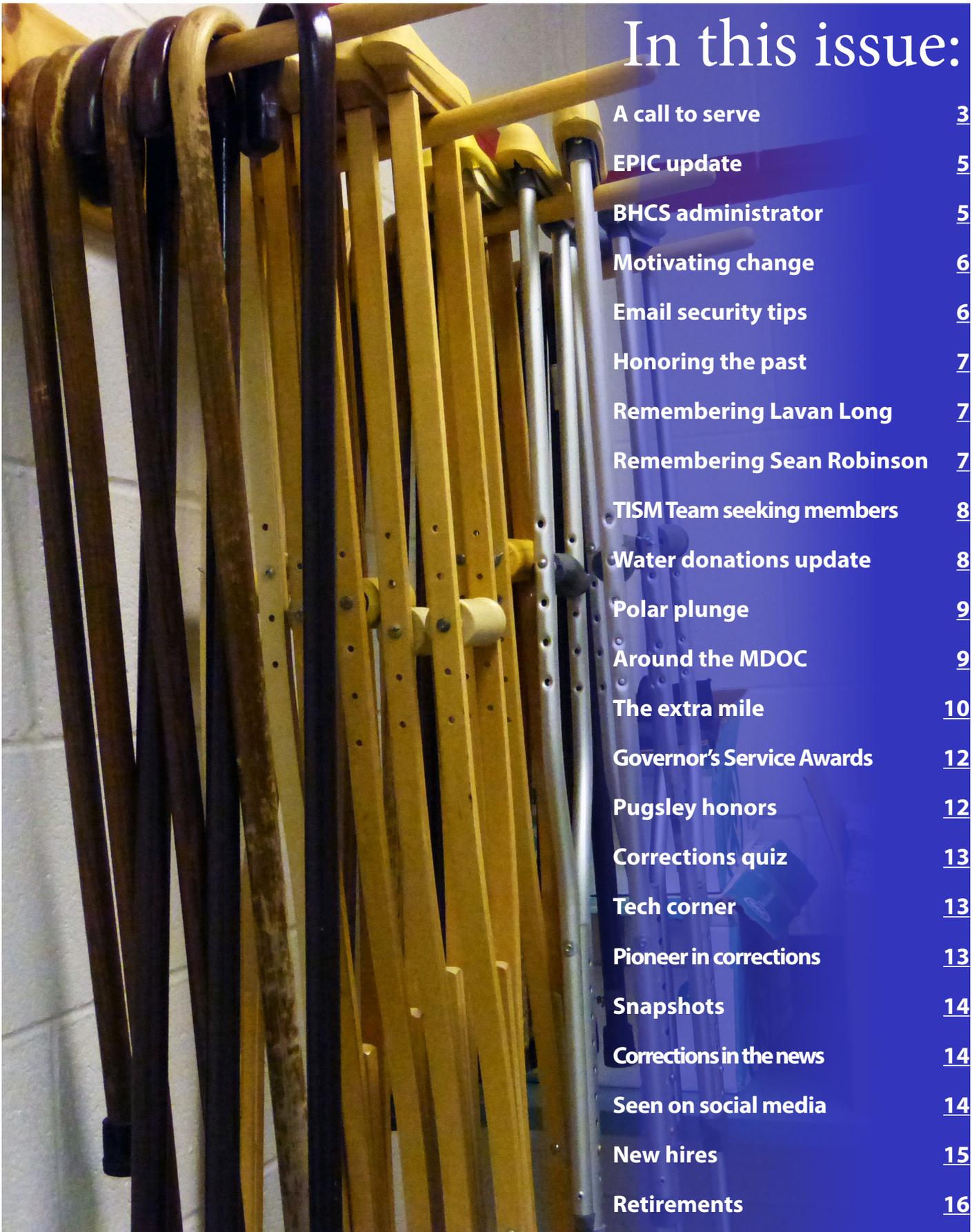


# Corrections Connection





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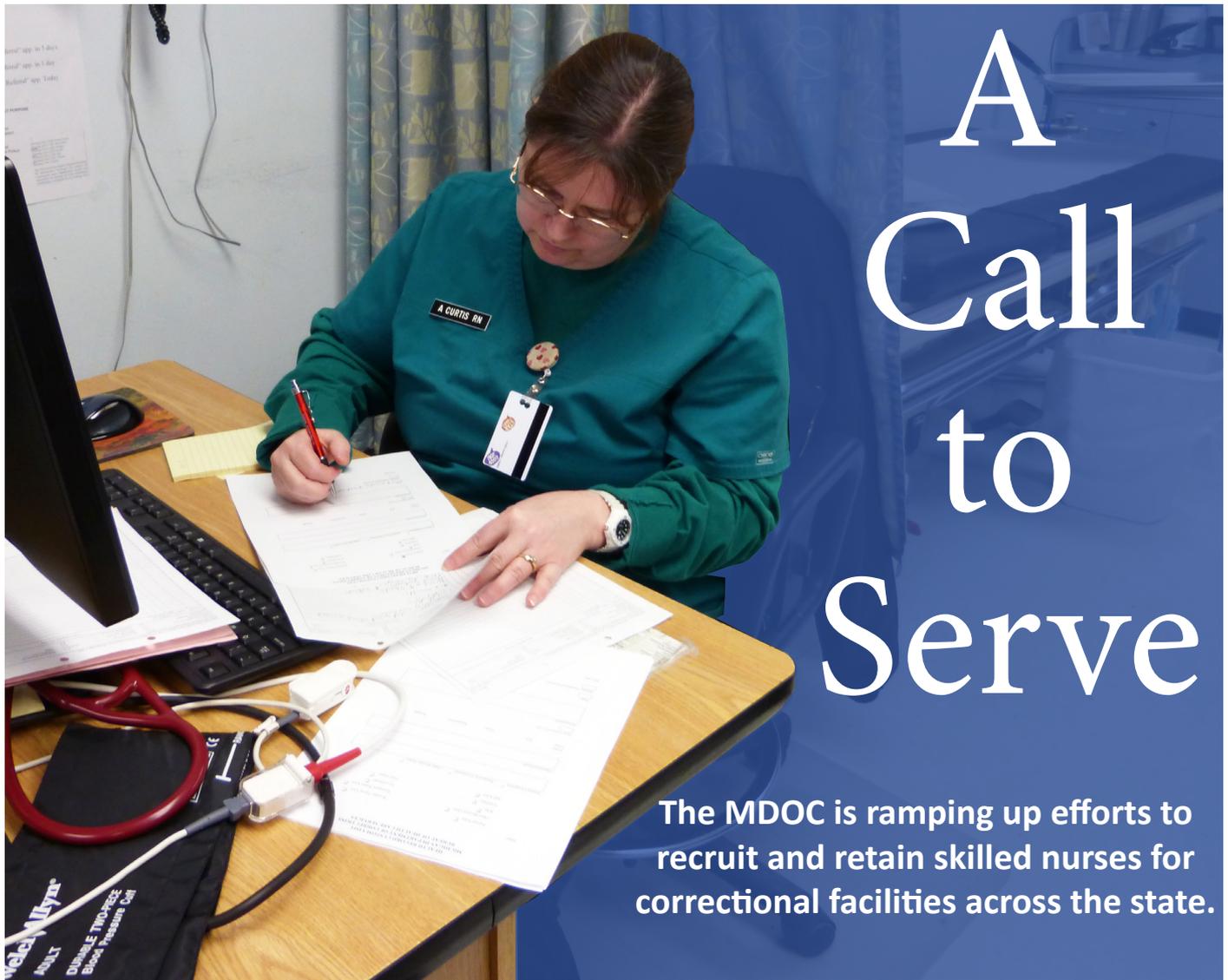
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**Corrections Connection** is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).

Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover of the Sugar Island Ferry was taken by **David Gilbert**, a corrections officer at Chippewa Correctional Facility. 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](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).



# A Call to Serve

The MDOC is ramping up efforts to recruit and retain skilled nurses for correctional facilities across the state.

**M**any nurses might not consider prison as a place to practice medicine, but for Alline Curtis, correctional health care was at the forefront of her job search.

The field was an ideal pairing of her background in criminal justice and degree in nursing.

“I had worked in a prison in the past and I knew it was an important role,” said Curtis, a registered nurse at Pugsley Correctional Facility, who previously worked as a corrections officer at a privately run prison. “I was drawn to correctional nursing because it fit both of my college degrees together. I work in a section of health care often overlooked, but in great need.”

Nurses are a critical component of the department’s health care operations – especially as a trend in aging prisoners, experienced across the country, continues at the MDOC and more inmates enter facilities with chronic conditions.

The department recently ramped up efforts to hire and retain more registered nurses, and has initiated a push to attract qualified candidates to a career in corrections. It has explored professional development opportunities for current staff and has reached out to colleges and universities for assistance in reaching new nurses, in addition to promoting open positions online, on social

media and at career fairs across the state.

For nurses, working in corrections can provide unique opportunities to learn and build on their practice.

“Working in correctional health care is unlike any other nursing job you will ever have,” said Assistant Health Services Administrator Michelle Horton.

### **Crucial Care**

In correctional nursing, no two days are alike.

