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PAROLEES/PROBATIONERS HELP COMMUNITY GARDENS FLOURISH

When people think of community gardens they typically picture residents planting flowers and vegetables in a city lot. While there is no single model of a community garden, most are in urban areas, providing an opportunity for people to come together in a social setting. Typically, the main purpose of the community garden is to plant vegetables or other crops for food production. The garden helps to beautify what was usually an empty city lot, while providing education and recreation to those just learning gardening. Two offices in the Outstate Region, Calhoun and Emmet counties, have taken the community garden model and added their own twist. Each site has created an environment in which offenders, their agents, and mentors work side by side to not only give back to the community, but to also help the offender develop social skills and give them a sense of accomplishment and self worth.



Agents and offenders, working side by side, prep and plant the raised garden beds next to the Calhoun Parole Office in Battle Creek.

The idea of the community gardens in Emmet County came about during a discussion between Supervisor Anthony Peters and Agent Russ Jones of how staff could impact offender lives in a positive way, while helping to save money by reducing jail space. Now in its second year, the idea has grown into four separate gardens, each located at a different church in four different communities. Overall they cover about one acre of land, with an offer for up to ten more acres. Most of the expense of the gardens is covered by donations, with some money from the local CCAB. The vegetable plants come

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FIELD REPORT: GARDENS GROW HOPE

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from the horticulture program at the Kinross Correctional Facility. In its first year, the gardens produced approximately 3000 pounds of food for the local food pantries and homeless shelter. This year's projection is double that amount.

Agent Russ Jones, a pastor for the last 20 years and a former chaplain at Kinross, says that his background in the ministry helped bring the religious community to the table for the project. With his background, he was able to predict their concerns and answer their questions, from both a pastoral and agent point of view. What started out as a simple offer of land has expanded to mentoring, bringing members of the different churches out to work with the offenders. A goal is to have the mentoring element continue past the growing season. Russ sees the guidance of the mentors helping the offenders. Working with the offender side by side, the mentor is able to help the offender open up about their problems and help them to develop a sense of self worth and accomplishment.

In addition to fulfilling community service requirements, some offenders participate in response to minor violations, thus saving jail beds. It was estimated that \$3,000.00 was saved in the renting of jail beds for violators. From an article in last year's Petoskey News, Supervisor Peters was quoted, saying "We're calling it 'cultivating a better citizen,' "It's physical labor, but it's better than digging a ditch or working around the court

house. They take some pride in it." In some cases, the offender comes to just talk to a mentor about their problems. Mentors are not the only ones getting their hands dirty. Russ and his fellow agents are also involved. Russ has even taken reports while working in the gardens. Working with them helps the offender see that their agent is concerned about their well-being and gives the agent an opportunity to be a role model for the offender and show them that they have the ability to succeed. By seeing the fruits of their labor, the offender can see that they can make a difference and give back to their community.



Breaking ground next to the Calhoun County satellite office in Albion.

In May of this year, Emmet County Parolee Jack Adams spoke in front of the Director as to the importance of the community garden in his life. He sees the garden as a metaphor for life and feels that strength, integrity, and hard work will pay off. He says, "Clear away the weeds and it gives forth to something beautiful. Clear away your problems, and life

gives forth something beautiful." When asked what he has enjoyed most about the garden, it is hearing people say, "Wow, look at the turnaround Jack made in his life."

The gardens in Calhoun County are only in their first year, but are already off to a good start. With assistance from the city of Albion, the Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, and the Kambly Living Center, three separate gardens are being tended in the county.

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FIELD REPORT: GARDENS GROW HOPE

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Agent Joseph Beaman oversees the Albion garden, Agent Erin DeLoof the garden for females at Kambly, and Agent Ryan Gray the garden next to the mission.

For offenders in transitional housing, working in the community gardens helps them fulfill their 40 hours a month of community service work, a requirement for offenders in MPRI-funded housing. Unemployed offenders work in the garden as a way to build their resume, while others volunteer. Right now only parolees are involved, but that hasn't ruled out future assistance from probationers.

Similar to Emmett County, donations and partnerships are the keys to success. For the mission lot, the city of Battle Creek donated 30 yards of soil.

The city hopes to provide a large parcel of land for next year's garden, with the intent of providing fresh vegetables to some of the poorer neighborhoods in the community. All the vegetable plants were provided by Lakeland and Florence Crane correctional facilities. The vegetables produced from the gardens will go to the mission, Kambly, and the Albion Senior Center. Vegetables will also go to WIC recipients as part of a program with DHS to teach women about healthy food preparation.

"Clear away the weeds and it gives forth to something beautiful. Clear away your problems, and life gives forth something beautiful."

