

# Corrections Connection



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

The image on the cover was taken west of Escanaba by **Janet Rossi**, deputy warden secretary at Baraga Correctional Facility. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).



# Care With Compassion

## Program seeks to provide comfort, dignity for terminally-ill Michigan prisoners

**F**ive years ago, Adrian Dirschell was working as a sergeant at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center and Duane Waters Health Center in Jackson when he noticed a trend that stuck out to him.

He had been with the department for almost 20 years, and in that time, he had watched as prisoners at the facility aged, became ill and grappled with the realities of death.

“We treated them well, and we treated them medically, but they were dying alone as a prisoner in a prison

hospital,” Dirschell said.

That was something he wanted to change.

### *Beginnings*

Facility leaders later asked Dirschell if he would serve as chaplain, tending to the spiritual needs of prisoners. Initially, he turned down the job.

“As soon as I said no and walked out the door, I felt plagued,” Dirschell said. “I knew I had made the wrong decision.”

He took time to think about it. When he was approached again about the role, he said he would take it on, only if he could submit a proposal to provide spiritual care to terminally-ill prisoners.

Then warden, and now Director Heidi Washington was enthusiastic about pursuing the idea.

That led to the launch in 2014 of Eagle’s Wings, a group therapy program for prisoners with severe or terminal medical conditions. Then something bigger happened. Views began to shift on end-of-life care for prisoners.

In 2016, the department started a hospice and



Above: Prisoner Palliative Care Aide David Mitchell works with prisoner Michael Boyd to help improve his mobility. Mitchell regularly meets with Boyd to help him with daily tasks, in his role as a palliative care aide.

palliative care pilot program at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center and Duane Waters Health Center. It takes a holistic approach to meeting the needs of the state's sickest prisoners by pairing palliative care – a team-based approach to health care that focuses on providing comfort to patients – and medical care. It also weaves in spiritual care along with other therapies. Those therapies can include visits from the facility's compassionate care dog that started making rounds in the prison hospital in 2017, and dignity therapy, which allows prisoners to tell stories about their life and share transcribed copies with their families.

Vigils are also provided to dying prisoners, who have trained prisoner palliative care aides stay by their side until they pass. The prisoner palliative care aides assist other ailing inmates with daily hygiene, mobility, meals and socialization.

The overall aim of the program is that no prisoner dies alone, and comfort and compassionate care is provided to prisoners with severe

and terminal illnesses.

"It has changed everyone," Dirschell said. "It has changed dying and how we deal with death in the department of corrections." In its first year, the program provided 36 vigils for dying prisoners.

The program is optional for prisoners, as are the therapies and services it offers. There are about 10 to 17 prisoners signed up to receive services at Duane Waters Health Center at any given time, Dirschell said.

The launch of the program is reflective of a shift seen nationwide

in the care offered to patients with terminal illnesses. The number of U.S. hospitals offering palliative care has tripled since 2000, according to a study published in Health Affairs. The facility worked with the Palliative Care Research Center, Hospice of Michigan and Dr. Daniel Hinshaw of the University of Michigan to start the program and set into motion ideas that could improve it.

Hospice of Michigan assists in training prisoners to serve as palliative care aides, and prepares them to be able to train other prisoners who come after them.



Above: Chaplain Adrian Dirschell talks with a prisoner during an Eagle's Wings group therapy session.



Above: Prison handlers for Roscoe, the compassionate care therapy dog at Duane Waters Health Center, visit with a prisoner in the CHOICES program.

The department's 40 prisoner palliative care aides must complete 30 hours of initial classroom training and 250 hours of on-the-job training, along with bi-weekly in-service training.

### ***Changing Perspectives***

From his hospital bed at Duane Waters Health Center, prisoner Michael Boyd talks about how his life has changed in the last year.

He was partially paralyzed by a stroke and struggled to speak. Today, he banters with his care providers and is regaining use of his left arm.

"Before I got involved, I would just sit here. I didn't talk," Boyd said. "This means everything to me. I'm not just laying in bed suffering."

He receives visits from Roscoe, the facility's compassionate care dog, and has three attending prisoner palliative care aides who check in on him and help with daily tasks.

He looks forward to the visits and said the socialization helped him regain his ability to speak.

"If I'm having a bad day, I know I can count on them," Boyd said.

That appreciation has meant a lot to David Mitchell, one of his prisoner palliative care aides.

"I'm doing something that has some meaning to it," Mitchell said. "For them to sit there and smile just because I walked in the room, I can't complain about anything."

It has changed his perspective in other ways too. Mitchell admitted that at one time, he thought of corrections staff more as adversaries. He now sees them as patient and compassionate after watching firsthand as they raced to help prisoners in distress or reacted to the needs of other sick inmates.

An interdisciplinary team that includes doctors, nurses, social workers and other care providers, meets regularly to discuss each patient's case and

review their holistic and clinical needs.

