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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Employees throughout our Department do some amazing things. From saving lives to impacting others positively, our employees are out there making the Department and their part of the world a better place. Here are some recent examples of a job well done:

Professional Excellence

Outbreak!

On September 6, 2013 Saginaw Correctional Facility (SRF) Health Unit Manager Susan McCauley was presented with the Department’s Professional Excellence Award for her outstanding efforts and expertise in handling an illness outbreak at Saginaw Correctional Facility. In late August 2012, McCauley noticed that several prisoners were ill and exhibited similar symptoms. She alerted the Warden and began implementing containment and treatment procedures. Under McCauley’s direction and with the Warden’s support, the facility implemented movement procedures, established a quarantine in the prison, stopped virtually all transfers and identified all prisoners and staff who were showing symptoms. Because of the dedicated efforts of staff at SRF, others within the Department, local health agency staff and area hospital health care workers, about 100 people with the illness were successfully treated and the outbreak was defeated. Health officials ultimately identified the cause of the illness, Shiga Toxin E.coli bacteria (STEC) that likely came from chicken salad produced by prisoners at the facility. While the high density housing provided containment challenges, the ability to control movement both inside the prison and to other prisons throughout the system helped control the outbreak. The Department also learned some valuable lessons from McCauley’s successful approach to contain and eradicate the illness - lessons that can be applied to save lives if something like this happens again.



L to R: Health Care Administrator Joanne Sheldon, Susan McCauley, Director Dan Heyns, and Warden Lloyd Rapelje.

F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Please submit articles through your supervisor to Russ Marlan at marlanr@michigan.gov





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Instilling a Giving Spirit

Jeff Fagan, a Building Trades Instructor at Thumb Correctional Facility, received a Professional Excellence Award for his charitable work and life skills development activities with prisoner workers in the building trades program. Jeff has personally volunteered his time to assist with projects in the Department that have improved facilities and created "showroom quality" products that enhance the workplace. Jeff has guided his prisoner students in the creation of wood products for donation to various charities or to be auctioned off with proceeds being



L to R: Warden Dave Bergh, Director Heyns and Jeff Fagan.

donated to various charities. Jeff's outstanding work has benefitted the Department, the prisoner population, charities and the people they serve. Jeff has taught prisoners life skills that translate into the community upon release as well as the benefits of charitable giving and generosity. His actions have had a profound impact throughout the Department.

Smart Projects = Cost Savings

Correctional Facilities Administration Regional Physical Plant Supervisor Eames Groenleer received a Professional Excellence Award on June 10, 2013 for his expertise with physical plant operations. Groenleer has consistently completed projects on time and under budget. His ideas have resulted in significant cost-savings for the Department. Groenleer has often committed his personal expertise to projects, sharing his knowledge with fellow coworkers so they had the information to successfully complete the assigned task. To facilitate efficiency and cost-savings, Groenleer created a workgroup that an-

alyzes maintenance projects and ensures efficient use of resources. Groenleer is honest, humble, resourceful and ingenious - an invaluable employee that the Department is fortunate to have.



L to R: Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry, Deputy Warden Anthony Stewart, Regional Business Manager Carol Wilson, RPA Bruce Curtis, Director Dan Heyns, Physical Plant Administrator Dave Flack and Eames Groenleer.

Lifesaving

Choking Child

Officer Gregory Kozdemba (pictured here with his grandson and Director Heyns) of Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility was off-duty with family on September 16, 2012, when he observed his 15-month-old grandson having difficulty breathing and apparently



choking. Kozdemba immediately delivered first aid, removing the airway obstruction. His training kicked in during a stressful emergency situation and his actions were lifesaving for the infant.

AWARDS (Continued on page 3)





AWARDS (Continued from page 2)

Stopping a Tragedy

On April 30, 2013, Todd Butler, a Department Analyst in the Office of Legal Affairs, saw a young woman acting strangely on a Michigan Avenue bridge spanning the Grand River in Lansing. Butler



immediately approached the woman and prevented her from jumping into the river until Lansing Police could assist her. An evaluation determined that she was despondent. Butler's actions saved her life and are a testament to both his personal and professional integrity.

Prisoner Down

On December 17, 2012, Officer Raymond Platte of Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility was in the dining room when he saw a prisoner collapse to the floor and beginning to suffer a seizure. Platte immediately called control center, request-

ing health care assistance while he and a coworker provided aid to the prisoner until the AED arrived on-



scene. Platte applied the AED to the prisoner and a shock was advised. He shocked the prisoner and monitored the prisoner until he was stabilized by health care staff. The prisoner was then transported to the hospital for advanced treatment. Platte's quick and decisive actions likely helped save the prisoner's life. His actions show a sincere concern for others in a time of

need and demonstrate the level of integrity the Department can be proud of.