Nurses are responsible for triaging medical complaints from prisoners, assessing chronic health care conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, routine complaints such as back pain or headaches, or traumatic injuries.

Nurses also issue medications, give immunizations, perform health screenings and patient education and conduct lab work. They assist doctors and triage dental and mental health issues after hours, and are the only health care position that typically have a staff member on site at all times.

This makes them critical to the correctional health care system, Horton said.

The need for skilled health care staff has grown as the number of prisoners with serious or chronic medical conditions has climbed, said Pugsley Correctional Facility Nursing Supervisor Aaron Phillips.

*Continued on [Page 4](#)*



Pugsley Correctional Facility Nursing Supervisor Aaron Phillips and Human Resources Officer Brenda Porter talk with surgical technology students at Baker College of Cadillac.

At Pugsley, nurses may see one patient about every 10 to 30 minutes and approximately half of the more than 1,300 prisoners at the facility have been prescribed regular medication.

“MDOC health care is probably one of the most unique health care systems out there,” Phillips said. “Most people don’t think about health care when it comes to corrections.”

Although correctional nurses might not be focused on one area of health care, they must learn about many different areas of the field, he said. They also must be able to handle a variety of levels of treatment from emergency care to general wellness checks.

“Being a correctional nurse requires an RN to have strong assessment and critical thinking skills, to be up for a challenge, to have patience and to be able to function and work fairly independently,” Horton said. It is also important for nurses to know how to set limits, and be firm, fair and consistent with their inmate patients, she said.

The ability to work independently at such a high level was one of the biggest draws to correctional health care for Phillips, a military veteran who previously worked at a local hospital and made the switch to corrections about eight years ago. It also allowed him to learn more

about the field at an accelerated pace, he said. “You can’t get that at other places in the private sector,” Phillips said. “If you really want to learn about health care, work in correctional health care.”