The program isn't intended to cure patients, who are often terminally ill, but it improves the quality of the life they have left, healthcare providers said.

Warden Jeremy Bush said Washington and Dirschell realized the possibilities for a prison hospice program long before anyone else did.

"They saw past old-fashioned barriers to help many of us see a new perspective," Bush said. "I have seen for myself the change in both prisoners and staff."

Corrections Officer Richard Hemenway, who works at Duane Waters, called the program "a quantum leap forward" in prisoner care.

"They don't need to be alone," Hemenway said. "They can have someone in the room to give them comfort right up until the end and that's amazing. It's humane, it's empowering and it provides some dignity."

For some sick prisoners, visits with the therapy dog have also helped change behavior for the better.

Prisoners who were subdued, depressed or were acting out, now light up when they see Roscoe the therapy dog and have better interactions with staff.

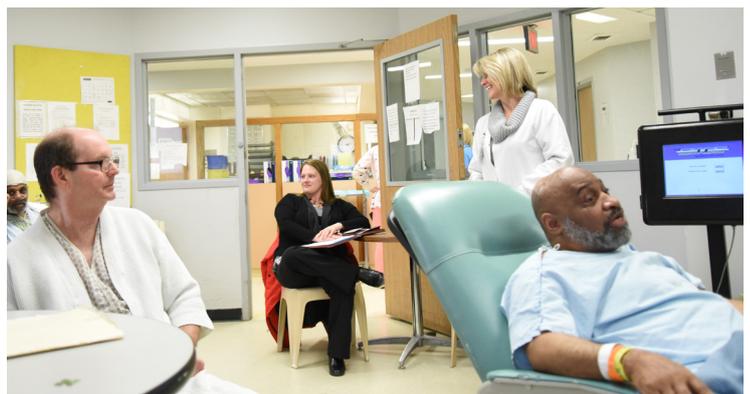
The therapy dog program is led by Danielle Pietrangolo and Bush said her commitment to its success has meant a safe environment for Roscoe, the dog handlers and prisoner patients.

Roscoe spends 15 to 30 minutes with each patient in the program who has requested a visit. His prisoner handlers try to adapt to the unique needs of each patient, and have described what Roscoe looks like to prisoners who are blind.

"When you take him there and see people smile, it makes you feel better too," said Aric Reed, one of Roscoe's prisoner handlers.

Mitchell said working in the program as a prisoner palliative care aide has given him more respect for his own life and the choices he makes. He said he never held a job before he was incarcerated and the job he has today has been life changing. He knows other prisoners feel the same way.

"You see the change in our hearts," Mitchell said. "The atmosphere I came from, I didn't appreciate life, and now I do. Caring for people changes you."



Above: Prisoners and staff gather for the Eagle's Wings group therapy program.

# Civil Service Training is coming soon to the State of Michigan Learning Center

Civil Service training information and registration will be housed in the State of Michigan Learning Center starting with the Spring/Summer 2018 training schedule. Detailed class schedules will no longer be displayed on the Civil Service website. You will be able to view and register for classes in the Learning Center when Civil Service classes go live in the system on March 5. QuickKnowledge e-learning classes will also be housed in the Learning Center, eliminating the need to log in to a separate website. Below are some questions that you may have about how these changes affect you.

## Which Civil Service classes will be affected?

All Civil Service classes that start after April 1, 2018 will use the Learning Center registration process. Civil Service classes that are scheduled before April 1 will use the existing registration process through your training registrar.

## What about Civil Service classes I am already registered for?

You will not have to do anything about classes for which you are already registered. If you need to withdraw from classes that are scheduled before April 1, please contact your training registrar.

## How do I access the SOM Learning Center?

If you previously created an account in the State of Michigan Learning Center for SIGMA training, you will use the same login and password. If you do not have an SOM Learning Center account, you will receive an email with more information regarding user access when the changes go live on March 5.

## What will I be able to do in the Learning Center?

You can search for available Civil Service classes and request registration and withdrawal in the Learning Center. You can also view QuickKnowledge e-learning classes. Your transcript will track the status of training in the Learning Center.

## How will training requests be approved?

The approval process in the Learning Center is automated. Managers/Supervisors will be able to approve training requests for their staff in the Learning Center.

## Where can I find more information?

More detailed information, including user guides, will be sent from your agency Human Resources Office when Civil Service classes go live in the Learning Center on March 5.

*Submitted by Human Resources Director Jonathan Patterson*

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out the latest episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [Listen to an exclusive interview with Sasquatch and hear about a snowshoeing fundraiser that helps feed hungry families.](#)
- [Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan talks about his involvement in this year's Turk Lake Polar Plunge.](#)
- [Human Resources Director Jonathan Patterson answers some common questions that have come from employees related to the closure of West Shoreline Correctional Facility.](#)
- [Take a listen to Gov. Rick Snyder give the MDOC a big shout out in the 2018 State of the State. The department had some special guests in the audience as well.](#)
- [Hear Monroe County Agent Lennie Alcorn discuss her hard work to fight human trafficking that resulted in her winning a Liberator Award.](#)



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# A Passion for Positivity

## 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year points to the importance of a positive outlook

**E**lwanda Ray believes compassion and a positive outlook are the most powerful avenues for changing lives. “Your attitude can change everything,” said Ray, a corrections officer at Thumb Correctional Facility. “You don’t have to be negative.”



