

Corrections Connection





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Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

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The image on the cover was taken at the White Lake Channel in Whitehall, Mich. by **Jason Carlson**, a supervisor at the Muskegon County Parole Office. 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.

Help for Flint

Corrections staff
distribute water and
assist with aid to city
residents



Michigan Department of Corrections employees aren't hesitant about helping those in need. So when residents of Flint needed fresh water, they poured their time, energy and resources into efforts to aid the city.

Employees across the department have joined hundreds of city, county and state personnel, and community groups in massive volunteer efforts to deliver water directly to resident's homes. They have also donated hundreds of cases of water to city residents – contributing to almost 300,000 cases of water that have been distributed to residents since Jan. 9.

"We wanted to come out and help get water out to the community," said Janella Robinson, a prisoner reentry specialist who helped coordinate a recent volunteer effort to distribute water to city residents. "We wanted to get out there as quickly as possible."

Meeting a Need

On a recent afternoon, Eastern District Probation Agent Ruie McCant and her corrections colleagues lined up behind a truck full of water to link it to residents inside an apartment building on the city's south side.

McCant was one of more than 30 MDOC employees delivering water to Flint residents as part of a third wave of door-to-door distribution efforts. Within five hours

MDOC volunteers had distributed more than 1,500 cases of water around the city.

"Being in Flint and seeing firsthand how our time could help so many families in need was such a humbling experience," McCant said.

Janella Robinson, who helped coordinate the volunteer effort for corrections staff through the American Red Cross, said she received a tremendous response when she reached out to Metropolitan Territory employees for help collecting and distributing water. Donations quickly grew from one case to many.

"They gave a lot of water," Robinson said. "The next thing I know... we had 13 pallets of water."

Donations poured in from offices around metro Detroit and Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw counties. Within a week staff donated 1,092 cases of water and 30 people volunteered to help with distribution.

"It was huge," Robinson said. "Every office participated."

*"Seeing firsthand
how our time
could help so many
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experience"*

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Water collected by the Ingham County Parole Office is unloaded from trucks at a distribution center by Ingham County Field Services Assistant Jason O’Neal, Parole Agent Christena Muenchen, MDOC Director Heidi Washington, Administrative Assistant Greg Straub and Electronic Monitoring Center Operations Manager Don Matson.

WANT TO HELP?

- Volunteers are needed to distribute water and operate trucks for a water drive that begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Groups will meet at the UAW Local 599 Office, 812 Leith St. in Flint. Call (800) 243-1985 for more information.
- For more opportunities to volunteer visit www.helpforflint.com
- Donations to the MCO Crisis Fund can be mailed to 421 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48933.

Even if they couldn’t come out to distribute, they gave water.” In Flint, employees at the Genesee County Parole and Probation offices have been distributing to residents on both weekdays and weekends since early January.

“Flint staff have had boots on the ground assisting with the distribution of bottled water, filters and filter cartridges since January 14th,” said Region Manager Stephanie Musser. On Tuesday, a group of Michigan Corrections Organization members and retirees stopped by the homes of all 48 corrections officers living in Flint to deliver water, cards and a water resource flyer. The water was purchased with funding from the MCO Crisis Fund.

MCO will also provide a semi-truck full of water for the community.

Fundraising for Flint

After helping a friend and her family distribute water to Flint residents in need, Marseille Allen, a data systems analyst for the MDOC’s Automated Data Systems Section, decided to launch her own fundraiser to help the city.

Allen, who is a Flint resident herself, started [a campaign](#) on the

crowdfunding site GoFundMe.com, with a goal to collect \$1,000 to help purchase water.

That goal was quickly shattered, and she has raised more than \$51,000 since Jan. 17.

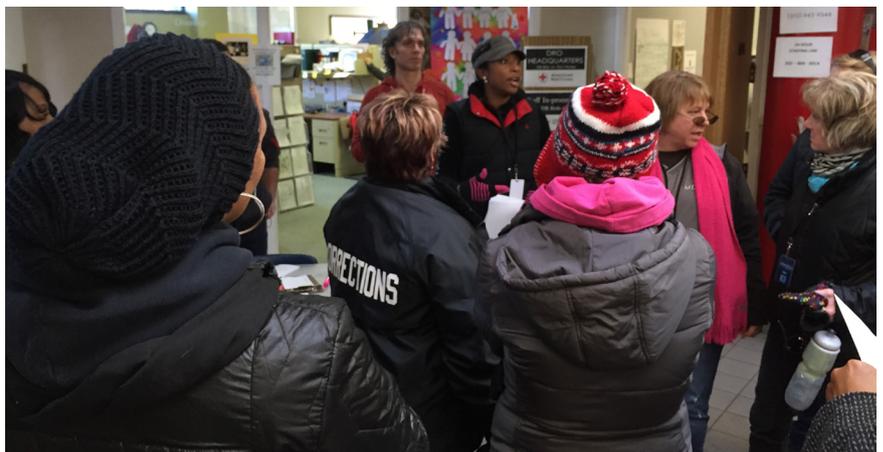
“I can’t believe the outpouring of support we’ve experienced to give this community clean water,” Allen said. “What we have done is a collective effort.”

