

GEO World

1st QUARTER 2022

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



THE GEO GROUP CELEBRATES
SECOND CHANCE MONTH



Executive Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Executive Chairman of the Board

As a company, we are at our best when we are helping those in our care reenter society as successful, productive, and employable citizens.

To the GEO Family,

April is 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. As a company, we are focused on improving the opportunities for returning citizens to lead successful and productive lives in their communities. 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®.

At GEO, we believe that America's criminal justice system should offer meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and second chances. We also believe that every person has unbound potential, and it is therefore important that we offer justice involved individuals who have served their sentences a second chance to become productive members of society.

This month, we celebrate those who have set out to create better lives following incarceration. Justice involved individuals are often eager to leave behind the challenges presented by incarceration. Too often, however, they find the transition to life outside of prison to be daunting. If they are not able to find jobs and housing and rebuild relationships with family and friends, they may find it harder to escape the cycle of reoffending.

Statistically, five out of every six individuals released from state prison systems are likely to be rearrested within nine years of their release, and more than a third of former federal inmates are likely to be rearrested within five years of their release. These high rates of recidivism place a significant financial burden on taxpayers, deprive our labor force of productive workers, and leave families without spouses and parents.

By extending second chances to justice involved individuals and removing unnecessary barriers to successful community reintegration, we can build avenues for productive citizenship and safer and more prosperous neighborhoods. Every person reentering society should have the best opportunity possible to obtain housing, clothing, food, transportation, and gainful employment.

As we celebrate Second Chance Month, we must strengthen our commitment to helping returning citizens contribute to the prosperity of our society and communities. We must also express our gratitude to all those who play a role in helping deliver rehabilitation and reentry programs to the men and women in our facilities, including our employees, faith-based and community organizations, and employers willing to hire returning citizens.

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

GEO Board Member Jack Brewer Hosts Second Chance Brunch and honors GEO Alumni

The Jack Brewer Foundation and The GEO Group hosted a Second Chance brunch in Weston, Florida to highlight second chances through employment. Mr. Brewer challenged attendees to contribute to reforming America’s employment and long-term economic growth by hiring returning citizens.

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Service dog Mindy retired from her duties as a Detection Dog after being involved in a motor vehicle accident with her handler in late 2020 while on their way to a training session.

GEO Board Member Jack Brewer Hosts Second Chance Brunch

Written By **Angela Geisinger,**
GEO Continuum of Care®

April is National Second Chance Month, which highlights and reaffirms the need for us as a nation to assist those individuals who were formerly incarcerated. At The GEO Group, we are focused on continually looking for opportunities to positively assist individuals who are returning to and living in our communities.

In the 2022 Presidential Proclamation recognizing "Second Chance Month," President Biden focused on taking a holistic approach and wrote that "it requires quality job training and educational opportunities during incarceration."

For years, GEO has taken the lead in providing "quality job training and educational opportunities." Over the last five years alone, more than 11,000 residents in our facilities have earned their high school equivalency or GED certificate. Additionally, more than 20,000 individuals have earned nationally recognized and certified vocational certifications in a variety of areas including Commercial Driver's License, Barbering, Hospitality, Technology Support, Culinary Arts, and more.

The Jack Brewer Foundation and The GEO Group hosted a Second Chance brunch in Weston, Florida on April 9, 2022 to highlight second chances through employment. GEO's Chief Executive Officer, Jose Gordo, and GEO Continuum of Care® Executive Vice President, Derrick Schofield, were in attendance. Mr. Brewer challenged attendees to contribute to reforming America's employment and long-term economic growth by hiring returning citizens. A Second Chance panel comprised of GEO Continuum of Care® graduates provided personal testimonies about their reentry journeys and the second chances they have been afforded.



Elmo Golden, a panel member and GEO Continuum of Care® alumnus, who is now the CEO of Dignity Speaks, reflected on his second chance with the group by sharing a verse from Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited me in."

He further added, "I remember every person who extended a hand of gratitude to me while behind the fence. GEO allowed me to find freedom while I was still incarcerated. There are people at GEO who really care."

Amlak-I Foley, Post-Release Case Manager and GEO Alumnus, added that "everyone deserves a second and sometimes third chance; I know I did. It's with this spirit I step into the Post-Release call center daily. It's this spirit of second chances that drives me to answer each call and help each participant as if it will be the last thing I do on earth."

GEO's Chief Executive Officer, Jose Gordo, spoke during the brunch, saying "at GEO, we are committed to second chances. By extending second chances to justice involved individuals and removing unnecessary barriers to success, we unlock avenues for productive citizenship and create safer and more prosperous neighborhoods. The great American Poet, Maya Angelou, once said 'I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.'"

During this Second Chance Month, let us all renew and strengthen our commitment to helping those reentering society do better.



Celebrating Second Chance Month and Honoring GEO Alumni

During Second Chance Month, we celebrate those who have set out to create better lives following incarceration and renew our commitment to helping returning citizens contribute to the strength and prosperity of our society and communities.

At GEO, we are committed to second chances and would like to recognize several GEO Alumni who were once on the inside and are now using their second chance to give back.

Elmo Golden



Elmo served 22 years in prison and was released from GEO's South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. He is now the Founder and CEO of Dignity Speaks, an active member of GEO Alumni Services, and a Director with The Jack Brewer Foundation.

Arthur Townes



Arthur graduated from a GEO Reentry program in 1998 and came back to work for GEO in 2000. He started as a unit counselor and has been promoted multiple times since. He currently serves as the National Director of GEO Alumni Services.

Richard Kurdek



Richard is a former resident at Delaney Hall. He says during his time at Delaney he "experienced hope for the future." After his release, Richard went on to work at Delaney Hall for nine years as a recovery coordinator. He is now self-employed and an active member of GEO Alumni Services.

Vincent Dooley



Vincent is currently a Supervisor at Delaney Hall. In his adolescent years, he had a history of run-ins with the law which resulted in him being placed in GEO's Logan Hall reentry facility. His experience at Logan Hall motivated him to work in the reentry space and focus on encouraging others that change is possible.

Anthony Mills



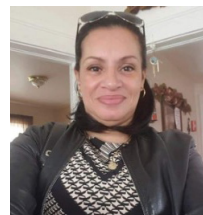
At a young age, Anthony found himself placed into Delaney Hall before serving a 10-year sentence in a New Jersey State Prison. Upon his release, he obtained multiple certifications to provide addiction and recovery services. He joined GEO in 2019 and is currently the Program Counselor at The Harbor.

Timothy Dobson



Timothy is a former resident of Delaney Hall, where he went as an alternative to serving his sentence in jail. He now operates his own construction and home improvement company and is an active member of GEO Alumni Services, where he helps others like him begin a new, responsible lifestyle.

Aurea Ruiz



Ms. Ruiz was arrested and sent to Delaney Hall in 2000. She believes that having the opportunity to receive treatment at Delaney, as opposed to traditional incarceration, helped to change her life. She was released in late 2000 and immediately became active with GEO Alumni Services. In 2001, she joined Delaney Hall as an Assessment Counselor and currently serves as the Assistant to the Director of Classification.

Danette Robinson



Danette Robinson is a former resident at Delaney Hall and since her release has obtained two master's degrees and has gone on to work at GEO's Harbor House and Bo Robinson reentry centers. While working for GEO, she oversaw Program Activities and ACA audits for both Harbor House and Bo Robinson. She is also an active GEO Alumni member.