Corrections Officer Elwanda Ray

She was named the 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year for her compassion, integrity and professionalism. “I’d like to congratulate Corrections Officer Elwanda Ray, whose peers selected her for this award because she is a positive influence on those around her,” said Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington. Ray has worked for the MDOC for 17 years and worked with youthful offenders for about 10 years. She said prior to working for the department, she was pursuing a career in social work. That changed thanks to one of her instructors at Mott Community College who helped introduce her to the possibilities a career in corrections offered.

“I’m passionate about my job,” Ray said. “I wake up in the morning looking forward to coming to work.”

She also volunteers at two nursing homes, delivers food to those in need and participates in a youth deterrent program with Flint Community Schools, where she talks to students about the importance of making good choices.

Ray is a firm believer in the power of a positive attitude. She is a mentor in her community, to coworkers and to inmates in the Burns B unit at Thumb Correctional Facility. She hopes the lessons offenders learn in prison will help them lead better lives after release.

“I encourage (prisoners), and hopefully that makes a difference,” she said.

The Michigan Correctional Officers’ Training Council, a group comprised of representatives from the MDOC, Michigan Corrections Organization, law enforcement and higher education, chose Officer Ray for the honor from a pool of five finalists.

She said she was humbled to be named Corrections Officer of the Year and was proud of the other finalists for the award.

“I’m humble and grateful because I truly, truly do love my job and what I do,” Ray said. “I love that I can make a difference in someone’s life.”

**Click the links below for more stories on Corrections Officer Elwanda Ray**

[Michigan Corrections Officer of the Year motivates inmates to do better](#) — MLive

[Thumb Correctional Facility Officer Elwanda Ray named 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year](#) — Medium.com

# 2018 Corrections Officer of the Year Finalists

**Peter Goodreau**, a corrections officer at Baraga Correctional Facility, has worked for the department since 1996. His knowledge and calm demeanor have made him an asset to his facility. He is a military veteran who fundraises to help students.



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**Tom Johnson** is an investigator for the Absconder Recovery Unit and 12-year veteran of the MDOC. He quickly acclimated to work as an investigator and has a clear passion for his job. He routinely travels around the state to conduct training for employees.



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**Jerald Nugent**, a corrections officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, has worked for the department since 2000. He is a demonstrated leader who has helped train new staff. He started a Veterans Day fundraiser in 2013 that provides treats for soldiers overseas.



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**David Rowley**, a corrections officer at St. Louis Correctional Facility, has worked for the MDOC for 23 years. He often goes above and beyond in his job duties and is considered a role model for staff.



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# Muscling in Motivation

Monroe County Agent pairs feats of strength with message on making good choices

Among friends, Monroe County Agent Daniel Foor is known as the bionic man.

The nickname is fitting.

In 2003, Foor was in a serious motorcycle accident that left doctors cautioning him that he might never move again. The champion bodybuilder, powerlifter and a lifelong athlete had his femurs replaced with titanium, his hips replaced and underwent a number of back surgeries. He was determined that the accident wouldn't stop him from staying active and doing what he loved — showcasing strength and



using it to promote a positive message.

Today, he performs feats of strength in auditoriums packed with hundreds of students and shares a message on the power of motivation, kindness and making good choices as part of the Sons of Thunder Team.

He tears phone books and license plates in seconds, bends metal rods with ease and breaks baseball bats with his hands.

"I tell kids, you might come from a rough background, but you can overcome the impossible," Foor said.

Foor became involved in strength performances about 25 years ago. He had recently retired from bodybuilding and was still competing in powerlifting when he was asked to be part of the Power Team, which travelled around the country showcasing strength in front of audiences at churches and schools.

Foor enjoyed the team, but his growing family made

him want to stay closer to home. So he started his own group, the Sons of Thunder, and began seeking teammates who include former Detroit Lions fullback Cory Schlesinger.

He loves that he can use his strength to inspire and motivate children and teens.

"If I were to walk in with a suit and a tie, the kids would probably throw spitballs at me," said Foor, a former defensive tackle for Central Michigan University and track and field champion in shotput. "But I walk in wearing a T-shirt and bend a steel bar in my teeth and they think I'm a superhero and will listen to me."

Foor said he talks about the importance of avoiding drugs and gang involvement, overcoming adversity, and treating one another with kindness through Sons of Thunder.

He recalled when he heard his son's classmate had died of a drug overdose. The news shook his family and he focused his efforts on teaching the importance of avoiding drugs and addiction.