The money Allen has raised includes \$10,000 GoFundMe.com contributed to her cause after her campaign raised more money for Flint than any other drive in a one-week period, and won the site’s fundraising contest. So far,

the money raised has been used to purchase more than 960 cases of bottled water for Flint residents, in addition to baby wipes for those with small children.

“I am so happy that I have helped in creating this ripple effect,” Allen said. “This has been a truly humbling experience.”

Other employees across the department have also organized fundraisers to help Flint. Staff at correctional facilities in the Upper Peninsula have donated almost \$400 toward water assistance efforts and numerous employees from facilities in the lower peninsula



Prisoner Reentry Specialist Janella Robinson addresses MDOC volunteers at the American Red Cross in Flint before distributing water to residents.

including Macomb and Bellamy Creek, have spent their weekends and days off distributing water to residents.

Corrections personnel and prisoners at Woodland Center Correctional Facility have pledged to donate money through the month of February to purchase water, while employees at Pugsley and Oaks correctional facilities are engaging in a “Battle of the Bottle” to see which facility can collect the most water to benefit Flint.

Additionally, staff at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility took a truckload of water to the city and distributed it to a school and three senior facilities.

Coordinating Operations

About 75 department staff members experienced in emergency response and resource management have also been tapped to help with day-to-day operations in Flint.

Personnel from the department’s Emergency Management Section have been actively involved in responding to the needs of Flint’s citizens since Jan. 6, as part of a combined effort with other local and state agencies.

Employees have primarily been responsible for transporting teams going door-to-door distributing water to Flint’s most vulnerable residents, and coordinating the pick-up and transportation of water samples to the state laboratory. The department has also helped the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan with emergency food

deliveries. In late January, MDOC staff began managing operations for the main warehouse in Flint and the department was recently tasked with establishing and operating a second warehouse for storing water and other items.

Work crews from the department’s Special Alternative Incarceration program have been used to load, unload and stack water in the warehouse. The department has also contributed a fleet of 20 vehicles to assist with distribution, and currently has nine vehicles that are being used daily in the city, including multiple box trucks for transporting water and vans for carrying volunteers.

MDOC Emergency Management Manager Brent Travelbee said the professionalism and work ethic of staff members assisting in the response effort has been extraordinary.

“We have and will continue to provide response support as the emergency evolves,” Travelbee said.

Continuing Efforts

For many across the department, efforts to volunteer to help Flint residents aren’t expected to end soon and employees said they would continue to



MDOC Director Heidi Washington presents Bonnie Angel-Shatrau, of the MDOC’s Jackson Regional Warehouse, with a Teamwork Coin for managing warehouse operations in Flint.



Marseille Allen and Gov. Rick Snyder help sort food to be distributed to families in need in Flint.

aid the city for as long as needed. Some said they felt humbled to be a part of critical work to help Flint citizens and desired to do as much as they could to assist.

“I wanted to help on the grassroots level and I felt that just collecting water was not enough,” said Agent Arkishi

Davis, who volunteered to help with recent distribution efforts. “It felt good that my coworkers and I gave time out of our day to help our fellow citizens get some kind of relief. I know that we only touched a small part of the community that is in need, but the gratitude that they had for our service to them is something I will never forget.”●



Deputy Director Russ Marlan and Ingham County parole agents Corey Bahm, Melanie Cascaddan and Christena Muenchen unload water at a distribution site in Flint.



Genesee County field agents and law enforcement work together to distribute water to Flint residents.

Craig Altoft named 2016 Corrections Officer of the Year

An interest in law enforcement drew Craig Altoft to corrections 21 years ago. Since then, he has become a role model for new officers and a well-respected leader among his colleagues.



Officer Craig Altoft

Altoft has been named the 2016 Corrections Officer of the Year for his commitment to the safety of both his colleagues and prisoners, and his drive to serve as a mentor to new officers. “We are honored to have employees like Officer Altoft, who go above and beyond the call of duty to support their colleagues and uphold public safety,” said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. “His integrity and exemplary work provide a high standard for others to follow and we are fortunate to have him to guide the next generation of corrections officers.” The Michigan Correctional Officers’ Training Council, a group comprised of representatives from the MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement and higher education, selected Altoft from a pool of five finalists after interviewing candidates on Feb. 8. “MCO is proud to join the MDOC in announcing Officer Altoft has been selected as the 2016 Corrections Officer of the year,” said MCO President Tom Tylutki. “He is a well-respected leader at the

Michigan Reformatory, with acts of heroism and leadership over several years. He sets the bar high in all things he does, which we are proud of.” Altoft took charge when a fellow officer was wounded by a prisoner at Michigan Reformatory in Ionia in December and helped ensure he was safely transported out of the facility to an area hospital. His calm demeanor and knowledge of policy and procedures have helped ensure the safety of both staff and prisoners, and he has also served as a positive role model for new officers. “Officer Altoft maintains a positive attitude and is always very encouraging of staff,” said Michigan Reformatory Warden Carmen Palmer. “We are proud to work alongside Officer Altoft.” Altoft began his career at Deerfield Correctional Facility in 1994 and joined Michigan Reformatory in 2009. Altoft was a member of the Emergency Response Team at Deerfield Correctional Facility, before its closure in 2009, and has continued to serve as a weapons trainer and mentor to new staff at Michigan Reformatory. Altoft said his coworkers initially encouraged him to get involved in training and the experience has helped him become a better communicator. He said he encourages new officers to reach out to experienced staff for help or guidance and to stay vigilant and open to learning something new every day. Altoft will be honored during the Employee Awards banquet on the evening of May 3 in East Lansing.

2016 Corrections Officer of the Year Finalists



Corrections Officer Paul Jensen, of Ionia Correctional Facility, is a 16-year veteran of the department and a 2011 recipient of the Director’s Professional Excellence Award in addition to other honors.



Corrections Officer Paul Schneider, of Thumb Correctional Facility, is a 21-year veteran of the department, who has displayed great patience and professionalism with youthful prisoners that has earned him the respect of both inmates and staff.



Corrections Officer Jeff Vanderkooy, of Muskegon Correctional Facility, is an 8-year veteran of the department. He is consistently one of the first officers to respond to calls for assistance and also helps the community through involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.



Corrections Officer Rita Wise, of Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, is a nearly 20-year veteran of the department. She has assisted in the training of new officers and has implemented art and room standards programs for prisoners.



A Look Back

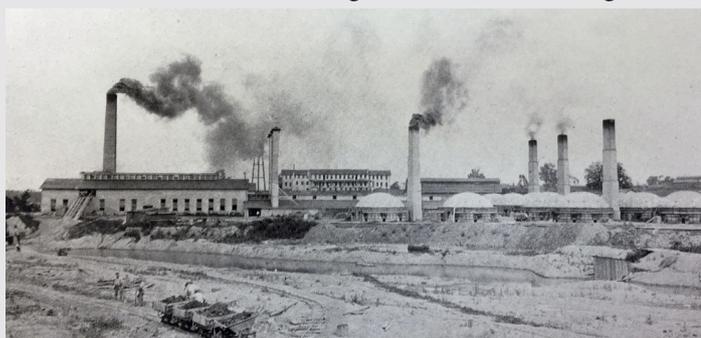
A brief history of Michigan State Industries and prison manufacturing

Prisoners at work at the canning factory.

Looking to prevent prisoners from remaining idle, Early Michigan corrections officials sought to encourage productivity, provide inmates with job skills, and supply the community with needed items by putting prisoners to work.

In 1843, a contract labor system was developed as a business arrangement between prisons and outside private contractors, who employed inmates to manufacture products and provide services while under state supervision.

Brooms were among the first items to be manufactured, and others followed including woolen and cotton goods,



The Brick and Tile Factory near Onondaga

carpeting, farm tools, cigars, fences, steam engines, boilers, barrels, copperware, foundry products, shoes and furniture.

In the early contract labor system prisoners were typically not paid for work they did and entrepreneurs paid the prisons between 34 and 56 cents a day for each prisoner who worked for them.

In 1922, the state began to operate its own factories, but continued to sell the products on the open market. Items were first manufactured in Jackson, Ionia and Marquette – where the state’s first correctional facilities were located. Each housed different industries.

Factories in Jackson included binder twine, garment, shoe, textile, industrial maintenance, canning and a metal stamp factory. Furniture, cotton garments and soap were manufactured in Ionia, while snow fences, boxes, work clothing, tobacco and brushes were made in Marquette.

The prison canning factory was deemed so successful, the Legislature appropriated \$179,000 to purchase additional farmland, which resulted in the establishment of the Michigan State Brick and Tile Factory at Onondaga.

Manufacturing efforts continued to grow and prisoners began making license plates and road signs in Jackson. Prison manufacturing wasn’t without its challenges.

In 1935, Congress passed the Hawes-Cooper Bill, prohibiting the shipment of prison-made goods in interstate commerce. In 1937, the Michigan Legislature adopted a bill which limited the sale of prison products to state institutions and Departments and other wholly tax-supported agencies.

Then, in 1980, the Correctional Industries Act was amended to allow Michigan State Industries to sell its products to nonprofits, government institutions, other states and the federal government.

Despite the many limitations on the sale and distribution of products, Michigan State Industries has continued to manufacture a wide range of products and provide prisoners with valuable job skills that can help ensure their success upon release.

Items are currently manufactured at 10 locations across the state and include license plates, small wooden products and awards, road signs, clothing, shoes, mattresses, flags, paper products, glasses, dental products, and cleaning supplies, in addition to laundry services.

Submitted by Madison Miller

Knitting for a Need

Agent crafts items for cancer patients, struggling citizens

For Marchella Patillo, knitting has been a nearly lifelong hobby. It helped her connect with family as they shared a love for the craft, and it has helped her give back to the community in more ways than one.



