



HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM ENHANCES SUCCESSFUL RE-ENTRY

In Washtenaw County, an innovative program is helping newly-released offenders find stable housing while impacting the recidivism rate and enhancing their chances for success in the community. The "Housing First" program is designed for high and medium-risk offenders who would otherwise be homeless without this program.



The program uses scattered-site shared rental placements for offenders returning to the community. The Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) assists with housing for the first six months or until permanent housing is found. Offenders must be actively seeking employment, submitting at least 30 applications per month, and must attend employ-

ment workshops to help them hone job-seeking skills and network with potential employers. As an incentive, once an offender finds permanent employment, the MPRI Coordinator assists in finding housing while MPRI and community partners continue to support the offender in their new housing for the remainder of the six-month period.

[See HOUSING FIRST, Page 5](#)

LIFESAVING ACTS BRING AWARDS, HUMILITY

The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is filled with people willing to help those in need. There may be no better evidence of this than those who have recently been recognized for their life-saving efforts. Nearly two dozen staff have been recognized with the Department's Lifesaving Award in the first half of the year. Each of them performed with professionalism, dedication, and a sense of duty to those they serve.

On December 5, 2008, Officer Dennis Murphy responded to assist a fellow officer suffering a diabetic emergency. After recognizing the seriousness of the officer's condition, he called health care staff, who stabilized the employee and transported her to the hospital for treatment.

On December 27, 2008, a prisoner at Newberry Correctional Facility collapsed with no life signs. Officers Stevens, Baker, Cartwright, and Blankenship began initial treatment including CPR. Officer Quinlan responded with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and administered two shocks. The prisoner responded by breathing on his own, and was transported to a hospital. Without their actions, the prisoner would have died.

[See LIFESAERS, Page 2](#)

Inside This Issue:	
Facilities in the Spotlight	4
Shoo the Flu	5
A Different Perspective	6
People Make the Difference ...	7



LIFESAVERS from page 1

On January 5, 2009, several staff responded to an attempted suicide by a prisoner at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility. Officer Robinson, Sergeant Dennis, Officers Doyle, VaderVlucht, and Beauchamp were the first to respond to a prisoner attempting to hang himself in his cell. The five staff got the unresponsive prisoner down and began CPR. Officer Brunson arrived with the AED and later escorted the ambulance into the facility. Officer Bouknight also arrived to assist with CPR, which lasted nearly 30 minutes. Because of the extraordinary efforts of the responding staff, the prisoner was transported to the hospital where he received advanced medical care.



On February 23, 2009, staff at Parnall Correctional Facility responded to an unresponsive prisoner. Officers Schlicker, Skinner, Saylor, and Andrews began CPR and administered four shocks with the AED until a pulse was detected. The prisoner was transferred to a local hospital with a chance of survival. Their training, skills, and teamwork gave the prisoner a chance at life he wouldn't have had without their intervention.

On March 20, 2009, Officer Jilek of Ojibway correctional Facility noticed a prisoner who appeared to be choking during breakfast. Upon confirming the prisoner had an airway obstruction, Officer Jilek performed abdominal thrusts, dislodging the obstruction and saving the prisoner's life.

On April 18, 2009, while working in the visiting room at the Michigan Reformatory, Officer Fitzpatrick saw an infant who was not breathing. He quickly responded, properly positioning the infant and administering a series of back blows

that dislodged the foreign object. Officer Fitzpatrick exhibited professionalism and performance excellence in saving the infant's life.

On April 29, 2009, Officer Laurin of Marquette Branch Prison was at home when he noticed smoke coming from his neighbor's house. Without regard for his own personal welfare, Laurin entered the smoke-filled home and found his 72-year-old wheelchair-bound neighbor unconscious. Laurin removed the man from the home and provided first aid until medical professionals arrived. Officer Laurin's bravery surely prolonged the man's life.

On May 5, 2009, Officer Blumberg of the Michigan Reformatory saw a prisoner leaving the dining hall who appeared to be having difficulty breathing. Blumberg performed abdominal thrusts on the prisoner who began breathing a little better, but said he had something lodged in his throat. The prisoner was escorted to health care where he expelled a large piece of meat. Officer Blumberg's keen observation likely saved the prisoner's life.

On May 26, 2009, Officer Medeiros, psychologist Linda Bresette, and Dr. Joshua Nnanji were working at Duane Waters Health Center where they found a prisoner who attempted suicide. The prisoner was hanging from a braided bed sheet tied to a vent and was in front of the door, making entry very difficult. Officer Medeiros forced his way into the room, lifted the prisoner up enough so the sheet could be untied. He then assisted the prisoner to the floor. Health center medical staff provided medical care for the prisoner who survived the incident.



