

# Corrections Connection



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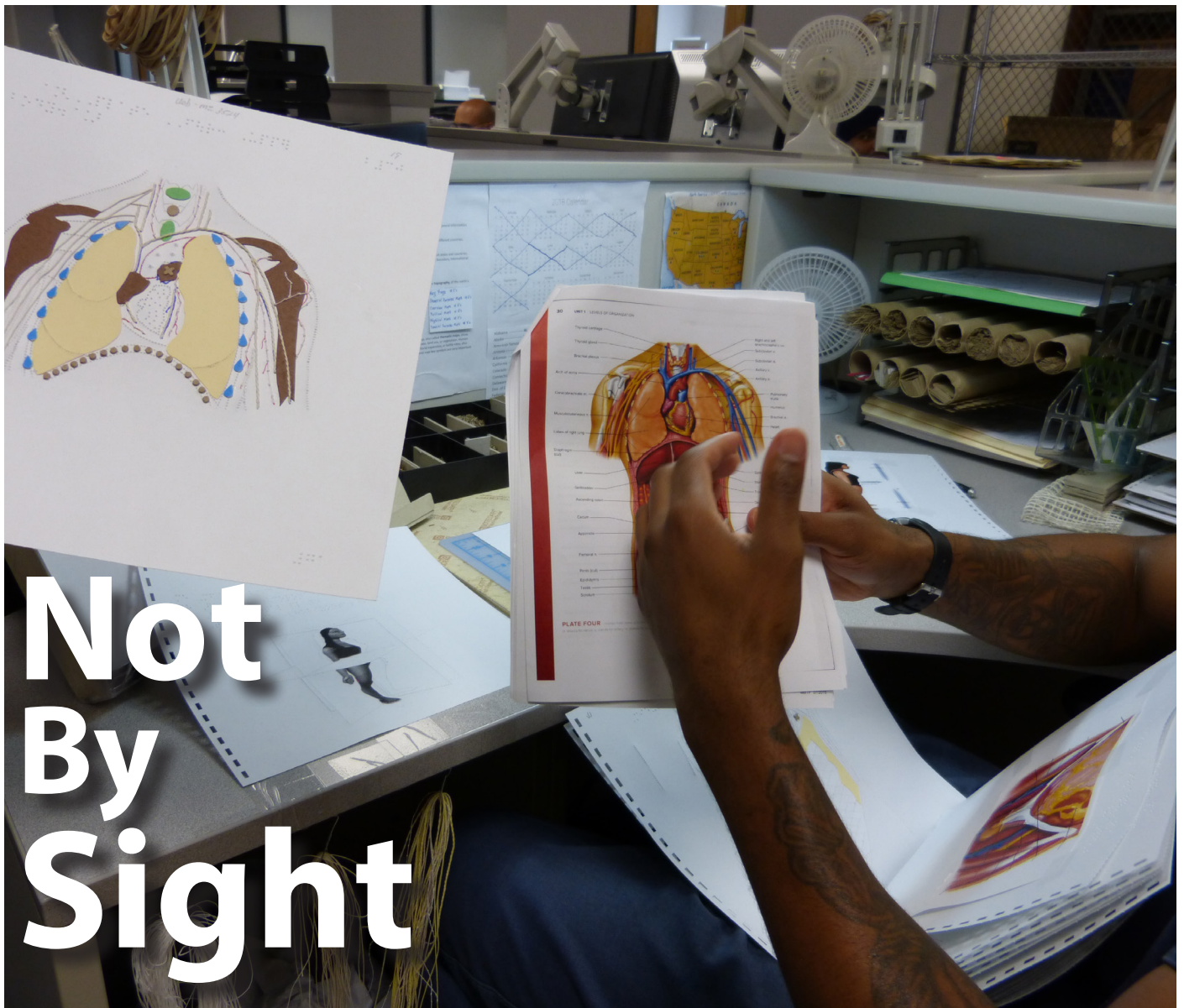
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**Corrections Connection** is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas, feedback and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov). Like MDOC on [Facebook](#)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

The image on the cover was taken near Jackson by **Jerry Schneider**, a corrections officer at Parnall 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).



# Not By Sight

Correctional facility programs aim to help those who are blind or visually impaired

Nearly 20 years ago Matt Williams walked into the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund program at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility, excited for the opportunity to give back. He spent more than a decade learning and honing his skill at transcribing literary and math textbooks and music into pages of braille. “It took awhile to learn, but it was worth it,” said Williams, who continued his work producing braille books in the community following his parole in 2012. Last year, he was invited to return to G. Robert Cotton

Correctional Facility to work as a production manager for the Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund and help teach prisoners to produce braille.