"It has to stop," Foor said of the opioid crisis. "We have to do something. Can you imagine if each one of us tried to get involved?"

He said his children motivate him to push himself and work to change lives for the better.

"With kids you have to be an example," Foor said. "If you want them to work hard, you have to work hard. You have to lead by example."



Above: Agent Daniel Foor with Sons of Thunder teammates Cory Schlesinger and Ralph Hennamen

## Cyber Attacks – Be Aware of Suspicious E-Mails and Internet Sites

Every day malicious cyber attacks happen within our department. The Department of Technology Management and Budget reviews more than 1 million potential cyber attacks every month to keep the State of Michigan safe from data breaches. It is important that you are very careful when searching the internet or opening e-mails on state computers. If you receive an e-mail that looks suspicious, please forward it to [abuse@michigan.gov](mailto:abuse@michigan.gov).

## Proposed budget includes funding for officer academies, programs and return to state-run food service

The Michigan Department of Corrections would see additional funding for hiring new corrections officers and expanding educational programming, and would return to state-run food service, under a budget recommendation presented by Gov. Rick Snyder. The proposed \$2 billion MDOC budget includes \$9.2 million in one-time funding for hiring and training 359 new corrections officers through corrections officer academies.

In addition, the recommendation includes \$4 million in general fund spending for expanding educational programming to prisoners in higher custody levels and \$2 million for the Vocational Village.

The department is also moving forward with plans to return to state-run food service operations this summer after coming to a mutual agreement with Trinity Services Group to end the partnership when the contract expires.

The change, which would bring about 350 state workers back to correctional food service, was announced in Gov. Snyder's budget presentation on Feb. 7. While food service contracts achieved savings for taxpayers, the MDOC determined that continued challenges with staffing vacancies, turnover, compliance with performance expectations, and a recent request by Trinity for additional funding, warranted a return to

state-run operations.

The department's previous contract with Aramark started in December 2013 and ended in 2015.

The department's contract with Trinity Services Group expires July 31, 2018. Company leaders and the department agreed to end the partnership following discussions in early February. Budget language first approved in 2012 required the open bidding of food service operations to reduce correctional costs. The boilerplate language requiring the open bidding of food service is no longer in place.

The department has established teams to begin planning for the transition back to state-run food service to ensure it happens as smoothly as possible.

Food service is an integral part of a prison's operations and is vital to running it safely.

The department needs to have confidence in the secure and effective management of its kitchens, and leaders appreciate the work of MDOC staff to assist our food service providers to try to make that happen. This is still not a done deal and adequate funding for this change requires the approval of the Legislature moving forward. Gov. Snyder's budget recommendation and the state House and Senate committee meetings that follow are just the first steps in the budget process. Additional updates on the budget will be included in future editions of the newsletter.

## West Shoreline Correctional Facility closure update

Preparations for the closure of West Shoreline Correctional Facility are ongoing since the announcement to staff on January 29 that the facility would close effective March 24. The department began working immediately with staff and union leadership to absorb as many employees as possible into vacancies we have throughout the department. All options are being considered to minimize the impact on staff.

MDOC leaders have made visits to the facility to answer questions from staff. Bump notices are expected to be delivered on March 5.

Earnest C. Brooks and Muskegon correctional facilities will be in the layoff unit for the closure.

In the bumping process, the three facilities' seniority lists will be combined and all full-time positions at Earnest C. Brooks and Muskegon correctional facilities will be filled according to seniority. Members who do not have the seniority to be placed at Earnest C. Brooks or Muskegon will be given a layoff slip and an Expedited Recall Form.

The Expedited Recall Form gives members rights to return to Earnest C. Brooks or Muskegon correctional facilities as the MDOC fills vacancies at those facilities.

On the day the closure was announced, the prisoner count stood at 1,272. As of Feb. 21, it was at 882, as prisoners begin transferring out.

For employees that will be affected by the closure, you can send any questions you may have to [AskMDOC@michigan.gov](mailto:AskMDOC@michigan.gov).



# Recidivism rate falls to its lowest level at 28.1 percent

The number of Michigan offenders who return to prison has reached its lowest level since the state began recording three-year re-incarceration rates. Michigan's recidivism rate, which measures the percentage of offenders who return to prison within three years of release, has dropped to 28.1 percent, placing Michigan among the top 10 states in the nation with the lowest recidivism rates. Offenders can be returned to prison for committing new

since the state began recording the three-year rates. The state's lowest recidivism rate previously came in 2014 when 29 percent of offenders were returned to prison following their release in 2010.

Recidivism in Michigan has hovered around 30 percent in recent years and it reflects a sharp drop from 1998 when the rate was 45.7 percent.

