

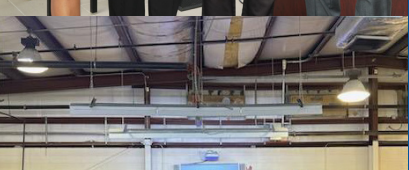
# GEO World

1st QUARTER 2023

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



## The GEO Group Celebrates National Second Chance Month





# Executive Chairman's Letter

**George C. Zoley**, Executive Chairman of the Board

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**"In April, our company celebrated National Second Chance Month, which has been recognized by the last two Presidential Administrations and highlights our nation's commitment to assisting justice involved individuals who are transitioning back into society."**

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## **To the GEO Family,**

During the first quarter of 2023, our company achieved several important milestones, which are underpinned by the dedication of our frontline employees and our organizational commitment to operational excellence. In our GEO Secure Services segment, our facilities underwent 42 audits including internal audits, government reviews, third-party accreditations, and Prison Rape Elimination Act, or PREA, certifications, with two of them receiving accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) with perfect scores of 100 percent and four of our secure facilities receiving PREA certification.

Our 768-bed Robert Deyton Facility in Georgia received a 5-year extension with the U.S. Marshals service, with the contract now effective through February 2028. In the State of Arizona, the recent two-year renewal of our 3,400-bed Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility contract also became effective during the first quarter.

We also entered into a new lease agreement with the State of Oklahoma for the use of our 1,900-bed Great Plains Correctional Facility. The new lease will have an initial term of five and half years, effective May 1, 2023, with subsequent unlimited one-year option periods. Over the term of the lease, GEO will generate straight-line lease revenue of approximately \$8.5 million annually.

As it relates to GEO Care, in the first quarter we renewed seven residential reentry contracts, including four contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Our reentry services facilities successfully underwent 58 audits, including internal audits, government reviews, third-party accreditations, and PREA certifications. One of our

residential reentry centers received accreditation from the American Correctional Association with a perfect score of 100 percent, while two of our residential reentry centers received PREA certification.

In April, our company celebrated National Second Chance Month, which has been recognized by the last two Presidential Administrations and highlights our nation's commitment to assisting justice involved individuals who are transitioning back into society. For several years, GEO has taken the lead in providing enhanced in-custody rehabilitation, including cognitive behavioral treatment, integrated with post-release support services through our award-winning GEO Continuum of Care®.

During this year's Second Chance month, our company highlighted and recognized second chances with various programs and events. Our divisions and facilities hosted Second Chance Employer Luncheons, participated in Reentry Webinars, coordinated community events for returning citizens, and partnered with community organizations to help deliver services and resources to those reintegrating into society. Our company also reaffirmed its commitment to Second Chances and rehabilitation by donating \$150,000 to Second Chance Reentry partners and community organizations.

By reducing recidivism and putting released individuals on a path to success, we can enhance the safety of our communities. As a company, we are at our best when we are helping those in our care reenter society as successful, productive, and employable citizens.



## 02 COVER STORY

**The GEO Group Celebrates National Second Chance Month**  
In April 2023, The GEO Group celebrated and recognized National Second Chance month with various programs and events. National Second Chance Month recognizes the importance of helping individuals, communities, and agencies across the country appreciate their role in supporting the safe and successful reentry of millions of people returning from incarceration each year.

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At The GEO Group, women comprise a majority of our U.S. workforce and play a significant role in our leadership and management.

### EDITOTIAL STAFF

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Earlier this year, Australia's Victorian State Government awarded GEO Healthcare a new contract to provide primary healthcare services in Victoria's men's public prisons.

### CONTRIBUTORS

George C. Zoley  
Pablo E. Paez  
Chris V. Ferreira



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### **Orange County Participants Express Their Creativity**

The "Reentry Through the Arts" program was designed for adults who have been incarcerated or impacted by the Criminal Justice System.

# The GEO Group Celebrates National Second Chance Month

In April 2023, The GEO Group celebrated and recognized National Second Chance month with various programs and events. National Second Chance Month recognizes the importance of helping individuals, communities, and agencies across the country appreciate their role in supporting the safe and successful reentry of millions of people returning from incarceration each year.

GEO kicked off its celebration of Second Chance Month before it began by hosting a Second Chance Employer Luncheon at the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility in late March. The event was a way of informing employers and community-based employment providers of GEO's appreciation for them looking past the stigmas and barriers of incarceration to assist participants in gaining meaningful employment. The luncheon was hosted by GEO's National Director of Vocational Programs, Dr. Kenneth C. Garner.

In early April, GEO hosted a Second Chance Brunch at the GEO Corporate office to celebrate our commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration. CoC graduates from multiple states joined GEO staff in honoring Second Chance Month. Executive Vice President, Continuum of Care and Reentry, Derrick Schofield welcomed staff, GEO Alumni, and community partners. Mr. Schofield provided a call to action for all those in attendance, "we have the opportunity to keep families whole, build stronger and safer communities, and reduce recidivism long term. Together, we can make a difference." Several awards were given at the event, including CoC Facility of Year (South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility), CoC Alumni of Year (Giovanni Sairras), and CoC Instructor of the Year (Travis Spencer). In addition to GEO staff and Alumni, the event was also attended by various community providers who

received Second Chance donations from The GEO Group Foundation.

Later in the month, CoC Post-Release Case Manager, Amlak-I Foley had the privilege of being a part of a national reentry webinar on "The Impact of Primary and Secondary Trauma for Reentry Professionals." The webinar provided practical tips for promoting work satisfaction and preventing burnout. Rates of "compassion fatigue" are substantial for those who work with individuals experiencing trauma as they transition home after incarceration and GEO's leadership recognizes the value of self-care and provides many avenues to reduce stress.

GEO closed Second Chance Month with a series of events hosted in conjunction with GEO Board Member, Jack Brewer. On April 29, GEO hosted a Family Fun Day at Lions Park in Coral Springs, FL. The event was spearheaded by Post-Release Case Manager, Amlak-I Foley and was filled with food, fun, fellowship, children's activities and several guest speakers. It was attended by over 400 people that included GEO Corporate Employees, Post-Release Community Partners, CoC participants, returning citizens and families from the surrounding neighborhood.

That same day members of The Jack Brewer Foundation's American Heroes and GEO Corporate Executives, including GEO Board Member, Jack Brewer, GEO General Counsel, Joe Negron, CoC DVP, David Burch, Director of Client Relations, Chris Zoley, Director of Post-Release Services, Craig Spataro, and Manager of Corporate Relations, Chris Ferreira, played a friendly softball game against the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Sugar Canes.

Finally, on April 30, The Jack Brewer Foundation hosted its 17th Annual Anniversary Gala, which was attended by various GEO Corporate

Executives and Alumni, including Terry Mayotte, GEO Board Member, Chris Ryan, SVP, Human Resources, Derrick Schofield, EVP of the Continuum of Care and Reentry, Pablo Paez, EVP of Corporate Relations, Emanuel Barr, VP of Government Relations, Angela Geisinger, Sr. Director of Programs, Matthew Abraham, Sr. Director of Treatment and Program Development, Amlak-I Foley, Post-Release Case Manager, and Chris Ferreira, Manager of Corporate Relations, as well as GEO Alumni: Elmo Golden (South Bay), David Burke (South Bay), Ivan Blanco-Avila (South Bay), Cody Romeo (South Bay).



At the gala, Angela Geisinger received the Global Ambassador Second Chance Partner of the Year award from Jack Brewer. This award is for individuals who have exemplified a commitment to humanitarian efforts worldwide. Another special moment was when GEO Alumnus David Burke received an award named after none other than fellow GEO Alumnus Elmo Golden for his commitment and dedication to mentoring and serving other justice-involved individuals.

GEO's celebration of Second Chance month was impactful, reflective, and full of engagement with those reentering into the community and the partners we work with to bring those individuals needed resources. As the world leader in evidence-based rehabilitation and post-release services, GEO will continue helping give those we serve second chances, not just during Second Chance month, but always.