Agent Marchella Patillo

Patillo, a probation agent with the Wayne County Court Services Unit, spends her spare time knitting hats and blankets for cancer patients and for the underprivileged, and teaches others how to do the same. “I just love the act of creating,” said Patillo, a 32-year veteran of the MDOC. “I just really enjoy passing it on and keeping it alive. I love seeing the ‘aha’ moment and sharing something I love.” Patillo learned to knit when she was 10 years old, and then picked up the hobby again about 15 years ago after her cousin was diagnosed with cancer. It became something she, her mother and her cousin could do together to reconnect.

“I just love it,” Patillo said. “I love seeing what you can create with your hands from beginning to end. It won my heart.”

Spending time knitting with her family and visiting craft shops for supplies helped Patillo learn about [Knit Michigan](#), a nonprofit that collects knitted comfort items, such as pillows, blankets and hats, for cancer patients around the state. Patillo has donated a number of items to Knit Michigan and to the Detroit Knitting and Crochet Club, which has donated mittens and blankets to shelters and other community organizations. She has also collected and donated bags of knitting supplies to correctional facilities to allow inmates to participate in the hobby. Patillo said she knits every day and works on items whenever she has a few moments of downtime. She now loves passing on her skill as much as she loves using it, and has taught her grandchildren and some of her coworkers and their children how to knit. This year she plans to spend more time at area senior centers teaching others to knit and assisting them with their creations. “It was a good thing to do — sharing your skills,” Patillo said.

Remembering John Belson

John Belson, who served as a Field Operations Administration Regional Manager for 25 years, passed away in January.

Belson joined the Michigan Department of Corrections in 1963 as a field agent in Lapeer. In 1972, he moved on to serve as a senior parole agent in Lansing. He later served as an administrative assistant to the Parole Board and Parole Board Hearing Examiner, and Deputy Regional Administrator for the Bureau of Field Services’ Eastern Region. In 1977, he was named Regional Administrator for Region II and he held the position until 2002.



John Belson

We want to hear from you. Share your stories, and tell us about the great work happening in your office or facility by contacting Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

Facilities give back to benefit the community



Richard A. Handlon, Corrections Officer Fred Bandt and Sgt. Jim Cassel organized a Toys for Tots drive over the holiday season that collected more than 100 toys in addition to monetary donations.

Richard A. Handlon, Corrections Officer Fred Bandt and Sgt. Jim Cassel organized a Toys for Tots drive over the holiday season that collected more than 100 toys in addition to monetary donations.

The Detroit Reentry Center held a first “community litter pick up” in January. Parolees and gate pass workers picked up trash along Davison Ave. and collected two truckloads full of debris and tires. Many drivers honked and gave a thumbs up to those working.



New Trauma Informed Care training to be offered to staff

Department employees will learn how to better understand trauma and the adverse impact it can have on individuals through a new training program that aims to improve programming and assessments of prisoner needs. The department has recently learned that it was one of just six recipients of free training for up to 30 individuals who would become the department's trainers regarding trauma, and how organizations can become trauma informed.



Research on trauma over the past decade indicates that it is very prevalent among prison populations and has significant impacts on prisoner behavior.

Trauma is defined as exposure to actual or threatened death, serious injury or sexual violence, and can be experienced in several ways: The individual may directly experience the trauma, or witness, in person, the event occurring to others; they may also experience severe trauma by learning that such an event happened to a close family member or friend; or they may experience repeated or extreme exposure to aversive details of such events, such as with first responders.

Regardless of source, trauma causes significant distress or impairment in the individual's social interactions, capacity to work, or other important areas of functioning.

It has been shown to be a precursor to mental illness, acts of self-harm, substance abuse and relapse, and

severe medical conditions, and makes it more difficult to engage in prison life, participate in meaningful activities, including treatment, and transition successfully to community life.

Research has also shown that training care givers to better understand trauma and its impact can lead to improved assessment of prisoner needs as well as better programs, services and treatment in community and prison settings.

In our setting, training on Trauma Informed Care (TIC) will enable custody officers, mental health, health care and substance abuse staff, as well as parole and probation staff to do a better job of providing services to those in our

care. Prisons with staff well trained in TIC and policies and procedures modified to be sensitive to trauma, experience fewer prisoner-on-prisoner and prisoner-on-staff assaults, fewer mental health crises, decreased self-harm and suicide attempts, and decreased need for segregation among other positive outcomes.

The Train the Trainer Training award from the GAINS Center will allow the MDOC to take the initial but important step of having a core group of individuals trained in the concepts and principles of TIC, enabling the department to roll out the training to all staff.

This training is expected to be scheduled during May-August of this year.

To prepare for this two-day training event, the department will be working across administrations to identify individuals to receive this important training.

Submitted by Michael Davis and Dave Dawdy

Remembering Matt Davis

Matt Davis, former spokesman for the Michigan Department of Corrections, passed away on Feb. 3.



Matt Davis

Davis joined the MDOC in 1997 and was responsible for overseeing all media information for the

department. Prior to his work with the department, Davis was a reporter for newspapers including the Detroit Free Press and St. Paul Pioneer Press. He left the department in 2002 to work as an attorney specializing in civil rights, election and campaign finance law. Funeral services were held on Feb. 6. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the [Leukemia and Lymphoma Society](#).

