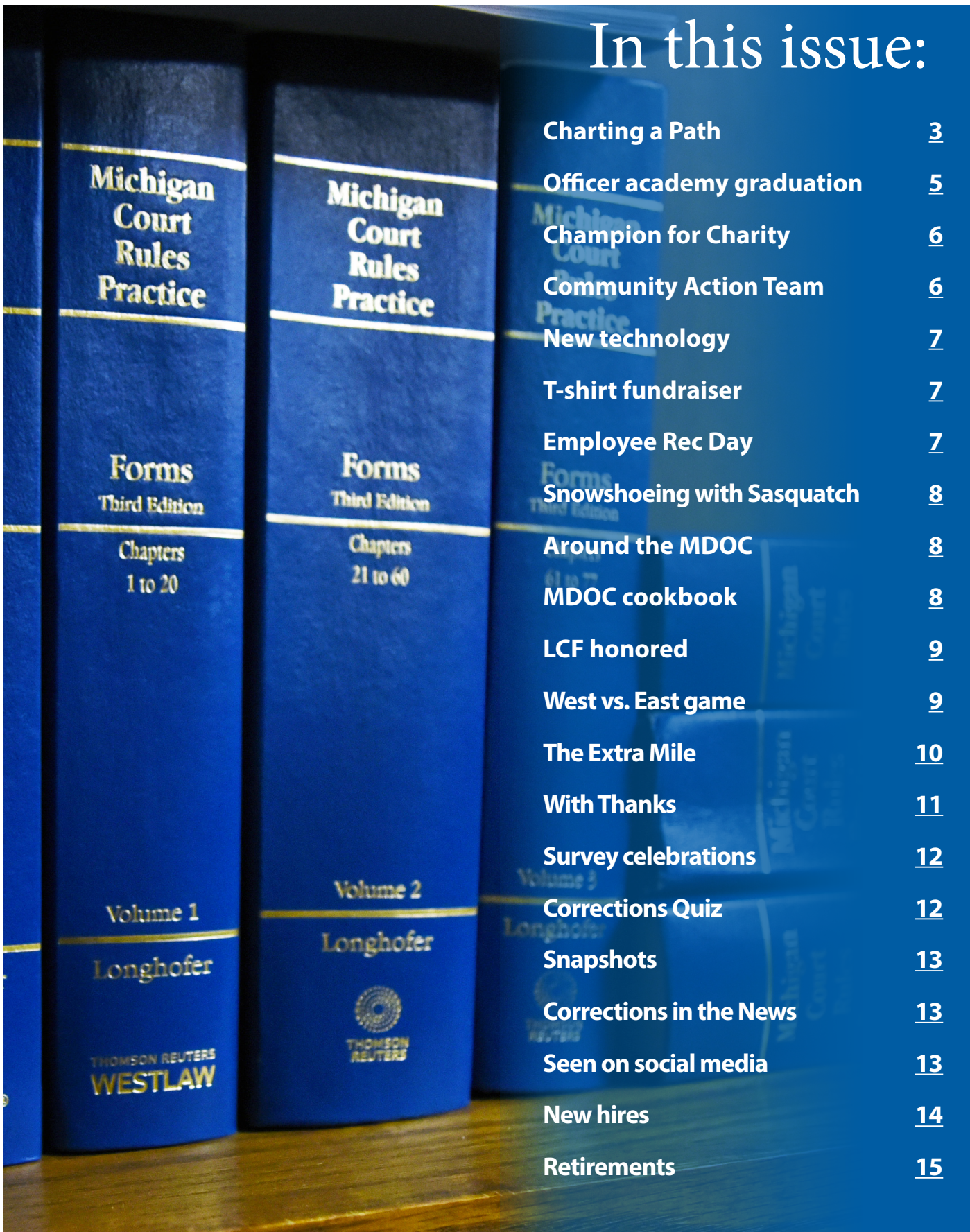


# Corrections Connection

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright yellow-orange orb on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection across the water's surface. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange near the horizon. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted reeds or grasses. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

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**Corrections Connection** is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback 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 was taken at Alcona Park in Glennie, Mich. by **Michele Perry**, department technician at the Thumb Correctional Facility Records Office. 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).



## Pilot to use COMPAS assessment in courts puts focus on individual's needs

About seven years ago, Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge Gary Giguere heard about an emerging sentencing practice that emphasizes assessing an individual offender's needs then tailoring supervision and programming to meet them.

He was intrigued.

He started reading more about how evidence-based sentencing was being used in the criminal justice system, and he rallied for a contingent of Kalamazoo judges, attorneys and probation staff to attend a

National Center for State Courts conference on the merits of the practice.

"That really planted the seed locally," he said.