Stedmund Anthony



Stedmund was a former gang member and served his time at GEO's Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. He is now a GEO Alumni and travels to GEO facilities to promote the CoC program and encourage inmates to participate in the GEO Continuum of Care®.

Deynia Edwards



After a history of crime and substance abuse, Deynia was sentenced to Delaney Hall, an experience which she feels changed her and enabled her to make a complete turnaround in her approach to life. She worked for GEO as an Alumni Coordinator and now works at a treatment center in Newark, NJ.

Lamar Dutton



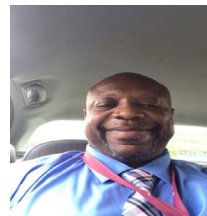
In 2009, Lamar was sentenced to five years in prison. Towards the end of his sentence, he was transferred to the Harbor House where we started to change his thinking. While at Harbor House he began attending classes at Hudson Community College. In 2016, Lamar was hired at GEO's Delaney Hall as an Operations Counselor and he was recently promoted to Recreation Specialist.

Jenette Thomas



Jenette Thomas feels her life began at Delaney Hall, where she was a resident 19 years ago. After her release, she became an employment specialist at GEO's Logan Hall reentry facility, where she used her gift of persuasion to land jobs and opportunities for our clients. Ms. Thomas is also a breast cancer survivor, which led to her stepping away from her employment specialist position. However, she remains an active GEO Alumni member and is always available during her busy life to help others. She is often referred to as the "Ma Duke" of GEO Alumni.

Darris Hawkins



Darris is a former resident of both Talbot Hall and Harbor House. Upon release, he worked for a trucking company before joining GEO in 2016 as an Operations Counselor. Currently, he works for the North New Jersey Community Research Initiative as a case manager helping former residents change their lives and providing them with community resources.

Amlak-I Foley



Amlak-I Foley served time in GEO's South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and became highly involved in the GEO Continuum of Care®. For the past 4 years, he has been employed at GEO, first as a peer-mentor, leading to a full-time position as a Post Release Case Manager. Beyond working for Post-Release, he has lectured at Florida Atlantic University, University of South Florida, and Broward College; currently serves as an advisor to the Palm Beach Reentry Task Force; and is involved with various other reentry organizations.

Moore Haven Moon Pies Defeat Jack Brewer's American Heroes in Second Chance Basketball Tournament

Written By **Angela Geisinger and Christopher Ferreira, Corporate**



On Sunday, April 10, the Moore Haven Moon Pies, GEO Continuum of Care® staff, and The Jack Brewer Foundation's American Heroes celebrated Second Chance month with a "Free-throws to Freedom" basketball tournament. The game was set to bring awareness and unlock second chance opportunities for individuals completing their sentencing requirements. The Moon Pies played for every person who is currently incarcerated and especially for those returning home who deserve access to education, employment, and housing assistance. With an overwhelming sense of pride, the Moon Pies defied all odds as they prepared for the day. The Moon Pies roster consisted of Antonio Aldridge, Michael Black, Anthony Dennis, Eddie Douglas, Adarius Hollinger, Lenoris Leaks, Frederick Livingston, Quentin Mitchell, Andre Robinson, Antonio White, and Kevin Williams. Their coach was Moore Haven Academic Instructor, Avrum Fleming.

The American Heroes team was comprised of Jack Brewer, Former NFL Player and GEO Board member; David Venturella, GEO Senior Vice

President, Client Relations; Erik Coleman, NFL Veteran and former Safety; Patrick Chukwurah, NFL Veteran and former Defensive End; Channing Crowder, NFL Veteran and former Linebacker; Ron Parker, NFL Veteran and former Safety; Andre Berto, two-time former Welterweight Boxing Champion; Rashad Evans, former UFC Light Heavyweight Champion and UFC Hall of Famer; Jeremy Whitley, CEO of Next Level Trucking; Elmo Golden, Founder of Dignity Speaks and CoC Alumni member; and several other members of The Jack Brewer Foundation Advisory Board.

Over 900 fellow residents cheered on their Moon Pies as they defeated The Jack Brewer Foundation's American Heroes. The American Heroes team may have been stacked with athletic talent, but they were still no match for the Moon Pies, who beat the American Heroes 84 to 20. Following the tournament, the Moon Pie Champions and the residents of Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility were treated to a food truck invasion and post-game concert.



Florida Enacts Groundbreaking Fatherhood Bill

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate**

In April 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 7065 into law. The bill is a \$70 million initiative that will provide resources for education and mentorship programs to help children, fathers and families in the state through the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The funds will allow the DJJ to create a mentorship program to help at-risk youth through the new initiative, hosting various programs such as barbershop talks and fatherhood classes. DCF will also launch a statewide campaign to raise awareness around the importance of fatherhood, supporting nonprofit organizations to help fathers stay engaged and connected with their children, along with case managers and resources to assist fathers looking for employment opportunities.

Additionally, the bill earmarks approximately \$32.6 million in grants aimed at assisting fathers transition from a period of incarceration, find employment, and manage child support obligations. It also provides grants for evidence-based parenting education for fathers.

This new initiative comes as more than 18 million children in the U.S. do not have a father in their home, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. “This has a severe impact on children, and often leads to dropping out of school, crime and substance abuse,” Governor DeSantis said at a news conference for the bill signing.

Supporting the bill signing were fathers from across the state and several national and community leaders who encourage involved fatherhood, including former NFL head coach Tony Dungy, former NFL professional football player, philanthropist, and GEO Board Member Jack Brewer, and Glen Gilzean, president and CEO of the Urban League of Central Florida. “This is a crisis in America, today,” said Jack Brewer, who is also the Founder and Executive Director of The Jack Brewer Foundation.

“Governor DeSantis is setting an example the entire country needs to follow. With bills like this and leaders like the men here behind me, we can change this nation.”

DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

We are pleased to announce the 8th Annual 2021 Diversity in Leadership Award recipients and to pay tribute to two deserving leaders who represent our diverse workforce and the communities they live in.

TaCara Chambers – Director, Contract Compliance, Corporate



TaCara's noteworthy achievements include the implementation of a company-wide facility license database (LicenseLogix), her work with the CEC acquisition, and her continued leadership in maintaining the Federal System for Award Management (SAM) registration for all 14 GEO legal contracting entities.

TaCara has a strong commitment to her Palm Beach County community where she served as member of the West Palm Beach Historic Preservation Board from 2017-2020. She attended televised board meetings and made a permanent and lasting impression on the historic neighborhoods through her involvement. TaCara was also the former Vice Chairperson on the Greenacres Board of Commerce from 2012-2017, during which she reviewed requests from petitioners for annexation, re-zoning, code compliance, and other high-level requests to ensure that city zoning standards were met. TaCara recently joined the Arts in Public Places Committee of Palm Beach County and serves as an advisor to the County Commission.



Even in her everyday life, TaCara understands the need for work-life balance. She is a loyal wife and mother of two who shows the same level of caring and understanding in her professional life. She has been known to take Tri-Rail to and from work, so she can maximize her family time and get her work accomplished during her commute. TaCara is often consulted by her co-workers and is excited to turn her direct reports into her protégés to empower them to attain higher standards.

Dr. Cheralee Morgan – Programs Director, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



Dr. Cheralee Morgan displays many outstanding leadership qualities such as inspiration, vision, dedication, stewardship, and work ethic.

