



Summer Issue '09

OER Network News

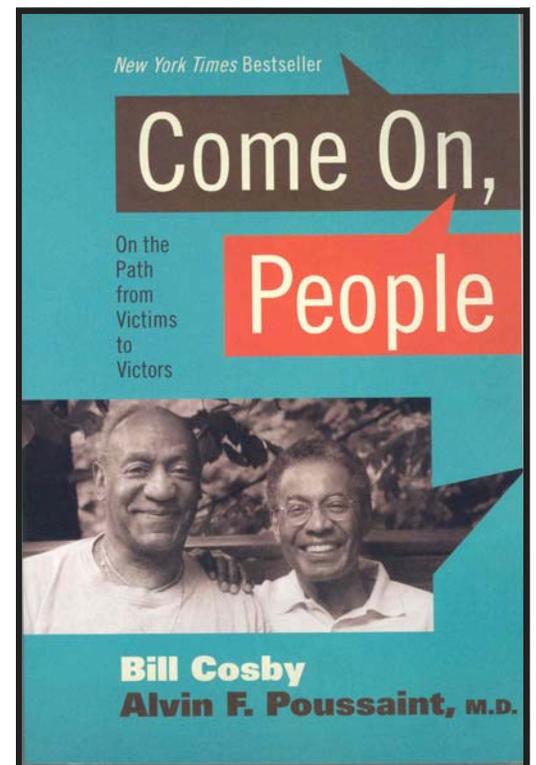
“On the Path from Victims to Victors”

Prisoner Education Awarded Bestseller

The Office of Employment Readiness (OER), Prisoner Education Section was recently awarded 200 copies of New York Times Bestseller **“Come On, People”**, written by Bill Cosby and Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D.

MDOC Education Manager Julie DeRose and staff wrote and submitted a proposal to the Correctional Education Association (CEA). As a result, DeRose was notified they would be receiving the copies made possible by the generosity of Actor, Writer

Bill Cosby and the CEA. The books will be distributed to Title I Aides in prison schools throughout the state. The Aides attended training in July to increase their knowledge of the book’s concepts, and learned how to use the book as a tool to enhance their work with young Title I students. In the book, Cosby and Poussaint tell an inspiring story about human beings fighting hardships and succeeding. Individuals are encouraged to set aside excuses and make a better life today for them-



selves, their children, their community, and their future. The book encourages prisoners to think about human challenges and successes.

Julie DeRose stated “In return for the books, CEA and Mr. Cosby have requested updates on the use of the books and feedback from prisoner students. My office is honored to have received this large donation of materials, and will work diligently to report back to CEA and Mr. Cosby on the creative ways our teacher aides incorporated the material into their work with our young offenders.”

Prison Build Program



The summer build season is in full swing for the Prison Build Program. Correctional facilities throughout the state are engaged in the construction of interior and exterior wall panels, kitchen and bath cabinets, sheds, and providing horticulture products.

Good news!! The Michigan Army National Guard has expressed a desire to reengage with the Prison Build Program and Habitat for Humanity to deliver walls to Habitat build sites. This unique partnership began in 2001. Soldiers of the Transportation battalions completed service hours by delivering all the interior and exterior wall panels. The partnership saved thousands of transportation dollars that went back into housing for low income families and created a unique service bond between the MDOC, Habitat for Humanity and Military Affairs. We are looking to resume delivery operations in late Fall.



In addition to Prison Build's work with Habitat and other housing organizations, staff and prisoners also assist on smaller projects that carry a significant benefit to its recipients. One excellent example has been the building of bunk beds for children in Genesee County. Jack Adam and Prison Build participants at the Saginaw Correctional Facility have been building beds for foster children for a number of years now. Most recently, Eva Pyles, the Genesee County liaison, wrote the Prison Build Program the following note:

"Just thought I'd share a story we received from one of our bed recipients. Her boys came home from school (ages 5 and 6), and their Mom told them she had a surprise for them in the bedroom. They went into their bedroom and once they saw the new bunk beds they could not believe the beds were actually for them. One of the boys exclaimed, "Oh, that is one of the most beautiful beds I've ever seen"!!



Building MSI's Future

Annual Leadership Conference 2009



Merrill Guerra, RealKidz CEO presents company's latest clothing line video.

The Michigan economy and the state government deficit were looming large as MSI held their annual Leadership conference April 21 and 22 in Lansing. The mood was positive however, as this year's conference focused on the hard work and planning that took place in 2008. Entitled "Building MSI's Future", conference attendees included Deputy Director Straub, Area Managers, Plant and Assistant Plant Managers, Engineers, Education, MSI staff and guests. The underlying message confirmed that MSI's success will depend on improvements and changes in the way we do business. Dep. Dir. Straub complimented staff on their work to date, and reminded everyone to improve MSI's sales volume, prisoner training, and set high but realistic goals for the year ahead. The conference opened with Larry Collar, Office of Great Workplace Development, who led the 2008 Strategic Planning process. Larry recapped the six Strategic Planning Objectives and Planning

Committees which focused on training prisoners for employment, creating new products, and quality improvement. An example of the progress made is the Work Keys Assessment Program. The program is a collaboration between Education and MSI Laundries. The results of the rollout were impressive and validated the Work Keys objectives by modifying prisoner behavior through goal setting and building a successful work record during incarceration. Excellent presentations were made by the following: founder and CEO of RealKidz, Merrill Guerra. MSI is now in its second season helping RealKidz become a long term success. The Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative and MDOC Supply Chain Transformation groups gave insight into their very important programs.

Factory Awards Presented

The 2009 Traveling Factory Awards were presented by MSI Operations Manager, Jay Ketcik . The following factories received the award for outstanding accomplishments in their work areas.

Scott Pelham, Plant Manager
MSI Distribution Center

Dan Williams, Plant Manager
MSI Shoe / Sign Factory

Nan Akkanen, Plant Manager
Kinross Garment Factory





Kids Learn License Plate Operation

The Secretary of State, Lansing branch held their annual "Bring Your Child to Work Day" recently. MSI License Plate Factory staff, Jim Brockway and Lester Janish presented a very informative presentation on how license plates are made. The kids sat quietly and listened as they received a virtual tour of the license plate operation. Brockway began with basic facts on the aluminum used to create the plates. Huge coils of aluminum sheeting are shipped to the factory on wooden pallets. Each 5,000-foot long coil

weighs 2,000 pounds and makes about 10,000 license plates. WOW! The aluminum sheet passes through a machine called the "Straightener" that removes any bumps or dents. The kids were amazed after hearing the entire process. On display was a sample of motor vehicle and specialty plates. The factory produces over 8,000 license plates each business day. After the presentation, many questions were answered and excitement filled the room when all the kids were given a specialty plate to take home and put on their bikes!!



Kids bike plate designed by the License Plate Factory



At left, Jim Brockway and Lester Janish present step by step license plate process.



A variety of motor vehicle and specialty plates were on display for the kids to view.



From Left, Tim Johnson; MSI Business Mgr, Hazel Outlaw; Order Entry Secretary, Robin Stinson; Order Entry Supervisor, and William D. Wilson Jr., OER Administrator.



OER Employee Receives 40 Year Pin

Hazel Outlaw has worn many hats in her 40 year career with the state. Her first stop was with MDOT in 1967 in a high school trainee program. She moved on to work in other state departments, and in 2005 was hired as MSI's Purchasing Secretary and currently Order Entry Secretary. OER would like to commend Hazel for being such a dedicated and hard working employee for OER and the State of Michigan.

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