

# GEO World

4th QUARTER 2022

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



## SOUTH BAY CORRECTIONAL AND REHABILITATION FACILITY

*Selected as the GEO Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year*



### FEATURED INSIDE

#### GEO Continuum of Care® Alumni of Year: Giovanni O. Sairras

Giovanni O. Sairras is a multi-business owner, motivational speaker, published author, and CoC Alumni of the Year for 2022.



# Executive Chairman's Letter

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



---

**"We remain committed to providing high quality support services on behalf of our government agency partners, while delivering safe and compassionate care to all those entrusted to our facilities and programs."**

---

## **To the GEO Family,**

We are proud of GEO's outstanding operational performance during the past year, which has continued to be underpinned by the dedication and professionalism of our 18,000 employees worldwide. Our employees make daily sacrifices to care for all those in our facilities and programs, consistently delivering high quality support services on behalf of our government agency partners with an unwavering organizational commitment to operational excellence.

During the fourth quarter of 2022, our GEO Secure Services facilities successfully underwent 56 audits, including internal audits, government reviews, and third-party accreditations. Four of our secure services facilities received accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) with an average score of 99.4 percent, and our GTI transportation division safely completed approximately 4.1 million miles driven in the United States and overseas.

Also, during the fourth quarter, we signed a five-year contract renewal for the 750-bed Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and a two-year contract renewal for the 3,400-bed Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, both in Arizona.

With respect to GEO Care, during the fourth quarter, we renewed five residential reentry contracts, including four contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Additionally, six of our

residential reentry centers received accreditation from the ACA with an average score of 99.8 percent, and three of these centers received perfect accreditation scores of 100 percent.

This past October, we also published our fourth annual Human Rights and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) report. This important report includes enhanced disclosures related to our Board oversight of human rights and ESG matters, employee diversity and training programs, corporate governance, and environmental sustainability.

Our ESG report also highlights our continued commitment to improving the lives of those entrusted to our care by providing enhanced rehabilitation and post-release support services through our award-winning GEO Continuum of Care® (CoC) program. During 2022, our CoC facilities delivered approximately 3.5 million hours of enhanced rehabilitation programming and awarded approximately 2,400 GEDs and high school equivalency degrees; 8,100 vocational certifications; 7,300 substance abuse treatment completions; and 40,000 behavioral program completions.

As we look ahead to 2023, we remain committed to providing high quality support services on behalf of our government agency partners, while delivering safe and compassionate care to all those entrusted to our facilities and programs.



## 02 COVER STORY

### South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Selected as the GEO Continuum of Care® Facility of the Year

South Bay CRF has promoted second chances through education and treatment since first breaking ground, but this year, the facility gave new meaning to second chances.

### Articles

08 **Secure Services**

18 **International Services**

22 **GEO Care**

### FEATURED ARTICLES



## 06

### GEO Continuum of Care® Alumni of the Year: Giovanni O. Sairras

Giovanni O. Sairras is a multi-business owner, motivational speaker, published author, and CoC Alumni of the Year for 2022.

### EDITOTIAL STAFF

Audra E. Birt  
Editor-in-Chief  
abirt@geogroup.com



## 18

### Ravenhall Correctional Centre Celebrates Five Years

In November 2022, Ravenhall Correctional Centre celebrated and marked the fifth year of operation with a ceremony signifying the milestone.

### CONTRIBUTORS

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



## 22

### GEO Counselor Named Community Corrections Professional of the Year

Congratulations to GEO Counselor, Edward Costello, on being named Community Corrections Professional of the Year by the Community Corrections Association of Pennsylvania (CCAPA).



# South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Selected as the GEO Continuum of Care®

Facility of the Year



Deeply rooted in the rich soil of South Bay, Florida, one can find a new type of growth flourishing. It is not the harvest of corn, tomatoes, or even sugar, that has the most powerful yield, but rather the opportunity that grows within the walls of GEO's South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (South Bay CRF). South Bay CRF is in the heart of South Florida, nestled on the banks of Lake Okeechobee. It is affectionately referred to as "The Bay" by its residents. The residents of South Bay CRF did not choose to be there but are thankful all the same. Cody Romeo, a resident of South Bay CRF believes that South Bay saved his life. The young aspiring singer, recently featured on Fox and Friends, is quick to share his story of recovery from a lifetime of drugs and crime. His is a story of the recovery and salvation that he found only behind the walls of South Bay CRF, or as Cody puts it, "Only at the Bay". Cody is one of the 1,948 individuals who reside at South Bay CRF.

The facility was built in 1994 and is dressed in razor wire much like any other correctional facility, but step inside and one quickly realizes that facility leadership has created a community and not a prison. Music washes the walls of the hallways. Smiling faces exchange "Good Morning and Good Afternoon" greetings that echo throughout every inch of the property. The hustle and bustle of the classrooms whisper promises of new beginnings and welcome opportunity. South Bay CRF has promoted second chances through education and treatment since first breaking ground, but this past year, the facility gave new meaning to second chances. Under the leadership of Facility Administrator, Lori Sink, AFA of Security, Chris Cruz, AFA of Programs, Charmonica Spivey, and Chief of Security, Leandre Mckinnon, the phrase "Only at the Bay" took on new meaning.





The facility leadership team worked with staff to make 2022 the year of second chances. South Bay CRF staff hosted second chance events all year and ended 2022 with a ribbon cutting ceremony for an onsite Second Chance Center. The Second Chance Center is home to a technology and career center, Recovery Road, One Love Café and a renaissance center that allows individuals to rediscover their artistic talents. Facility staff take turns working inside the center and cheering on participants as they tune instruments and vocal cords, develop resumes, interview for jobs, create culinary works of art, or paint the next great masterpiece. Staff, in collaboration with members of GEO Alumni Services, also encourage residents to give back to their community.

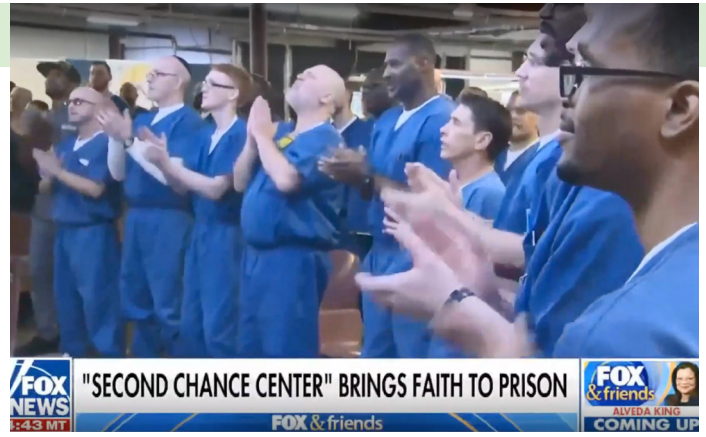
In October 2022, the Second Chance Center was the stage for a Victim Awareness Walk. Residents painted over 250 butterfly wings and walked with staff to honor survivors. The Butterfly is a symbol of metamorphosis, change, and transition. Hundreds of residents came forward and provided their own testimonials of change, vowing to never take but always give back to their community.











The Second Chance Center is not the only corner of South Bay CRF where you will find a celebration of life. The facility has hosted multiple events through the recreation department as well. Weekends were transformed into carnivals, softball tournaments, and basketball shoot-outs. Only at "The Bay" would you find NBA greats such as Michael "Sugar" Ray Richardson and Otis Birdsong shooting hoops with teams of staff and residents. Sugar and Otis weren't the only celebrities to find their way to South Bay. Timothy's Gift, a non-profit that focuses on restoring hope to justice involved individuals, accompanied by American Idol Alumni Melinda Doolittle, made a special stop at South Bay's Second Chance Center at the end of November 2022 to perform a special Christmas Concert for the residents. South Bay transformed the Second Chance Center into a Winter Wonderland and created an environment that made everyone believe in Christmas miracles.

In 2023, South Bay CRF is already off to an exciting start! On January 13th, South Bay welcomed Fox and Friends host, Rachel Campos Duffy, who spent time touring the Second Chance Center and talking with residents about vocational and education programs. Rachel also witnessed the power of faith by sitting in on a faith-based leadership class led by GEO Board Member, Jack Brewer, and GEO Continuum of Care Alumni, Elmo Golden. The visit was truly remarkable and not only was it aired on the Fox and Friends Sunday Morning show, but it was also aired on Martin Luther King Day as part of Fox News programming.

It's not the celebrities or incredible activities calendar that make South Bay CRF so special, it's the people. The staff and residents working together every day to change lives as true partners in rehabilitation. For South Bay CRF, 2022 proved to be the year of second chances, and as such "The Bay" was selected as the GEO Continuum of Care Facility of the Year! Let us all celebrate their commitment and find it in our hearts to plant seeds of opportunity in our own backyards and declare every year the year of second chances.



# GEO Continuum of Care®

## Alumni of the Year: Giovanni O. Sairras



Giovanni O. Sairras is a multi-business owner, motivational speaker, published author, and GEO Alumni of the Year for 2022. Mr. Sairras was born in Suriname, South America. He immigrated to the United States when he was only eight years old with his four siblings and his parents. Assimilating to American customs was a bit of a challenge due to the language and cultural barriers. Regardless of this challenge, Giovanni always managed to prevail in school academically and graduated high school with a 4.0 GPA. He was always an active child with varying interests in sports, poetry, art, and technology. Giovanni has always been a hard worker and always remained employed up until his arrest in 2003.

Giovanni served 17 years in the Florida State prison system. He served 10 years at GEO's South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and while he was there, he made a positive impact on the residents. He did this by facilitating transition programs, financial literacy classes, and mentorship programs.

Currently Giovanni owns two businesses. He started his own consulting company after returning home in May of 2020. Giovanni also started a mobile pantry during the pandemic to assist with bringing

fresh groceries to justice impacted communities. He and his business partner, Teddy Cox, came together to provide this service to reduce recidivism in Florida. The idea was that if they could save a family money on groceries, that money could then be used to pay a bill or put money on an incarcerated family member's account. From there, Giovanni decided to expand this idea into another business centered around reentry services. Thus, Re-Entry One Inc. was born in 2021.

Re-Entry One Inc. has now been operating for almost 2 years and has served over 1,000 returning citizens in the state of Florida. Primarily operating out of South Florida, Re-Entry One Inc. offers job placement, vocational training, transitional housing referrals, clothing/hygiene packages, healthcare, counseling referrals and much more. Giovanni visits various prisons in South Florida with his team to connect with residents prior to release.

Giovanni also serves as the Vice Chair of the Advisory Board to the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. There, he is a voice for returning citizens as it pertains to homelessness in Miami-Dade. More often than not, homeless populations contain returning citizens who have been barred from housing based on their background.

Re-Entry One Inc. has a contract with Miami-Dade Probation, so that individuals can complete their community service hours through the organization. This allows volunteers gaining community service hours access to resources to help reduce recidivism. Every volunteer is given an opportunity for mentorship and assistance with their next steps after graduating from the program. If you want to start a business, pick up a trade, or find an alternative route after graduation, the program is designed for you to have the tools you need to be successful. This is an on-going program through Re-Entry One Inc., and Giovanni has also recently partnered with the Department of Juvenile Justice to expand this program to at-risk youth.





Re-Entry One Inc. has been operating for over two years without any substantial grants, and Giovanni has been funding the organization with some of his own income and with the help of small donations from the community. This year, he looks forward to having a grant writer to help expand the services Re-Entry One Inc. provides and help even more people in 2023.

Giovanni's goal is to not only reduce recidivism in the state of Florida, but to also increase the number of entrepreneurs who are coming home. He believes it's harder to discriminate against someone for a job if they are the business owner. In 2022, Giovanni co-sponsored an entrepreneurship program for returning citizens through the City of Lauderdale. The Lauderdale Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program (LIEP) is a 10-week program designed to connect formerly incarcerated business owners with assistance from the City in starting or scaling their businesses. LIEP is a pilot program in which all participants graduated in its first round and was even featured on the Local 10 News.

Giovanni has also been published in different poetry books, such as "Don't Shake the Spoon Vol. 2" from the Exchange 4 Change program. He has been published multiple times when he was incarcerated and was even offered a poetry scholarship prior to being arrested. He also picked

up several certifications while incarcerated, including becoming a certified paralegal and gaining his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) permit. He has also taught CDL while at Opa-Locka Work Release, and every student in his class gained their CDL upon graduation.

Giovanni Sairras is such an eclectic individual, and he could have virtually been anything prior to contact with the justice system. He could have been a professional track star, a published author, national poet, innovative prodigy, and so much more. Mr. Sairras is an example of the power of using time wisely. He has always maintained that his mind could never be confined. In that realization, he has inspired so many individuals inside and outside of prison to become the best version of themselves. Congratulations on being selected as the GEO Continuum of Care Alumni of the Year!





# Honoring our Veterans

Written By **Donna Blanton, Montgomery Processing Center**



The Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) proudly honored our Veterans recently with a patriotic display located at the front entrance for staff and visitors to see. Everyone enjoyed the service photos but more than that, everyone was excited to find out who our MPC heroes are! Veterans were presented with a GEO coin, patriotic lanyards, and everyone enjoyed red, white, and blue cupcakes on Veterans Day. MPC would like to thank the following Veterans for their dedicated service to our great nation:

- Shalandra Abraham
- Bruce Archibald
- Daniel Cashaw, IV
- Lamont Chatman
- Kenneth Cosey
- Kristi Davis
- Juanita Deimel
- Carl Dunlap
- Kathleen Flaherty
- Robert Hammack
- Amber Humphrey
- Marcez Jackson
- Priscilla Jackson
- Loren Joy
- Raymond Lee
- Robert Lee
- Charles Lucas
- Ronald Main
- Alpha Martin
- Candelario Martinez
- Aaron Mayfield
- Koda Nylander
- Mustapha Otolorin
- Eddie Pigg
- Edward Pool
- James Porter
- David Potter
- Bria Pradier
- Kevin Reyes
- Colleen Robertson
- Jose Salas
- Luis Sanchez
- Mark Thompson



## Thanking Those Who Served

Written By **Arold Sylvain, Joe Corley Processing Center**

In honor of our Veterans, Mrs. Lincoln, Joe Corley's HR manager, and the center's morale committee created a collage of our veterans from during their time of service. We know freedom came with a cost and honoring our veterans is a small thank you for what they gave to maintain and secure the freedom we continue to enjoy.





## Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Donates to Community Organizations

Written By **Tammy Fontenot, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center**

The Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Facility Administrator, Brick Tripp, recently presented the following donations to local community organizations:

- Prairie Manor Nursing Home's Administrator Loretta Crawford was presented with a donation of \$1,000. Prairie Manor Nursing Home is a 100-bed facility that provides care for elderly individuals who are unable to care for themselves at home.
- The Village of Turkey Creek Christmas in the Village program was also presented with a \$500 donation.
- CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of St. Landry/ Evangeline Parish was presented with a \$1,000 donation as well. CASA is an organization dedicated to providing advocates for children in foster care.



## The Land of Opportunity

Written By **Reyna Dickens, Montgomery Processing Center**

Reyna Dickens, Grievance and Programs Coordinator at the Montgomery Processing Center, is originally from Juarez, Mexico on the country's northern border.

At a young age, she had the opportunity to study in the neighboring city of El Paso, Texas thanks to the support of her family who resides there. She has always wanted to obtain her American citizenship, and after many years of living in Texas, she recently applied for American citizenship and was provided the opportunity to achieve this goal.

Since then, many blessings have opened up for her. She is proud that as a citizen, she can voice her opinions by voting and participating in making America a better country.

Reyna has been employed with The GEO Group for approximately four years and serves at the Montgomery Processing Center as the Grievance and Programs Coordinator. Serving in this capacity has been an interesting challenge that has equipped her with the necessary skills to successfully navigate her career.







## El Centro Detention Facility Brings Holiday Joy to Local Kids!

Written By **J. Cornejo**,  
El Centro Detention Facility

The outstanding staff at the El Centro Detention Facility (ECDF) worked together this past holiday season to assist their local Salvation Army by participating in an Angel Tree program. The Angel Tree program provides Christmas gifts to local underprivileged children who shared their wish lists with ECDF staff.

Almost all staff participated, and it was again demonstrated that at ECDF, we work together to make a difference for our community. The toys were passed out to the kids a few days before the holiday to ensure they had a magical Christmas Day! A big thanks to all staff who came together to ensure over 125 children received a Christmas gift.



## Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Donates to Local Food Pantry

Written By **Tammy Fontenot**, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center employees generously donated 90 lbs. of food to the FoodNet for Families Food Drive. St. Peter's Catholic Church of Pine Prairie collaborates with the Catholic Charities of Acadiana; who collect food items and have provided essential services to those who are experiencing hunger, homelessness, and poverty since 1973.

St. Peter's maintains a food pantry, "The Lord's Pantry," for those individuals in need in the community; therefore our donations are distributed locally. They accept non-perishable food items, toiletries, paper goods, and cleaning supplies. Currently, they assist approximately 30 families per month. In addition to the food donations by employees, The GEO Group Foundation made a \$1,000 charitable donation.



# Spanish Heritage Month at Western Regional Detention Facility

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

In recognition of Spanish Heritage Month, the Western Regional Detention Facility's (WRDF) Library kicked off a collaboration with the San Diego Mexican Consulate to enhance the leisure library's collection of Spanish materials and also received two donations of over 200 books. General Law Library Technician, Fiona H. Barton said, "When I joined WRDF just over a year ago, I noticed that our Spanish collection was very limited. With our predominately Spanish readership, I have been keen to increase our selection of materials to better serve this population." Ms. Barton reached out to her colleague, Administrative Assistant, Rosalie Smith, in search of contacts in the Mexican community. Mrs. Smith provided a connection with the Consul for Legal Affairs, Patricia Pinzon Sanchez, and Consular Officer, Cynthia Paola Pietro Mendez, who were able to secure donations from the Community Affairs Department and the Cultural Affairs Section of the Mexican Consulate.



# Race for the Cure: Breast Cancer Awareness

Written By **Donna Blanton,**  
**Montgomery Processing Center**



Staff at the Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) support Breast Cancer Awareness each year by participating in the annual walk hosted by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Staff created a walk team, led by A. Miguens and comprised of B. Bowers, B. Irving, T. Jones, W. Martin, T. Squires, L. Washington, and O. Williams. "Team Miguens" raised a total of \$1,183 to help support the walk, which overall raised over \$7 million from similar events across the county. At the walk, participants enjoyed a breakfast to honor survivors, walked to music provided by two radio stations, and were cheered on by the Girl Scouts and other volunteers. MPC is very proud of Team Miguens and especially proud of our team leader.

MPC staff did not stop there! MPC also held a "T-shirt Design Contest," and the winning design was used for a t-shirt and cap sale fundraiser. MPC's sister facility, the Joe Corley Processing Center, joined in the shirt and cap sales, and staff and Officers at both facilities were allowed to wear GEO pink caps and t-shirts to show support. A portion of the proceeds were presented to Major Andy Eason in support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department's Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. MPC hopes to make this an annual event.





## Riverbend Brings Joy to Local Community Kids

Written By **Angela Reaves,**  
**Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

This holiday season, the team at the Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (RCRF) was on hand at Sandersville Elementary School to help give back in a major way. This year, the RCRF team wanted to help a community in need through a toy drive. The Sandersville community is home to many amazing individuals who have family members and loved ones who are dedicated employees at RCRF. The initiative allowed Riverbend to put huge smiles, and some tears, on the faces of deserving families. Christmas is such a special time for many and team Riverbend knows just how special it is to help someone in need. The excitement around this event spilled over at the facility, and staff just would not stop giving. Children ranging from 6-months to 14-years old received many gifts. The smiles and excitement on their faces were amazing to see. RCRF staff truly care about giving back to the surrounding community.

**More than 75 children in Sandersville, Georgia had a few extra presents under their tree this year thanks to the generous efforts of the staff at Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility.**







## The Gift of Warmth

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

During the fourth quarter, the Eagle Pass Detention Facility (EPDF) started a collection drive for socks and blankets that would be donated to the City of Eagle Pass Library Elderly Crafting Group. The goal was 20 blankets, which was well within reach for the facility, and every elder in the craft group was gifted a blanket during the week of Thanksgiving. After seeing that we had 20 additional blankets, we sought out another elder center, hoping that we could bring the same joy to them as we did for the library elder group. EPDF reached out to the Willow Creek Adult Daycare and offered to donate blankets to every participant in their program. In just a short amount of time, 80 additional blankets were collected and delivered to the Willow Creek Adult Daycare. We dropped off their blankets and distributed them in the middle of their Christmas week festivities. A blanket was given to every individual, smiles were exchanged, and everyone seemed very grateful for their gift of warmth. The gifts came in perfect time since a cold front was headed towards our small town. This is a Christmas tradition we hope to continue with our community and local senior citizens organizations.





## Heritage Trail Correctional Facility Hosts Kairos Weekend

Written By **Amber Miller, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

In the fourth quarter, GEO's Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) hosted Kairos weekend where several volunteers led a group of inmates through a long weekend of fellowship. Kairos refers to the opportune time and place that is the right or appropriate moment to say or do the right thing. Our incarcerated individuals and volunteers started the weekend as strangers and left as open-minded men and brothers. Kairos was a blessing to have at HTCF, and we look forward to hosting them again to bless another group of incarcerated individuals.



## Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center Employees Donate to Local Toy Drive

Written By **Tammy Fontenot, Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center**

Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center (PPIPC) employees contributed to a local toy drive for Christmas. The Evangeline Parish Sheriff's office collected toys for needy children in the parish. PPIPC employees donated toys and wrapping paper. Additionally, funds collected throughout the year from various fundraisers were used to purchase toys, coloring books, bicycles, etc. All toys were distributed to families within the parish.

## CASA Christmas at South Louisiana

Written By **Deborah Lucas-Stevens, South Louisiana ICE Processing Center**



Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) believes that all children have the right to a home with loving people to care for them, but each year in the United States, children are abused, neglected, or abandoned by their families. They are removed from their homes and placed in foster care or institutions. Eventually, they end up in court. Their only crime is that they have been victims.

A CASA volunteer spends time with the child, in and out of their home environment, gets to know the child, including his or her needs and wants, and provides important information to the judge who is making decisions about the child's future.

This year, South Louisiana ICE Processing Center has tried to do its part and help CASA bring a smile to a child's face this Christmas. Through fundraising, and some help from The GEO Foundation, the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center was able to present toys and a monetary donation of \$3,000 to CASA in the hopes of helping bring some joy and happiness to children who may not have had the easiest start in life.





## Toys for Tots Donation

Written By **Donna Blanton, Montgomery Processing Center**

The Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) partnered with NOVA Medical Center to donate to their Toys for Tots program. Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks. MPC staff came through big and donated new toys and games for children of all ages.



## Wish List to Santa

Written By **Elizabeth C. Quintero, Central Valley Annex**



This winter, GEO's Central Valley Annex (CVA) partnered with the city of McFarland's Kern Avenue Elementary School to spread Christmas Cheer to 115 students. The Principal sent the facility wish lists addressed to Santa by all the children from the 1st grade, and their special education classroom students. CVA staff participated in the Secret Santa event and went out of their way to purchase a special gift for each little one in need. This is the facility's 1st Annual Secret Santa event, and it was a great success! Shout out to our Maintenance Manager, Victor Ramirez, for taking time out of his busy schedule to dress up as Santa Claus and spark the magic in this event. The most priceless, heartfelt moment was having the privilege to watch all the children glow with joy and cheer while they opened their gifts, smiling from ear to ear. Principal Bujanda-Medina of Kern Avenue Elementary mentioned, "This may be the only Christmas gift these children get," and thanked Central Valley Annex's staff for participating and volunteering in this event.



## Golden State Staff Donate Christmas Presents to Local Elementary School

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

Horizon Elementary's Pre-K/Kindergarten students were huddled together anxiously awaiting to see what Santa Claus was going to bring them; however, they were not expecting Santa's helpers from Golden State Annex (GSA) to deliver them presents. In December, GSA staff generously donated over 150 gifts to approximately 50 students at Horizon Elementary in McFarland, California. One of the staff members commented, "I was able to see first-hand and experience the joy of seeing those kids opening up gifts and the school staff/volunteers tearing up, including our GSA staff."



# Kingman Braille Program Contributes to World Sight Day

Written By **Lisa Brownfield, Kingman  
Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**



In the fourth quarter, Kaiya Armstrong flew a Cessna 172 Skyhawk airplane from Scottsdale, AZ to Washington, D.C. Kaiya is legally blind. In fact, it is reported that she is able to see only two inches in front of her. Her five-day flight was to commemorate World Sight Day as Kaiya made several takeoffs and landings across the country. It was important to her to not place limits on herself and also to be an inspiration to others. Ms. Armstrong was chosen from 25 candidates who competed across three categories for the opportunity. She trained for 120 hours over eight months and made stops in Colorado, Missouri, Kentucky, and, finally, Washington D.C.

The Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (KCRF) played a special part in this event with her flight manual and its graphics being transcribed into Braille by several inmates at KCRF. It is such an honor for our Huachuca Unit's Braille Program to be recognized for this transcription and how we contributed to Ms. Armstrong's achievement. Although she won't be able to be a commercial pilot, Ms. Armstrong will be able to have a career as a ground instructor.

Flight for Sight is just one program organized by Arizona's Foundation for Blind Children. Kingman's Braille Programs are proud to have contributed to this momentous achievement.



## Holiday Spirit Gift Giving from Florence West

Written By **Cassandra Shifflett, Florence  
West Correctional and Rehabilitation  
Facility**

This Holiday season, the staff at Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility joined together over the course of a few weeks to obtain donations for the Pavilion Oasis Nursing Facility and the Pinal County Animal Shelter. During this time, staff collected more than 70 blankets to provide to the nursing home. In addition, staff collected multiple bags of pet food, blankets, and various items for the animals' well-being. Both locations were extremely appreciative and grateful for everything we provided.



## Christmas for the Kids

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

For Christmas this year, the Central Louisiana ICE Processing Center (CLIPC) was able to provide Christmas presents for more than 60 children at the local Head Start Program. Funding was raised primarily through internal fundraisers and donations provided by staff. The children received items such as crayons, coloring books, reading books, small toys, gloves, candy, and other small goods. During the event, the children were visited by CLIPC's very own "Buddy the Elf," played by Transportation Manager, Jeffery Free. The children showed their appreciation for the festivities by performing Christmas carols for the staff of CLIPC.



## Kingman Treats Kids with Holiday Spirit and Gifts

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

In December 2022, staff from the Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (KCRF) teamed up with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police, Nevada and Arizona Park Rangers, the Nevada Highway Patrol, and Bullhead City Police Department to give 80 kids a Christmas they will always remember. The annual event is part of the Foundation for Youth in Mohave County and raises money each year, so that disadvantaged children can receive gifts for the holiday season.

Kingman Case Manager, Kory Brown, has served on the Foundation's Board of Directors for eight years and coordinated the efforts of KCRF staff for this year's program. Other staff who participated included Lieutenant Michael Gentry, Officer Kimberly Danielson, Officer Dmitry Ocegueda, Continuum of Care staffer Matthew Durbin, Case Manager Bryson Brown, and Case Manager James Rutherford.

Staff shopped with numerous kids, who were allocated \$150 each for buying gifts and clothing. The event was a very happy occasion for the kids, and it was equally joyful for the staff to witness their excitement and appreciation. We are proud of our Kingman staff who helped with this event!

This year marks the fourth consecutive year KCRF has participated in "Shop with a Cop." Kingman staff also showed their holiday spirit by donating toys and money to other organizations in Mohave County, such as the Salvation Army's Toys for Tots program, the Kingman Club for Youth's Clothe the Kids program, and Cornerstone Mission, a program to assist the homeless with food and shelter.





## Ravenhall Correctional Centre Celebrates Five Years

Written By **Lyndell Coutts, Ravenhall Correctional Centre**



In November 2022, GEO Australia's Ravenhall Correctional Centre celebrated and marked its fifth year of operation with a ceremony signifying the milestone.

Since 2017, The GEO Group and supporting Alliance partners; Correct Care Australasia, Forensicare, Honeywell, Bendigo Kangan Institute TAFE and the YMCA, have delivered and maintained Ravenhall as a defining example of contemporary operational practice and service delivery.

The Ravenhall team was pleased and honoured to have numerous special guests attend the celebration. These included Corrections Victoria Commissioner, Larissa Strong, Assistant Commissioners, Scott Jacques, Jenny Hosking, Sarah Miles, and Megan McClelland, Managing Director of The GEO Group Australia, Pieter Bezuidenhout, CEO of Forensicare, Margaret Grigg, Deputy CEO of Correct Care Australasia, Christine Fuller, Executive Manager of YMCA Youth Services; Youth Justice and Social Enterprise, Mick Cronin, and many others.

This event marked the first opportunity for the Ravenhall community to meet as a collective and celebrate the success and achievements of the last five years. Staff from multiple organizations and disciplines came together to share their passion and goal of providing care and support to inmates and ultimately deliver positive outcomes for the Victorian community.

Speakers, including the Commissioner, GEO's Managing Director, and Ravenhall General Manager, Col Caskie, all reflected on the dedication and commitment of staff and Alliance Partners in providing high-quality correctional services to the Victorian people.

Congratulations to all those involved with Ravenhall's success; we look forward to the next five years and beyond!





# Life after prison: The Bridge Centre Supports Thousands of Men Leaving Custody

Written By **Lyndell Coutts, GEO Australia**

## *The Bridge Center Celebrates Five Years of Helping Individual Reintegrate into Society*

Eight former inmates have shared their personal journeys in a collection of short stories published in January 2023 to mark the five-year anniversary of The Bridge Centre – a community reintegration centre purpose-built to support men being released from GEO Australia’s Ravenhall Correctional Centre.

The first of its kind in Australia, The Bridge Centre was established by The GEO Group Australia (GEO), in partnership with Corrections Victoria, to provide ongoing support services for men post-release.

Since seeing their first client in 2018, The Bridge Centre staff have provided vital support for more than 4,000 men released from Ravenhall Correctional Centre. The family members of more than 1,000 men have also been provided with information and support.

GEO Australia Managing Director Pieter Bezuidenhout said: “Our purpose was to create a facility where people who have left prison could access information, resources, and services that would help facilitate their successful reintegration to the community.

“Accessing this help would be voluntary and would start prior to a man’s release from Ravenhall Correctional Centre,” Mr. Bezuidenhout said.

“It would enable men to engage with the clinical staff and Alliance Partners they had developed

a rapport with while in custody and align with The GEO Group’s international Continuum of Care® model.

“Five years on and our vision has been realised. We have a team of highly qualified specialists delivering holistic, sensitive, trauma-informed and practical services for men leaving custody.”

The stories presented in Foundations for a better future: Five years of The Bridge Centre are only a snapshot of the thousands of milestones - large and small - being achieved in the lives of former inmates.

“You will read about hardship, addictions, violence and mental illness, and about new beginnings,” Mr. Bezuidenhout said.

“You will share in each man’s reflections and their own personal journey as they work hard, with purpose and determination, to rebuild their lives and avoid reoffending.

“Theirstoriesshowcase thevalue of this approach to successful community reintegration.”

Post-Release Case Workers at The Bridge Centre provide ongoing case management and, where required, facilitate referrals to external agencies to address key reintegration needs. Men released from Ravenhall Correctional Centre, along with their families, can access support for two years post-release.



# Junee Refurbishes Chariots for Charity Race Day

Written By **Lyndell Coutts, Junee Correctional Centre**

Staff and inmates at the Junee Correctional Centre have helped give the South Wagga Lions Club's fleet of chariots a new lease on life in time for this year's Cancer Council's Relay for Life.

Ten chariots were ready to race at Wagga Wagga's Connolly Oval in October, after a project to refurbish them was completed following an approach by the Cancer Council.

Gleaming in their fresh coats of paint, the chariots were handed over to representatives of the Lions Club, along with members of the Cancer Council's Relay for Life event team.

Junee Correctional Centre General Manager, Dom Karauria said this was a great opportunity for the men involved to hone the skills they are learning in the Centre's industries area. "A team of four inmates striped the chariots back to bare metal, repaired any damaged frames, prepared them for painting, applied a variety of colours, and then polished the wheels," Mr. Karauria said.

"Projects like this offer inmates a chance to give back to the community, and they feel a great sense of pride in undertaking this kind of work. It is this positive use of vocational skills and teamwork that we hope inmates will use to support their reintegration into the community once they are released."

The Cancer Council's Relay for Life is a fun and moving experience that raises vital funds for the Cancer Council's research, prevention, and support services. The event is a chance for the community to recognise and celebrate local cancer survivors and those going

through a cancer experience; to honour and remember loved ones lost; and to raise money to help save more lives.

Cancer Council Wagga Wagga's Relay for Life chair, Alan Pottie, thanked Junee Correctional Centre for its support in refurbishing 10 chariots in the lead-up to this year's Relay.

"Without efforts from passionate, community-focused organizations like the correctional centre, we would not be able to continue with such successful events as the annual Relay, which is Wagga Wagga's biggest cancer fundraiser," Mr. Pottie said.

"Relay for Life brings the community together to celebrate survivors and recognise unsung heroes, while also honouring those we've lost as we continue to raise funds to support people affected by cancer, and fund research and prevention programs," he added.







## Christmas Gifts for Children in Need

Written By **Lyndell Coutts, Fulham Correctional Centre**



For many years, the Fulham Correctional Centre has donated handmade soft toys made by inmates to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club for their annual Latrobe Valley charity toy run.

This year, more than 40 soft toys and wooden toys were designed and handmade by the men, with the knowledge that they would be donated to a charitable organization at the end of the year for children.

With the support of a GET Textiles Trade Officer, several of the men were creative and designed new soft toy patterns, including teddy bears and woolly mammoths. All the toys are hand stitched within the Textiles Workshop.

Additionally, Fulham donated handmade wooden toys made in the Construction Learning Centre. The men also offered to make wooden toys from timber off-cuts to donate to children in the community.

Fulham General Manager, Natalie Greenfield, said: "Fulham Correctional Centre is proud to have donated more than 40 toys to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club. Every year, the men participating take great pride in creating gifts they know will be donated to a good cause."



# GEO Counselor Named Community Corrections Professional of the Year

Written By **Viviam Agostini, SCI Chester**



Congratulations to GEO Counselor, Edward Costello, on being named Community Corrections Professional of the Year by the Community Corrections Association of Pennsylvania (CCAPA). Mr. Costello was given the award by Mr. Daniel McIntyre, President of CCAPA, during the recent CCAPA Conference in State College, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Edward Costello has been an employee of GEO for approximately five years. For four of those years, he has been employed at SCI Chester, a state correctional facility in Pennsylvania; first as a drug and alcohol counselor and then as a drug and alcohol supervisor. As a counselor, Mr. Costello always goes above and beyond for those under his care. He has exhibited leadership qualities and has been able to effectively utilize reentry tools to bring out the best in inmates. As a result of his dedication and leadership ability, Mr. Costello was recently promoted to Supervisor.

Mr. Costello utilized his previous skills as an educator and amended the Batterers Intervention Curriculum to better cater to the needs of inmates. He was also instrumental with the continuation of the Recovery Unit and managed to maintain the program's structure during difficult times. In addition, Mr. Costello was tasked with training new hires, as well as maintaining a caseload for himself. He was able to handle both responsibilities professionally and effectively. He manages his caseload, supervises the counselors on his unit, and oversees all program responsibilities with little difficulty.





## New Jersey Alumni Events

Written By **Arthur Townes**, New Jersey Alumni Services

In late 2022, Delaney Hall residents were treated to the experiences and current successes of Curtis M. (Harbor House alumnus) and Atariq W. (Talbot Hall alumnus). Curtis, a former gang member, spoke about his involvement with gangs and the criminal activity that got him incarcerated at the age of nineteen for a 12-year sentence. Now, he is the Program Director of the Youth Advocacy Program (YAP), where he works with justice involved youth. Altariq is currently the outreach coordinator for All Together, a grassroots organization that examines the causes of poverty and criminal behavior in inner cities. He is also co-founder of the Lifers Group, a support group for returning citizens.

In December of 2022, GEO alumni services member and author, Tia R. (Bo Robison), gave 25 residents early Christmas presents by giving out copies of her co-authored pre-release manual for incarcerated individuals in New Jersey. After her ten years in Edna MaHan Correctional Facility, Tia joined alumni services. While finishing her studies

in the NJSTEP program, where she obtained her Bachelors in Social Work, she went on to start her own nonprofit, All of Us or None. Eventually, she opened a transitional home for men returning to society, where she was able to provide temporary housing to alumni and others. She is currently on the oversight committee for the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility, is a member of the reentry council for the city of Newark, and a member of the Newark Community Street Team and anti-violence group, as well as a motivational speaker.

Parents Engaging Parents (PEP) has a mission of advocating for the children within the community. Founder Altorice F. (Tully House alumnus) hosted a holiday end-of-the-year celebration with Arthur Townes and fellow alumnus Dwayne A. in attendance. They showed their support, along with the Mayor of Paterson and other distinguished guests. Altorice and PEP donated winter coats to children in the city of Newark.

## New Jersey CRC Employee of the Quarter

Written By **Brian Nelson**,  
**Pleasantville Community Resource Center**

Syreeta Clybourn, Assistant Case Manager from the Pleasantville Community Resource Center in New Jersey was selected as the Employee of the Quarter in December. Syreeta was nominated by her Program Manager, and ultimately selected by the Engagement Committee to be recognized for her contributions to programmatic excellence. During the quarter, Syreeta facilitated evidence-based practice in-service briefcase trainings, led Relationship Building and Financial Management life skills groups for participants, and carried out her normal day to day responsibilities. Syreeta joined GEO Group in April 2022 and has since flourished in her role. She consistently seeks to provide the highest level of services to participants and exemplary customer service to our stakeholders, fellow staff members, and customers.





## Delaney Hall Elective Programming

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

Over the past few months, Delaney Hall has implemented and promoted resident participation in elective programming. This programming is separate from the workshops and groups facilitated utilizing the Living in Balance and Change Companies curricula, and it allows residents to participate in positive leisure and recreational activities that pique their interests. Some of the programming activities offered include game sessions (i.e. Bingo, Scrabble, Dominoes, UNO), arts and crafts activities (i.e. card-making, canvas painting, constructing haunted gingerbread houses, decorating photo frames), athletic activities (i.e. basketball tournaments and free-throw competitions, ping pong), good-natured competitions and challenges (i.e. trivia challenge, puzzle completion challenge, Pictionary), and culinary activities (i.e. no bake banana pudding, make-your-own pizzas).

In addition to these leisure and recreational activities, Delaney Hall staff try to schedule informative sessions that residents can choose to attend that will assist them in their reentry processes. Several GEO Alumni have even volunteered to come in and share stories and resources with residents, as well as representatives from the National Career Institute to talk about the educational programs and opportunities they offer. Staff and residents alike seem to find the elective programming refreshing and rewarding. One resident expressed sincere thanks to the Delaney Hall Programs staff for allowing him a couple of hours here and there to step out of his "prison" mentality and instead focus on activities that bring him joy. It is our hope that we can facilitate exposure to pro-social leisure and recreational activities that many of our residents may never have considered trying while out in the community, so that upon reentry, residents can find enjoyment in activities such as these with their families and children.



## Carnival For Kids- Illumination Foundation

Written By **Nashell McGrew, Santa Ana Day Reporting Center**

At the end of 2022, the Illumination Foundation held their 9th Annual Carnival for Kids event, which gather approximately 1,000 homeless and at-risk families and youth. The Santa Ana Day Reporting Center helped to sponsor the event and ran a booth that featured a spinning wheel and a Plinko game to win prizes such as school supplies, assorted toys, and snacks. The Illumination Foundation is based in Orange County, CA, and is a non-profit organization that provides emergency housing, rapid re-housing, micro-communities, and supportive services to individuals and families who are homeless and unstably housed. The Illumination Foundation has children and family programs that provide early childhood enrichment, homework help, counseling, and housing. The Carnival for Kids event donations support the Illumination Foundation's outreach and services provided to at-risk of homelessness children and their families. Santa Ana DRC's Transitional Housing Placement Coordinators were able to network with the Illumination Foundation, as well as connect with the community, to obtain housing resources for participants. The GEO Group was featured as a sponsor of the event on the Illumination Foundation's website and in local newspaper articles.





## Community Clean Up

Written By **Robert Bader-Huesgen,**  
**Santa Ana Day Reporting Center**

At the Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC), staff members and participants met up with local Irvine and Santa Ana Parole Agents for a community clean up. Staff and participants spent the morning cleaning up around the DRC. Participants picked up trash near the building, swept sidewalks, and helped each other clear areas near and around the DRC. Over eight bags of trash were filled while cleaning. Upon finishing the clean-up, participants were given a chance to reflect on giving back to the community and how it made them feel.



## Nicole English: Tried and True

Written By **Elizabeth Harvey,** Lycoming Day Reporting Center

“Can I speak to Ms. English?” are words that every staff member in our facility hears multiple times a day. Nicole English is the longest serving employee of the Lycoming County Day Reporting Center (DRC), as well as a trusted face for the participants that report here. In her more than five years of employment with GEO, Nicole has not only become a familiar face, but a comfort to the clients we serve. The level of trust our participants put in her proves how great she is at her job.

In her various positions, Nicole has demonstrated a unique proclivity for excelling at her tasks, being likeable, and innately professional in her environment. A chameleon of talents, she has maintained the ability to be versatile in every role she has played here.

In November of 2022, our staff suffered a tremendous loss when our previous program manager passed away. Nicole had become very close to him and was devastated by his loss; however, she held strong for her coworkers, checking in on all of us and offering any resources we could possibly need. Nicole was also catapulted into the acting program manager position, taking on new responsibilities while still managing her old position and her grief. The way she was able to maneuver these challenges and fresh emotions in a seemingly effortless way deeply illustrated her natural ability to lead.

Nicole English is a leader, a friend, a mentor, and a professional. The summation of those characteristics equates to a diamond standard employee. Any facility or department of the company would be lucky to have her, and the Lycoming DRC is most fortunate to employ her talents. Nicole embodies the values that GEO seeks in all of their employees.





LBCR has recently partnered with Career Expansion Inc. (CEI) to enhance career opportunities for participants. CEI is a training and workforce development organization that facilitates the collaboration and coordination of bridging academics with workforce development agencies, labor unions, and job placement.

Recently, LBCR hosted its first CEI graduation where 16 participants successfully completed the 30-day vocational training program with 15 participants already hired by local unions. This was the first time the LBCR reentry program offered this in-house training for residents. Those in attendance at the graduation were GEO Reentry staff, family members, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) officials and trainers from CEI. The event was a celebration of the participants' hard work and accomplishments, as well as our new partnership with CEI. This new venture is adding value and aligning with our core values, while giving our residents an opportunity to change their behavior and change their lives.

## First CEI Graduation at Long Beach

Written By **Tisha McAfee,**  
**Long Beach Community Reentry Center**

The Long Beach Community Reentry Center (LBCR), opened in 2004, and provides individualized reintegration services to the Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP), with an emphasis on changing behavior that gives our residents an opportunity to be successful with employment. The goal is to help participants successfully reenter the community and reduce recidivism. Services include treatment for substance use disorders, mental health care, employment, education, housing, and family reunification. Our Job Specialist provides participants with employment skills that include effective communication, problem solving, resume building, and interviewing. Participants engage in intensive instruction that emphasizes breaking down personal barriers to employment, helping obtain new job skills, and practicing interviewing techniques. The LBCR focuses on job readiness to assist participants in securing, maintaining, and excelling at new employment opportunities.



## Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility January 2023 Graduating Class

Written By **Portsha Jones,**  
**Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility**

Congratulation to the Alabama Therapeutic and Education Facility's (ATEF) Graduating Class of January 2023! The ceremony was filled with laughter, music, and gratitude. Prior to graduation, each participant was required to complete an intensive and structured program that includes substance abuse courses, behavioral modification sessions, case management, and vocational training. We can proudly say that our graduates will be productive citizens in society.





## Santa Ana Day Reporting Center Graduation

Written By **Robert Bader-Huesgen, Santa Ana Day Reporting Center**

Over 131 participants from the Santa Ana DRC were celebrated for their achievements in completing the DRC program. At the graduation, participants were given certificates of completion for their amazing efforts while in the program. In attendance was Santa Ana Councilwoman, Nelida Mendoza, South District Administrator of Parole, Rajesh Talwar, and California Congressman, Lou Correa, who spoke to the graduating participants about continuing to move forward and the importance of giving back to their community. The participants of the DRC have put in incredible work to achieve the amazing milestone of graduation. It is with great pleasure that we celebrate our participants by recognizing their goals and achievements.



## Alexandria Day Reporting Center Graduation

Written By **Timithia Hall, Alexandria Day Reporting Center**

During a participant's first visit to the Alexandria Day Reporting Center (DRC), different emotions are felt, such as fear, anxiety, happiness, sadness, and excitement. Fast forward a few months and 19 participants at the DRC are now feeling pride as they graduate from the program. All 19 participants were enrolled in and completed their program requirements based on their individual assessment results prior to graduation. Being a part of Alexandria DRC's very first graduating class made this ceremony

even more special! All participants were honored with a joyous ceremony, which five were able to attend in person. The graduation was witnessed by the family and friends of the graduates, local Probation and Parole officers, GEO staff, and local media outlets (KALB and KLAX).

The most rewarding part of the ceremony was knowing that the participants were receptive to the knowledge and resources provided to them by the trained and dedicated professionals at the DRC. "It feels pretty good. I've graduated once before from high school. It feels better to experience it again," said graduate Deon Thomas, as he expressed his excitement of being one of the first Alexandria DRC graduates.





## Seasons Greetings from Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility

Written By **Portsha Jones, Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility**



Seasons Greetings from the Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility (ATEF) Staff. 2022 at ATEF was phenomenal. Residents and staff ended the year with a spirit of gratitude, love, peace, and happiness. In the month of December, ATEF had a total of 12 graduates. All graduates were required to attend the following classes: Orientation, Life Skills, Substance Use Treatment Program, Relapse and Recovery, MRT/Fatherhood, Thinking for a Change, Anger Management, Healthy Relationships, and a vocational trade class taught by J. F. Ingram Technical College. The graduation ceremony took place in December 2022. The graduates also had an opportunity to share their experiences, accomplishments, and future goals. Our ATEF band rocked the ceremony with christmas carols and country music. We love positive competition and also sponsored a Christmas unit door contest. ATEF has a total of six units and all had different and unique Christmas themes.







## Imperial County's 5th Annual Adult Reentry Summit

Written By **Carlos Contreras**, Imperial Day Reporting Center

Recently, GEO's Imperial Day Reporting Center (DRC), in partnership with the Imperial County Probation and Imperial County Sheriff's office, organized the 2022 Adult Reentry Summit. The Summit included over 400 probationers in Imperial County and multiple Community services organizations and County Public service departments who provided guidance and information to the probation and in-custody participants in Imperial County.

This annual event had a two-year pause due to COVID, but we returned to hosting the event at the Imperial DRC. The guest speaker was actor and comedian Noel Gugliemi, who spoke about his upbringing and life situation in a motivational way that represented many of the life aspects that our participants live through. He encouraged them to make a change and look at the possibilities that are available after prison or probation.

Additionally, at the summit, Carlos Contreras, GEO Program Manager was awarded a Community Service Award for his work with GEO and the Imperial County community. Area Manager, Sara Gaytan, was present during the ceremony and part of the congratulatory team in recognizing Carlos for his work at GEO and making a difference in the community.





# Four GEO Chaplains Recognized by Prison Fellowship



In November 2022, four GEO Chaplains were recognized by Prison Fellowship® for their roles increasing participation in Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program at their respective facilities.

Prison Fellowship® works to restore America's criminal justice system and those it affects. They help men and women replace the cycle of brokenness that landed them in prison and advocate for justice reform and activate grassroots networks to do the same. Prison Fellowship® also provides numerous programs to help strengthen the bond between children and their parents who are behind bars.

The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree™ program equips churches to strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children and support the families of prisoners year-round. Each year, Prison Fellowship® announces their Prison Partner Award winners and in 2022, we were proud that four GEO Chaplains received awards in the following categories:

## Children's Champion Award:

- Eastern Region – *Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, Chaplain Roosevelt Glover*
- Western Region – *Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center, Chaplain Tracy Hale*

## Renewal Award:

- Eastern Region – *Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, Chaplain Ruben Hernandez*
- Western Region – *Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, Chaplain Calvin Robinson*

# The Passenger Seat

Written By **Rio Davis,**  
**Community Alternatives of El Paso County (CAE)**



Metaphorically, the passenger seat is where I sat in the car of my life. I couldn't tell who was in the driver's seat as they constantly changed. Pride one day, envy the next, and insecurity on the weekend. I surely didn't see them the day

the gavel slammed, and I was sentenced to 20 years in the Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC).

During my incarceration, I participated in certain cognitive therapies, such as Mind Over Mood and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), that challenged this "passenger seat mentality," as I call it. I joined the Prison Trained K-9 Companion Program and enrolled at Trinidad State Junior College (TSJC). Training dogs showed me I do have something to offer and that people can see the change in their pets because of my hard work. This hard work and dedication to something other than myself allowed me to understand the difference between being prideful and being confident in my abilities. Seeing the exuberance on the faces of the parents and children allowed me to take the wheel away from insecurity.

While enrolled at TSJC, I created a business plan for a dog training company called Prime Time Pups. One thing I learned was that I couldn't do it by myself so I started cultivating relationships that challenged me to grow. After five months of being at Community Alternatives of El Paso County (CAE), I'm proud to say Prime Time Pups is open for business.



We can have our dreams if we face our demons and slay them. So now, when I ride in the car of life, I'm in the driver's seat, and my future is in the passenger seat.





## Delaney Hall Staff Present at New Jersey Cops 4 Kids

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



New Jersey Cops 4 Kids is an organization that strives to break the barriers that exist between law enforcement and at-risk youth in the community. They provide exciting activities and one-on-one mentorship for youth ages 6 to 18 years old who have an interest in learning more about careers in the field of law enforcement. In 2016, Ms. Aurea Ruiz, Assistant to the Director of Classification at Delaney Hall, encouraged her two sons to become involved with the program in order to “give them the structure and discipline they would need to become productive members of our society rather than products of society.” She subsequently joined the parent committee within the organization, and currently serves as the Recruiting Director for the Essex County Chapter, working closely with Essex County Chapter Director, Armando Aviles, to enhance the lives of many.

Recently, Ms. Aurea Ruiz invited Delaney Hall Facility Director, Luis Soto, to present alongside her to a group of participants at Barringer High School in Newark, New Jersey. Director Soto spoke on his past experience working within the New Jersey Department of Corrections, as well as on his current role as Facility Director. Ms. Ruiz spoke on her 22 years of experience working for Community Education Centers and The GEO Group; highlighting how rewarding it was to work closely with a female population. Director Soto and Ms. Ruiz described the participants as excited and welcoming, and felt as though the informative presentation opened their eyes to the possibility of employment within the field of law enforcement. Director Soto concluded his presentation by having the children reflect on the idea that “if you don’t plan to succeed, you plan to fail,” in hopes of encouraging them to go confidently toward their dreams.

## Santa Ana Open House

Written By **Robert Bader-Huesgen, Santa Ana Day Reporting Center**

The Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC) recently hosted an Open House. Members from the community were invited to witness what the DRC does each and every day for the participants that are referred to the DRC by the local parole department. Community members of Santa Ana walked through the DRC to learn about the program in detail as participants move from Starting Point to Aftercare and the challenges they might face as they navigate through the program. Guests gained knowledge and information regarding what participants experience during their reentry journey. Guests were also treated to lunch at the DRC, where even more connections could be made to better support our participants.



# GEO Post-Release Services Participate in MLK Parade

Written By **Amlak-I Foley, Post-Release Services**

*The following article is written from the perspective of Amlak-I Foley, GEO Post-Release Case Manager and GEO Continuum of Care Alumni.*

Waking up on Monday was beyond a blessing for me. First, I was free, and secondly, it was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Day. I began my day knowing that two of my close comrades and I would be honoring the legendary Reverend King. As Rev. King did, we wanted to champion human and civil rights in our community through service. We planned on giving our service to the communities we came from to help raise awareness to humanity's never-ending plight. This man that we planned to honor was a man who was able to bring together the hearts and minds of some of the most influential religious and political figures during the turbulent Civil Rights era. For so many men, like ourselves, we saw his collective message and it made us feel as if there was a chance to be better as humans. With this message in mind, myself and two of the men I did time with decided to help clean up the streets as our local MLK Day Parade was going on.

Now here we were, three men who had collectively served 55 years in Florida prisons, being a solution to our communities. Today was never about us or

what we collectively struggled through; but rather about learning how to better give selflessly to our fellow human family. So, it was in the spirit of Dr. King that we walked up and down the Historic Sistrunk Avenue in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, doing our best to gather each piece of trash that found its way to the ground.

One of my comrades who assisted in the neighborhood cleanup is a man I have the honor of working alongside named Mr. Darrell Guildford. Mr. Guilford did 26 years yet dedicated most of that time to helping men get out of prison by appealing their cases. He eventually began working for a law firm, as a certified paralegal, while still on the inside through a Work Release program.

Working in the Post-Release Call Center has been an amazing addition to both of our lives as we are surrounded by leadership who have shown us that our insight matters to the ultimate ideal of true integrated reentry. In essence, Rev. King showed us that there was a second chance through his message; and was through The GEO Group that my comrade and I were afforded a second chance, giving us an opportunity to build a career doing exactly what we have been doing already, giving back. As our Director Craig Spatara always says, "You guys have one job, to motivate and advocate."

Many people don't realize that MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. For us, it was an honor to spend MLK Day serving our community. Now we continue to honor his legacy by our service everyday as Post-Release Case Managers, effectively assisting individuals in their efforts of changing their behaviors, ultimately changing their lives.





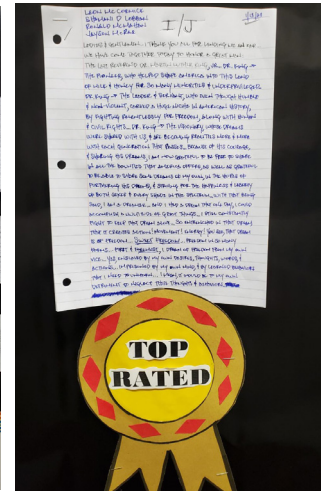
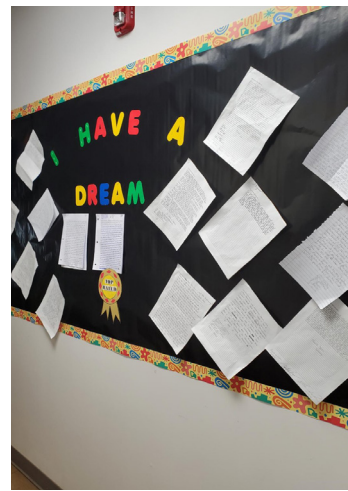


## New Jersey GEO Alumni Services Celebrate MLK Day

Written By **Arthur Townes, GEO Alumni Services**

Members of New Jersey GEO Alumni Services recently celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day by participating in a community day of service. Mr. Altorice Frazier, Parents Engaging Parents New Jersey (PEPNJ) Co-Founder and Executive Director, and an Alumni from GEO Reentry's Tully House hosted a community service event supporting both senior citizens and local youth in the East Orange area, demonstrating the power of GEO Alumni Service to help build community and foster leadership among its members.

Later in the day, PEPNJ hosted a watch party of MLK's famous "I Have a Dream" speech via zoom, with Arthur Townes and other members of New Jersey Alumni Services in virtual attendance. "To honor Dr. King in any way is always an honor," said Mr. Townes.



## "I Have A Dream" Event at Robeson CRV Center

Written By **Ashley Oxendine, In-Prison Treatment Services, GEO Care/GEO Reentry Services**

Residents receiving In-Prison Treatment Services provided by GEO Reentry at the Robeson CRV Center in North Carolina recently participated in an "I Have A Dream" event to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The participants were able to express themselves by writing their own "I Have A Dream" speeches. They were placed into groups of five with each group articulating what their dreams are related their lives, both currently and after their future release from the Robeson CRV Center. The speeches demonstrated compassion for each resident's respective dream and displayed unity and collaboration amongst the groups. One speech was then selected by each of the groups, and one member of each group recited the speech while the other stood on stage and supported the leader. The event helped these gentlemen realized that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not the only person with a dream. We all have dreams, and we must take one step at a time to carry those dreams out.





GEO WORLD MAGAZINE  
4th QUARTER 2022  
Volume 36  
Issue 4

*Equal Opportunity Employer • 4955 Technology Way, Boca Raton, FL 33431 • 561.893.0101*