Cheralee has shown that she possesses the ability to motivate the people she works with. For example, she has built relationships with the City of South Bay, the Facility's contractors, the Florida Department of Corrections, GEO's Corporate Office, and several accreditation institutions. These relationships have an impact on the successful performance of the departments she oversees. Recently, Cheralee has effectively fostered staff collaboration on educational projects to ensure participant success.

Within the first year of joining the organization and without any correctional experience, she mobilized the staff to work together to achieve accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and the American Correctional Association (ACA). Cheralee's vision for the departments she manages is evident to her team and includes diligent efforts to incorporate more college courses into the academic programs, and to gain The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) accreditation for the vocational programs.

Dr. Morgan serves on several community boards. Most notably, she is a member of the City of Lauderhill Arts, Culture, and Tourism Board. In this capacity, she works with other board members to promote local business and community relations for the City of Lauderhill. She also serves on the Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network. This is

where professional Jamaicans living in the United States participate in designing programs that help in the growth and development of Jamaicans. Cheralee also sits on the executive boards of all her past educational institutions, from elementary through college. Through these associations, she partners with local organizations like Food for the Poor, Habitat for Humanity, and Feeding South Florida. These organizations provide aid and service to underserved communities.

To balance her work and community service, in her personal time, Cheralee also serves her church community at Christian Life Center as a member the Red-Carpet Ministry and Online Moderator Ministries.

The GEO family congratulates TaCara and Cheralee, as well as all the nominees in this great recognition program that provides an opportunity to showcase the distinguished and diverse individuals we employ in all areas of the company. Each winner received a check for \$5,000 sponsored by our insurance consultants, Lockton Companies.

The judges for this year's Diversity in Leadership Awards were Dr. Derrick Schoffield, Alex Londono, Susan Napolitano, Johanny Handel, Louise Williams, Jada Preston-Hill (Lockton Companies), JoAnne Steed (Lockton Companies), along with 2020 winners Jamie Flores and Thatiana Tavarez. Both new recipients will join the judges' panel to assist with the selection process for 2022.

Finding Your Peace of Mind

Written By **Johanny Handel, Corporate Human Resources**



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, we have all been living in challenging and unpredictable times. As a result, sadness and dark moods are inevitable and unfortunately have become a normal human response to life events. Usually, we can bounce back with self-care and time, but when sadness eats away at your motivation and purpose, your mental health could use a check-up.

If you think you or a member of your immediate family might be struggling with mental health challenges, you are not alone. According to John Hopkins University School of Medicine, one in four U.S. adults suffer from a diagnosable mental health issue. Mental health is a critical part of your overall well-being. It can also be easily ignored and drastically affect physical health. Here are some feelings that can signal that help may be needed:

Exhaustion

It is normal to be tired after a long day. But if you are tired all the time, it could be due to depression or anxiety. Your primary care physician can help assess you.

Detachment

Do you feel a lack of interest in the things that used to bring you joy? Have you lost your spark for hobbies, friends, pets or loved ones?

Severe moodiness

Are your mood swings frequent and drastic? Or are you easily irritated, impatient, or hypercritical of yourself?

Lifestyle changes

Are you sleeping or eating way more or way less than before? Or perhaps drinking more alcohol and/or participating in risky activities?

Trouble focusing or making decisions

Has decision making become hard for you? Are you unable to pay attention to others or complete tasks that require concentration?

Worry and hopelessness

Do you feel that your life cannot be improved? That there is nothing that anyone can do to help you? Have your worries consumed you from the present moment?

If you or a member of your immediate family seem to be experiencing any of these feelings and your quality of life has decreased, you are not alone. This is the time to seek assistance. You may be unaware of the resources readily available to employees and family members of The GEO Group. We care and are here to help you with the following benefits:

Employees Assistance Program (EAP) with LifeWorks

LifeWorks offers qualified support with mental, financial, physical, and emotional wellbeing at no cost. You can turn to LifeWorks for a confidential service that you can trust. Here are a few topics that LifeWorks can provide guidance with:

- Death/loss
- Addiction
- Stress
- Nutrition
- Sleep
- Divorce

- Abuse
- Shift work
- Managing debt
- Renting
- Legal

LifeWorks is available 24/7, 365 days a year. To access care for yourself or family member call toll free at 800-272-2727 or go online at login.lifeworks.com.

In addition, you can download the mobile app by searching for “LifeWorks” in the Google Play or App store. Once you open the app, click on ‘Log in’ and enter your log-in credentials:

Username: geo Password: eap

Telemedicine

With the hectic pace of life, it can seem impossible to find time to meet in-person with a therapist, especially during a pandemic. Did you know you could access confidential mental health counseling over the phone with your medical plan?

If you are enrolled in a BCBS medical plan, you can access Teledoc for your mental health needs 24/7. Currently there is a \$0 copayment (except for HSA participants) and you can meet with a licensed therapist, psychiatrist, or psychologist seven days a week via telephone or video call, depending on your location. To access Teledoc, go onto www.Teladoc.com or call 800-Teladoc (835-2362). You can also schedule an in-person appointment with an in-network mental health provider. Please see your BCBS Plan Benefits Summary for more information.

If you are enrolled in a Kaiser medical plan, you can access Kaiser telemedicine. There is no charge for telemedicine visits. To access licensed care, log on to kp.org/mentalhealth or call 1-800-900-3277 (TTY 711).

Help is always available for you and your loved ones! Make mental health as much of a priority as your preventive health. Use the resources provided by The GEO Group and take small steps towards a brighter future.



Florence West Raises Funds for Arizona Autism United

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

One of Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility’s Correctional Officers, Lisa Schultz, recently organized a quarterly fundraiser for Arizona Autism United. It was an inmate fundraiser that is held quarterly at the facility. The inmates rallied together and raised nearly \$12,000 and chose various food items and toiletries to be purchased from Sam’s Club and Walmart with the funds. The inmates were particularly proud of this accomplishment and are excited for the next fundraiser.



NCCF Plus Program Supports Women's Pregnancy Care Center

Written By **Frederick Cooper, New Castle Correctional Facility**

Bringing a newborn child into this world should be a joyous time filled with happiness, hope, love, and overwhelming excitement. For the women cared for at The Women's Pregnancy Care Center, finding this kind of joy and happiness in the midst of life's circumstances can become quite a challenge for even the strongest woman. The men in the New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) PLUS program sewing crew have taken on a mission to make sure that the women at The Women's Pregnancy Care Center have an opportunity to experience the emotional joys that came along with giving birth to a newborn child. The sewing crew worked together to create amazing baby quilts to give to the expecting mothers, so that their babies would have a warm blanket to be wrapped in.

The PLUS participants who had this opportunity to give back to the community experienced a state of tranquility from the work they completed. If only the PLUS participants could see the smile on these mothers' faces and the bundle of joy snuggled in the blankets that they handmade, there would not be a dry eye in the room. With these blankets, our hope is to touch the lives of both the women in the care center and the lives of their children; bringing added support to a mother who needs to know that she is not alone and a soft blanket for her child to be placed in.

Ms. Sandy Swann is NCCF's Outreach Coordinator and provides the needed materials and countless hours of support to the PLUS participants. The NCCF PLUS program has been working with Ms. Swann for years, delivering warmth and smiles with each lap blanket given away to not only the pregnancy center, but also to local senior centers. For PLUS, no request is too small or insignificant when it comes to giving back to our community.

