



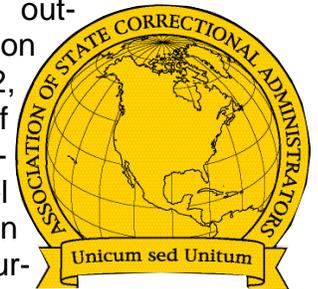
Contents:

- Violence Prevention Programming3
- CCM Skills Tested in Puppy Recovery4
- Field Report.....5
- Transition Update6
- Special Olympics Needs Volunteers6
- People Make the Difference7

DIRECTOR CARUSO RECOGNIZED AS THE BEST IN THE NATION

At its annual awards dinner on December 4, 2010, the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) honored Patricia Caruso, Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections, as the outstanding Director of Corrections for 2010.

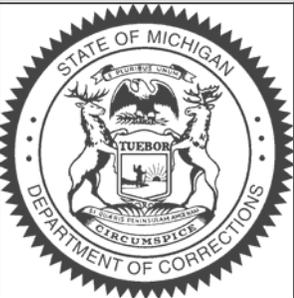
The award is presented annually to recognize the outstanding ASCA member, and that member's dedication and achievements. ASCA established the award in 1992, to celebrate Michael Francke's contribution to the field of Corrections and his support of ASCA. In 1989, while Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections, Michael Francke was murdered as he left his office in Salem. In 1991, a former Oregon inmate was convicted of his murder and sentenced to life in prison.



Making the award announcement, Morris Thigpen, Director of the National Institute of Corrections and recipient of the first Francke Award in 1992, noted that Director Caruso has a long and outstanding career. She began as an assistant business manager in 1988 and has risen to the top leadership position. He described some of her qualities from the letters of nomination: "passion, true leader, high standards, vision, integrity, dedication, and enthusiasm."

For the past seven years she has successfully managed one of the largest corrections systems in the country during one of the most difficult economic periods in the state's history. Michigan currently operates 35 prisons, houses 44,000 prisoners and supervises approximately 58,000 probationers and 20,000 parolees. Under her vision and leadership, Michigan implemented one of the most effective prisoner reentry programs in the entire nation. This initiative serves as a gold standard for corrections and has been adopted by other correctional systems. She has appropriately reduced the size of the state's prison population while at the same time enhancing public safety. She has cut hundreds of millions of dollars from the budget while maintaining a strong commitment to reinvest in community programs. Change achieved in the Department's staff culture has resulted in a new focus on increasing public safety by investing in offenders' success when they are released from prison. She

AWARD (Continued on page 2)



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 John Cordell at cordelj@micichigan.gov



AWARD (Continued from page 1)

has employed the results of sound research and good data to inform policy decision-making, and has implemented evidenced-based programming on the same basis.

Director Caruso has made a significant investment in the professional development of staff with the Leadership Program initiated in 2002, which now requires an intensive 95-hour training program for all new supervisors, managers, and executives. She has taken serious and aggressive action to address recidivism and continues to provide safe and humane living and working conditions in the Department's facilities. Many other innovations and accomplishments have been achieved under her leadership, including technologies to automate prisoner movement processes, electronic enhancements for prisoner education, and statewide communication via video conferencing.

She has also been recognized with numerous awards. In 2008, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan presented her with the Public Official of the Year award for her long-time support of Habitat programs. That same year Family Justice presented her their Justice Leadership Award for Michigan's partnership with Family Justice to break the intergenerational cycles of crime and incarceration.

Her leadership has not been confined to her own state. She is a member and Past President of the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents. As an active member of the American Correctional Association, she has



Director Patricia L. Caruso accepts the Michael Francke Outstanding Director of Corrections Award for 2010.

served as Vice President and was recently re-elected to that position.

Immediately upon becoming a member of ASCA, she captured the hearts and minds of fellow administrators not only because of her leadership and prowess, but also because of her personal authenticity and forthrightness. She has given freely of her time and talents in All Directors and New Directors training programs. She has always been willing to share experiences and wisdom with fellow members—not only the fruits of her labor, but also the difficult situations that have molded her into a national corrections leader. Director Caruso has held all leadership positions in ASCA and currently serves as President. She also served as Treasurer and Vice President and is

an active committee member on the Reentry and Community Corrections Committee, making important contributions to ASCA's progressive development as a national voice in criminal justice.

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) is a national organization representing the Directors of Corrections for the 50 states, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and four large urban jail systems. Members also include the Directors of the Correctional Service of Canada, the Administration of Corrections in Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, the Virgin Islands, and the Ministry of Corrections in Ontario Canada. The Association's major goals are to influence and shape correctional policy; to identify and serve as a clearinghouse to share with its members proven correctional practices, standards, and performance measures to ensure the furtherance of successful state-of-the-art activities; and to support its membership through a regimen of training and professional development programs designed to enhance member's professional skills and awareness on advancements in the profession.

Do you know someone in the Michigan Department of Corrections who has done something influential, positive or worthwhile for others? Share it with F.Y.I. It doesn't need to be department-related to be exceptional. Share your proud accomplishments with fellow employees throughout the Department. (Note: Some offices and work units ask that your submission be approved by your supervisor prior to being sent to F.Y.I.)



Violence Prevention Programming: Impacting Change, Positively Effecting Lives, and Promoting Safer Communities

The mission of the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) is to reduce crime by implementing a seamless plan of services and supervision developed with each prisoner - delivered through state and local collaboration - from the time of their entry into prison through their transition, reintegration, and aftercare in the community. The Department's MPRI model requires a system designed to provide prisoners with evidence-based and risk-responsive programs.

In September 2009, the Department identified a need to provide evidence-based violence prevention programming that would comport with its validated risk and need assessment (COMPAS). The Violence Prevention Program (VPP), developed by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), was selected for implementation within the MDOC. VPP was selected because it has been through rigorous validity and reliability testing resulting in a 52% reduction in violent recidivism reported by two independent evaluations.

VPP has been found to be cost effective in its delivery and impact on recidivism. Additionally, VPP is designed as an intensive cognitive behavioral program for high-risk, high-need violent offenders. VPP operates under the assumption that violent criminal behavior can be understood, controlled, and reduced.

The Department will be offering two different formats of VPP. The first is VPP High (VPP-HI), which is delivered by two Correctional Program Facilitators who have received extensive curriculum training by Canada. There will be a total of 12 participants in each group, for 83 group sessions and at minimum, four individual sessions. VPP-HI will be delivered five days a week for 2.5 hours per session. The second format is VPP Moderate (VPP-MI), which is delivered by one Correctional Program Facilitator who has also received extensive curriculum training. There are a total of 12 participants in each group, 36 group sessions and at minimum three indi-

vidual sessions. VPP-MI will be delivered three times per week for 2.5 hours per session.

Preparation for implementing VPP has been a collaborative approach with an inter-administration workgroup consisting of MDOC staff and CSC trainers. The project has been divided into four phases:

1. Phase I – Planning, development, training, and consulting. This phase has been completed.
2. Phase II – Introducing the initial VPP at designated pilot sites. An MDOC Quality Assurance and Improvement System will also be put into place to ensure program fidelity through quality facilitation.
3. Phase III – Certifying Program Facilitators and Master Trainers by the CSC training team. The Master Trainers will then train the program facilitators throughout the State.
4. Phase IV – Integrating full implementation of VPP.

Management of the VPP will reside within the CFA Office of Offender ReEntry. As the MDOC moves toward state-wide implementation, additional information will be shared with staff. Parallel to the implementation of VPP, prisoners in line for Assaultive Offender Programming (AOP) and on the wait list, will be getting AOP or an alternative program as determined by the Parole and Commutation Board.



National Trainers Anthony Cocker (pictured above) and Jan Carson of Correctional Services of Canada deliver VPP training to a group of MDOC employees who will in turn train the program to staff throughout the Department.

This new program is not only evidence based, it has been shown to be effective and has a systematic approach for ongoing monitoring and evaluation built in. VPP will change the way programming is delivered to violent offenders and coincides with the Department's ultimate goal of promoting safer communities.



COLLABORATIVE CASE MANAGEMENT SKILLS ACCOMPLISH A UNIQUE OBJECTIVE

Macomb Correctional Facility had a resident stray beagle roaming the grounds for about two weeks in early November. The beautiful dog appeared to be a family pet and was wearing a collar. Employees made consistent efforts to capture the beagle while providing food for the little guy. The dog led staff on several high-speed chases during attempts by staff to capture it.

As time passed, the beagle would sleep nestled in the tall grass and weeds along the perimeter of the grounds. Concerned staff would watch over him and toss him a treat to help keep him fed. Eventually the beagle would make his way up towards the administration building where staff left food for him to eat.

On November 23, 2010 a staff member was heading into the building and noticed this beagle for the first time. Concerned, they called to the dog and extended a friendly hand. The wary beagle would not come closer than four feet and was visibly shaking from the constant cold. As a token of friendship and trust, the staff member shared a small piece of food with the dog. Soon the staff member and beagle were sharing a morning breakfast, hoping to gain even more trust that would lead to a friendly capture.

The beagle was still not coming close enough to be collared. He was offered a car ride that triggered a reaction from him, but he didn't follow. He was offered a walk, but stood his ground. It was time for the next step. The employee retrieved a dog leash from their vehicle. When he saw the leash, he was interested, but not trusting. He followed a few steps towards the administration building, but wouldn't be leashed. The employee resorted to a snack from the vending machine - cheese flavored Sun Chips.

The Collaborative Case Management plan was to lead him into the administration area and close him between the two doors. Employees would then attempt to put the leash on him and look at his tag for owner information. Several employees stepped up to assist in corralling the dog. One held the

door open, another throwing chips to lead him slowly into the building while a third called to him from another direction to get him far enough inside the door to close it. He loved the cheese sun chips, but would exit back out the door on several occasions, not quite sure if he really



wanted to go any further in; but temptation and hunger overcame his fear when he saw a large trail of chips. The door slowly was closed behind him, inches at a time and even allowing him to exit a few times before he was secured. Success was achieved through teamwork!!!!

His dog tag read "Rocco" and there was a phone number as well. Staff called the number and Rocco's family was excited to tears when they heard he was safe and secure. While staff awaited Rocco's pick up, he received lots of attention and began to warm up. It appeared that he felt safe and even nestled up against an employee or two while receiving a lot of love. About 20 minutes after his capture, his owner (mother) arrived, leash in hand. She entered the building and called his name, but he didn't respond right away. Then when she spoke again and sat on the floor, tears in her eyes, he began to cry out and push his way to her, climbing onto her lap, kissing her face, nestling his head against hers. He was definitely happy to be back with his family. Rocco's mom/owner was very thankful to all who helped rescue Rocco. Rocco walked out of the building, his tail wagging all the way to the car. Best wishes to Rocco and thanks to all at MRF who assisted with Rocco's family reunification.



FIELD REPORT: WHAT'S GOING ON IN FOA

FOCUSING ON OFFENDER SUCCESS

- Agent Matthew Rummel of **Outer District Parole** was proud to share the success of his parolees who were a part of the Inner City Neighborhood Americorps Program. The program developed two groups, one working primarily on the east side of Detroit with Habitat for Humanity and the other working primarily on the west side and downtown Detroit with Motor City Blight Busters (M.C.B.B.). Habitat for Humanity's program consisted of the construction of new residences from start to finish, with participants assisting in each phase. The M.C.B.B. program worked mostly in the demolition of buildings, but also in the early phases of historical building restoration. This is an exceptionally specialized type of construction and gives participants a good skill set for their resumes. Both groups also participated in what was deemed "positive pro-social activities" and case management, in conjunction with their work on the job sites. A ceremony to celebrate the positive outcome of this program was also held, and parolees who successfully completed the program were acknowledged. They now have additional work experience as well as training. Almost all who participated were offered jobs with J.C. Beal, a large construction contractor.
- 
- A parolee being supervised by Agent Greg Pruitt at the **Outer District Parole Office** was released from the Healthy Living Program recently. On his first report to Agent Pruitt, the parolee expressed how very sorry he was to have committed the act that sent him to prison in 1990 and that he was excited and ready to show Agent Pruitt and the world that he would be a model citizen. Within his first month of supervision, the parolee obtained his drivers license and attended two job fairs. He has since found employment with Tim Horton's and is currently in management training. Additionally, he is enrolled in the University of Phoenix studying health care management and is an active member of the Lomax Temple AME Zion Church in Detroit. Agent Pruitt believes that he is well on the road to success!
 - A probationer from the **Greenfield District Probation Office**, who historically relied on Department of Human Services (DHS), took the State Certified Nursing Assistant test and passed.
 - Agent Angela Bridgewater is supervising a Lifer/Commutation parolee, who has had an excellent adjustment to community supervision since being released in February 2009. He has maintained steady employment and is employed at a Greek Town eatery. Due to his excellent attendance and work ethic, he was recently promoted. The parolee has screened negative on all substance abuse tests and remains a success story for MPRI offenders who have an extensive history of incarceration (20 years plus).

CHARITABLE CAUSES

- **Lincoln Park Parole** and **Southwest District** staff members had "Casual Days" on Thursdays and Fridays in August. Monies collected were given to the family of slain Taylor Police Cpl. Matt Edwards. Staff members were encouraged to donate a minimum of \$1 for each day casual attire was worn. Lincoln Park Parole and the Southwest District Office together collected \$281.
- The **Northeastern Area Offices** collected \$185 in casual day contributions in the month of July, \$102 for the month of August, and \$134 dollars for the month of September. Casual day money was donated to the Foster Grandparent Program at Orchard Children Services as well as the Meals on Wheels Program.

TRANSITION UPDATE

Governor-Elect Snyder's Corrections Transition Team has been busy gathering information and discussing corrections operations, including successes and difficulties, with staff of various levels throughout the Department. The final report by the Transition Team was submitted to Governor-Elect Snyder for his review this week. The information will be used to help determine the future course of the Department as the new administration takes shape. Currently, there is a freeze on filling any positions at the 13 level and above. These positions will be evaluated after the new year. Director Caruso is urging all employees to continue focusing on their mission and doing the important work that keeps Michigan safe. She reminds each of us that this is a time to increase our sensitivity to issues that could be considered roadblocks to the transition and to treat everyone in our daily interactions with dignity and respect.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS - MICHIGAN EVENTS

The Michigan Department of Corrections has had a very positive and ongoing relationship with the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) for Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) and is committed to continue to provide support to this effort. Staff are invited to volunteer. Those chosen to participate will be permitted administrative leave for their regular work hours (up to 40 hours) while they participate in LETR events.

- **Special Olympics Summer Games - June 2, 3 & 4, 2011 in Mount Pleasant, Michigan**

Volunteers are needed to award medals to the athletes and to help with opening and closing ceremonies. These volunteers will be given the opportunity to provide encouragement and support to the athletes to bravely do the best they can in the competition. Staff from all areas of the Department will be needed to help put on this event. Those staff chosen to participate will be permitted administrative leave for their regular work hours (up to 8 hours) while assisting in these games.



- **MDOC Run Team - September 11-16, 2011**



The Department is also seeking volunteers for the MDOC Run Team. The MDOC Team and other Law Enforcement Run Teams travel the state to raise awareness of the Torch Run® and Special Olympics, and to raise funds for Special Olympics Michigan.

Any Department employee interested in participating as a volunteer at the SOMI Summer Games or as a member of the MDOC Run Team is encouraged to express their interest in writing, through the appropriate chain of command, to Norma Killough (e-mail: killounr@michigan.gov), Administrative Assistant - Correctional Facilities Administration. Letters of interest should be submitted no later than February 14, 2011. Thank you for your continued support of this important effort.



POLAR PLUNGES ON THE WAY

Law Enforcement Torch Run
POLAR PLUNGE



The annual Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Polar Plunge series is known for its zany costumes and courageous participants. After raising funds, these participants dress up in costume and prepare to plunge, ready to jump in and freeze their fur for a good cause. Funds can be raised by collecting pledges from friends, family, coworkers and neighbors.

Proceeds from these plunges help support year-round sports training and athletic competition for more than 18,600 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Michigan.

There are 24 Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunges throughout Michigan scheduled for January, February and March 2011. Plunge sites include Alpena, Ann Arbor, Area 17 (Berrien, Van Buren and Cass Counties), Battle Creek, Belleville, Cheboygan, Detroit, Fenton, Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Holland, Clarklake, Kalamazoo, Lake City, Lansing, Marquette, Mecosta/Osceola counties, Mount Pleasant, Muskegon, Pinckney, Saginaw/Bay City, Sault Sainte Marie, Stanton and Traverse City.

The series of Polar Plunges is made possible by the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a group of law enforcement officers and corrections department employees throughout the state who are committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan athletes.

To get involved visit www.firstgiving.com/polarplunge and register for a Polar Plunge. At your First Giving site, you can receive pledge donations for Special Olympics Michigan and keep track of money raised.

Questions? Contact Andrea Rachko at rachk1am@cmich.edu or call the Special Olympics Michigan Office at (800) 644-6404 or (989) 774-3911.

*Make the commitment • Raise money • Dress up in a zany costume • Jump into frigid water
Watch a friend jump • Support a good cause • The power of plunging*

In other *SOMI - Torch Run* news, Alger Correctional Facility (LMF) is losing a huge supporter of Special Olympics. Jack Luukkonen is retiring as LMF's Business Manager. He has participated in the Torch Run for 25 years!! LMF employees are proud of Jack's accomplishment.

In 2010, staff members at Alger Correctional Facility raised nearly \$700 from casual days and T-shirt, mug, and hat sales to benefit Special Olympics. This does not include their portion of the \$15,000 raised in the UP Polar Plunge. Jack was a big part of that effort and he will be missed. In his honor, LMF is putting forth a great effort for 2011 and you should too. Visit www.somi.org for more information and Polar Plunge sites throughout Michigan.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE





MOUND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY DELIVERS THANKSGIVING MEALS TO NEEDY FAMILIES



Several employees of Mound Correctional Facility (NRF) partnered with Blackwell Elementary School in Detroit to provide food baskets for 60 needy families in Detroit. Over \$1200 was donated by the NRF employees for this community project. This distribution took place at the Herman Keifer Health Center in Detroit. The Healthy Start Organization, a Division of the Detroit Health Department, locates families in need who receive the baskets. The baskets contain turkeys, eggs, canned food, bread and pies. Mound employees buy the turkeys and many of the main food staples, and the elementary students purchase the other items and place them in decorated baskets. One family receiving the baskets this year had adopted 17 children.

The Mound family has dedicated themselves to continuously participate in community outreach projects and helping the community. The Mound employees have been doing this Thanksgiving Basket Distribution for 14 years and have served over 1,000 families. In addition, Officers Kimberly Currie and Sandra Doucet collected money from employees to purchase 25 turkeys which they distributed to need elderly residents of the local senior citizens center.



Gary Smith (L) and Clavin Green load baskets into the truck.

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



HONOR GUARD EVENT RECOGNIZES BEST OF 2010

The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard recognized members Kevin Smith and Luther Suarez with unit awards at the 2010 Honor Guard Holiday Celebration December 3.

Kevin was presented with the Todd James Memorial Service Excellence Award for his leadership and continuing efforts to selflessly serve the unit and the Department. He embodies the integrity, excellence, and service that are paramount to unit success. Todd James would be proud to know this award was presented to Kevin.



Luther was recognized with the Herman Eleby Commitment award for his dedication to the unit and his efforts to be the best. Sadly, Luther suffered traumatic brain injury in August and has not been able to serve with the unit since the injury. However, in true Luther spirit, he continues to dedicate himself toward his rehabilitative efforts with strong support from family, friends and coworkers.

This special evening was shared with over 60 members, former members and supporters of the Honor Guard. The unit would like to thank each of them for their support and generosity. All proceeds raised at the event will support unit operations and families of fallen MDOC employees and line of duty deaths throughout Michigan.

