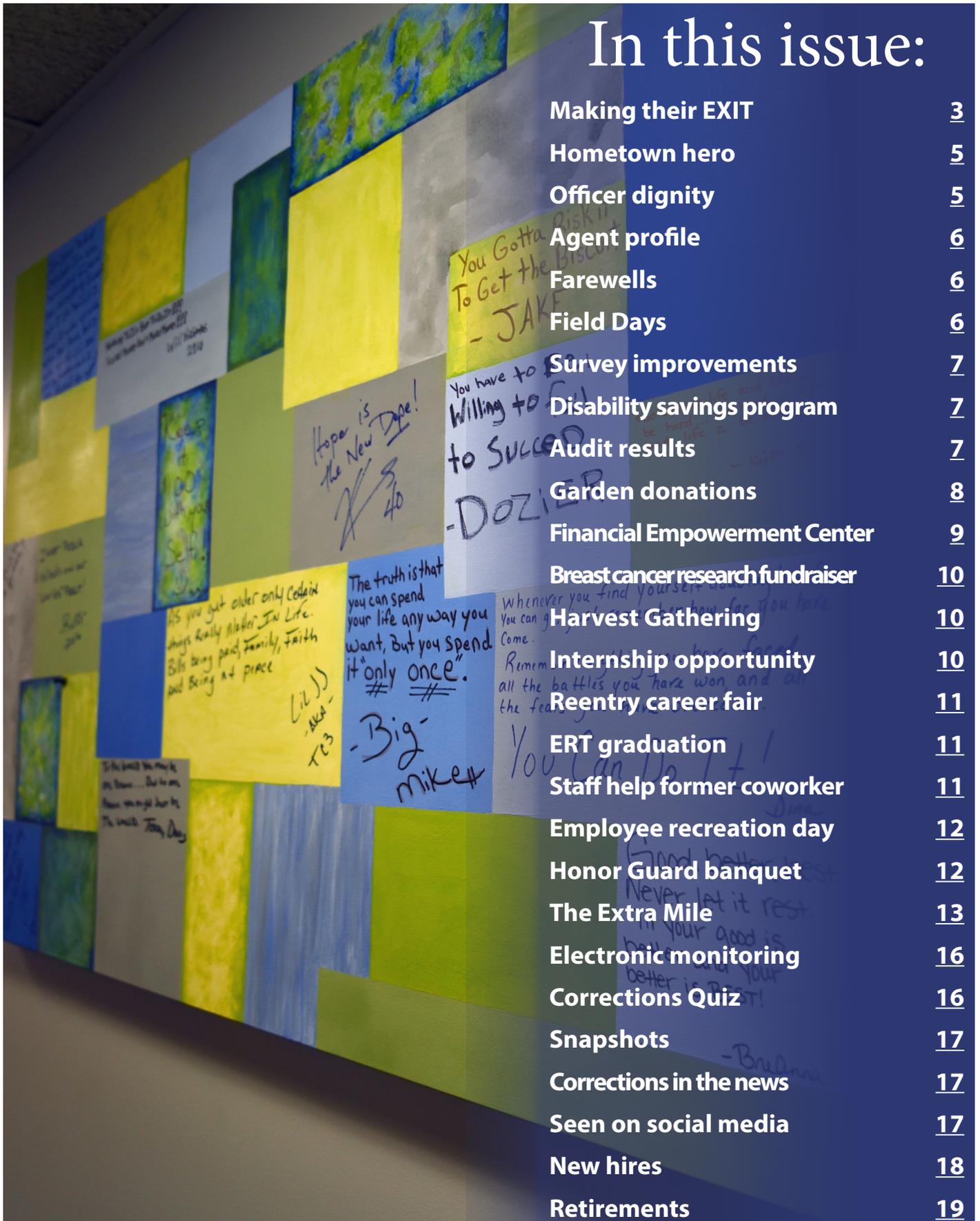


Corrections Connection



In this issue:

Making their EXIT	<u>3</u>
Hometown hero	<u>5</u>
Officer dignity	<u>5</u>
Agent profile	<u>6</u>
Farewells	<u>6</u>
Field Days	<u>6</u>
Survey improvements	<u>7</u>
Disability savings program	<u>7</u>
Audit results	<u>7</u>
Garden donations	<u>8</u>
Financial Empowerment Center	<u>9</u>
Breast cancer research fundraiser	<u>10</u>
Harvest Gathering	<u>10</u>
Internship opportunity	<u>10</u>
Reentry career fair	<u>11</u>
ERT graduation	<u>11</u>
Staff help former coworker	<u>11</u>
Employee recreation day	<u>12</u>
Honor Guard banquet	<u>12</u>
The Extra Mile	<u>13</u>
Electronic monitoring	<u>16</u>
Corrections Quiz	<u>16</u>
Snapshots	<u>17</u>
Corrections in the news	<u>17</u>
Seen on social media	<u>17</u>
New hires	<u>18</u>
Retirements	<u>19</u>



Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas and comments can be submitted to MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov.

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The image on the cover was taken by **Ray Closson**, a corrections officer at Parnall 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.



Making their EXIT

Paul Williams studies at a computer terminal at the EXIT program center in Muskegon.

Program focuses on early intervention to help lead offenders to stable lives and away from crime

Sitting in a classroom in downtown Muskegon in late September, Paul Williams reflected on how far he had come.