See *LIFESAVERS*, Page 3

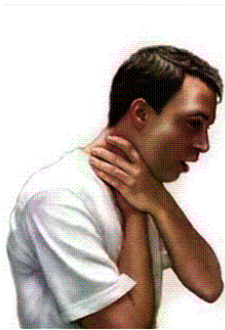



LIFESAVERS from page 2

Officer Medeiros' quick response helped save the prisoner's life.

On June 12, 2009, Officer Dingeldey watched a car careen out of control into a building with an impact so great, the vehicle burst into flames. Without hesitation and with little regard for his personal safety, Officer Dingeldey responded to the scene, and with the assistance of another citizen, removed the driver and her three young passengers from the vehicle. The driver had apparently lost consciousness after having a seizure. Fire officials hailed the men as heroes, praising their bravery during a dangerous situation.

On June 10, 2008, Officer Marvin Brown was assigned to the food service area of SCF. Brown noticed a prisoner who appeared to be choking. Officer Brown immediately applied abdominal thrusts removing the food lodged in the prisoner's airway. Facility health care staff said Officer Brown's actions likely saved the prisoner's life. Officer Brown's professionalism and sense of duty are qualities that make him a role model for others to follow.



On November 29, 2007, Sgt. Tom Lengyel rushed through the doorway of the Captain's Office with his hands clutching his throat. He appeared to be choking. Lt. Jeremy Bush sprang into action, applying abdominal thrusts in an attempt to open Lengyel's airway. Several thrusts dislodged the food from Sgt. Lengyel's airway and he began breathing normally. Health care recommended that Sgt. Lengyel be sent to the hospital for further evaluation. While en route - Sgt. Lengyel began having chest pains and difficulty in breathing. While at the hospital, the remainder of the lodged food was removed from Sgt. Lengyel's throat. Lt. Bush's quick and appropriate response alleviated a life-threatening condition.

During a recent vacation to Walt Disney World, Officer Kowitz of Florence Crane Correctional Facility was enjoying dinner with his family when he observed a woman who appeared to be choking. Kowitz responded and upon confirming she was choking, performed abdominal thrusts until the food was dislodged from her airway. The woman and her husband were very appreciative of his efforts, but Officer Kowitz was humble, saying he simply relied on his training and was doing what anyone else would have done in the same situation.



The employees of the MDOC have a long tradition of helping those in need. Whether it's at work, or as far away as Disney World, our MDOC team members have the training, preparedness and bravery to do what it takes to save lives. Each of the staff recognized in this article, along with many others who aren't recognized here but still perform extraordinary acts each day, are to be commended for their courage and professionalism. Their stories are what make each of us proud to be part of what many would argue is the best trained and most professional correctional agency in the United States. Well done!!





STANDISH AND MUSKEGON IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



First California, then Gitmo, and now Pennsylvania. Standish Maximum Correctional Facility (SMF) and Muskegon Correc-

tional Facility have been mentioned by several states and the Obama Administration in discussions about how to utilize Michigan's vacant prison space. While California appears to be no longer interested, no decisions have been made by Pennsylvania or the Feds. Pros and cons abound in all three scenarios.

California has recently said it is no longer interested in Michigan, citing high per-day costs and the lack of an appropriate medical facility in close proximity to the prison. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will likely focus on private beds at a lower price than Michigan.

Pennsylvania's system has seen a recent expansion and is now overcrowded. Their state could use vacant Michigan beds at a comparable cost with lower transportation costs than California. MDOC employees would also likely staff facilities leased by Pennsylvania.

The wild card is the federal government. Last week, officials from the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and the White House toured SMF. While they said very little about the visit, their tour prompted speculation regarding how serious President Obama is about closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and putting foreign detainees here in Michigan.

While the city of Standish would be happy to keep the prison open, no matter which prisoners ultimately are housed there, the MDOC realizes that the likelihood of protecting MDOC jobs would be diminished if the prison is used to house foreign detainees. Mel Grieshaber, Executive Director of the Michigan Corrections Organization - the union representing state corrections officers - said that if foreign detainees are housed at SMF, most if not all of the jobs would be gone and the prison would be run by federal and U.S. military employees. In one twisted economic scenario, MDOC employees could have their homes purchased at a reduced rate by incoming federal employees.

Other states are also reportedly interested including Florida, Alaska, and Vermont. Each state has varying needs but Michigan has the capabilities to meet a wide variety of situations.

The MDOC continues to provide tours and information to interested governmental entities. Hiawatha Correctional Facility is already closed, with Muskegon Correctional Facility and Standish Maximum Correctional Facility set to close by the end of the year if not earlier. California has already made their decision, and states like Pennsylvania, Vermont, Alaska, and Florida, along with the federal government will likely make a decision sooner than later, because the transition would be easier with Michigan staff in place even if it were only temporarily as might be the case in the foreign detainee scenario. Michigan's professional correctional staff could do any job asked of them, and are ready to meet the challenge of any decision that affects them.