The Journey Begins

Written By **Rohan Gunter, Broward Transitional Center**



The Broward Transitional Center recently graduated a new training class consisting of four Security Officers, three Transportation Officers, one Administration Purchasing Clerk, one Nurse, and one Maintenance Technician.

In December 2021, these ten individuals entered the center with different origins, backgrounds, and states of mind. Stepping into the yard, they experienced a culture shock immediately. This was no ordinary facility. It was beautiful. The residents moved freely in and out of their units. This was one of the first talking points as the class walked through the yard to the training room.

The class opened with ice breakers and had an overview of the various maintenance, programming, food service, and medical service functions of the facility.

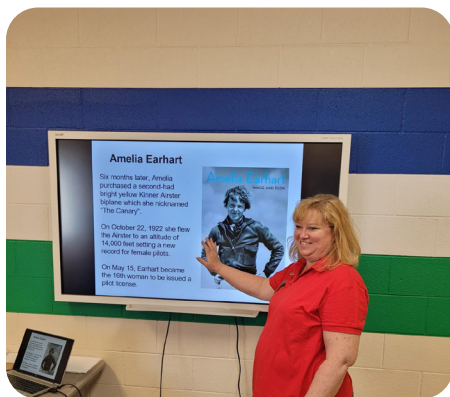
The mix of interactive and fun personalities created a recipe for learning. This made even going outside for the Defensive Training class an adventure. The facility pampering started quickly, with snacks, lunch and gift card, and a huge 22-pound turkey being prepared for lunch.

The new employees are proud of being the first graduating class of 2022 and understand and embrace the GEO mission. They are ready for the challenges and the journey that follows.

Kingman Staff Honored in the Community

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

Recently two Kingman staff members were honored with special awards in the community.



Lisa Brownfield, Education Programs Manager, was recognized during the annual Kingman Women Making History awards ceremony as one of Mohave County's 21 award recipients. Ms. Brownfield's award was based on her numerous contributions during 18 years of teaching and educational administration at the Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility.

The Awards Committee praised Ms. Brownfield for her dedication to providing excellent GED programs, vocational training, and college studies. The Committee cited the positive impact such programs have on public safety in communities by providing

inmates opportunities to acquire better skills to succeed upon release.

In her acceptance speech, Ms. Brownfield acknowledged the support she receives from GEO to offer a broad range of programs that better prepare inmates for release. "With all the programming we offer: Academic Education, Career Technical Education, Substance Abuse Treatment classes, and Religious Services, when inmates release, they return home changed, educated, and so proud to be your neighbor," Ms. Brownfield said. "The GEO Group helps to keep our Arizona communities safer by changing the lives of inmates through Education," she added.



Dan Davis, Maintenance Technician, was also honored in a community event that gained him worldwide recognition. Mr. Davis recently competed in an Amateur Athletic Association (AAU) power lifting event in Las Vegas. In the 65-69 age and 220-pound weight category, Mr. Davis set a United States and World AAU record with a bench press of 319 pounds (single lift/raw shirt). This lift shattered the old record of 303 pounds in this category.

Mr. Davis first entered body building and power lifting competitions in 1999. His passion for the sport influenced his daughter, Crystal Davis to pursue competitive power lifting. His

daughter followed in Mr. Davis' footsteps, as she also recently set a United States and World record with a bench press of 240 pounds.

As a Maintenance Technician at Kingman CRF, Mr. Davis is called on to perform numerous tasks, often involving heavy equipment repairs. Staff know they can rely on Mr. Davis to do the "heavy lifting" when it comes to maintenance work.

Kingman CRF is proud of Ms. Brownfield and Mr. Davis for their achievements in the community!

Fighting Hunger...Feeding Hope



Juan Uguarte – KCDF Officer (Outside Yard) , Brittany Morales – KCDF Executive Secretary, Kenedy High School FFA Students and Staff, Michelle Salais – Assistant to County Judge

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

Written By **Brittany Morales, Karnes County Detention Facility**

Every month, the Karnes County Detention Facility teams up with the Karnes County Judge's Office and the San Antonio Food bank to distribute food to more than 200 families within the county. This month's drive was a little different. We were joined by the FFA students and staff from Kenedy High School in Kenedy, Texas. This brought additional hands that helped volunteers tremendously. The group was led by Ms. Tatum Bauer and every student was very respectful throughout the drive. Seeing smiling faces and our youth contributing to the community in a positive way touched us all. We look forward to working with the staff and students from Kenedy High in the coming months.



HTCF Donates to Local Elementary School Robotics Program

Written By **Janet Ploeger, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

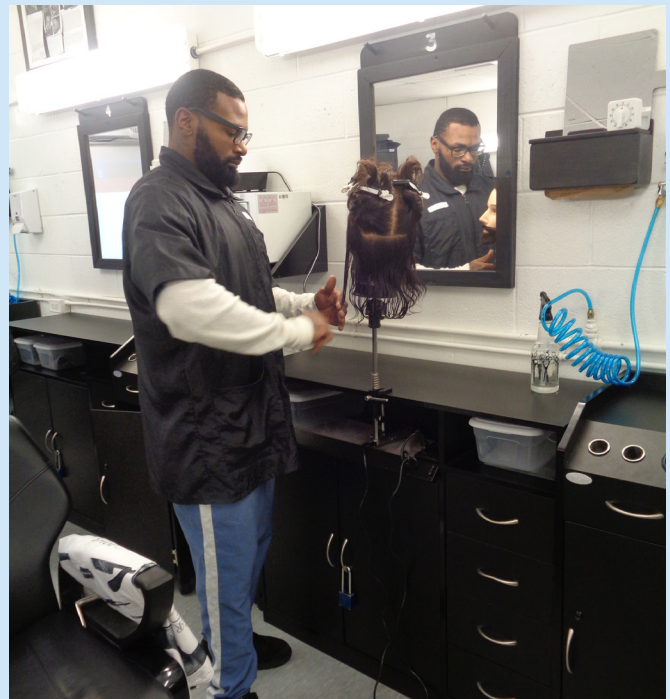
In March, GEO's Heritage Trail Correctional Facility presented a check to the Brentwood Elementary School in the amount of \$200. These funds are used to support the school's robotics program. These donations help Brentwood Elementary School students by giving them real experience, developing skills in teamwork, leadership, communication, and much more. These donations also assist in attending competitions, purchasing new parts for worn out equipment, and provide more kids the opportunity to participate in the future.

Best Barbering Behind Bars or on the Street for That Matter

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

Barbering is often misunderstood as an archaic form of employment. After all, isn't it rather simple to cut another's hair and send them on their way? The better the cut, the better the payment. The exchange sounds extremely pedestrian. However, if one were able to glimpse the creativity that goes into the process, then one would understand why the Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility barbering class should be in the spotlight.

Walking into the class, taught by Ms. Yvonne Turner, is no different than walking into a professional salon. The conduct, language, and education are first-class. Pan around the room and you see how the classroom is meticulously set up, with state-of-the-art chairs and tools.



Enter Ms. Turner's door and you're walking into a whole new world.

Because barbering needs clients, the class routinely hosts their peers in order to hone their skills. It is interesting to see how knowledge is passed down from Ms. Turner to her students and to their peers. Balding? Constant massaging

Geaux GEO Geaux!