He had been in trouble with the law before, and earlier this year he was sentenced to eight months in the Muskegon County Jail and a term of probation. Now, he was working on completing the education and training he would need to help land a steady job.

“You have to want it for yourself,” Williams said of taking steps to make positive changes in his life. “If you don’t want it for yourself, then who is going to want it for you?”

Williams is one of 169 Muskegon County probationers who have participated in Muskegon’s Empowering Ex-Offenders in Transition program, or EXIT, since it began in 2014.

The program is a collaborative effort between Muskegon County courts and law enforcement, the Michigan Department of Corrections and a number of west Michigan service agencies and organizations. It aims to help offenders obtain the skills they need to lead stable lives in the community in hopes that the education efforts and early intervention will prevent them from committing new crimes.

Offenders involved in the program typically spend their evenings at the Muskegon County Jail, and their days at the EXIT center, where they take classes in literacy, work readiness and trades training, among other areas, and also complete cognitive-based programming before securing a job in the community. Upon entering the program, participants are also paired with a mentor or coach, to help keep them on track and address any issues they may be experiencing.

“It made sense to work with the jail population to reach them before they end up in prison,” said EXIT Program Director Kellie Oom.

The program is court ordered, and offenders must be at least 18 years old with a felony record to participate. Williams said he requested that he be placed in the program after family members told him about EXIT and what it offered.

“When I found out about this program to help you get



Muskegon County EXIT participant Alex Bisard helps a group of fellow participants with coursework.

an education and skills, I jumped on it,” Williams said. “It’s a great opportunity, and if you take that opportunity, it will lead you to success.”

The majority of EXIT’s participants are supervised by the MDOC, and program facilitators and field agents keep in close contact about the progress offenders are making. The program is multi-faceted and seeks to target many potential barriers to offender success. Participants work with the organization Read Muskegon to build literacy, and take GED and Adult Basic Education classes. Instructors from Muskegon Community College visit to teach math and trades courses, such as blueprint reading. Facilitators go over stress reduction and critical-thinking techniques, as well as resume writing and interviewing skills, and offenders involved in the program help give back by participating in community service projects. They also learn how to talk about their criminal record to potential employers. “The goal is to reduce recidivism,” said Muskegon County Probation Supervisor Anthony Cotner. “We’re trying to instill in them that you can still get a job if you’re a felon.” Participation becomes more of a

fellowship as offenders work to help each other through the program, participants and facilitators said. The Muskegon County Jail keeps 18 beds for EXIT participants, and when they return to the jail in the evenings, participating offenders often discuss what they learned and study together, said EXIT participant Alex Bisard. “It’s like a family here,” Bisard said. “You have all these people from different walks of life that you think wouldn’t mesh, but everyone here comes together.” The county has continued to direct offenders to the EXIT program, which is a testament to the community’s support for it, said Oom.

“(Participants) know the MDOC, prosecutor, and sheriff are all part of the EXIT team, and they also know we’re all supportive,” Oom said. “We all come in and say, how can this work better. Everyone has a stake in it.” EXIT facilitators work with community partners to help find job placement for participating offenders

and make sure to highlight their strengths, Oom said. About 65 percent of the program’s participants have secured employment, she said. “Everybody has a strength to offer their families and their communities and we want to tap into that,” Oom said. “We try to lead them to the resources they need.” The program, which is funded by a \$2 million U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training grant and \$600,000 from the MDOC, was originally targeted at offenders with young children to help prevent generational criminal behavior. Though it has expanded to include childless participants as well, the program still offers parenting classes and opportunities for fathers to eat meals and read books to their children while at the center. “To be able to come down and have dinner with their children is pretty powerful,” Oom said. Bisard said his wife has been very supportive of his participation in the program, and he is always excited to share what he has learned with her and his children when he sees them. “I’m bettering myself for my wife and for my kids,” Bisard said. “You can see the change in yourself. If you make it through this program, you have a great shot at making it in life.”



Jerry, an EXIT participant, looks through a cognitive-based programming course book.

The EXIT program is made possible with \$2 million in U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Grant funding (PE-25957-14-60-A-29 SGA/DFA PY-12-06 CFDA# 17.270) and \$600,000 Michigan Department of Corrections funds. Opinions and findings of the program do not reflect those of the U.S. DOL nor the State of Michigan. These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion.

Hometown Hero

Corrections Officer honored during Detroit Lions game

Few can say that they have heard the crowd roar from the end zone of a Detroit Lions halftime show.

But Chippewa Correctional Facility Officer Darrell Wagner can.

On Oct. 9, Wagner was recognized as a Hometown Hero at Ford Field during the Detroit Lions halftime show.

He was nominated for the honor by the 272nd Regional Support Group out of Jackson, Mich., of which he is a retired member. Wagner served 31 years in the military and retired in 2015. While in the military he served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

He worked as combat engineer, was awarded a bronze star and served as Command Sergeant Major twice.

During the halftime show, Wagner was presented with a signed football from Lions head coach, Jim Caldwell, while photos of him were displayed for the crowd to see.