Since 2016, The GEO Group has invested significant resources to expand the GEO Continuum of Care®, which is enhanced in-custody offender rehabilitation programming, including cognitive behavioral treatment, integrated with post release support services. In April 2023, The GEO Group celebrated and recognized National Second Chance month with various programs and events. GEO also reaffirmed its commitment to Second Chances and rehabilitation by donating \$150,000 to Second Chance Reentry partners and community organizations.

- The Jack Brewer Foundation (\$25K)
- Reentry One, Inc. (\$10K)
- Dignity Speaks (\$10K)
- The Lord's Place (\$10K)
- The Victory Program (\$10K)
- Mission K9 Rescue (\$10K)
- Greater Hope Community Development (\$10K)
- Wright Way Foundation (\$10K)
- Mentoring With Purpose Charity (\$10K)
- Libra-Life Mentoring Services (\$10K)
- Riviera Beach Integrated Care Charity (\$10K)
- The Cellus Foundation (\$10K)
- Jasmine's House of Hope (\$5K)
- Emergent Wellness Care Substance Abuse Treatment Foundation (\$5K)
- Reentry Empowerment 101 (\$5K)



# The GEO Group Celebrates Women's History Month and Recognizes Women Leaders Across the Company

At The GEO Group, women comprise a majority of our U.S. workforce and play a significant role in our leadership and management. **Of GEO's 13,951 U.S. employees in 2022, 52% were female. Women account for 56% of our corporate employees, 42% of our facility security staff, and 32% of those serving in management positions as Directors and above.** GEO has a long history of pay equity and continues to celebrate opportunities through gender responsive best practices and individualized recruitment and promotion packages. GEO continues to recruit women to our workforce, with women comprising 56% of new hires in 2022. Women are also involved at the highest levels of our organization. Of the ten members of GEO's Board of Directors in 2022, three were women.

As part of our celebration of Women's History Month, we are taking the time to recognize women leaders at different levels of the company for their contributions and accomplishments both in the office and in their communities.

**Amber Martin, Executive Vice President, Contract Administration** – Ms. Martin joined GEO at its corporate office in 1998 as Director, Contract Compliance. She was promoted to Vice President, Contracts in 2000, and in 2014 was named Executive Vice President, Contract Administration. Prior to joining GEO, Ms. Martin was employed with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) from 1987 to 1998, where she served in various positions of progressive responsibility within the specialized divisions of TDCJ. She is a member of the American Correctional Association and the Association of Women Executives in Corrections.

**Jennifer Houston, Executive Vice President, Client Relations** – Jennifer Houston serves as GEO's Executive Vice President, Client Relations and has more than 27 years of experience working in corrections/detention management, proposal development, and contract compliance. She first joined GEO in 1995 as a Florida state-certified Correctional Probation Officer and facility-level Classification Manager, where she learned the foundations of correctional management and operations. Ms. Houston built her career on this foundation and was quickly promoted through a series of positions of increasing responsibility within GEO's Regional and Corporate Offices. She is a member of the Association of Women Executives in Corrections and the American Correctional Association.

**Lisa Krueger, Executive Vice President, Health Services** – As Executive Vice President, Health Services, Lisa Krueger provides operational oversight and supervision of health services for the GEO's domestic secure facilities. Lisa is an experienced health care executive with strong administrative, financial, and operational expertise overseeing national Hospital-Based Physician Management programs with a focus on revenue cycle activities, new program implementation, designing and implementing financially efficient clinical and business operations plans, and quality and Value-Based Care across the continuum of care, acute, post-acute care, and telehealth. Lisa is LEAN Six Sigma certified and holds a dual Master's in Healthcare Business Administration and Advanced Practice Nursing.



**Beth Crews, Executive Vice President, Corporate Counsel and Assistant Secretary** –

Beth joined GEO at its corporate office in 2021 as Executive Vice President, Corporate Counsel and Assistant Secretary. She has had over 25 years of experience directing transactional matters and providing tax analysis for corporations, partnerships, and LLCs. Her emphasis has been in business law, mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, corporate governance, corporate tax planning and structuring, employment law, regulatory compliance, and litigation management. Beth has also been actively involved with charitable organizations and has sat on the Board of Directors of the Executive Women of the Palm Beaches, Junior League of the Palm Beaches, American Cancer Society for Palm Beach County, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Danna Coapland, Vice President of Finance, BI**

– Danna joined GEO in 2002 as an accounting clerk while finishing her bachelor's degree in Finance. By 2004, she had relocated to Texas, where she served as business manager at several facilities over the next five years, winning Business Manager of the Year for the Central Region, two years into her Texas stint. In 2008, she joined the Central Region Office and was promoted to Director of Business Management in 2011. In 2020, Danna transitioned to BI as Vice President of Finance. Danna strives to be a servant leader in all aspects of her life and is very passionate about helping others. She has spent all her career heavily involved in many charitable organizations. Over the years, she has been a key member of several different teams of individuals dedicated to annual charity golf events, raising millions of dollars for The Lone Survivor Foundation and the Special Olympics of Texas.

**Dr. Latoya Lane, Vice President, Community Solutions** –

Dr. Latoya Lane is GEO's Vice President of Community Solutions. Dr. Lane has served in the industry of corrections for over 20 years. She began her career as a correctional officer for juveniles in Illinois. Dr. Lane advanced her career within correctional systems in Florida, Indiana, and Washington D.C. She is the author of "Seasons Inside the Walls: A Survival Guide," a daily self-help guide for inmates on how to navigate life while living within the correctional system. In 2021, Dr. Lane was recognized by the American Correctional Association's "Corrections Today" for her work in writing two children's books on family reunification.

**Trina Maso de Moya, Vice President of Fidelity, Quality, and Security Operations, GEO Reentry** –

Trina has been with GEO for 15 years starting as the compliance administrator at the Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility in 2008. She joined the Corporate Contract Compliance Department in 2013 serving as the Director of Project Management (PM), prior to her promotion to Senior Director. VP Maso de Moya joined the GEO Care team in her current role in June 2022. She is also highly active in the community and is heavily involved with Kids In Distress, Inc., an organization in Broward County dedicated to preventing child abuse, preserving families, and treating children who have been abused and neglected.

**Monica Hook, Vice President, GEO Care Communications** – Monica Hook is the Vice President of Communications and responsible for Strategic Marketing, Public Relations, and Market Research supporting all GEO Care divisions. Monica is a member of the Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC) and the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA). She also served on the Boulder County Treatment Court advisory board during her 17-year tenure at BI Incorporated, prior to joining GEO Care in 2011. Monica was recognized by Women We Admire as one of the Top 50 Women Leaders of Miami in 2022 and is in her 29th year with the company.

**Suzanne Pelletier, Vice President of Human Resources, BI** – Suzanne Pelletier, Vice President of Human Resources for BI, has been a regular volunteer for Habitat Humanity for more than a decade. She has participated in home builds all over the world, helping the organization build housing for populations in developing areas such as Accra, Ghana; Lusaka, Zambia; and Thanatpin, Myanmar. Locally, Suzanne has a passion for community corrections and serves as a volunteer victim-witness advocate and is a champion for mental health awareness. At BI, Suzanne is celebrated as the go-to Human Resource contact and is credited with being part of the hiring process for several individuals at GEO who have been promoted to high level positions.

**Johanny Handel, Vice President, Compensation and Benefits, Human Resources** – Ms. Handel joined GEO at its corporate office in 2018 as Director, Field Human Resources. She was promoted to Vice President, Compensation and Benefits in 2022. Prior to joining GEO, Ms. Handel was employed with the Federal Bureau of Prisons from 1990 to 2018 where she served in various positions of progressive responsibility.

**Cheryl Nelson, Director of Operations, Western Region** – Cheryl joined GEO in 1997 at the Taft Correctional Institution. While at Taft, she received multiple awards, including Supervisor of the Year, Woman of the Year, and Women in Leadership. After serving nearly 10 years at Taft and

a 5-month stint as the Acting Facility Administrator, Cheryl transitioned to the Western Region Office as Director of Contract Compliance. In 2012, she returned to operations and became the Director of Operations for the Western Region Office, becoming the first female in company history to hold the position. Today, Cheryl continues to serve as Director of Operations, overseeing 13 facilities across Arizona, New Mexico, California, Colorado and Washington. She is proud to have helped pave the way for women who want to serve in correctional leadership.