So when he heard the Michigan Department of Corrections was looking to start a pilot that would provide judges with recommendations based on in-depth assessments of offenders and their needs at the time of sentencing, he was immediately on board. In 2015, Giguere and Kalamazoo County Circuit Judge Alexander Lipsey began to use the results of the department's COMPAS assessments in court to help determine supervision conditions and treatment programming.

The assessments are completed by Michigan Department of Corrections field agents at the time of the pre-sentence investigation and include an interview, as well as a self-assessment completed by the offender.

It takes into account a number of factors including history of violence and substance abuse, financial needs, employment, education, upbringing, mental health, family support and long-term goals.

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success



Circuit Court Judge Gary Giguere works in his Kalamazoo County office. Giguere piloted the use of COMPAS during sentencing.

“COMPAS lets you tell the story,” said Kalamazoo Probation Agent Vonnie Hiller. “We’re trying to help the person. This helps us know what direction to go in.”

### **Pushing back**

The idea to sentence based on the results of an assessment tool, such as COMPAS, wasn’t popular initially.

Prosecuting attorneys worried the practice would result in a trend in lighter sentences. Defense attorneys were concerned penalties would be stiffer. Judges’ associations thought it would remove too much of their discretion.

But in Kalamazoo, each of those groups supported giving the evidence-based sentencing approach a shot.

“There was previously a lot of push back,” Giguere said. “We set that aside locally because the leaders of our groups were all buying in. We were pushing back against the push back.”

Others have also questioned the value of the lengthy assessment that can be time consuming to complete, but Hiller said it has helped provide a more complete

view of how to help individual offenders.

“For the first time we’re looking at what a person needs to not offend again,” Hiller said. “We used to supervise based on the crime, not based on the person and where they are in life. COMPAS lets you look at the whole picture.”

The aim of the pilot is to provide judges with more information to consider about an offender and potential supervision and programming that could meet their individual needs to reduce their risk of reoffending.

Since starting in Kalamazoo, the pilot has expanded to Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, St. Joseph and Van Buren counties, and to three courtrooms in Wayne County Circuit Court. The assessments were previously used briefly in some courtrooms in Jackson and Barry counties, as well.

It is expected to roll out in Branch, Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties later this year, with the hope that it will eventually become a part of the sentencing process statewide. Judges participating in pilots

across the state have said they feel they are getting better and more complete information about offenders and their needs, said Mike Keck, reentry specialist and COMPAS program manager for the Michigan Department of Corrections.

“The COMPAS is not meant to determine incarceration versus community supervision or length of incarceration, it is meant to identify needs,” Keck said. “If we’re including more detailed information on (offender) needs it will only benefit them.”

### **Starting point**

While the COMPAS assessment is a new addition to Michigan courtrooms, it isn’t new to the department of corrections.

The department has been using the assessment tool for more than a decade to provide an in-depth look at offender risk and needs in order to determine programming and treatment. It is considered to be critical to effective intervention that can reduce recidivism.

Its use in court began in August 2015 with the Kalamazoo pilot. Though it took time to reach this point, using the assessment in courts was discussed from the beginning, said Doug Kosinski, manager of the department’s Risk/Classification and Program Evaluation Section.

“Everyone knew it was a logical way to go,” Kosinski said. “It gives us continuity from the very beginning of the case to the end.” Having validated information about offender risk and needs is important to determining the best course action to take to help prevent re-offense and ensure success in the community, he

said. “That is very, very useful and valuable information to ensure we’re referring the right people to the right programs,” Kosinski said.

**Charting a path forward**

As the pilot is rolled out on a larger scale, it will take time to see changes and measure its impact, Keck said.

The hope is that supervision conditions will ultimately be based on offender needs, said Kalamazoo County Probation Supervisor Lara Neuman.

“Now courts see why we’re recommending certain conditions,” Neuman said. “We try to tell people this is really important. It’s just one more tool in the toolbox and it doesn’t replace an agent’s judgement.” The assessment can only help offenders in the long run when interventions are tailored to their individual needs, she said.

“We try to get as much information about the person as we can with the assessment and interview,” Neuman said. “If we know a lot about them on the front end, we hopefully won’t have to do as much work figuring out that supervision road map with trial and error.”

Though it is too early to measure results, Giguere said that, anecdotally, the pilot appears to be successful in reducing probation violations and revocations.

“I feel much better about matching offenders to resources in the community to better supervise them, rather than just using the same cookie-cutter probation order for everybody,” he said. “Anytime you can use the resources and the expertise of the individual agents and have them focusing on the specific needs of the offender, I think that’s a better use of everyone’s time. We have a

better chance of actually changing behaviors and making sure these people don’t come back before us.”