- Parolee Jack Adams

Agent Ryan Gray says the gardens create a positive environment for the parolees. Like Agent Jones in Emmet, he also takes a non-traditional approach to his report days and sees his people while working with them in the garden. It not only gives him time to evaluate how each person is doing, but it gives him an opportunity to show their commitment to the parolee's success by taking an interest in what they are doing.

At the Kambly Living Center, a non-profit home for those with developmental disabilities, male and female parolees work with the residents to tend the garden. Agent Erin DeLoof says the residents get excited when its time to help the parolees pull weeds or water the vegetables.

Erin believes the interaction between the parolees and residents has really been helpful, especially to the women. Helping the residents has put their lives into perspective and reminds them that they have the ability to succeed, regardless of the barriers. Erin sees the women developing a sense of self worth and they feel better about themselves, knowing that they are helping others less fortunate.

A special thanks to Warden Howes, Warden Woods, and all their staff for their time and effort providing the vegetable plants for the gardens.

JCS HOSTS "LEADERSHIP MICHIGAN" TOUR

Warden Paul Klee and fellow employees recently hosted members of "Leadership Michigan" at Cooper Street Correctional Facility. The group expressed interest in the MPRI program and outreach services. A question and answer session was conducted which involved inmate participants in various programs.

Leadership Michigan was started in 1988 to expose professionals from across the state to critical issues fac-

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PAROLE ABSCONDER POPULATION DROPS OVER 15% IN THREE YEARS

There are now 15.7% fewer parole absconders than there were when this quarterly reporting began over three years ago. During that same period of time, the parole population has grown by 40.4%.

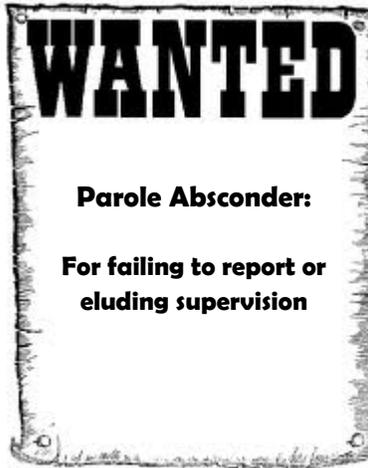
The most recent legislative report shows that most cases are resolved within a comparatively short time. Furthermore, about eight of every ten absconders are ultimately continued on parole supervision following detection; generally with a local sanction and frequently under increased terms of supervision. The principal determinant of whether an offender gets continued on parole is the assessment of risk to the public. If it is determined that the parolee does not present a significant risk of harm apart from a failure to report or an unreported move, the chances are quite high that he/she will be allowed to remain in the community, albeit with adjusted supervision requirements.

The Field Operations Administration (FOA) believes that public protection can and will be enhanced by promoting offender success through Collaborative Case Management (CCM). Traditional parole supervision has been to monitor parolees to detect violation behavior and respond to it appropriately. When the focus shifts from detection to reduc-

ing risk and addressing needs by anticipating and responding to problem behavior, parole violations are reduced.

Absconder warrants can generally be divided into two types; failure to report and fleeing from supervision. While some parolees will undoubtedly flee supervision, the majority of "absconders" are avoiding supervision. With Collaborative Case Management, agents work with offenders, their family members, and significant others to address problems and barriers to success. Failures to report because of drug use, loss of employment, police contact, etc., are reduced when parolees recognize that the role of the agent is to not only hold them accountable, but also to assist in their success.

When adjustment problems are dealt with through collaboration, counseling, treatment, or other interventions, not only are fewer warrants for failure to report issued, but minor problems don't escalate into more serious violation behavior. As Collaborative Case Management is implemented throughout the state, the Department should continue to see a reduction in the number of absconder warrants issued.



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ing Michigan. The goal is to inform leaders about the challenges and opportunities facing our state and to encourage solutions and collaboration; inspire leaders to become active in organization, community, or state-wide efforts that make Michigan a better place to work and live; challenge leaders to increase their awareness about themselves and their state and to maximize their leadership potential and provide an opportunity to network with a variety of individuals to strengthen personal and organizational clout.



The Leadership Tour members hold comprehensive, two-day sessions from April through October regionally throughout the state. Each session includes touring local landmarks and businesses; meeting local government, business and community leaders; discussing what makes a leader; and dialoguing about hot regional and statewide issues and other elements that make Michigan unique. Topics include education, health care, business and economic development, tourism, government, law enforcement and justice and other quality of life issues.

