

Corrections Connection

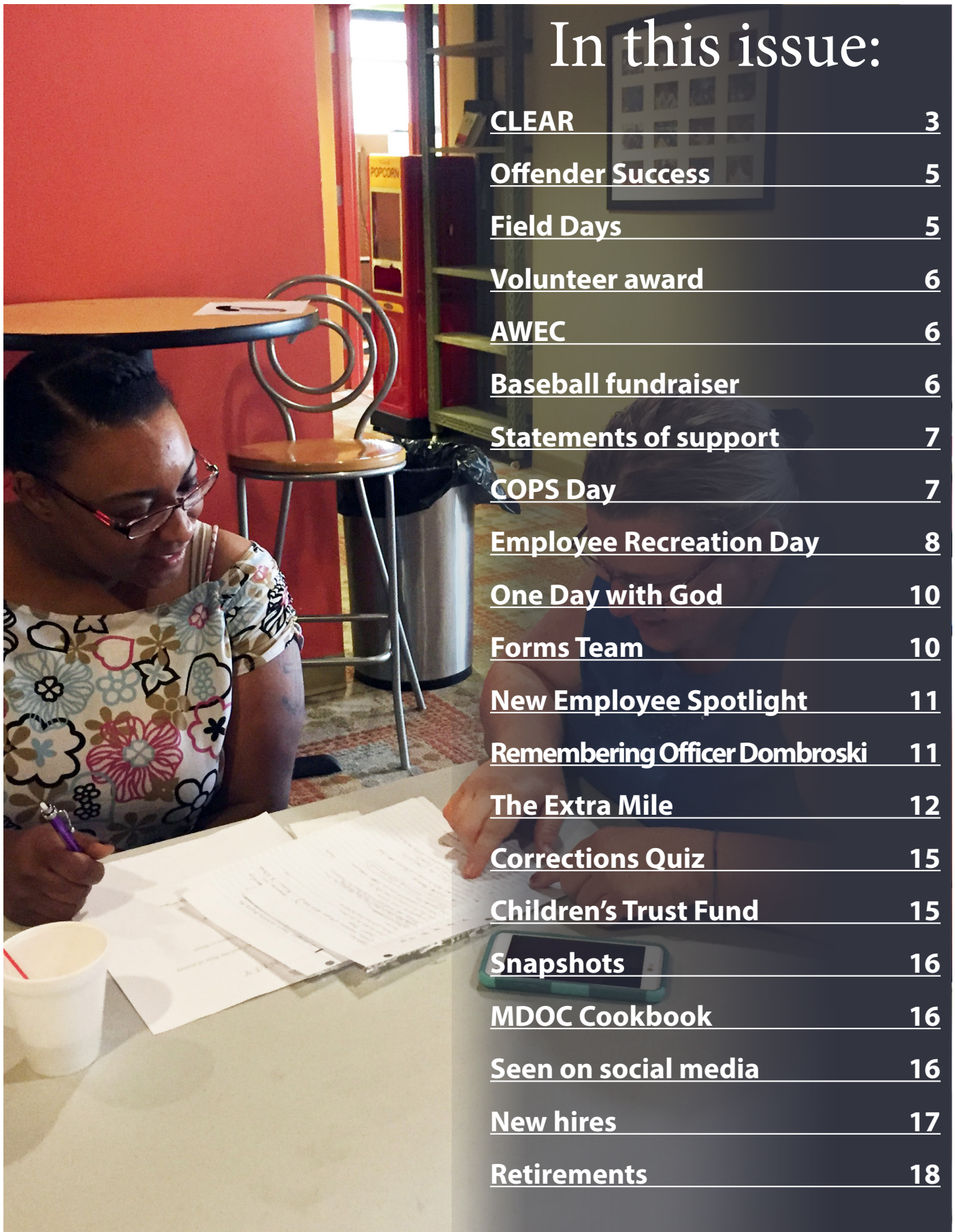


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Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov. Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover was taken by **Camara Lewis**, social media and website manager 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.