HOUSING FIRST, from page 1

To foster community and law enforcement support, MPRI provides addresses of offenders in the program to local police monthly. Unannounced visits by police and parole officers keep offenders on the right track. Mandatory programming also assists with reintegration into the community.

With nearly 100 homeless offenders returning to Washtenaw County, the Housing First program would be tested early. Goals of the program were to house 90% of returning offenders, secure permanent housing within six months for those who abide by the MPRI housing contract, and reduce the 90-day prisoner return rate in half.

Six-month outcomes were actually better than expected. Housing First had 100% initial placement, 100% permanent placement for those who followed the housing contract, and reduced the 90-day return rate from 26% to 7.5%. These results are commendable given the initial obstacles and high failure rate. Combining affordable and stable housing with incentives for finding work, while enhancing relationships with community partners has resulted in offenders who are significantly less likely to return to prison in the short term. Housing First will continue tracking outcomes and chase revenue streams that will support the program. If the success continues, this model could migrate to other MPRI service areas throughout Michigan.



Vaccinations Provide Protection

It is time to start thinking about maintaining good health during the upcoming flu season. Yearly flu vaccination begins in September or as soon as the vaccine is available and continues throughout the flu season into January and beyond. Last year a total of 12,000 state employees were vaccinated through the State of Michigan's on-site flu vaccination program.

Influenza, commonly called "the flu," is a contagious illness that infects the respiratory tract and is caused by the influenza virus. Unlike many other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, the flu causes severe illness and life-threatening complications in many people. Vaccinations provide protection for the current strains of Influenza while boosting immunity. To get more information visit: www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/disease.htm.

The H1N1 influenza virus is likely to re-emerge as a serious health threat during the upcoming flu season. Public health officials are urging contact precautions with anyone who may be sickened by H1N1. Thorough hand washing, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your inner arm (not hands) when coughing and sneezing, and disinfecting areas and surfaces that have been exposed will minimize transmission risks. As with other influenza strains, H1N1 causes a variety of symptoms including nausea, vomiting, fever, dehydration, fatigue and even death in severe cases. While there is no vaccine currently available, health officials are developing a vaccine for H1N1 that is supposed to be available prior to the most severe part of the flu season.

Most state insurance carriers cover the cost of a flu vaccination, so find **your insurance card** and get in line at your on-site vaccination clinic and protect yourself against this season's flu bugs!





A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BY JOHN C. CORDELL



It's the middle of summer. Rain tries to hit the ground but evaporates during the trip. Lawns turn into dusty brown stubble. Michigan forests become tinderboxes waiting for careless campers or nature's spark to set them ablaze. We fight through each day as the thermometer pushes closer to 90 degrees. Hazy, hot and humid. The three H's push us into air conditioned buildings, cars, and the quenching refreshment of that 10' instant pool that was on sale this spring at our local mega-retailer.

These are the lazy days of summer. Yet it seems few of us are truly enjoying them. Uncertainty has many of us wondering what's next. When will the axe fall...and on whom? When will this economy turn around? It has some people shouting "AAAAHHHHH!!!" I've done it, and it feels good. But in the end nothing really changes. So how do we enjoy life in uncertain times? Here are some ideas.

- **Slow down.** I like to mountain bike, but it's usually at a pace that gets me some much needed exercise and provides a challenge as I weave through trees, weeds, and loose gravel. I get a great workout but I miss things too. Some days I walk the same trail. It's amazing what I see and hear at a slower pace - deer, birds, snakes, rabbits and an assortment of other things. I eat wild raspberries and listen to the river flow. That slow pace opens up another world to me.
- **Unplug.** Put down the BlackBerry, step away from the cell phone, the computer, Twitter, Facebook, and your RSS feed for a day. Focus on things that would normally get pushed aside.
- **Share.** Bake cookies for your neighbors, invite friends for a cookout, call someone you haven't talked to in a while and see what's going on with them.
- **Care.** Take time to care about those close to you. We all say we love and care for those closest to us, but how often do those words translate into actions? "Random Acts of Kindness" isn't just a bumper sticker on somebody's Toyota Prius. It's a life enriching activity that doesn't cost us anything but a little time.
- **Give Compliments.** Recognizing people for what they do and how they do it is valuable and it's free. They feel good and so do you. It's a "no-brainer" that we too often avoid or forget to do.
- **Be happy.** Choose to remove the scowl, the furrowed brow, the tough guy image and smile for a while. Read a funny book, watch a funny movie or TV show, or just people watch for a little while. We allow the weight of our world to affect our moods, so we must consciously choose to be happy. It's amazing what a warm smile can do for your attitude.
- **Do what you want to do.** Take 30 minutes out of your day to do whatever makes you happy. If it involves exercise, even better.