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

The Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) sponsored a "fun run" team to participate in the first ever Outrun Hunger 5K benefitting the Montgomery County Food Bank. Prior to the race, MPC held a Mardi-Gras themed "name the team" contest. Matt Hallford was the winner and his "Geaux GEO Geaux" entry inspired team captain, Rebecca Dragon, and runners Wayeshia Martin, Xyasren Hicks, and Joshua Melton to cross the finish line! The Montgomery County Food Bank provides meals to feed insecure children, families, and seniors. MPC's team sponsorship and online donations of over \$500 will help serve approximately 2,500 meals, adding to the food bank's 2022 totals.



will bring the dying hair back. Tension? Treating yourself to "5-Star Service" will cause all your troubles to slip away. Seeking advice? Who best to talk to than a barber who has heard it all because their clients need to vent as they try to sort out their life's troubles. Barbering is as much spiritual as it is physical.

Since the inaugural barbering class, over 100 students have been reviewed by the state board in Tallahassee to sit for the exam and earn their barbering license. Graduating students receive a Florida Restricted Barber License before leaving the facility. This allows them to enter the workforce with job training.

Through GEO's Continuum of Care®, many of Ms. Turner's graduating students have found employment within their first two weeks of release. Others have continued their education by enrolling in Cosmetology School to become dual licensed. Several have opened their own shops. One is currently working as a night barber instructor. The fire of success that began behind Ms. Turner's doors continues to spread at the Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility.





17-member class that graduated from Miami Dade College.

Perseverance Through Adversity

Written By **Christopher Cruz, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

Back row left to right: Wesley Hyppolite, Shkebia Stanley, Katrina Salazar, Leatha Starling, Dania Roman, Jalil Spear, Izell Day, Woothsen Alexandre **Front row Left to right: Jessica Moore, Maricela Saucedo, Zoya Negrete, Olivia Mata, Lasheka Lewis, Tameysia Porter, Antsha King, Arnesha Bryant** **Very Front: Zachary Allen**

The men and women pictured above represent South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility's newest Correctional Officer recruits. The class started at Miami Dade College in July 2021. However, due to the Pandemic, the class did not graduate until February 2022. The academy is normally a three-month, 440-hour curriculum, but due to the pandemic, the class endured an eight-month long academy. Upon completion, the recruits then had to sit for their state licensure test. They persevered, and a majority of the recruits have now become certified through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The commitment from GEO, the facility, and the recruits shows an absolute devotion to providing a meaningful public service. Congratulations to all 17 recruits from the graduating class!



Central Valley Annex Donates to Local Animal Shelter

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

In February 2022, Central Valley Annex showed some love to their furry friends at the Shafter Animal Shelter, donating a total of five hundred and eighty flat sheets. Flat sheets are highly requested due to their multi-purpose use and durability. The Shafter Animal Shelter is also a hub for all surrounding Kern County Animal Shelters and has helped other animal organizations in need of supplies.

Animal Control Officer, Nick Riddick (pictured above) has worked alongside the Shafter Animal Shelter for several years to help rescue, abused, abandoned, and lost animals from the streets. Central Valley Annex strongly believes an animal who is unowned and vulnerable should receive the same care and treatment as those who are in a loving home.

Bakersfield Homeless Center Receives \$10,000 Worth of Donations From The GEO Group

As Featured in **KUZZ AM/FM (Bakersfield, CA)**

The Bakersfield Homeless Center recently received a helping hand from The GEO Group.

The Company donated ten thousand dollars worth of goods to the center after hearing about a fire that gutted one of the Center's storage facilities. Center CEO Lauren Skidmore says with 200 current residents and hundreds more getting housing assistance, these supplies will go to good use as there is always a need. The goods included items the Center asked for such as microwaves, sheets, vacuums, and refrigerators.

Skidmore adds that without community partnerships, they would not be able to do their work helping others.





BLOOD DRIVE



A Community United

Written By **Brittany Morales,**
Karnes County Detention Facility

The Karnes County Detention Facility (KCDF) has been hosting blood drives every quarter for over 20 years. We have also held dedicated drives for local military soldiers and family members. A regularly scheduled drive was set for March, and we were ready for what we thought would be a normal drive. We worked closely with the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center, requested additional volunteers and within two days, staff pushed out the event through social media, emails, text, and calls. The community came together, and not only did KCDF meet their goal, but exceeded it by 127%! This drive was the second largest blood drive in all of South Texas and was rated the highest in all of South Texas that day. It was also recognized by the District Attorney.



At Karnes County Detention Facility, we strive to help the county and community as much as possible, and this event was no different. The response from the community was phenomenal.



Kingman CRF Partners with Local Club for Youth

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

In March 2022, Facility Administrator Jeff Wrigley presented a check for \$10,000 on behalf of The GEO Group Foundation to Bill Ward, Director of the Kingman Club for Youth. The GEO Group Foundation has donated funds to the Club for Youth for the past seven years. During this time, the Club has impacted the lives of more than 1,200 children in the Kingman area.

Mr. Ward commented, "Our organization focuses on investing and motivating our community's youth, so they are inspired to become responsible, productive, and caring citizens. The generosity of The GEO Group Foundation helps to make everything we do possible."

The Club for Youth is a very popular organization that operates out of a former high school in Kingman. The Club is open over 250 days each year and provides a safe, nurturing environment for participants. Special programs are always provided when schools are closed.

Each day, the Club offers programs in art, science, physical fitness, mathematics, and even engineering. Special emphasis is placed on homework assistance, nutritional education, and social skills.

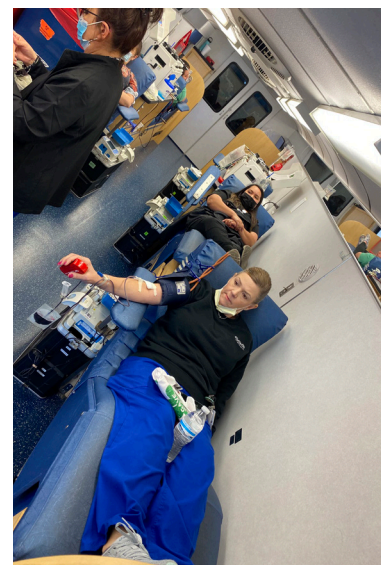
GEO's Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility has partnered with the Club for Youth on numerous projects over the past seven years. Staff have joined with the Club each holiday season to raise funds for their "Clothes for Kids" event. Inmates in vocational training programs have built various items for Club fundraisers, and some inmates have even provided assistance on the Club's outside grounds, repairing garden boxes.

FA Wrigley noted, "Our staff and inmates alike appreciate the strong partnership with the Club for Youth and the opportunity it presents to have a positive impact on the lives of so many children."

MPC Gives the Gift of Life!

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

The Montgomery Processing Center (MPC) recently partnered with the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center to host their first quarter blood drive. Eleven participants from MPC, as well as staff from ICE made a total of fifteen blood donations. These donations are equal to thirty-three patient lives touched! MPC wants to extend a big thank you to Mary Kawar, Training Manager, who coordinated the quarterly event and who already has the second quarter drive scheduled!



CHANGING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

LATINO LEADERS
CONNECTING LEADERS. INSPIRING THE FUTURE

As Featured in Latino Leaders Magazine

Jose Gordo, CEO for The GEO Group, a world-wide leader in the provision of security-related support services to governments around the world, did not get to where he is today easily. Gordo is the son of immigrant parents. He came from a working-class family with struggles that many, if not most, immigrant families face. Gordo's father is from Spain and his mother is from Cuba. He grew up in Miami, and attended the University of Miami. Jose believes his rich and proud heritage has given him important insights and perspective into the many healthcare, criminal justice, and immigration challenges faced by our country today.

