Michigan Department of Corrections

Corrections Connection

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HELP MAKE THINGS RIGHT

Finding Financial Freedom

Ingham County Parole partnership with Lansing's Financial Empowerment Center helps offenders repay debts

A little more than a year ago the Ingham County Parole Office launched a pilot program with Lansing's Financial Empowerment Center in an effort to enhance offenders' chances for success by helping them find stable financial ground.

The program offers financial counseling to parolees in transitional housing, and in its first year it reduced the debt of about 44 offenders by almost $85,000.

As the program moves into its second year, parolee debt is continuing to fall.

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About this edition's cover

The image on the cover was taken by Correctional Facilities Administration Assistant Deputy Director Michael Curley near the Capitol in May.

For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

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HELP MAKE THINGS RIGHT

In 2014, the total cumulative debt for parolees in transitional housing was $713,918, with an average individual debt of $16,600.

Over the course of the year, that total debt was reduced to $629,044, with about 40 percent of participating parolees decreasing their debt and 16 percent improving their credit score. More than half of parolees involved in the program were also able to leave transitional housing and find their own housing within the year.

That success hasn't gone unnoticed and the Ingham County Parole Office earned the Financial Empowerment Center's Partner of the Year award for their strong commitment to helping parolees build a better financial future.

"It's such a common sense solution and it has done so much good," Ingham County Parole Supervisor Douglas Clark said of the program. "We've seen a huge impact."

Many offenders returning to the community from prison face an uphill financial battle. They may have poor credit scores and debt that could include child support, defaulted student loans, unpaid medical expenses, restitution, court costs and other arrears.

Ingham County Parole Agent Kellie Doerr said it is important to try to head off any anxiety that debt could cause by scheduling an appointment soon after an offender's parole to discuss financial goals and how they can be achieved .

$713,918—Cumulative debt for participating parolees in transitional housing

$84,874—Reduction in debt after one year of the program

40%—Participating parolees who decreased their debt

16%– Participating parolees who increased their credit score

"They have so many challenges," Doerr said. "They need to see there is hope, so they can be productive members of society."

Jim Crain, a financial counselor with the empowerment center, said it is important to set a framework for expectations on both sides of the table and lay out small steps that can lead parolees to achieving their goals.

He helps parolees establish realistic budgets, build their credit, find safe and affordable banking and locate sources of income.

Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing presenting the Partner of the Year award to Agent Kellie Doerr and Supervisor Douglas Clark for the Ingham County Parole Office's work with the Financial Empowerment Center.

"Everything they are trying to do will revolve around their financial foot print," Crain said. "The sooner they start, the better chance they have at succeeding. They see how their dreams can become their goals and here's how you get there."

Crain said the Ingham County parolees have been some of his most successful clients because they are motivated and have much to gain. The biggest reward is seeing them regain control of their finances, he said.

Doerr and Clark said they hope to eventually expand the program to include parolees outside of transitional housing.

"So many doors are opening for these folks because of this partnership," Clark said. "They are reinvested. It dramatically improves their chances for success."

From the Director's Desk:

Survey results show improvement, but there's still work to do

When the results of the first Employee Engagement Survey returned three years ago, it gave us a valuable glimpse at how you felt about working for the MDOC and the state of Michigan.

It also showed us we had work to do to make sure the department offered a supportive environment in which you could thrive. We focused on addressing your feedback and with your help, we took steps to improve communication, enhance recognition efforts and break down barriers that stood in the way of your work.

Director Dan Heyns

When the 2015 Employee Engagement Survey report returned last month, the results were remarkable and there were positive changes across administrations.

More of you expressed that you planned to continue your career with the department and that you were highly engaged. The response rate climbed from 48 percent in 2012 to 71 percent this year, and on top of that, the MDOC showed the largest positive change of any state department.

These positive results wouldn't have been possible without your critical feedback and willingness to share your ideas for change, not to mention your hard work to help implement important improvements.

While this achievement is one we can be proud of, our work isn't over yet.

Department leadership will continue to review your feedback to determine how to address your concerns and move forward with changes you'd like to see.

I'm thankful for your invaluable opinions and your hard work to help leaders secure an even better future for the MDOC.

To see the survey results, click here.

$1.96 billion Corrections budget passed by Legislature

The Michigan Department of Corrections will rein in its spending and keep costs to less than $2 billion for the first time since 2012, after the Legislature approved the state's budget for the next fiscal year.

The state House and Senate on June 3 approved Michigan's $38.7 billion general fund budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year, which includes $1.96 billion for the Department of Corrections.