Remembering Jeff Kingsley

Jeff Kingsley, a corrections officer at the Detroit Detention



Jeff Kingsley

Center since 2013, passed away unexpectedly at his home in January. Kingsley was a veteran of the Marine Corps and was

remembered by his colleagues for his sense of humor, and love of cooking, baking and music. Warden Ken Romanowski said Kingsley was upbeat and always had a smile on his face. Funeral services were held on Feb. 5.

Wondering about records?

There's even more to what we do

In our last issue the Central Records Section was discussed at length, the volume and type of work they do in both the Lansing Grandview Plaza office and the Jackson office.

Now it is time to look at the other side of Records, the facility record offices.

As with the Central Records Section the volume of work is great and the type of work is fascinating.

Every single prisoner that is released from the MDOC's custody, approximately 1,000 per month, whether by parole, discharge, writ, release on bond, released to another agency, or extradition to another state, a release checklist must be completed.

It checks for accuracy on time computation, facility notifications, review of the parole order for proper release location, LEIN checks to ensure every single sentence has been served and every open arrest segment has been addressed. Sex Offender Registration is taken care of on the way in and on the way out along with DNA and palm/finger prints.

School and mental health programs are reviewed and finally all the required checks are done again at the 24-hour point to ensure nothing has changed. Did you know there are also many different kinds of detainees that are processed?

There are pending charge detainees, notification detainees, immigration detainees, outside detainees and more.

Every one of these has its own set

of rules to be followed whether it is to clear a pending charge via the court or send an offender to another state through the Interstate Agreement On Detainer statute or release an offender to another county jail to serve that consecutive jail sentence.

Record office staff function as the transfer coordinators for each facility. That means they are required to identify the offenders that need to be transferred; where,



why and how and then work to backfill the beds. Transfers happen for any number of reasons, prisoner behavior, programming, releases, and more and each transfer requires a move of the offender, their property, their files, then there is the creation of a transfer order and a detail. transfer coordinators work hand in hand with all MDOC staff whether in their facility, at another facility or in Central Office. Whether a prisoner is being transferred into their facility or out of their facility, the transfer coordinators ensure prisoners are placed correctly and safely at the proper security level, that there are no potential areas of concern

due to the transfer such as SPONs and that all security threat group information is relayed properly.

Working in LEIN is a requirement for all record office staff members.

LEINs are run for offenders at the time they walk into MDOC, several times before they leave MDOC and several times during their term of incarceration and we do this for reasons including alias names, alias identifiers, identification matters, criminal

history checks, pending charge identification and resolution, DNA, finger and palm prints and much more.

If you need help interpreting a LEIN, whether NCIC, NLETS, SOR or anything else, call a facility record office staff member, they are the experts.

Records Office staff complete many different functions each and

every day and each function/task has a deadline and many are directly related to the security of the facility. Releasing offenders, reconciling count, clearing pending charges, entering misconducts, completing forfeitures, transferring prisoners, running LEINs, tracking prisoner reviews and coordinating video conferences are just a few of the duties completed every day in a record office.

It seems no matter where we go in the MDOC we are taking on all kinds of responsibilities, learning new stuff all while we are Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success.

Submitted by Records Administrator Diana Judge

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Proposed budget includes funds for equipment upgrades, programming

On Wednesday, Gov. Rick Snyder unveiled his proposed budget, which included funds for equipment upgrades at the MDOC and support for the Corrections Officer Training Academy.

The Governor recommended spending \$981,300 to purchase up to 1,400 new ballistic vests for parole and probation agents and transportation officers.

Agents would wear the vests whenever they go out in the field, bringing Michigan in line with other states that already provide agents with vests for protection. "I'm very pleased Governor Snyder included almost \$1 million in his budget request to purchase ballistic vests for our parole and probation agents," said Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan.

"The safety of our field staff is our top priority and equipping them with these ballistic vests will definitely provide an added layer of protection while they are working in the field."

The Governor's proposed \$2 billion corrections budget for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 also included more than \$19 million to expand physical and mental health treatment options for offenders, \$1 million to upgrade Internet bandwidth to support video conferencing of court hearings and education programs, and \$8.5 million for training new corrections officers through the academy.

It also included \$370 million for parole, probation and community programs that provide cost-effective alternatives to incarceration.

Around the MDOC

Susan M. Hunter scholarship applications available now

Children of Michigan Department of Corrections employees can begin applying for the Association of State Correctional Administrators' Susan M. Hunter Scholarship.

Students must be the child of a corrections employee and must have a minimum high school GPA of 3.3.

Undergraduate students can be working in any field of study, while graduate students must be enrolled in a criminal justice program. Students must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university. Scholarship awards are \$1,000 for undergraduate students, \$1,500 for graduate students and \$500 for individuals who received a scholarship award through the ASCA in prior years.

Scholarship applications are due March 31.

For more information, or to apply, visit the [ASCA website](#).

Fundraiser launched to assist LCF corrections officer

Friends and colleagues of Amanda Mettinger, a corrections officer at Lakeland Correctional Facility, are raising money to help cover medical and other expenses after she experienced a serious medical emergency on Jan. 15.

An account has been set up on the crowdfunding site [GoFundMe.com](#) to help raise money for Mettinger, and so far, \$4,600 has been collected.

Mettinger was recently released from the hospital and continues to recover, according to updates posted on the fundraising site for her.

LCF staff also donated more than \$800 for her and contributed leave time.

Tech Corner

OMNI training provided to help new agents and field service assistants

One of the Automated Data Systems Section key functions is to provide training to MDOC staff.

A great example is the initial OMNI training to newly hired Probation and Parole agents in the New Agent and FSA Training Academy programs as well as to newly hired Administrative Support staff.

Training is completed by ADSS staff like Probation Parole Lead Agent Greg Kalisz. OMNI training provides agents and field service assistants with

the skills needed to document offender supervision in the community.

Additionally, Greg is providing initial training to Administrative Support staff to provide clerical staff with knowledge of OMNI to assist with FOA office operations. Please feel free to contact [Greg Kalisz](#) for questions regarding MDOC OMNI training.



Field Days podcast tackles issues with heroin use in new five-part series

Heroin is a drug that negatively effects millions across the nation and Michigan is no different.

In the first part of a five-part series the Field Days podcast interviewed Jackson City Police Department Deputy Chief Elmer Hitt and Lt. Chris Simpson to talk about what we as a community can do to combat the drug and crime problem caused by heroin addiction.

Upcoming episodes will feature a circuit court judge, prosecutor, MDOC staff and a community activist to talk about how they are dealing with the heroin and crime problem.

The Field Days podcast has also been approved by Apple and is

now on iTunes. To subscribe to the podcast, simply click on the podcast app from your iPhone and search for "Field Days." You can then subscribe to the podcast by selecting "subscribe" and you will be notified of new episodes right from your iPhone.

To become a champion for change, use #AskFieldDays to send in questions through Twitter so you can join in on the conversation about heroin abuse. Questions can also be emailed to Greg Straub at Straubg@michigan.gov.

Click the image below to listen.



Submitted by Greg Straub

Backpack donations help parolees

Parolees returning to communities in Genesee County are receiving a little extra help getting back on their feet, thanks to a collaborative effort between local agencies and businesses.

The initiative began in late 2015 and provides parolees with backpacks that have been filled with clothing, such as socks, T-shirts, gloves and hats, as well as hygiene items and letters of encouragement. The MDOC and Genesee Office

of Community Corrections work together to provide services and programs to parolees returning to their communities. The Office of Community Corrections



collaborated with businesses, including Costco, as well as the Knights of Columbus and parishioners of Mary Magdalen Church to provide the backpacks and materials to help give parolees a successful and smooth transition to society.

Department earns Diamond Award for Special Olympics Support

At the recent Law Enforcement Torch Run Conference the Michigan Department of Corrections was presented with the Diamond Award.

This award is presented to agencies that raise more than \$50,000 in a year. In 2015, the department raised more than \$91,000 for the Special Olympics of Michigan. The MDOC staff that are on the LETR Executive Committee accepted the award on behalf of the department.

Alger Correctional Facility also earned a Ruby Award for raising more than \$16,000 for the Special Olympics.



Lt. James Dennis, Corrections Program Coordinator Carla White, Director Heidi Washington, Capt. Carl White and Deputy Director Ken McKee.

New Corrections Officer Academy dates announced

The next Corrections Officer Training Academy will begin on March 14 in Lansing with a goal to hire 110 new officers.

A graduation ceremony for new officers will be held on May 6. Future academy classes are still being discussed and organized. Almost 1,000 new officers completed the state-run academy in 2015.

For more information, or to apply, visit the [MDOC website](#).

The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Assistant Deputy Director Lloyd Rapelje with Officer Michael Fraki.

In March, Corrections Officer Michael Fraki was on his way to work at Baraga Correctional Facility when he noticed a woman lying on the side of the road. Fraki immediately stopped and called 911. He found the woman was breathing, but unconscious and began to administer first aid. He also called a friend to bring blankets to keep the woman warm until emergency responders arrived. While at the scene, the woman began

to regain consciousness and Fraki was able to determine she was involved in a hit and run accident. Fraki stayed with the woman until emergency responders transported her to the hospital. She is expected to make a full recovery and her assailant was later arrested. Fraki's quick response and concern for the woman's well being helped save her life and earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.

Troy Probation Agent McKinsey Golfin was in Southfield conducting home calls in late July, when he saw a car and motorcycle collide. Golfin immediately stopped to assist the accident victims and found the motorcyclist with his leg pinned under the bike. Golfin helped the man free his leg and worked to keep him comfortable until

emergency medical services personnel arrived. Once emergency responders arrived, Golfin assisted with traffic control until the accident scene had been cleared. Golfin earned the department's Citizenship Award for his quick actions and concern for others at the accident scene.



Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan, Agent McKinsey Golfin and Director Heidi Washington.



Corrections Officer Derick Campbell, Sgt. Aaron Ormsbee and Capt. Mike Brown.

While working at Chippewa Correctional Facility in April, Sgt. Aaron Ormsbee didn't hesitate to help when he noticed a prisoner was choking. Ormsbee immediately went to aid the prisoner and performed several abdominal thrusts to attempt to dislodge the obstruction. After multiple abdominal thrusts

did not clear the prisoner's airway, Ormsbee called Corrections Officer Derick Campbell for assistance. Campbell continued to perform abdominal thrusts until the prisoner could breathe freely again. Both Ormsbee and Campbell earned the department's Lifesaving Award for their swift actions that helped prevent a prisoner from choking to death.

When Sgt. William Henderson noticed a prisoner in distress, he quickly acted preventing a prisoner from choking to death, which earned him the department's Lifesaving Award. Henderson was monitoring the chow lines at Chippewa Correctional Facility in April 2015,

when a prisoner walked up to him in agony. He then confirmed the prisoner was choking and immediately provided several abdominal thrusts that helped to dislodge the airway obstruction. The prisoner began to breathe normally and was examined by health services.



Warden Jeff Woods, Sgt. William Henderson, Deputy Warden Connie Horton and Lt. Terry Wilkins.

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The Extra Mile continued...



Assistant Deputy Director James Blakley, Deputy Director Russ Marlan, Field Services Assistant Michael Ostrander and Director Heidi Washington.

Genesee County Field Services Assistant Michael Ostrander was out of the office making home calls in February 2015, when he heard someone calling for help as he got out of his car. As he looked around, he saw an elderly woman lying in the snow. It was an extremely cold day and the woman indicated she had

fallen and had been lying in the snow for about 5 minutes. Ostrander helped her to her feet and guided her to her vehicle, ensuring she was safe before he left the area. Ostrander earned the department's Citizenship Award for his efforts to help a resident in need and prevent her from further harm.

In late August, severe weather struck Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Antrim counties, uprooting hundreds of trees and cutting power to several areas. Gov. Rick Snyder activated the State Emergency Operation Center, making all state agencies, including the MDOC available to assist. Through September, staff from Pugsley Correctional Facility, the Transportation Cadre, In-Service Training Division and the Emergency Management Section worked together to provide assistance to affected communities.

Staff and inmate work crews removed debris in the area to clear roadways, opening them for food, water and emergency response to reach residents. MDOC employees who provided direct assistance during this emergency were awarded the Good Government Teamwork Coin by Capt. Chris Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Prisoners who assisted also received a letter of appreciation.



Pictured left to right: Corrections Officer Mark Saller, Lt. Ken Birgy, Corrections Officer Pete Smith, Sgt. Nate McConnell, CTO Tom Steele, Intelligence Analyst Todd Bechler, Emergency Manager Brent Travelbee, Human Resource Specialist Mike Farmer and Capt. Chris Kelenske.

Fallen Heroes Memorial offered at Cell Block 7 Museum

The Fallen Heroes Memorial exhibit will be at the Cell Block 7 Museum beginning in mid-February 2016. This exhibit documents and honors the men and women who have lost their lives while working for Michigan Department of Corrections. The exhibit will specifically focus on the first fallen man, George Haight.

His recognition in the museum is the result of the hard work and research conducted by Jeffrey Reasoner, a corrections officer at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 517-745-6813 if you have any questions about visiting.

Veteran receives first dog from training program at Thumb Correctional Facility

On Feb. 2, Retired Army Specialist James Maddox became the first Michigan veteran to receive a service dog trained at Thumb Correctional Facility through Stiggy's Dogs, a nonprofit that rescues and trains shelter dogs to become service dogs for veterans. The dog, Ryder, had only been at the facility for two weeks and progressed in

training so quickly that Stiggy's Dogs trainers were happy to let him go home with Maddox. They will continue to meet for training once a week for the next year.



“Thank you again for your gift that will make a difference in the lives of others”

Group grateful for the help of the Macomb County Probation Office



St. Vincent de Paul - Detroit

December 11, 2015

Kali Allison, Supervisor
 Macomb Probation Staff
 Michigan Department of Corrections
 32 Market ST
 Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the people we serve, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to extend a special thank you for your gift.

As we continue our mission of serving the poor, please know that your donation will help the less fortunate, hungry, the homeless and the jobless as they strive to navigate the path out of poverty.

Thank you again for your gift that will make a difference in the lives of others. We hope to be able to count on your support in the future. May all of God's blessings be upon you and your family.

In the spirit of our founder Frédéric Ozanam,

William D. Brazier
 Executive Director

Gift Amount:	\$111.00
Gift Date:	Thursday, December 10, 2015
Benefiting Program:	Annual Fund

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #38-1359592. No goods or services have been exchanged for this contribution.

Corrections Quiz

Name this historic figure in Michigan corrections:



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.

January Quiz Recap

Question: How many Michigan State Industries factories are there statewide?