Meritorious Service

No Contraband Allowed

Sergeant Kelly Curtis (pictured below) of Chippewa Correctional Facility was presented with the Department's Meritorious Service Award after being nominated and selected for his overall conduct and professionalism spanning 24 years of service to the Department. Sgt. Curtis was recently involved in a lengthy, in-depth investigation which required extensive work with internal sources and the collaboration with outside law enforcement agencies, which was instrumental in stopping the introduction of contraband into the facility and the arrest of two visitors.



L to R: Deputy Director Finco, Deputy Warden Horton, Sgt. Curtis, Director Heyns, Officer Bernhardt, and Warden Woods.

Finding a Murderer

Officer Adam Bernhardt (pictured above right) of Chippewa Correctional Facility was recognized for his outstanding work which recently resulted in the solving of a homicide. After receiving information stating that a prisoner was going to be assaulted, Officer Bernhardt was able to determine the identities of both of the prisoners which ultimately lead to the identification of two individuals who were involved in an unsolved murder. Officer Bernhardt's involvement with the Security Threat Group continues to be an asset to the Department.



**SECC CAMPAIGN ENDS OCTOBER 11! DONATE TODAY!**

With about two weeks left in the campaign, we are doing pretty well but still trail the Department of Human Services! The Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) has raised \$104,973, with over \$102,000 coming from returning participants. We need some new people to join in supporting their local charities! Your bi-weekly donation matters to those in need, so sign up today. It's simple and your favorite charity will appreciate your \$5 or \$10 bi-weekly automatic payroll donation.

As of September 23, **Chippewa Correctional Facility** is leading the way with **\$8,987** in pledged donations. Brooks/West Shoreline is right behind them. The \$5,000 Club includes Parnall Correctional Facility, Macomb Correctional Facility, Field Operations - Metro Region, Field Operations - Outstate Region and Central Office. G. Robert Cotton Correc-

tional Facility, Women's Huron Valley, Kinross Correctional Facility and the Detroit Reentry Center are closing in on \$5,000 in pledged donations. Check out the MDOC's effort at <http://www.misec.org/cms-assets/documents/133070-685889.by-department.pdf>. Our totals start on page 4.

The State is making it easier than ever to donate through payroll deduction. If you aren't sure what to do, contact your local personnel office. You can also do it yourself through the MI-HR Gateway or by calling the service center at 877-766-6447. The campaign ends on October 11, so give today!

**SAGINAW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR OF THE YOUTH DETERRENT PROGRAM**

Saginaw Correctional Facility (SRF) held a luncheon on August 21, 2013 to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Youth Deterrent Program. Program staff, visitors and the prisoner participants enjoyed a meal prepared by the facility's Food Technology program. Working in partnership with Operation Reach, state, county and local agencies, SRF provided a monthly workshop to at-risk males, ages 14-18. Young men got a first-hand experience of what prison life is like through powerful prisoner mentor testimonials. Program Coordinator Audette Crain, recipient of the 2012 Director's Award, developed the program and trained six mentors for two months to ready them for the impactful presentation.

The program is designed to deter youth from criminal thinking and behavior, to educate youth on prison life and its consequences, to encourage and reinforce education, to encourage appropriate life choices, to provide alternatives to criminal behavior, to promote self-respect and respect for authority and to encourage resistance to negative peer pressure.

Above Right L to R: Warden Lloyd Rapelje, Tina Zapata from Genesee County Field Operations, Roger Foster and Kila Thomas from Saginaw County Juvenile Probation, Programs Coordinator Audette Crain and Deputy Warden Donald Ricumstrict.

At Right: Prisoners and staff sit together, enjoying lunch.





**EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Q & A
WITH OFFICER STEVE FINEIS**



**In the
Spotlight**

Employee Spotlight profiles some of our remarkable staff who have done an outstanding job serving the citizens of Michigan. I absolutely recognize that our employees are the greatest asset to this organization and key to the Department's success. I know from my visits across the state and interactions with many of you that this agency is filled with extraordinary people with inspiring stories to tell. I am hopeful that some of you find these employee showcases meaningful and a worthwhile addition to the FYI.

Thank you,

Director Heyns

Officer Steve Fineis, 66



Current position: *Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility*

Started with the MDOC: *1968 (yes, that is correct)*

College: *Attended Michigan State University*

Hometown: *Ionia*

Family: *Married 43 years with three daughters*

Interview

Q: *According to Human Resources, you are the longest serving MDOC employee (counting only MDOC time). When did you start with the MDOC?*

Officer Fineis: I started as a Corrections Officer in 1968 at MTU. I was 21 years old at the time. I was looking for a stable job so I applied at Michigan Bell, Consumers Power and the MDOC. I got called for an interview at MTU and got the job. Richard Handlon was the warden at MTU when I started.