“You have to have a passion for it,” Williams said. “You put a lot into this job, but you get so much out of it.” The Michigan Department of Corrections’ partnership with the Braille Transcribing Fund is one of a number of ways the department helps give back to help those in the community who are blind or visually impaired.

### *Turning Books into Braille*

The department’s involvement in producing braille materials began more than 50 years ago, when a group of prisoners at the former State Prison of Southern Michigan volunteered to learn how to transcribe printed works into braille for blind students and adults.

What started with just a few prisoners grew into a nonprofit that now operates the largest braille production facility of its kind in the nation at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility with nearly 40



Pictured: Leader Dog in training, Quartz, waits for a command from his prisoner handler at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility.

prisoners working to transcribe written pages.

This year alone, the program has turned out more than 960,000 pages of braille and is on track to produce about one million pages by the year's end.

The program is also expanding to Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility where about 20 prisoners are currently learning to transform flat pages of text into braille. The benefits are big for both prisoners and those in need of braille text.

Prisoners in the program learn a highly technical and in-demand skill that is easily translatable to work in the community, and also undergo a rigorous certification process backed by the U.S. Library of Congress. They must apply to be part of the program and pass a thorough screening and testing process.

The demand for braille books is high, and books produced by the program at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility are highly-sought after for their excellent quality, Williams said.

Materials produced by the program include textbooks, tests, manuals, and children's books, and are distributed in all 50 states. Prisoners in the program are also considered subject matter experts

in the industry, and have spoken to others on "hard to braille" projects, such as advanced mathematics.

For prisoners, having the opportunity to hear from the individuals using the braille books they create is also valuable.

"I love the feedback from teachers and parents," said Raymond Murray, a prisoner who has been with the Braille Transcribing Fund program for nine years. "It's so great knowing I've had a hand in someone's education. It's phenomenal."

### *Learning to Guide*

It's mid-afternoon and Josh Loucks' newest trainee is enjoying some time in the sun outdoors.

For the next year, the nearly eight-week-old black Labrador retriever puppy will learn basic obedience and commands from Loucks and his training partner, then head to the Leader Dogs for the Blind campus in Rochester Hills for formal guide dog training.

"Being able to train a dog for someone else and have that dog be able to go out and help someone in the world is pretty cool," said Loucks, a prisoner at Cotton

Correctional Facility. The puppy is the second dog he is raising through the program and is one of nine currently at the facility being trained with the help of 24 prisoner handlers.

The facility has trained 51 dogs through Leader Dogs for the Blind Prison Puppies in the last four years. More than 700 puppies have been trained at correctional facilities in three states since Leader Dog began partnering with corrections departments in 2002. Of those, 340 have gone on to become Leader Dogs, while the others may find new careers as service dogs in other areas.

Today, Prison Puppies operates at a dozen correctional facilities, including 10 in Michigan — Baraga, Bellamy Creek, Central Michigan, Chippewa, G. Robert Cotton, Ionia, Macomb, Oaks and Richard A. Handlon correctional facilities and Marquette Branch Prison.

Leader Dog is looking to expand its program to additional correctional facilities, and is actively recruiting facilities that would be open to raising puppies for the organization,



Prisoner Josh Loucks works with his Leader Dog puppy.



Pictured: Two boys in Honduras wear glasses refurbished by Michigan State Industries and donated through Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity.

said Melissa Spooner, coordinator of Prison Puppies for Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Partnering with correctional facilities has been a win for prisoners and individuals who need guide dogs. Involvement creates rehabilitative opportunities for prisoners who have a chance to give back to the community, it allows them to take responsibility for the dog they are raising, and it helps develop patience, dependability and compassion.

The success of Prison Puppies comes from the prisoners involved in it, said Darla Wieand, a corrections officer at Cotton Correctional Facility, who works with prisoners active in Prison Puppies.

"They work together and help each other for the dog's sake," Wieand said. "They get excited when they see a dog succeeds."

Prisoners also enjoy hearing from individuals served by the Leader Dogs they raised.

One woman wrote a message of thanks to prisoners who had raised her guide dog and described how he had prevented her from falling down a flight of stairs. "He is with me every minute and I know wherever I am in my home, he is right there at my feet and sometimes in my lap," she wrote.

The need for trained guide dogs is great. About 1.3 million people nationwide are legally blind, and of those, only 10 percent travel independently using a white cane or guide dog, according to statistics from Leader Dogs for the Blind. Leader Dog serves about 350 individuals a year, and is fully funded by donations. Wieand said having the program at the facility brightens the days of both prisoners and staff. "A lot of people have affection for dogs and when you walk in and see a puppy wagging its tail, it's great," she said.