The spending reductions come from eliminating administrative vacancies, relocating inmates from Kinross Correctional Facility to the Hiawatha Correctional Facility site, purchasing tether units rather than leasing them, among other sources.

The spending reductions are not expected to impact department operations and come without closing facilities or laying off staff. The MDOC also will continue to move forward with plans to make improvements to facilities and hire as many as 1,000 new corrections officers this year.

Carrying the Flame

Captain selected to run final leg of Law Enforcement Torch Run to kick off Special Olympics World Games

For almost 20 years, Alger Correctional Facility Captain Carl White, and his wife, Carla, have been dedicated to helping Special Olympics athletes succeed.

The pair have poured their time and energy into supporting Special Olympics programs—volunteering at Michigan events and serving as the driving force behind a number of fundraisers, including the Marquette Polar Plunge and Law Enforcement Torch Ride.

Capt. Carl White

In July, Carl White will carry his involvement in the program to new lengths.

White was selected to represent Michigan in the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run to kick off the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angles on July 25.

He will be one of 126 individuals from 48 states and 23 countries participating in the final leg run. White said it was an overwhelming honor to be selected to run the final leg of the torch run. He is also slated to speak aboard the USS Iowa about his support of Special Olympics programs and following the run, he will stand in uniform at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum as the Flame of Hope is brought in to ignite the cauldron during the opening ceremony. The Special Olympics World Games will include 7,000 athletes from 177 countries, who will compete in 25 different sports.

Carla White, who also works at Alger Correctional Facility, said she nominated her husband to be considered as a final leg runner because of his years of involvement with the program.

Runners are selected based on their dedication and commitment to the Special Olympics.

Carl and Carla White became involved in the Special Olympics after the MDOC began encouraging employee involvement with the program, and a friend adopted a special needs boy, Carl White said.

White said he has been impressed by the tenacity and positive attitudes of Special Olympics athletes.

He recalled speaking to one athlete at a Special Olympics winter games who had won medals for skiing and he mentioned to her that he couldn't ski.

"She asked if I tried, and I said 'no,'" White said. "She said 'don't say you can't until you've tried.'"

That stuck with him, and White said the motivation he sees from athletes and their love for the games has kept him involved.

"I love doing it," White said. "It's awesome to go to the games and spend time with the athletes and see the joy on their faces when they accomplish something."

MDOC team takes top honors in mock riot competition

For the third consecutive year, the Michigan Department of Corrections' Emergency Response Team won the overall team championship in the Mock Prison Riot Tactical Skills Competition.

The MDOC was the first team in the history of the competition to win the event in back to back years.

The Emergency Response Team traveled to West Virginia in May to compete against 24 teams from around the world, including Haiti, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The team competed in five different scenarios that tested their skills, athleticism, shooting and ability to think quickly.

The team placed 1st in the obstacle course—10 seconds away from the course record—and in a competition to search and clear the unlit basement of a former prison. The team took 2nd place in a shooting competition and 3rd place in a event that included securing and clearing a cell block.

In the past three years, the MDOC's team has come in 3rd place or higher in 14 of 15 events.

The team included team leader Sgt. Kris Maddox, Assistant team leader Jay Whitman, Sgt. Richard Drabek, Sgt. Brandon Wenzel, Officer Joel Wiard, Officer Matthew Farber, Officer Daren Ferden, Agent Jake Poindexter, retired Officer Clint Slusser, and Officer Julie Whitney.

"Extra effort makes a difference"

Berrien County parole agent helps special needs offenders

Jeanice McConomy was still new to the Michigan Department of Corrections when she was asked to serve charges to an arrested absconder who had suspected mental health issues.

She was warned that he was reluctant to talk to law enforcement and was at times out of control—yelling and pounding on the door where he was detained.

Jeanice McConomy

McConomy was able to stabilize the offender, talk through each violation with him and discuss potential solutions to his problems.

Impressed at how she handled the situation, supervisors assigned her to the special needs caseload composed of offenders with mental and physical health issues. She has been working with special needs offenders ever since.

McConomy, a Berrien County parole agent, said she uses the same approach now that she used with that parole absconder she met with almost eight years ago.

"I try to just focus on them," said McConomy, who has supervised the county's special needs offenders since 2007. "If you show a little bit of concern for their well being, I think they respond better."

Coworkers sometimes tease her about using the "mom voice" of authority with parolees in her caseload, she said, but it is important for them to know they must operate under the same rules as other parolees, and will not escape consequences if they break those rules.

"I give them every benefit of the doubt and help them out when I can, but I give them the same treatment anyone else would get," McConomy said.