“How many people get to stand in the end zone of a Lions game while 70,000 people cheer for

you?” Wagner said. “It was an awesome feeling. I felt like I was 10 foot tall out on the field.” He said the crowd was so loud



Wagner waves to the crowd during the Lions halftime show.

that it was hard for him to hear what the announcer was saying, but that it was great to get respect from people who do not take their freedom for granted.

Wagner said the most memorable part of being recognized was that his family, including his wife and two daughters, were able to be there to witness it.

“My family deserves all of the recognition,” he said. “We spent more than five years away from each other while I was deployed. I am so grateful for my family, they deserve so much.”

Story by MDOC communications student intern Denna Fleming



Left: Officer Darrell Wagner stands on the field with his family.



Right: Officer Wagner is honored on the screen at Ford Field in Detroit.

Officer dignity initiative progresses

The Michigan Department of Corrections is moving forward in its efforts to ensure inmates who assault staff are held accountable and criminally responsible.

During a recent conference, facility inspectors, Michigan State Police, the Michigan Corrections Organization and local prosecutors came together to spend a day discussing what must be done to successfully prosecute offenders for assaulting or exposing themselves to staff. Signs will be posted in housing units warning prisoners they can be prosecuted for assaulting staff, including by throwing bodily fluids on them, otherwise known as “dressing out.”

These kinds of assaults are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

“Our staff deserve to be treated with dignity and respect,” said Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Inspector Christine Wakefield, who organized the conference. “Prisoners must know we will not put up with this type of behavior.”

Custody staff have a vital, yet challenging, role in the criminal justice system, and the department will make every effort to keep them and other facility employees safe, and prosecute offenders who attack staff.

The MDOC began working with the Michigan Corrections Organization earlier this year on the initiative to raise awareness on these kinds of assaults occurring inside facilities, and the department will do everything possible to protect the dignity of its employees.

Agent works closely with law enforcement to keep community safe

You could say public service, particularly in criminal justice, runs in the family for Newaygo County Agent Darrin Roesler. Protecting the community has



Darrin Roesler

been a duty carried through generations. His father was chief of police in Montague, two of his brothers work

for Michigan State Police and another is sheriff in Muskegon County. A number of his extended family members are either police officers, fire fighters or emergency medical responders. His wife is a paramedic.

“It’s just about giving back to your community and making it a better place,” said Roesler, who joined the MDOC in 2008 after working with the Newaygo County Sheriff’s Office and Montague Police Department. “It’s about making a difference.”

Roesler has also coached soccer for the last six years as a way to serve as a mentor to area youths and became assistant junior varsity

coach for Fremont High School this year.

Roesler has maintained his close connections to law enforcement through his work with the MDOC, and as a part-time police officer for the city of Fremont.

He said it helps in keeping open lines of communication, as agents and officers share information about offenders to make sure they stay accountable and on the right path.

“It makes our job a lot easier,” Roesler said. “The flow of communication is wonderful. Everyone tries to stay on the same page.”

He said while he is focused on enforcement as an officer, that focus shifts to prevention and rehabilitation efforts in his work as an agent.

He said it is important to hold offenders accountable, while at the same time, working to help them reintegrate into the community and become productive members of society.

“We take a look at the bigger picture, like do they need treatment, or is there an underlying issue,” Roesler said. “On our side you have to address and deal with the problem and keep them from doing it again.”

New Field Days episodes feature MDOC Director, Idaho Director

The latest episodes of the department’s weekly Field Days podcast features part two of the interview with Director Heidi Washington, where she discusses the budget, department achievements and her goals.

You can also listen to MDOC Legislative Liaison Kyle Kaminski discuss what the outcome of the election will mean for the department, and Idaho Department of Correction Director Kevin Kempf discuss his effort to open lines of communication with the public and staff.

[Click here to listen.](#)



Human Resources Director retires after 31 years of service

Michigan Department of Corrections Human Resources Director Tony Lopez retired in November after 31 years of state service. Lopez began his career in 1985, working for the Michigan



Department of Mental Health. In 1993, he joined the Department of Corrections.

His wealth of knowledge was invaluable to the department, and he was always willing to assist others and ensure personnel issues were appropriately addressed. His dedication and expertise were appreciated by the MDOC, Civil Service Commission and Office of the State Employer.

Long-time volunteer heads for retirement

Tom Tippett, a long-time volunteer at Kinross Correctional Facility, is retiring after 23 years of service.



Volunteer activities provide a link with the community through educational and inspirational programs. Tippett’s dedication and professionalism has been outstanding throughout the years and is greatly appreciated, and his guidance has and will continue to have a great impact on prisoners’ lives.

Department makes improvements following 2015 survey, looks ahead to 2017

Since 2015, the Michigan Department of Corrections has worked to expand cross-training and job shadowing opportunities for employees statewide. Field staff have had the chance to tour other offices, access to information has expanded for Correctional Facilities Administration staff through the use of shared email folders, and employees across Michigan have been recognized for their achievements. All of these changes, and more, have been in response to feedback the department received during the 2015 Employee Engagement Survey. Efforts to improve won't end there. The next Employee Engagement Survey will begin on Feb. 6, 2017, and will help measure the success of engagement efforts since the last survey, and determine additional areas of improvement. Employee input in the survey has been key to guiding the department forward and creating a better future for MDOC staff, the department and state government overall. The steps taken to make changes since the last survey demonstrates that department leaders are committed to addressing employee feedback and are

willing to work to create a supportive work environment that fosters opportunities for growth. The Employee Engagement Survey is completely confidential, and final reports do not include information about individuals or individual responses. The survey allows staff to share their ideas for change in an anonymous way that could initiate improvements to department operations. The department's work to make improvements following these surveys has been continuous. For instance, as a result of feedback from the 2013 survey, the department enhanced teambuilding efforts and started new job training programs, in addition to instituting many other changes. In 2015, more improvements were made, including the creation of field office and facility-level focus groups and action teams to review operations and practices. The survey in 2017 will provide department staff with an additional opportunity to contribute feedback that could build upon the changes that have been made and institute new changes.

