



Corrections Connection

Volume 31, Issue 2

February 2019

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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 MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov.

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The image on the cover of Tahquamenon Falls 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 MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov.



Michigan Department of Corrections employees are top supporters of Special Olympics athletes

You forget about the cold. Those are words of advice from Macomb Correctional Facility Psychologist Karen Solgot for anyone considering a dip into freezing waters by participating in one of the many Polar Plunge events held around the state to support Special Olympics. Solgot was on a committee that organized Macomb County's first Polar Plunge event this year to fundraise for the more than 1,000 Special Olympics athletes in the area. The inaugural event more than doubled its \$15,000

fundraising goal, bringing in \$31,000 total and it drew 111 participants.

"You get more out of it than you give," said Solgot, who has been involved in fundraising or volunteering with Special Olympics since 2013. "It's been a big part of my life for the last six years. Not a week goes by that I'm not doing something for Special Olympics or the Law Enforcement Torch Run."

She is one of many employees across the Michigan Department of Corrections who are passionate about supporting Special Olympics athletes through events like the Polar Plunge, torch run week and the organization's summer, fall and winter games. That support stands out to Special Olympics Michigan. The MDOC is the second highest fundraising agency for Special Olympics and received the Diamond Award as a top fundraiser.

In 2018 alone, department employees raised more than \$108,000 for Special Olympics Michigan through Law Enforcement Torch Run events.

"The support that we get from the MDOC is greatly appreciated not only by the athletes, but by the staff

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success



Pictured: Carla White gives an athlete a high five after presenting her with a medal during the Special Olympics Michigan Summer Games in Mount Pleasant.

and other local volunteers of Special Olympics Michigan,” said Andrea Rachko, Law Enforcement Torch Run and Senior Development Director for Special Olympics Michigan. “This type of funding helps to keep the program going strong.”

Rachko said the money raised by department employees helps reduce costs for local programs and for athletes who attend local, regional and statewide tournaments.

There is no cost to the family or athlete to participate in Special Olympics, she said.

In addition to Solgot, other MDOC employees experienced great fundraising success during this year’s polar plunge.

Teams of employees from Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, Detroit Reentry Center, and Metro Detroit field offices raised more than \$15,000 for Special Olympics Michigan through the Wayne County Polar Plunge in Belleville. The Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility and Detroit Reentry Center teams raised about \$6,000 each, making them fundraising leaders.

It was the second year a team from Women’s Huron Valley participated in the plunge and Deputy Warden

Karri Osterhout said strong teamwork by facility employees made fundraising so successful. “Special Olympics is an organization that promotes inclusion, teamwork, and community,” Osterhout said. “The athletes are so talented and are an inspiration to all. I am so proud that so many staff recognize this and are willing to plunge, fundraise, donate, and support this organization via the Polar Plunge event.”

It is part of the department’s mission to positively impact the lives of others, and that has extended to work in the community, particularly with Special Olympics. “We strive daily to make a positive difference, to

help people overcome obstacles and be successful ... and we focus on doing the exact same thing, having the exact same impact through our volunteer work and partnership

with the Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics,” Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan told those gathered for a ceremony on the state Capitol steps to kick off the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Volunteering with Special Olympics has an impact, not only on the lives of athletes involved, but also on the lives of those who choose to give back, he said. “There is no doubt that all the volunteer’s efforts make a huge difference in the lives of the athletes and their families,” Marlan said. “But the really cool thing is, it makes just as big of a difference in the volunteers’ lives.

It makes us better civil servants, it makes us better members of the law enforcement community, better husbands, wives and parents. It makes us better people.”

Wayne County Agent Heather Dann participated in her first Polar Plunge in 2016 and was the top fundraiser on her team this year, bringing in \$1,000.

“Special Olympics is such an awesome cause and does so many wonderful things,” Dann said. “I’ve always known about Special Olympics because friends of the family and church friends have children that have participated in the programs, but being at the events like Polar Plunge really help



Pictured: Chippewa Correctional Facility Inspector Terry Wilkins volunteered for the Special Olympics Winter Games, along with his daughter, and was selected to light the torch to kick off the event.



Pictured: Macomb Correctional Facility Acting Prison Counselor Julie Tolley gives Psychologist Karen Solgot some encouragement to jump in during Macomb County's first Polar Plunge.

me see what an awesome organization it is and make me want to continue my involvement through the Polar Plunge and other events."

Carla White, a corrections program coordinator at Alger Correctional Facility, said being involved as a fundraiser and volunteer for Special Olympics is the most rewarding thing she has ever done.

"Whether its the summer games or the winter games, you just need to come out and see it and you'll be hooked," she said.

Chippewa Correctional Facility Inspector Terry Wilkins has been involved in the Special Olympics' Law

Enforcement Torch Run for about 10 years, but never thought he'd be the one chosen to light the torch to kick off the winter games in Marquette.

While being tapped for the task was an honor, he said the highlight of the day was being able to award medals to the many outstanding athletes and volunteer alongside his daughter.

"Words can't describe how proud you feel to be able to watch the athletes work hard, be excited, and keep a smile on their faces as they interact with all the other athletes," Wilkins said.

Volunteering in Special Olympics events is a moving experience for many, and Rachko encouraged others to consider serving as volunteers.

"Interacting with other LETR members and our athletes is life changing," Rachko said. "I challenge more people to get involved with the program."

For more information on Special Olympics Michigan and upcoming events, visit www.somi.org.

To see more photos of MDOC employees participating in Special Olympics events around the state in the last year, go to <http://bit.ly/MDOCFlickr>

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out the latest episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [In this episode, hear from 2019 Employee Appreciation Awards Banquet MC and Macomb County Probation Supervisor Deena Grammatico about the upcoming event.](#)
- [Listen in as Macomb County Probation Agent Deb Young describes how she has paired her passion for cycling with her mission to end Multiple Sclerosis.](#)
- [Check out this episode to learn more about Michigan State Industries, its products and operations and how it has helped put prisoners on a path to success.](#)
- [Hear from Carson City Correctional Facility staff who are stepping up to help recruit new corrections officers.](#)



FIELD DAYS
PODCAST

Listen to us on



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Riding for a Cure

Macomb County agent participates in cycling group to raise money for MS research

When Macomb County Probation Agent Deb Young was 10 years old, her mother was diagnosed with an illness she would battle for the rest of her life.



Young saw firsthand the toll multiple sclerosis can take, and she vowed to help fight for a cure. Today, she pairs a passion for cycling with her mission to improve the lives of others living with the disease.

"That is the main reason I ride," Young said. "To find a cure

for this awful disease. I wish no one else would have to go through it."

In 2008, Young participated in her first Bike MS ride, hosted by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She said she was "an army of one" for that first ride, but ended up connecting with a cycling group called Circle of Friends. The group was founded by Tanya Nordhaus, who was diagnosed with MS herself, and Scott Anderson, and it includes other passionate cyclists dedicated to finding a cure for MS.

She now participates in 75 to 100-mile rides with the team during the Mid-Michigan Breakaway ride in July in East Lansing and the Bavarian Breakaway ride in Frankenmuth in September.

"We've ridden in the heat and the wind and the rain," Young said. "We've ridden through everything but snow."

Young, who has worked for the MDOC for more

than 20 years, has been a top 100 fundraiser for Bike MS and raised more than \$2,000 last year. Her team, which includes about 20 cyclists, raised more than \$70,000 in 2018 and earned a top fundraising team award, putting them alongside large corporate teams from Ford Motor Co., Dow Chemical Co. and General Motors.

A member of the Circle of Friends cycling group also helped start the "Orange Out the Park" fundraiser at Comerica Park, along with the Michigan Multiple Sclerosis Society, to raise money to find a cure for MS. Young said she has had many memorable moments over the years she has participated in Bike MS events, but the support from her friends and family is what really stands out.

She said she will always remember how her family – including her mother, who has since passed away – would be sure to greet her at the finish line following each ride.

Young said she hopes to one day raise \$10,000 in a single year to support MS research.

"If I can go out and pedal a bike for two days to help someone who is currently affected by this disease or for research to help someone, then I am all in," Young said.

Check out Young's interview on the Field Days Podcast here: <http://bit.ly/DebYoung>

To support Young and help her raise money to fight MS, click here: http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/Deb_Young

To get involved in Bike MS rides as a cyclist, or a volunteer, click here: https://secure.nationalmssociety.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=BIKE_HOM_splash

Free Stress Management Tool available now

A new, comprehensive stress management tool is now available to state employees through the Employee Service Program.

The free, online tool allows employees and their families to create an individualized stress-management plan that will provide recommendations, techniques and tips for overcoming stress based on the sources of stress they identify. The tool can be accessed from home and uses a model that encourages resiliency.

To access the stress management tool, click here: www.mystresstools.com/registration/mich-esp.



Michigan Department of Corrections welcomes almost 30 new field agents

Nearly 30 new field agents joined the Michigan Department of Corrections following an oath of office ceremony on Feb. 15 in Troy. Director Heidi Washington, Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan and other FOA leaders were on hand to welcome graduates and talk about their important role in the department's mission.

New field staff included:

Abdalmoghni Almaweri — Greenfield District Probation
Benjamin Bojicic — Troy Probation
Brandy Bowers — Wayne County Court Services
Theresa Cupp — Monroe County Parole and Probation
Julius Curling — Lahser District Probation
Danielle Downey — Berrien County Parole
Kellie Fittonneville — Oakland County Probation
William Gonwicha — Troy Probation
Donald Hedglen — Jackson County Probation
Elida Hernandez — Wayne County Court Services
Hanannah Horn — Eaton County Parole and Probation

Khadija Houston — Wayne County Court Services
Thomas Hungerford II — Chrysler District Probation
Dariusz Jatel — Oakland County Probation
Joseph Lalli — Greenfield District Probation
Rianne Leslie — Troy Probation
Lamarr Marshall — Washtenaw County Probation
Darrin McAllister — Greenfield District Probation
Hilary Monroe — Kent County Probation
April Reeves — Greenfield District Probation
Devyn Rogers — Monroe County Parole and Probation
Benjamin Rosek — Ingham County Parole
Danielle Schuette — Jackson County Probation
Ryan Sobie — Wayne County Court Services
Keyatta Sumpter — Oakland County Probation
Kelsey Taraskavage — Oakland County Probation
Ryan Thick — Washtenaw County Probation
Shanna Vance — Jackson County Probation

New Agent calls early work in the field “life changing”

Kellie Fittonneville was on the path to a career as a psychologist when one of her mentors at Western Michigan University suggested she apply for an

internship with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Fittonneville landed a spot at the Kalamazoo County Parole and Probation Office and called the experience



Agent Kellie Fittonneville

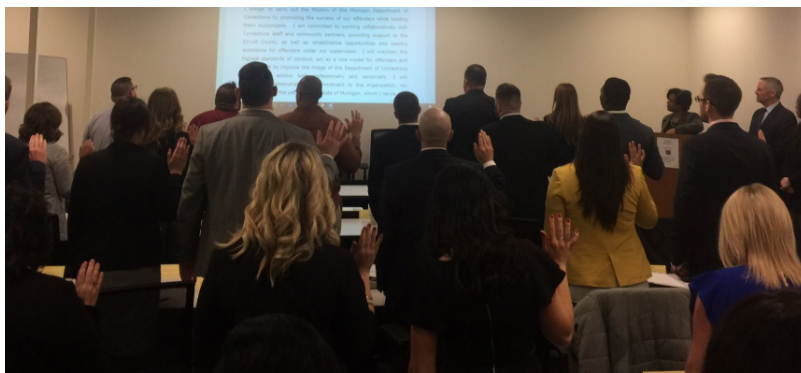
“life changing.”

“Their care for offenders and professionalism was something I hadn’t seen before,” Fittonneville said. “I was so encouraged, and I thought that’s what I want to do.”

Fittonneville finished her degree, went on to earn a master’s in criminology and criminal justice and held a role in district court probation.

Then on Feb. 15, she was sworn in with nearly 30 other new agents joining the MDOC at field offices across the state. Fittonneville, who is now a court liaison for the Oakland County Probation Office, said she is looking forward to working in the courtroom and enjoyed the training and education the department offered to new agents.

“I was really encouraged by how progressive the department is in teaching Collaborative Case Management and Motivational Interviewing,” Fittonneville said. She said she would encourage new agents who come after her to be open to feedback and learning new techniques and methods of communication.

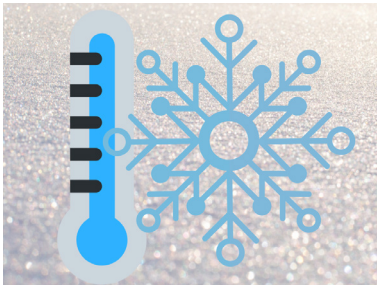


Department thanked for efforts to reduce energy use following Consumers Energy request

A catastrophic fire at a natural gas facility in Macomb County during record-setting cold temperatures, resulted in many energy users across the state turning their thermostats down, including the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Consumers Energy issued a plea to customers to dial thermostats down to 65 degrees or less on Jan. 30 following the fire that reduced the amount of natural gas that could be delivered to customers.

Consumers Energy President and CEO Patti Poppe called Director Heidi Washington to personally thank the department for its efforts to conserve energy and help the company prevent possible gas shut offs.



The department's efforts included setting back thermostats to 63 degrees in all non-essential buildings, particularly non-housing units, said Physical Plant Administrator Ed Vallad.

The department also brought alternate fuel sources on line at facilities that have operational alternate fuel capabilities, he said.

This included systems that replace the use of natural gas and fuel oil backup for larger steam generating power plants.

"All facility maintenance staff did a great job working extended hours and thinking outside of the box," Vallad said.

In addition, the department had many employees, including corrections officers and electronic monitoring center staff, who continued to work during the state government closure for non-essential employees due to the extreme weather.

MDOC employees donate \$14,000 in gift cards to help federal prison workers impacted by shut down

Michigan Department of Corrections employees are always quick to step up to help.

That was clear earlier this year when the federal government shut down, putting paychecks on hold for many federal workers, including those at the Federal Bureau of Prisons facility in Milan, Mich. Ionia Correctional Facility Warden John Davids suggested facilities fundraise to purchase giftcards for federal prison employees in Michigan impacted by the shut down.

Every MDOC facility across the state donated and ultimately raised more than \$14,000.

Macomb Correctional Facility held a fundraising event and with the help of correctional facility staff and the community, more than \$1,700 was raised.

Woodland Center Correctional Facility also raised and sent in \$400.

Wardens John Davids and John Christiansen visited Warden Terris of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' correctional facility in Milan, Mich. to present him with the more than \$14,000 in gift cards for facility employees who were impacted by the federal government shut down.

One federal prison worker expressed his gratitude for the donation on the [MDOC's Facebook page](#).

"As a corrections officer at FCI Milan, I think I can speak for my fellow coworkers and say that we are beyond thankful," he wrote. "A lot of people and businesses offered help in many different ways, but this is amazing."





Reminder on State of Michigan policies following the passage of Proposal 1

With the passage of Proposal 1, employees have asked about whether it will affect workplace drug testing for state employees.

Proposal 1 provides that it does not:

- Require an employer to permit or accommodate conduct otherwise allowed by the act or
- Prohibit an employer from disciplining an employee for violating a workplace drug policy.

The testing programs authorized under collective bargaining agreements and in civil service rules and regulations are conducted under federal standards. Under these standards, neither recreational nor medical marijuana provide a valid basis to excuse a positive drug test. Accordingly, under current procedures, the passage of Proposal 1 will not affect the operation of the state's drug testing program.

MDOC provides recovery assistance in West Michigan following winter storms

The MDOC was called to assist after a round of strong winter storms brought power outages and significant damage to West Michigan communities, resulting in a State of Emergency declaration from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The department committed to providing three prisoner work crews along with supervising officers, to help pick up debris over a period of four days in mid-February.

The crews, which were from Bellamy Creek and Earnest C. Brooks correctional facilities, were deployed to neighborhoods in the city of Grand Rapids to clear debris that lined streets and sidewalks. The crews worked so quickly and efficiently, after two days it was determined assistance was no longer required. Over that time period, 17 prisoners, four corrections officers and three Emergency Management Section employees assisted with



the project. Residents, city employees and other state government personnel expressed appreciation for the department's hard work on the storm clean-up effort.

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In August 2017, Classification Director Karin Adams, Corrections Shift Supervisor Lt. Joseph Linder and Corrections Program Coordinator Curtis Sutherland responded to a medical emergency in the education building at Baraga Correctional Facility.

They found a staff member who was incoherent and swaying in his chair. They moved the employee to the floor and checked for a pulse. After discovering there was no pulse, the three immediately began performing chest compressions.

Registered Nurses Vicki Usitalo and David Finegan responded to the emergency after receiving a call for assistance. Usitalo relieved Adams of performing chest compressions and began performing a

medical assessment. Finegan ensured oxygen was being delivered to the staff member. A defibrillator was also used and on the fourth shock the employee regained consciousness, allowing Usitalo and Finegan to provide recovery measures. Once ambulance personnel arrived, they assisted them in preparing the staff member for transport to the hospital.

The teams' observation and quick actions earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In August 2017, while making rounds in Marquette Branch Prison's Interim Care Program Unit, Corrections Officer Charles Marcotte noticed something seemed out of the ordinary. He stopped at a prisoner's cell and asked the prisoner if everything was okay. The prisoner responded in a low, slurred voice and Officer Marcotte then noticed a large amount of blood in the cell and alerted Corrections Officer Scott Nadeau and Registered Nurse Adam Foster for assistance.

Once arriving on scene, Foster began administering first aid to stop the bleeding. Officer Nadeau contacted the control center to summon additional staff and then assisted with first aid.

Registered Nurse Christy Negrinelli, Nurse Practitioner JoAnn Samuelson and Licensed Practical Nurse Dawn Turner arrived with an emergency bag and assisted with holding pressure on the wounds. They continuously assessed the prisoner's conditions and provided care until emergency medical services staff arrived to transport him to the hospital.

The teams' attention to detail and ability to work under pressure earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



In October 2017, Corrections Officer Mathew Schroderus was called to the D block of Marquette Branch Prison to assist with a prisoner involved in self-injurious behavior who would not come to the front of the cell for treatment. Officer Schroderus began conversation with the prisoner to attempt to get the prisoner to start listening and prevent him from inflicting further harm on himself.

Officer Schroderus convinced the prisoner to pick a shirt off his floor and tie a makeshift tourniquet above an open wound on his arm. The prisoner did as Officer Schroderus instructed, reducing the flow of blood to the wound.

Officer Schroderus then convinced the prisoner to use the rest of the shirt to wrap around the wound and apply direct pressure which stopped the bleeding. Officer Schroderus persuaded the prisoner to come out of his cell and let nursing staff evaluate him. The prisoner was then transported to the hospital.

Officer Schroderus' excellent communications skills and knowledge earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

The Extra Mile continued...

Lonnie Pohl, a corrections officer at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility is a 21-year veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, who has selflessly served his country through three years of active duty with the U.S. Army followed by 18 years with the Michigan National Guard. Officer Pohl received numerous awards and medals throughout his military career and retired as a Sergeant First Class in 2008.

Officer Pohl exemplifies military values in the workplace as the designated Michigan Corrections Organization Military Advocate, where he volunteers time advocating for the rights and responsibilities of military reservists under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA). Officer Pohl has been a member of the MDOC Emergency Response Team for the Ionia region since 1995, further exemplifying the skills of his military training.

Officer Pohl's unwavering commitment to the department and our country earned him the department's Military Excellence Award.



In April 2018, Corrections Officer James Downing responded to assist a prisoner at Ionia Correctional Facility who reported having chest pains and pain on his left side. Officer Downing noticed the prisoner had lost consciousness and attempted to wake him, he then noticed the prisoner had stopped breathing and immediately began to administer chest compressions and rescue breaths.

Officer Douglas Vankammen responded with a defibrillator after Officer Downing called for assistance. The officers applied the defibrillator pads and after two shocks the prisoner began to breathe again. Registered Nurses Amber Beechler and Elizabeth Edwards arrived while the officers applied the defibrillator and assisted them

with chest compressions as well as applied oxygen. Beechler gave the prisoner Narcan while Edwards obtained IV access. The prisoner was then transported to the hospital for further treatment.

The teams' rapid response earned them the department's Lifesaving award.

In January 2018, Correction Officer Nieco Kassa discovered a prisoner attempting to commit suicide by tying a homemade noose around his neck during medication rounds at Ionia Correctional Facility. Officer Kassa called for assistance and began assembling the necessary equipment to approach the prisoner along with Officers Dillon McNeeley and Scott Gilreath. After shift command arrived, they directed Officer Kassa to operate the shield to protect staff from possible injury and assault. Officer McNeeley then used emergency scissors to remove the fabric noose from the prisoner's neck.

The calm and professional demeanor of staff involved in the emergency situation earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In January 2017, Alger Correctional Facility Registered Nurse Dennis Smith responded to a call regarding a prisoner who was found unresponsive on the floor of his cell. Smith and additional staff arrived to find the prisoner on the floor and discovered he had a rapid pulse of more than 100 beats per minute and his breathing was shallow. Health care staff began providing care while Smith and another registered nurse placed an IV and administered Narcan. The prisoner then regained consciousness and was able to confirm that he had taken several pills. Smith continued to monitor the prisoner until emergency medical services arrived. Smith's ability to work under pressure and provide high quality care has earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



The Extra Mile continued...



In May 2018, Corrections Officer Jeffrey Patrick responded to the Maple Unit at Alger Correctional Facility where he found an unresponsive prisoner. With the assistance of Registered Nurse Paul Zelenak, the two placed an airway and Officer Patrick initiated chest compressions while Zelenak provided breathing for the prisoner. The joint effort of Officer Patrick and Zelenak kept the prisoner alive until he could be transported to the hospital.

Their personal and professional integrity earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In December, Officer Corrections Officer Daniel Melius noticed four prisoners on the yard at Carson City Correctional Facility acting suspiciously. He called for assistance and the prisoners were escorted to an area where they could be searched.

During the search, staff discovered 24 pieces of cardstock saturated with liquid methamphetamine.

Warden Randee Rewerts presented Officer Melius with a Good Government Symbol of Excellence Coin for his keen observations and attentiveness on duty.

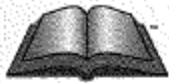


Newberry Correctional Facility Inspector Bill Rushford received a Warden's Coin for his efforts to complete outstanding and thorough investigations, and for receiving praise on his work from Internal Affairs Section Manager Stephen Marschke.

Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn presented Fire Safety Inspector Cory Irvin with a Warden's Coin to recognize him for his excellent work, prior to his departure to work with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.



With Thanks



TIMBERLAND CHARTER ACADEMY

January 16, 2019

RECEIVED MCF

JAN 22 2019

WARDEN'S OFFICE

State of Michigan
Department of Corrections
Muskegon Facility

Warden S.L. Burt:

Thank you so very much for your blessings of "hats and mittens" for our children in need here at Timberland. It is so appreciated!

Sincerely,

Debra Oliver

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Debra Oliver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Student/Family Liaison

Timberland Charter Academy

Do you have a letter of thanks sent to your facility or office that you'd like to share? Send it to MDOC-PIO-Intern@michigan.gov and it could be included in a future edition of the Corrections Connection.

Wondering where to go for state employee discounts?

State of Michigan employees are eligible for discounts on a number of services and items from area companies.

[To find out what discounts are available, click here.](#)

Corrections Quiz

January Quiz Recap

What large object was captured passing through the sky in January 2018 on Kinross Correctional Facility's cameras?

Send your answer to MDOC-PIO-Intern@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.

Name this icy fundraiser dozens of MDOC employees participate in each winter to raise money for Special Olympics athletes.

Answer: Polar Plunge

Congratulations to **Eric Cottrell**, a parole agent at the Kent County Parole Office, for being the first to answer the January Corrections Quiz. Great job!

Susan M. Hunter Scholarship available to children of correctional employees

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) is now accepting applications for the Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship.

The scholarship is in honor of the former Director of the Prisons Division at the National Institute of Corrections, Susan M. Hunter who passed away in 2004 from breast cancer. Hunter embodied the ideals of the correctional workforce and her work continues to be embodied in the field today. Deserving students, whose parents work in any ASCA member department of corrections are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is Sunday, March 31.

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a current, retired or deceased full-time corrections employee in an ASCA member department of corrections. The corrections employee must be the legal guardian of the student applying. Vendor employees, correctional employees, their siblings, spouses and grandchildren are not eligible.

Both incoming first-time freshman and enrolled full-time college and graduate students can apply. Applicants must have a minimum high school GPA of 3.3. Undergraduate applicants may work toward a degree in any field of study, however, graduate applicants must be working toward a degree in corrections/criminal justice.

Students must enroll in a full-time accredited two-year or four-year college or university, or an accredited graduate program to be eligible. Scholarship awards include, \$1,500 for undergraduate students, \$1,500 for graduate students and \$750 for individuals who received either a \$1,000 or \$1,500 scholarship in a previous year.

Students can find more information and apply for the scholarship [here](#).

Please direct any questions to: asca.scholarship@gmail.com.



SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Chippewa Correctional Facility partnered with the Sault Ste. Marie Rotary Club to help keep residents in need warm this winter. The club donated yarn and prisoners crocheted scarves that were provided to community agencies and placed downtown for those who need to warm up.



Director Heidi Washington addressed nearly 200 corrections officer recruits in the MDOC's newest training academy in Lansing and discussed the department's achievements, focus on employee wellness and mission to help offenders achieve successful and stable lives in the community. Recruits graduate in April.



Dan Seal, acting employment counselor at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility, testified in front of the House Corrections Subcommittee on his work with offenders and employers through the Vocational Village.



In the last four years, the Ojibway Correctional Facility Employee Club donated about \$20,000 to local non-profit organizations, families in need, school organizations and scholarships.

As part of the dissolution of the OCF Employee Club, a scholarship fund was established with the Gogebic Community College Foundation. Employee Club President Tom Hamel presented foundation Director Kelly Marczak with a check for \$5,000. The scholarship will cover two \$300 scholarships per year to students pursuing a career in criminal justice with preference going to former facility employee family members.

Corrections in the News

[Decrease in recidivism in last three years](#) — TV 6

[A second chance](#) — Marquette Mining Journal

[MDOC: Recidivism rate lowest in state history](#) — Three Rivers Commercial-News

[Winter Warmth](#) — Sault Ste. Marie Evening News

[Battle of the Badges raises money for child abuse prevention and youth programs](#) — MLive

[Long-term initiatives aim to bolster workforce](#) — Traverse City Record-Eagle

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...



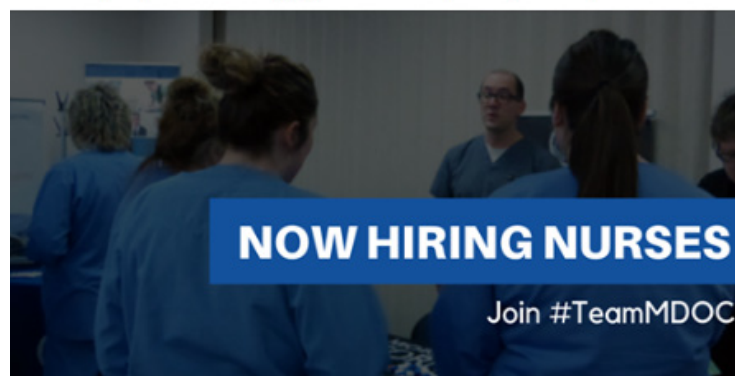
Michigan Department of Corrections

5 hrs · 🌐

Looking for a great career? We're hiring nurses to fill positions across the state.

For more information visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdocjobs>

To see open positions and apply, click here: <http://bit.ly/2ScvfqD>



Like



Comment

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

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December New Hires

Allen, Alissa	Medical Records Examiner, Correctional Facility's Administration Jackson Region
Blue, Lori	Registered Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Boccaccio, Tory	General Office Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Cannon Eileen	Secretary, Ionia Correctional Facility
Castle, Matthew	Maintenance Mechanic, Michigan Reformatory
Collar, Scott	Refrigeration Mechanic, Central Michigan Facility
Coulier, Rhonda	Secretary, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Cygan, Emerald	Licensed Practical Nurse, Kinross Correctional Facility
Flowers, Amy	Registered Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Gill, Karamvir	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Hetrick, Miressa	Registered Nurse, Corrections Central Office
Hinde, Micah	Food Services Supervisor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Kamradt, Mark	Storekeeper, Michigan Reformatory
Kissell, Jeffrey	Library Technician, Carson City Correctional Facility
Lewis, Melissa	Registered Nurse, Corrections Central Office
Macias, Maria	General Office Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Mihelac, Aleena	Licensed Practical Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Owen-Cruise, David	Psychologist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Parkkla, Robert	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Alger Correctional Facility
Peak, Mary	Licensed Practical Nurse, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Pline, Trevor	Field Agent, Isabella County Parole and Probation Office
Raptis, Constantine	Food Services Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility
Rogers, Arnold	Cook, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Schuster, Paul	Food Services Supervisor, Baraga Correctional Facility
Scott, Rodney	Cook, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Stephenson, Jack	Plumber, Jackson Region
Stuckey, Timothy	Storekeeper, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Tilly, Sarah	Cook, Marquette Branch Prison
Vanhuyse, Elaine	Executive Secretary, Macomb Correctional Facility
Way, Blake	Maintenance Mechanic, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Westbay, Danielle	Dental Aide, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Wright, Dana	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Wymer, Ricky	Maintenance Mechanic, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Yahas, Jennifer L	Secretary, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility

December Retirements

Ball, Timothy
Beasley, Barbara
Behnke, Lorri
Close, Vicki
Craig, Jonathan
Cruickshank, Tammy
Darnell, Marie
Duvall, Clifton
Edwards, Michael
Fisher, Victor
Foulds, Jeril
Hansen, Randy
Holley, Deena
Israel, Vanessa
Johnson, Debra
Jones, Elliott
Lambert, Joseph
Levasseur, Dale
Lopez, Antonio
Mayers, Charise
McAllister, Keith
Meyers, Ted
Nelson, Russell
Oliver, Pamela
Paine, Edward
Rauvala, Alan
Roberts, Steven
Schafer, Anthony
Schairer, Mark
Schueller, Ruth
Sherry, Jeri
Snow, Lonny
Spaulding, Donald
Spitzley, Eugene
Thompson, Charles
Tilley, Michael
Tunell, Paul
Webster, James

Deputy Warden, Oaks Correctional Facility
Departmental Analyst, Time Computation Unit
Field Agent, Berrien County Parole and Probation Office
Corrections Shift Supervisor, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Maintenance Mechanic, Carson City Correctional Facility
Dental Hygienist, Kinross Correctional Facility
Executive Secretary, Corrections Central Office
Plumber, Kinross Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Physical Plant Supervisor, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Word Processing Assistant, Oakland County Probation Office
Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Field Agent, Ingham County Probation Office
Word Processing Assistant, Eastern District Probation Office
Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Corrections Shift Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Corrections Officer, Brooks Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Departmental Analyst, Parole Board
Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Carson-City Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Departmental Manager, Crime Victim Services
Deputy Director, Budget and Operations Administration
Corrections Shift Supervisor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Administrative Manager, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Plumber, Carson City Correctional Facility
Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Field Agent, Oakland County Probation Office
Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Corrections Shift Supervisor, Macomb Correctional Facility