Answer: There are 10 locations that house 13 operations.

Congratulations to Parole Board Executive Secretary **Jennifer Keller** for being the first to name the number of locations and to **Jerry Stephens** of G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and **Kathy Mason** of the Macomb County Probation Office for naming the number of operations.

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

Snapshots

A look at life around the MDOC



Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan presented Probation Agent April Griffin with a frame engraved with the new MDOC motto during a January celebration at the Macomb County Probation Office.

Griffin submitted the motto “Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success,” which earned 20 percent of the department-wide vote.

The frame was made by prisoners at Michigan State Industries’ License Plate Operations at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.

MDOC Director Heidi Washington addressed a group of new supervisors on Jan. 14 during a week-long training session at the Michigan State Police Academy in Dimondale.

Director Washington spoke to the new supervisors and lieutenants about her goals and focus for the department, and mentioned she was glad to have a new motto that reflected the work of all MDOC employees.

Corrections in the News

[Michigan Department of Corrections gets new motto](#) — Detroit Free Press/Associated Press

[Incentive program helping to ease inmates out of solitary](#) — Michigan Radio

[Union, state partner to protect corrections officers](#) — Lansing State Journal

[Inmates train future assistance dogs](#) — WOOD TV-8

[“Nothing can contain your spirit,” civil rights activist Andrew Young tells prisoners](#) — Jackson Citizen Patriot

[Almost 200 people take icy swim in Clark Lake to benefit Special Olympics](#) — Jackson Citizen Patriot

[Burger King bathroom peeper back behind bars on new charges](#) — The Flint Journal

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

Meanwhile, on facebook



Michigan Department of Corrections
January 14 at 10:01am · 🌐

The Academy Awards Oscar voters didn't show much love for Star Wars this year with the film coming up short on a Best Picture nomination, but the prisoners at the Alger Correctional Facility sure love the epic film series. Looking at a hand painted mural from inside the prisoner barbershop, you are. #OscarNoms



To see more, follow the MDOC on Facebook

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

December New Hires

Anderson, Veronique	Licensed Practical Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center
Bailey, Dena	Registered Nurse, Oaks Correctional Facility
Barbour, Martine	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Berry, Joe	Plumber, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Best, Richard	Plumber, Macomb Correctional Facility
Brussow, Michelle	General Office Assistant, Parnall Correctional Facility
Canull, Lacey	Secretary, Marquette County Parole and Probation Office
Crews, Trina	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Davidson, Lashana	Licensed Practical Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center
Desjardins, Dessa	Pharmacy Assistant, Marquette Branch Prison
Dietzel, Kristina	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Farnsworth, Natalie	Departmental Technician, Thumb Correctional Facility
Garland, Kory	Licensed Practical Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Grew, Zachery	Licensed Electrician, Detroit Reentry Center
Griffin, Jennifer	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Hammond, Meredith	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Headley, Jennifer	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Kabke, Amanda	Registered Nurse, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Lewis, James	Registered Nurse, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Lewis, Monique	Storekeeper, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Mekins, Wendi	Library Technician, Parnall Correctional Facility
Narmore, Kirk	Clinical Social Worker, Newberry Correctional Facility
Poegel, Gabrielle	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Polly, Jason	Maintenance Mechanic, Thumb Correctional Facility
Reid-Goldberg, Samantha	Librarian Manager, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Richardson, Joyce	School Teacher, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Riehle, Edward	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ritz, Jerald	Registered Nurse, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Schmidt, Megan	General Office Assistant, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Smith, John	Licensed Electrician, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Smith-Allen, Tanisha	Psychologist, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Taylor, Tammy	Licensed Practical Nurse, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Warren, Tiara	Parole/Probation Officer, Greenfield District Probation Office
Whitworth, Natasha	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center

December Retirements

Aho, Gary P.	Marquette Branch Prison
Beard, Ingrid M.	Detroit Reentry Center
Colamarino, Jean E.	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Craig, John L.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Davis, Jennifer	Detroit Reentry Center
Figel, Kenneth R.	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Fleming, Mark D.	Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Hammond, Stephen W.	Ionia Correctional Facility
Hanson, Jeffery T.	Oaks Correctional Facility
Hemeleski, Michael J.	Ojibway Correctional Facility
Hotchkiss, Leroy	Ionia Correctional Facility
Jackson, Victoria	Ingham County Probation Office
Kieper, Daniel R.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Koenig, David J.	Wexford County Parole and Probation Office
Kositzky, Tim A.	Oaks Correctional Facility
Mattern, Robert J.	Kinross Correctional Facility
Moore, Andrew J.	Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Morris, Donald A.	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Oseguera, John C.	Thumb Correctional Facility
Pelton, Douglas S.	Pugsley Correctional Facility
Peterson-Chaney, Falcia D.	Macomb Correctional Facility
Potter, Mark S.	Parnall Correctional Facility
Quinlan, Deborah	Genesee County Probation Office
Watson, De'Andra L.	West Shoreline Correctional Facility
Winnicki, Amanda V.	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Wood, Terri L.	Newberry Correctional Facility