"Our communities are safer when we give offenders the tools they need to become successful and productive members of

society," said Director Heidi Washington. "The department has made it a priority to provide high-quality education, training and support to offenders returning to our neighborhoods, and Michigan's

declining recidivism rates show these efforts are working." The department's "Offender Success" model aims to provide prisoners with education, skills and job training in high-demand fields that can lead to stable careers and lower the risk of re-offense.

Training programs include the Vocational Village, which operates at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia and Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson. The program provides training in automotive technology, welding, CNC machining, robotics, commercial truck driving, forklift operation, carpentry, plumbing, electrical trades and concrete and masonry work.



crimes, or for violating the conditions of their parole. The current figures represent individuals who were released from prison in 2014. "Ninety-five percent of people in prison will be paroled and 100 percent of them need a job," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "Finding employment is the best deterrent in keeping former offenders from returning to prison. The Department of Corrections should be proud of the work it's doing to help our returning residents – to give them the chance that best helps them find a successful path in life." Last year, the department announced recidivism rates had dropped to 29.8 percent – which was the second lowest level

# MDOC earns awards for efforts to support Special Olympics

Some of the Michigan Department of Corrections' biggest supporters of the Special Olympics received awards recently for their efforts. Alger Correctional Facility Corrections Program Coordinator, Carla White and retired captain, Carl White, have poured their time and energy into supporting Special Olympics programs over the years. Their work earned them a Hall of Fame Award for spending more than 35 years combined supporting Michigan's Law Enforcement Torch Run and Special Olympics athletes. The Hall of Fame award is the highest honor that you can get from the Law Enforcement Torch Run. In 2015, Carl White was a Final Leg Runner for the Special Olympics World Games. Carla White used her passion and talent for photography to take photos for the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The Whites participate in everything they can to help with the Special Olympics, including attending tournaments and helping sell merchandise.

Kinross Correctional Facility received the Sapphire Award for raising more than \$5,000 for Special Olympics. The award is issued by Special Olympics Michigan to Law Enforcement Torch Run agencies. The facility raised \$5,816.75 for Special Olympics between May 2016 and June 2017.

Story by Laura Batchelor, MDOC communications intern



Pictured: Carl and Carla White with their Hall of Fame Award (left). Kinross Warden Duncan MacLaren and Prison Counselor Jen Metro with the Sapphire Award (right).

# Column: Motivational Interviewing has the power to turn resistance into reasons for positive change

**P**icture this: You're talking to an offender – whether it's a prisoner, parolee or probationer – and you can tell you're not getting through to them.



You're feeling frustrated that they refuse to comply or follow rules. But it doesn't have to be this way. Motivational Interviewing

is a method of communication that helps people move beyond resistance or superficial compliance and achieve meaningful behavior change. Motivational Interviewing can turn argumentative and defensive encounters into conversations about change.

## Why use Motivational Interviewing?

Many staff members see themselves as OBSERVERS of offender motivation – ie: the argument, "They've got to want to change!" While it is true that an offender has to possess the desire to change, Motivational Interviewing skills give us the tools to become ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS in offender change, rather than just being BYSTANDERS. The use of Motivational Interviewing skills can decrease resistance and keep difficult situations from getting worse. It serves as a guide for our interactions with offenders and helps us empower them to make decisions that lead to more positive outcomes. Studies show that front line staff has the MOST influence with the offenders they supervise. There is NO BETTER PLACE, POPULATION OR OPPORTUNITY to influence

meaningful change. The use of Motivational Interviewing does not detract from safety and security, but it gives us an ADVANTAGE. Motivational Interviewing doesn't suspend our role in gaining compliance through the use of violations and sanctions. Instead, it enhances our ability to do so, while adding the benefit of LONG-TERM behavioral change, less resistance, and less risk to the safety of our staff and the public. Some employees are already doing this. They are the ones who are respected because of how they carry themselves and for being firm, fair and consistent. They treat people with dignity and respect. They are the communicators who gain compliance and inspire change in their day-to-day interactions with offenders. They are the unsung role models at the heart of our work. Motivational Interviewing only works to reinforce the good work they are already doing and empower others to follow suit.

## What you need to know:

In the near future, MDOC Administrators will receive training regarding Motivational Interviewing. A statewide training cadre of Motivational Interviewing coaches and trainers will be created to sustain these efforts as part of a long-term training plan. So be sure to watch for upcoming training opportunities at your worksites that will help us all create an environment that fosters compliance and positive change.

*Teresa Chandler is a training specialist for the Michigan Department of Corrections*

## Department earns status as bronze-level employer for support of veterans

**T**he Michigan Department of Corrections has been named a Bronze-level veteran-friendly employer. In order to be eligible for the distinction, the department needed to commit to hiring a specific number of veterans, and agree to sign Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Statement of Support, among other criteria. The department will now begin working toward Silver-level employer status.

Over the last year the MDOC has been working to build upon its support for employees who are military veterans.