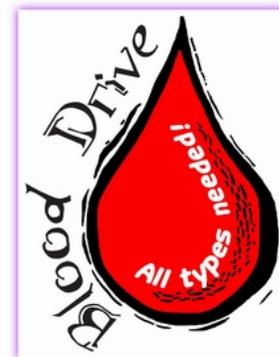


2010 STATE EMPLOYEE BLOOD CHALLENGE RUNS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

All State of Michigan employees are invited to join the Blood Challenge. There are incentives, prizes and department competitions. Opportunities in August to ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE & DONATE are listed below. Help others by giving blood while winning prizes and helping the MDOC win the competition. See www.michigan.gov/bloodchallenge for challenge details.

REMINDER: Contact the Worksite Coordinator to schedule an appointment.

- **August 9: Carson City – DOC - Carson City Correctional Facility** (Everyone welcome) **Worksite Coordinator** – Joe Niemiec at 989-584-3941x6805 or niemieje@michigan.gov
- **August 18: Kincheloe – DOC – Kinross Correctional Facility** (Everyone welcome) **Worksite Coordinator** – Debbie Harrison at 906-495-2282x4271 or harrisonda@michigan.gov
- **August 23: Munising – DOC – Alger Correctional Facility** (Site employees only) **Worksite Coordinator** – Mike Plourde at 906-387-5000x1137 or plourdem@michigan.gov
- **August 24: Lansing – DOC – Central Office – Radisson Hotel** (Everyone welcome) **Worksite Coordinator** – Christine Navarro at 517-373-3695 or navarroc@michigan.gov
- **August 25: Marquette – DOC – Marquette Branch Prison** (Site employees only) **Worksite Coordinator** – Sarah Schroeder at 906-226-1821 or schroesk@michigan.gov
- **August 31: Jackson – DOC – Egeler Reception & Guidance Center** (State employees only) **Worksite Coordinator** – Celeste Jankowski at 517-780-5811 or jankcm@michigan.gov



To find out *Where to Donate Blood* at community or blood collection centers, visit www.michigan.gov/bloodchallenge. *Join us and be a Michigan Role Model - I'm a donor made in Michigan!*

HONOR GUARD LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS



The Honor Guard currently has six openings for dedicated and disciplined professionals who are interested in serving our employees in an entirely different way. It's a difficult but rewarding commitment. If you have what it takes, please send your résumé along with a support letter from your administrator to cordelj@micigan.gov or mail it to: John Cordell, MDOC - Grandview Plaza 4th Floor, Lansing, MI 48933.



RE-ENTRY ROUNDTABLE: SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS & BETTER CITIZENS

Re-Entry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative.

Northeast enjoyed a visit from Michigan Department of Corrections Director Patricia Caruso recently. Speaking on behalf of MPRI success from personal standpoints were Parole Agents, Michigan Works! Case Managers, Michigan State Police, three former offenders, and of course the Director herself.

Lori Fritzler, Michigan Works! Case Manager, started the morning off by describing their success with local employer, Garland Resort, in the hiring of ten MPRI participants. Present with Lori was a representative from Garland and one of Garland's success stories, Anthony, who expressed thanks to be given a chance at Garland. The parolees were assisted with transitional employment at Garland by way of wage subsidies, transportation, and work clothing. In addition to MPRI assistance, the employer was given the opportunity to take advantage of the federal bonding and tax credits that are available to employers who hire someone with a felony (for more information, please visit www.michigan.gov/fidelitybonding and www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax/).

Next up was Post Commander Lt. Jeffrey Anthony who shared his story of how he first became interested in MPRI after being invited to a local Advisory Council meeting. "When I was approached back in the fall of 2008 regarding participation in MPRI, my first thought was, what role could law enforcement possibly play in this initiative?" However, after seeing the attendance of professionals from diverse disciplines and the dedication they brought forth, Lt. Anthony decided to join the Steering Team. Since then, he has been a major player in the development of the Northeast MPRI. This includes a workshop he designed and conducts once a month at Pugsley Correctional Facility. As he stood in front of a room full of community part-

ners alongside Tim, a current MPRI participant, Lt. Anthony described how his workshop helps prisoners prepare for their release. In his workshop, the Lieutenant explains to prisoners that law enforcement is there to assist and can help smooth the way for issues that might mean trouble for them once they are released. In one example, a prisoner had a handgun registered in his name and stored at the residence he intended to occupy when released. Lt. Anthony was able to contact a relative and provide guidance on the removal and sale of the weapon so that the parolee would not be in violation the moment he entered the residence.



Tim then shared his own story about how Lt. Anthony helped him get registered as a sex offender when he ran into barriers with his identification. Not able

to register, Tim was fearful, but remembered what Lt. Anthony had said and pulling out his business card, called him immediately to assist. "The MPRI is important to former offenders such as me. If it weren't for the MPRI and Lt. Anthony, I doubt very seriously if I would have made it out here for very long."