Gordo always wanted to go into business. He thought a law degree might best prepare him for whatever line of business he might later pursue, so he decided to attend Georgetown Law School where he received his Juris Doctor degree. Gordo soon became a young associate and worked at several law firms.

"I represented private equity firms, public companies, and venture capital firms. I had a good sampling of different kinds of corporate clients. I was able to learn a lot about how they operated their businesses and, in particular, what their best practices were," Gordo said.

For him, those first few years were a learning experience that helped him develop some of the skills he would use later in his business career. Gordo went on to become managing director of a private equity firm in Palm Beach.

"That's when I embarked on my journey toward the business side, and the only condition I had in joining that firm was that I'd be able to retain my role as an advisor to my favorite client, which was The GEO Group," he said.

"I still wanted to push out on my own. For me, I wanted something a little more dynamic that I could run myself. My vision was to have more



of a private vehicle, where I could maybe do fewer deals, become more involved in operating the companies, and still invest in businesses with very significant growth potential. I was comfortable taking risks and getting involved with earlier stage companies as long as I had confidence in the business plan," Gordo said.

He started on his own in 2012 with a partner. They focused on investing in different industries such as healthcare, telecommunications, and consumer products. Gordo was happy doing his own thing, but he always maintained a strong relationship with GEO. Going from one work environment to another was a journey Gordo felt he had to make.

In every setting he was in, Gordo had people to look up to and learn from, which helped him apply those skills to his future goals. "I don't think I would have been nearly as knowledgeable, experienced, or ready to face the challenges I've had to face without having been surrounded by very sophisticated, successful people throughout the years. I've had some of the best business mentors you could possibly have. Our Founder and Executive

Chairman, George C. Zoley, is at the top of that list. He is the best business leader and operator I have ever been around, and I feel fortunate to have watched him grow our business into the multibillion dollar enterprise we are today.” Gordo said.

“I was always like a sponge, I think that's a trait I always had,” he added.

Gordo's close relationship with The GEO Group began when he represented GEO in its split from its former parent company. He also helped to guide the company through different phases of growth. In 2019, he joined the Board of Directors and became even more involved in the day-to-day operations of the company.

At GEO, Gordo is now the CEO of the largest support services provider for contracted correctional facilities, immigration processing centers, and community reentry programs in the world, providing secure environments, healthcare, meals, access to recreation, rehabilitation, and legal counsel to persons in its custody and care.

“Maintaining operational excellence starts with doing the right thing. Our main mission is to treat those who have been placed in our care and custody with respect and basic human dignity, and to reduce the rate of recidivism of those who have been sentenced for crimes by preparing them to return to their communities with job skills and opportunities that will hopefully prevent them from re-offending and returning to prison,” Gordo said.

“The statistics over the years show that if you take better care of people, provide them with better housing, better facilities, better nutrition and healthcare, and better opportunities and programs for rehabilitation, they will be more committed to finding their way back to civil society,” he noted.

Gordo understands it is a controversial industry. He stressed GEO does not in any way lobby for tougher criminal laws or longer sentences—GEO leaves that to the policy makers and legislators. All of GEO's contracts are the result of government requests for services.

“Our involvement begins with people under our care. If you are unlucky enough to have someone you know go to prison, do you care if their care is being provided by a private company? Or the government? I don't. I would care a lot more about their conditions. Are their living quarters clean and safe? How is their nutrition? Do they have access to programming so they can learn something and come out with relevant job skills? In today's world, a lot of that is completely lost. I have met many individuals who have come out of our facilities, and who have gone through our rehabilitation programming. They thank our employees, and they say, “You changed my life for the better,” he said.

When it comes to the future, he hopes for continued improvement in the provision of inmate and detainee healthcare and new living environments for those who are serving time or whose immigration status is under review. “We can do a lot in correctional healthcare, that is a really important component of making sure people who are in our care can stay fit and healthy and are better prepared for release. And it's an area where you have aging populations, the demographics of people, especially in long-term prison facilities across the country, are shifting toward an older population. They have healthcare issues related to aging. We've put a lot of emphasis on healthcare, and we will continue to do so,” he said.

Gordo agrees that the challenge ahead is daunting but maintains it's one that can and must be met.

“With almost 40 years of experience, our skilled workforce, our modern world-class facilities and our unparalleled rehabilitation programs, we can help to meet the challenges by bringing world-best practices to the table. We are committed to making an important contribution to our public-sector partnerships and to making a meaningful, positive difference in the lives of those who have been placed in our care.”



Meet *Mindy*,
Ravenhall
Correctional
Centre's staff
therapy dog.

Canine Therapy for Good Mental Health

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

Service dog Mindy retired from her duties as a Detection Dog after being involved in a motor vehicle accident with her handler in late 2020 while on their way to a training session. Mindy has now found a new purpose within Ravenhall Correctional Centre, helping staff during stressful times.

Towards the end of 2021, the Centre ran a pilot program where Mindy visited custodial and non-custodial staff once a fortnight. The goal was to improve staff morale and provide an avenue for conversations about mental health. Following the pilot program's success, Mindy has become a regular face to staff across the Centre.

Interacting with therapy dogs has been found to:

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Alleviate pain
- Improve motivation for recovery
- Improve cardiovascular health
- Reduce loneliness
- Build trust and socialization
- Improve confidence and self-esteem
- Improve verbal communication
- Improve empathy and social skills

The Mindy program is just one part of Ravenhall's efforts focusing on mental health and wellbeing of staff in the wake of COVID-19 and the nature of working within a correctional setting.

The Ravenhall team continues to promote good mental health practices and offers support to staff through its Mental Health Matters Committee and its REACH peer support program by fostering initiatives like Mindy.

GEO Staff in Australia Strive to #BreakTheBias

Written By Lyndell Coutts, GEO Australia

Staff at GEO Australia's facilities championed gender equality on International Women's Day (IWD), March 8, 2022, through a range of local initiatives in line with this year's theme of #BreakTheBias.

At Ravenhall Correctional Centre, staff shared their insights on the key biases about females working in corrections, including physical strength, management capabilities in a traditionally male-dominated field, and that empathy and compassion is not a weakness or unique to women. They also recognised that 47% of Ravenhall's staff members are female and that women are represented in every role across the industry.

Staff reflected on their own abilities to help break traditional gender biases in the workplace. This included modelling appropriate behavior, providing opportunities based on skills and experience, and calling out gender biased attitudes and behaviours.

Fulham Correctional Centre hosted an event with guest speakers from Gippsland Women's Health and Victoria Police.

In her welcome address, Fulham General Manager Natalie Greenfield said, "Today provides an important moment to showcase our commitment to women's equality, launch new initiatives and action, celebrate women's achievements, and to highlight gains in gender parity."

"Every individual can make a difference within their sphere of influence to break gender biases in our workplaces and in our communities," Ms. Greenfield added.

Following an IWD-themed morning tea, Executive Support Officer Regina Regulska was surprised with the honour of planting a rose in the Centre's Garden of Meaning – an activity traditionally bestowed on guests – in recognition of her upcoming retirement after 17 years of service.

Staff and inmates at Junee Correctional Centre baked 200 cookies, which the Senior Leadership Team handed out to all of the Centre's female staff members to mark the occasion.