Q: *What was new employee training like in 1968?*

Officer Fineis: They put me in a room with a book of policies and procedures and told me to read them all. After that, I worked with another officer for a few days, and then I was on my own. At that time we had no radios, no PPDs and the control center was called the hall office. If we needed assistance, we had to use the telephone. There was one officer in the unit with 120 prisoners and the prisoners didn't have their own TVs then. Each unit had a day room that had a TV.

Q: *Do you remember how many prisons we had when you started?*

Officer Fineis: Yes, there were only four - Jackson, Marquette, the Reformatory and MTU. I did a paper for college in 1970 and remember the entire MDOC budget then was \$37 million. I recall thinking about that when I heard

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SPOTLIGHT (Continued from page 5)

it cost \$80 million alone to build Bellamy Creek.

Q: *Have you worked as a Corrections Officer your entire career?*

Officer Fineis: No, I actually quit the Department in 1972 because I felt it wasn't a good fit for me at the time. I was a young man and I was working weekends and holidays. All my friends were doing fun stuff and I was stuck in prison on the weekends. It wasn't so much the job, but the schedule I didn't like. However, I realized pretty quickly that I had made a mistake. I think it was my immaturity at the time. I did odd jobs for a while, but finally called the warden and asked if he would hire me back. I came back in 1974, and my job was driving the laundry truck for MSI at the Michigan Reformatory. After a short time, I was promoted to supervisor at the laundry facility inside the Reformatory. I worked for MSI at the Reformatory laundry until they moved the operation to Muskegon in 1995. I didn't want to move or travel to Muskegon. Pam Withrow was the warden at the Reformatory at the time and she told me if I wanted to go back into custody, she would take me. So, I did. I've been an officer ever since.

Q: *How did you like working for MSI?*

Officer Fineis: I liked it. I felt like I was helping prisoners learn valuable skills they could use to find work when they got out. I also taught them to have a positive work ethic.

Q: *What significant differences have you seen in the MDOC over the past 44 years?*

Officer Fineis: We used to be just about custody and security. Now, we are very program orientated – especially here at Bellamy Creek. I feel good about that. I think we give prisoners all the tools they need to make their life better. You can't just lock people away and then return them to society no better than when they came in. I think the Department is doing everything we can do to rehabilitate prisoners now.

Q: *What is your favorite part of the job?*

Officer Fineis: Coming to work. I love working with my coworkers here at Bellamy Creek. Every day I try to leave the facility feeling like I did the best I could do.

Q: *What are some of your hobbies?*

Officer Fineis: Boating, motorcycling, spending time with my kids – spending time with my family.

Q: *You have worked for the Department for 44 years; does your wife want you to retire?*

Officer Fineis: (smiling) Yes, she does want me to retire so we can do other things and maybe spend some time down south. However, Bellamy Creek is a great place to work and I really love my job. The other officers tease me about being a dinosaur, but it's all in good fun and jovial. However, I am starting to seriously consider retirement.

Q: *What do you think about morale within the Department?*

Officer Fineis: You know, a fair amount of people are upset about having to pay 4% for their pension and more for insurances. But I think I am different than most people. I am thankful for this job. I have three girls and all three of them have Masters Degrees (two from MSU and one from U of M). I paid for all their tuition and room and board. The only thing they had to pay for was their books. This may have been one of the reasons I worked so long, but they are all doing very well and it makes me extremely proud. If it wasn't for the MDOC, I wouldn't have the home that I have, my girls wouldn't have their education, and I wouldn't have my side business. I'm very thankful for what this career has given me and my family.

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RETIREMENTS (Continued from page 6)

Q: What would you tell your replacement on your last day?

Officer Fineis: Be here on time. Be where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there. Follow policy/procedure and use common sense and discretion.

Q: Who is your hero?

Officer Fineis: My kids. They have been so successful and have worked so hard in school. They truly are my heroes.

Q: Have you ever been assaulted in your 44 years with the Department?

Officer Fineis: Yes. I was watching the chow hall here at Bellamy Creek, and a prisoner came up to me and hit me in the face with his food tray. I saw stars for a minute. Other officers responded very quickly and prevented the incident from being much worse. I wasn't seriously hurt, and in fact, was back to work the next day.

Q: What is the one thing you remember most about your 44 years with the MDOC?