Ultimately, parolees respect that, she said.

Supervising the special needs population has its challenges.

It can be difficult to find substance abuse programs or foster care homes that will accept them, or to get access to medications that can help them, she said.

But the work can also be rewarding—particularly when parolees are successful.

"That's the best feeling ever," said McConomy, who occasionally receives calls from parolees thanking her for her guidance and letting her know they are still doing well.

McConomy said when she shows parolees she is invested in their success, they are too.

"Some of them you really want to go out of your way to help because they are really trying," McConomy said. "They need more time and effort, and if you show them you are working for them, a lot of times they do work harder for you too. That extra effort makes a difference."

Column: Fitness comes down to taking simple steps

Improving your health doesn't need to be challenging.

For instance, did you know fat loss isn't so much about counting calories as it is about balancing your hormones?

You can take an opportunity each morning to optimize fat loss by avoiding starchy carbs until the later part of the day.

The moment you eat starchy carbs, you release the hormone insulin that ushers sugar (glucose) out of the blood stream. If there's no place to store it in your muscle or liver, then the glucose gets stored as fat.

The fix: stick with protein and healthy fats or skip breakfast altogether and have some heavy whipping cream in your morning coffee.

This is just one step you can take to improve your health.

There is a fascinating science to fitness, and I will be breaking it down and sharing it with you in a way that is easy to understand and act upon. I'll expand more on how your hormones dictate fat loss and cover topics such as: why you should not deprive yourself with strict dieting methods; why too much cardio is not doing you any favors; the best foods to eat and when; and things you can do at work to improve your health.

You have the power to turn your health around and the simple steps you can take will amaze you.

Kylie Tennant works for SAI. You can check out her page: Tip of the Day Fitness for State Workers on Facebook

A Look Back:

Confronting employment challenges faced by former prisoners

In a recent speech on criminal justice reform, Gov. Rick Snyder outlined plans for reinventing prisoner reentry.

His proposal included tailoring training programs to target areas of demand in the workforce and plans to bring employers into institutions to start the hiring process prior to parole to help ensure prisoners would be able to secure jobs.

Parolees and former prisoners have for decades faced barriers to finding stable work.

This difficulty in gaining employment has been fueled, in part, by the stigma attached to their criminal past and time spent in prison. Some employers have made it clear that they would not hire ex-felons.

In a column that was printed in the Michigan Reformatory's 1959 newsletter, one anonymous industrialist with 1,000 employees proclaimed he would not hire ex-convicts.

MDOC file photo

But the industrialist went on to write that he would be more likely to employ former prisoners if they went through a period of rehabilitation and job training before returning to the community.

"I address my challenge to the state and nation: KEEP YOUR CONVICTS OR MAKE CITIZENS OUT OF THEM," the industrialist wrote.

That's a challenge former Gov. William Milliken accepted, and in a 1972 special message on corrections he too called for modernized training and education programs, and greater collaboration with businesses to ensure prisoners could find employment following release.

"If we truly intend to rehabilitate, men must leave prison with greater capacities and skills than they brought with them into prison," Milliken said.

The department has sought to teach prisoners new skills. Following a survey on workforce needs, inmates began working in the department's newly established optical program in 1978. It taught prisoners modern optical practices, as well as the physics of light, surfacing, fabrication and the anatomy and physiology of the eye, and it culminated with on-the-job training. The optical program continues today.

Joseph Dunn, who directed the optical program when it began, noted that despite public perceptions, the prisoners he worked with were highly motivated.

"Most citizens project prisons as institutions of people shut away and uselessly forgotten as discarded individuals," he said in a 1980 edition of the MDOC's Dialogues newsletter. "My observation has been just the opposite. Prisons have persons who want to learn, want to produce, want to become active in the field of optics."

Despite the stigma of their former prisoner status, ex-offenders can prove to be model employees.

The MDOC offered a pre-release work program until 1980 where inmates nearing parole were allowed to leave their parole camp during the day and work for participating employers. Upon parole, inmates' participation in the Work-Pass Program was terminated. The participating business included services stations, car washes, restaurants, retail establishments, general contracting, manufacturing, and farming. Evaluations of the program revealed very favorable reactions from employers on the skill, work ethic, congeniality and dependability of program participants. Although against the program policy, several employers asked that the men be permitted to retain their employment after parole. One employer commented that the inmate was the best employee he ever had.

Similar statements were made recently by Lalit Verma, CEO of Sakthi Automotive Group, which has committed to hiring two Michigan parolees per month over the next two years.

"We're seeing they (hired parolees) are more motivated and productive because they know this is their second chance," Verma told Crain's Detroit Business.

Corrections officers sworn in during Lansing academy graduation

Stay vigilant, keep an open mind, and trust your judgement.

Almost 300 new corrections officers received that advice from speakers at a graduation ceremony in May at the Lansing Center that marked the end of eight weeks of classroom instruction for the Lansing-area academy.

The David Smith class included 274 graduates, who have transitioned to their assigned facilities for a period of on-the-job training.

David Smith, the class namesake and former warden of Ryan Correctional Facility, spoke during the ceremony and told graduates that it will be important to use good communication and fairness in their roles as corrections officers.

Graduates also received awards for academic achievement, personal conduct and perseverance during the ceremony.

Award recipients included:

Corrections Officer Jacob Cook—Jack L. Budd Award for improvement efforts.

Corrections Officer Kyle Fox—Josephine B. McCallum Award for good moral character and positive attitude.

Corrections Officer Jared Gonzalez—Academic Excellence Award.

The next Lansing-area academy begins June 22 at the Michigan State Police Training Academy.

MDOC PREA Administrator helps Cambodian community during mission trip

A mission to help women and men who were victims of, or at risk of human trafficking, took MDOC PREA Administrator Todd Butler and his family on a journey to the other side of the world.

Butler, his wife Janice, and his brother– and sister-in-law, spent 17 days in Cambodia in May with a division of the Christian organization “In His Steps.” The division, called “Sak Saum” works with individuals who could be vulnerable to human trafficking. The organization offers weekly worship services, youth discipleship, education and community development. Butler said he and his family have been working with Sak Saum in the U.S. for about the last three years.

Butler and his brother-in-law spent four days constructing a play set for the children in Saang, Cambodia—which is located near the city of Phnom Pehn.

Butler and his wife also had the opportunity to preach a Sunday morning service at a church in the village, spent a day traveling to offer fellowship and prayer to those in the community and assisted with English classes.

Butler called the trip “life changing.”

“Once the trip was complete, the truth is they poured more into my life than I could ever offer to them,” Butler said.

PREA Administrator Todd Butler with a group of children in Cambodia.

Column: MDOC Transportation Hub is a sight to behold

It doesn't look like much at first.

A few metal buildings stand idle in the middle of a corn field in St. Louis—that is, until the busses roll up. Lines and lines of prisoners file out, followed by bins full of files, boxes of sack lunches and trailers full of property. All of this is supervised by well-trained and capable Corrections Transportation Officers.

Kendra Burton

The St. Louis "hub" is where all of the transportation cadres in the state converge every Tuesday and Thursday for prisoner transfers. As many as 200 to 300 prisoners could come through the hub on transfer days, according to Sgt. Ty Showers with the Mid-Michigan Transportation Team.

There are seven different transportation regions in the state. Whenever a facility schedules a prisoner transfer to another facility, that transportation cadre picks up the prisoner and delivers them to the hub.

When they arrive at the hub, prisoners are taken into one building to have their identification checked against the transportation detail and then they are put into a holding cage labeled with the facility/region they are transferring to. Each transportation cadre is responsible for taking their prisoners off the bus and putting them in the proper holding cage and retrieving the prisoners slated to return to their facilities. Prisoner files are sorted onto different shelves for each facility and prisoner property is taken to a different area by a combination of trailers, transportation officers and Michigan State Industries semitrailers before being sorted.

Sgt. Showers says he considers his biggest accomplishment keeping a busy hub running smoothly on a weekly basis. He says it's an ongoing challenge that never gets dull and is quite rewarding.

Kendra Burton is a transfer coordinator at Saginaw Correctional Facility.

Register now for LCF golf outing to support "Shop With A Cop"

Lakeland Correctional Facility's employee club will host a golf outing Aug. 28 at the Turtle Creek Golf Club in Burlington to support the Branch County Sheriff's Office Shop With A Cop program.

The event begins with a shot gun start at 9:30 a.m. in a four-man scramble format. The cost is $50 per person, or $200 for a four-person team, if paid in advance. Costs rise to $55 per person, or $220 for a four-person team, if paid at the door. Individuals who register alone will be placed on a team.

The entry fee includes 18 holes with a cart, a meal and door prizes.

The entry fee and form below must be returned to Lakeland Correctional Facility, 141 First St. Coldwater, MI 49036 to the attention of Kim Russell, no later than Aug. 17. Checks can be made payable to the Lakeland Correctional Facility Employee Club. For more information contact Kim Russell at russellk3@michigan.gov, or (517) 278-6942 extension 2786202.

Team Name:	Team Members
Contact Person:	1.
Address:	2.
City: State: Zip:	3.
Phone#:	4.

Central Records Section staffer recognized for hard work

Pictured: Records Administrator Diana Judge, Elizabeth Goniea, Central Records Section Manager Cynthia Partridge.

The department's Central Records Section recognized Elizabeth Goniea as its employee of the year for her hard work and her ability to work closely with her colleagues as she helped teach them how to use a new application.

Goniea spent most of 2014 in the Offender Management System office. She and three coworkers were tasked with rewriting the prisoner time computation program in an application called InRule, which is used by OMS to compute prisoner release dates.

She worked with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget on a daily basis to test every type of case and combination of cases to ensure dates were calculated accurately.

As an expert in the time computation function of OMS via InRule, she was able to assist the entire Central Records Section team in learning the new application and ensuring that all problems were resolved or reported.

ECF donation provides helmets to 120 youth football players

Oaks Correctional Facility raised $1,375 to purchase needed football helmets for 120 youth football league players.

Facility staff, including Warden Tom Mackie, Resident Unit Manager Jason Thomas, Property Officer Chris Schmidt, Records Office Supervisor Jason Mucha and ECF Corrections Officer of the Year Scott Adamczak, presented the donation to Manistee Pop Warner Youth Football League President Jennifer Williams in April.

Ingham Parole seeks donations for "Dressing for Success" event

Have a suit, slacks or a sweater to spare?

The Ingham County Parole Office is asking for donations of interview-appropriate clothing for a "Dressing for Success" event for parolees and probationers.

The June 26 event at the Ingham County Parole Office aims to provide male and female parolees and probationers with clothing that can be worn to job interviews to increase chances for success.

Items of all sizes including suits, dresses, shirts, ties, slacks, polo shirts, sweaters and skirts are needed.

Donations are being accepted until June 24 and can be dropped off at the parole office, 5341 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in Lansing.

For more information, call 517-284-7662.

MDOC employees participate in restorative justice training

Michigan Department of Corrections staff learned how to help guide offenders in making amends for their actions during a two-day restorative justice training in May at the University of Michigan Dearborn campus.

The training prepared participants to facilitate face-to-face conferences and use other restorative practices.

Restorative justice is an approach to addressing crime or wrongdoing that focuses on the process of repair. The goal is to promote empathy and remorse, and to initiate a reflective process in which offenders can think about the harm their actions have caused others and how they can begin to repair it. The MDOC is working with state universities and SHAR, a drug rehabilitation center in Detroit, to pilot a restorative justice program for parolees.

The pilot aims to help enhance community relationships, especially as they relate to family reunification.

Macomb Correctional Facility hosts career fair for prisoners

More than a dozen area agencies participated in Macomb Correctional Facility's first career fair for prisoners.

About 62 inmates attended the May 4 career fair, which aimed to provide prisoners with opportunities to network with potential employers and community agencies prior to their release.

Participating inmates, who belonged to the Pathways College Program and Prisoner Reentry, worked on resumes and cover letters to provide to the prospective employers.

Representatives from the agencies and businesses that attended the career fair told correctional facility staff they were impressed by how prepared and professional the inmates were during the event.

Participating agencies and businesses, which included Buzz-Off Automotive, Recovery Farms, the Michigan Department of Transportation, Goodwill Industries, and Dorsey Schools, were also given a tour of the facility school building and heard presentations on vocational programs offered to inmates.

DNR nets walleye from Jackson prison complex pond

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources removed about 200,000 walleye from a Jackson prison complex pond to be transported to area waters. The DNR released about 500,000 infant fish about the size of a mosquito into the pond in April to allow them to grow to about 1-inch long before being transported.

Probationers clean up Saginaw neighborhood

A group of probationers took to Saginaw County streets to clean up a neighborhood that had become heavily littered with debris.

Agent Guadalupe Olivarez, along with the Saginaw Police Department, Saginaw County Sheriff's Department and the Saginaw Riverfront Development Commission, worked with the probationers to clean up an area of the city where an excessive amount of illegal dumping had occurred.

The all-day effort, which allowed offenders to satisfy court-ordered community service, resulted in the probationers and other volunteers filling up three dump trucks with debris during the clean up in May.

Olivarez and the probationers also worked to clean up Ojibway Island and the Japanese Tea Garden in Saginaw. The group performed general landscaping work and planted flowers that had been donated by local businesses.

Officers and other representatives said they were impressed by how hard the probationers worked.