A CLEAR way forward

West Michigan's CLEAR program offers men and women returning to the community an outlet for support

Ross Hayes understands what it's like to leave prison and struggle. He was incarcerated for decades after being convicted of murder as a teenager. When he returned to the community, he needed support. He found one avenue for that support in CLEAR, a West Michigan group that exists to provide guidance and mentoring to returning citizens, while forging a positive relationship with law enforcement. Today, Hayes sits beside Grand Rapids Police Officer Dan Myers and helps serve as a facilitator for the group

Grand Rapids Police Officer Dan Myers and Ross Hayes talk to attendees at a CLEAR meeting in Grand Rapids.

that includes about 20 men and a number of area service providers. Many of the men are on parole or were formerly incarcerated. They discuss topics that include forgiveness, establishing a positive support system and staying motivated. The room fills with a chorus of "amens" as speakers share stories or provide insight that resonates with others. "I want ya'll to see that ya'll can make it," Hayes told the men sitting around the table in a Grand Rapids community center on a recent afternoon. "You're all a support system for me too. Coming here is like Powerade to me. It's rejuvenating."

A Partnership with Law Enforcement

CLEAR, which stands for Coalition, Leadership, Education, Advice, Rehabilitation, formed about a decade ago as a collaborative effort between the Grand Rapids Police Department and Michigan Department of Corrections. Its goal was to bring law enforcement, community resources and returning citizens together each week for an afternoon where they can connect

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success



A CLEAR participant, Grand Rapids Police Officer Ruth Walters, a local service provider and Parole Supervisor Janell Freeman talk together at a recent CLEAR meeting for women.

and help ease the transition to the community, Myers said. “We sit down and have lunch together and talk about different topics,” Myers said. “It’s a very diverse group and its really unique in the way guys open up and support each other.”

The concept has since expanded to Muskegon, and now also includes separate groups for women in both cities.

Reaching Women

Last year, Grand Rapids Police Officer Ruth Walters launched a CLEAR group focused on helping women who were returning to the community, or whose struggles landed them in jail.

Their discussion topics have focused on healthy relationships, self-worth, and establishing boundaries.

In addition, many of the women had experienced trauma in their lives and felt more comfortable discussing their experiences with other women.

“I hope they get a better life, even if they change just one thing,” Walters said. “It’s important to take those steps.”

Meeting with other women and hearing their stories has been helpful for Andrea LaGroney, who had never been to prison, but heard about the group through her involvement with 70x7, a West Michigan recovery and

reentry program. “It has given me tools to implement and the ability to look at myself in a healthy way, and have healthy relationships and know I’m worthy of it,” she said.

Continuing Support

Others, including parole supervisors and correctional facility leaders, also attend CLEAR meetings to offer support to participants.

Deputy Director Ken McKee began attending CLEAR meetings when he was warden at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility to show his continued support for those who had paroled from the facility to Kent County.

“I am a big believer that you need to surround yourself with positive people to succeed yourself,” McKee said. “I told these prisoners when I met with them they needed to attend CLEAR meetings to surround themselves with positive people who could help them make positive improvements in their lives which included the Grand Rapids Police Department. I also told them

that they would see me out in the community at these CLEAR meetings occasionally, supporting them as I was trying to be supportive of them during their incarceration.”

He continues to attend CLEAR meetings when he has the opportunity.

Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility Warden Tony Trierweiler has also continued to attend CLEAR meetings and credits Director Heidi Washington’s focus on Offender Success for putting an emphasis on the importance of programs like CLEAR and making sure those who return to the community are successful.

“It’s very important as a warden to let these guys know the department supports them and wants them to succeed,” he said. “On a Tuesday I see these guys in prison, then on Thursday I’m sitting around a table eating lunch with them and encouraging them not to go back. My role is to lend my support and make sure if there’s anything I can do for them, I do it.”

Kent County Parole Supervisor Janell Freeman said she thinks she often gets as much out of CLEAR meetings as the women who are participating. She regularly attends the group’s sessions in Grand Rapids and helped launch the women’s CLEAR group in Muskegon.

“I’m able to offer support, guidance, advice and encouragement, and receive it as well,” Freeman said. “I highly encourage and recommend



Two participants in the CLEAR group in Grand Rapids listen to other participants share their experiences.

CLEAR continued...

this partnership between law enforcement and the MDOC in counties statewide...The stories of CLEAR support, success and gratitude I've come across are seemingly endless."

Myers said he thinks it's important for CLEAR participants to see him and other returning citizens like Hayes working together to help them.

"I think one of the biggest components of it is guys like Ross who have walked those steps," Myers said. "For everyone to see him and I working together ... it gives them a different perspective."

Hayes encouraged the group's participants to stay focused, stay in close contact with their parole agents and pay it forward.

"You have to set your mind to do better every day," Hayes said.

Check out these past news stories about the CLEAR program:

[Retiring Grand Rapids Police lieutenant is praised by former inmates he helped](#)

[Former felons rehabilitated in special program with police that put them in jail](#)

[CLEAR, a local program, lowers recidivism rates in Kent](#)

Offender Success becomes formal component of the department

Since the launch of Director Heidi Washington's "Offender Success" initiative, the prisoner population has declined by more than 10 percent and our recidivism rate has reached its lowest level in the state's history. In recognition that the goals of Offender Success are permanent goals of the department, we are making it a formal part of the MDOC's structure. The previous "Reentry" Administration has become the "Offender

Success" Administration, encompassing education, prisoner program development and centralization, and Offender Success (Reentry) Services. The new name will give all three groups equal claim to the good work that is occurring and will continue to provide a goal for the entire department to work toward. The Legislature has also agreed to this renaming as part of the recently completed budget process.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out these episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [You know you're excited for this year's Employee Recreation Day on Aug. 10. Hear more details on the event and what will be offered in this edition of the podcast.](#)
- [Hear from Corrections Officer of the Year Elwanda Ray on her passion for her job and working with youthful offenders at Thumb Correctional Facility.](#)
- [Listen in as podcast hosts, Chris and Greg, discuss recent MDOC news. You can also hear Gov. Rick Snyder give a big shout out to Director Heidi Washington.](#)
- [In this special edition Memorial Day podcast, the Field Days hosts and other MDOC employees pay tribute to friends and family that have bravely served.](#)



Listen to us on



Mentoring the next generation

Prison Counselor gives back to help Lansing students

Almost a year ago, Ionia Correctional Facility Prison Counselor Marcus Turner was approached with a request for help. Averill Elementary School in Lansing was looking for



Marcus Turner

individuals who would be willing to serve as positive role models for at-risk youth at the school, and was hoping Turner, who oversees a men's group at his church, would be willing to assist. He didn't hesitate to help. He put together a schedule and recruited volunteers from his group to spend time at the school twice a week. "A lot of the young men don't have structure at home and they look forward to us coming out week to week," Turner said. Turner and other members of the Tabernacle of David Church men's group were named the Capital Area United Way Volunteer Innovators of the Year in March for

their work at the school. Averill Elementary School Principal Kyron Harvell nominated Turner and the group for the award. He said Turner is the most dedicated and consistent mentor the school has had during his tenure. "He has such an uncanny ability to develop a strong level of rapport with some of our most challenging students," Harvell said. "Students looked forward to working with him each week and many families mentioned to me that they noticed the changes in their children as a result of his impact, diligence and empathy." Members of the men's group and his church have been touched by how appreciative the students are of their time spent at the school. Some of the students made drawings and wrote thank-you notes to volunteers that were later displayed at the church. Turner said he enjoys working with students at the school and giving them the encouragement they need to be successful. "Mentoring is a great way to give back to our community and inspire young people," Turner said.



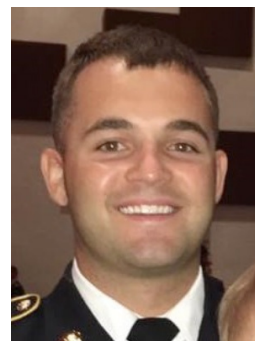
Pictured: Marcus Turner (far left) with members of the Tabernacle of David men's group at the Capital Area United Way Volunteer Recognition Celebration in March.

AWEC seeking new members

The Association of Women Executives in Corrections (AWEC) is seeking new members and will hold its 22nd annual Membership Training Institute Oct. 12-15 in Sacramento, Calif. AWEC's membership includes more than 250 executive-level women who work in corrections and other criminal justice-related agencies. It is intended to allow leading women in corrections the opportunity to network with their peers, enhance their skills and mentor future correctional leaders. Those interested can find more information on membership criteria or register at www.awec.us.

Remembering Corrections Officer Dylan Dombroski

Dylan Dombroski, a corrections officer at Lakeland Correctional Facility, passed away on June 13. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and enjoyed hunting, fishing and sports.



Services were held on June 18 in Lansing. Staff at Lakeland are making keepsake teddy bears for his family, and donations are also being made to Ele's Place.

MDOC leaders sign statements of support for the National Guard and Reserves

Leaders across the Michigan Department of Corrections have signed formal statements of support for the National Guard and Reserves, confirming a commitment to be advocates for employees in the Armed Forces.

By signing statements of support, leaders pledged that they would continually recognize and support service members and their families and show appreciation for the values, leadership and skills they bring to the department.

The statements of support were provided by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program, which was created to promote cooperation and understanding between service members and their employers.

The MDOC earned the program's [Pro Patria Award in 2017](#) for its efforts to support employees serving in the National Guard and Reserves. It is the highest honor an organization can receive from the program. The department is also a finalist for the Secretary of Defense's prestigious Freedom Award.



Pictured: MDOC wardens and Director Heidi Washington with signed Statements of Support (left), MDOC Field Operations Administration leaders with signed statements of support.

COPS DAY AT THE IONIA

Free Fair

Criminal justice employees, military personnel and first responders will be honored at the Ionia Free Fair on July 18 for COPS Day.

Corrections, public safety, police, fire department, court and military employees, retirees and their families or guests are all eligible for discounted rides and access to the hospitality tent for COPS Day.

All-day ride wristbands will be \$13 and will be available in the hospitality tent from noon to 8 p.m.

An employee ID is required to enter the hospitality tent, which will also offer free popcorn, pop and Michigan Corrections Organization items.

The hospitality tent is supported by the employees of Richard A. Handlon, Bellamy Creek, Ionia and Carson City correctional facilities and Michigan Reformatory, MCO and Michigan One Credit Union.

Have you signed up for Employee Recreation Day?

Join your Michigan Department of Corrections colleagues for a day of fun and camaraderie at Employee Recreation Day on Aug. 10 at Royal Scot in Lansing.

The event is open to all MDOC employees, retirees and their adult guests.



Details:

Golf

A morning 18-hole, four-person golf scramble will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start. The cost is \$35 per player, or \$30 if registered before July 1, and includes lunch and a cart.

An afternoon 9-hole, two-person scramble will begin at 2 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes a cart. Sponsorships are still being accepted for golf holes for \$100, in addition to bids for the sponsorship of the platinum 18th hole.

Prizes, including cash prizes, will be awarded.

Food

Dinner will be served from 5:30-6 p.m. with a social hour beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Dinner will be offered buffet-style and will include steak, chicken, meatless lasagna, au gratin potatoes, seasonal vegetables, a salad bar, rolls and dessert.

Dinner is \$18 per person or \$10 per person if registered by July 1.

Basketball

A 3-on-3 basketball tournament will be held from 1-4 p.m. The cost is \$40 per team. Each team can have one substitute and cash prizes will be available. Registration is required and spaces are limited, so please be sure to register in advance.

A 3-point and free throw contest will also be held beginning at 9 a.m. The cost to play is \$5 and there will be a progressive jackpot and current points winner. Cash prizes will be available and winners must be present to claim their prize.

Bowling

Open and tournament-style bowling will be available from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with playoffs from 2:30-4 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person for shoes and two hours of lane time. Cash prizes will be awarded. Lane sponsorships are being accepted for \$50 for each of the 15 lanes available.

Canvas Painting

One-hour canvas painting sessions will be offered for \$10 per person, per session. Sessions will be held at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. and a different painting will be featured each hour. If you are a budding, or experienced artist, feel free to register for one or all sessions.

Bingo

Bingo will be played every half hour from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It is free to play and there will be a \$25 payout for each game.

Bag toss

This FREE activity will be available all day. Anyone who plays will be entered to win Michigan State University and University of Michigan bag toss games.

Euchre Tournament

Euchre tournaments will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Each session will play six games with a short break after game 3.

The cost is \$5 per tournament and cash prizes will be given away.



Employee Recreation Day - Aug. 10, 2018 at Royal Scot in Lansing

Board games and MDOC Jeopardy

Will be available for FREE from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Photo booth

A photo booth will be available for free from 2-5 p.m.

Door prizes

Door prizes will be available throughout the day and during dinner. There is no fee to enter and you must be present to win.

Bubble Ball



This FREE activity will offer games at noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. There will be a Correctional Facilities Administration versus the Field Operations Administration contest at 2 p.m.

Silent Auction

A silent auction will run all day with bidding ending at 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. With your help we want to make this year's silent auction spectacular. Please consider donating a basket that represents the uniqueness of your community worksite or administration. All donations are greatly appreciated and the deadline for baskets is July 23.

Lodging

Discounted, off-site lodging blocks are available at the Crowne Plaza Lansing and Quality Suites Lansing. Rooms must be booked by July 1 for a discount. Contact Kathy Keiffer at KeifferK@michigan.gov for group code information.

To register, fill out the column below. Checks should be made payable to the MDOC Employee Engagement Committee. Cash, credit card and PayPal payment are also accepted.

Registration and payment can be turned in to your local EPIC liaison, emailed to Kathy Keiffer at KeifferK@michigan.gov, or mailed to Kathy Keiffer at P.O. Box 30003 Lansing, MI 48909.

Dinner (Number of People :).....\$
\$18 (\$10 if registered by July 1)

Golf Player 1 _____\$
Player 2 _____
Player 3 _____
Player 4 _____

\$35 per player (\$30 if registered by July 1)

Golf Player 1 \$15 _____
Player 2 \$15 _____

(Please list players you wish to golf with)

Bowling \$5 (Number of People :).....\$

3 on 3 Basketball (Team) \$40
Player 1 _____\$
Player 2 _____
Player 3 _____
Player 4 _____

Canvas Painting \$10
(Number of People :).....\$

Circle Preferred Time(s):
12:00 1:00 2:00 3:00

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$

Name(s): _____

Circle One: employee or retiree

Guest: _____

Employee Work Location:



Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility holds 10th One Day with God camp

Nearly 90 children and 60 incarcerated mothers were reunited for a day to spend time reconnecting as part of Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility's 10th One Day with God camp. The event was the largest One Day with God camp held in Michigan, as the facility also welcomed 145

volunteers to help with the day's activities.

The facility also helped recognize two long-time volunteers for the program who were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

One Day with God camps are held at correctional facilities in Michigan and around the country in partnership with Forgiven Ministry.

The camps are a two-day event that begins with a seminar for incarcerated parents. The following day, parents are reunited with their children and spend the day participating in a variety of activities, including crafts, games, lunch and motivational speaker sessions.



EPIC Forms Team completes work, streamlines management of forms across MDOC administrations

More than 1,000 forms have been made obsolete and updates have been made to policies and processes related to the use of forms across the department as a result of the work of the EPIC Forms Team.

After extensive review, the team identified 1,086 forms that were no longer relevant to any department function and could be retired. Prior to retirement, each of the identified forms was put through an extensive review process which included the administration responsible for the form, the appropriate deputy director, and review by staff from many MDOC offices and facilities.



The team also updated a policy on forms management, requiring all forms to be reviewed at a minimum of every three years, updated a document that is needed for the approval of new or revised forms, or for the deletion of forms, and created a new operating procedure for forms management.

The team included Karmen Bussell, Bill Dunham, Julie Goldman, Valerie Johnson, Norma Killough, Lisa Lehnert, Kevin Morgel, Christine Navarro, Edna Plath, Brenda Plumm, Melissa Sandborn, Elizabeth Solomon, Kathy Logan, Rebecca Hawker and facilitator Yolanda Perez.



Agent with long history in criminal justice excited about future at MDOC

Brandon Hultink has spent his entire career in criminal justice. He worked for years as a police officer, a prosecutor and a defense lawyer.



Today, he is excited to join the Michigan Department of Corrections as a Calhoun County parole agent.

Hultink said he is impressed by the department's Vocational Village programs and focus on offender success.

"What excites me is looking to the future," Hultink said. "The change that I see happening really works." Hultink worked for 15 years as a Battle Creek police officer and said he saw the positive potential of the city's increasing focus on community-oriented policing.

"When you integrate the community with the solution and when you integrate the people you're dealing with and involving them in the solution, it works," Hultink said.

He left policing after he was seriously injured in a shooting while on duty. He then earned a law degree and worked as a prosecutor and defense lawyer, before hearing more about the great work happening at the MDOC. He also just finished writing his first book about his experiences.

He said he is looking forward to his new role as an agent.

"To me I'm very encouraged," he said. "I'm over 25 years in criminal justice now and have worn many different hats and to me when I look to the MDOC, they are on the front line of change."

MDOC welcomes 10 new field agents

The Michigan Department of Corrections' newest field agents are eager to make a difference. That drive is important as the department focuses on long-term public safety through offender success, MDOC leaders said. "Real long-term public safety comes from what we do when people are under our care, custody and supervision," Director Heidi Washington told new agents. "We have a very important role to play in offender success."

New agents included:
 Jessica Cottrell — Muskegon County Probation
 Noni Davis — Wayne County Court Services Unit
 Michael Hooper — Oceana County Parole and Probation
 Brandon Hultink — Calhoun County Parole
 Lee Miller — Monroe County Parole and Probation
 Greg Roets — Allegan County Parole and Probation

Eric Rummelt — Montcalm County Parole and Probation
 Jennifer Shields — Macomb Correctional Facility
 Dakota Storey — Calhoun County Probation
 Amanda Wietecha — Macomb County Probation



Field staff take on vintage team for baseball fundraiser

Berrien County field staff will face off against the House of David vintage baseball team in a fundraising game to support Michigan State Police D/Sgt. Aaron Steensma, who was shot in the line of duty. The game will begin at 1 p.m. on July 29 at Eden Springs Park, 793 M-139 in Benton Harbor.

It will also include a snack bar, train rides and other activities for spectators and their families.

Proceeds will go to D/Sgt. Steensma and his family.

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In August 2017, prisoners at Central Michigan Correctional Facility alerted corrections officers David MacDonald and Christopher Kloha that a prisoner in the activity room was experiencing a seizure. Officers MacDonald and Kloha placed the prisoner in a safe position and called for assistance.

Registered Nurse Mary Koutz-Mikek arrived as the prisoner became unresponsive and Officer MacDonald began administering chest compressions and rescue breathing. Corrections officers Terry Teenier, Michael Lamont and

Emily Cummings worked in rotation providing CPR to the prisoner, with Koutz-Mikek's assistance and a defibrillator was used to help the prisoner. When emergency medical services staff arrived, Officer Cummings and Corrections Officer Andrew Campbell road in the ambulance to assist with CPR on the way to the hospital.

Their outstanding actions earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

In October 2017, Corrections Officers Lloyd Hintz and Tyler Wilds responded to a call for an unresponsive prisoner in a housing unit at Central Michigan Correctional Facility. The officers found the prisoner was not breathing and began performing CPR and called for assistance. Corrections Officer Zachery Drouillard and Registered Nurse Mary Koutz-Mikek responded to assist with CPR, and Koutz-Mikek applied a defibrillator. After rounds of CPR, the prisoner began breathing on his own.



The quick actions of Officers Hintz, Wilds and Drouillard and Koutz-Mikek earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



In March 2017, Corrections Officer Todd Weller was the ambulance escort assigned to accompany a prisoner to the local hospital. Health care providers at the hospital determined the prisoner needed to be immediately transported to a medical facility in Lansing, but during the trip, the prisoner's heart failed and paramedics began CPR. Officer Weller's assistance was requested with CPR, and though the prisoner's heart failed two more times before he arrived at the hospital, he was ultimately stabilized.

Officer Weller's dedication and response during the emergency earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

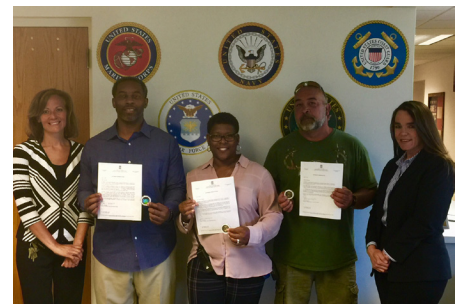
The Extra Mile continued...

While conducting rounds at Oaks Correctional Facility in December 2016, Corrections Officer Michael Taylor saw a large amount of blood in a prisoner's cell and immediately called for assistance. The prisoner had severely cut his arm and was bleeding profusely. Corrections officers Matthew Brown and Benjamin Shembarger responded and helped apply pressure to the wound and provided first aid. Corrections Officer Ronald Forward called for medical assistance and the prisoner was transported to a local hospital. Officer Taylor's efforts to help the prisoner earned him the department's Lifesaving Award, along with his colleagues.



Offender Success Administrator Kyle Kaminski presented Analyst Tom Ward with the Symbol of Teamwork Coin for his hard work and collaborative efforts that resulted in a successful conference for 74 prisoner skills developers in May.

Woodland Center Correctional Facility Warden Jodi DeAngelo and Director Heidi Washington presented Symbol of Excellence Coins to Human Resource Developer Eric Jones, Accounting Technician Tjuana Douglas and Maintenance Mechanic Keith Benton for their hard work and dedication to establishing a new training room, new Employee Fitness Center, an updated break room and the new WCC Veterans Hall of Heroes.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Acting Deputy Warden Steven Bond was presented with the Symbol of Leadership Coin by Warden Tom Winn for going beyond the call of duty and extending his employment to assist the facility.



Saginaw Correctional Facility mailroom staff Rae Ann Blakeley and Bethany Frollo received the Symbol of Excellence Coin from Warden Tom Winn. They were instrumental in assisting the Attorney General's Office in recovering more than \$200,000 from a prisoner who was trying to conceal his assets.

The Extra Mile continued...



Macomb Correctional Facility Warden Pat Warren presented Resident Unit Manager Alan Greason with a Warden's Coin for his consistent hard work, leadership and positive attitude.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn presented Prison Counselor Steve Rievert and Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor Jodie Anderson with Symbol of Customer Service Coins for their work with the Paws with a Cause program at the facility.



Symbol of Leadership Coins were presented to Saginaw Correctional Facility Prison Counselors Ed Neitzel and Sharon Myles for their work with the Iron Paws dog program at the facility. Symbol of Teamwork Coins were presented to Prison Counselors Mark Chalker and Tom Haynes for their efforts with the MIDogs program.



Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn recognized healthcare Secretary Beth Rappuhn and Deputy Warden of Programs and Housing Secretary Jilliette Perkins with a Symbol of Customer Service Coin for their work. He also presented Deputy Warden of Custody Secretary Sally Zolnieriek with a Symbol of Excellence Coin for her many years of service and Accounting Technician Lori Galbrath with a Symbol of Teamwork Coin for her great contributions to the team in the business office.



Christopher Wendt, the son of Newberry Correctional Facility Prison Counselor John Wendt, is also going the extra mile to help those in need. He was recently recognized as the Youth Volunteer of the Year through the Governor's Service Awards for dedicating 12 years to emergency service. In 2012, he also assisted with the evacuation and emergency shelter of Newberry residents due to a forest fire. He is currently studying fire science and emergency management at Lake Superior State University. [Click the image on the left to read more.](#)

Corrections Quiz

May Quiz Recap

When does Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week take place this year?

How many items were donated by the Michigan Department of Corrections for the Children's Trust Fund Signature Auction?

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.

Answer: 19

*This was a tough question! You can see the items donated by the MDOC, by scrolling through the list of donated items [here](#).

MDOC's participation in Children's Trust Fund auction helps organization raise thousands to combat abuse and neglect

Since 2003, the Michigan Department of Corrections has helped in the fight against child abuse and neglect by supporting the Children's Trust Fund annual auction.

In each year since then, items donated by the department's building trades programs have helped raise thousands of dollars for the Children's Trust Fund.

This year was no exception.

The 19 items donated by the department brought in more than \$4,000 to support the Children's Trust Fund's mission.

Nearly \$500,000 was raised during this year's auction event.

Trust Fund officials have said the dedication and enthusiasm of Director Heidi Washington – an early member of its Advisory Committee – has played a key role in the event's success through the years.

The money raised is significant to the Children's Trust Fund to support child abuse prevention programs throughout the state.

The Children's Trust Fund, a nonprofit housed within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, also works with the license plate factory at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility to produce [specialty, fundraising license plates](#).

The plates cost \$35, and \$25 of that goes to the Children's Trust Fund to help battle child abuse and neglect by funding service and outreach programs, and supporting local councils at work in communities across the state.

You can hear more from the Children's Trust Fund on the auction and the department's history of involvement, in [this episode of the Field Days podcast](#).



Pictured:
Two of the
19 items
donated by
the MDOC
to the
Children's
Trust Fun
auction.

SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



Parnall Correctional Facility Warden Melinda Braman and staff recently presented the Detroit Dog Rescue with two new dog houses made by prisoners in the facility's Vocational Village. A number of crocheted blankets made by prisoners were also donated to the rescue organization.



MDOC recruitment staff held a career fair at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility for individuals interested in becoming corrections officers, nurses or food service workers at the facility.



Montcalm County Parole/Probation Agent Martin Byrnes attended a graduation ceremony for three offenders under his supervision who obtained their high school diploma or GED. The event gave the offenders a great sense of accomplishment.



Members of the MDOC Honor Guard traveled to Washington D.C. for National Police Week to honor law enforcement personnel, including corrections officers, killed in the line of duty. Honor Guard members participated in the Honor Cordon at the Candlelight Vigil, Wreath Guard at the memorial and performed a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Try a new recipe

MDOC Cookbooks available for order

A compilation of favorite recipes from department staff is available to employees statewide. You can fill out an order form for the cookbook [here](#) and send it to mdoc-wellness@michigan.gov. A portion of the proceeds will help support the EPIC Employee Engagement Team. Each cookbook will be sold for \$10.00 and recipe submitters may receive a 10% discount on their total order.

Seen on Facebook...



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

April New Hires

Artman, Jamie	Music Therapist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Belonga, Keith	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Buffington, Darin	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Constance, Alex	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Dancz, Robert	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Davis, Jeremy	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Demers, Rodney	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Erwin, Brendan	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Erwin, Dena	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Fish, James	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Flitton, John	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Flores, Ashley	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Funke, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Hibbitts, Wendy	Registered Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Howard, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Hueckstaedt, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Hurlbert, Benjamin	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Johnson, Jennifer	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Jurasin, Wyatt	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Kaladic, Vedran	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Kilgore, Cody	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Knight, Christopher	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Laakso, Ryan	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Lake, Jennifer	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Langdon, Brenda	Word Processing Assistant, Ottawa County Parole and Probation Office
Leach, Trey	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
LeBlanc, Trevor	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Lipponen, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Locke, Chenoa	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Lynch, Kathleen	Registered Nurse, Marquette Branch Prison
Lytikainen, Michael	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
McCaffrey, Kimberly	Secretary, Eaton County Parole and Probation Office
McGlone, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
McGuire, Edward	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
McRorie, Kayla	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Menard, Kyle	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Michael, Amy	Departmental Technician, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Munro, Alexander	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Parish, Shianne	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Potvin, Chad	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Rife, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Rogers, Wendy	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Sanders, Xavier	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Sprague, Tabitha	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Stachowiak, Michael	Field Agent, Chrysler Probation Office
Stockton, Sean	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Swanson, Wesly	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Taliaferro, Avery	General Office Assistant, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Teegardin, Jenna	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Tikkanen, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Van Acker, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Vinson, Kelsi	Teacher Aide, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Woodke, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility

April Retirements

Adams, William	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Ball, Steven	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Blanchard, Steven	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration Region III
Bommarito, William	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Buck, Dennis	Psychologist, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Bumstead, Steven	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Kinros Correctional Facility
Bunting, Rina	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Crimin, Daniel	Corrections Transportation Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Crowley, John	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Parnall Correctional Facility
Depottey, David	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Dietz, Louise	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Duvall, Pamela	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration Region I
Engstrom, Jennifer	Departmental Manager, Corrections Central Office
Essex, Dana	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Farley, Roger	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Newberry Correctional Facility
Foster, Paul	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Gallatin, Richie	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Garza, Renaldo	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Goss, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Green, Michael	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Halfman, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Harding, Barbara	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Hiller, Veronica	Field Agent, Field Operations Administration Region III
Holcomb, John	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Lumbert, Margaret	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Markel, Barbara	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Masters, Denise	Secretary, Field Operations Administration Region III
McKinney, James	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McVean, James	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Mohr, Richard	Corrections Resident Representative, Marquette Branch Prison
Niemisto, Kenneth	Corrections Security Inspector, Marquette Branch Prison
O'Dowd, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Osborne, David	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Patterson, John	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Piatkowski, Elizabeth	Registered Nurse Manager, Thumb Correctional Facility
Pline, Kris	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Robinson, Jeanette	Human Resources Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Shroad, Philip	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Sigafoose, Steve	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Corrections Central Office
Simmons, Grant	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Skelton, Candace	Executive Secretary, Corrections Central Office
Snider, Sara	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Stabile, Donald	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Sullivan, Robert	Administrative Manager, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Topp, Terry	Maintenance Mechanic, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Wiles, Kenneth	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Wilton, Greg	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Woodcox, Dawn	Departmental Technician, Lakeland Correctional Facility