**Recruiting the Next Generation**

Nursing vacancies within the department have been

holding steady at 15 to 18 percent – amounting to more than 60 open positions and prompting the expansion of recruiting efforts. Health care staff members have initiated dialogues with colleges and universities with nursing programs to help get the word out to students that correctional nursing is a career worth considering. Department health care employees have attended more career fairs and health care conferences to attract potential candidates. Advertisements have also been placed in nursing journals and other health care periodicals and letters have been sent to licensed nurses informing them of opportunities in corrections, Horton said.

Nursing alone is not an easy field, but nursing within corrections includes its own challenges. Many inmate patients have had limited access to health care and may have never sought treatment for their conditions before being incarcerated. Others have taken health risks that have

impacted their life. “When they get to the MDOC, it may be the first time they are seeing a doctor in many years,” Phillips said.

Nurses also must be mindful that they work in a correctional setting operating under tight safety and security protocols, unlike those at a community hospital.

Despite those challenges, the work can be fulfilling and it is rewarding when patients are appreciative of the care they receive and take steps to improve their health, said Horton, who joined the MDOC as a nurse in 1988. She called it the best career choice she ever made.

At a recent career fair at Baker College in Cadillac, Phillips and his colleagues from Pugsley Correctional Facility passed out information and talked to students in hopes to interest them in a career with the MDOC.

Surgical technology student Kathryn Hansz, who stopped to talk with Pugsley staff at the career fair, said she thought correctional health care offered a fascinating opportunity. “It’s something totally different,” Hansz said. “It’s having the ability to give back in a different way.” •

**Nurses interested in a career in correctional health care can view current job openings [here](#).**



Pugsley Correctional Facility Nursing Supervisor Aaron Phillips prepares to greet students at a career fair at Baker College of Cadillac.

# EPIC section continues to pursue goals, seeks staff ideas

You may know now that the Effective Process Improvement and Communication (EPIC) section is a part of the new Office of Executive Affairs (OEA). As the department takes time to consider some operational and strategic re-alignments, the goals of EPIC remain the same. The EPIC section strives to be an effective resource for supporting and implementing employee engagement and process improvement efforts throughout the department. Through EPIC, we aim to empower every employee within the department to submit suggestions and recommendations for improved operations.

Moving forward, the EPIC section will be responsible for the following areas:

- Implementation of department strategic goals and performance objectives;
- Ensuring alignment with the department's strategic plan;
- Guiding department participation in initiatives sponsored by the Office of Good Government;
- Overseeing the resulting employee engagement action planning and implementation efforts;
- Supporting department scorecards and metrics - and their owners, and improving the

quality and meaningfulness of performance measures selected by department leaders;

- Maximizing employee participation in the State of Michigan Employee Engagement surveys and coordinating EPIC teams when needed.

To this end, EPIC has a variety of tools and options available for reviewing department processes. It can be as easy as brainstorming to identify quick fixes; a focus group of effected staff may help identify a solution; a work group or efficiency team may be best suited for the work; and at other times a Lean Process Improvement (LPI) team process may be in order.

The EPIC section would like to receive your suggestions for streamlining internal processes, and learn about best practices you have found, or know of, which the department might make good use of.

To help the department gain on-going input from all of you, please send us your ideas regarding improvement, greater efficiencies and more effective means of doing



business, to the EPIC mailbox at [MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov).

# Gulick named new BHCS administrator

Lia Gulick will serve as the new Administrator for the Bureau of Health Care Services following the departure of Joanne Sheldon. Gulick previously served as administrator for the department's Procurement, Monitoring and Compliance Division, administrator of the Finance Division and manager of the Financial Services Section. Gulick joined the MDOC in 1995, and also worked as the administrative officer at St. Louis Correctional Facility.

She is a graduate of Central Michigan University. Sheldon left the post on March 11 for a leadership position with the Michigan Primary Care Association in Lansing. Prior to her departure, she was awarded a Good Government Teamwork Coin for her efforts to advocate for quality health care for inmates.

Sheldon joined the MDOC in 2012 after working as the chief executive officer of LifeWays Community Mental Health, a mental health care services provider for Jackson and Hillsdale counties.



Deputy Director Ken McKee, Joanne Sheldon and Director Heidi Washington.

## Call For Spring Photos

The weather is starting to warm, signifying that spring is just around the corner.

We're looking for spring photos that could be featured on the cover of the April and May editions of the Corrections Connection.

Send your images of the signs of spring to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@Michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@Michigan.gov).

# Motivating Change

Agent institutes system to help offenders overcome addiction

Branch County Parole and Probation Agent Shanna Houtz knows drugs like heroin and methamphetamine are a problem in her community.



Shanna Houtz

She has seen mothers lose their children, and families broken due to drug use. It's why she instituted a system to help motivate offenders

in her caseload overcome drug addiction.

Shortly after joining the Branch County field office last year, Houtz learned that a local judge was interested in starting a drug court, but the resources were not available to get it off the ground. Houtz proposed adopting an element of the drug court program to help offenders in Branch County beat their addiction while conserving local resources.

She instituted a random color drop system that would keep offenders coming in for substance abuse testing without placing them on a regular schedule they could plan around to keep using while avoiding positive test results.

The system currently applies to female probationers on her caseload with a history of substance abuse. Each of the probationers is assigned to a color based on their risk assessment and employment status and Houtz calls probationers in for testing at random, based on the color they are assigned. If the probationer does not show up, it is considered a positive test result.

The system also offers progressive discipline to provide opportunities for offenders to get on the right track before appearing before a judge. The women receive three days in jail and outpatient substance abuse treatment for the first offense, and additional jail time and residential treatment for the second offense. A judge determines their sentence following the third offense. "I was hoping that doing something like this could help limit overcrowding in the jail because you're giving them another option," said Houtz, who previously worked in Calhoun County, which offered a drug court.