Department receives outstanding marks on parole process audit

The state Office of the Auditor General gave the Michigan Department of Corrections its highest possible marks on a recent audit of the parole eligibility consideration process. The audit objectives included assessing the effectiveness of the department's process to identify prisoners eligible for parole, as well as the accuracy and completeness of prisoner information provided to the Parole Board. It covered a period from Oct. 1, 2013 to July 31, 2016. Auditors visited multiple

correctional facilities during the audit process, interviewed staff and thoroughly reviewed prisoner files. Auditors found the department's processes were effective and the information provided to the board was accurate and complete. No findings were reported. It was the highest level of classification available on achieving audit objectives, which is often a difficult target to meet. Auditors also praised MDOC staff for their cooperation and assistance during the audit process.

Disability savings program launched

The State of Michigan has launched its new disability savings program to allow individuals with disabilities and their families to save for the future without fear of losing disability benefits.

Michigan became the fifth state in the country to offer such a program following the Nov. 1 launch.

It is the most substantial reform for those with disabilities since the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience, or MiABLE, program is another step in the state's efforts to help residents with disabilities live self-determined, independent lives.

A MiABLE account allows for savings of up to \$100,000 without losing other financial disability benefits.

Funds are not taxed upon withdrawal if used for a qualified disability expense, including education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology, health, financial management services, legal fees or funeral and burial expenses. There can only be one individual per account, but anyone can contribute to it. For more information on eligibility or opening an account, visit www.miable.org.

MDOC gardens produce 136,000+ pounds of fresh food for those in need

Each year, the Michigan Department of Corrections grows thousands of pounds of fresh produce at facilities and field offices across the state to help feed families in need.



Carts full of fresh produce ready to be donated from Kinross Correctional Facility, which donated 8,540 pounds of food overall in 2016.

This year was no exception. In 2016, gardens at facilities and field offices tended to by offenders produced more than 136,000 pounds

of fresh fruits and vegetables that were donated to area food pantries and food banks to help hungry Michigan residents. “They are building trust, working toward positive goals, eating fresh produce, strengthening self-esteem and giving back to those in need of food,” said West Shoreline Correctional Facility Correction Program Coordinator Joy Walthorn.

West Shoreline’s gardens are tended to by up to 113 inmates, who must stay misconduct free to be able to maintain a garden plot, Walthorn said. They keep a portion of what they grow, and donate weekly to Catholic Charities of West Michigan and the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry in Muskegon. Donations also have been made to Camp Courage, the Women Injured in Combat Organization and the 70X7 Life Recovery program. “Our garden program generates enough produce to share and we are so fortunate to be able to give,” Walthorn said. The four gardens tended to by Emmet County parolees and probationers donated 4,200 pounds of produce to area charities this year, said Emmet, Kalkaska and Charlevoix counties Supervisor Anthony Peters.

The gardens are a cooperative effort between the county circuit court, sheriff’s department, the Office of Community Corrections and the Emmet County field office and aim



Pictured left: 130 pumpkins were grown at the Special Alternative Incarceration Facility and donated to C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital. Staff at SAI also donated money and decorating supplies so children and their families could decorate the pumpkins. Pictured center: Vegetables donated from Chippewa Correctional Facility’s gardens. Pictured right: A truckload of pumpkins donated by Alger Correctional Facility.



to divert and give focus to low-risk offenders. Many facilities also grew pumpkins that were donated to local students or community groups. In addition to donating more than 4,000 pounds of produce to metro-Detroit agencies and food banks, Macomb Correctional Facility also provided a number of pumpkins that were used in a fundraiser to purchase books for children enrolled in Head Start programs. Chippewa Correctional Facility also donated 213 pumpkins to area Head Start programs, as well as 4,669 pounds of food to local nonprofits. Two truckloads with 288 pumpkins were delivered to students at Alger County Schools from Alger Correctional Facility’s gardens. The facility also donated 2,640 pounds of vegetables to the local Commission of Aging for distribution to residents in need. Prisoners at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility donated 11,630 pounds of food, and those at Cooper Street Correctional Facility donated 16,000 pounds to residents in need, in addition to providing pumpkins to the community. The department’s horticulture programs at facilities across the state donated 76,447 pounds of food.



Staff at Thumb Correctional Facility, which donated 2,400 pounds of produce, stand with the last shipment of fruits and vegetables to local charities.

Prisoners know maintaining a garden plot is a privilege and they look forward to donating what they grow to help those in need, Walthorn said. “Gardeners feel proud about the good they are doing for the community,” she said. “The more a prisoner can learn to help themselves and others, the sooner they realize that they can be a part of something bigger. They learn to build confidence in themselves and in re-entering society.”