### *Giving the Gift of Sight*

Every year, the Michigan State Industries Optical Lab at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility takes in tens of thousands of donated eyeglasses to be

repaired and refurbished for those in need at home and abroad.

Prisoners sort through the glasses to determine what will be usable and repair them, so they can be provided to local churches and Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity at Ferris State University and distributed to individuals in need.

The Optical Lab created the Humanitarian Optical Prescription Endeavor or H.O.P.E. project, to provide donation boxes to local Lions Clubs to collect the used glasses for repair and redistribution.

All glasses that are sent in and are not usable are recycled for parts to repair other glasses, said Matt Yeager, optical lab trades instructor at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.

"Every pair that comes to us is used for something," he said. "There is very little to no waste."

Through the Optical Lab's partnerships with the student and community groups, prisoners have the opportunity to learn valuable skills and participate in real-world training in refurbishing eyewear.

The lab recently supplied a mission group with 1,000 pairs of glasses to help those in Mozambique.

It also provides eyeglasses to local elementary schools through a partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Adrian. Glasses are made for children whose families need assistance, and the lab currently works with five area schools. The program is funded by Kiwanis Club grants and the turnaround time for a student to receive a new or refurbished pair of glasses can be as fast as 24 hours. Yeager said the lab looks forward to being able to expand the program to help as many children as possible.

"Our inmates are very proud of the work they do and get great enjoyment out of the help they are providing," Yeager said.

[Click here for more on Michigan State Industries' partnership with Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity.](#)



Pictured: Glasses donated to be refurbished by the MSI Optical Lab.

# From the Director's Desk

## Employee Service Program updated with new resources to help

It's no secret our jobs are not easy ones.

We see people at some of their lowest moments and we work to raise them up while holding them accountable and demonstrating fairness and compassion. We race toward danger, while others run from it and we don't hesitate to assist those in distress, no matter who they are or what they have done. It is work that is both grueling and rewarding, and though our focus is often on assisting others, we cannot forget to address our own needs.

The Employee Service Program is available to all State of Michigan employees and eligible family members for voluntary, confidential assistance with both personal and work-related concerns.

The program recently redesigned its website, [www.michigan.gov/esp](http://www.michigan.gov/esp) and added new resources to address Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, services

for military service members and veterans, suicide prevention, and substance abuse.

A crisis text line now exists for those who might not be comfortable speaking with someone by phone, and links to videos and mobile apps on suicide prevention, PTSD and substance abuse have been added.

Services are offered at no cost as a resource to state employees.

It's important to remember seeking assistance is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness.

It's OK to reach out for help for ourselves, for colleagues, or for family members, and resources exist to do so.

The Employee Service Program can be reached by calling 1 (800) 521-1377, and more information is available at [www.michigan.gov/esp](http://www.michigan.gov/esp). You can also find a link to the Employee Service Program at the top of the Department's website, [www.michigan.gov/corrections](http://www.michigan.gov/corrections).

*Heidi E. Washington*

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Check out the latest episodes of the Field Days podcast

- [Hear Director Heidi Washington talk about the strides the department has made over the last five years and where we're headed as she highlights the Strategic Plan Progress Report.](#)
- [Listen to Teresa Chandler describe how Motivational Interviewing lowers stress and decreases resistance to positive change.](#)
- [Former Field Operations Administration Assistant Deputy Director Denise Allsberry talks about her more than 40 years with the department in advance of her retirement.](#)



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# Reaching New Heights

## Corrections Program Coordinator climbs Africa's highest peak to support cancer research

For years, Mark Treado would be sure to make a donation any time a close friend of his was running a marathon to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He didn't participate in the run,



Corrections Program Coordinator Mark Treado

but he'd support her efforts. His involvement in fundraising reached new heights when his friend made a request that would take him to another continent and nearly 20,000 feet above sea level. Treado, a corrections program coordinator at Marquette Branch Prison was hiking on a ski hill when he got a text asking if he wanted to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro for charity. "I waited until I got to the top, researched it, then I committed," he said. It was a big commitment to make. Participants train and fundraise for a year and a half before the climb and are part of a climbing team. Treado's corrections colleagues helped him raise about \$1,000 for the Climb 2 Cure fundraiser supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. His team

of 14 climbers, including seven from Michigan, raised \$110,000 total.

Treado prepared for the climb by hiking and completing core and strength training six to seven days a week. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society also provided climbers with a four-month training plan outline to help them get ready to reach the peak of Africa's highest mountain.