Officer Fineis: Being a witness to the 1981 riot at the Michigan Reformatory was the most profound thing I have experienced.

Q: How much annual leave a pay period does somebody with 44 years earn?

Officer Fineis: (smiling again) 9.6 hours

Q: Final thoughts?

Officer Fineis: This has been a good experience for me. Working for Warden McKee has been the best. He is a great administrator and is very conscientious and thoughtful about the people who work for him. He goes over and above to help people with their jobs. I think I have been a good employee for the Department, and the Department has provided me with a good income, good benefits and a good place to work.

ST. LOUIS DONATES BACK PACKS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



The St. Louis Correctional Facility and St. Louis Facilities' Employee Club once again helped out children in need throughout the St. Louis School District. On August 21, 2013, staff from the St. Louis Correctional Facility delivered 125 backpacks filled with school supplies to the St. Louis School District. Money for the backpacks was raised via casual days, a bake sale and a root beer float sale. Staff were once again very generous in donating vast quantities of supplies to fill the backpacks. A special thank you to ARUS Kelly Hughes of the St. Louis Correctional Facility for ensuring the backpack drive, first started by former Deputy Warden Doug Dingeldey, was a huge success.



L to R: Linda Moffett, St. Louis Public School Principal Carl Sztuckzko, Kelly Hughes, Kathy Wiles, Kristin VanHaften and Warden Steve Rivard.





REFORMATORY STAFF DONATE BACKPACKS TO LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On September 6, 2013, children at Emerson Elementary School in Ionia got a nice surprise. Employees from the Michigan Reformatory donated 20 backpacks filled with school supplies. The children were very appreciative as exhibited by their wide smiles and RMI employees felt as good as the kids who received the backpacks. It's just another one of the little things the RMI Employee Club does simply because it's the right thing to do!



L to R: Debbie Casillas, Emerson Elementary School Principal Mitch Mercer, Melissa Sandborn, and Scott Schooley, with ten grade-schoolers who are modeling the backpacks.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

LCF SUPPORTS LOCAL COLOR RUN

On August 24, 2013, just under 800 runners participated in the Branch County United Way Color Run. Lakeland Correctional Facility's Employee Club sponsored the Mexican Fiesta color station, tossing plenty of pink corn starch into the air along the route. Volunteers from various organizations at nine other color stations were also flinging various colors far and wide, turning white-clad participants into running rainbows.



DEPARTMENT HONORS FALLEN TROOPER

Four members of the Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard joined other MDOC uniformed staff, hundreds of Michigan State Police and hundreds more police officers from throughout the nation to say goodbye to slain Trooper Paul Butterfield. Butterfield was shot and killed during a traffic stop. Butterfield was the 51st Trooper to be killed in the line of duty. Serving on the detail were Asst. Commander John Fleenor, Brent Mitchell, Mackie Fleenor and Brandon Wenzel. CFA Deputy Director Tom Finco, who retired from the Michigan State Police, also attended the funeral.



MSP Troopers serve as pall bearers while Texas State Troopers and MDOC Honor Guard members Brent Mitchell and Mackie Fleenor (far right in the photo) salute Trooper Butterfield. - Photo courtesy MLive.com



**RN COMES TO THE AID OF INJURED ATV RIDERS**

Sergei Casper, a Registered Nurse at Baraga Correctional Facility, rendered assistance to five children ages 3-13 who were injured in a crash involving a minivan and a side-by-side Polaris ATV. The accident happened as the ATV attempted to cross U.S. 41 near Chassell. Four of the five ATV riders were ejected in the accident and all five were transported to hospitals for treatment. The minivan driver was also transported for treatment. Casper helped assess the situation and comforted victims until EMS arrived to transport them.

*PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE***ICF STAFF HELP RATHER ELEMENTARY KIDS**

Ionia Correctional Facility (ICF) recently donated 15 backpacks filled with school supplies to the students at Rather Elementary School in Ionia. The backpacks and school supplies will make a difference for children throughout the school who need them to do their best. The donation is another example of how employees of area correctional facilities support the Ionia community.

**PARNALL OFFICER HELPS FUTURE MDOC PROSPECT**

Corrections Officer Brandon Williams of Parnall Correctional Facility was picking up a friend enrolled in the criminal justice program at South University when he came across another student in need of assistance. The student was trying to change a flat tire and she was having difficulty removing the flat tire from the car. Officer Williams had no problem putting in some elbow grease to remove the flat tire and replace it with a spare. The student is finishing up her degree and will be applying for the MDOC in the near future. Officer Williams' random act of kindness didn't go unnoticed by the future MDOC prospect and South University security staff thanked Williams for the help.