Ingham County Parole partnership with Lansing Financial Empowerment Center continues to flourish

Every week, Robert Engel sets up a table in the lobby of the Ingham County Parole Office hoping to speak with parolees about their financial concerns and the resources available to help.

It wasn't long ago that he was in their position, and he



Robert Engel speaks with a parolee at the Ingham County Parole Office.

benefitted from a partnership between the parole office and Lansing's Financial Empowerment Center while he was on parole himself.

"It's overwhelming the number of guys who come out of prison and have no experience with finance," said Engel, who discharged in September and now works for the city of Lansing as an outreach specialist with the Financial Empowerment Center. "Some guys just want advice or just want to talk. A lot of it is helping them understand they're not as powerless as they thought they were."

Though he had some knowledge of financial management already, Engel said he still recognized the value in participating in the program as a parolee.

"It was a nice resource to have," he said.

The partnership began in 2014 in an effort to enhance offenders' chances for success by helping them find stable financial ground. The program initially offered financial counseling to parolees in transitional housing, but has since expanded to include financial education for other parolees and probationers.

It has now served 132 parolees in transitional housing, and 185 offenders through "Bank On" events, where area banks visit the Ingham County parole and

probation offices once a month to help supervised offenders establish a bank account.

About 11 percent of participating offenders have improved their credit scores, and average debt has been decreased by \$743.

"We see how important it is for them to have that financial piece," said Parole Agent Melanie Cascaddan, who oversees the parole office's partnership with the Financial Empowerment Center. "When they meet with a counselor, they get that positive reinforcement and accountability on spending."

Cascaddan recently travelled to Chicago to provide a presentation on the department's partnership with the Financial Empowerment Center and detail efforts to reduce offender debt. Lansing was among the first cities to establish an Office of Financial Empowerment.

"I'm very proud of Robert's work and of the valuable partnership between the city of Lansing's Office of Financial Empowerment

and Ingham County Parole," Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said. "The partnership has resulted in an investment in the form of a \$22,000 grant from Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund. Together, we are working to ensure that re-entry citizens can re-establish a healthy relationship with a reputable financial institution."

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

Financial counselors working with the Financial Empowerment Center help offenders establish realistic budgets, build their credit, find safe and affordable banking and locate potential sources of income. They also help them think about other financial responsibilities, such as completing tax returns, which could result in a refund that helps bolster their bank account.

"A lot of people feel overwhelmed trying to keep track of bills and creditors," Engel said. "If they feel helpless, that's not a good place to be in. We want to alleviate that stress."

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Macomb Correctional Facility prisoners donate to fight against breast cancer

Macomb Correctional Facility prisoners donated more than \$2,000 to help fight breast cancer during the facility's first fundraising walk to support efforts to combat the disease.

Prisoners collectively donated \$2,397.04 to the American Cancer Society during the Oct. 24 event in the facility gym.

Andrew Humphrey, meteorologist for WDIV-TV 4 in Detroit, spoke to prisoners and the American Cancer Society was present to accept the check with the donation from prisoners. The event also included a musical performance

and speeches from three prisoners who discussed their personal experiences with family members who battled breast cancer.

The Macomb Correctional Facility Teddy Bear project also knitted bears for Humphrey and Julie Featherston, from the American Cancer Society, and small boxing gloves for all the staff and volunteers who participated.

All prisoners were eligible to donate, and were given certificates of appreciation for their donation. The top 75 prisoner donors were invited to participate in the Oct. 24 walk in the facility gym.



Harvest Gathering events a success department-wide

Department staff again showed their generosity through efforts to collect food, toiletry items and monetary donations to help families in need through the annual Harvest Gathering campaign.

Employees at Ionia Correctional Facility collected \$243 and a number of nonperishable food items.

Employees at the department's central office in Lansing held combined fundraising events for Harvest Gathering and the State Employees Charitable Campaign and split the \$3,621.32 raised between Harvest Gathering and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation.

Saginaw Correctional Facility staff donated 1,300 pounds of food and \$1,500 to help feed hungry area families. Muskegon Correctional Facility collected \$775.55 in cash donations and were able to purchase 481 canned goods and 101 non-food items for those in need.

St. Louis Correctional Facility donated seven boxes of canned goods and other non-perishable items, as well as \$445.

The overall goal of this year's campaign was to provide 2 million meals to those in need and raise \$100,000.



Harvest Gathering donations from Muskegon Correctional Facility.



Harvest Gathering donations from Saginaw Correctional Facility staff.



Harvest Gathering donations at Ionia Correctional Facility

Know a student looking for great experience in communications? Check out our latest internship

The department's Public Information Office is offering a new internship opportunity for students seeking experience in communications.

Those interested in applying for the internship for the winter/spring 2017 semester can [click here](#) to submit their resume and learn more.

For questions, contact Public Information Officer Chris Gautz at GautzC@michigan.gov.