MDOC facilitates Ground Defense Training for Kalkaska law enforcement

Officers from the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office learned how to protect themselves if they are knocked down, during a Ground Defense Training facilitated by Michigan Department of Corrections staff.

Ground defense is used when an officer is either knocked down or falls down when trying to subdue an individual. It is used to help protect an officer's weapon and transition to an escape, or gain control over a violent offender.

About 15 officers participated in the training in May, which was conducted by Pugsley Correctional Facility Institutional Training Officer Gary Huff and Corrections Officer Rich Johnson.

Gardening for the greater good? Tell us

Every year, the MDOC grows an abundance of produce that is then donated to help feed those in need.

The Corrections Connection would like to showcase the department's great efforts to provide meals to hungry families.

If your office or facility is donating produce to local food banks and soup kitchens, contact Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov, or tell us about other efforts to help the hungry.

Women of Michigan State Industries featured in magazine

The National Correctional Industries Association featured the women who help run Michigan State Industries' operations in its spring quarterly magazine.

Tujauna White, marketing specialist for Michigan State Industries, referred to the women as the "MSI A-Team." Each of the women have demonstrated that it is knowledge, skill, and training—not gender—which make a successful corrections professional, White said.

Women featured in the story include:

- Mary Reid, who handled receiving, delivery, shipping and logistics for MSI and retired in May. Reid worked for the MDOC for almost 38 years and was also responsible for inventory control, processing supply requisitions, and assisting the Fleet Transportation Manager with logistics and delivery scheduling.
- Charleen Scott, plant manager for garment operations at Kinross Correctional Facility. Scott, who has been with MSI for 18 years and is assisted by Wendy Skinner, Patsy Miller and Pennie Clymer, works with 92 offenders in the manufacture of women's and men's uniform shirts, ERT uniforms, rainwear, and prisoner outerwear, among other items.
- Kathy Kimmel, acting plant manager for mattress operations at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. Kimmel has spent 16 years training, supervising and managing 36 prison workers in the manufacture of mattress and linen products. She also oversees operations at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.
- Jennifer Huntoon, former plant manager for garment operations at Ionia Correctional Facility. Huntoon, along with Crystal Galvan-Casas and Stephanie Lewis have contributed to the success of the manufacture of American flags, ballistic/tactical vests, officer uniform accessories and other items at the facility.
- Amy Szabo, production leader for garment operations at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. Szabo manages 27 female prisoner workers, who make a variety of garments for prisoners statewide. She was previously assisted by Julia Fitten.

Field Operations Administration wins first-ever Director's Cup

The Field Operations Administration team won the Director's Cup in a first-ever golf competition between FOA and Correctional Facilities Administration.

Almost 80 golfers participated in the friendly match between the two administrations on June 8 at the Royal Scot Golf Course in Lansing.

The winning administration will keep the trophy until the next competition.

Remembering Officer Marvin Powell

Corrections Officer Marvin Powell, a recent academy graduate who worked at St. Louis Correctional Facility, passed away on June 9 in Vassar.

Officer Powell is survived by his wife and six children, along with his parents and eight siblings.

Funeral services were held today.

For information on sending flowers, a card or condolences to the family contact Gephart Funeral Home in Bay City, or click here.

Employees receive Meritorious Service Award for exceptional work

Kelly Lutz was recognized for her management skills in the Case Preparation Unit, and for her role as the Parole Board's subject matter expert on issues related to the Offender Management System and the Parole Board Information System.

Kelly Lutz

Lutz, a departmental manager in the Case Preparation Unit, is described as a strong leader who embraces new challenges and encourages staff to give their best every day. Lutz has become the liaison between several areas within the Field Operations Administration, as well as other areas regarding the implementation and use of OMS. During the transition to OMS, she was the primary source of developing alternative methods to accomplish required tasks. She established positive relationships with those involved in all aspects of the new system and demonstrated the ability to objectively review operations and make recommendations. The countless hours she dedicated to the project were of tremendous benefit to the department.

Cynthia Patrick, an agent for the Lake County Residential Reentry Facility, was recognized for her dedication, invaluable insight and contributions to the department.

Cynthia Patrick

Patrick has demonstrated an outstanding level of insight in assessing prisoner programming needs and identifying key risk factors. As a certified trainer, she has also facilitated the "Thinking Matters" and "Thinking for a Change" classes.

Patrick has traveled to prisons and field offices throughout the state to provide instruction on evidence-based programming, and her criminal justice education and 17 years with the MDOC has allowed her to provide valuable insights while teaching.

She has also helped create processes that address offender idle time, reduce parolee noncompliance and close the communication gap between department staff and offenders.

Her successful programming has positively impacted the lives of many she has served.

Paul Schreiber was recognized for his dedication, professionalism and initiative to become an expert on gang intelligence and security threat groups.

Paul Schreiber

Schreiber, a sergeant at Oaks Correctional Facility, has attended numerous conferences and training sessions regarding terrorism, extremism and gangs. He is a member of the Midwest Gang Investigators Association and has used his expertise to assist the department, in addition to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. He has worked regularly with the emergency management area to assist both the Correctional Facilities Administration and Field Operations Administration with security threat group issues. He is an active member of the Emergency Response Team and has assisted in numerous activations, including extensive search efforts for the Baby Kate case in Ludington.

Schreiber has also helped educate the local community on gang-related issues, enhancing the department's presence and image in the community.

Employees honored for providing emergency aid

Jeff Beard, a corrections officer at the Michigan Reformatory, received the department's Citizenship Award for assisting victims of a traffic accident in November.

Jeff Beard

Beard came upon the multiple-vehicle accident at a major intersection in Grand Rapids and immediately parked, assessed the situation and began providing instructions to bystanders to help the victims. Approximately six vehicles were involved, including one that was flipped upside down. Since no emergency vehicles had arrived, Beard approached the overturned vehicle and used a knife to cut the seatbelts from two women who were trapped inside and help them exit the car. He then found pillows and blankets for the victims to use while they waited for emergency medical staff.

Alex Smith, a parole agent with the Lincoln Park Parole Office, received the department's Lifesaving Award for his efforts to help an unresponsive man.

Alex Smith

In May 2014, Smith responded to a call for help from a business located next to the parole office. He found a man sitting in his vehicle who was unresponsive. With the help of a passenger in the vehicle, Smith removed the man from the car and placed him on the ground to begin performing CPR until emergency medical staff arrived.

The man was transported to a local hospital and was later reported to be in stable condition.

Corrections Quiz

What percentage of the state's population is supervised by the MDOC?

Send your answers to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.
The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout-out on MDOC social media, and the answer and the winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

May Quiz Answer: Pamela Withrow
Congratulations to **Cathy Collins**, a department analyst in the Office of Research and Planning for being the first to correctly answer the May Corrections Quiz. Great work!

Michigan Reformatory conducts Operation Clean Sweep

A group of 134 officers from the corrections officer training academy, along with training academy staff and Emergency Management Team members uncovered a number of illegal items during Operation Clean Sweep at the Michigan Reformatory in Ionia.

The operation resulted in staff finding six shanks and 11 other weapons, as well as four disposable razors and four tattoo needles in prisoner possession.

"Spud juice" was also found and 20 prisoners were placed in temporary segregation for Class I Misconduct Charges.

LMF fundraiser helps family support son with Lymphoma

Staff at Alger Correctional Facility raised more than $1,400 to help support the family of a boy who is fighting Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

The money was raised for Cully, the younger brother of one officer at the facility and the nephew of another, through a sloppy joe fundraiser on May 21.

Cully, who is 10 years old, has been undergoing treatments for the disease for about 10 weeks.

LMF's Michigan Corrections Organization President Larry Henley presenting a check to the family.

Corrections in the News

Click on the headline to read each story.

100,000 walleye pulled from prison pond— Jackson Citizen Patriot

Redico plans $150 million redevelopment of former women's prison site in Northville— Crain's Detroit Business

Special Olympics Mich. State summer games continue— WZZM TV

Editorial: Don't forget victims in criminal reforms—The Detroit News

Manistee jail to house more inmates— UpNorthLive.com

Michigan bills would end mandatory prison sentences for crimes involving a gun—Mlive Lansing

Correction: Officer James Norden received the Josephine B. McCallum award during the upper peninsula academy's graduation. A story in the May edition misspelled his last name.

Meanwhile, on facebook

Michigan Department of Corrections
May 15 at 1:38pm

Director Heyns in his four years with the department has helped the MDOC accomplish many goals including reduction of the recidivism rate to a record low in the state and creation of the Detroit Detention Center and Detroit Reentry Center.

Today Governor Rick Snyder announced that he will be stepping down as the director and Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, Warden Heidi Washington will assume the role on July 1, and will work with Director Heyns on the transition.

Read the rest of his special message and the introduction to Warden Washington here: 1.usa.gov/1FdlHRz

To see more posts, visit our Facebook page.

APRIL 2015 RETIREMENTS

Anderson, Edward M. ..... Marquette Branch Prison
Anderson, Jeffrey R. ..... Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Barnett, Marlon D. ..... Eastern District Probation Office
Brett, Steven J. ..... Leelanau County Parole/Probation Office
Brow, Donald M. ..... Newberry Correctional Facility
Brown-Peake, Phyllis ..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Carmody, Robert L. ..... Newberry Correctional Facility
Cole, Donald W. ..... Muskegon County Parole
DeBor, Stephen T. ..... Corrections Central Office
Decker, Linda G. ..... St. Louis Correctional Facility
Ellison, Andrew ..... St. Louis Correctional Facility
Ferguson, Jay A. ..... Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Fox, Christina A. ..... Thumb Correctional Facility
Friesorger, Scott A. ..... Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Fuller, John T. ..... Roscommon County Parole/Probation Office
Galesk, David R. ..... Carson City Correctional Facility
Grider, James M. ..... Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Hagelee, Theodore A. ..... Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hamilton-Jasman, Linda L. ..... Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Hodson, William A. ..... Oaks Correctional Facility
Holmes, Alexander K. ..... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Holmes, Anita M. ..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hopkins, Bobby ..... Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Kangas, Kirt C. ..... Marquette Branch Prison
Kerckaert, Mark A. ..... Kinross Correctional Facility
Langlois, Gerald W. ..... Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Leflore, Derek ..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Len, Cary K. ..... Carson City Correctional Facility
Licking, Jeffrey D. ..... Thumb Correctional Facility
Luman, Nancy K. ..... Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Mackie, Herbert F. ..... Kinross Correctional Facility
Mayer, David E. ..... Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Norwood, Nannette S. ..... Ionia Correctional Facility
Oja, Joyce L. ..... Chippewa Correctional Facility
Parks, Joel D. ..... Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Penn, Jackie W. ..... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Piontek, Andrea A. ..... Newberry Correctional Facility
Pohl, Suzanne M. ..... Washtenaw County Probation Office
Pope, Tina M. ..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Porter, Robert E. ..... Pugsley Correctional Facility
Rasmusson, Mark D. ..... Pugsley Correctional Facility
Reno, Pete M. ..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Ritz, Wayne L. ..... St. Louis Correctional Facility
Robinson, Mary J. ..... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Roeder, Alan G. ..... Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Santarelli, Leonard J. ..... Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Spanburg, Kathryn E. ..... Records Administration
Spicer, Joseph S. ..... Detroit Reentry Center
Stressman, Richard E. ..... Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Tabb, Gloria P. ..... Chrysler District Probation Office
Vette, William G. ..... Corrections Central Office
Walton, John H. ..... Chippewa Correctional Facility
Willour, William M. ..... West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Wright, William J. ..... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility

APRIL 2015 NEW HIRES

Alcala, Sara. ..... Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Alder, Jason ..... Refrigeration Mechanic, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Alexander, Maurice ..... Mental Health Social Worker, Detroit Reentry Center
Armstrong, Melissa .....Medical Records Examiner, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Barnett, Monique .....Mental Health Social Worker, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Blanks, Shaketa ..... General Office Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Brooks, Coty ..... Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Brouwer, Sarah .....Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Burks, Bridget .....Accounting Technician, Thumb Correctional Facility
Cameron, Laura ..... Word Processing Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Daily, Evana ..... Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Eicholtz, Cynthia ..... Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Gregg, Karen .....Account Manager, Kinross Administration
Hickey, Margaret .....Psychologist, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Keller-Jerome, Jill ..... Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Kinney, Elizabeth ..... Registered Nurse, Kinross Correctional Facility
Lester, Connie .....Medical Records Examiner, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Marquart, Ryan ..... Building Trades Crew Leader, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Miehlke, Jonathan ..... Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Miles, Wanda ..... Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Nelson, Marshall ..... Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Nuber, Teresa .....Librarian, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Oberle, Ryan .....Parole/Probation Officer, Bay County Parole/Probation Office
Ochoa, Steven ..... Registered Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Paquette, Courtney ..... Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Ryder, Kathryn .....Licensed Practical Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Seger, Sawyer ..... Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Smith, Mark .....Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Stevens, Sharolyn ..... Word Processing Assistant, Kinross Correctional Facility
Stevenson, Brian .....Maintenance Mechanic, Kinross Administration
Sturgeon, James .....Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Taylor, Anjelle ..... Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Tighe, Andrew .....Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Tulgestke, Kate .....Parole/Probation Officer, Iosco County Parole/Probation Office
Uchendu, Leonard .....Clinical Social Worker, Parnall Correctional Facility
Vodicka, Gina .....Parole/Probation Officer, Isabella County Parole/Probation Office
Wolck, Heidi .....Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Woodford, Laura ..... Clinical Social Worker, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility