

Corrections Connection



Volume 30, Issue 12

December 2018

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

The image on the cover of the Tahquamenon River was taken by **Yvonne Gorton**, performance audit specialist for the MDOC.

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.



Lakeland Correctional Facility gingerbread house is an annual holiday tradition

For the last year, Cesar Valladolid has been dreaming of the villa he'd build from the ground up.

But this dream home would be made with sugar and flour, rather than bricks and mortar.

"We tried to up the ante this year," said Valladolid, a prisoner in Lakeland Correctional Facility's food technology program who designed this year's gingerbread house, which has become a holiday tradition at the facility.

For more than 20 years, Lakeland's food tech

program has been constructing grandiose gingerbread houses for visiting children and families to enjoy each holiday season.

The tradition started when a pastry chef and tutor in the program suggested assembling a traditional gingerbread house for the holidays, said program head chef and instructor Jimmy Hill.

The project was a hit and each year the gingerbread house became larger and more impressive as Hill and students worked to expand and improve upon the previous year.

This year's gingerbread house, which is estimated to be approximately 3-feet tall and 3-feet wide, took between 150 and 200 hours to construct, Hill said.

Its bricks are bite-size candy bars that will be plucked off the house by visiting children the day after Christmas. Its shingles are rows of frosted cereal and the windows and doors are thin sheets of nearly-transparent rock candy. Underneath all



Pictured: Head Chef Jimmy Hill talks to Cesar Valladolid and Devonte Goens, prisoners in the food technology program, about construction on the gingerbread house.

of it are sturdy blocks of fragrant gingerbread.

It also included a sleigh and five rice crispy treat reindeer dipped in chocolate.

"Every year it gets bigger and bigger," said Hill, who was named the career and technical instructor of the year for 2018 by the department's Offender Success Administration. "The kids love it."

Once complete, the massive, sugar-laden treat is moved to the facility's visiting room where prisoners and their visiting families can take photos with it. It takes about four people to move the structure that is estimated to weigh more than 100 pounds, Hill said.

To remove the temptation to sneak candy from the house before Christmas, Hill and prisoners in the program assembled small treat bags for visiting children to enjoy.

"I want everyone to enjoy the house, especially the kids," Valladolid said. "When we take it up to the visiting room, everyone stands still. It really brings everyone together."

Lakeland Correctional Facility Warden Noah Nagy said giving prisoners in the program an opportunity to construct and decorate the gingerbread house allows them to build on their culinary skills.

"It allows them to push their limits in regards to what they can accomplish," Nagy said.

"It increases their skill set to allow offenders participating in the food tech program the opportunity to compete for a job in the community."

The gingerbread house is also a

facility tradition, Nagy said. "It demonstrates a selfless act of giving back and providing joy to those fortunate enough to enjoy it," he said.

Christopher Dorch, a prisoner in the program, said he was excited for the opportunity to use his creativity and work alongside others passionate about creating something others can enjoy.

"It brings out the best in you," Dorch said as he shaped and decorated chocolate reindeer to adorn the house.

"This program gives you an opportunity to show what your skills are and you get the opportunity to expand your abilities."

This is the second year Devonte Goens, a prisoner in the program, has worked on the gingerbread house and he considers it a rewarding project. "It's great knowing someone is going to enjoy it," he said.

Valladolid said he enjoys seeing his vision come to life in the form of an immense gingerbread house for visiting families.

"I had some good guys around me to help make that vision a reality," Valladolid said.



Pictured: The completed gingerbread house before being moved to Lakeland Correctional Facility's visiting room.

Michigan Department of Corrections leaders receive Professional Excellence Award for assistance with cold case

Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington and Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn and Assistant Deputy Warden Todd Massick were recognized for the MDOC's work to help Michigan State Police investigators bring a close to a cold case. Michigan State Police Lt. Colonel W. Thomas Sands presented each with a Professional Excellence Award

for their involvement in assisting MSP as they worked to locate the remains of Venus Stewart, who disappeared eight years ago.

Stewart's former husband, Doug Stewart, was sentenced to life in prison in 2011 for her disappearance and death and is currently incarcerated at Saginaw Correctional Facility.

Investigators had not been able to locate Venus Stewart's body and had been meeting with Doug Stewart over the last six years in hopes he would provide information on the location of her remains.

Stewart made requests in exchange for sharing information with investigators. Some of those requests included items the department was already planning to provide to prisoners in Saginaw Correctional Facility's veterans unit, where Stewart is housed.

In October, Stewart identified the location where he buried Venus Stewart. Investigators were then able to bring the case to a close and provide closure to Venus Stewart's family.



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out the latest episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [Listen as Parole Board student assistant Zoe Glass details her dreams of competing in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Glass is competing for a spot on the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team.](#)
- [Tune in to hear Corrections Officer Sarah Morgan talk about what it is like to be a young, new officer. She graduated in May from the Paul Klee Academy class and now works at Central Michigan Correctional Facility.](#)
- [Hear more about the MDOC's hospice program for terminally-ill prisoners and why it is important to change perspectives on those moving to the transition phase of life.](#)



FIELDDAYS
PODCAST

Listen to us on



Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

A look back at 2018

Director Heidi Washington was selected by Gov.-elect Gretchen Whitmer to continue leading the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Under her leadership, the department has reached many outstanding achievements and has experienced a significant decline in the prisoner population. During her tenure the department has also invested in staff, launched innovative programs like the Vocational Village, improved public safety and focused on Offender Success.



In early 2018, the MDOC announced the recidivism rate had dropped to 28.1 percent — a historic low for the state and one of the lowest recidivism rates in the nation.

Recidivism in Michigan had hovered around 30 percent in recent years, and it reflects a sharp drop from 1998 when the rate was 45.7 percent. In 2017, the recidivism rate was 29.8 percent. The declining recidivism rate shows the MDOC's efforts to boost education and training for prisoners is working.

The MDOC entered into an innovative partnership with Wayne State University for the oversight of prisoner health care. The agreement gives the department access to the university's network of medical experts and cutting-edge technology backed by health care leaders.

Through the partnership, the university is also providing the department with a chief medical officer, chief psychiatrist and an assistant chief medical officer.



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY



The department continued to recognize and support its veterans and was a finalist for the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is presented annually by the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program. The department also has attained Silver-level status as a veteran-friendly employer.

The MDOC broke ground on its third Vocational Village site, and first for women, in November at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. The site will have the capacity to train up to 180 prisoners in fields that will include computer coding, carpentry, cosmetology, 3D printing and graphic design. Construction is expected to be completed in 2019.



Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Partnership with Consumers Energy helps MDOC save nearly \$900,000 through energy efficiency improvements

The Michigan Department of Corrections, in partnership with Consumers Energy, has saved \$862,055 by completing energy efficiency upgrades, part of the energy provider's commitment to helping all customers across Michigan lower their energy costs.



"We all have a role to play when it comes to energy conservation and I am pleased we have taken another step forward in our prison facilities to help curb future costs," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "This is yet another example of the power of partnership and working together. The benefits of this partnership between the state and Consumers Energy will bring cost savings for taxpayers and help ensure the state continues to do our part when it comes to energy conservation."

Correctional facilities and work sites that participated in the energy efficiency campaign included Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, Michigan Reformatory, the Correctional Facilities Administration Southern Regional Complex, and Bellamy Creek, Cooper Street, G. Robert Cotton, Gus Harrison, Ionia, Muskegon, Parnall, Richard A. Handlon and Oaks correctional facilities.

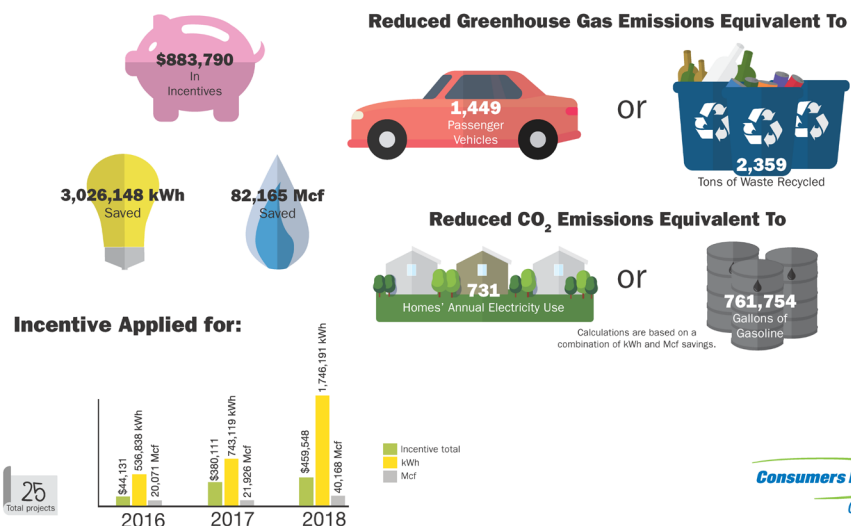
"Consumers Energy works every day to help families, businesses and our state government eliminate energy waste because it's good for

people, the planet and Michigan's prosperity," said Patti Poppe, president and CEO of Consumers Energy. "We are proud to stand with the Department of Corrections to fulfill their mission of affordably serving the state and its residents."

The rebate incentive is the result of energy efficiency improvements to various prison facilities around Michigan including Jackson, Ionia, Muskegon and Adrian. The Department of Corrections completed 23 projects to their facilities, estimated to reduce enough electricity to power 244 houses and heat 496 homes. The 23 projects are expected to save the State nearly \$900,000 each year.

"Our mission at the Department of Corrections is public safety and to help create a better and safer Michigan. And we have been pleased to partner with Consumers Energy which helps us to not only protect the public, but protect the environment and provide real savings to taxpayers," said Heidi Washington, Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections. "These substantial energy saving projects are just some of the ways we have been working to green our prisons and our state and we look forward to going even farther in the future." Consumers Energy has helped Michigan customers save over \$1.5 billion through energy efficiency programs since 2009. Earlier this year, the company announced its Clean Energy Plan. In the plan, Consumers Energy announced the company will reduce carbon emissions by over 90 percent and no longer use coal to generate electricity by 2040.

Since 2016, State of Michigan Department of Corrections and Consumers Energy Have...



Merry and Bright

Lakeland Correctional Facility employee delights in serving as Santa

The first time Don Winsley took on the persona of Santa, he was in the U.S. Army stationed in Germany. He was approached by his



Pictured: Don Winsley as Santa at this year's Shop with a Cop event.

Lieutenant to play the role at a Christmas Party and agreed. It was at that time he discovered the joy of bringing smiles to the young and the young-at-heart. As time passed, his beard grew whiter. He looked more and more like jolly old St. Nick, so he decided to purchase a Santa suit. Winsley, a corrections program coordinator at Lakeland Correctional Facility, then began making Santa appearances to his friends' families. His appearances were popular and a few years ago, staff at Lakeland asked him to serve as

Santa at the facility's Christmas party.

His Santa career only snowballed from there. Winsley, who started his career with the Arizona Department of Corrections and has worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections for 20 years, is now asked to appear at wedding receptions, community centers and residential Christmas gatherings for entire housing complexes.

Winsley said standing-in as Santa is a rewarding role to play.

"I get to see that look of excitement on a child's face at seeing Santa and the smiles that go with that," Winsley said. "Those feelings are hard to put into words. It makes my heart smile and at times has brought a tear or two because it touched my emotions so deeply.

Winsley has also played Santa during the annual Shop with a Cop event.

He admits that being a part of the Shop-with-a-Cop program this year has been a highlight in his Santa career. Seeing the smiles on those faces would make the Grinch smile.

Submitted by Clarissa Nowak, warden's secretary at Lakeland Correctional Facility.

MDOC Honor Guard announces new members, award winners

The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard announced new members, new leaders and award winners.

Kevin Smith, an internal affairs



Kevin Smith

investigator for the MDOC, was named the Honor Guard's new assistant commander. He has served with the Honor Guard for 17 years and takes over for John

Fleenor, who retired from the post.

The Honor Guard also presented Charles Traylor, assistant deputy warden of Ionia Correctional Facility, with the Todd James Memorial Service Excellence Award. Thomas Arand, a field agent with the Lapeer County Parole and Probation Office, received the Herman Eleby Commitment Award.

The awards are presented to individuals who take an active leadership role in the honor guard and demonstrate their dedication to the unit.

The Honor Guard also recognized Thomas Arand, John Fleenor, Mackie Fleenor, Rick O'Connell and Sherlyn Wilson on their retirement from the unit.

It welcomed new members Angela Chomicz, Bryan Enrici, Joseph Knickerbocker, Tina Moore, Tyler Nevins, Jeremy Parker, Heather Selling and Lindsay Simmon.

A Passion for Service

Employment Counselor of the Year focuses on helping others

Lisa Reed has a passion for helping others. Her drive to make a difference is what led her to a job as an employment



counselor at Saginaw Correctional Facility. “If I can make a difference in at least one person’s life, I feel I’ve done my job,” Reed said. “Prisoners are just like me and you. They are somebody’s mother, brother, father or sister and I want to make sure they are treated with respect.

When you give respect, you get respect.”

In October, Reed was named Employment Counselor of the Year by the Offender Success Administration.

Reed joined the MDOC three years ago after spending the earlier part of her career working at schools and later helping returning citizens find jobs through a role at Michigan Works!

Reed said she is focused on helping prisoners achieve success once they reenter the community.

Before they leave prison, she helps them obtain vital documents like their birth certificate and social security card. She also holds workshops for prisoners on interviewing skills and resume writing, and helps coordinate job fairs at correctional facilities across the state.

“My biggest thing is encouraging them and giving them the resources they need, so they can be a productive person...when they get out,” Reed said. She works to connect prisoners with employers in the community, and talks to different employers about their workforce needs. She said she also attends job fairs and business events in the community to connect with more employers who might be interested in hiring returning citizens.

Reed is also on the Workforce Development Committee and helps train other new employment counselors.

She said she often tells new employment counselors to take the job one day at a time.

“I let them know their role is to help prisoners get better... so they can be successful in society,” she said.

Parole Board member Barbara Sampson, Warden Duncan MacLaren announce retirements

Two Michigan Department of Corrections leaders announced their retirements as 2018 approached its end.

Parole Board member Barbara Sampson will retire in January following 15 years of service on the Parole Board.



Barbara Sampson

Sampson started her 45-year criminal justice career with the MDOC before moving on to a role with Project Transition, an agency of the League of Catholic Women, dedicated to helping female offenders achieve success in the community. She also

worked for the Wayne County Department of Community Justice before joining the Parole Board in 2003. She served as Parole Board chairperson from 2007-2011.



Duncan MacLaren

Kinross Correctional Facility Warden Duncan MacLaren also announced his retirement effective at the end of the year. MacLaren began his nearly 30-year-long career with the department as a corrections officer at Chippewa Correctional Facility.

His hard work and dedication allowed him to rise through the ranks to a promotion as warden. MacLaren also served on the Michigan Correctional Officers’ Training Council, and on the EPIC Recruitment and Wellness teams.

Effective Jan. 1, 2019, Newberry Correctional Facility Warden Jack Kowalski will become warden of Kinross Correctional Facility. Alger correctional Facility Warden Cathy Bauman will be temporarily be assigned warden of Newberry Correctional Facility and Alger Deputy Warden Scott Sprader will become acting warden of Alger Correctional Facility.



Michigan Department of Corrections welcomes more than 130 new officers

The Michigan Department of Corrections welcomed more than 130 new recruits following their graduation from the Lori Gidley Academy Class. Ceremonies were held in Lansing and at Lake Superior State University. Officers completed eight weeks of classroom instruction and will now start work at their assigned facilities for eight weeks of on-the-job training. The graduation ceremonies included remarks from

MDOC Director Heidi Washington and class namesake Lori Gidley. Graduates also received awards for academic achievement and personal conduct. New recruits who were veterans of the Armed Forces, were also recognized for their service.

Award winners included:

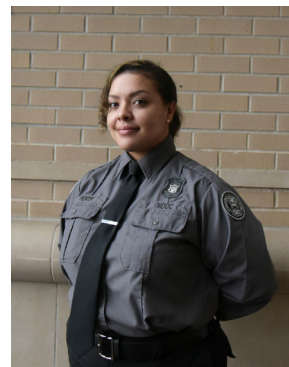
- Aman Thaper — Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- Corrina Davis — Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
- Travis Ward — Michigan Reformatory
- Casey Smith — Ionia Correctional Facility
- Paul Brown — Chippewa Correctional Facility
- Heather Lipponen — Chippewa Correctional Facility
- Karl Perron — Chippewa Correctional Facility



New officer explains important role of correctional staff

Gizelle Porter didn't always know the direction she wanted to take her career in.

After completing the Lori Gidley Academy Class, she takes pride in her new role as a corrections officer.



Corrections Officer Gizelle Porter

"I knew from experience that it was a great career choice," said Porter, whose mother and grandfather were both corrections officers. "I know that working for the department of corrections is

a life-long career. It's something to be proud of. You get to put on a uniform and you're an officer of the law."

Porter, who will be working at Michigan Reformatory, said her time in the academy taught her that prison isn't about punishment, it's about rehabilitation.

"It's about making sure they come back out to our communities as productive citizens," Porter said. "They're going to be living in our neighborhoods and we want them to come out with a better mindset. 'I'm excited to get in there and make a difference.'"

She said she would tell new recruits who come after her to work hard, take the academy seriously and be proud to put on the uniform each day.

"We're not prison guards, we're corrections officers and we set an example, not just for inmates, but for society," Porter said. "We have to have pride in ourselves and honor our organization because we can change the way people look at us. We're officers that play an equally important role as officers on the street."

Honor Guard offering limited-edition memorial coins to recognize fallen officers

The MDOC Honor Guard is selling limited-edition memorial coins to recognize fallen officers. There are 500 coins available and coins are \$15 each. Coins are \$18 each, if they are to be shipped. All proceeds from coin sales support the MDOC Honor Guard, and it is a joint effort between the Honor Guard and Michigan Corrections Organization. To purchase a coin, or for more information contact John Cordell (CordellJ@michigan.gov) or Kevin Smith (SmithK53@michigan.gov).



MDOC Black Knights face off against MCO enforcers in charity hockey game

The Michigan Department of Corrections Black Knights hockey team took to the ice against the Michigan Corrections Organization Enforcers in a game that benefitted military veterans. The Black Knights claimed victory in the 5-1 match against the Enforcers on Dec. 14 at the Summit Sports and Ice Complex in Dimondale. The MCO Military Members Committee hosted the event, which raised more than \$800 for an Honor Flight for a Vietnam War veteran, and the Sweets for Soldiers program.

"I was happy to see dozens of MDOC staff come out to support these teams and our veterans," said Ray Sholtz, a corrections officer at St. Louis Correctional Facility and Vice President of MCO, who also serves as chair of the Military Members Committee.



Warden Sherman Campbell named to Correctional Officers' Training Council

Gus Harrison Correctional Facility Warden Sherman Campbell was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to serve on the Correctional Officers' Training Council.

He will represent the Michigan Department of Corrections on the council. Campbell will take over for Kinross Correctional Facility Warden Duncan MacLaren, who retired. He will serve

the remainder of a three-year term expiring on March 29, 2020.



Sherman Campbell

Best wishes to Camara Lewis!

We are wishing Camara Lewis all the best as she moves on to a new role with the Department of Talent and Economic Development.

Lewis has served as the department's social media coordinator and managed its public-facing website since 2015. Lewis was honored by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce as



Camara Lewis

one of the area's top young professionals in 2018. She also was recognized with the Good Government Symbol of Customer Service and Teamwork Coins for her efforts with the MDOC.

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Serving the community as a volunteer firefighter is something Timothy Ball and his family are passionate about. Ball, a contract monitor for the MDOC, is a second-generation volunteer firefighter, who gives back through his work with the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority, along with his father and brother. He was named the 2017 Firefighter of the Year by the authority for his dedication, efforts to mentor new firefighters, and work as treasurer for the Firefighter Association and co-chair of the annual firefighter's breakfast.

His service to his community and bravery in risking his own safety to help others as a firefighter earned him the department's Citizenship Award.

Gabriel Forkel was driving to work at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in October when he noticed a light along the opposite side of the road.

As he got closer, he realized it was a person lying on the side of the road and waving their cell phone, so they could be seen. Forkel, a welding instructor at the facility's Vocational Village, stopped his car to assist the individual, who said he had been struck by a car and the driver left the scene.

Forkel called 911 and rendered emergency aid, including checking the man's vitals while speaking to emergency responders on the phone. He continued to provide medical assistance until emergency medical services arrived.

His attentiveness and willingness to render emergency aid earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



Acting Health Unit Manager Dennis Smith was working at Alger Correctional Facility in January 2017 when he received a call for assistance with a prisoner who was found unresponsive in his cell.

Smith and other staff arrived on scene to help and Smith found the prisoner had a strong heart rate, but shallow breathing. Air was provided to the prisoner through an Ambu-Bag, an I.V. was started and Narcan was administered. The prisoner then regained consciousness and Smith and other staff continued to render aid and monitor the prisoner until emergency medical services personnel arrived.

Smith's efforts to help the prisoner earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

Corrections Officer Jeffrey Patrick and Registered Nurse Paul Zelenak were at work at Alger Correctional Facility in May when they received a call for assistance with a prisoner who was found unresponsive on his bunk.

When Zelenak and Officer Patrick arrived at the scene, Zelenak found the prisoner did not have a pulse. The pair worked together to place an airway and initiated CPR on the prisoner.

Zelenak provided breathing with an Ambu-Bag, while Officer Patrick performed chest compressions.

Both provided an excellent example of teamwork to ensure the prisoner was provided with care and kept alive until he could be transferred to a hospital for further treatment.

Their efforts and commitment to helping those in need in a time of distress earned Officer Patrick and Zelenak the department's Lifesaving Award.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn received the Director's Coin for Exemplary Service from Robert Price, Director of veterans outreach for the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency.

Winn worked to establish a specialized housing unit at Saginaw Correctional Facility that serves the needs of incarcerated veterans.



Tracey Raquepaw, Reentry Facility Coordinator at Saginaw Correctional Facility, received the Good Government Symbol of Teamwork Coin and facility Health Unit Manager Susan McCauley received the Good Government Symbol of Customer Service Coin from Robert Price, Director of veterans outreach for the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency. They received the coins for their work with the facility's veterans.

Corrections Quiz

November Quiz Recap

The Michigan Department of Corrections CDL training program for returning citizens began in which region of Michigan in 2016?

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

What annual charitable event pairs children in need with corrections and law enforcement officers to help with holiday gifts?

Answer: Shop with a Cop

Congratulations to **Randy Coyne**, records supervisor at Alger Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the November Corrections Quiz. Great job!

MDOC staff help children in need through annual Shop with a Cop program

For many Michigan Department of Corrections employees, participating in the annual Shop with a Cop event is a holiday tradition that can't be missed. Shop with a Cop pairs a child in need with a member of the law enforcement community for a day of fun and shopping for gifts for themselves and their family members.

The event is supported through donations from correctional facility and other law enforcement staff, and from the community. Each child typically receives about \$100 to spend on gifts and they also are provided with other items to meet their needs.

Saginaw Correctional Facility staff raised more than \$2,000 for Shop with a Cop and participated in the event.

Staff at correctional facilities around the state also participated in similar Shop with a Hero events.

Employees at Ionia Correctional Facility have taken part in Shop with a Hero for the last three years, said Lt. Kevin Zwiker.

"I have found this to be a great way to project a positive image of the department, give back to the community and bring the ICF supervisors together as a team," Zwiker said.



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SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



St. Louis Correctional Facility held an exhibition of prisoner art where numerous works were displayed.



Muskegon Correctional Facility staff raised \$1,684 for holiday gifts for Muskegon's Mission for Area People. The gifts were to be provided to local teens in need.



Carson City Correctional Facility staff adopted five local families through this year's Adopt-A Family Project and raised nearly \$3,000 for gifts for area children, along with household items and gift cards for each family.



Newberry Correctional Facility sponsored 33 children and 12 families for the Luce County Holiday Spirit Project. Facility staff purchased numerous gifts that were delivered to children and families in mid-December.

Corrections in the News

[Michigan Governor-elect Whitmer announces key cabinet, leadership hires](#) — WDIV Detroit

[As FIRST STEP Act raises bar on reform, ending ban on prison Pell Grant becomes imperative](#) — USA Today

[Department of Corrections plans increased focus on mental health of staff and inmates](#) — Michigan Radio

[Consumers Energy and MDOC partnership reducing energy costs](#) — FOX 17

[Computer tablets boost inmate education and behavior](#) — Spartan Newsroom

[Kids, first responders go Christmas shopping](#) — Ionia Sentinel-Standard

[A brighter Christmas with Shop with a Cop](#) — WNWN-FM

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

Seen on Facebook...



Michigan Department of Corrections

Published by Michigan Department of Corrections [?] · December 13 at 7:14 PM

A rusty find becomes an Ionia treasure!

During the building phase of the Vocational Village at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility staff found the engine of a 1967 Shelby Cobra prototype that was originally donated to the facility in 1968. Later, the students in the program rebuilt the engine, and is now a main attraction during tours.

George Granger, former auto mechanics instructor, and Lowell Otter, owner of the 1967 Shelby Cobra, along with members of the Ionia Cou... [See More](#)



To see more, like the MDOC on [Facebook](#)

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October New Hires

Abuls, Kristine	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Addison, Joshua	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Anderson, Jeremiah	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Babcock, William	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Backlas, Michael	Maintenance Mechanic, Macomb Correctional Facility
Balk, Phillip	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Bass-Kitchen, James	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Bednarski, Allen J.	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Bellinger, Nicholas	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Berkeypile, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Bilesanmi, Adesola	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bilesanmi, Florian	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Billingslea, Jordan	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bond, Andrew	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Bougie, Kenneth	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Brent-McCollum, Justin	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Brey, Tina	Pharmacy Assistant, Alger Correctional Facility
Brown, Marcus	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Brown, Paul	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Bucholtz, Carrie	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Ionia Correctional Facility
Carr, Dillon	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Collins, Victor	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Cook, Robin	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Coutts, Shawn	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Crawford, Cody	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Crawford, Monae	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Crook, Jordan	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Cutcher, Antonia	Registered Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Davis, Corrina	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Debardeleben, Veronica	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Dempsey, Benjamin	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Denman, Josi	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Deroche, Matthew	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Downey, Danielle	Field Agent, Berrien County Parole Office
Dukes, Angelia	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Elarton, Joshua	Employment Counselor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Eller, Sarah	Accounting Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Ferraro, Carmine	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Field, Kathy	Licensed Practical Nurse, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Fittonneville, Kellie	Field Agent, Oakland County Probation Office
Fleming, Leronda	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Fon, Frankline	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Foote, Joshua	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Fowler, Andre	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Frost, Ryan	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Fugitt, Sean	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Geirland, Glenn	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Gillespie, Courtney	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Gilleylen, Brice	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Glenn, Davinia	Word Processing Assistant, Eastern District Probation Office

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

October New Hires

Green, Tamara	Word Processing Assistant, Court Services Unit
Gregg, Jason	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Haarsma, Arlo	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Harris, Tracey	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hayball, Austin	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Heard, Stephanie	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Henrie, Jared	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Henry, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Herrod, Jamie	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hill, Jared	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hilyard, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hirth, Brandon	Cook, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hogard, Kerry	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hrymecki, Laurie	Licensed Practical Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Hubbard, Alexandra	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hudak, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hugle, Jonathon	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hulle, Brad	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Ivey, Cora	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Johnson, Dylan	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Johnson, George	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Jones, Deborah	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Jones, Devonta	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Karnib, Ahmed	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Kennedy, Tanisha	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Klenke, Kristy	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Kline, Vincent	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Knight, Loretta	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Kozik-Ayers, Nicole	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Krull, Kristin	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Kruttschnitt, Jesse	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Kryla, Dominic	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Kuiper, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Lambert, Jalil	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Leslie, Rianne	Field Agent, Troy Probation Office
Lester, Danny	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Lipponen, Heather	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Little, Miranda	Cook, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Luna, Jonathan	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Lunn, Michael	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Maduka, Alexander	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Malitz, Aaron	General Office Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Mallon, Daniel	Plumber, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Malone, Annalise	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Marshall, Lamaar	Field Agent, Washtenaw County Probation Office
Martell, Brent	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Mathaws, Nadine	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Mayfield, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
McAllister, Darrin	Field Agent, Greenfield District Probation Office
McCoy, Renee	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility

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October New Hires

McGowan, Keyaira
McKelvie, Chastin
Meggison, Krista
Miller, Daniel
Mobarak, Michael
Mohead, Jaquita
Montero, Jamie
Morse, Rodney
Mure, Suzanne
Murrell, Willard
Nelson, Sara
Neumann, Taylor
Otten, Isiah
Paquin, Jonathan
Paquin, Steven
Patillo, Kellie
Patterson, Tiajanna
Payne, Katryc
Peete, Laraca
Perron, Karl
Person, Jessica
Person, Katrina
Pipkins, Alfonzie
Porter, Gizelle
Prohaska, Tiffani
Queen, Stephanie
Quigley, Cody
Randall, Carlos
Reed, Antonio
Reeves, Matthew
Richardson, Hilary
Robinson, Arlissa
Rood, Jeffrey
Rosek, Benjamin
Ruthruff, Jonathan
Schmidt, Joseph
Schwartz, Alissa
Scott, Perry
Scroggins, Aliah
Shanabrook, Patrick
Shank, Austin
Sharp, Heather
Sloan, Ebonie
Smith, Ashley
Smith, Casey
Smith, Jay
Smith, Owen
Smith, William
Speigner, Cleavon
Starkey, D'Lana

Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Cook, Ionia Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Departmental Technician, Corrections Central Office
Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Registered Nurse, Carson City Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Library Technician, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Licensed Practical Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Licensed Practical Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Word Processing Assistant, Eastern District Probation Office
Maintenance Mechanic, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Field Agent, Ingham County Parole Office
Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility

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October New Hires

Stevens, Cody	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Swartz, Kylee	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Sweet, Kyle	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Taraskavage, Kelsey	Field Agent, Oakland County Probation Office
Teske, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Thaper, Aman	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Tompkins, Jennifer	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Tyson, William-Jareth	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Ward, Travis	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Washington, Ladasha	Phlebotomist, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Watza, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Weber, Tristan	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Webster, Rex	Maintenance Mechanic, Carson City Correctional Facility
Welch, Alex	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Whitten, Dylan	Corrections Program Coordinator, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Willard, Charlena	Licensed Practical Nurse, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Williams, Deon	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Wilson, Dionne	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wisner, Eric	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Wittenmyer, Amos	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Wolosion, Aurelia	X-Ray Technician, Macomb Correctional Facility
Wright, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Wright, Michael	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Zeidman, Jennifer	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Zyczynski, David	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility

October Retirements

Ackley, Virgil	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Allen, Paul	Corrections Security Inspector, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Allsberry, Denise	Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Parole and Probation Services
Barsch, Timothy	School Principal, Corrections Central Office
Borton, Judy	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Bryan, Larry	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Castellon, Ruben	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Colvin, Steven	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Geans, Kevin	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Gibson, Ross	Psychologist, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ginderske, Lynne	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Harrington, Patrick	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Kinross Correctional Facility
Hosie, Clark	Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Isaacson, Wayne	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Johnson, David	Deputy Warden, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Juco, Romeo	Maintenance Mechanic, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Kora, Steven	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Lantis, Josette	Departmental Analyst, Corrections Central Office
Leach, David	Departmental Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Martin, Donald	Region Manager, Field Operations Administration
McGarrity, Lori	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
McNulty, Michael	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Merling, Teresa	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Morrison, Robert	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Mose, Gerald	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Mulnix, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Nizio, Michael	Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Odum, Pamela	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Paulic, Matt	Corrections Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Pifer, Marvin	Licensed Plumber, Correctional Facilities Administration Jackson Region
Rasmussen, William	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Reynolds, Jeffrey	School Principal, Corrections Central Office
Rouleau, Ruth	Registered Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center
Royalty, James	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Runyan, Timothy	Prison Counselor, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Schaefer, Mark	Maintenance Mechanic, Michigan Reformatory
Seruga, Caroline	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Slomkowski, Laurie	Secretary, Saginaw County Probation Office
Smith, Diane	Corrections Program Manager, Carson City Correctional Facility
Smith, Rosie	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Vittitow, Russell	Corrections Resident Representative, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Wood, Michelle	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Yell, Francis	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Zolnier, Sally	Secretary, Saginaw Correctional Facility