More than 500 parolees and probationers participate in Reentry Career Fair

About 500 parolees and probationers attended a Returning Citizen Job fair at the Northwest Activities Center in Detroit on Oct. 25. By the end of the fair, 12 offenders walked away with jobs at Sakthi Automotive Group USA. The Michigan Department of Corrections partnered with the Eastern District of Michigan U.S. Attorney’s Office, Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation, U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Probation Department and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan’s office to host the event. The event helped provide parolees and probationers

with access to employers and resources in the community that could help them land a job and a more stable future. The department has also held other career and community resource fairs for paroling offenders, or those supervised in the community. A community resource fair was held May 5 in partnership with Oakland County prisoner reentry, Oakland County Parole and the Salvation Army of Pontiac, with more than 30 agencies in attendance. In October 2015, about 140 offenders at the Detroit Reentry Center participated in its first resource fair that included 16 state and local agencies.



New Emergency Response Team members complete training

On Oct. 28, the Michigan Department of Corrections’ newest Emergency Response Team members were recognized during a ceremony at Fort Custer near Battle Creek. The 27 new members completed a rigorous two-week course that included class work and field exercises.

Muskegon complex staff help former colleague

Employees at Muskegon, Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline correctional facilities rallied together to help a former coworker and his family. Staff held a barbeque dinner fundraiser, with food prepared and donated by employees, and raised \$1,150 for the family of Byron Lay, a former food service worker.

Lay’s wife was diagnosed with a rare blood disease in 2014 and his family was seeking support to get her the help she needs to treat and manage the illness.



Department seeks new name for Employee Recreation Day

The Michigan Department of Corrections is reviving Employee Recreation Day, and is looking for suggestions for a catchy new name for the event.

The EPIC Employee Engagement workgroup is in the initial stage of creating a bigger, broader celebration for all MDOC staff that is expected to be a centralized get-together with many exciting activities.

You can be an important part of the effort to revitalize this event by sending in your ideas for a new name for Employee Recreation Day.

If you have a suggestion for a name that embodies this exciting event, please send it to the EPIC mailbox at MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov.

The deadline for submissions is November 30th.



Tenth Annual Honor Guard Holiday Celebration



You are cordially invited to the Tenth Annual Honor Guard Holiday Fund-Raising Celebration. All proceeds support Honor Guard operations and our commitment to honor fallen correctional and law enforcement staff at the state and national level. The unit was formed in 1987 after the tragic death of corrections officer Josephine McCallum. Since then, nearly 100 proud and distinguished members have served the Department and the people of the State of Michigan at funeral details, special ceremonies, and parades throughout the United States and Canada.

What: Dinner, dessert, awards presentation, entertainment and a silent auction to support the Honor Guard Fund.

Where: Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center
Michigan State University
55 South Harrison Road
East Lansing, MI 48824

When: Friday, December 2, 2016
6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

Who: Anyone who supports the Honor Guard

.....
Invitation RSVP: (Please remove and return with payment):

Name of Attendee(s) _____

of Attendees x \$30 per Attendee: _____

Additional Donation (Optional): _____

_____ Total Donation

Cash OR Check payable to "MDOC Honor Guard Fund" OR Credit/Debit Card

- Dinner Choice
- Chicken - Rosemary Grilled Chicken with Garlic Whipped Potatoes | Roasted Tomato Sherry Sauce | Sautéed Zucchini and Yellow Peppers
 - Beef – Flat Iron Steak with Caramelized Onion Pan Jus | Creamy Corn and Cheddar Polenta | Chef's Selection of Vegetable
 - Vegetarian

- Rooms are available at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center at (517) 432-4000. The state rate is available. Use event reservation code **MDC120216** by phone or the website.
- Please RSVP by November 23, 2016

Please RSVP to: Edna Plath, CFA Operations Secretary
Michigan Department of Corrections, CFA
Grandview Plaza Building, 4th Floor
206 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933
plathe@michigan.gov
(517) 335-1385

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Agent Brian Potter and Supervisor Charles Kennard with Director Heidi Washington

In November 2015, a man went into cardiac arrest outside the Wexford County Parole and Probation Office. Agents Dave Koenig and Brian Potter immediately went to assist the man, while Supervisor Charles Kennard called 911 and retrieved a defibrillator from the county courthouse. The agents administered CPR until emergency medical services arrived. Following the incident, paramedics from Northflight and members of the city of Cadillac Fire Department visited the Wexford office to say thank you to staff for their efforts, which earned them the department’s Lifesaving Award.

For 24 years, Kent County Parole Agent Charles Ruffin lead the Ottawa Hills High School football team as its head coach.

In 2013 he was named Kent County Coach of the Year and in 2015, he was chosen as a leadership trainer for the Kirk Cousins Leadership Camp. His coaching style and ability to mentor youths has made him a well-respected figure in the Kent County community.

He helped provide sports equipment for students in need, and used his annual leave to coach a two-week camp for players. He has recognized the needs of students and has taken a personal interest in their activities, family lives and future goals.

His dedication to his community and improving the lives of those in it earned him the department’s Citizenship Award.



Director Heidi Washington and Agent Charles Ruffin



Warden Shirlee Harry and Juanita Zaborowski

Newberry Correctional Facility Sgt. Juanita Zaborowski was working at Pugsley Correctional Facility in May 2016 when she responded to a call for assistance for a prisoner in distress. When she arrived at the scene, she immediately began providing emergency medical assistance.

After she and other staff worked to assist the prisoner, his pulse and breathing stabilized.

Her efforts earned her the department’s Lifesaving Award.

Saginaw Correctional Facility Lt. Dennis Wirley received the Good Government Symbol of Leadership coin from Warden Tom Winn for his exceptional service and the leadership he demonstrates each day at the facility.

He consistently works to promote the department through his efforts as a recruiter at job fairs where he represents the MDOC, and is always available to help when needed.



Warden Tom Winn and Lt. Dennis Wirley

The Extra Mile continued...



Pictured left to right: Lt. Terry Scott, Lt. Brad Shimmons, Sgt. Ty Sims, Corporal Sarah Walters and Corporal Martin Lonn.

In March, a prisoner at the Special Alternative Incarceration Facility was found bleeding in his bunk from a self-inflicted wound. Lt. Terry Scott, Lt. Brad Shimmons, Sgt. Ty Sims and Corporals Sarah Walters and Martin Lonn immediately responded to provide emergency aid to the prisoner and prevent him from causing any additional harm to himself. Scott, Shimmons, Sims, Walters and Lonn received the department's Lifesaving Award for their efforts to help the prisoner.

While driving home from work in February, Macomb Correctional Facility Sgt. Michael Jenkins saw the driver of a truck lose control of the vehicle while entering the freeway and flip upside down, coming to rest on the side of I-94. He immediately stopped to assist the occupants of the vehicle, helping pull the driver from the truck and providing emergency first aid until police arrived. His willingness to help the driver in an emergency situation earned him the department's Citizenship Award.



Warden Randy Haas, Sgt. Michael Jenkins and Director Heidi Washington



Pictured: Officers Kevin Wawrzyniak, Robert Artman, Michael Groves, Charles Youngblood, and Michael Taylor, Warden Randy Haas and Director Heidi Washington

Corrections Officer Michael Taylor in April saw a prisoner attempt to hang himself from a railing at Macomb Correctional Facility. Taylor called for assistance and lifted the prisoner's body to relieve pressure on his neck. Corrections Officer Kyle Ormsby responded to assist Taylor while Officers Robert Artman, Charles Youngblood and Kevin Wawrzyniak worked to get the prisoner down. Artman, Taylor, Ormsby and Officer Michael Groves were able to lower the prisoner to the floor and remove the material constricting his neck, which allowed him to breathe freely again. Their quick efforts to help the prisoner earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In June, Macomb Correctional Facility Acting Resident Unit Manager John Klimowicz, Psychologists Max Abelman and Karen Solgot, and Mental Health Unit Chief Mark Levine responded to screaming and sounds of duress from a female colleague, who had been knocked to the floor in her office and was being sexually assaulted by a prisoner.

Abelman, Solgot and Levine intervened to separate the prisoner and their female colleague, preventing her from experiencing further harm, while Klimowicz immediately requested assistance from custody staff via his radio and also helped free the woman from the assault.

Officers Annette Singleton and William Grygorcewicz responded to the activation of the panic alarm and call for assistance and intervened to help stop the assault.

Solgot stayed with her colleague to provide her with support as she was transported for medical treatment.

Their efforts to intervene prevented a possible hostage situation, as the prisoner had been attempting to close the office door, and stopped their colleague from experiencing further harm. Their actions earned them the department's Valor Award.



Pictured: Officer Annette Singleton, Acting Resident Unit Manager John Klimowicz, Director Heidi Washington, Psychologists Max Abelman and Karen Solgot, Officer William Grygorcewicz, Mental Health Unit Chief Mark Levine and Warden Randy Haas.

The Extra Mile continued...



Pictured: Registered Nurses Kassandra White and Martha Rademaker, Warden Randy Haas and Director Heidi Washington.

Macomb Correctional Facility Registered Nurses Kassandra White and Martha Rademaker were called for assistance in May regarding a prisoner complaining of chest pain.

The prisoner said he was experiencing pain, dizziness and trouble breathing after walking in the yard. He was placed on a stretcher for assessment and his breathing began to slow and a pulse could not be detected. Oxygen was administered, CPR was initiated and a defibrillator was used to re-establish a normal heartbeat.

White and Rademaker's immediate assessment of the situation and assistance to the prisoner earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center Corrections Officers Tori Vandermoere and Joshua Hunt, Human Resources Developer Chris Schweikert and Capt. James Malloy received Good Government and Warden's Coins for assisting with training provided to the U.S. Military Police.

Vandermoere, Hunt, Schweikert and Malloy rearranged their schedules, spent time away from home and pooled together funds to purchase refreshments for the troops in training. They also established a meaningful partnership with the Jackson-based 303rd Military Police Company, which has now participated in two trainings hosted by the facility. Trainings were held in April and November. The training focused on prisoner escorts and prisoner management, among other areas.



Pictured: Joshua Hunt, Tori Vandermoere, Warden Jeremy Bush, Deputy Warden Kevin Lindsey, Chris Schweikert, Capt. James Malloy



Pictured: Warden Tony Trierweiler with Diane Suppes (left), Cheri Brown (center) and Brenda Simpson (right).

Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Warden Tony Trierweiler presented warden's coins to mailroom staff members for their efforts to thoroughly monitor mail to thwart the introduction of contraband into the facility. Their work also resulted in the prosecution of a prisoner who was using the mail to make plans to arrange an assault of a mentally-impaired girl.