The route for the climb covered about 50 miles and would take eight days to complete. Of the 14 climbers, 11, including Treado, made it to the mountain's summit.

"It was a challenge physically and mentally," Treado said. He said it was a great experience to be able to meet the local climbing team, who was assisting with the Climb 2 Cure ascent.

"They were 100 percent determined to make sure we all made it to the summit," Treado said. "That was their goal." Treado said the most difficult part of the climb was the day they reached the summit.

The climb began at 10 p.m. at 15,000 feet above sea level and ended at sunrise at the peak. Temperatures were cold and the wind gusts were strong, but the view was amazing, Treado said. "It seems like most of us have been affected by cancer, either by family or friends," he said. "I felt like this was a great way to try to raise money to see if we can find a cure."

[Click here for more information about the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Climb 2 Cure fundraising program.](#)

## Help sought for Florida corrections employees impacted by hurricane

Hurricane Michael devastated parts of the Florida panhandle impacting hundreds of Florida Department of Corrections staff. More than 100 Florida DOC employees are currently homeless, and hundreds more experienced severe damage to their homes. The Association of State Correctional Administrators and Florida Corrections Foundation are asking for help in supporting Florida DOC staff who were impacted by the hurricane.

It's important to know that 100 percent of donations made will go toward Florida DOC staff in need and will be used for help with housing and home repairs. Donors can mail a check, noting 'hurricane relief' in the memo line, to:

Corrections Foundation  
501 S. Calhoun Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

[Donations can also be made online at the Florida Corrections Foundation website.](#)

## Job Spotlight

The MDOC is hiring for a Corrections Medical Unit Officer who will serve as paramedic/EMT at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center and Duane Waters Health Center.

[For more information, and to see the posting, click here](#)



## New recruits graduate from the Tom Tylutki Academy class

The Michigan Department of Corrections welcomed more than 100 new recruits following their graduation from the Tom Tylutki Academy Class.

Ceremonies were held in Lansing and at Lake Superior State University.

Officers complete eight weeks of classroom instruction and will now work at their assigned facilities for eight weeks of on-the-job training. The graduation ceremonies

included remarks from MDOC Director Heidi Washington and class namesake Tom Tylutki. Graduates also received awards for academic achievement and personal conduct.

Award winners included:

- Jonathan Sipes — Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
- Taylor Walter — Michigan Reformatory
- Maarten Franks — G.

Robert Cotton Correctional Facility

- Rex Matchinski — Chippewa Correctional Facility

- Ashtin Lewis — Marquette Branch Prison

- Lance Ochampaugh — Baraga Correctional Facility

Pictured left: Award winners from the Lansing class and from the Upper Peninsula class.

## New officers stress importance of positive change

Corrections Officers Chanel Borns and Na'kyia Thompson are firm believers in the importance of helping others change their lives for the better. "Being able to correct one's behavior so they can reenter society and be successful in it, and being fair and being the same consistent



Corrections Officers Na'kyia Thompson and Chanel Borns

person every day is important," Borns said.

Borns and Thompson are part of the newest class of corrections officers, and started work at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility after graduating from the Tom Tylutki Academy Class. Thompson said many of her instructors at Ferris State University were corrections officers and it inspired her to join the field.

Her classes stressed remaining firm, fair and consistent in her work, and she said it is something that will always stick with her.

Borns said though she questioned her own career choices at times, completing the academy was proof you can do anything you put your mind to.

"The stronger you build your mind to believe you can do something, the better you perform," Borns said.

She encouraged other new recruits not to be discouraged by challenges they might face at the academy.

"Just go in with a positive attitude and mindset," she said. "Pay attention from day one to week eight and take it all in. It plays a vital role in your outcome."



# State works to raise awareness about opioid crisis

Governor Snyder proclaimed Oct. 21-27 Opioid Addiction Awareness Week.

It is an opportunity to increase awareness about this widespread epidemic that is hurting every community in our state. It also serves as an opportunity to showcase the need for each of us to work together – now more than ever.

The opioid addiction crisis has claimed the lives of more than 6,000 Michiganders in the last four years. Even worse is that drug-related deaths continue to rise. In fact, Michigan had more accidental deaths from drug overdoses than car accidents last year.

To make it easier to find information, resources and help to stop opioid-related deaths in our state, the State of Michigan has launched a new website: [www.michigan.gov/opioids](http://www.michigan.gov/opioids).

The new website brings together information from all state departments involved in combatting this epidemic. To make it easy for residents to find resources in their area, the site includes interactive maps showing where licensed treatment centers and takeback locations are found. It also contains all State of Michigan resources needed for prescribers, pharmacists, victims of drug addiction and their families and all Michiganders to help play a part in ending the opioid crisis in Michigan.

Click the image on the right to hear Lt. Gov. Brian Calley talk about how the state is working to raise awareness and find solutions to the opioid crisis.



## H.O.P.E. Program makes impact at correctional facility

In September, staff from E.C. Brooks Correctional Facility hosted a presentation of the Helping Others Pursue Excellence, or H.O.P.E., program.

The program included prisoners from the National Lifers Organization and 65 students from Muskegon Covenant Academy, Steele Middle School, and the Ottawa Area ISD Careerline Tech Center(CTC) Public Safety & Security Services class.

The H.O.P.E. Youth Deterrent Program is a community service youth prevention program, and is facilitated by corrections staff in partnership with the state, county, schools and local agencies.

At-risk youth and future public safety practitioners learned about prison life through observation, small-group dynamics, and the testimonials of staff and trained prisoner mentors. At the conclusion of the program, the prisoners in the National Lifers Organization presented the instructors of the CTC class with a

\$1,134 donation for a scholarship program to encourage students to enroll in post-secondary education in public safety after graduation. Funds were collected from an approved fundraiser sponsored by the National Lifers Organization. In addition, facility staff raised funds. One student and West Ottawa High School junior said hearing from the inmates firsthand affected her.

"Their personal stories gave me a different look at life in prison and the prison system," she said.

Another student and senior at Hudsonville High School said the experience was eye-opening.

"Interacting with the inmates gave me a chance to put a face to what the media, TV, and movies typically portray as prisoners," he said.

"These are real people with real stories, lives, and loved ones."

Instructor Lee Hoeksema also commented on the H.O.P.E. program.

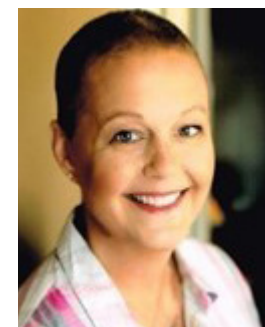
"The visit was very impactful and a great success," Hoeksema said. "The students will have memories of this trip based on the access to real-life stories, how easy it is to make a mistake, and the impact these mistakes can have on our lives."

*Submitted by Jim Dawson, administrative assistant at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility*



## Remembering Jean Marie Koenigsknecht

Retired Michigan Department of Corrections Human Resource Developer Jean Marie Koenigsknecht passed away Oct.



8 after a long battle with breast cancer. Koenigsknecht worked for the MDOC for 27 years and was a proud member of the MDOC Honor Guard.

She began her career with the department as a corrections officer at Central Michigan Correctional Facility and later began working as a human resource developer at Carson City Correctional Facility. She also had a passion for the Spreading Sunshine organization. Memorial contributions can be made to the Sparrow Clinton Infusion Center through the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Foundation.

Funeral services were held on Oct. 11 at the Lux and Schnepf Funeral Home in Carson City.

# The Extra Mile

MDOC staff go beyond the call of duty to help others



Staff at Macomb Correctional Facility were honored for their actions that saved lives and prevented others from being harmed.

In November 2017, Corrections Officer Anne-Renee Kuplerski saw a prisoner collapse on the floor while playing basketball and experience what appeared to be a seizure. She immediately called for assistance and had other prisoners leave the area.

Corrections Officers Christopher Sheffield and Jordan Bananno, Registered Nurses Cassandra White and Jaimie Cates, Sgt. Joseph Orlandino and Acting Sgt. Gabriel Noble responded to assist.

The prisoner was unresponsive and staff quickly initiated CPR and called for emergency medical services. The prisoner did not have a pulse, so an AED was retrieved and a shock was administered, allowing the prisoner to regain a pulse.

Their actions earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.



In April, Corrections Officers Fred Raby and Melanie Wright were working in one of the facility housing units when a prisoner informed them that another prisoner was in need of medical assistance.

They immediately responded and found the prisoner unresponsive and slumped over in his cell. The officers called for assistance and Registered Nurses Jan Motoligin, Caroline Rivard-Babisch and Mineka Thompson, and Corrections Officer Dewayne Perry responded to assist. Officers and nurses began performing CPR and administered Narcan. Their quick efforts to aid the prisoner earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

Corrections Officers Herb Smith and Michael Taylor were working in a housing unit at Macomb Correctional Facility in April when they noticed a prisoner unresponsive in his cell. The officers called for assistance, moved the prisoner outside his cell for more room and began CPR.