I was recently reading *Attitude is Everything* and it really illuminates how our attitude, about all aspects of life, influences our overall health. Happy people have fewer physical and mental problems, they live longer, and they have more enriching lives. The challenge - How can you improve your attitude so you have what it takes to make it through the difficult times we all now face?





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



CARSON CITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES HOLD COOKOUT FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN

Even with the consolidation of two prisons being felt by many employees who might bump to other facilities, the employees at Carson City and Boyer Road correctional facilities pulled together to raise funds for the Special Olympians of Michigan by holding a benefit cookout for the members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) team. Organizing the event were employee club members Stacey Bosworth, Sue Warden, Pat Williams, Joe Niemiec and Food Service Director Pat Williams, although there were many others from both facilities that pitched in to help. Great food included hotdogs, hamburgers, potato salad, chips, pop, and a variety of delicious deserts. The cookout raised \$600.00 in donations although many employees also helped benefit the Torch Run and Special Olympics Michigan by buying Torch Run t-Shirts, hats and raffle tickets to win a trip to one of four locations Puerto Vallarta, Parris France, Alaska, or the Caribbean. The MDOC Law Enforcement Torch Run Team can not thank the employees at these facilities enough for their efforts and wish them all the best during the changing times being felt throughout the department.



MDOC POWERLIFTER SETS WORLD RECORD

Corrections Officer Mark "Peppy" LeClair (*pictured at right*), a 20-year veteran of the Michigan Department of Corrections, recently set a world record in a power-lifting competition held in Lansing, Michigan on July 16, 2009. In the competition, recognized by the United Federation of Bench Press and Dead Lifters, Mark bench-pressed 518 lbs. His feat of strength eclipsed the old world record of 513 lbs. LeClair weighed in at 220 lbs, competing in the Law and Fire Division. He has qualified for world competitions several times and has set several national records during his career as a power lifter. Officer LeClair works at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon, Michigan.



40-YEAR PIN FOR MDOC VETERAN



On July 17, 2009, Warden Ken McKee and about 40 other employees surprised 6-2 shift Officer Steve Fineis in the Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility chow hall, awarding him his 40-year service pin. Steve began work in 1968 when many of our staff hadn't even been born yet! One Officer mentioned to Steve, "My mother was 10 when you started work!" IBC employees are very proud of Steve's dedicated service and lucky to have him and his positive attitude on the IBC team. (*Pictured L to R: Dep. Warden Kathy Stoddard, Steve Fineis, and Warden McKee*)





PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



**ELMBLAD RECOGNIZED
BY ACA AS
“BEST IN THE BUSINESS”**

Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) Energy Coordinator Jerry Elmsblad has recently been recognized by the American Correctional Association as one of correction’s “Best in the Business.”

Jerry has used a mix of cutting-edge and time-proven technologies to create energy efficiency. In 2007, after initially beginning the program, Elmsblad saved the MDOC over \$5 million, all while maintaining ACA standards.

In 2008, Jerry invested \$200,000 converting MDOC’s facilities to efficient lighting. The savings paid for themselves virtually overnight. Elmsblad is still faced with a variety of challenges, like a variety of power plants and heating systems. One facility uses wood-based heating, while another uses a steam turbine energy plant that provides heat and light. Getting so many facilities to individually recognize energy savings has been a significant challenge for Elmsblad, but one that he enjoys each day.



In future experiments with energy savings, Jerry would like to look at using biomass technologies and sensor-based perimeter lighting. His drive to get each employee and prisoner to recognize the importance of energy conservation continues to be a driving force in his career. That same drive also makes him one of Michigan’s “Best in the Business.”

**INSPECTOR STOPS
ALLEGED CHILD PREDATOR**

When an alert corrections officer found a flash drive (portable computer memory) on a sidewalk inside Huron Valley Complex in early February, her primary intent was to identify whose it was and return it to them as soon as possible. Officer Lebrun immediately turned it over to Inspector Leticia Inge, who inserted the drive into her computer to try to determine who the owner was. What she found on the flash drive was shocking and repulsive - child pornography.



An investigation involving MDOC officials and Michigan State Police ensued. It determined that there were two people working in the area where the flash drive was recovered. The investigation finally led to a search warrant involving a Cadillac area, man who was not an employee. More evidence from the execution of the searches resulted in the man being charged with six felonies including Criminal Sexual Conduct - 1st Degree and Criminal Sexual Conduct - 2nd Degree involving a child under age 13.

Inspector Inge maintained a clear chain of evidence, and worked in concert with the Michigan State Police to bring this case to closure. Her actions helped strengthen our professional relationship with the law enforcement community and the community as a whole. For her actions during the investigation, Inspector Inge received the MDOC’s Meritorious Service Award.