In 2017, the department launched its first dedicated Veterans Appreciation Week. During that time, the MDOC honored its veterans and their service to our country through a variety of activities through the week, and presented them with a Military Excellence Coin. Director Heidi Washington also sends a welcome home letter with a Patriotism Portfolio and a Deployment Coin to men and women returning from active duty. In addition, the department was awarded the Pro Patria Award by the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. It is the highest honor an organization can receive from the program.

*Story by Laura Batchelor, MDOC communications intern*

# MAKING A SPLASH

## MDOC employees face freezing waters to benefit Special Olympics athletes



Cold weather and even colder water? That's no problem for Michigan Department of Corrections employees, who were willing to brave freezing temperatures and frozen lakes to raise money for Special Olympics athletes through annual Polar Plunge events around the state.

Worksites that participated included Kent County and Ingham County parole and probation, Field Operations Administration Metro Territory offices, SAI, and Macomb, Saginaw, Thumb and Jackson complex correctional facilities, among others.

It was the first year a team from Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility participated and Deputy Warden Karri Osterhout said the event brought staff together for a good cause.

In all, the Women's Huron Valley team raised \$4,451 for Special Olympics Michigan through the event.

Field Operations Administration Deputy Director Russ Marlan



also participated in this year's Turk Lake Polar Plunge, and you can hear about his experience on the [Field Days Podcast](#).

*Story by Laura Batchelor, MDOC communications intern*



[Click here to see more pictures from Polar Plunge events around the state in our photo gallery on Flickr.](#)

**Are you Ready to Recycle?**

**A new statewide EPIC Team is being formed to address recycling practices and needs within the Michigan Department of Corrections.**

**Many sites around the department already perform some recycling, but we know more can be done to improve our efforts to reduce waste.**

**If you have an interest in recycling, and would like to join the team, email [MDOC-EPIC@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-EPIC@Michigan.gov) by March 2.**

## Remembering Former Warden Nick Ludwick

**N**ick Ludwick, former warden for the Michigan Department of Corrections, passed away on January 31.

Ludwick worked for the MDOC for 35 years and retired in 2010 as warden of St. Louis Correctional Facility. He began his career as a



corrections officer in 1976, and went on to serve as a recreation director, assistant resident unit manager and departmental manager. He was named warden of the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center in 2000, and moved on to serve as warden at St. Louis in 2007.

He had a passion for corrections and went on to work as a warden for the Iowa State Penitentiary following his retirement from the MDOC.

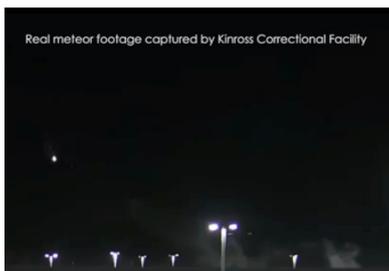
Services were held February 16 at Steele Street Hall in Ionia.

## Michigan meteor caught on camera at Kinross

**O**n January 16, 2018 a meteor shot through the sky right here in Michigan.

Kinross Correctional Facility's cameras caught footage of it as it passed over.

When people saw it they weren't sure what it was, but NASA assured us that it was, in fact, a meteor.



The department is working with a U.S. and Canadian team that includes NASA scientists to determine the trajectory, orbit and size of the meteor.

If you get the chance, check out the video posted on the MDOC's department's [Facebook page](#).

*Story by Laura Batchelor, MDOC communications intern*

## Students can apply now for Susan M. Hunter Scholarship

**A**pplications are now being accepted for the Susan M. Hunter Scholarship.

High school seniors and college students who are children of current, retired or deceased full-time employees of a corrections agency that are members of the Association of State Correctional Administrators are eligible to apply.

All applications and corresponding paperwork must be turned in no later than March 31 in order to be considered.

Scholarship winners will be notified by phone and will receive a follow-up email. New recipients will be awarded \$1,500 and renewals will receive \$750.

To submit an application, or for more information on the application process, visit [www.asca.net/susan-m-hunter-scholarship](http://www.asca.net/susan-m-hunter-scholarship).

# The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Pictured: Reentry Administrator Kyle Kaminski, Departmental Analyst Lora Hodges, Director Heidi Washington and Chris Crysler, manager of the Reentry Contract Management section

While she was having dinner with her father in July 2017, Departmental Analyst Lora Hodges noticed he appeared to be struggling to swallow his food. She asked if he was OK, but he ran to the bathroom and locked the door. Hodges followed him and heard him gagging, then demanded that he unlock the door. Once she was able to enter, she saw her father standing in the middle of the bathroom, holding his throat, indicating he was choking. She delivered abdominal thrusts, which were able to dislodge the obstruction. Her attention to detail and quick actions to help her father earned her the department's Lifesaving Award.