Corrections Officers Jonathan Hildreth, Jordan Bonanno and Brannon Freiburger, Sgt. Gabriel Noble, Registered Nurses Mineka Thompson and Caroline Rivard-Babisch and Health Unit Manager Heather Cooper responded to assist with CPR and administered Narcan. The prisoner then became responsive and was transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

Their teamwork and immediate action to help the prisoner earned them the department's Lifesaving Award.

Corrections Officer John Hall was completing prisoner count in July when he came upon a cell window that was covered with a towel. One of the prisoners came to the window and showed him a sharpened rod and refused to remove the towel from the window. Officer Hall called to the other prisoner in the cell to ensure he was safe and the prisoner at the window informed Officer Hall that the other prisoner was his hostage. Officer Hall called for assistance and Corrections Officers Jerelyn Lacy and Bradley Michalowicz and Sgt. Matthew Nguyen responded and joined him at the cell door. Other staff relayed information to the control center, secured the unit and formed an entry squad. Through the collaborative efforts of staff, the situation was de-escalated without the use of force and the prisoner eventually gave up his weapon and released the prisoner he was holding hostage.

Their outstanding demonstration of professionalism in a stressful situation earned them the department's Meritorious Service Award.

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# The Extra Mile continued...



Absconder Recovery Unit Investigator Stephen Cooklin received the department's Meritorious Service Award for his professionalism and hard work to establish positive relationships with local law enforcement agencies. The Warren Police Department Special Operations Unit recently expressed their appreciation for Cooklin's integrity and efforts to collaborate when working together on tough fugitive cases. In addition to earning their confidence and respect, the outstanding working relationships he has formed with law enforcement have benefitted the department in helping locate absconders.



Deputy Warden Scott Sprader received a Symbol of Leadership Coin from Alger Correctional Facility Warden Catherine Bauman for his hard work, especially when she is away from the facility.



Alger Correctional Facility Warden Catherine Bauman presented teachers James Belles and Scott Jette with Warden's Coins for increasing the facility's number of program completions and GED completions this year.

## Applications being accepted for the 2019 Employee Engagement Team

The department will soon begin selecting staff to serve on the 2019 Employee Engagement Team. If you are interested in participating as a team member, please complete form CSJ-569 "EPIC Team Membership Application" available in DAS and submit it to the EPIC Mailbox ([MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov](mailto:MDOC-EPIC@michigan.gov)) with the subject line "2019 Employee Engagement Team." Please have your application submitted by November 16th. If you are selected for this team, you will be notified by the EPIC Section. Questions about the team can also be submitted to the EPIC Mailbox.

## Corrections Quiz

## September Quiz Recap

What correctional facilities have grown larger-than-life pumpkins?

Which mid-Michigan correctional facility celebrated its 25th anniversary in September?

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.

\* You can also listen to the [Field Days Podcast](#) on Oct. 30 for clues

### Answer: Macomb Correctional Facility Saginaw Correctional Facility

Congratulations to **Tena Rath**, department technician at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, **Laci Grembowski**, records supervisor at Carson City Correctional Facility, and **Randy Coyne**, records supervisor at Alger Correctional Facility for correctly answering the September Corrections Quiz. Great job!

## Correctional facilities celebrate 25th anniversaries

Two correctional facilities celebrated a quarter century of existence in September and marked the occasion with events for staff and facility retirees. Construction on Saginaw Correctional Facility was completed in 1991 and it began accepting prisoners in 1993. The facility held an opening ceremony in October 1993 that included remarks from then-Gov. John Engler, along with refreshments and a tour of the facility.

Saginaw celebrated its anniversary with a celebration for staff, former wardens and other retirees in September, and assembled a historical display with articles and photos from the institution's opening. Macomb Correctional Facility turned 25 in September and celebrated the milestone in October

with an event for staff, retirees and MDOC leaders ([See Page 12 for a link to a Macomb Daily story about the event](#)).

The estimated two-year construction of Macomb Correctional Facility was initially expected to be complete in late 1990. An opening ceremony was held for the facility in September 1993, with former Gov. John Engler also tapped to be a guest speaker.



Pictured: Macomb Correctional Facility and Saginaw Correctional Facility. Top: Saginaw Correctional Facility celebrates its 25th anniversary.

# SNAPSHOTS

## A look at life around the MDOC



Thumb Correctional Facility held a One Day With God camp in August for prisoners to spend a day of reconciliation with their children. The facility's Prisoner Benefit Fund also donated \$10,000 to the program.



Alger Correctional Facility staff cleaned a 3-mile stretch of highway in Alger County in September. Staff have been cleaning the section of highway since 2005.