Hear more from Supervisor Lara Neuman and Agent Vonnie Hiller about the COMPAS pilot in this episode of the [Field Days Podcast.](#)



# New officers complete academy

The Michigan Department of Corrections has welcomed 84 new officers, who will now begin working at facilities across the state. The officers in the Raymond D. Booker graduation

class completed eight weeks of classroom instruction and will head to their assigned facilities for eight weeks of on-the-job training.

The March 24 graduation ceremony in Lansing included remarks from class namesake Raymond D. Booker, Correctional Facilities Administration Deputy Director Ken McKee and 2016 Corrections Officer of the Year Craig Altoft.

Graduates also received awards for academic achievement and personal conduct.

Award recipients included:

- Della Salinas, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
- Samuel Stout II, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
- Tony Tiggart, Woodland Center Correctional Facility



Raymond Booker, Officers Della Salinas, Tony Tiggart, and Samuel Stout II and Deputy Director Ken McKee

# Champion for Charity

Acting chaplain uses professional wrestling career to aid others

In the wrestling ring, he might occasionally play the part of the villain, but on the other side of the ropes Phil Monahan is known as a man with a big heart.

The pro-wrestler and acting chaplain at Parnall Correctional



Phil Monahan (left), with Gus Harrison Correctional Facility Storekeeper Russell Robinson and wrestler Ray Orndorff at a charity event for GraceSpeaks.org.

Facility has a passion for giving back – especially in ways that bring joy to children.

“That’s how I was raised and brought up – to help people less fortunate,” Monahan said. “It will all come back to you in the long run.” Monahan, who is known as “Nitro” in the ring, became a professional wrestler about 21 years ago and has travelled around the world for wrestling events. He has also used his passion for wrestling to help those in need and to advocate against bullying.

Monahan and fellow wrestlers began holding seminars in schools and churches about four years ago to help teach tolerance and respect for others, and emphasize the importance of making good choices. The program, called WHIP – or Wrestlers Hearts Impacting People – aims to share positive messages with students in a new and entertaining way.

The program includes skits that

highlight a lesson or positive message, and afterward, the students have an opportunity to speak with the wrestlers to discuss what they learned or share their own story.

Monahan has also organized wrestling events to help raise money for those in need.

In January, Monahan’s own wrestling company, Championship International Wrestling, organized a wrestling fundraiser to help benefit a six-year-old boy whose skull was fractured when a basketball hoop fell on him. He also helped raise money for a wheelchair-bound student whose van broke down. When he isn’t in the ring, he is helping to support the Special Olympics, St. Vincent DePaul charities, and Toys for Tots.

At Christmastime, he exchanges his “Nitro” character for St. Nick, and dyes his dark beard white to fit the role.

Monahan started by dressing up as Santa for his brother’s children and that expanded to him playing the part on a broader scale during the holidays.

He said he enjoys being part of the “magic of Christmas” and how excited children become when they see him.

“It’s really cool to get that,” Monahan said. “To be able to make those memories for people and good experiences – that’s priceless.” Monahan, who has also served as a movie extra in several films and produced and starred in the independent film “Devil’s Ink,” said he enjoys what he does and he hopes his work can inspire others to follow their dreams.

“I try to be a role model for my own kids,” Monahan said. “I tell them, don’t ever limit yourself.”

## MDOC recognized for involvement in community team

The Washtenaw County Parole Office and the Absconder Recovery Unit have teamed up with the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department to help keep the community safe and were recognized for their outstanding service.

The Washtenaw County Community Action Team, or CAT, was organized by the Washtenaw County Sheriff and has multiple agencies involved, including the MDOC, ATF, FBI, Eastern Michigan University Police Department and the Washtenaw County Sheriff. The team is led by military veteran Sgt. Chad Teets of the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Office. The team collaborates on nighthawks and compliance checks with high-risk offenders or in high-crime areas of the community. They also work together to examine and solve local crimes.

In September, Sheriff Jerry L. Clayton awarded the CAT with a Unit Citation Award for recognition of exceptional investigative work, effective collaborations and dedication to public safety. Team members were also recognized for providing quality service and building strong and sustainable communities while working as part of the Community Action Team.

**Submitted by Absconder Recovery Unit Lt. Charles Levens**



## Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility pilots new plumbing technology

New technology is being used at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility to install wet cells in additional areas of the prison. Regional maintenance recently converted 11 existing dry cells into cells with plumbing fixtures using a new vacuum plumbing system. The pilot project allowed the department to provide wet

cells to an area where access to traditional gravity-style sewage connections was not possible. The regional maintenance team worked closely with a design professional, the Department of Technology, Management and Budget and construction personnel and engineers to design and install the system. Construction began in September and was completed in February.