**Loretta Sink, Facility Administrator, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility** – Lori Sink has 30 years of experience in corrections and currently serves as the Facility Administrator at the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. She began her career in corrections as a Correctional Officer with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC). During her 26 years with FDC, she rose through the security ranks, then to leadership roles as the Chief of Security, Assistant Warden and Warden. Mrs. Sink was the first female Chief of Security of Florida State Prison. After retiring from FDC, Mrs. Sink joined GEO in 2019, as a Colonel at South Bay. She was subsequently promoted to Assistant Facility Administrator at South Bay, then Facility Administrator at Moore Haven, returning to South Bay as the Facility Administrator in 2022. Mrs. Sink is also involved with several local charities and is most proud of her involvement as a coach for the Special Olympics of Florida.

**Angela Phams, Facility Administrator, Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility** – Facility Administrator Phams has over 22 years of experience in corrections. She began her career as a Correctional Officer with the Mississippi Department of Corrections after serving several years in the U.S. Army Reserve. She joined The GEO Group in 2008 working as a Military Training Instructor at the Walnut Grove Youth Correctional Facility and held numerous positions while at the facility. Between 2012 and 2019, she was part of the leadership teams at both Riverbend and Rivers Correctional Facilities. In 2019 she was promoted to Facility Administrator at Heritage trail Correctional



Facility before returning to Riverbend in 2021 as Facility Administrator. Ms. Phams believes that each day in corrections will be different and challenging. She also recognizes and appreciates that she, along with so many other amazing women, get to work in an environment where they are able to see first-hand how dedicated Correctional Professionals are positively impacting the lives of incarcerated individuals.

**Micha Neal, Facility Administrator, Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

– Mrs. Neal started her career in Juvenile Corrections in 2004 in Pensacola, Florida at a residential program as Juvenile Justice Counselor. In 2005, she became a Reentry Counselor and continued her career in Daytona Beach, Florida. In 2006, she moved to Georgia where she worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer until 2007. In 2007, she was then hired by the Florida Department of Corrections at Century CI as a Classification Officer. From there, she moved through the ranks of Senior Classification Officer, Classification Supervisor, and Assistant Warden at several different facilities, before coming to GEO in 2021 as the Assistant Facility Administrator at Blackwater River Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. In May 2022, she was promoted to Facility Administrator at Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. Mrs. Neal has been an active volunteer with Florida Special Olympics since 2008.

**Cynthia Lawson-Swain, Facility Administrator, Broward Transitional Center**

– Cynthia Lawson-Swain joined GEO in December 2020 as the Facility Administrator at Broward Transitional Center in Pompano Beach, FL. Cynthia worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and the U.S. Department of Justice for more than 27 years. During her tenure with the BOP, she started as an Accountant Trainee and worked her way up to Warden which included Federal Correctional Complex, Victorville Texas, and Federal Correctional Complex, Coleman, FL. Cynthia, retired from the BOP as a Senior Executive Warden rank in 2020. Cynthia is a member of the Association of Women Executives in Corrections, Rotary Club, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Order of Eastern Star.

**Rose Thompson, Facility Administrator, Karnes County Immigration Processing Center**

– Facility Administrator Thompson has been with GEO for over 25 years, having spent the last 11 as Facility Administrator for the Karnes County Immigration Processing Center. Her management of this well-known facility has garnered national attention, with the facility being visited by multiple U.S. Legislators and Judges. Amid shifting missions from the government, she has maintained flexibility and nimbleness in managing the Facility and catering to diverse populations. She is a member of the Association of Women Executives in Corrections. In 2014, Mrs. Thompson was named GEO's Facility Administrator of the Year.

**Minga Wofford, Facility Administrator, Golden State Annex**

– Facility Administrator Wofford started with GEO in 1998 as a Case Manager at Taft Correctional Institution, and she quickly climbed the ranks, having been a part of the leadership teams at both Desert View and Golden State. In 2016, she was selected as Facility Administrator for the McFarland FCRF and in 2020, she transitioned to the Adelanto ICE Processing Center as an Assistant Facility Administrator before being assigned to Golden State in 2021 as Facility Administrator. During her time at McFarland, the facility partnered with a GEO-sponsored research team based out of UCLA and contributed to the development of standardized protocols for working with females in prison, which resulted in an invitation to present the research study at three nationally recognized conferences between 2017-2018.

At GEO, we are committed to advancing women and continue to support women inside and outside of our organization. We know that diversity in our workforce and the inclusion of a variety of views, perspectives, and backgrounds are integral parts of our company's success. We are thankful for the women leaders across our company who make a difference in our company and in the community.

**Please join us in recognizing the following women leaders from across our organization:**

- Angela Geisinger, Sr. Director of Programs, Continuum of Care
- Annette Cooper, Director, Proposal Development, GEO Care Partnership Development
- Aja O'Connor, Director, GEO Care Communications
- Rachel Kienzler Black, Director, GEO Care Partnership Development (Central Region)
- Jessica Mazlum, Director, GEO Care Partnership Development (Western Region)
- Cheryl Szekely, Director, Food Services, GEO Reentry
- Rita Young, Director, Start-Up & Execution, Project Development
- Joanna Akkus, Director, Legal Services
- TaCara Chambers, Director, Contract Administration
- Ellen Williams, Director, Field Human Resources
- Louise Williams, Director, Benefits, Human Resources
- Karen Broadwater, Director, Regional Human Resources (Western Region)
- Sumi Erno, Director, Health Services (Western Region)
- Tiffany Carney, Director, Contract Compliance (Western Region)
- Nicole Moody, Director, Regional Human Resources (Eastern Region)
- Avery Burkowski, Director of Utilization Management, Health Services
- Bertha Villanueva, Director Health Services (Central Region)
- Barbara Cadogan, Director, Health Services (Eastern Region)
- Rebecca Welchert-Church, Director, Contract Compliance (Non-Residential)
- Melissa Hesse, Director, Contract Administration
- Elizabeth Freeman, Director, Fidelity and Program Performance, Community Solutions
- Tamara Coon, Director, Community Solutions Training
- Julie Vardiman, Director, Products, BI
- Janet Marshal, Director, Monitoring Operations, BI
- Patty Dobbins, Director, Monitoring Operations, BI
- Christina Dilan, Director, Tax
- Christa Siciliano, Director, Tax
- Yannty Avina, Director, Tax
- Amy Alamary, Director, Accounting and General Ledger
- Karolina Molano, Director, Corporate Controller
- Nicole Mannarino, Director, Financial Reporting Controller
- Sandra Puleio, Director, Accounts Payable
- Jamie Plevy, Director, Finance, GEO Care
- Lisa Marsella, Director, Finance, GEO Care
- Nicole Bayhan, Director, Finance, BI
- Amanda Lightfoote, Director, Program Outcomes & Fidelity, Non-Residential Reentry
- Gloria Wenk, Director, Claims Management, Risk



# Go Red for Women Luncheon

Written By **Audra Birt, Corporate Relations**

This April, The GEO Group Foundation sponsored the American Heart Association's Palm Beach County Go Red for Women Luncheon. Their mission is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. They provide public health education in a variety of ways and are the nation's leader in CPR education training. This year, at their annual Go Red Event, ten women from GEO's corporate office attended the luncheon to support a good cause.



# Lauren's Kids Foundation Golf Event

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

In April 2023, several GEO Corporate Employees played in the Lauren's Kids Celebrity Golf Classic at the Club at Weston Hills, Florida. The GEO Group Foundation is an annual supporter of the golf classic and this year was the sponsor for the 10th Hole. Lauren's Kids educates adults and children about sexual abuse prevention through in-school curriculum, resources for families, EMMY and ADDY Award-winning awareness campaigns, and speaking engagements around the country and the world. The foundation's Safer, Smarter Schools K-12 curriculum program is currently used in classrooms in 40 states to teach children about personal safety. The GEO Team had a great time golfing for this wonderful cause and even got to meet famous Miami Heat Center, Alonzo Mourning.



# The GEO Group Named **Employer of the Year** by Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership

As Published in **Gant News (Pennsylvania)**



At its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual dinner in April 2023, the Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership presented its Employer of the Year award to The GEO Group.

The GEO Group owns and operates the Moshannon Valley ICE Processing Center located in Decatur Township.

"We are pleased to recognize The GEO Group as our Employer of the Year," said Karen Blair, first Vice President of the MVEDP Board of Directors.

"This company has made a tremendous impact on our area economy, with taxes paid, living wage jobs and the millions spent each year with other businesses in the area," she said.

Approximately 80 people attended the annual dinner meeting on April 27. The event was held at The View.

Businesses from throughout Centre and Clearfield counties were represented as well as county commissioners from both counties.

Sponsors of the event included CNB Bank, Fulton Bank, Juniata Valley Bank and Mid Penn Bank.

"The Partnership is now 35 years old and we have held 33 annual dinner events," said Stan LaFuria, Executive Director of the MVEDP.

"We did not hold our dinners during the first two years of the COVID-19 epidemic."

Also at the dinner, the Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation (PRC) honored the MVEDP for the 35 years that the MVEDP has been providing economic development, community development and chamber of commerce services to the region.



Performance, Drucker Diagnostics, an expanded Windy Hill Village and numerous other small businesses that have very much changed our economy for the better," he said.

"We can't say enough about the significance of The GEO Group to our region," said LaFuria.

"Their current employment is over 335, they are the largest taxpayer in the Philipsburg-Osceola School District, and they spent \$32.9 million in 2022 on employee salaries, taxes, and with other area businesses.

"We are pleased and proud to have The GEO Group here in our area. There were so many people that worked diligently to keep the original Cornell Companies project on track here over the seven-year period between the 1999 groundbreaking ceremony and its opening in May 2006."

"All the local elected officials, citizens of the area that supported the project, and the MVEDP's Board of Directors that wanted this project in this area should be recognized, he said.

Eric Rusnak, President of the PRC Board of Directors, provided an update on the work of the PRC and assisted in presenting the award to the MVEDP.

"It is great for the MVEDP to be recognized for our work over the past 35 years," said LaFuria. During his acceptance remarks, LaFuria commented about the distressed and depressed economy that existed here in the 1980's and 90's.

"For years at that time, any positive press release that we would submit to the media would eventually still lead to statements about the depressed economy here."

"And now, 35 years later, we have the GEO/ Moshannon Valley Processing Center, Walmart Distribution Center, Houtzdale SCI, CenClear, the CIU 10, Diamondback Truck Covers, Lee Industries, Advanced Powder Products, PMG Pennsylvania Corp., Organic Climbing, REICHdrill, UMI



# South Bay Hosts Second Chance/Fair Chance Employer Partnership Luncheon

Written By **Dr. Kenneth C. Garner, National Director of Vocational Programs** and **Dr. Cheralee Morgan, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**



On March 10, 2023, The GEO Continuum of Care® kicked off its 2023 recognition of National Second Chance month early by bringing together thirty-two employment partners and local government officials for a luncheon at the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. The event was our way of informing those companies and community-based employment providers of our appreciation for looking past the stigmas and barriers of incarceration to assist our participants in restoring their lives through meaningful employment opportunities.

In attendance were City of South Bay Mayor, Joe Kyles, and Vice Mayor, Margaret Bernard, and representatives from Coca-Cola, Amazon, ReEntry One, South University, Florida Crystals, and Career Source.

The guests were able to view the Career Technical Education (CTE) participant's class projects, which were on display throughout the South

Bay CRF Second Chance Center. Participants were allowed to discuss their projects with the guests as they visited each section and explain the detailed craftsmanship required to complete each project. Participants from the CTE programs in environmental services, welding, carpentry, culinary arts, CDL, artistic expression, and horticulture provided professional presentations regarding their training and received high praise from our guests. Individuals that had never visited the facility or any prison were impressed with the positive environment at the facility and the participants' passion to become productive citizens of the State upon release.

Senior Director of Programs, Angela Geisinger provided the welcome and introduction of GEO National Director of Vocational Programs, Dr. Kenneth C. Garner, who hosted the event. Dr. Garner provided a PowerPoint presentation on Second Chance/Fair Chance opportunities and the benefits to employers that hire who we see as

underutilized talent in the workforce. The event was then turned over to entrepreneur, founder of Reentry One of South Florida, and GEO alumnus Giovanni Sierras, to facilitate an open panel discussion with eight Continuum of Care participants and the employer audience.



For lunch, the Culinary Arts program, under the instruction of Dr. Ives, impressed the group with an incredible Jamaican inspired main dish, salad, and a variety of desserts. Dr. Morgan, Programs Director at South Bay, and her staff and participants did a spectacular job with setup and decorations in

the venue. Facility Administrator Sink, along with the administrative staff and operations personnel, assisted the guests through the various security measures for entry and thanked each of them for attending. The guests left South Bay with a greater understanding of how their partnerships have impacted our participants and their families. The event closed with a heartfelt message from

the City of South Bay Mayor, Joe Kyles, who challenged our participants to continue working towards becoming the best versions of themselves and extended an open invitation for them to apply for any position within the city they were qualified for.

The Second Chance luncheon was a resounding success and business leaders from the companies in attendance are eagerly anticipating hiring the next batch of released students from South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility.



# Moshannon Valley Processing Center Receives American Correctional Association Three-year Accreditation Award

Written By **Edward Kuhstos, Moshannon Valley Processing Center**



During the American Correctional Association's (ACA) 2023 Winter Conference in Orlando, FL, the Moshannon Valley Processing Center (MVPC) was accredited by the ACA Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. This accreditation represents the satisfactory completion of a rigorous self-evaluation, followed by an outside review by a team of experienced, independent auditors.

Thomas Stickrath, Chairperson of the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections, and David Haasenritter, Director of Standards and Accreditation jointly announced the accreditation of the Moshannon Valley Processing Center. Both complimented MVPC on their professional level of operation and their success in completing the accreditation process. MVPC is one of over 1,500 correctional organizations currently involved in accreditation across the nation.

The three-year accreditation award granted to MVPC does not signal the end of their involvement in the accreditation process. During the audit period, staff will work to improve any deficiencies identified during the audit and maintain continuance compliance with the standards. The final tally showed MVPC met 100% of mandatory standards and 100% of the non-mandatory standards.

The Moshannon Valley Processing Center is now a member of the elite in achieving correctional excellence. The certificate received is but a small symbol of the enormous dedication and commitment demonstrated by each and every member of the MVPC staff to the accreditation process. Achieving American Correctional Association accreditation means MVPC has demonstrated their dedication to getting the job done right, which holds the facility to a higher standard. Congratulations to the Moshannon Valley Processing Center team on their continuous dedication in ensuring continuous compliance.



## 100% ACA Re-Accreditation Score for Montgomery Processing Center!

Written By **Randy Tate, Montgomery Processing Center**

The Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) received a favorable outcome on its February 2023 American Correctional Association (ACA) Re-Accreditation Audit. ACA accreditation is a contractual requirement and maintaining accreditation is a must. MPC scored a 100% on the mandatory standards and a 100% on the non-mandatory standards. This is quite an accomplishment as there are over 350 standards which were reviewed and found to be compliant. This is no easy task to say the least and could not have happened without the hard working staff at MPC.

The audit team was very complimentary of the quality of the electronic files, the attitudes of the staff and detainees, the appearance and cleanliness of the facility, as well as the quality of care for the detainees. The ACA audit team recognized the importance of every staff member and how this could not have happened without the efforts of everyone, especially the line staff. We are very proud of the MPC staff and the way they stand up when it is really needed.

We want to give thanks to those who prepared the electronic files and other related ACA preparation; to those who helped with cleaning, painting, pressure washing and verifying inventories; to the shift supervisors who were assigned specific sections of the facility to ensure readiness; to the janitorial staff who worked tirelessly to polish many areas of the facility; to the medical staff who made such a positive impression on the ACA auditors in providing high quality care to the detainees; and to Assistant Facility Administrator, Brigett Bowers, and Major, Charles Siringi, for monitoring the progress and ensuring we stayed on task for a successful audit.

## Lawrenceville Correctional Center Celebrates Staff Appreciation Day 2023



Written By **Timothy Puryear, Lawrenceville Correctional Center**

In March 2023, the visitation room of Lawrenceville Correctional Center (LVCC) was bursting with laughs and wholesome fun, as LVCC's Administrative Team made sure that all employees knew how much they were appreciated. As a small gesture of appreciation, members of the administrative team treated staff to a pizza party and appreciation snack bags. The employees were very excited and verbalized their appreciation throughout daily interactions.

## Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Veterans Post 198 Donates to American Legion

Written By **Donnie Emerson, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

Recently, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) Legion Post 198 provided a \$650 check to the Indiana American Legion. The contribution was made possible by a local fundraiser approved by the facility and planned by the inmates of HTCF Post 198. The post has been in place at HTCF since 2014 and is always looking for opportunities to give back to organizations. This donation will send a young boy and girl to American Legion National Camp this summer.



## Blackwater River Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Service Dogs Program

Written By **Patricia Dawson, Blackwater River Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**



The Blackwater River Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility is happy to announce the graduation of five new service dogs from our Service Dog Program. Here at Blackwater we partner 8-week-old puppies with inmates who learn through classwork and on-the-job training how to properly train a high-quality service dog. The Service Dogs provide a new sense of freedom and lifesaving companionship for Veterans/First Responders with disabilities. Inmate Canine Handlers train the puppies in the areas of Behavioral, Obedience, Body Handling, and Service Dog Task Training. They train the puppies Monday through Friday, then the puppies go on weekend furloughs with dedicated volunteer Weekend Puppy Raisers. Weekend Puppy Raisers socialize the future service dogs in public settings, reinforce obedience commands, and teach house manners. The Service Dog Program is a great asset to our facility, and we are very proud to be celebrating this achievement!



## Florence West Wild Horse Inmate Program

Written By **Ron Credio, Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

The Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, Arizona Correctional Industries, and Bureau of Land Management are working together to provide inmates with hands-on-training in the equestrian field.

Under the guidance of experienced animal trainers, wild horses obtained from Bureau of Land Management are domesticated for adoption purposes. This program is known as the Wild Horse Inmate Program.

Horses and burros are fed, cared for and trained by inmates at the Florence Bureau of Land Management holding facility in the town of Florence, Arizona.

### Program Highlights

- Learn about the care and treatment of animals, while building self-confidence.
- Learn the value of patience, warmth, and respect for all living things.
- Gain employable skills they can use upon release.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Easter Basket Drive at Broward Transitional Center

Written By **Keionda Edwards, Broward Transitional Center**

Broward Transitional Center (BTC) held its second Annual Easter Basket Drive for Tedder Elementary School. BTC staff came together and provided Easter baskets for over 200 students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Staff members donated candy, stuffed animals, and toys. With the assistance of BTC's Business Manager, Alexandra Duarte, the business office supplied the Easter bags and several different toys included in each basket. A special thanks to the staff who helped make this dream a reality, Sammileta Prater, Tasha Gray, Jacqueline Sunkins, and Melita Wilson.

Facility Administrator, Cynthia Lawson-Swain, fully engages with staff to support and partner with the local Elementary school. She can be found in the midst of each project, whether rolling up her sleeves to shred paper or assisting with the transfer of goody bags from facility to school. Teamwork is essential for successful drives, and the BTC staff steps up to the plate each time a new venture begins. This beautifully executed vision showed our staff's dedication to giving back to the community.

# Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Connects with the Community

Written By **Shannon Hilton, Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**



Since GEO took over management of the Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (KCRF) in 2015, a major emphasis has always been placed on demonstrating to the local community that GEO is a good neighbor. To support this objective, staff at KCRF are heavily involved in various community activities.

Partnerships formed over the past eight years have allowed KCRF to assist numerous organizations and citizens. Conversely, the relationships with community organizations have helped the facility to offer better services and programs for the inmate population.

A cornerstone for effective partnerships is an active community relations outreach program. KCRF has a very active, diverse group of community members who regularly provide feedback to the facility. Staff and community members meet in person quarterly.

During quarterly meetings, staff provide updates on facility operations and programs, along with community involvement projects. Community members offer insight on various topics ranging from ideas to recruit staff to resources to enhance reentry programs for inmates. The exchange of information has helped us form numerous collaborative efforts:

- A Mohave County Veterans support group, the Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council (JAVC), provided feedback that they could help KCRF increase inmate participation in vocational training programs. JAVC obtained a grant and partnered with KCRF having inmates

build seven tiny homes for homeless veterans.

- JAVC also has partnered with our Continuum of Care program by providing counseling, housing, and employment resources for veterans.
- The organization Kingman Aid to Abused People (KAAP) regularly provides feedback during Community Relations Meetings about mental health issues. Through this partnership, KCRF established an MOU through which KAAP is included in some of KCRF's emergency response plans.
- The local college, Mohave Community College (MCC), suggested KCRF offer programs for inmates to obtain college credits and vocational certificates. KCRF established a Culinary Arts program, and is currently in discussions to expand MCC program offerings to other vocational specialties. Additionally, MCC established a Correctional Officer Training program that combines classroom and actual work experience at KCRF into a degree program for our staff.
- The organization Arizona at Work has networked with KCRF HR and Continuum of Care (CoC) staff on recruitment and obtaining resources for inmates completing the CoC program. Reentry services from Arizona at Works and CoC include assistance with housing, tools, uniforms, and employment referrals.

# Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center's First Community Luncheon of 2023

As Published by **The Jena Times**



The first Community Luncheon of 2023 hosted by the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center (CLIPC) was held in February at the Strand Theatre.

Several members from CLIPC were in attendance along with various representatives from local government agencies including those from the Jena Police Department, Jena Town Hall and the LaSalle Parish Tax Assessor's Office.

Facility Administrator, Shad Rice, reported that the facility had received favorable reports from the various review processes, audits and inspections. "The staff has really stepped up," he said. "We are like a small city within a city."

Included in the reviews was a site visit from the Field Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who was very impressed with the facility and the operation.

CLIPC is also continuing its involvement in hosting fundraisers with contributions going to the Jena Head Start program, as well as contributions for the Scholarship Banquets for local high schools.

The Community Luncheons are held quarterly with the purpose of building relationships between GEO and the community.

## Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Inmates Have a Kairos Ministry Reunion

Written By **Kayla Evans,**  
**Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**



In April 2023, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility hosted the annual Kairos Reunion. Over 40 Kairos Ministry Volunteers spent four days at the facility ministering to inmates. This is an annual event where the

volunteers counsel inmates and participate in numerous activities. Every inmate received a certificate of completion and gave a testimony of the time they spent with the volunteers. The inmates gave a standing

ovation to the Kairos Volunteers for their time and service. Facility leadership were also in attendance at the ceremony to show appreciation for the volunteers.

# Eagle Pass Detention Facility Participates in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Texas

Written By **Monica Reynaga, Eagle Pass Detention Facility**



The Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) was held in March 2023 in Eagle Pass, Texas. Various law enforcement agencies participated in the run, along with GEO's Eagle Pass Detention Facility (EPDF). The mission of LETR for Special Olympics is to increase awareness and raise funds for the Special Olympics movement. As such, the Torch Run is never just a race, but a unified group effort from start to finish.

The EPDF was not only the top contributor for the Eagle Pass area, but also had the biggest group of participants in the LETR. Our team consisted of 20 employees including members of our CERT team, transport, and administration staff. The EPDF team ran a five-mile route that ended at the Student Activity Center, where all law enforcement agencies took a lap around the track together, as well as a final lap with participants of the Special Olympic games.

Once the opening ceremony and torch run concluded, the games commenced, and the LETR participants were able to volunteer and cheer on the participants as they competed. This is the first time the EPDF participated in the LETR and the team took pride in representing the facility, as well as assisting in the Special Olympic games.

# Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center Helps Keep History Alive

Written By **Christen McCartney, Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center**



The Strand Theatre in Jena, Louisiana, was originally built in 1937. After closing down in the 1970s, the theater sat vacant until 2013, when the long journey of renovation started. In 2021, with the help of several businesses, organizations, and individuals in the town, including the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center (CLIPC), The Strand made its grand reopening. The Strand reopened as a town-owned venue for performances, events, and programs. Fast forward to today, and The Strand is still used for up-and-coming performers, town events, plays, and much more. It is also the location where CLIPC hosts its community

relations luncheons. CLIPC takes pride in its ongoing donations to help with the upkeep of the building, and during the first quarter, it was able to donate \$1,000 through The GEO Foundation in order to help keep history alive.

# Golden State Annex Staff Participate in Read Across America Event at Local Elementary School

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

At the beginning of March 2023, Horizon Elementary Pre-K/Kindergarten students from McFarland, California joined millions of their peers across the country in celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday by holding a special day of reading. In honor of this special day, guests from outside organizations, including Golden State Annex staff, were invited to visit classrooms and read one of Dr. Seuss's books to students. Afterwards, a reception took place in the school cafeteria where guests exchanged their experiences of reading to the students while snacking on delicious treats provided by the school.



The following staff read books to students: *V. Trujillo, L. Martinez, The Cat In The Hat, I. Rios, and D. Meyer.*

# Lawrenceville Correctional Center participates in Read Across America



Written By **Yaminah Bugg, Lawrenceville Correctional Center**

The Lawrenceville Correctional Center participated in Read Across America Day for Dr. Seuss's birthday at Totaro Elementary School. Several staff members read to the students and encouraged them to keep up the good work and learn as much as they can. Staff were grateful to be a part of this wonderful event!

# GTI Taking Flight

Written By **Ashley Neill, GEO Transport, Inc.**



No spring break for these hard-working, newly trained Air Operations Officers! Throughout the week of March 13–17, 2023 GTI hosted Air Operations Officer training in Folkston, Georgia. Thirty-Five (35) Officers returned to their respective facilities trained and certified in GTI Air Operations. Support from all three regions and the enthusiasm of the officers in attendance exemplified operational excellence at its finest.

Ground support is our primary mode of transportation; however, you might be surprised to learn the magnitude of GTI's Air-Operations.

GTI's Air Transport Unit has successfully completed numerous air transport missions on behalf of federal agencies and several State Departments of Corrections. The Air Transport security staff is highly experienced and are independently certified in the industry's standards.

GTI provides armed and unarmed security and transportation services to federal, state, and local government agencies in the United States and internationally. With the flexibility and resources to provide both ground and air transfer security services, GTI helps government agencies meet their need for secure transportation. GEO Transport has over 500 special secure compliant vehicles and has transported over eight million individuals in the last 10 years.





# Facility Administrator Coday's Rockin' BBQ Bandwagon

Written By **John Murray**, Central Arizona Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

The Central Arizona Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (CACRF) continued their tradition of supporting and giving back to their community by holding an inmate fundraiser in April 2023.

The sun-drenched event, coordinated by Substance Abuse Counselors, Lesa Walker and Darlene Wuertz, provided live entertainment, courtesy of the facility's seven bands and put Facility Administrator, Ed Coday, in charge of the grills for a Saturday BBQ.

Facility Administrator Coday's grill master skills and blistering coals seared 273 hamburgers and 222 hotdogs to perfection for hungry members of CACRF's inmate population. The fundraiser also raised \$2,500 for "Parent Aid Child Abuse Prevention Center" in Tucson, Arizona.

Parent Aid Child Abuse Prevention Center provides in-home family support, family enrichment workshops, and parenting classes throughout Pima County. Holistic and multicultural programs work to strengthen family communication and improve child behavior. The organization provides information on positive parenting, child development, budgeting, home safety, healthy nutrition, coping with stress and community resources.

FA Coday and his team are firm believers in strengthening the communities in which they live and preparing their population for reentry.



# Farewell Facility Administrator Noonan

Written By **Tiffany Hartley, Western Region Detention Facility**



leadership for 20 years, I can honestly say that the familial culture here at WRDF was developed under his tenure and continued to flourish over the years. His open-door policy and easy-going, yet determined persona fostered a workforce dedicated to matching his strong work ethic. His emphasis on teamwork really struck the nerves of us all and he made us constantly aware that as long as we worked together, he would always have our backs. As I said my teary goodbye to Mr. Noonan, I thanked him for his continued support throughout the years and assured him that whoever was going to replace him had very large shoes to fill. He blushed at this and told me that he has been fortunate to have had such great staff, which made his job easier. This is just a small example of how humble he was. He always reflected positive accolades towards him back to us.

Mr. Noonan, the 2019 'Facility Administrator of the Year,' leaves quite a legacy here at WRDF. We must now persevere, albeit without the leader of our pack, but we will continue to excel. The pathway to success was carved long ago; it is now up to us old-timers to keep everyone on it. Join us in wishing him a relaxing and enriching retirement. He will be missed!

March 2023 marked the 20-year anniversary of Facility Administrator (FA) Eric Noonan's tenure at the Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF), but he actually dedicated 25 years of loyal service to The GEO Group. Sadly, that day also marked the end of an era at WRDF. The entire facility celebrated FA Noonan in a huge way with VIP visitors in attendance; including the U.S. Marshal of the Southern District of California, Steven Stafford, who came to pay his respects and offer his well-wishes for a happy retirement.

Mr. Noonan was an exemplary leader and role model to all staff. Having worked under his



# South Bay Slides and Slam Dunks into Second Chance Month for the Win

Written By **Dr. Kenneth C. Garner, National Director of Vocational Programs**

On a hot spring day in April, the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (South Bay CRF) Sugar Canes made their way to the court and diamond and left more than just points on the score board. The South Bay Sugar Canes is a team of justice impacted individuals at South Bay CRF. They serve as peer mentors and work with facility leadership and alumni services to host positive and engaging activities for the staff and their peers. The team believes they can utilize sports to inspire and motivate others to become agents of change.

The South Bay Sugar Canes hosted two events in April in honor of Second Chance Month. First, the Sugar Canes basketball team took on Saints Prison Ministry, and then, the Sugar Canes Softball team rounded the bases against the Jack Brewer Foundation's American Heroes Team. Although there was a score board at each event; for this group the real win comes from helping others, and that is exactly what they do.

The chanting of "Let's go Sugar Canes! Let's Go" could be heard by hundreds of attendees. Their mission never stops ringing; calling out to each of us to make a difference. Sugar Cane First Baseman, Jason Carter, explains the mission, "It's not about winning or losing. It's about fellowship, learning and growing together. We want to bring everyone together as a community. As a peer mentor, we know the importance of giving back to our community. We start by giving back here at South Bay and will continue to do so on a global level upon release."

Vincent Johnson, Captain of the Sugar Canes Basketball team, is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the South Bay community. Johnson consistently was heard cheering on his Sugar Canes with this magical message, "Give it your all, do it with love." We can all agree that Mr. Carter, Mr. Johnson, and all of the South Bay Sugar Canes have given us all a sneak peek into their second chance success play book. LET'S GO SUGAR CANES, LETS GO!



# Celebrating Black History Month

Written By **Donna Jacobs, Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

One step into the Moore Haven's program hallway and it was clear that Black History Month was more than just a quiet, passing moment. It was a celebration of American history. Educational and informational material illuminating the accomplishments of African-Americans were framed by majestic colors and black wooden frames throughout the hall. A banner heralding the cause and the power of African-Americans, seemingly hung from the heavens, dancing in the air.

On any given day, each classroom highlighted a distinguished African-American whose decision to better their way of living, learning, and expression led to the advancement of their culture, ethnicity, and the American people as a whole. The students were encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings about the various people and topics covered. Each classroom participated in making posters detailing who they believed were the most impressive figures throughout Black History. The residents truly enjoyed celebrating the success stories and acknowledged that what they learned helped them to be more aware of the importance of diversity and inclusion. Mr. Thurman, Moore Haven's Academic Counselor, spearheaded pairing the month with Florida's Educational Frameworks, fostering a blend of learning which embodied the belief that we are, at the end of the day, one race with beautiful complexions.

The celebration of Black History Month was brought to a climatic conclusion by the facility's peer mentors, led by Michael Black, who organized a fun, creative, enlightening, and exciting program. The house band opened the program with a spirited rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which was written by the Johnson brothers of Jacksonville, Florida. The winners of the spoken-word, speeches, and art contests were a huge staple of the program with men choosing to step into the footsteps of the great African-American orators and artists that went before them. Mr.

James Mond delivered Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech enthralling the crowd with his personification of the spirit of freedom. Mr. Mond's speech was particularly special because less than a year ago he came to Mr. Thurman asking to be put in school so he could learn to read his Bible. A year later, that same man not only read, but memorized one of the greatest speeches in history. And when the show seemed like it could not get any better, "The Steppas," Moore Haven's step-team, caused the audience to get on their feet with choreography that told a story of the chains of the past being broken by hopes of the future.

The summation of Black History Month was captured in the final song, "We are the World," led by the Moore Haven Band. The song spoke of making a choice to allow individual responsibility to create a better life for all. As the music stopped, the voices of staff and residents continued with "We are the ones to make it brighter so let's start giving." It was clear that the message of unity and equality is still alive and well at Moore Haven.

## Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Sends Its Condolences

Written By **Kayla Evans, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

In April 2023, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Staff donated \$300 dollars and sent a card offering our condolences to the family of Mike Keel. Mr. Keel was a maintenance foreman at Indiana State Prison who passed away in April of 2023.

Mike was a 29-year employee of the Indiana Department of Correction who was known for his workmanship. He frequently worked on special projects and built the bell that sits at the Fallen Staff Memorial. This September, staff will ring a bell for Mike in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

# Restorative Justice at Lea County Correctional Facility

Written By **George Stephenson, Lea County Correctional Facility**

Restorative Justice is a system which focuses on the rehabilitation of inmates through reconciliation with the community at large. The objectives of Restorative Justice are to attend to victim and offender rehabilitation. Some of the assumptions of Restorative Justice are that crime originates in social conditions and relationships in the community. Crime prevention also depends on the community taking responsibility for remedying conditions that cause crime.

John Wildes, epitomizes the definition of Restorative Justice in corrections. Wildes was a former inmate at the Lea County Correctional Facility (LCCF). When Wildes was incarcerated at LCCF he redeemed himself by playing an integral role in building numerous homes from start to finish for Habitat for Humanity. This is a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and people everywhere, to develop communities with people in need by building simple, decent homes where people can live and grow. The homes were built on site by Wildes and other inmates, assembled in sections, frame by frame and transported to the location to be reassembled and attached for the new residents. Wildes, also tutored, mentored, and coached other inmates in the trade of building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Since Wildes embarked on this mission to change his life and give back to the community, there have been several articles written by the community thanking Wildes for his hard work, commitment, and dedication. In 2023, the residents, along with Habitat for Humanity, reciprocated their love by initiating a writing campaign to the Parole Board asking them to release Wildes back to the community. The letters stated that Wildes would be welcomed back with open arms and would live amongst the residents of Lea County. In addition, to the letters of support from the community, Wildes continued to better his self by working as a electrician, plumber, and carpenter, all while attending drug treatment classes. Amazingly, he was granted parole and released into the community.

A recent article written by the Hobbs News-Sun, cited people can change if provided the knowledge, skills, and ability to do so. The newspaper used Wildes as a shining example of what inmates can do to repair the damage they caused to the victims and community, as well as themselves. Wildes is now a full-time volunteer worker with Habitat for Humanity in Hobbs, New Mexico.

## New Officers Graduate to Join the Ranks at Ravenhall

Written By **David Fitzwilliam, Ravenhall Correctional Centre**

In March 2023, Ravenhall Correctional Centre's pre-service course graduated with 29 new Correctional Officers. These officers have undertaken an intense eight-week course to provide them with the necessary skills and training to succeed in ensuring the safety and security of the Centre and in adopting its unique rehabilitation and reintegration model. With this graduating class, the Correctional Officer ranks have received a significant boost.



# Australia's New GEO Healthcare Business Awarded Contract in Victoria's Men's Public Prisons



Written By **Lyndell Coutts, GEO Healthcare, GEO Australia**



Earlier this year, Australia's Victorian State Government awarded GEO Healthcare, a subsidiary of The GEO Group Australia, a new contract to provide primary healthcare services in 13 of Victoria's men's public prisons, starting in July of 2023.

GEO's former National Director of Health Services, David Grace, has been appointed as the General Manager of GEO Healthcare and is a key player in the transition of services and staff employed by the current service provider. David will report to the GEO Healthcare Board comprising of GEO's Managing Director, Pieter Bezuidenhout, Director of Governance and Continuous Improvement, Kim Blinkhorn, Commercial Director, Dr. Frank Thorn and newly appointed National Director of Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Dr. Fiona Murphy.

The new business will have a strong clinical governance structure supported by various committees and network groups. These include networks for aboriginal health, population health, nurse practitioners, medical practitioners, health services managers and alcohol and other drugs.

The health services contract reflects new service specifications aligned to the Healthcare Services Quality Framework for Victorian Prisons.

They focus on enhancing health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including the deployment of Aboriginal Health Workers within the workforce; integrating alcohol and other drug services which includes harm reduction programs; and incorporating Hepatitis assessments and treatment. There will also be attention given to engaging those groups that have traditionally not accessed health services. These include young people, older people, people with a disability, LGBTIQ+ people and culturally and linguistically diverse people in prison.

In January, Mr. Grace and Ms. Blinkhorn visited each of the prisons included in the contract to meet with the staff of the current contractor, including the Health Service Managers, Victorian Corrections General Managers, and key Justice Health staff.

Mr. Grace said: "It is exciting to be appointed to lead the team to deliver the new 2023 primary healthcare specifications to the Victorian men's prisons. The new specifications will offer more tailored services to people in prison and ensure that they receive a standard of care consistent with what can be obtained in the community. We will be aiming to provide the very best service possible to people in prison."

"We have already met with many of the staff currently providing services at the sites and look forward to them transitioning to GEO Healthcare. I am confident these staff will make a welcomed and valued contribution to the delivery of primary healthcare services under the new specifications."

GEO is committed to fulfilling the contractual requirements of this new and exciting contract with strong partnerships with the State, and all key stakeholders both in the community and internal to Justice Health.

# Handling Business at Springfield Juvenile Day Reporting Center

Written By **Jabari Baxter, Springfield Juvenile Day Reporting Center**



The Springfield Juvenile Day Reporting Center has been making progress changing the lives of the participants one step at a time. We recently enrolled the youth into college, teaching them how to dress for success, make a resume, apply for jobs, and get their own place to live. When they first arrived at the center, communication was limited and their interaction was poor. There were days when we would not hear from them for a week. However, with a little bit of patience and perseverance these young men have put their trust in staff to lead them into a healthier and better future, and we cannot be any more proud of them.

## Taylor Steet Center American Correctional Association (ACA) Re-Accreditation

Written By **Maria Richard, Taylor Street Center**

Taylor Steet Center had its re-accreditation site audit in April 2023. Taylor Street Center has been accredited in 2020, 2017, 2014, 2011, 2008 and 2005 under Director Richard, with scores of 100 percent each time. We eagerly await the panel hearings in August in Philadelphia for this re-accreditation. ACA standards keep us up to date and in compliance with GEO policies and the customer's Statement of Work. Hats off to all the staff who made it a success this year!



*Pictured: Robin Bell and Ken Valentine; auditors, Karen Kinajara, William Gomez, Director Maria Richard, Leroy Mayo, Uganda Knapps, Stephen Asamoah, and Kelvin Amorighoy*



## Easter Extravaganza!

Written By **Rena Roman and Anitha Joseph Joybhavan, GEO STOP Area 2**

Easter Extravaganza is the second annual Got Kids event that The GEO Group has sponsored. The event was organized by one of our talented Community Service Representatives, Rena Roman, and was attended by 300 families and kids at the Berryessa Community Center.

This year, The GEO Group was chosen to bring the games and prizes. Games and activities featured a live bunny, arts and crafts, winning prizes, and an Easter egg hunt, with the kids racing to find over 1,000 Easter eggs. This truly was a fun event and has been a yearly highlight to our Easter weekend.

# Orange County DRC Participants Express Their Creativity

Written By **Syerra Avalos, Orange County Day Reporting Center**



The Orange County Day Reporting Center (DRC) has partnered with the Muckenthaler Cultural Center over the years on the “Reentry Through the Arts” program, which was designed for adults who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. The partnership started in 2019. After being put on hold during the pandemic, Reentry Through the Arts returned this year, making it possible for new participants to enjoy. The Orange County DRC has been an interactive, safe environment, and a fun place where participants can explore their creative skills.

The Reentry Through the Arts Program has helped DRC participants evolve their skills in art as well as encourage their participation and confidence. The art program consisted of two hour in-person classes held twice a week for five weeks,

with an art exhibit on the sixth week. Overall, six participants attended the program regularly.

At the end of the six-week art program, the DRC put together an art gallery where participants showcased their hard work. Each drawing was unique and fit each participant's creative side. It was remarkable to be a part of the gallery and see the growth of the participants. One of the participants stated, “I wanted to quit the first day. Seeing how I stayed here and finished every week I realized this is something I like to do. I didn't know I could draw!”

It was wonderful to witness the gratitude and emotion in the art gallery. Staff from other GEO Reentry offices attended to support our participants and acknowledge their hard work. Participants were enthusiastic to have their award and picture taken to show their families.

They happily expressed how proud their families would be of them and how proud they were of themselves for earning their certificate of completion.

The art instructor was very knowledgeable and showed great enthusiasm, and gratitude towards the participants. He always came in with the best attitude, and was willing to help whenever a participant needed it. He engaged with participants and reminded them that art is not perfect. Since the class has been over, more and more participants have been asking when the next art class will start. Reentry Through the Arts has helped our participants evolve their skills in the arts and we are excited for the next cohort to begin.

At the Orange County DRC, we empathize with the struggles that participants may come across, and we want to make the program something they can remember and take with them on their journey. As staff, we are excited to see what our participants learn over time and we love to see the positive changes.







## Celebrating National Women’s Month at Delaney Hall

Written By **Kristin M. SanFilippo, Delaney Hall**

March is National Women’s History Month; a time to commemorate the vital role of women in American history. Back in 1921, March 8 was proposed as International Women’s Day in honor of a worker’s strike that occurred in Petrograd in 1917. In 1987, the United States Congress declared the month of March as National Women’s History Month. A presidential proclamation has been issued every year since to honor the achievements of American women. Delaney Hall Recreation Specialist, Lamar Dutton, assisted by Unit Manager, Yvette Giammona, made it their mission to ensure that the female residents of Delaney Hall were acknowledged and celebrated throughout the month. Mr. Dutton expressed that the following quotation resonated with him and that his hope was to instill this mindset into the female residents with their celebrations and activities; “I fall, I rise, I make mistakes, I learn. I get hurt, I bounce back. I’m not perfect, I’m human. I have confidence; I have faith. I will continue putting one foot in front of the other and moving forward. That’s what strong women do.”

Delaney Hall began celebrating its female residents early. In February 2023, the women were encouraged to “show their feet some love on Valentine’s Day.” Unit Manager, Yvette Giammona, provided each woman with an organza bag filled with nail files, toe separators, and pumice

stones. The women used these beauty supplies to rejuvenate their feet and then selected two nail polish colors of their choice to wrap up the spa day with pedicures. During the month of March, Recreation Specialist, Lamar Dutton, partnered with Alumni Coordinator, Arthur Townes, to bring a series of female guest speakers into the facility. The speakers shared with the women their stories of reentry and recovery in hopes of inspiring them to become the absolute best versions of themselves.

In addition to these seminars, the women participated in a “paint and sip” activity. There, they enjoyed donuts and coffee while painting portraits of powerful females in honor of National Women’s History Month. These portraits were vivid expressions of the meaning of ‘femininity’ and ‘womanhood’ to our residents and were displayed proudly around the unit. Finally, the female residents came together to create and enjoy their own banana splits. Overall, the month of March at Delaney Hall would best be described as one of celebration, unity and the honoring of the women who walk through these halls. Unit Manager, Yvette Giammona, expressed her hope that their participation in these activities will serve as a “refreshing restart for the ladies, as they take their time in the program to evaluate their thinking, choices, and actions and make positive changes for a better future.”

## National Recognition: 2022 NAADAC Emerging Leader of the Year Award

Written By **Kirsty Thornton, Coeur d' Alene  
Connection and Intervention Station**

Contessa Reasor has only been with The Coeur d' Alene Connection and Intervention Station since January of 2023. Besides managing a full case load, she sits on numerous boards and attends a variety of community events that support those in recovery. She was recently recognized as the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC) 2022 Emerging Leader of the Year. The Emerging Leader of the Year Award is for individuals or organizations that have demonstrated innovative thinking, a commitment to the advancement of the public's understanding of addiction, exemplary leadership qualities, and a significant impact on the local, state, or national community. The presentation was made during the 2023 Advocacy in Action Conference in D.C. in March.

When asked to share a little information about her passion for helping others, Contessa stated, "This recognition from NAADAC, as an Emerging Leader in Recovery, is an acknowledgement of the recovery work for North Idaho communities in which I have been blessed to be born and raised. It is also validation of the importance of recovery support for individuals and communities impacted by substance use and mental health disorders. Throughout my career, I have been fortunate enough to witness firsthand the transformative power of peer recovery support, community-based recovery programs, and harm reduction initiatives. These efforts have not only saved lives, but have also provided a sense of hope, belonging, and purpose for individuals who may have otherwise felt lost or marginalized. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this critical work, and I look forward to continuing to learn, grow, and collaborate with others in the field. To be and to work in recovery is an incredible honor."



## Taylor Street Center Employee of the Year 2022

Written By **Maria Richard, Taylor Street Center**

Lukman Raji was awarded Employee of the Year at the Taylor Street Center for 2022. He is an outstanding Case Manager and has helped out each weekend at the facility as security. He has been an essential employee here at Taylor Street Center.



## Kudos to Rose Hughes

Written By **Maria Richard, Taylor Street Center**

Rose Hughes, Security Monitor II, received a "Making a Difference" award at the March 2023 Community Advisory Board meeting. Rose has worked for GEO for 19 years and is a Monitor II Security Lead for the day shift. She always keeps management in the loop and helps train her team. She welcomes all the new security members and provides their in-service training. Congratulations Rose!



*Since day one of joining the Shasta Day Reporting Center (DRC) as a Client Service Specialist, Tami Parks has viewed her role as more than just a job. It is a way to fulfill her passion of helping others. "My why has always been helping people, both for our participants and our staff, and watching people grow. Seeing the light bulb moment in their eyes is pretty amazing. Knowing that I may have made the slightest difference in someone's life helps my heart feel warm and fuzzy," she said.*



## It Has Never Been Just a Job

Written By **Danielle Gehrung, Shasta Day Reporting Center**

In March 2023, Tami Parks reached the exciting milestone of celebrating 10 years of dedicated service with GEO Reentry Services and the Shasta Day Reporting Center (DRC). In this time, Tami has directly served more than 1,200 unique individuals.

When Tami was recently asked what has been the most rewarding experience through the years, she responded stating, "interacting with the participants and being of help and support to them. Watching the resistance of the initial starting point change to "OK, it's not so bad" to then see the change of acceptance where they enjoy coming here and then missing us and coming back to say hello years later. Plus, my amazing DRC Family Team!"

Tami continues to be a key reason the Shasta team, participants, and program thrive and show success. She adds significant value and impact in so many ways. Participants consistently voice how essential she is in their journey and success. Even years later, participants and their families are still coming back to the DRC to say hello to Ms. Parks, including a father of a participant served back in 2015, to share that his son was still doing well and how grateful he is for this program. Tami continues to welcome participants with a smile, support, and encouragement. She believes in change and is committed to our mission of enhancing the lives of those we serve.

The Shasta DRC team would like to highlight, recognize, and show our appreciation for our amazing team member. Congratulations on reaching your 10-year milestone of service Tami!

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