Nicole Reinsch, a department specialist in education, received a Good Government Symbol of Excellence Coin for her hard work to assist offenders with their vital documents.



Pictured: Nicole Reinsch and Director Heidi Washington

MDOC's electronic monitoring marks 30-year anniversary

For 30 years, the Michigan Department of Corrections has been using electronic monitoring to supervise offenders in the community. Curfew monitoring, formerly known as radio frequency monitoring, was successfully piloted in 1986 for selected Washtenaw County probationers. By the end of 1987, it was being used statewide. This early form of electronic monitoring did not track offenders' whereabouts, but did determine if offenders were at home when they were supposed to be.



In 2004, the department introduced the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring, or SCRAM, device to monitor alcohol consumption. In 2007 the department began using GPS technology for monitoring, and in 2014, it began using GPS tracking and cellular service to report violations in real time. It tracks offender movement to determine compliance with approved schedules by using zones around their approved residence. Agents may also review GPS points to confirm participation in treatment programs, school or work.

Corrections Quiz

October Quiz Recap

Prisoners at Lakeland Correctional Facility make this treat for children visiting incarcerated family members around the holidays. What is it?

Question: When did the Michigan Department of Corrections begin using electronic monitoring as a method to help supervise offenders in the community?

Send your answer to Denna Fleming at FlemingD8@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.

Answer: 1986

Congratulations to **Ryan Reed**, prison counselor at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility, for being the first to correctly answer the October Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Snapshots

A look at life around the MDOC



Future Leader Dogs for the Blind in training at Baraga Correctional Facility enjoy some time in the sunshine.

The Leader Dog program at the facility began in fall 2013, and since then, 25 dogs have participated in the training. Four are currently serving blind or visually-impaired individuals in Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Spain.

The facility's current seven dogs in training are each assigned to live with a three-person training team for a year. Prisoners training the dogs provide around the clock attention and take pride in working to train them for those who blind or visually impaired.



Vehicles fill the parking lot at the former Kinross Correctional Facility as new corrections officer recruits in the Barry Davis Academy start their training.

The academy class includes 68 recruits, who are expected to begin working at facilities in the Upper Peninsula in December.

The class graduation ceremony will be held Dec. 7 at Lake Superior State University.



This 175-pound pumpkin was grown and painted by prisoners at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility. This, and several other pumpkins weighing between 40 and 200 pounds, were donated to a fundraising raffle to support the annual Harvest Gathering campaign. The campaign helps fund area food banks and puts meals on the table for hungry families.

Corrections in the News

[New program offers job training for inmates getting ready to rejoin society](#) — **WXYZ-TV Detroit**

[Pilot program for correctional facilities gives returning citizens a chance](#) — **Michigan Chronicle**

[Prisoners spend emotional day with children as part of event aimed at reconciliation](#) — **MLive**

[Corrections officers honored](#) — **Ionia Sentinel Standard**

[10 police agencies team up to arrest domestic violence suspect](#) — **MLive**

[MDOC, Pinnacle Truck Driving School host hiring event for Offender Success program](#) — **WWUP-TV Traverse City**

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](#)

September New Hires

Chowchuvech, Viripun	Clinical Social Worker, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Chubb, Mitchell	Maintenance Mechanic, Michigan Reformatory
Couling, Michelle	Registered Nurse Manager, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Criglar, Benita	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Dean, Lisa	Clinical Social Worker, Ionia Correctional Facility
Flamont, Jessica	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Forgiel, Jonathan	Psychologist, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hanes, Timothy	Plumber, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Heath, Julia	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hendricks, Sara	Secretary, Parnall Correctional Facility
Hine, Kyle	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Jackson, Curtis	Equipment Technician, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Koffi, Florence	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Lamerand, Earl	Maintenance Mechanic, Ionia Complex
McGarity, Stephanie	Clinical Social Worker, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Meeker, Teanne	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Miller, Cindy	Clinical Social Worker, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Prater, Denise	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Scholl, Jamie	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Seymour, Audrey	Teacher Aide, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Stanley, Lucas	Maintenance Mechanic, Ionia Complex
Sutter, Kimberly	Registered Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility

September Retirements

Abdo, John	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Anderson, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Barker, Christopher	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Belfry, Patricia	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Marquette Branch Prison
Benn, Gary	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Chittum, Pamala	General Office Assistant, Parnall Correctional Facility
Erven, Anne	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Exelby, Michael	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Fockler, Chip	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Freese, Kelly	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Green, Cindy	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Hill, Darwin	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Holbrook, Cecil	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Hook, Nancy	Administrative Assistant, Earnest C. Brooks/West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Ishman, Kenneth	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Jimerson Henry, Deborah	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Johnson, Michael	Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Katzur, Larry	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Kerr, David	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Kilpela, Daniel	Licensed Plumber, Baraga Correctional Facility
Kowalski, Mark	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Lewis, Laurie	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Kinross Correctional Facility
Lindy, Larry	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
McFarland, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Morris, Elwood	Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Orweller, Douglas	Special Alternative Incarceration Officer, Special Alternative Incarceration Facility
Perry, Brady	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Pratt, David	Deputy Warden, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Rose, Paula	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Tomac, Mary	Corrections Program Coordinator, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Torres, Juan	Corrections Officer, Pugsley Correctional Facility
Vansickle, Deborah	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility