.

The graduates spoke of their triumphs, struggles, and the knowledge they gained while in the program. They shared their commitment to their family, faith, and to continuing to better their lives.

One of our participants, Mr. Larry Thornton, wrote the following statement:

“Being truthful, the Day Reporting Center isn’t what I thought. I figured there would be long boring meetings and counselors and case managers just waiting to send me back to jail.

But it is nothing like that! Now after being there a couple of months, I could feel the sincerity of my fellow group members and heart felt smiles. We gradually grew into a family, just like a sister and a brother. We laughed and cried together, and started to really depend on each other. If the other participants failed or missed a step, I personally felt for my brothers and sisters, because I failed to provide the proper help. As I went through the program, I never felt alone.”



DRESSED FOR SUCCESS

Written By **Kalen Macon, York County RSC**



Many participants don’t know how to tie a tie, or simply forgot. Thanks to a large donation of suits and ties from a local community partner, GEO’s York RSC is able to provide participants with a suit and tie, as well as knowledge of how to tie a tie.

In addition to this, the Community Service Coalition, of which Program Manager Kalen Macon and Job Developer Joseph Spencer are members, partnered with a local barber school that provides haircuts and shaves, at no cost, to participants that have interviews scheduled. These partnerships have strengthened our employment numbers adding to the fact that our employed participant count has never dropped below 65%. Additionally, participant morale and attendance has improved.

“Our participants are not just handed a job. They are provided with the skills necessary for them to go out and get a job. Now we are able to facilitate them dressing the part as well,” says Program Manager Kalen Macon. After a participant obtains employment, they continue their care in employment maintenance groups as well as meeting with their case manager regularly. Macon adds, “Our employment maintenance groups are designed to help participants deal with problems they may encounter at the workplace, as well as provide them with the skills needed to advance within their company.”

Pictured Left to Right: Job Developer Joseph Spencer and Program Manager Kalen Macon in front of a few of the suits donated.



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