She said there aren't as many treatment options available to women in general, so she thought it would be a good opportunity to launch the program with female probationers.

"At first the women were nervous and they asked a lot of questions," said Houtz, who has worked for the MDOC for 10 years, and started as a corrections officer at Lakeland Correctional Facility. "Mostly the reaction has been that they think it will help keep them in check."

She said Branch County Judge Bill O'Grady has been very supportive of the system, and they plan to re-evaluate it after six months.

"The whole point is for this to be a preventative measure, so they think about it," Houtz said.

She said she hopes the system helps offenders turn their lives around.

"When you get them clean and they get a job, and you get them in a position where they can get their children back, it's nice to know you have some small part in it," Houtz said.

## Secure your email: Tips from DTMB

Email has become a critical way to communicate with friends and families and conduct business — it's quick, convenient, and effective. Many email messages contain attachments, such as documents, photos, or links to Web sites that senders think might be of interest. However, cyber criminals often use email to trick people into opening attachments and visiting Web sites that collect personal information (phishing) or download malicious software (spyware).

So, how do you avoid being a victim?

- Do not reveal personal or financial information in an email, and do not respond to email solicitations for this information. This includes following links sent in email.
- Do not send sensitive information over the Internet before checking a Web site's security.
- Pay attention to the URL of a web site. Malicious Web sites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., .com versus .net).
- If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, try to verify it by contacting the company directly. Contact the company using information provided on an account statement, not information provided in an email.
- Install and maintain anti-virus software, firewalls, and email filters to reduce spam.

If you think you might be a victim, report it to network administrators. If you think your financial accounts might be compromised, contact your financial institution immediately and watch for unauthorized charges to your account. You could also consider reporting the attack to law enforcement.

Click [here](#) for more information.

# Honoring the Past

Officer uncovers the story of first Michigan corrections employee killed on duty, ensures his recognition

In 1893, George Haight, a deputy gatekeeper at Michigan State Prison, was poisoned to death by an inmate in an escape attempt. For 120 years, his death remained



Jeff Reasoner

removed from memory and largely forgotten. That changed when Corrections Transportation Officer and Honor Guard member Jeff Reasoner set out on a mission to uncov-

er the details of Haight's death and ensure it was recognized.

"Anyone who gives their life for their community, you need to honor them," Reasoner said.

Reasoner was at the [National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial](#) in Washington, D.C. with the MDOC Honor Guard in 2013 when he was approached by Major Wayne Sanderson from the New Jersey Department of Corrections. Sanderson researched the history of officers who had been killed in the line of duty and had stumbled across an article in a New York newspaper that mentioned the death of a Michigan corrections employee named George Haight, who did not appear to be recognized elsewhere. Sanderson was able to have Haight's name added to the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#), but needed to pass on the information to the MDOC to have him honored on the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial. More research and documentation was also needed.

Reasoner was shocked Haight's sacrifice had been forgotten and was determined to see him honored.

Sanderson said his research lead him to discover a number of officer deaths from other

departments that had not been recognized.

Each time he uncovered one, he would compile the information he had and provide it to staff from that department.

"We're brothers in service, albeit separated by time and distance," Sanderson said. "(Haight) deserves to be remembered, as all the fallen do." Reasoner was able to confirm Haight worked for the department and used the Michigan archives to track down his killer's prison record. He also located a copy of his death certificate at the Jackson County Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office pointed him to a local genealogical society that could further assist in the hunt for information – and Haight's descendants.

Reasoner said it took about six months to locate Haight's relatives, but when he did the family was extremely grateful. Family members were even able to provide Reasoner with a photo of Haight from an old scrapbook.

Haight's name was added to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in 2014, and last month he became part of a new memorial to fallen corrections employees at the [Cell Block 7 Museum](#) in Jackson.

Reasoner said he is glad to see Haight honored and plans to visit the memorial at the museum.

"It really rounds out the story," Reasoner said. "Getting something right here in Jackson where it happened, it really brings the story home."



The Fallen Heroes Memorial Exhibit at the Cell Block 7 Museum in Jackson honors Michigan corrections employees killed in the line of duty. The exhibit opened in February.

# Remembering Lavan Long

Detroit Reentry Center  
Corrections Officer Lavan Long



Officer Lavan Long

passed away Feb. 15 at home. Long joined the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1989 and worked at the former Ryan Correctional

Facility and Macomb Correctional Facility before joining the staff at DRC.

Warden Ken Romanowski said Long was known for his great communication skills and was always willing to help those in need.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 22 at Macedonia Baptist Church in Pontiac.

# Remembering Sean Robinson

Sean Robinson, a corrections officer at Macomb Correctional



Officer Sean Robinson

Facility, passed away Feb. 13. Robinson was a 16-year veteran of the department and joined the staff at Macomb in 2009.

Robinson took great pride in his work and served as a trainer and a mentor to new officers. He was admired for his professionalism and meticulous nature.

Robinson was Macomb Correctional Facility's employee of the month in April 2015. Funeral services were held Feb. 20 at Evangel Christian Churches in Roseville.

## Traumatic Incident Stress Management Team seeking new members

For 23 years under the leadership of the Employee Service Program, a certified traumatic incident stress management (TISM) team has provided comprehensive support services for MDOC employees who have been impacted by traumatic incidents related to the workplace. TISM



services are a continuum of specialized interventions offered to employees and are provided by qualified and specially trained State of Michigan employees who have volunteered to be part of the TISM team.