The project also included the construction of new mechanical closets in each cell and the reconfiguring of mechanical ventilation systems for the cells.

## T-shirt fundraiser set to aid employee’s fight against cancer

The Eaton County Parole and Probation Office is holding a T-shirt fundraiser to benefit Kristen Keydel, Eaton County Parole and Probation secretary, who was recently re-diagnosed with breast cancer after having been declared cancer free last year. The deadline to order a shirt is April 14. T-shirts are \$20 for size small to XL, \$21 for XXL and \$22 for XXXL.

Checks should be made payable to Eaton County Parole and Probation Supervisor Corey Bahm and can be mailed to the Eaton County Courthouse, 1045 Independence Blvd. Charlotte, MI



48813 to the attention of Corey Bahm. Please include your name, office address and phone number. For more information, email Bahm at [Bahmcl@michigan.gov](mailto:Bahmcl@michigan.gov).

## Save the Date for Employee Rec Day

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the 2017 Michigan Department of Corrections’ Employee Recreation Day.

Employee Recreation Day will take place Friday, July 14 at the Riverwood Country Club in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

The Effective Process Improvement and Communications (EPIC) Employee Engagement Team is also in search of a logo that embodies this exciting event.

Activities that have been suggested so far, include: Billiards, basketball, bowling, softball, poker, euchre, bag toss, canvas painting, scrapbooking and golf.

If you have a suggestion for a creative design for the new logo, please send it to the EPIC mailbox at [MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov) with Employee Recreation Day in the subject line. The deadline for logo submissions is March 24.



## Share Your Stories

We want to hear from you. Give a shout out to a colleague who is doing great work in the community, or tell us about a program making positive changes in the lives of offenders. You can submit ideas to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).

# Snowshoeing with Sasquatch

## MDOC employees take to trails for a good cause

An EPIC event took place recently in Upper Michigan. The weather was perfect for Snowshoeing on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017 at the L'Anse Township Park Trails. This was an outdoor occasion sponsored by Baraga County Trails in Motion that drew 65 people. This included MDOC colleagues and Effective Process Improvement and Communications team members from across the state. Those who attended were given the opportunity to hike 2 miles of beautiful trails with a great view of Lake Superior. In addition, attendees enjoyed sweet rolls, hot cocoa, gift bags with "bigfoot bucks,"

and a chance to win a pair of snowshoes. Snowshoeing with Sasquatch would not be complete without photo opportunities with the north woods icon. In this case, chances of seeing the legendary beast were tripled. There were three friendly Bigfoots on hand for visitors to pose with. Admission was free, but non-perishable donations were accepted to benefit the St. Vincent DePaul pantry. Visitors donated two large bins of food and goods for the local pantry.

**Story by Joe Bouchard, librarian at Baraga Correctional Facility**



Kathy Keiffer, departmental analyst for the Effective Process Improvement and Communication section, and Dianne Koskinen, instructor at Baraga Correctional Facility, pose with bigfoot.



# Around the MDOC

## Golf Outing Fundraiser planned to support Law Enforcement Torch Run

A golf outing fundraiser benefitting the Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held May 20 at Cracklewood Golf Course in Macomb. The four-person golf scramble begins at 2 p.m. with a shotgun start at the course, located at 18215 24 Mile Road. It costs \$75 per person to play and includes 18 holes, a golf cart, dinner and raffles. There will be a shotgun start at 2 p.m. A dinner-only option is also available for \$25. Organizers are still seeking sponsors for the event. Sponsorships of \$100 per hole are available.

The deadline to enter is May 13. To register or become a sponsor, contact Karen Solgot at 586-749-4900 ext. 338 or [solgotk@michigan.gov](mailto:solgotk@michigan.gov), or Frank Sgambati at 586-749-4900 ext. 452 or [sgambatif@michigan.gov](mailto:sgambatif@michigan.gov).

## Annual Bellamy Creek Relay for Life golf outing planned for May

Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility will hold its 15th annual Relay for Life golf outing on May 19 at Morrison Lake Golf Course in Saranac. The four-person scramble begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start. The cost is \$60 per player and includes green fees, a golf cart, lunch and a chance to win prizes. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. For more information, or to reserve a spot, contact Sgt. Will Smith at (616) 527-2510 ext. 1128 or [smithw16@michigan.gov](mailto:smithw16@michigan.gov).

## Submit your favorite recipes for the MDOC employee cookbook

Don't forget to share your favorite recipes. The MDOC EPIC Wellness Team is collecting recipes for a new cookbook that will feature staff-submitted dishes. The cookbook is expected to be part of a fundraiser to support future Employee Recreation Day events, the State Employees Charitable Campaign and Harvest Gathering.