Ravenhall Correctional Centre staff striking the #BreakTheBias pose on International Women's Day 2022, to demonstrate their commitment to helping forge an inclusive world.



Junee Correctional Centre Bakery Overseer Lori-Ann Ford baking IWD cookies.



Presentation at Fulham Correctional Centre's IWD event.



From left: Fulham Correctional Centre General Manager Natalie Greenfield, Human Resources Manager Sue Truter, Executive Support Officer Regina Regulska and Rehabilitation & Reintegration Manager Leanne Habeeb at the rose planting ceremony.

Junee Correctional Centre Supports the Hope for Tonga Campaign

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

In response to January's devastating tsunami in Tonga, staff and inmates at Junee Correctional Centre have held a range of fundraising activities to support Pasifika's Hope for Tonga campaign.

In March, a number of barbecues were held at the Centre to allow inmates to purchase BBQ and participate in the fundraising effort. The BBQ's raised approximately \$3,000 AUD.

Pasifika inmates were also invited to participate in Junee's Cultural Centre activities including music, singing, sharing stories, prayer and knowledge of their cultures, while Tongan flags and colors were on display.

Junee Correctional Centre General Manager Richard Heycock said staff and inmates are always enthusiastic about supporting local charitable events and the campaign was close to the hearts of many people at the Centre.

"We have staff, inmates and their families who are extremely concerned about their loved ones in Tonga who have been impacted after an underwater volcano erupted on January 15th and triggered a tsunami that shattered the Kingdom of Tonga," Mr. Heycock said.

"This was an opportunity for everyone at the Centre to work together and raise much needed funds for a population trying to rebuild their lives."



'Fulham Boys' Raise Funds for Children in Hospital

Written By **Chris Poulos, Fulham Correctional Centre**

Staff at GEO Australia's Fulham Correctional Centre have encouraged a group of inmates to join February's Starlight Super Swim Challenge and help raise much needed funds for children in hospitals.

Every minute, a sick child is admitted into a hospital in Australia, so during all of February, thousands of Australians joined together to become a Starlight Super Swim Hero.

The inmate group coordinated a dive in the Centre's pool on Monday, February 28th, to go the distance to fundraise for sick children and their families. The team was named the "Fulham Boys" and was officially registered on the Starlight Children's Foundation website. This created an opportunity for friends and family to sponsor the team.

On the day of the event, the men gathered at the pool where they swam a collective total of 15.35 kilometres in relay formation and raised \$1,743 AUD. Family and friends donated \$760 AUD, and the inmates donated \$983 AUD of their own money.

It was a great team effort by all involved, especially the organizer who approached the Fulham Recreation Team to seek their support to participate. It was another great example of inmates and staff coming together for a great cause.

The following week, all members of the swim team were presented with participation certificates by Centre General Manager, Natalie Greenfield and Rehabilitation and Reintegration Manager, Dr. Leanne Habeeb.

Chatham Office Receives Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives

Written By Pamela Bennett, Janet Szydelko, Chatham Day Reporting Center



Every year, the Chatham Day Reporting Center (DRC) celebrates the holidays with a week-long celebration for their staff. This year, that celebration took on special meaning with the addition of some wonderful acknowledgements from United States Congressman Bobby Rush. After serving as a member of Congress for fifteen terms (since 1992), Representative Rush has decided to retire and wanted to give the Chatham DRC some special recognition.

Congressman Rush has always been a huge supporter of the Chatham DRC and decided to use this opportunity to acknowledge staff members. Each member of the Chatham team was presented with a folder and a personally written and signed letter on official Congressional stationery. Congressman Rush noted in the letter his sincere gratitude for the excellent job done at the Chatham office, and about the GEO Reentry Program in its entirety. In the letter, he specifically called out the great efforts by Program Manager, Janet Szydelko over the years, and he wanted to be sure to give everyone at the center the recognition he felt they deserved.

Shana Holloway, Substance Abuse Counselor at Chatham stated, "We are very honored to have received this acknowledgement and appreciation from Congressman Bobby Rush. We're working with a challenging population, and we are very proud of what we accomplish here on a daily basis. We do what we do because it's our passion and for someone of his stature to recognize our work is huge."

Congratulations to everyone at the Chatham Office for the well-deserved appreciation and for the hard work everyone does at the Center!

Grossman Center Staff Member Retires after 14 Years of Service

Written By **Tammy Stout, The Grossman Center**



After 14 years of service, David Brown has made the decision to retire and

spend more time with his family. Mr. Brown first came to the Grossman Center with more than 25 years of experience. Mr. Brown started his career with the U.S. military and served honorably for 10 years. He was stationed in California, then Korea, and the Philippines. He later worked security while he was in San Antonio, Texas for a couple of years. Then he moved up to a correction officer role from 1994 until 1999. In 1999, Mr. Brown decided to move to Kansas and bring his family, so his wife could be closer to her parents. He then took a job at CoreCivic, as a correctional officer and worked there for three years before he took a job in Leavenworth as a federal policeman.

In 2010, Mr. Brown was hired at Cornell Reentry Center, which later became the Grossman Center. During Mr. Brown's time at the Grossman Center, he was promoted to Security Monitor Supervisor, and he was a great fit for the position. Mr. Brown is a great leader, and he can work with all kinds of people. He is fair, firm, and consistent and that is why so many people respect him. When I asked Mr. Brown how he survived in corrections for so

long, he said, "being honest and showing people respect" is what kept him going.

In 2017, Mr. Brown changed his status to part-time Security Monitor while he took a full-time job at the VA as a medical biller. Mr. Brown still worked at least two days a week at the Grossman Center and was very dependable. He is going to be missed and hard to replace for sure. Mr. Brown was always on speed dial whenever we needed someone to cover a shift. In January 2022, Mr. Brown left the VA and came back full-time with the Grossman Center, knowing at some point he was going to be ready to move back to Texas to be closer to his children and grandchildren. David and his wife decided to put their house up for sale, and when it sold, they would be ready to move. The house sold in two days, and Mr. Brown and his wife are moving back to Texas to spend more time with their grandchildren.

I asked Mr. Brown what he will miss about working for us, and he said he had some co-workers he was going to miss and he just hopes that he helped them enough, so they can carry on something he taught them.

We're going to miss Mr. Brown very much here at the Grossman Center and wish him the absolute best in his retirement.



Motivation



Gender Responsivity in Chicago

Written By **Luke Lynch, Chicago Heights, West Fulton, Chatham Reentry Service Centers**

Although men make up the majority of the criminal justice population, there are currently over one million women under supervision in the United States. These women face unique challenges, and evidence continues to grow supporting the importance of gender responsivity in treatment. Trauma, mental illness or co-occurring disorders, primary child-care responsibilities, and inter-personal relationships are just some challenges that affect women at higher rates than men. As the utilization of GEO Reentry programs grow in the Chicagoland area, the need for a more purposeful, evidence-based approach toward our female population is quickly increasing.

Keeping in mind the unique needs and challenges within our female participant population, the Chicago Heights, West Fulton, and Chatham Reentry Service Centers (RSC) have partnered with the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) to provide women with the specialized support and resources they need to successfully reenter and remain in the community. Working directly with Senior Parole Agent Donna Rixey, who is assigned to the IDOC's Female Individual Specialized Unit, a gender-responsive approach to supervising women on parole in the Chicagoland area has been collaboratively developed. Following her lead, each RSC established their own Female Individual Specialized Unit. These teams are made up of GEO staff specifically trained on serving the female population and are now the designated reentry treatment providers for the adult female population in IDOC District 1. In addition to a variety of cognitive-behavioral programming, these teams offer Mental Health Pre-Screening and Referral services, Domestic Violence counseling, Parenting Skills, and other services that address many of the challenges women face while reentering the community.

