

# 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](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov). Like MDOC on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The image on the cover of the East Breakwater Lighthouse in Manistique was taken by **Jenna Helinski**, an employment counselor at Chippewa Correctional Facility. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).





# Set for Success

## Newest Vocational Village site opens at Parnall Correctional Facility

**A** year ago, a former Michigan State Industries factory on the grounds of Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson sat shuttered and mostly empty.

But in a matter of months, the closed-off industrial space was transformed into a cutting-edge classroom designed to help prisoners land careers in high-demand fields. It is home to the department's newest Vocational Village.

"Every great success story starts with a vision," Parnall

Correctional Facility Warden Melinda Braman said. "We had several visions that made today a reality."

In a space where prisoners once made license plates, shoes and other goods, they now learn skilled trades including robotics, computer numerical control machining, carpentry, automotive technology, commercial driving, forklift operation and concrete and masonry work.

They live together in one housing unit that acts as a supportive learning community where prisoners can study and attend programs together, and work toward a common goal. Prisoners have full days of training and classroom instruction intended to mimic a typical work day outside prison walls.

When operating at full capacity, the new Vocational Village at Parnall Correctional Facility will have the ability to accommodate up to 240 skilled trades students and 32 trade tutors. It will also include up to 85 students completing higher education classes with the help of federal grants through the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program.



Prisoners in the concrete and masonry program practice the trade during the open house for the Parnall Vocational Village.

“This is a great day for us,” Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington told Michigan business leaders, government officials, community partners and prisoners during a grand opening tour of the new Vocational Village on Aug. 30. “The Vocational Village is something we created because of a need to provide more education and more training to offenders in our care.”

The department opened its first Vocational Village at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in 2016, and nearly 70 percent of prisoners who have paroled from that program so far are employed. The Handlon Correctional Facility Vocational Village trains prisoners in trades that include welding, computer numerical control machining, automotive technology, carpentry, plumbing and electrical work.

Prisoners at both Vocational Villages must meet measurable goals and they receive state- and nationally-recognized certifications in their trade for successful participation in the program. The Vocational Village gives prisoners an opportunity to invest in their future, and it allows the department to invest in public

safety by giving them a skill that will help reduce their risk of re-offense. “Our ultimate goal is to provide long-term public safety,” Washington said. “The only way we can do that is to create change and to create an environment that helps these gentlemen be successful when they return home.” Prisoners from across the state can apply to participate in the program and must be within two years of release, have a GED, and stay misconduct free to be accepted. They also must show they are committed to completing the training. “They have to demonstrate they want to be involved and they have an aptitude and an interest

in the trade,” Washington said. “The prisoners in this program are driven, smart and will come out with expertise in their trade.” That expertise is something prisoner Lee Robar, Jr. is looking forward to having. Robar, who is involved in the Vocational Village’s carpentry program, said he hopes the training and certifications will propel him to a career that will help him support his family and show his sons the value of hard work. “I’m motivated and I have a desire in my heart to use this to be a better person,” Robar said. “A lot of guys don’t get this kind of opportunity. I’m blessed to have this chance.”

**Check out these stories about the Vocational Village open house**

[‘Guys without hope find their way back,’ prisoner in new Vocational Village says](#) — MLive

[From inmate to employee: Inside new prison skilled trades program](#) — WLNS TV

[Michigan doubles capacity to prep inmates for in-demand jobs](#) — Associated Press

[Prison program gives inmates life-long skills](#) — WNEM-TV

[Good idea to provide inmates with job training](#) — Iron Mountain Daily News



Director Heidi Washington speaks with a prisoner in the Robotics lab.



# Race to the Top

## Lead agent completes Ironman Triathlon

The terrain was hilly, the weather was warmer than expected, and Jason Perry had 140.6 miles to travel before he could be named an Ironman



Jason Perry

Triathlon finisher.

“You’re never sure if you’ve trained enough, or if you’re going to have a good day or a bad day,” said Perry, a lead agent for COMPAS, who competed in the Mont –Tremblant Ironman Triathlon in Quebec in August. “It’s always the question of, can I do it?”

Perry completed a half Ironman in Grand Rapids earlier this year, and a friend convinced him to tackle the full event.

The race includes a 2.4-mile swim, 112 miles of cycling and a 26.2-mile run.

Perry had been training up to six days a week since January, taking up to two hours each weekday and nine hours a day on weekends to prepare.

“There were a lot of early mornings,” Perry said. “As your training goes on, you experience a lot of different emotions and stress.”

After the race began, challenges crept up in an unexpected portion of the race for Perry – the run.

He met his personal goals during the swim and cycling legs of the competition, but worried he was starting to fall behind his goal for the run.

“There’s time during the run where you think ‘I just need to finish,’” Perry said. “Then, when I was out there doing the math I thought that I could still meet my original goal if I just kept on course.”

Ultimately, Perry finished the race in 11 hours and 36 minutes, and felt elated, but exhausted.

“It just emphasized how much sacrifice it took throughout the year,” said Perry, whose family and friends traveled to Quebec to cheer him on. “It all paid off and came together.”

He said positive support from his family, friends, colleagues and spectators at the race kept him motivated.

“The community out there was very supportive,” said Perry.

“You have your name on your bib, and everyone who came out cheered you on by name even if they didn’t know you. My Grand Rapids group was there and my family, and that was a huge source of support for me.”

Though the race tested his limits, Perry said he would probably do it again.

“That night I said I’d checked it off my bucket list, but before the end of the night I had come to terms with the fact that I’d probably do another one,” Perry said. “You get hooked.”

## New Assistant Deputy Director, wardens announced

Steve Rivard, who had been working as acting assistant deputy director of the southern



region following the retirement of Bruce Curtis in 2016, will now serve as acting assistant deputy director of operations. Lloyd Rapelje has been named

assistant deputy director of the southern region of the Correctional



Facilities Administration. Rapelje previously served as the assistant deputy director for the administration’s northern region.

Robert Napel, warden of Marquette Branch Prison, was named acting assistant deputy director of the CFA northern region.



Erica Huss will now serve as acting warden of Marquette Branch Prison, and Sarah Schroeder will be acting deputy warden.

In addition,

Erick Balcarcel was named acting warden of St. Louis Correctional Facility and Bob Vashaw is acting deputy warden.

The appointments took effect Sept. 1.

# Aiming High

## Newberry prison counselor named coach of the year after stellar season

Engadine Schools in Michigan's Upper Peninsula might be small, but Newberry Correctional Facility Prison Counselor Roger French was determined to put them on the map. Seven years ago, French became the girls' varsity basketball coach for the district and in that time he developed a program that drew statewide attention. In the 2016-17 season, the Engadine

education and psychology, said he initially wanted to be a teacher and coach. He always had a love for basketball, but hadn't been involved in the sport for 15 years before a coaching spot opened up at Engadine. "I never thought I'd have a chance to be a high school coach," French said. "I went for it, they gave me a chance, and I ended up coaching."



girls' varsity basketball team made it to the girls' high school basketball state semi-finals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

"We're usually competing against schools at least twice as big," French said.

The team didn't make it past the semi-finals, but ended their season with a 20-6 record, despite a small squad of just 8 girls, two being seniors.

French was later selected by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan as the Girls' State Coach of the Year for Class D. He was also named the Region 15 Coach of the Year, and was selected to coach the north team, which included his senior stand-out guard, in the 2017 Upper Peninsula All-Star Classic game.

French, who started working for the department in 1995 as a corrections officer and has a degree in physical

French is typically only away from basketball for about one month out of the year. The rest of the time is spent running open gyms, holding basketball camps and coaching summer league teams. His wife is also a basketball coach at Engadine, and his children

help as team managers.

French said it can be a challenge to draw strong athletes from a school with only 100 students, but his teams have been top-notch – especially for the 2016-17 season.

"We had one of the strongest conferences," French said. "They were really strong, which for us just made us better."

"In a small school we have a lot of multi-sport kids, so the skill level in that is not just basketball. They're playing four varsity sports a year."

[To hear more about French's coaching career and work in corrections, listen to the Sept. 19 episode of the Field Days podcast.](#)



## Officers honored during Sept. 11 Memorial event

Two Michigan corrections officers were among first responders from around the state who were honored at the Capitol as part of a Sept. 11 memorial ceremony.

Lorraine Emery, a corrections officer at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility was recognized by state Rep. Tom Barrett.

Ray Sholtz, a corrections officer at St. Louis Correctional Facility, was recognized by Rep. Ben Frederick. The event is held to remember those killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and honor law enforcement, emergency services staff and other first responders who serve the public.

Emery said she felt incredibly honored to be recognized at the event, after Barrett called her to personally invite her to it.

"He believes that corrections officers deserve to be honored and that they are law enforcement," Emery said. "He knows what we sacrifice in our efforts to serve others and keep our communities safe. I have so much gratitude for his recognition."

For more on this story, go to [mco-seiu.org](http://mco-seiu.org).





# Shooting to Win

MDOC Shooting Team take second overall at Police Pistol Shoot competition

The Michigan Department of Corrections landed high on the podium during the 80th Michigan Police Pistol Match.

The department took second place overall — a first



in its history of participation in the event.

The MDOC sponsored three shooting teams at the event, and there were three additional MDOC teams that elected to compete, along with a number of individual shooters.

Employees across the state, and across MDOC administrations tried out for a spot on one of the sponsored teams.

MDOC Team 1, which included Capt. Eugene Sebaly of Marquette Branch Prison, Deanne Bodnar of Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, Richard Wickstrom of Baraga Correctional Facility, Brian Majerczyk of Oaks Correctional Facility, Matthew Walker of Wayne County Parole, and alternate Matthew Lawson of Ojibway Correctional Facility, was the High Corrections Team.

Deanne Bodnar, of Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility won the High Corrections Individual title.

The September 14 competition was held at the RV Gray Outdoor Pistol Range in Jackson. Nearly 150 competitors from around the state participated in the event, which included teams from Michigan State Police, county sheriff departments, local police departments and retirees, in addition to the MDOC.

Shooters arrived early in the morning to participate in the Camp Perry style competition.

Participants were allowed to use their own handguns or service handguns to fire at a target 25 yards away, with 3 courses of fire.

That included a first string of 10 shots in 5 minutes, a second round consisting of two 5 shot strings in 20 seconds, each string, and a third round of two 5 shot strings in 10 seconds, each string, all fired single handed and unsupported, with a possible total score of 300 points.

Members from the MDOC practiced in their spare time, at their own expense, on an assortment of ranges, with their own handguns while supplying their own ammo and targets, and not ever being together as a complete team until the

morning of the shoot.

The 2018 competition will be held on Sept. 13.

Those interested in competing next year, or those looking for more information on the department’s sponsored teams can contact [MDOC-Competitive-Shooting-Team@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-Competitive-Shooting-Team@michigan.gov).

**For more on the MDOC’s shooting teams, listen to Tuesday’s episode of the Field Days podcast.**





# Chippewa Correctional Facility holds International Law Enforcement Pistol Shoot

Chippewa Correctional Facility held its International Law Enforcement Pistol Shoot on Aug. 24 at the facility's shooting range.

The event had its best participation to date.



Participating shooters came from Chippewa, Kinross, Newberry, Alger, Oaks, Woodland Center, Women's Huron Valley and Macomb correctional facilities, Marquette Branch Prison, the Absconder Recovery Unit and the Ordnance Unit.

Teams from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department also participated.

The event featured the following categories and winners:

- o ERT Team Class — Kinross Correctional Facility
- o Team Service Class — Brian Majerczyk (Oaks

Correctional Facility), Deanne Bodnar (Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility), James Loxton (Ordnance)

- o Individual Service Class — A. Jurkowski (U.S. Customs and Border Patrol)
- o Individual Open Class — A. Jurkowski (U.S. Customs and Border Patrol)
- o Revolver Open Class — Richard Uren (Marquette Branch Prison)

The \$2,000 in proceeds were donated to the startup of the MDOC Shooting Team and worksite chapters.

Anyone seeking more information or interested in participating in next year's event can contact Captain Michael Brown at [BrownM41@michigan.gov](mailto:BrownM41@michigan.gov).

*Submitted by Chippewa Correctional Facility Capt. Michael Brown*



## Employee Store: The one-stop shop for MDOC gear

The Michigan Department of Corrections Employee Store offers a wide selection of MDOC logo merchandise to department staff, retirees and their families.

Customized orders for other items are also available. Proceeds from the store will also be used to support events for MDOC staff.

For a link to view and order store items, and for instructions on logging in click the CVSD logo on the department's [SharePoint Intranet page here](#).

For questions about the store, contact the EPIC Office at [MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov).



## Try a new recipe

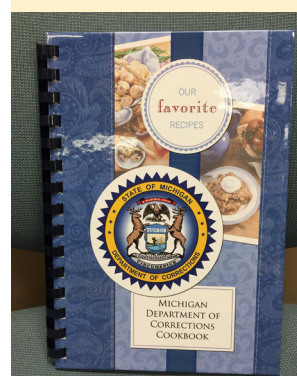
MDOC Cookbooks available for order

A compilation of favorite recipes from department staff is now available to employees statewide.

The Michigan Department of Corrections Cookbook is complete and ready to order.

We hope you will enjoy making these recipes and are able to find a new favorite to share with your family and friends.

You can fill out an order form for the cookbook [here](#) and send it to [mDOC-wellness@michigan.gov](mailto:mDOC-wellness@michigan.gov).



A portion of the proceeds will help support the EPIC Employee Engagement Team, State Employees Charitable Campaign and Harvest Gathering. Each cookbook will be sold for \$10.00 and recipe submitters may receive a 10% discount on their total order.



# Habitat for Humanity names Director Heidi Washington Public Official of the Year

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan recognized Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington as Public Official of the Year at its 21st Annual Awards Banquet in Lansing on Sept. 20.



Washington was honored for her support of the work of Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Michigan through the Prison Build Program.

The Michigan Department of Corrections established the Prison Build Program in 1998 with a mission to assist Habitat for Humanity and other nonprofits in providing housing to low-income families. The program educates and provides hands-on training to prisoners in building trades and horticulture, then connects them with employers in the industry following release.

“The Michigan Department of Corrections is pleased to partner with Habitat for Humanity of Michigan to help families in need, while providing prisoners with job skills and an opportunity for restorative justice,” Washington said. “I am humbled to be recognized, and

grateful for our long relationship with this outstanding organization.”

Washington has encouraged expansion of the Prison Build Program and her support of Habitat for Humanity has included participating in a home build with other MDOC employees.

Habitat for Humanity also recognized MDOC Assistant Education Manager Robert McGeorge for his years of service with the Prison Build Program.

“Director Washington and her team leading the Prison Build Program are able to make a huge difference in the lives of so many families throughout Michigan dreaming of homeownership,” said Sandy Pearson, President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Michigan. “Not only are the students in the program gaining valuable trade skills for when they reenter society, but they are also giving back to families in the community

by constructing beautiful, quality products like cabinet sets and countertops for Habitat homes.

We value the partnership of the MDOC and Director Washington and truly appreciate their desire to help improve the lives of so many in Michigan.”



# Ceremony held to honor Agent of the Year Candice Dunn with memorial tree

The Pontiac Probation Office honored Agent of the Year Candice Dunn with a memorial tree planted outside the office.



Pontiac staff held a dedication ceremony in September, and a memorial placard and garden bench also mark the site.

The bench was donated by field staff in Genesee County.



Dunn was killed in a car accident in May following the MDOC Employee Appreciation Banquet, where she was celebrated as the department’s 2017 Agent of the Year.

# Correctional facilities donate backpacks to help students in need

## Drive honors former Deputy Warden Kelly Barnett

Mid-Michigan students in need got off to a good start for the school year thanks to the generosity of staff at St. Louis and Central

school supplies. The backpacks and supplies were donated to elementary students at schools across Gratiot County.



The backpacks were purchased by the St. Louis Correctional Facility Employee Club and the supplies, or money for the supplies, were donated by staff. RUM Kelly Hughes and Litigation

Michigan correctional facilities.

The facilities held their annual backpack drive this summer, with this year's event held in memory of Deputy Warden Kelly Barnett, who passed away unexpectedly in September 2016. The drive turned out to be the biggest yet, with a total of 230 backpacks donated and filled with

Coordinator Mary Jo Houlden helped ensure the backpack drive was again a huge success.

*Submitted by Becky Carl, administrative assistant at St. Louis Correctional Facility*



# Remembering Corrections Officer Michael Lee

Michigan Department of Corrections employees in Muskegon are working to raise money to support the family of Corrections Officer Michael Lee, who was killed in



a motorcycle accident on Sept. 13. Lee, who has worked at both Muskegon and West Shoreline correctional facilities, leaves behind his wife and two children.

He began his career as a food service leader, and spent the last four years of his career with the department as a corrections officer.

Lee was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Iraq.

Staff at West Shoreline Correctional Facility have raised more than \$1,300 for Lee's family.

Services were held Sept. 19 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Wright.

Memorial donations can be directed to the Knights of Columbus Council #4404.

# State transitioning to SIGMA in October

SIGMA ESS (Employee Self Service), SIGMA MSS (Manager Self Service), and SIGMA HRM (used by Human Resources [HR] and timekeepers) will go-live starting October 8, 2017.



It is anticipated that employees, managers, timekeepers and HR users will be able to access the system beginning October 16 for time and expense entry and processing.

Project SIGMA has information available to assist employees and managers in the transition process at [InsideSIGMA.Michigan.gov](http://InsideSIGMA.Michigan.gov).



# New class of corrections officers graduate from Denise Quarles Academy

Eleven new corrections officers joined the MDOC as members of the Denise Quarles class on

September 15.

The new officers will begin their careers at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, where they will complete eight weeks of on-the-job training. Graduates also received awards for academic achievement and personal conduct.

Award recipients included:

- Corrections Officer Chantel Flaig — Academic Achievement Award
- Corrections Officer Tiffany Anderson — Jack L. Budd Award
- Corrections Officer Shawauna Robinson — Josephine B. McCallum Award.

The next corrections officer academies began on September 11, with 110 recruits in the Lower Peninsula class and 24 recruits in the Upper Peninsula class.



## Budgeting workshop helps offenders navigate finances

Branch County held a budgeting workshop for probationers and parolees interested in improving their financial situation.

This workshop was completed while Carey Guide participants are also going through their budgeting guide.



Matthew Houtz, Vice President of PNC Bank, taught the workshop using the Foundations of Money Management Program.

All participants were given a workbook and a journal for use on their budgeting journey. There were seven participants in the class and all found it very helpful, despite their differing financial situations.

Future workshops are currently being scheduled including a “gift wrapping and inexpensive gift ideas” workshop and “simple home and auto repairs” workshop.

# MDOC staff educate community on corrections during Upper Peninsula State Fair

Michigan Department of Corrections staff shared information about the department, its role in the criminal justice community and career avenues it offers during the Upper Peninsula State Fair.

A display was set up at the fair that focused on training, recruitment, the history of the department and programs, such as Leader Dogs for the Blind at Marquette Branch Prison.

Staff also presented specially-made bandanas to individuals identified as veterans to thank and recognize them for their service.

There were many positive interactions with visitors and area residents who were interested to learn more about corrections.

Staff stationed at the display also assisted a young woman who was being harassed and broke up a fight that occurred at a vendor booth.



## State Employees Charitable Campaign kicks off

The State Employees Charitable Campaign began on September 18 and will run through October 20.

The campaign provides State of Michigan employees with the most efficient and consistent pathway possible for charitable giving — payroll deduction. Employees can contribute to more than 1,000 charities which support the communities in which they live and work.

The Michigan Department of Corrections raised \$97,872 through payroll deduction donations during the 2016-17 campaign.

For more information on charities and making a donation, visit [misecc.org](http://misecc.org).



## Help offered for hurricane relief efforts

Those affected by the hurricanes in the southern U.S. and the Caribbean continue to need help. A fund has been established with the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation to assist Texas correctional staff who have been affected by the storm. Those who would like to make a donation can go to [www.cpodf.org](http://www.cpodf.org) and click on the Hurricane Harvey Donation drop box located near the bottom of the page.

In addition, the Association of State Correctional Administrators has set up a relief fund to help corrections employees impacted by the hurricane. To donate, visit [www.asca.net](http://www.asca.net).

National organizations, such as the American Red Cross, are also accepting donations. You can donate on the Red Cross website or text HARVEY to 90999 to donate \$10.

You can also make a donation through the State Employees Charitable Campaign by texting MYSECC to 41444.



# Parnall Correctional Facility holds fundraiser for Law Enforcement Torch Run

**P**arnall Correctional Facility staff helped raise money and collect supplies for the Law Enforcement Torch Run team during a cook out on July 27. The event was held in support of facility Recreation Director Brad Budzynski, who is a new member of this year's central route run team, representing the MDOC. Food was supplied by the second shift command, including Capt. Lang, Lt. McAllister, Lt. Anderson, Sgt. Demyers and Sgt. Robinson. Corrections Officers Wendt and Closson grilled and prepared hot dogs, beans, coney sauce, chips

and drinks all for a donation which went towards the LETR MDOC team. More than \$250 was raised and the funds were used to purchase Gatorade, water, snacks, and other products, to keep the team going for the entire run. The run began in Copper Harbor on September 11 and concluded in Detroit on September 15. The central route is a non-stop run. Teams are rotated every 30 miles so each MDOC runner covered up to a 5-mile leg, twice every 24 hours. *Submitted by Shane Gray, administrative assistant at Parnall Correctional Facility*



# MDOC staff participate in Lake Lansing Team Relay

**I**n August, Ingham County Parole Agent Melanie Cascaddan led three teams of runners for the Lake Lansing Team Relay. Each of the 15 runners completed more than 5 miles. The teams included Ingham County parole and probation agents, supervisors, administrators, and probation sentencing specialists. Agent Cascaddan has done a great job engaging staff routinely with training plans, encouragement, and her exceptional leadership.

*Submitted by Ingham and Clinton County Parole and Probation Supervisor Doug Clark*



# Around the MDOC

## Skylar Bartley awarded Susan M. Hunter Scholarship

Skylar Bartley, whose mother is Lead Agent Nicole Odom, was among select students nationwide to be awarded the Susan M. Hunter Scholarship. Bartley is planning to attend the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Bartley's career goals include becoming a biomedical technician.

## Lakeland Correctional Facility golf outing benefits Shop with a Cop

Lakeland Correctional Facility participated in a golf outing at Turtle Creek Golf Course on Aug. 25 to help families in need during the holidays. The \$4,252 in proceeds raised during the outing will benefit the local Shop with a Cop program. The Branch County Sherriff's Department, Coldwater City Police Department, Michigan State Police and other area agencies participated in the event in addition to Lakeland Correctional Facility.

## Backing the Blue event to be held Sept. 30 at the Capitol

The third annual Backing the Blue event kicks off September 30 at the Michigan State Capitol. The event honors members of law enforcement, including corrections, and will run from noon to 4 p.m. It will feature a tribute to fallen officers, a silent auction, children's activities and speeches from Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and others. For more information about the event, visit [www.backingthebluemi.com](http://www.backingthebluemi.com)



# With Thanks

Food Pantry filled with help of Detroit Reentry Center garden

September 5, 2017

Director Heidi Washington  
Michigan Department of Corrections  
206 E. Michigan Ave  
Grandview Plaza  
P.O. Box 30003  
Lansing, MI 48909

Director Washington,

Peace and blessings to you.

I wanted to extend my gratitude for the fresh garden produce grown at an experimental "Charity Garden" by inmates and staff at the Detroit Reentry Center. The produce is being distributed at our Capuchin Services Center food pantry at 6333 Medbury here in Detroit. Furthermore, our two chefs at our two soup kitchen sites at 1264 Meldrum St. and 4390 Conner St. are excited about the opportunity for the fresh produce as well.

It's exciting to hear about the Charity Garden at the Detroit Reentry Center. In an effort to get people more connected with the soil and the process of nurture, consistent care, patience, paying close attention to details, and the rewards of hard work, a Capuchin friar started one of the first urban farming projects in Detroit that we call "Earthworks" near our 1264 Meldrum site soup kitchen almost 20 years ago.

I'm happy to hear of the gardening program started at the Detroit Reentry Program; I imagine for some of the inmates it will be a good opportunity to experience the values listed above as well as knowing that their work will go to help supply fresh food for families in Detroit who are struggling to get by.

Thanks again, I appreciate creative programs such as these that nurture human growth and the work it takes to manage everything. Please know of my prayers for you and your staff. You have an especially difficult job with a lot of stress and responsibility.

With Gratitude,



Br. Jerry Johnson, OFM Capuchin  
Capuchin Soup Kitchen

Office: 313-579-2100, ext. 220  
Email: [jjohnson@cskdetroit.org](mailto:jjohnson@cskdetroit.org)

**Do you have a letter of thanks you'd like to share? Send it to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov) to have it included in a future edition of the Corrections Connection Newsletter.**



# The Extra Mile

## MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



In January, Stephanie Vink, an agent with the Ottawa/Holland Parole and Probation Office, received a call from a parolee on her caseload that she had taken an overdose of her medication.

The parolee told Vink that she “didn’t want to go on anymore.” Vink immediately called 911 and sent paramedics and police to the parolee’s home, before travelling there herself to provide paramedics with the parolee’s medications.

Vink also followed the parolee to the hospital to provide medical staff there with her medications, and stayed in contact with the parolee’s mental health providers.

Her efforts to help the parolee earned her the department’s Lifesaving Award.

Kim Hill, a corrections officer at Alger Correctional Facility, and his friends were enjoying a trip on their pontoon boat on Lake Superior in July when they came across two kayakers that had overturned.

There were two adults and three children in distress and trying to stay afloat in the cold waters.

The children were 6, 8, and 13. Hill organized the group to get all five individuals on the pontoon boat and radioed the Ranger Station.

He assisted in making sure all the kayakers stayed warm as they drove the pontoon boat to meet the ranger’s boat and helped escort all five to the ranger’s boat for transport to Munising for additional assistance. His actions earned him the department’s Lifesaving Award.



In October 2016, Mark Debo, a corrections officer at Saginaw Correctional Facility called for assistance with a prisoner who was unresponsive on his bunk.

Corrections Officer Kevin Datzko and Sgt. Michael Smith responded and helped Debo move the prisoner to the hallway to administer first aid and begin CPR.

Corrections Officer Mike Keyes brought a defibrillator and assisted with its application, as Registered Nurses Darrel Barrows and Michael Ketchum arrived to provide treatment

and monitor the prisoner’s vital signs until emergency medical services arrived.

Their decisiveness and ability to stay calm in an emergency situation to help a prisoner earned them the department’s Lifesaving Award.



Top: Corrections Officers Michael Keyes and Kevin Datzko, Director Heidi Washington, Corrections Officer Mark Debo and Sgt. Michael Smith.  
Bottom: Warden Tom Winn and Michael Ketchum.

# The Extra Mile continued...

Corrections Officer Williams Rasmussen was working in a housing unit at Saginaw Correctional Facility in February when he discovered a prisoner unresponsive in his cell. The prisoner had a sheet tied around his neck and was sitting on the floor.

Rasmussen called for assistance from Corrections Officer Matthew Rappley and they removed the sheet from the prisoner and moved him from the cell. Rappley and Corrections Officer Alan Schott began administering CPR, and



Registered Nurse Susan Smith

Parole Agent Fabian Lavigne arrived with the defibrillator. Sgt. Scott Balderstone and Registered Nurses Susan Smith and Kate Leffingwell also responded to assist with chest compressions until emergency medical services arrived to transport the prisoner to the hospital. Their conduct and efforts to assist the prisoner earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



Corrections Officers Alan Schott and William Rasmussen, Director Heidi Washington, Parole Agent Fabian LaVigne, Corrections Officer Matthew Rappley and Nurse Kate Leffingwell



Sgt. Scott Balderstone and Warden Tom Winn



Excellence Coin from Warden Tom Winn for her preparation and monitoring of the facility's budget.

Saginaw Correctional Facility Business Manager Sue Deal received the Symbol of

Office Assistant Audrey Karnes received the Symbol of Teamwork coin from Warden Tom Winn for organizing the Saginaw Correctional Facility blood drives and the Harvest Gathering.



## Corrections Quiz

What year did prisoners at the State Prison of Southern Michigan begin producing braille materials?

Send your answer to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto: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.

## August Quiz Recap

What facility received its first prisoners on August 30, 1877?

**Answer: Michigan Reformatory**

Congratulations to **Laci Grembowski**, records office supervisor at Carson City Correctional Facility, and **Shawndra Harris**, 3 East Ward clerk and general office assistant at Duane Waters Health Center, for being the first to correctly answer the August Corrections Quiz! Great job!



# Snapshots

## A look at life around the MDOC



Employees from Alger Correctional Facility participated in the Relay for Life at Munising High School in July. The team raised \$1,629.41.



Kinross Correctional Facility staff visited the U.S. Coast Guard base in Sault Ste. Marie as part of a reciprocal leadership and training program between the agencies.



The MDOC welcomed a class of about 40 new parole and probation agents on September 20.

## Corrections in the News

[Emergency prep at Gus Harrison](#) — Adrian Daily Telegram

[Golf Outing funds raised for Shop with a Cop event](#) — Coldwater Daily Reporter

[MDOC now offers Nixle service for landlines](#) — The Macomb Daily

[Michigan residents can now receive voice message alerts from Department of Corrections](#) — WLNS-TV

[Lessenberry: Change is the only constant for Michigan's prisons director](#) — Windsor Star

[Prisoners at Gus Harrison make donations to local groups](#) — Adrian Daily Telegram

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

## Seen on Twitter...



**MichiganDOC** @MichiganDOC · Aug 31  
 .@ASCALeadership has set up a #HurricaneHarvey relief fund asking for your help! Every little bit counts. Donate: [asca.net](http://asca.net)



Heidi Washington, MichiganDOC-FOA, MichiganDOC-CFA and 6 others

25 retweets, 34 likes

To see more, follow the MDOC on [Twitter](#).

# July New Hires

Adado, Joseph	Storekeeper, Jackson Central Region
Albert, Melinda	Field Agent, St. Joseph County Probation Office
Anderson, Tiffany	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Badjie, Tenesha	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Berkshire, Mariette	Psychologist, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Brasseur, Samantha	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Burns, Larry	Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries
Buryta, Matthew	Psychologist, Parnall Correctional Facility
Calkins, Austin	Accounting Assistant, Corrections Central Office
Casaday, Misty	General Office Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Cavitt, Marcella	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Courtney, Danielle	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Courtney, Litricia	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Cummins, Sara	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Edwards, Elizabeth	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Eikenhout, Mary	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Enrici, Christina	Teacher Aide, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Ferguson, Troy	Storekeeper, Ionia Regional Facilities
Firack, Demoree	Accounting Assistant, Northern Region Administration and Support
Flaig, Chantel	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Fowlkes, Jazzmine	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Garlitch, Heather	Secretary, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Gehrke, Olivia	General Office Assistant, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Gornick-Maycroft, Wendy	Psychologist, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hess, Bridget	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Horvath, David	Teacher Aide, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Itota, Iziengbe	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jewett, Olivia	Psychologist, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Johnson, Abigail	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Jones, Deryk	Registered Nurse Manager, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Jordan, Halee	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Krum, Amanda	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Manirath-Nandal, Hansa	Medical Records Examiner, Detroit Reentry Center
May, Hunter	Teacher Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Melton, Theresa	Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility
Meyers, Kathleen	Institution Chaplain, Parnall Correctional Facility
Monger, Samarra	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Robinson, Shawauna	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Rudden, Hope	Secretary, Delta County Parole and Probation Office
Spitzley, Michelle	Storekeeper, Michigan Reformatory
Stratton, Cody	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Sword, Donna	Registered Nurse, Thumb Correctional Facility
Tack, Emilee	Field Agent, Washtenaw County Probation Office
Thompson, Shavval	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Thornton, Ivana	Dentist, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Tlais, Zeinab	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Webb, Tracie	Psychologist, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Whitfield, Amber	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Wonders, Brandye	Field Agent, St. Joseph County Probation Office
Zuzelski, Chrystina	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center



# July Retirements

Beacham, Charles	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Birgy, Kenneth	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Bond, Troy	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Bryan, Don	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Cowles, Edward	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Darby, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Darnell, Robert	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Enszer, John	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Greub, Ricky	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Jones, Mark	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Jordan, Willie	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Palmer, Donald	School Teacher, Marquette Branch Prison
See, Christopher	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Steele, Thomas	Corrections Transportation Officer, Oaks Correctional Facility
Strasz, William	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Thoma, William	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Vansickle, Jeffrey	Trades Instructor, Thumb Correctional Facility
Walkup, Suzan	Word Processing Assistant, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Wallis, Mark	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Weimer, James	Maintenance Mechanic, Jackson Central Region
Zaborowski, Juanita	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Newberry Correctional Facility