To send in your recipe, [click here](#) to fill out the recipe form and email it to [MDOC-Wellness@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-Wellness@michigan.gov) by May 1.



# Lakeland Correctional Facility honored for exceptional service to the community

The Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce recognized Lakeland Correctional Facility with an award for Outstanding Community Organization for achieving its mission while improving the quality of life in Branch County.

The award was presented at the chamber’s annual dinner to honor exceptional service to the community.

The facility’s accomplishments included:

- Donating 9.6 tons of fresh produce, more than \$500 and 200 pounds of non-perishable items to local food banks.
- Donating about 1,200 pumpkins to local elementary schools.
- Raising \$4,500 for Shop with a Cop in addition to participating in the event.
- Donating \$1,400 to the Branch Area Rescue Coalition, as well as making donations to the Branch County Out of the Darkness Walk, Great Hospice Duck Race, Naomi Davis Shelterhouse and United Way.
- Participation in the Branch County Out of the Darkness Walk, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Branch County Law Enforcement All-Stars vs. Detroit Lions benefit basketball game, Branch Area Careers Center Leadership Conference, advisory committees for criminal justice and culinary arts and criminal justice work experience mentoring program for students.
- Saving the lives of thousands of rescue dogs since the facility’s dog programs began in 2001.

“The staff at the Lakeland Correctional Facility positively affects the well-being of many people in Branch County,” said Warden Bonita Hoffner. “While our mission is ‘Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success,’ we understand too the responsibility of serving the very community we live in. Staff donate their time and resources in many ways. In addition to this list of accomplishments, our staff are also coaches, mentors, members of civic organizations, members of school boards, hospital boards, city council, and community theatre. We work here, we live here, we play here, and we serve here.”

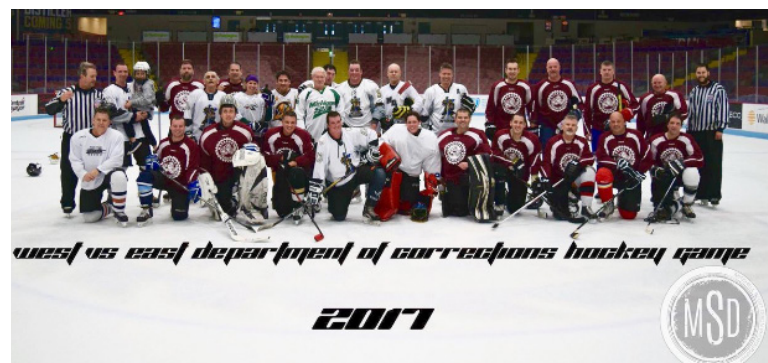


# MDOC employees help children in need with West vs. East hockey game

MDOC staff hit the ice to help those in need in February.

Department employees competed in an MDOC West vs. MDOC East hockey game on Feb. 25 at L.C. Walker Arena in Muskegon.

Players included Doug Black, Jason Carlson, Jay Cregg, Chris Hoffman, Lee Hoffman, Jack Kowalski, Robert Krauss, Elon Martin, Matt Opperman, Adam Schroeder, Bob Sikkenga, Kyle Tejchma, Paul Thiele, James West, Chris Wilks, Dan Chepeska, Brian Spence, Matt Sissen, Jason Spear, and Scott Evans.



Team West came out on top in the game. The \$300 in proceeds from ticket sales went to Muskegon’s Guns and Hoses fundraiser, which will benefit a 7-year-old boy with muscular dystrophy, a 9-year-old boy with adrenalleukodystrophy, and a 16-year-old girl with cerebral palsy, as well as the Old Newsies organization. Players represented a variety of facilities and field offices across the state.

# The Extra Mile

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



Caitlin McGinn and Director Heidi Washington

In August, Caitlin McGinn, a departmental specialist in reentry, was driving on I-96 when she saw a driver lose control of his vehicle and roll into the median. She immediately pulled over to assist and called 911. She and an off-duty police officer, who also stopped to help, pried open one of the vehicle's doors and the driver crawled out. The officer attended to the driver while McGinn crawled back into the vehicle to shut off the engine and retrieve his identification. She stayed with the driver and continued to render aid until emergency medical services arrived. Her willingness to assist in the emergency situation earned her the department's Lifesaving Award.

Staff at Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline correctional facilities were recognized with the Symbol of Leadership coins for their assistance with the first PREA compliance audit at the facilities. The Department of Justice conducted the audit from Jan. 30 to Feb. 2. Inspector James Plichta, Sgt. Vernella Shackelford, Capt. Stephanie King and Inspector Thomas Page were each instrumental in the completion of the audit. PREA Departmental Analyst Mary Mitchell also received a Symbol of Teamwork coin for her efforts to ensure compliance and collaboration with facility staff.