GEO staff are very excited about this endeavor and extremely grateful to have the support and guidance of Agent Rixey and her team as we continue to work together to identify and implement additional evidenced-based practices to best meet the needs of our mutual participants.



Walking Towards Wellness 2022

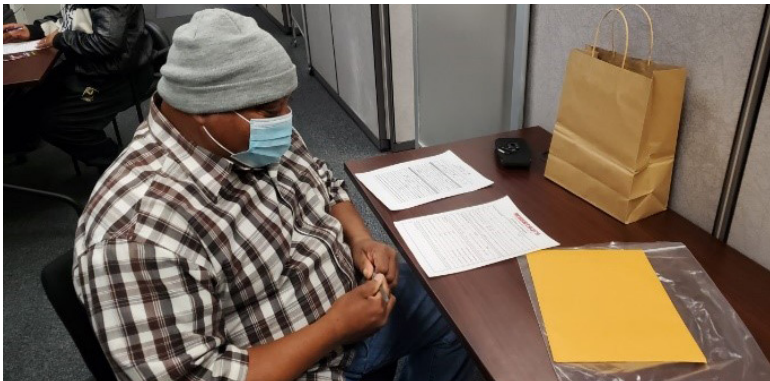
Written By **SWICC (Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center)**



In recognition of National Heart Health Month, GEO Reentry Services employees were given the opportunity to participate in our very first Walk to Wellness Program. The purpose of this event is to focus on the importance of physical activity to maintain good health and building team cohesion. It is a well-known fact that one of the simplest forms of exercise is walking and it is also one of the best forms of health care for the heart. In light of that, we formed teams, donned our pedometers, and started walking. Our friends at the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) encouraged us as we created walking paths around the Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC).



The Walk for Wellness program was just the opportunity SWICC employees needed to move into Spring with a new, healthier attitude. Staff enjoyed friendly competition to rack up the miles while on the job. The walking towards wellness project helped to bring our staff together in a uniquely different way as we encouraged each other and increased our awareness of the benefits of simple exercise. The total miles walked, although not all-important, were impressive. We appreciate GEO for giving us the opportunity to participate in the Walking for Wellness Program.



Non-Residential Job Resource Fair Proves a Success

Written By **STOP Area 4, Riverside and San Bernardino County**

In early March, GEO's Non-Residential CDCR Stop Region 4 location held the first of what will be many successful Job Resource Fairs. They had over sixteen employment and resource vendors come out in support of the rehabilitation of the location's participants. Some of the vendors were even hiring on the spot for certain positions. The vendors and employers who participated in the Job Resource Fair included Child Support Services, San Bernadino Workforce, Holm Tyron, Amazon, Goodwill, and more. Staff were intentional about giving participants a variety of job opportunities to choose from and helped participants with signing up for medical assistance, child support, and expungement. Furthermore, the team rallied together to help participants fill out applications for jobs, State IDs, and anything else they needed. The participants were very eager to wait in line for one vendor in particular who supplied smartphones and tablets to all who entered. The CDCR Stop Region 4 team will be hosting this event once every three months to make sure they are helping participants succeed in every way possible.



Philadelphia Erie Outpatient RSC Giving Back To The Community

Written By **Mikenzie Lord and Annette Garcia, Philadelphia Erie Outpatient RSC**

The Philadelphia Erie Outpatient RSC has kicked the holiday spirit up a notch. The staff is working with the participants to raise money each month. The proceeds will be donated to a local community hospital. For the month of March, Erie Outpatient staff and participants bought shamrocks for \$1 each. The individuals wrote their name or a saying on the shamrock and they hung them up around the facility. Erie Outpatient will continue these fundraising efforts through December 2022. The goal is to support the needs of those battling illness in the community, given the demand for more resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus far, the efforts of the staff and the participants have been well received. There were even participants who were willing to donate extra shamrocks for their group members. No one was left out of this opportunity to give back to their communities.

An Unbreakable Bond

Written By **Jacqueline Schap, Dauphin County DRC**



When Edwin Cruet entered his first Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT) group in November 2021, he was feeling uneasy as English was his second language. He persevered through that feeling and entered the group room. Upon entering, he met Miguel Barretto-Ramos, a fellow group participant. Miguel instantly knew what Edwin needed and offered for Edwin to sit next to him. There, Miguel translated words that Edwin was unsure of and assisted him with orienting to the MRT group.

For the next two months, Miguel and Edwin sat next to each other, and Miguel assisted Edwin in understanding the MRT steps. Their bond and friendship grew stronger each week. In January, 2022, Miguel unfortunately passed away from complications of COVID-19. Edwin was devastated by the news, but used the devastation to organize a donation drive for Miguel's family. Edwin knew that Miguel had three young children at home and was their sole provider. The donation drive ran from mid-January to mid-March, with a total of \$400 collected in donations from the participants of the Dauphin County Reentry Service Center.

When organizing the donation drive, Edwin stated, "Mr. Barretto would help everyone when they came to group MRT feel comfortable. We became real good friends from him helping me feel more comfortable in MRT group sessions by translating for me. He was an honest and respectable man to everyone. When he passed, it was devastating to many people, so I felt that it was only right to help his family and show appreciation for his friendship. The best way to do this, I thought, was to raise money to help his family through this difficult time."

On March 15, 2022, Miguel was posthumously graduated from the Dauphin County Treatment Court program as well as from the GEO Reentry Services Program. During the ceremony, Edwin presented a \$400 check to Miguel's family.

Celebrating the Life of Teresa Trueblood

Written By **Jolie Daugherty, GEO Care, Coporate**

It is with deep sadness that I write to announce the passing of Teresa Trueblood, Training Specialist, on March 2, 2022. Many of you have enjoyed and appreciated the training that she delivered. If you were trained by Teresa, you know you walked into a room full of toys, gadgets, music, charts, and color everywhere. You knew right away you were in for a good time. Teresa took great pride and thoughtfulness in her work.

Even when training went virtual with the pandemic, there was always music, a friendly greeting, and you knew a GEO Jeopardy review was going to happen! She came up with fun ways to keep you engaged, including playing one of her favorite games "Welcome to My Island." Teresa had that "radio" voice that was cool, even, and conversational. Watching her set up was a whole task unto itself as she had every tech gadget on hand; her portable table with cup holders and pull outs, her zoomable pointer with a purple (her favorite color) laser, her mini fan on at all times, her light, and her portable blender for her lunch. She was the true Inspector Gadget in disguise.

We know she had a lot of "twins" out there because she strove to find the similarities between her and others as she developed friendships. She always connected to other music lovers, health addicts, cyclists, organizers, gadgeteers, and travelers.

Teresa had a long career at Mars Inc. (yes the chocolate candy bar factory) as a trainer



before coming to GEO in 2018. She embraced all she could learn about reentry and corrections and provided complete and professional training to employees all over the United States. She brought joy, games, fun, and focused learning to those she trained in her four years with us. She loved her team and made friends with as many people as she could during her travels. She will be dearly missed by her training team and is survived by her loving husband Hank.

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