Another highlight of the meeting included a compelling testimony from local Parole Agent Doug Catrell about how his views about MPRI have changed since its inception. Doug has been an agent for over 20 years, and is glad to have the additional resources MPRI provides to the parolees he manages.

The Director's closing remarks brought closure to a memorable meeting, as she recounted her personal experiences and the historical reasoning behind the MPRI. She urged her audience to share their personal victories with others, affirming that, "We are investing in success."



**PUGSLEY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY RN
“PAYS IT FORWARD”**



Ed Pearson, RN from Pugsley Correctional Facility had an opportunity to ‘pay it forward’ and he jumped at the chance. In March 2010, a group of eight from the Kingsley/Buckley, MI area volunteered through World Hope International to travel to Laogone, Haiti and help with disaster relief efforts. Laogone is a village about 2 hours from Port-au-Prince and suffered great devastation and loss of life as a result of the earthquake.



Ed Pearson (back row second from left) with World Hope International and Haitian friends helping with the relief effort.

A nurse laureate (a Haitian nursing instructor), who also lived in the village, had started from day one providing whatever medical care she could to her neighbors in the surrounding area. She had been working for weeks in a "tent city" of 5,000 people that had arose on the grounds of a former soccer field. As a result of the destruction of their homes, the people had erected whatever type of make-shift structure they could, most being made of tarps, sticks and tin. A temporary tent-like medical clinic had been established by this Haitian nurse and she had been providing wound care, prenatal care, etc. and was overwhelmed to say the least by the magnitude of

need let alone by the absence of electricity, running water and supplies.

The disaster relief organization World Hope International commissioned the group from Kingsley/Buckley to build a medical clinic and for the medical members of the team to provide some medical relief efforts for this village. They were able to accomplish the task of building the clinic and provided clinic relief as well as traveling from tent to tent providing long overdue wound care, assisting in baby births and treating life-threatening conditions. The clinic was built just in time as the rainy season was approaching and new medical assistance teams were arriving weekly and would utilize the clinic that the team built.

When reflecting on the enormous task and utter destruction in Haiti, Mr. Pearson stated, “The medical need is great and will be there for months to come. It was an eye opening and humbling experience. The people were extremely grateful and we are already planning to return soon for further relief efforts.”



Ed Pearson, RN from Pugsley Correctional Facility, with some smiling Haitian children.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE





MSI DRIVER SAVES OTHERS FROM OUT-OF-CONTROL PICK-UP TRUCK



On June 9, 2010 at around 2 a.m., Steve Shotwell was starting his day driving a semi-truck, coming out of Munising heading for Jackson. A fellow truck driver contacted him on the CB radio and said to watch out ahead of him there was a pick-up truck with an elderly lady driving, that was all over the road. He had just helped her out of the ditch or something...

Steve did catch up with the truck somewhere around Seney, they were heading east-bound toward Newberry.

The truck was swerving all over the road, from in one ditch across to the other. Not sure on what to do he slowed and watched, putting his four way blinkers on and following the pickup. Also he called 911 to explain what was going on. At times the pick-up was in the wrong lane for long stretches at a time, not wanting to pass the small truck in his large semi tractor trailer in fear of it running into him or him running it off the road he stayed behind. As on coming traffic approached, Steve flashed his lights, and called on his CB radio to other truckers to warn them of the danger! One logging truck driver thanked him and said he would have never seen her with out Steve's warning. As traffic came up from the rear Steve did everything he could to warn the drivers of the danger as they passed him, he had slowed to 15 to 20 mph following the truck. One van or truck passed Steve and got run off the road by the pick up barley making it back up on the highway.

Steve had called 911 sometime ago, I am not sure if he called them back or he told them the first time that something bad was going to happen if they did not get out there soon, maybe a head on crash or something. Not sure how much time has transpired now but they are now coming into Newberry, the old lady in the pickup pulled into the Comfort Inn, Steve pulled in behind her blocking her in with his semi. He got out to talk to the lady, and said as he started talking to her he reached in and turned off the truck.

The old lady was not intoxicated, and did not to appear to have been drinking. Steve said she was very nice, but very, very confused, and disoriented. She was not sure where she was, but mentioned that she missed a doctor appt. the day before. Steve talked to her for a little while until police finally showed up.

It is hard for me to put all the details on paper that Steve told me, he would be able to tell the story better. But in my opinion Steve went above and beyond to help one person, and to try to keep other people safe. So if you are in the U.P. in the middle of nowhere, in the middle of the night, and need help or are in trouble keep an eye out for a State of Michigan semi-truck with dedicated public servant driving!!

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