Pictured left to right: Inspector James Plichta, Sgt. Vernella Shackelford, Capt. Stephanie King, and Inspector Thomas Page. Not pictured: Departmental Analyst Mary Mitchell



Deputy Warden Randee Rewerts and Prison Counselor Christina Stewart

Christina Stewart, prison counselor at Cooper Street Correctional Facility, received a Symbol of Leadership coin for stepping up to serve as an acting Resident Unit Manager. She took initiative to guide staff in making improvements to facility housing units and didn't hesitate to take a hands-on approach in the role. She went above and beyond what was asked of her and set an example of excellence.

Karri Franklin, school secretary at Cooper Street Correctional Facility, received a Symbol of Customer Service coin for her work to support the Jackson College program at the facility. As the liaison between the department and Jackson College, she has gone above and beyond to assist with scheduling and orientation. Franklin is always willing to assist when needed and has been instrumental to the success of the program at the facility.



Jackson area correctional facilities school Principal Brian Friedman and Karri Franklin

# With Thanks

College student shares gratitude for guide dog trained at Baraga Correctional Facility



Dear Team Rolex,  
 My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am a twenty-five year old college student studying Psychology, and Rolex is my first guide dog.

My mind has been racing around every corner and in every direction to find the words to write to you to explain everything clearly and concisely.

I will start by saying that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Not in my wildest dreams could I have ever pictured a more perfect companion. From the moment I saw him, I was instantly in love. Every day there after, I love him more. Even when I'm convinced it couldn't grow any stronger, it does.

He never ceases to amaze me. His work ethic, loyalty, and sweet yet quirky personality all capture my heart completely. When I hold the handle of his harness, I feel safe. When he looks up at me with those beautiful brown eyes, I feel loved. When he falls asleep in my lap after a long day, I feel at peace.

I was born with a condition called glaucoma. Over the years, I've grown older, but my world grew darker. In 2015, I lost the last of my remaining vision in my left eye, and all of the peripheral in my right eye. I couldn't see any point in my future where anything could possibly get any better. Slowly I worked myself into a deep depression. I was too afraid to leave my home by myself. I isolated myself to the point where I asked God why I was still here, and every time, he told me to hold on. He told me that something beautiful was going to be worth that loss.

The night before I got Rolex, I prayed and thanked the Lord that it was in his will to lead me here. I asked that I could fall in love and work well with my new dog. That night, I dreamt of a beautifully lit, evergreen field. In it were two dogs tumbling over and chasing one another playfully. One of them was a golden retriever, and the other was a yellow lab. I had assumed when I woke that the lab would be mine, but it turns out they were both mine, as my boy is a cross. I know this was confirmation of some sort.

He is a joy to be around. From the moment him and I wake up to the time we go to bed, I am over the moon with excitement and love. His charm includes the not so subtle way he drools at the sound of his food being poured in the morning, to the curious tilt of his head from one side to the other when he is being inquisitive about something or someone. His favorite game to play is fetch, and he will often jump up in the air to catch the ball in his mouth before it even hits the ground. He will often times bring me his bone when he wants to relax, and he makes sure to always give me the side that he has not chewed on for me to hold for him as he bites down on it. I've even found him taking it from me, dropping it and turning it around so that he gets the chewed part and I get the smooth part. Our boy is a considerate one. He loves to work, and when he sees his harness, he is ready to go. He gets excited to show me what he can do, and I praise him tremendously every single chance I get.

I see a very bright future in place of the dark one I once had. I can finally see myself breaking out of the shell I built around me after I lost the majority of my sight. I can look forward to every day I get to go out with Rolex. I can be grateful every single day that he makes my life that much better and easier. I know that he is who he is today because of the love and care you showed him. Words cannot easily express how much I appreciate what you did for me. You have given me one of the greatest gifts a person can ever have. Independence and true companionship. With everything I have, I thank you so dearly.



Prisoners at Baraga Correctional Facility work to train up to eight dogs at a time to become leader dogs for individuals with visual impairments. Puppies are brought to the facility at approximately two months old and spend about a year to 15 months learning basic socialization and obedience. Afterward, the dogs participate in four months of formal harness training with a professional guide dog mobility instructor where they learn skills such as stopping at curbs, avoiding obstacles and finding doors. Leader Dogs for the Blind has training programs at eight correctional facilities in Michigan.

Top: Rolex as a puppy at Baraga Correctional Facility.  
 Bottom: Rolex participating in harness training.



# Thanks for your feedback

## Employee Engagement Survey ends, results expected in April

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2017 Employee Engagement Survey. By the end of the survey period, 72 percent of MDOC employees had submitted their feedback, surpassing the 71 percent participation in 2015. Your feedback will help leaders identify strengths and areas that need improvement to determine the direction of the department, along with changes that will improve your work environment and support job growth. Many employees across the state celebrated participation in the survey in unique ways. Results of the survey are expected in April.



Detroit Detention Center Deputy Warden Terry Tellez, and Detroit Reentry Center Parole Manager Sarah Valade and Deputy Warden Noah Nagy were dunked by their MDOC colleagues who participated in the Employee Engagement Survey. Tellez, Valade and Nagy were dropped into the dunk tank close to a combined 50 times on the last day of the survey.



Employees at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (top) and Duane Waters Health Center (bottom) show off notebooks they received for completing the survey. The facilities also celebrated survey completion by giving employees the opportunity to dunk their favorite administrator in a dunk tank.

## Corrections Quiz

When did the Special Alternative Incarceration program begin?

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.

## February Quiz Recap

**Question:** In what year did the MDOC Honor Guard form?

**Answer:** 1987

Congratulations to **Candice Dunn**, a probation agent with the Pontiac Probation Office, for being the first to correctly answer the February Corrections Quiz. Great job!

*Watch for future issues of the Corrections Connection to read more about the MDOC Honor Guard, which will be featured in celebration of their 30th anniversary.*

# Snapshots

## A look at life around the MDOC



The Chippewa Correctional Facility East and West Crochet Club and West Book Building Club handmade items to be donated to Soo Township Elementary and Washington Schools for students. In the fall of 2016 a donation of crochet hats, mittens, and headbands was made to Soo Township.



Grand Rapids-based Triangle Construction toured the Vocational Village at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility. Carpentry students in the program made a plaque with the company's logo using a CNC wood engraving machine. Company representatives expressed that they were impressed with the trades programs and would be interested in hiring paroling students.



In February, Thumb Correctional Facility employees held a fundraiser to purchase items to send to troops in Kabul, Afghanistan, where former acting warden Bryon Foreman is stationed. Employees raised almost \$1,300 to fill 26 boxes with food, drinks, activities and reading material.

## Corrections in the News

[The answer to the opioid epidemic may already be out there](#) — FOX 17 TV

[House panel OKs criminal justice overhaul](#) — Detroit News

[Ex-offender vocational program opens Kalamazoo cafe](#) — WOOD TV 8

[New coffee shop looks to help those on probation or parole re-enter community](#) — WWMT TV

[Iron Paws: Transforming shelter dogs, prison inmates](#) — ABC 12 TV

[State program connects inmates with skilled trades training](#) — News Radio WSJM

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...



To see more, follow the MDOC on [Twitter](#)

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# January New Hires

Abramson, Anthony  
 Adkisson, Shemonya  
 Ahlefeld, Kevin  
 Alman, Matthew  
 Ames, Jessie  
 Anderson, Chad  
 Anderson, Zachary  
 Andrus, Michela  
 Arapi, Ledia  
 Ault, Matthew  
 Austin, Tiara  
 Avant, Mitchell  
 Barry, Jacqueline  
 Bates, Ton-Yae  
 Behm, Brittany  
 Bennett, Matthew  
 Berger, Jonathan  
 Berry, Jennifer  
 Bioty, Christina  
 Black, Ryan  
 Bomer, Nathan  
 Britt, Latrina  
 Buckner, Scott  
 Buendia, Exiquio  
 Burch, Roderick  
 Burlingame, Kara  
 Calligaro, James  
 Chancey, Christopher  
 Christie, Chelsey  
 Clancy, Katherine  
 Clark, Christopher  
 Clement, Kurt  
 Corpe, Christi  
 Cross, Leon  
 Crum, Derrick  
 Delongchamp, Brian  
 Desnoyer, Riley  
 Dinoto, Bianca  
 Dombroski, Dylan  
 Douglas, Disa  
 Eddleman, Ryan  
 Ellery, Nancy  
 Faulkner, Darren  
 Finazzi, Joseph  
 Fowler, Roy  
 Frank, Jessica  
 Frank, Jonathan  
 French, Curtis  
 Fryt, Callie  
 Gamin, Seth  
 Glass, Tyler  
 Gonzales, Destinee  
 Grembowski, Jared  
 Gronda, Jordan  
 Hamilton, Myriah  
 Harper, Christopher  
 Haske, Jordan  
 Hays, Heather  
 Hines, William  
 Holm, Kathryn  
 Hulkkonen, Cameron  
 Hursey, Zerria  
 Hutchins, Eboni  
 Jackson-Riley, Larita

Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Field Agent, Berrien County Parole Office  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Maintenance Mechanic, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Human Resources Analyst, Corrections Central Office  
 Registered Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Storekeeper, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
 Library Assistant, Ojibway Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility  
 Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Librarian, Oaks Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Dentist, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Special Education Teacher, Thumb Correctional Facility  
 Field Agent, Lapeer County Parole and Probation Office  
 Maintenance Mechanic, Correctional Facilities Administration Northern Region  
 Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Trades Instructor, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 General Office Assistant, Macomb Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center  
 Maintenance Mechanic, Detroit Reentry Center  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Dentist, Cooper Street Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Secretary, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Psychologist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility

# January New Hires

Johnson, Candace  
 Johnson, Christopher  
 Jones, Deniene  
 Keene, Traci  
 Kieffer, Nicholas  
 Koonter, Anzhelika  
 Kula, Brian  
 Lawry, Conner  
 Leith, Eric  
 Leonard, Stanley  
 Lerma, Antonio  
 Lindsay, Quinton  
 Manthey, Andrew  
 Maxon, Anne  
 McClellan, Jodi  
 Medley, Rebecca  
 Miller, Kristine  
 Mitchell, Michael  
 Modrzynski, Kyle  
 Montie, Nicholas  
 Neill, Mary-Jane  
 Newland, Jonathan  
 Ojeda-Bedore, Gina  
 Olsen, Adam  
 Payment, Jessica  
 Pickard, Alex  
 Powell, Nicole  
 Price, Dakota  
 Puckett, Peggy  
 Quinn, Rosemary  
 Rathburn, Robert  
 Riggs, David  
 Robinson, Brad  
 Salinas, Della  
 Sandhagen, Jamie  
 Scott, Kasondra  
 Seibert, Benjamin  
 Sipes, Jonathan  
 Smart, Wesley  
 Smith, Darlene  
 Smith, Fredrick  
 Smith, Kelsi  
 Snarski, Danielle  
 St. Onge, Matthew  
 Stout, Samuel  
 Surles, Stephen  
 Taeger, Alexander  
 Taylor, Madyson  
 Terwilliger, Samantha  
 Tessner, Lauren  
 Tiggart, Tony  
 Townsend, Chad  
 Vallance, Jackie  
 Vangemert, Bruce  
 Villarreal, Anthony  
 Wagner, Charles  
 Ward, Anne  
 Weller, Laura  
 Welter, Breonna  
 Whalen, Kristen  
 White, David  
 Williams, Brandon  
 Wilson, Marshall  
 Wozniak, Abageal

Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Field Agent, Cass County Parole and Probation Office  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Registered Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility  
 Field Agent, Clare County Parole and Probation Office  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Secretary, Genesee County Parole Office  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Dental Laboratory Technician, Michigan State Industries  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Student Assistant, Corrections Central Office  
 Secretary, Newberry Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Word Processing Assistant, Court Services Unit  
 Special Education Teacher, St. Louis Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Secretary, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
 Resident Care Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Accounting Assistant, Corrections Central Office  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Building Trades Crew Leader, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison  
 Accounting Assistant, Corrections Central Office  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Maintenance Mechanic, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
 Field Agent, Field Operations Administration Region III  
 Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility  
 Departmental Technician, Newberry Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
 Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

# January Retirements

Ames, Aaron	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Burrow, Randy	Corrections Transportation Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Butler, Janet	Licensed Practical Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility
Christle, Duane	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Chropowicz, Janet	Accounting Technician, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Cobb, Wayne	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Cook, Daniel	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Newberry Correctional Facility
Droste, Amy	Senior Executive Management Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Ellsworth, David	Equipment Operator, Ionia Region
Farr, Robert	Departmental Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Goudzward, Jack	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Grubb, Pauline	Information Technology Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Heinrich, Kurt	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Klee, Paul	Warden, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Laiho, Steven	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Mylchreest, Gerald	Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility
O'Connell, Richard	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
O'Grady, Shaun	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Pant, Timothy	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Pavka, Raymond	Corrections Transportation Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Peterson, David	Corrections Transportation Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Potter, Joyce	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Pretzer, Jeffrey	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Rutenbar, Gary	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Sartor, Dazzerine	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Sickler, Kathy	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Stanton, John	Licensed Electrician, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Talcott, Anita	Administrative Manager, Corrections Central Office
Taylor, Teri	Departmental Supervisor, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Tiggs-Thomas, Latrenia	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Valdez, Samuel	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Verboncouer, James	Deputy Warden, West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Vilgos, James	Institution Chaplain, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Waaso, Nancy	Parole and Probation Manager, Berrien County Parole Office
Wilson, Bruce	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Witte, Alan	Field Agent, Shiawassee County Parole and Probation Office