A traumatic incident is a sudden and unexpected event that has the potential to temporarily overwhelm usual coping skills. Examples of such events are acts of violence, on-site employee death or severe injury, suicide and homicide. Traumatic incident stress is the normal cognitive, physical, emotional and behavioral reactions that individuals may experience following exposure to such an incident. There is considerable research and anecdotal evidence to suggest that providing support, validation, information on positive coping strategies and available resources to employees after an incident can be very helpful.

In order to continue to provide

TISM services statewide in a timely and consistent manner, and utilize updated best practice interventions, the Employee Service Program is working with DOC to increase their TISM team membership. The TISM team has lost several DOC members over the past few years to retirements and attrition and is in need of new mental health and peer support team members from across the state. Mental Health Team members lead group services as assigned by the Department TISM Coordinator or the State TISM Coordinator. Peer

Support Team members have a role in encouraging employee participation at TISM services and provide services in the Peer Support Role. Both roles, Mental Health and Peer Support, provide support adhering to International Critical Incident Stress Foundation and State TISM protocols.

Assisting fellow employees following a crisis by volunteering on the TISM team can be a rewarding and valuable experience. TISM team training and certification is covered and arranged by the department. If you are interested in joining the team and would like an application or more information about the process, please contact the MDOC TISM Coordinator, Joanne Bridgford, at [Bridgfordj@michigan.gov](mailto:Bridgfordj@michigan.gov), or by phone at (517) 373-3654.

**Submitted by EEO  
Administrator Joanne Bridgford**

## MDOC staff continue efforts to help Flint

Michigan Department of Corrections employees have continued to step up to help the residents of Flint.

Offices and facilities throughout the department have organized water drives and fundraisers to help the city.

A “Battle of the Bottle” challenge between Pugsley and Oaks correctional facilities to see which can collect more water for Flint began in early February and ends March 15.



Staff members at Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline correctional facilities donated 240 cases — amounting to 7,200 bottles of water — to city residents in mid-February, and employees at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility donated 147 cases of water earlier this month.

MDOC staff members have also continued to assist with managing warehouse operations in Flint, and the delivery of water test kits.

A massive fundraising campaign for Flint that was launched by Marseille Allen, a data systems analyst for the MDOC’s Automated Data Systems Section, has also continued to grow. More than 1,000 people have contributed to Allen’s [Water for Flint](#) campaign on the crowd funding site [gofundme.com](#). It had collected almost \$56,000 as of mid-March.

Gofundme.com produced a [video](#) about Allen’s efforts and highlighted her hard work to help the city.

Prisoners have pitched in, too. Inmates at the Detroit Reentry Center pledged to donate \$4,000 from the Prisoner Benefit Fund to the Flint Child Health and Development Fund.

For more opportunities to help Flint residents, visit [helpforflint.com](#).

# MDOC employees dive in to help Special Olympics athletes

Icy waters haven't deterred department employees from showing their support for the Special Olympics. MDOC staff members have raised more than \$30,000 so far to support athletes in the program through the Polar Plunge. That number will climb even higher following the Marquette Polar Plunge on March 19. MDOC employees raised more than \$25,000 for this year's Turk Lake Polar Plunge. Participants from Kent County parole and probation took top honors for the third year in a row in the

event's costume contest and for most money raised by a law enforcement agency, fire department or emergency medical services organization, bringing in more than \$15,000. Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility was recognized for raising the most money among participating correctional facilities by contributing \$10,000. More than 200 supporters also helped Team MDOC raise more than \$6,000 as part of the Belleville Polar Plunge, which brought in more than \$50,000 overall for the Special Olympics.

# Around the MDOC

## Microsoft Office available to staff for home use

State of Michigan employees can now purchase Microsoft Office programs for their personal computers at a discount as part of the Home Use Program. Under the program, state employees can purchase Office Professional Plus 2016 for PCs or Office Home and Business 2016 for Macs for \$9.95. To obtain software for your home computer, go to [www.microsoft.com/hupus/home.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/hupus/home.aspx) and enter your work email address, along with the state's program code: AA4BB712CC. You will then receive an email with a link you can use to purchase the software using a personal credit card. Information about the software purchase program and other discounts can be found on the [Employee Discounts page](#) of Inside Michigan.

## Women Working in Corrections & Juvenile Justice Conference offered in Oct.

The Women Working in Corrections and Juvenile Justice Conference will be held Oct. 2-5 in Louisville, Ky and will feature keynote speakers Elizabeth Smart, Dean Strang and Dr. Bobby Smith. The deadline to register is Sept. 23. The cost to attend is \$239 for those who register before March 31. The cost increases to \$259 on April 1 and \$279 on Sept. 1. Conference costs must be paid by the individual attendee. For more information, visit [wwicji.com](http://wwicji.com).

## MDOC receives Patriotic Employer Award

The MDOC Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan and Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center Physical Plant Supervisor Rob Weems received the Patriotic Employer Award from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for their support of employees serving in the military.



Left: Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility Program Coordinator Larry Wenglikowski jumps into the freezing water for the Turk Lake Polar Plunge.

Right: Deb Young, Lori Leduc, Deena Grammatico and Rebekah Kanady of the Macomb County Probation Office prepare to jump in for the Belleville Polar Plunge.



# The Extra Mile

## MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator Kenneth Hatfield and Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan.

Kenneth Hatfield, an investigator with the Absconder Recovery Unit, received the department's Professional Excellence Award in recognition of his distinguished career and significant contributions to the ARU. Hatfield worked for the MDOC for more than 20 years, and in that time he became a leader and role model within the ARU. He provided suggestions for new equipment and training that were implemented across the department and established great relationships with other law enforcement agencies. He never hesitated to help his colleagues in corrections and others in law enforcement with some of their toughest cases and has been a leader in the ARU in terms of parole absconder arrests. He has served as a valuable mentor to new investigators and his knowledge and experience is widely respected.

Keith Peterson, a school teacher at Central Michigan Correctional Facility, was attending his goddaughter's confirmation rehearsal in February 2014 when he saw a man collapse in his pew.

Medical personnel in attendance at the rehearsal rushed to help him while others called 911. Peterson was exiting the church to help guide emergency responders to the man, when he heard someone calling for the church's AED. Peterson retrieved the device, and used AED training he had received to administer a shock to the man.

Afterward, the man began to breathe again and medical personnel were able to detect a pulse.

Peterson continued to assist in monitoring the man until an ambulance arrived and transported the man to a local hospital, where he was able to recover.

Peterson's actions helped him earn the department's Lifesaving Award.



Central Michigan Correctional Facility School Teacher Keith Peterson, Corrections Officer Matt VandeSteeg and Director Heidi Washington.

Matt VandeSteeg, a corrections officer at Central Michigan Correctional Facility, was conducting a formal count in August when he noticed a prisoner standing on his top bunk with a sheet strung around a water pipe on the ceiling.

VandeSteeg knew the prisoner was upset and had been under psychological management services. He knew, without intervention, the prisoner could harm or kill himself and immediately took action to de-escalate the situation.

VandeSteeg's commitment to the safety and well-being of prisoners in his charge earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden Steve Rivard, Lt. Eric Shaw and Director Heidi Washington.

St. Louis Correctional Facility Lt. Eric Shaw jumped in to help when he noticed a prisoner in distress in March 2015.

A prisoner, who was eating dinner, began to choke and Shaw recognized he was in need of aid.

Shaw, a 26-year veteran of the department, quickly performed abdominal thrusts, dislodging the obstruction from the prisoner's throat and allowing him to breathe again.

Shaw's quick actions prevented the prisoner from choking to death and earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

# The Extra Mile continued...

Doug Catrell, a Roscommon County parole and probation agent, was ice fishing in March 2015 when he saw a snowmobiler travelling at a high speed lose control and roll over.

Catrell immediately went to the scene and found the driver had a large laceration on his head, a broken nose, and was bleeding severely. He provided aid to the driver and informed the driver's companions of his condition when they arrived to take him back to where they were fishing.

Catrell later walked over to the group to check on the man and stressed that he needed medical attention. The man's companions said they planned to take him to the hospital immediately.

Catrell's actions and concern for others helped him earn the department's Citizenship Award.



FOA Deputy Director Russ Marlan, Parole/ Probation Agent Doug Catrell and Director Heidi Washington



Corrections Officers Tony Datto and Bobby Holley

Baraga Correctional Facility Corrections Officers Tony Datto and Bobby Holley didn't hesitate to help when one of their colleagues was in distress.

Datto and Holley were working with fellow Corrections Officer Ty Hyatt in June when he went into cardiac arrest. Datto and Holley immediately began performing CPR and called for an Automatic External Defibrillator, or AED. They administered a shock to Hyatt before he was transported to Baraga County Memorial Hospital. Hyatt made a full recovery and Datto and Holley were recognized for their actions with plaques presented by local medical staff.

Michigan State Industries employees received Good Government Teamwork Coins from Director Heidi Washington and Budget and Operations Administration Deputy Director Jeri-Ann Sherry for their efforts to keep operations profitable in the last fiscal year.

Michigan State Industries' garment operations employees were also awarded Good Government Leadership Coins for expediting and completing large orders of corrections officer uniforms without the use of overtime.

Additionally, Industries Supervisor John Rodgers received a Good Government Leadership Coin for his instrumental efforts to keep operations running smoothly at Thumb Correctional Facility's laundry operations, and for providing superior customer service while short staffed.



## The Extra Mile continued...



Director Heidi Washington and Denise Dutoi

Genesee County Parole Agent Denise Dutoi received a Good Government Coin for her efforts to help apprehend an offender. In January the Genesee County office received an email in regards to a peeping Tom in the Swartz Creek area. Acting on a hunch, Dutoi checked residence and vehicle information for an offender she had previously supervised and interviewed, and found the offender lived in Swartz Creek and his vehicle matched a description given to law enforcement. She then contacted Swartz Creek police and the offender’s agent to inform them of what she had found.

The offender was later arrested thanks to her efforts.

Camara Lewis, social media and website coordinator for the MDOC, recieved the Good Government Customer Service Coin for her efforts to quickly respond to questions from prospective employees on social media.

Many interested applicants have taken to the department’s Facebook page to discuss the hiring process with other recruits and ask questions. Lewis answers questions posed on Facebook at all hours, and typically responds within minutes. Her work resulted in Facebook ranking the department’s page as one of its fastest responders.

Lewis has also been instrumental in the production of the MDOC’s “Field Days” podcast, which is now available on [iTunes](#). The podcast was nominated for a Golden Post Award, which recognizes outstanding use of social media.

Click [here](#) to vote for the podcast.



Camara Lewis and Director Heidi Washington



Dave Stanifer, Jeffrey Spirko, and Warden Ken Romanowski.

Jeffrey Spirko, a psychologist at the Detroit Reentry Center, received the Good Government Symbol of Excellence Coin for going “above and beyond” to assist a troubled offender.

In October, Spirko met with an offender who was returned to the Detroit Reentry Center on a parole violation, and recognized he was suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

Spirko sat with him through his arraignment to help keep him calm and worked with Veterans Affairs to help locate appropriate treatment, if he were returned to the community.

## Nominations sought for 2016 Governor’s Service Awards

The Michigan Community Service Commission is now accepting applications for the 2016 Governor’s Service Awards, which honor outstanding volunteers and mentors. The awards are given annually to individuals, organizations and businesses around the state to recognize their commitment to serving their community.

Anyone in Michigan can submit a nomination for one of nine award categories.

The deadline to make a nomination is March 21 and awards will be presented in August.

For more information, or to submit a nomination, visit [www.michigan.gov/governorsserviceawards](http://www.michigan.gov/governorsserviceawards)

## Prisoners honored for support of Special Olympics

Prisoners at Pugsley Correctional Facility received recognition for their efforts to help Special Olympics Athletes. Lt. James Dennis presented prisoners with a plaque on behalf of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which supports the Special Olympics, thanking them for their donations.

Prisoners organized a 5K at the facility in 2015 to raise money.



# Corrections Quiz

## February Quiz Recap

Which professional sports team played a game against prisoners in 1954?

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

**Question:** Name this historic figure in Michigan corrections:



**Answer:** Dr. G. Robert Cotton

Congratulations to **Regina Bynum**, deputy warden's secretary at Parnall Correctional Facility, for being the first to correctly answer the February Quiz question.

## Tech Corner

**A**utomated Data Systems Section (ADSS) is responsible for business-side planning, oversight and implementation of all information technology development, maintenance, application testing, end user training and end user support. In summary, ADSS is an administrative unit that is responsible for the coordination of all information technology services within the department. Michelle Kalisz is the most tenured specialist within the section. She has years of experience in all areas of the ADSS responsibility and has developed various internal processes that have increased the efficiency of the business side planning.

These processes have become a vital part of release planning and are used by all staff. In addition, she currently is responsible for executive level reporting on all projects and important issues. Please contact her at [kaliszm@michigan.gov](mailto:kaliszm@michigan.gov) for any questions regarding section responsibilities. For application support, users can contact ADSS at one of the support mailboxes below:

CFA staff – [CFA-OMNI-Support@michigan.gov](mailto:CFA-OMNI-Support@michigan.gov)

Healthcare staff – [MDOC-OMS-Healthcare-Support@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-OMS-Healthcare-Support@michigan.gov)

FOA staff – [CORR\\_OMNI@michigan.gov](mailto:CORR_OMNI@michigan.gov)

Web OMNI users – [CORR\\_WebOMNI@michigan.gov](mailto:CORR_WebOMNI@michigan.gov)



## A "Pioneer" in Corrections

**B**efore a correctional facility bore his name, Dr. G. Robert Cotton was an educator and long-time public servant. Cotton served as a corrections commissioner for almost 18 years and was first appointed to the Michigan Corrections Commission by Gov. Romney in September 1966. He was reappointed to the commission until 1984 and passed away on Nov. 5, 1985.

Former Director Perry Johnson said he had a "great respect for Dr. Cotton the pioneer" during a dedication ceremony for G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility in November 1987. "His commitment to corrections was something special," Johnson said, according to a transcript of his speech for the ceremony. "His sense of integrity and his belief in the importance of human dignity were essential qualities in facing the many thorny problems of corrections over the years." Cotton came from humble beginnings and went on to become the first black student at Ohio State University to earn a doctorate degree.

In addition to serving on the Michigan Corrections Commission, Cotton also held positions as director of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, trustee for Hampton University in Virginia and worked for the U.S. Surgeon General.



Dr. G. Robert Cotton (far right) is pictured here with other members of the Michigan Corrections Commission including Thomas K. Eardley Jr., Duane L. Waters, Florence Crane and Don P. LeDuc.

# Snapshots

## A look at life around the MDOC



Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Warden Tony Trierweiler presents Corrections Officer Steve Fineis with a pin for more than 45 years of service. Fineis began working for the department in 1969.



Probationer David Guild successfully graduated from the Swift and Sure Program in Gratiot County in February. He said he appreciated the different phases of the program, as it allowed him to see his progression through it. Circuit Court Judge Michelle Rick also presented Guild with a letter from Michigan Supreme Court Justice Joan L. Larsen congratulating him on his accomplishment. Pictured left to right: Agent Heidi McMurphy, David Guild, Judge Michelle Rick and Swift and Sure Case Manager Samantha Rice.

## Corrections in the News

[Humanize the Numbers: Inmates and U-M students come together in unique photo project](#) — Michigan Public Radio

[High expectations for Handlon](#) — Calvin College News

[College program reaches captive audience](#) — Grand Rapids Business Journal

[Program reconnects Gus Harrison inmates with children](#) — Adrian Daily Telegram

[Program gives kids chance to reconnect with fathers in prison](#) — WTOL TV 11

[Inmates, EMU students praise 'enlightening' commingled course held in prison](#) — Ann Arbor News

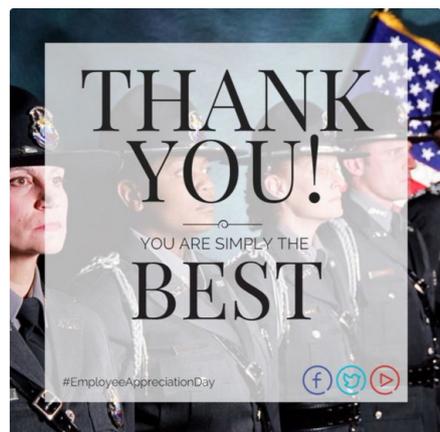
[Probation program aimed at female addicts](#) — Coldwater Daily Reporter

[3 things state workers should watch in '17 budget](#) — Lansing State Journal

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

## Seen on Twitter...

 MichiganDOC @MichiganDOC · Mar 4  
Our staff is committed to protect & dedicated to Michigan's success. Thanks for all you do! #EmployeeAppreciationDay



 MichiganDOC @MichiganDOC · Feb 10  
\$8.5M to hire 350 @MDOCCFA corrections officers & \$981,300 to replace ballistic vests for @MDOCFOA agents. #MIBudget

 Governor Rick Snyder @onetoughnerd  
We are working to make Michigan safer for our families and children. #MIBudget

Retweet 4 Like 7

To see more, follow the MDOC on Twitter 

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# January New Hires

Avalos, Rita	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Baetens, Carly	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bailey, Jenifer	Industries Production Leader, Ionia Correctional Facility
Bedner, Carolyn	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bobon, Andreea	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bozung, James	Special Education Teacher, Michigan Reformatory
Breece, Nichole	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bynes, Makai	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Cameron, Shenesa	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Chandler, Tanisha	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Churchill, Amy	Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Cicco, Abbigail	Licensed Practical Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Compton, Kenneth	Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Coney, Amanda	Parole/Probation Agent, St. Joseph County
Crawford, Courtney	Licensed Practical Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Cunningham-Burrell, Kiera	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Dehn, Morgann	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Denison, Brandi	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Donnelly, Stephanie	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Dowland, Jennifer	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Durkee, Sara	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Egbuchulam, Goulden	Licensed Practical Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Forkel, Gabriel	Trades Instructor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Giszcak, Kathy	Accounting Assistant, Jackson Central Regional Office
Gonzales, Whitney	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Graves, Angel	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Guilbeaux, Mark	Storekeeper, Thumb Correctional Facility
Gutierrez, Cecilia	Trades Instructor, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Head, Ebony	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hicks, Crystal	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hudspeth, Allyson	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jackson, Donna	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jasinski, Julie	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jeffries, Julie	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Johnson, Shakenya	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Johnson, Talecia	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jones, Krystal	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Kass, Jaclyn	Parole/Probation Officer, Gogebic County
Keith, Dennis	Maintenance Mechanic, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Kimball, Eileen	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Koenigsknecht, Kelsey	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Kulczynski, Tonya	Teacher Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Locke, Cherice	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Loew, Gabrielle	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
MacDowell, Amy	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Masters, Daniel	Storekeeper, Newberry Correctional Facility
Mattila, Mark	Licensed Electrician, Baraga Correctional Facility
McFarlane, Ashley	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Meier, Elizabeth	Clinical Social Worker, Ionia Correctional Facility
Menchaca, Ashley	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Mercer, Jessica	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Meyers, Lisa	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Milewsky, Nikole	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Minard, Scott	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Mitchell, Catherine	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Neal, Victoria	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Orr, Brian	Maintenance Mechanic, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Overton, Andrew	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Painter, Heather	Teacher Aide, Thumb Correctional Facility
Perkins, Sharee	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Reitano, Stephanie	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Showers, Laura	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Tharpe, Kijuana	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Walt-Davis, Tisha	Psychologist, Macomb Correctional Facility
Wendt, Amy	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wohlfert, Shawnyne	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

# January Retirements

Armbrustmacher, Jeff R.	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Armstrong, Robert A.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Babcock, Carol J.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Bouck, Chris	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Clemet, Christina E.	Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Compton, Jerry L.	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Cook, Ross J.	Alger Correctional Facility
Cope, Michael J.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Cranick, Johnna A.	Thumb Correctional Facility
Curtis, Susan D.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Cyr, Kelly C.	Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Doucette, Michael D.	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Freytag, Rebecca L.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Gorby, David A.	Ionia Correctional Facility
Green, Teresa Y.	Ionia Correctional Facility
Griffin, Patrick R.	Oaks Correctional Facility
Gust, Leonard A.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Harris, Marilyn A.	Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Hazel, Richard S.	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Hiar, Keith W.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Hickman, Judith F.	Gogebic County Field Office
Hoffius, John A.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hough, Lawrence R.	Thumb Correctional Facility
Hurd, Eugene L.	Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Husted, Donna J.	Ionia Regional Warehouse
Kasper, Kenneth E.	Carson City Correctional Facility
Krick, Laura J.	Carson City Correctional Facility
LaFavor, Jon C.	Thumb Correctional Facility
Lawrence, Suzanne K.	Saginaw Correctional Facility
Linda-Mueller, Debra A.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Miller, Patrick L.	Carson City Correctional Facility
Moore, Leslee J.	Macomb Correctional Facility
Murdock, Beverly	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Ockert, Daniel L.	Ionia Regional Facilities
Paul, Grace M.	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Perry, Eugene F.	Lawton Parole Office
Plummer, Marian R.	Macomb Correctional Facility
Rizzio, Michael G.	Alger Correctional Facility
Rogers, Richard M.	Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Sadler, Shawn G.	Alger Correctional Facility
Sadowski, Wendy G.	Kent County Probation Office
Schroeder, Tracy J.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Scott, Deborah	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Simon, Kurt A.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Sosebee, Ronald L.	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Sullivan, Cheryl K.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Verduzco, Michael J.	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Watkins, Clinton	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
White, Mary	Chrysler District Probation Office
Williams, Gary E.	Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Wilson, Don E.	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Wilson, Edward J.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Workman, Ira	Carson City Correctional Facility
Young, Shawn C.	Carson City Correctional Facility