Staff at St. Louis and Central Michigan Correctional Facilities donated 250 backpacks filled with supplies for area students in need in Gratiot County.



Alger Correctional Facility donated more than 100 pumpkins to Munising Schools for their pre-school and kindergarten classes. The facility also painted pumpkins, which were sold to raise money for U.P. Honor Flight. More than \$1,300 was raised to send two veterans in the community to visit memorials in Washington, D.C.

[Click here to see a photo gallery of the painted pumpkins that were available.](#)

## Corrections in the News

[‘Proud of Corrections’](#) — Greenville Daily News

[Excelling in a very tough job](#) — Ionia Sentinel-Standard

[Macomb Correctional Facility celebrates 25th anniversary](#) — Macomb Daily

[MDOC announces rate reductions for calling inmates](#) — ABC 12

[Michigan cuts prison phone call rates](#) — The Detroit News

[Michigan Corrections Department announces inmate calling rate reduction](#) — WDIV TV

[Michigan Department of Corrections shows off veterans unit in prison](#) — ABC 12

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**

October 2 at 4:51 PM · 🌐

We're a national leader in vocational training for offenders, providing them opportunities for long-term employment.

Employers hiring #VocationalVillage graduates agree they are ready to work hard!

#GoingPROinMI #MIMfgWeek



YOUTUBE.COM

**Vocational Village Employer Testimonials**

The Vocational Village is a first-of-its-kind program that aims to give inmates intensive hands-on job training experience. ALTA Equipment Company and...

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

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

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# August New Hires

Adair, Brendan	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Alaniz, Rosenda	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Al-Shara, Hummam	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Antcliff, Cole	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Barnes, Ellen	Cook, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Belleville, Brooke	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Beyer, Kaitlyn	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Borns, Chanel	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Bott, Arianna	Employment Counselor, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Bracey, Daniell	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Bramlett, Keith	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Bray, Cleophus	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Brooks, Rodney	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Brown, Jamie	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Bryan, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Campbell, Colin	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Carducci, Samantha	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Carrier, Darrell	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Cates, James	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Cerny, Jenna	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Cisneros, Timothy	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Clafton, Timothy	Maintenance Mechanic, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Clark, Taylor	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Clock, Ryan	Library Assistant, Marquette Branch Prison
Coleman, Christopher	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Corbin, McEnzelvias	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Crowley, Karmena	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Cullinan, Mitchell	School Teacher, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Darnell, Jordan	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Davies, Jonathan	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Deer, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Dorantes, Michael	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Dunn, Raymond	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Dunsmore, Scott	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Eichel, Ian	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Esslin, Kourtlyn	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Ewing, Storm	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Faulkner, Darron	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Ferpes, Stacey	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Fisher, Eve	Corrections Officer, Kinross Correctional Facility
Fitts, Ryan	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Ford, Andre	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Franks, Maarten	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Frost, Sara	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Fulgenzi, Kayla	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Fullove, Jessica	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Gaynor, Brian	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Grondin, Kayla	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Grove, Emma	Accounting Assistant, Correctional Facilities Administration Northern Region
Grover, Jarrett	Cook, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Gruenberg, Seth	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Gutierrez, Danielle	Cook, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Haas, Samantha	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Hardrick, Andre	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Harrington, Julia	Cook, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility

# August New Hires

Heightchew, Garret	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Herington, Karen	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Herman, Joshua	Corrections Officer, Ionia Correctional Facility
Hesser, Raymond	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Hockin, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Alger Correctional Facility
Holt, Thomas	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Hufnagel, Andrew	Building Trades Crew Leader, Correctional Facilities Administration Jackson Region
Hughes, Steven	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Hunt, Bobby	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Isrow, Brandon	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Jansen, Edward	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Jebb, Bradford	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Johnson, Alexis	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Johnson, Amanda	General Office Assistant, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Johnston, Gayle	Registered Nurse, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Jones, Dwaine	Maintenance Mechanic, Detroit Detention Center
Keepers, Danette	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Kilbourn, Joshua	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Kimball, Daniel	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Kinaia, Justin	Corrections Medical Officer, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
King, Wendy	Licensed Practical Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Kitson, Caleb	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Knight, James	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
LaFayette, Latesha	Employment Counselor, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Lay, Byron	Cook, Michigan Reformatory
Lefear, Tyler	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Lewis, Ashtin	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
Lindeman, Stephen	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Lippert, Zachary	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Lobliner, Candace	Cook, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Love, Jaron	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Lucas, Burren	Licensed Practical Nurse, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Luzius, Jeffery	Library Technician, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Madison, Diamond	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Martin, David	Cook, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Masters, Scott	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Matchinski, Rex	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
McCrum, John	Corrections Officer, Marquette Branch Prison
McCulloch, Lisa	Word Processing Assistant, Saginaw County Probation Office
McKinney, Tynnetta	Cook, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
McLellan, Zachary	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Mercer, Patricia	Library Technician, Muskegon Correctional Facility
Meyer, Trevor	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Meyers, April	Field Agent, Berrien County Probation Office
Mongwe, Jacques	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Montgomery, Andrea	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Morgan, June	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Morton-Gormley, Anthony	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Nelson, Cody	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Neuens, Sarah	Dental Hygienist, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Newton, Fred	Fire Safety Supervisor, Corrections Central Office
Nims, Trevor	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Norum, Christian	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Ochampaugh, Lance	Corrections Officer, Baraga Correctional Facility
Old, Talmadge	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility

# August New Hires

Omabi, Bernard	Corrections Officer, Parnall Correctional Facility
Osby, Shantel	Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Pant, Zachary	Registered Nurse, Oaks Correctional Facility
Pease, Dylan	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Perhne, Bethaney	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Phillips, Dustin	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Proctor, Sharon	General Office Assistant, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Radick, Suzanne	Registered Nurse Manager, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Rainy, Nabangala	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Redman, Keagan	Cook, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Riojas, Michael	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Ritchie, Kevin	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Robertson, Maggie	General Office Assistant, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Robinson, Ionie	Licensed Practical Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Roby, Dakonsna	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Rodda, Timothy	Food Services Supervisor, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Ruby, Benjamin	Corrections Officer, Saginaw Correctional Facility
Saleh, Kaid	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Scales, Timothy	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Schmit, Kathleen	Cook, Kinross Correctional Facility
Sellers, Tonya	Food Services Supervisor, Carson City Correctional Facility
Shields, Takyra	Cook, Detroit Reentry Center
Sipes, Jonathan	Corrections Officer, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Slusser, Gregory	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Smith, China	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Smith, Taylee	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Sparks, Elizabeth	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Spohn, Nathen	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
St. Germaine, Jason	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Stemen, Beth	Registered Nurse, Parnall Correctional Facility
Sylvestre, Marckenson	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Teeple, Chase	Cook, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Thomas, Jasmine	Corrections Qualified Mental Health Professional, Carson City Correctional Facility
Thompson, Na'kyia	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Truitt, Amber	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Tworek, Ryan	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Vanderweide, Daniel	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Vanpatten, Alexander	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Vansyckle, Sean	Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility
Vassar, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Waller, Shantanique	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Walter, Matthew	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Walter, Taylor	Corrections Officer, Michigan Reformatory
Willis, Mitchell	Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
Willman, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Wilson, Erica	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Winters, David	Corrections Officer, Newberry Correctional Facility
Withey, Dashay	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Wozniak, Cara	Corrections Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Yancer, Andrew	Medical Records Examiner, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
Zachariah, Joseph	Corrections Officer, Macomb Correctional Facility
Zigler, Ashley	Corrections Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility

# August Retirements

Baker, Ronald	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Bouchard, Joseph	Librarian, Baraga Correctional Facility
Bush, Christopher	Corrections Shift Supervisor, Oaks Correctional Facility
Cancel, David	Corrections Officer, Lakeland Correctional Facility
Comai, Diane	Field Agent, Ottawa County Parole and Probation Office
Cooper, Marvin	Corrections Officer, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Farver, Terri	Word Processing Assistant, St. Clair County Parole and Probation Office
Groenhof, David	Administrative Manager, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
Leach, Gayle	Librarian, Macomb Correctional Facility
Lopez, Mary	Corrections Program Coordinator, Alger Correctional Facility
Mihalic, Thomas	Field Agent, Washtenaw County Probation Office
Muller, Daun	Corrections Transportation Officer, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
Neumayer, Francis	Maintenance Mechanic, Newberry Correctional Facility
Paskins, Todd	Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility
Peete, Martha	Domestic Services Aide, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Raymond, Joel	Corrections Officer, Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Rodriguez, Agustin	Corrections Officer, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
Ruben, Marilyn	Administrative Manager, Parnall Correctional Facility
Rupe, Kimberley	Registered Nurse Manager, Cooper Street Correctional Facility
Schneider, Laurie	Corrections Officer, St. Louis Correctional Facility
Thelen, Troy	Corrections Officer, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Troszak, Steven	Corrections Officer, Detroit Reentry Center
Warner, Scott	Corrections Officer, G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Yirku, John	Field Agent, Hillsdale County Parole Office