



# F.Y.I.

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 14, 2014

## Contents:

Exemplary MDOC Employees ..... 1

Susan M. Hunter Scholarship Opportunity ..... 3

Employee Appreciation Banquet..... 4

Law Enforcement Torch Run & Special Olympics ..... 5

MDOC Employees Bring Holiday Cheer ..... 6

Retirements ..... 8

## EXEMPLARY MDOC EMPLOYEES

### Citizenship Awards

**Community Involvement:** Sue Brown-Ward has been presented with the Department’s Citizenship Award due to her extensive involvement in coordinating, contributing, and volunteering for programs that assist those in need. For many years, Sue has volunteered for the American Red Cross Blood Drive. Since 2002, she has coordinated Grandview Plaza’s Field Operations Administration’s Adopt-a-Family Holiday Campaign. Sue is also very involved with the Lansing City Rescue Mission. She has coordinated a winter coat drive to benefit the Mission, volunteered her time serving meals at the Mission, as well as initiated and coordinated an “immediate needs” drive in which \$1500 worth of goods, meat and beef were provided to the Mission. Additionally, Sue has initiated a Book Bag for Kids program in which the Book Bags are distributed through the Lansing City Rescue Mission. She also lead’s the Harvest Gathering for the third floor of Grandview Plaza. Sue’s tireless commitment and passion to those in need is truly admirable.



*R to L: Director Heyns, Deputy Director Sinclair, Sue Brown-Ward, Chris Cryslar and Tom Combs*

**Going Above and Beyond:** Corrections Officer Elon Martin is a part-time firefighter with the Muskegon Township Fire Department. In the early morning hours of July 21, 2013, Martin and his fire-professional colleagues responded to a call of a home on fire. As it turns out, the home belonged to a fellow corrections colleague, Inspector Sherry Walton. Once the Walton family had evacuated the home, Officer Martin entered the burning home several more times to retrieve valued items of the Walton family. Due to the compassion, kindness and thoughtfulness that Officer Martin exhibited in the midst of a difficult and tragic situation, he has been awarded the Department’s Citizenship Award.



*Officer Elon Martin with Inspector Sherry Walton and her family.*



F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Please submit articles through your supervisor to Jessica Peterson at [petersonj14@michigan.gov](mailto:petersonj14@michigan.gov)



## *Employee Awards (Continued from page 1)*

Aiding a Citizen: Officer Christina Tagett was working out at her gym when she observed a man in the gym collapse and fall backwards. Officer Tagett quickly obtained her CPR mask and she began performing rescue breathing on the unresponsive man while two other gym-goers performed chest compressions. Shortly after the incident, an ambulance arrived and transported the still unresponsive man to a hospital. Unfortunately, the man passed away; however, Officer Tagett's heroic efforts in response to a critical situation are truly admirable.



*L to R: Asst. Dep. Director Bruce Curtis, Warden Bonita Hoffner, Officer Christina Tagett, and Director Dan Heyns.*

Responding to Citizens in Need: On Officer William McQuade's drive home from work, he witnessed a significant car accident. The driver of a Honda Odyssey pulled out in front of a Chevrolet Avalanche, whose driver had the right-of-way and was travelling at approximately 60 mph. The Avalanche collided with the Odyssey which caused the Odyssey to spin around and flip over onto its roof into a 12-foot ditch. The Avalanche landed on its passenger side across the road in another ditch. Turning his hazard lights on, Officer McQuade quickly exited his vehicle to check on the occu-

pants of both vehicles. The passenger in the Avalanche was exiting the vehicle as McQuade approached. He checked on the driver, who was still in the vehicle, and also inspected the Avalanche to ensure that it was not on fire. Then Officer McQuade went to the Odyssey to assist a volunteer fireman who had also stopped after the accident to evacuate the occupants of the Odyssey. Officer McQuade and the fireman removed a young teenager and mother from the upside down vehicle. McQuade also assisted the three occupants of the Odyssey up a hill to safety while they waited for emergency responders to arrive. The passengers in the two vehicles received non-life-threatening injuries as a result of the accident. Additionally, Officer McQuade returned to the Odyssey to retrieve personal items of the occupants, for which they were very grateful. Officer McQuade's immediate and calm response in this emergent situation is a testament to his character and integrity.

## **Lifesaving Awards**

Prisoner Unconscious: Corrections Officer Robert Perez of the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility received the Department's Lifesaving Award due to decisive actions that he took on August 3, 2013. Officer Perez responded to a call which indicated that a prisoner was choking and was unable to breathe. The prisoner had passed out due to his inability to breathe so Officer Perez began administering abdominal maneuvers to dislodge the food item that was stuck in the prisoner's throat. Officer Perez's quick response and ability to remain calm during this life-threatening situation is truly admirable and saved a life.

Prisoner Choking: On September 9, 2013, a prisoner was choking outside of the chow hall at the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility. Corrections Officer Shaw and his colleagues quickly responded. Upon Officer Shaw's arrival, the prisoner was conscious but was unable to breathe. Officer

*Employee Awards (Continued on page 3)*



*L to R: Asst. Dep. Director Bruce Curtis, Director Dan Heyns, Officer William McQuade, and Warden Ken McKee*



Shaw stepped behind the prisoner and began to deliver abdominal thrusts in an attempt to dislodge the food from the prisoner's throat. After three attempts, Officer Shaw was able to dislodge the food item and the prisoner was able to breathe on his own. Officer Shaw's professionalism and quick response enabled him to provide the life-



**L to R:** Warden Paul Klee, Officers Robert Perez and Christopher Shaw, and Director Heyns.

saving aid needed in this situation.

Prisoner Unable to Breathe: Breakfast was running as it had most mornings on Officer Mark Kowalski's housing unit on November 6, 2013. Suddenly, a prisoner was in distress, unable to breathe and unable to respond to Officer Kowalski's questions. Officer Kowalski promptly began the Heimlich maneuver on the prisoner, and after three abdominal thrusts, the food that was blocking the prisoner's airway became dislodged. Due to Officer Kowalski's decisive action and ability to remain calm in a difficult situation, he saved the prisoner's life.



**L to R:** Asst. Dep. Director Bruce Curtis, Warden Bonita Hoffner, Officer Mark Kowalski, and Director Dan Heyns.

## SUSAN M. HUNTER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

In 2004, ASCA's Past Presidents' Committee established the Susan M. Hunter scholarship to provide a gift of educational funding to children of correctional staff in need of financial assistance to continue their educational endeavors. The Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship is named in honor of Susan M. Hunter as a lasting tribute to her commitment to the field of corrections. Susan M. Hunter dedicated her career to impacting correctional practices at both the state and national levels, and was 53 when she passed away from breast cancer in March of 2004.

Scholarship applicants must be the child of a current, retired or deceased employee who is or was a full-time employee of a state or federal corrections agency that is a member of ASCA. Applicants must be high school seniors entering college, undergraduates, or graduate students and must attend a 2- or 4-year accredited college or university. Students must be enrolled full time as defined by their college or university. Incoming first-time freshman and enrolled full-time college graduate or undergrad students must have a minimum college GPA of 3.3. Graduate students' field of study must be Corrections/Criminal Justice.

In 2013, scholarships were awarded in the amounts of \$1,000 for undergraduate students, \$1,500 for graduate students and \$500 for continuing award winners. The number of scholarships and amounts of awards depends upon donations received. Applications are due by March 31, 2014.

For information in regards to ASCA's Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship visit - <http://www.asca.net/projects/20/pages/149>

## **EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION BANQUET—MAY 7, 2014**

As many of you are aware, every spring the department recognizes a Corrections Officer of the Year at an annual banquet. As Director, I have met many of the dedicated and passionate staff that exists throughout this organization. I am proud of this department and our hard working employees who serve the citizens of Michigan day in and day out. I think that it is time to expand this yearly tradition and recognize and honor the exceptional staff throughout our department. This spring, the department will hold an Employee Appreciation Banquet on Wednesday, May 7 at the Michigan State Kellogg Center. At the banquet, the department will honor the following staff of the year: Corrections Officer, Parole Agent, Probation Agent, Administrative Support, Health Care, Mental Health Care, Academic Teacher, Vocational Teacher, Professional Excellence Award Winners, as well as the Director's Award recipient.



## **NEWLY PROMOTED WARDENS AT FIVE FACILITIES**

January brought new change to five of the department's facilities. Newly promoted Wardens took the helm of the Detroit Detention Center (DDC), Detroit Reentry Center (DRC), and Carson City, Oaks and Richard A. Handlon correctional facilities.

The DDC and DRC's Warden is Anthony Stewart who began his career with the department 26 years ago as a Corrections Officer. Warden Stewart moved through the department ranks holding positions of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Inspector, Deputy Warden and Acting Warden.

Carson City's Warden is Cathy Stoddard who started with the department at the Michigan Reformatory as a Corrections Officer. Warden Stoddard has held a multitude of positions throughout her 27.5 year career with the department including Sergeant, Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Resident Unit Manager, Assistant Deputy Warden, Deputy Warden and Acting Warden.

Oaks' Warden is Lori Gidley who began her career with the department in 1986 as a case manager at the Michigan Reformatory. Warden Gidley has extensive experience with the department as she has held positions as an Assistant Litigation Coordinator, Administrative Assistant to Deputy Warden and Warden, as well as most recently a Deputy Warden.

Richard A. Handlon's Warden is DeWayne Burton who began his career with the department nearly 26 years ago. Warden Burton began his career as a Corrections Officer and held various other positions with the department including Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Inspector, Assistant Deputy Warden and Deputy Warden.

Congratulations to the department's new wardens.

## 2014 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES



In Michigan, law enforcement officers and corrections officers coordinate events to raise money for Special Olympic athletes, which includes the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year. Funds raised by the LETR benefits 19,620 athletes with intellectual disabilities in Michigan. Donations go toward athlete uniforms, sports equipment, facilities, housing fees and coaches training. The Department has had a very positive and ongoing relationship with the LETR for Special Olympics, and is committed to continue to provide support to this effort.

There is a multitude of ways in which department staff are able to participate and volunteer which include being a member of the Executive Committee, Captain for your CFA or FOA location, MDOC Run Team member, or volunteer for the Special Olympic Summer Games. Executive Committee members are asked to attend monthly meetings at various locations throughout the state and are also invited to attend the LETR Conference. Captains are permitted for each CFA and FOA location. Captains coordinate their location's LETR activities which includes ongoing fund-raising activities as well as the coordination of an actual local Torch Run event. MDOC Run Team Members will travel the state during the Awareness Week raising funds for and awareness of the Special Olympics. The run takes place during the week of September 7, 2014. Special Olympic Summer Game volunteers will assist with the opening and closing ceremonies, awarding medals to the athletes, as well as providing encouragement and support to the athletes that participate in the competitions.

Staff will be permitted to utilize varying levels of administrative leave depending on participation in the volunteer activities. If interested in participating, please contact Norma Killough, Administrative Assistant, CFA.

### EPIC NEWS— STAFF TRAINING TEAM

The EPIC Staff Training Team recently proposed "Going Mobile" for staff training. This Mobile Lab would provide both staff and trainers the flexibility and convenience for on-site training. Trainers would visit on-site and provide staff with laptops for In-service and New Agent / FSA Academies such as COMPAS, OMNI, Specialized training for GPS/SCRAM/RF, Tether/ICOTS, etc. We look forward to the implementation and rollout of this mobile lab in 2014.

The EPIC Staff Training Team is also in the process of developing a training form to be utilized by all committees who make training recommendations to the Training Division. The intent is to streamline and simplify processes of all new training program proposals. The form would include expectations of the training program, a detailed cost analysis of the training and time frames for rollout. The EPIC Staff Training Team will also assist in writing and developing a policy/procedure to follow, after the training division has finished writing the module and/or finalized proposal. This policy would provide further instructions to include who the training program proposals must be submitted to for final approval as well as time frames for that approval and implementation rollout.

**MDOC EMPLOYEES BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND**

**Macomb Probation Office Supports Toys for Tots**

Agent Donnie Whitley, the Chief Steward at the Macomb Probation Office (QMC), volunteered to assist UAW Local 6000 to sponsor the Toys for Tots drive at the Macomb Probation



*Front Row L to R: Agents Le’Kia Maxwell, Kari Gies, and Donnie Whitley.*

*Back Row L to R: Agents Tanis Walker, Sarah McCann, Lauren Utich, and Brian Baker.*

Office during December 2013. As a result of widespread participation by the staff here at QMC, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve presented the Commander’s Award to recognize the MDOC – Mt. Clemens for outstanding achievement in support of the 2013 Toys for Tots Program.

**Pugsley Correctional Facility Donates to The Salvation Army’s Adopt-A-Family**

In December, staff from Pugsley Correctional Facility collectively purchased and donated an estimated \$2,500 worth of Christmas gifts to “The Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family” program in Traverse City. The Adopt-A-



*RUM Smiley (center) of MPF delivering Christmas gifts to the Traverse City Salvation Army*

Family program matches impoverished families with individual or group sponsors to provide for

their tangible needs at Christmas. Without the benefit of an adoption, these families would be looking forward to a very grim holiday. Being adopted is designed to be a once or, on very rare occasions, twice in a lifetime event for recipient families. Sponsors are asked to provide two or more new gifts for each member of the household and to provide food for the family for four to seven days. Due to the generosity and kindheartedness of the Pugsley staff, many families in need had a wonderful Christmas.

**WHV Second Annual “Shop with a Corrections Officer”**

The staff of Women’s Huron Valley (WHV) correctional facility hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Shop with a Corrections Officer” on December 14, 2013. Throughout the year, staff held several fundraisers, headed by Marniece Hammon, to raise funds for this worthy cause. Twenty-five children, an increase of 6 from 2012, were selected by Greg Pordon, Community Resource Coordinator for the DHS Washtenaw Office. These children were chosen due to the needs of their family.

Thirty officers and the children caravanned in a snow storm to Wal-Mart, in Saline, MI. Each child received a \$130.00 gift card plus a \$10.00 gift card courtesy of Wal-Mart. The children were able to browse around the entire store and purchase any item(s) their heart desired. Many of the children purchased things



## *Holiday Cheer (Continued from page 6)*

they needed such as winter boots, hats, gloves and personals. Barbara Kyles, a 19 year veteran, found great pleasure in helping her young shopper choose some items for his younger siblings. "It makes me feel so good to see these kids smiling and being happy, because they may not have had a good Christmas had they not shopped with us." Despite their situation, these children thought of their family. That is the true meaning of Christmas, giving to others.

Special thanks goes to the entire staff of WHV, especially those who played Santa Clause, prepared the dinner, made t-shirts and did balloon twisting for this great event.

### **Carson City Officers Remember U.S. Army Troops Serving in Afghanistan**

Corrections Officers at the Carson City Correctional Facility wanted to ensure that those serving for our country knew how much their service was appreciated. Officers wanted to show their support by sending photos of themselves behind a United States Army flag. A photo was taken with officers from each shift to express their support. In addition, they also sent holiday care packages which included decks of playing cards, an assortment of food, hygiene products and a Christmas card.



*First Shift Officers from Carson City*



*Second Shift Officers from Carson city*



*Third Shift Officers from Carson City*

## SHARE YOUR POSITIVE PERSONAL STORIES

Personal Portrait is a new addition to F.Y.I. that shares the personal accomplishments and actions of our employees. If you know about something an employee has done that deserves some praise or credit, let us know! Email the information, with pictures if you can get them, to me at [peterstonj14@michigan.gov](mailto:peterstonj14@michigan.gov). We will share their story with the rest of the MDOC family.



**RETIREMENTS - DECEMBER 2013****Employee****Facility**

Adolph, Patricia N.....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Alsbury, Pamela D .....	Eaton County Parole/Probation
Baraboll, William T.....	Detroit Reentry Center
Basal, Robert C .....	Marquette Branch Prison
Belen, William G .....	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Bertrand, Michael .....	Thumb Correctional Facility
Bissland, Diane L.....	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Blank, Robert A .....	CFA - Jackson
Bonevelle, Richard D.....	Alger Correctional Facility
Booker, Raymond D .....	Detroit Reentry Center
Buchanan, Rondald E.....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Carmer, Mark W .....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Carroll, Terry L .....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Carter, Carlton D .....	Detroit Reentry Center
Cook, Charles W .....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Cowling, Charles A.....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Curtin, Cindi S .....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Dwight, Steven .....	Special Alternative Incarceration Facility
Ezeokobe, Hyginus E .....	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Ferguson, Dale M.....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Frechen, Douglas S .....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Gilbert, Todd G.....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Gill-Ash, Sylvia .....	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Gurnoe, Melvin E.....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Guynn, Jerry A .....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Haischer, Jay M.....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Hoolsema, Sharon R .....	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Ignasiak, Connie M.....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Keehn, William E .....	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Kemppainen, Robert J.....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Kozlowski, Victoria A .....	Lakeland Correctional Facility

**AWARDS** (Continued from page 8)

Lafata, Joseph A.....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Laroy, William J.....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Lawrence, Philip A.....	Newberry Correctional Facility
Lewis, Gary M.....	Ionia Correctional Facility
Lott, Robert H.....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Martin, Roger D.....	Carson City Correctional Facility
McLeod, Daniel L.....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Milks, Philip.....	Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Moffatt, Christine K.....	Marquette Branch Prison
Nobis, Dwayne S.....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Oshea, Patrick D.....	Earnest Brooks Correctional Facility
Owens, Bobby.....	Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Pentland, Barbara L.....	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Peterson, James G.....	FOA – Calhoun County
Prelesnik, John W.....	Richard Handlon Correctional Facility
Randall, Charles A.....	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Reamer, Jeffrey A.....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Roberts, Patrick H.....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Rosiek, James.....	Macomb Correctional Facility
Schroeder, David J.....	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Seidelman, Paul A.....	Richard Handlon Correctional Facility
Smith, Rocky N.....	Earnest Brooks Correctional Facility
Stephens, Joseph A.....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Sundberg, Donald D.....	Lakeland Correctional Facility
Taylor, Randy W.....	Richard Handlon Correctional Facility
Tonsor, Rebecca.....	Kinross Correctional Facility
White, Steven A.....	Thumb Correctional Facility
Wilkinson, John D.....	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Young, Jacqueline.....	Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Zeien, Sharon.....	St. Louis Correctional Facility