In September 2017, Corrections Officer Michael Clarke stopped to assist at the scene of an automobile accident on his way to his shift at Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility. When additional staff arrived on the scene, Clarke asked that they inform his shift command that he would be late because he wanted to stay with the accident victim until emergency medical services arrived. His compassion for the victims in the accident and his ability to use his training to stay calm on scene is a testament to his professionalism and earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



Pictured: Warden Dewayne Burton, Deputy Director Ken McKee, Corrections Officer Michael Clarke and Director Heidi Washington



Pictured: Corrections Officer Edwin Hewlett, Corrections Officer Douglas Anderson and Warden Jeremy Bush

In the early morning hours in September 2016, a 16-year old driver left the road and struck a light pole at the south entrance of the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center. Corrections Officer Douglas Anderson immediately responded, accompanied by Lt. Robert Grace, Sgt. Thomas Eggleston and Corrections Officer Edwin Hewlett. The driver indicated he was seriously injured and was bleeding. Duane Waters Health Center medical staff were called for assistance and began providing aid to the driver, along with the custody staff involved. When emergency services arrived, specialized hydraulic equipment was used to extract the driver, who was pinned in the vehicle, and he was taken to the hospital. The critical aid provided by staff at the scene earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

# The Extra Mile continued...

Corrections Program Coordinator Ramone Brunson was on his way to work at Ionia Correctional Facility in October 2017 when he witnessed an accident that caused a car flip and catch on fire. Brunson stopped and helped the driver climb out of the burning vehicle and get to safety.

He then went to assist the driver of a second vehicle who was unconscious and sustained a neck injury. He stayed at the scene and provided aid to those involved until emergency medical services arrived.

Brunson's concern for others and professionalism saved the lives of the drivers and earned him the department's Lifesaving Award.



Pictured: Warden Willie Smith, Corrections Program Coordinator Ramone Brunson and Director Heidi Washington



Pictured: Warden Willie Smith, Corrections Officer Jason Toogood and Director Heidi Washington

In December 2016, Corrections Officer Jason Toogood saw an individual lying on the ground in subzero temperatures on his way to work at Ionia Correctional Facility.

Officer Toogood pulled over and found a 96-year-old woman who had slipped and fallen on her back.

He helped her up when she was able to stand and walked her inside a nearby bowling alley to get warm.

Officer Toogood's concern for the well-being of the woman earned him the department's Citizenship Award.



Pictured: Warden Tom Winn and Human Resource Officer Michelle Foco and Human Resource Technician Cheryl Currie

Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn presented Human Resource Officer Michelle Foco and Human Resource Technician Cheryl Currie with Symbol of Customer Service coins for going above and beyond to assist staff with the transition to the new SIGMA system.



Recently, Saginaw Correctional Facility Warden Tom Winn learned a military veteran and retired MDOC employee, was interested in the department's new Military Excellence Coins.

Winn had no coins left to give out, so he decided to give the veteran his own coin to recognize their service to their country.

Assistant Deputy Director Robert Napel presented Winn with a new coin and praised his actions to honor the retired MDOC employee's military service.

## Corrections Quiz

When and where will the 2018 Employee Recreation Day take place?



Send your answer to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov). The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out on MDOC social media, and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

## January Quiz Recap

Which MDOC facility celebrates its 30th anniversary this year?

**Answer: Special Alternative Incarceration Facility**

Congratulations to **Randy Coyne**, record supervisor at Alger Correctional Facility, for being the first to answer the January Corrections Quiz. Great job! Be sure to check out next month's edition for a tribute to SAI's 30th anniversary.

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

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

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

For a link to view and order store items, and for instructions on logging in click the CVSD logo on the

department's [SharePoint Intranet page here](#).

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

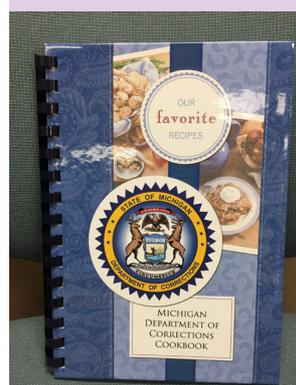


## Try a new recipe

MDOC Cookbooks available for order  
A compilation of favorite recipes from department staff is now available to employees statewide.

The Michigan Department of Corrections Cookbook is complete and ready to order. We hope you will enjoy making these recipes and are able to find a new favorite to share with your family and friends.

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



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

# SNAPSHOTS

A look at life around the MDOC



New supervisors in the Field Operations Administration participated in a training that included talks about leadership and employee engagement.



The Ojibway Correctional Facility Employee Club purchased new drinking fountains equipped with bottle-filling stations for the facility. They include a counter system that shows how many plastic bottles were saved by refilling water bottles.



The Santa's Headquarters program, which provides gifts, food and other assistance to children, received \$850 thanks to an Ojibway Correctional Facility fundraiser. The facility is one of the largest contributors to the program.

## Corrections in the News

[Column: State's prison recidivism rate is improving](#) — Detroit News

[Michigan's rate of repeat offenders is lowest on record](#) — MLive

[Criminal offender recidivism down sharply in Michigan](#) — Michigan Radio

[Michigan reports lowest-ever prisoner return rates](#) — The Adrian Daily Telegram

[Horton named warden of Chippewa Correctional Facility](#) — Marquette Mining Journal

[James Fults receives the Beverly A. Drake Essential Service Award for West Michigan Works!](#) — Ionia Sentinel-Standard

[Snyder's Michigan: Fewer prisoners, less prison spending](#) — Bridge Magazine

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

## Seen on Facebook...



Michigan Department of Corrections

February 9 at 5:30pm · 🌐

What snow? ❄️ Even during the terrible weather conditions, our staff is working hard, to keep YOU, the public safe! 24/7/365. 🌨️ ☀️

These pictures were taken today of staff at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

👍❤️ Anna Solis-Gautz and 164 others

Chronological ▾

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

Committed to Protect, Dedicated to Success

# December New Hires

Barton, Tonya	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Blalock, Robert	Maintenance Mechanic, Kinross Correctional Facility
Botkins, Douglas	Michigan State Industries, Industries Production Leader
Clark, Amber	Licensed Practical Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Gubachy, Katie	Field Agent, Court Services Unit
Herman, Damon	Field Agent, Grand Traverse County Parole and Probation Office
Johnson, Allison	Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Kingsley, Stanley	Registered Nurse, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Miller, Jill	Registered Nurse, Michigan Reformatory
Mitchell, Catherine	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Morris, Bria	Field Agent, Court Services Unit
O'Meara, Lisa	Secretary, Ionia Correctional Facility
Paxton, Angela	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Proctor, Ahmad	Field Agent, Greenfield District Probation Office
Ruiz, Tamara	Registered Nurse, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Slater, David	Maintenance Mechanic, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Smith, Lori-Ane	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Sobieralski, Amy	Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Tiller, Cary	Field Agent, Greenfield District Probation Office

# December Retirements

Abood, Sandra	Departmental Analyst, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Adams, Diane	Dental Hygienist, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Araoz, Manuel	Financial Analyst, Michigan State Industries
Bragg, Stanley	Corrections Resident Representative, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Chaffee, Brian	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Cochran, Roger	Corrections Officer, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Cosme, Perry	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Cottelit, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Demler, Christopher	Developmental Disabilities Programmer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Duggan, Kevin	Field Agent, Macomb County Probation Office
Duncan, Todd	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Forshee, Judith	Departmental Supervisor, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Fuller, Debra	Secretary, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Geraghty, Rebecca	Departmental Supervisor, Thumb Correctional Facility
Glass, James	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Gorman, Bradley	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Gray, Mary	Library Technician, Carson City Correctional Facility
Griffey, Cedric	Deputy Warden, Thumb Correctional Facility
Haney, Shane	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hansen, Robert	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Harding, Allen	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Harry, Shirlee	Warden, Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline correctional facilities
Hazard, Bob	Trades Instructor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Heinig, Brian	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Hoffner, Bonita	Warden, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Hough, Lawrence	Corrections Security Inspector, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Houtz, Roland	Corrections Shift Supervisor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hubbard, Peter	Corrections Security Inspector, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Husband, Robert	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Kavanagh, David	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Kirchhoff, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Kraft, Linda	Dental Hygienist, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Lewis, Clarice	Corrections Resident Representative, Ionia Correctional Facility
Lynum, Calvin	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Detroit Reentry Center
Mackie, Thomas	Warden, Oaks Correctional Facility
Marriott, Audrey	Secretary, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Marriott, Norma	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Mauldin, Benjamin	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McDaniel, Barbara	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
McKechnie, Ronald	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
McSwain, Carolyn	Corrections Transportation Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Moore, Todd	Corrections Officer, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Myers, Dale	Corrections Security Inspector, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Oviedo, Jose	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Owens, Rodney	Field Agent, Detroit Reentry Center
Perry, Mitchell	Warden, Newberry Correctional Facility
Peterson, Lori	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Postma, Paul	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Reese, Stephen	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Robinson, Darrell	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center

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# December Retirements

Shantz, Kerry	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Silsbury, David	Departmental Specialist, Corrections Central Office
Smith, Mark	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Stark, Jay	School Teacher, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Stephens, Deanne	General Office Assistant, Michigan Reformatory
Sullivan, Paul	Psychologist, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Swajanen, Heidi	Storekeeper, Alger Correctional Facility
Thomas, John	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Thompson, Angela	Supervisor, Detroit Metro Parole Office
Utter, Jeffrey	Corrections Shift Supervisor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Veda, Mary	Assistant Resident Unit Supervisor, Ojibway Correctional Facility
Volz, Kevin	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Waldron, Bruce	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Westbrook, Calvin	Corrections Officer, Detroit Detention Center
Williams, Don	Maintenance Mechanic, Macomb Correctional Facility
Wymer, Scott	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Zurn, Tina	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility