

GEO Board Member,
Jack Brewer, and GEO Continuum of Care Alumni
*Speak at the White House during the Black
Conservative Federation Solutions Summit*

Letter From The Executive Chairman

To the GEO Family,

During the first three quarters of the year, we have made significant progress towards meeting our financial and strategic objectives. Since the beginning of 2025, we have entered into new or expanded contracts that represent over \$460 million in new incremental annualized revenues. This represents the largest amount of new business we have won in a single year in our company's history.

This growth includes the activation of new ICE Processing Centers at three company-owned facilities that were previously idle: the 1,000-bed Delaney Hall in New Jersey; the 1,800-bed North Lake Facility in Michigan; and the 1,868-bed D. Ray James Facility in Georgia. Additionally, during the third quarter of 2025, we reactivated our 1,940-bed Adelanto ICE Processing Center in California, which was previously underutilized due to a COVID-related court case.

More recently, we entered into a joint-venture agreement in the state of Florida to provide management services at the 1,310-bed North Florida Detention Facility, and we announced three managed-only contract awards from the Florida Department of Corrections for the assumption of management and support services at the 985-bed Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and the 1,884-bed Graceville Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and for the continuation of management and support services at the 985-bed Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility.

With respect to our secure transportation, we have significantly expanded our footprint for ICE and the U.S. Marshals over the course of 2025. Earlier this year, we signed a new five-year contract with the U.S. Marshals for the provision of secure transportation services covering 26 federal judicial

districts and spanning 14 states. Throughout 2025, we have executed new or amended contracts to expand secure ground transportation services at four existing ICE facilities and at our three new recently activated ICE facilities, and the services we provide under our ICE air support subcontract have also steadily increased.

We are very honored to have also been awarded a new two-year contract by ICE for the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program at the end of September of 2025. We believe this significant contract award is a testament to the high-quality electronic monitoring and case management services our wholly-owned subsidiary, BI has consistently delivered for over 20 years.

Going forward, our Board of Directors and Management Team remain focused on putting our company in the best position to pursue and capture additional quality growth opportunities. Our collective success continues to be supported by the dedication and professionalism of our employees around the world, for which we are thankful and appreciative.



George C. Zoley

Executive Chairman
of The Board

COVER STORY



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GEO Board Member, Jack Brewer, and GEO Continuum of Care Alumni Speak at the White House during the Black Conservative Federation Solutions Summit

Lead Independent Director of GEO's Board of Directors, Jack Brewer, a number of GEO Executives, and Continuum of Care Alumni participated in the 2025 Black Conservative Federation's (BCF) Solution Summit at the White House.

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During Correctional Workers Appreciation Week 2025 at the Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, the staff had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Donahue to the facility.

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GEO Healthcare Staff Offer Support to the State

The Western Plains Correctional Centre is Victoria's newest maximum-security prison, located 70 kilometers from the State's capital of Melbourne.

CONTRIBUTORS

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West Fulton Day Reporting Center Community Resource Fair

In June 2025, the West Fulton Reentry Services Center (RSC) co-hosted its annual community resource fair, the Summit of Hope, alongside the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Cook County Sheriff's Office.



GEO Board Member, Jack Brewer, and
GEO Continuum of Care Alumni

Speak at the White House during the Black Conservative Federation Solutions Summit

In July of 2025, Lead Independent Director of GEO's Board of Directors, Jack Brewer, a number of GEO Executives, and Continuum of Care Alumni participated in the 2025 Black Conservative Federation's (BCF) Solution Summit at the White House. This historic opportunity was made possible through The Jack Brewer Foundation's (JBF) National Fatherhood Center in Washington, D.C. The GEO Group also sponsored the Criminal Justice Rehabilitation Panel and Luncheon at the Summit.

The Summit began with congressional leaders and staffers meeting at the White House where GEO Board member Brewer was joined by fellow former NFL players including Diante Johnson (Cleveland Browns-WR), Major



Wright (Chicago Bears-DB), and Clinton Portis (Washington Redskins-RB). Brewer also retired after an extensive career in the NFL as a Free Safety for the Arizona Cardinals. In this meeting, there were policy discussions focused on advancing solutions for America's underserved communities including faith, family, educational resources, workforce development and the crisis of fatherlessness in America.

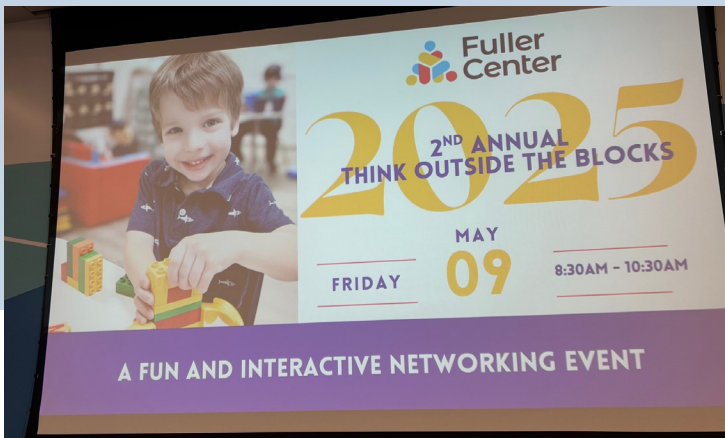
In a room filled with cabinet staffers and policy makers, Brewer stated, "the state of Black America is deeply impacted by the ongoing crisis of fatherlessness. Approximately 64% of Black children grow up without their biological father in the home, which is a figure that reflects deep cultural, systemic, and spiritual breakdowns. Rebuilding the foundation of the Black family must start with restoring the God-given role of the father. Without addressing these issues, the broader challenges facing Black America cannot be fully resolved."

On the second day, Brewer delivered the keynote address during the luncheon. Dr. Derrick Schofield, Executive Vice President, GEO Reentry and Continuum of Care hosted and facilitated the discussion during the Criminal Justice Rehabilitation Panel. The panel included Dr. Schofield, Elmo Golden, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (SBCRF) Alumni; Darrell Guilford, Blackwater River Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Alumni; Major Wright, Former NFL Player and Philanthropist; and Dr. Topeka K. Sam, Entrepreneur and Criminal Justice Advocate.

Emanuel Barr, Vice President of Community and Government Relations for GEO, helped facilitate the event between GEO, JBF, and the White House. Mr. Barr remarked, "we are thankful to our Chairman and Founder, Dr. George Zoley, and Board Member Brewer for creating this powerful platform for our alumni to share their testimonies."



Former SBCRF inmate, Elmo Golden, celebrated six years of his release from prison, and he was featured during the panel. This opportunity allowed Elmo to go from the prison yard of South Bay to the West Wing of the White House, and we look forward to sharing testimonies like this even more in the future.



GEO's Corporate Employees and Senior Executives Support the Fuller Center's Think Outside the Blocks Event

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

In May 2025, the Fuller Center hosted a sold-out crowd of corporate leaders, sponsors, and community changemakers at its Think Outside the Blocks Corporate Breakfast—an innovative and energizing event held at the Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRiC) that celebrated creativity, collaboration, and community impact.

Think Outside the Blocks embodies the essence of creativity and collaboration, inviting participating corporations to step outside the confines of traditional networking events and engage in a hands-on experience that will leave a lasting impact on both the participants and our community.



Participating corporations were provided with a box of LEGO® bricks, symbolizing the building blocks of both community empowerment and industry. Their task? To construct a replica of their

respective industry! These creations will then be showcased at the breakfast event, where they will be judged by a panel of esteemed critics: the children of Fuller Academy, Fuller Center's private choice elementary school.



GEO is proud to support the Fuller Center's mission and the impact they're making in the community. The company supported the event as a LEGO® Sponsor with a \$5,000 donation from The GEO Group Foundation. The event was attended by Mark Suchinski, GEO's Chief Financial Officer; Matt Albence, Senior Vice President, Client Relations; Chris Ryan, Senior Vice President, Human Resources; Selwyn Shakir, Vice President, Project Development; Ryan Seuradje, Vice President, Contract Compliance and Administration; Christa Siciliano, Director, Tax; Chris Ferreira, Director, Corporate Relations; and Cinthya Albert, Sr. Manager, Tax.

Correctional Professionals Day at the Arizona State Capitol

Written By **Emanuel Barr**,
Kingman, Phoenix West, Florence West, and Central Arizona Correctional and Rehabilitation Facilities



In late April of 2025, Correctional Professionals were honored at the Arizona State Capitol. GEO Facility Administrators and Correctional Officers from Kingman, Phoenix West, Florence West, and Central Arizona Correctional and Rehabilitation Facilities attended the celebration that included a tour of the Arizona State Capitol, Senate chambers and the reading of the legislative proclamation recognizing their work. All correctional officers from GEO, CoreCivic, and the State were recognized on the Senate floor during the Senate session.

The attendees enjoyed a BBQ lunch and heard remarks from Arizona State Representative, Kevin Volk, Executive Director at Eloy Chamber of Commerce, Andrew Rodriguez, Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry Deputy Director John Barcelo, and GEO Vice President of Government Relations, Emanuel Barr.



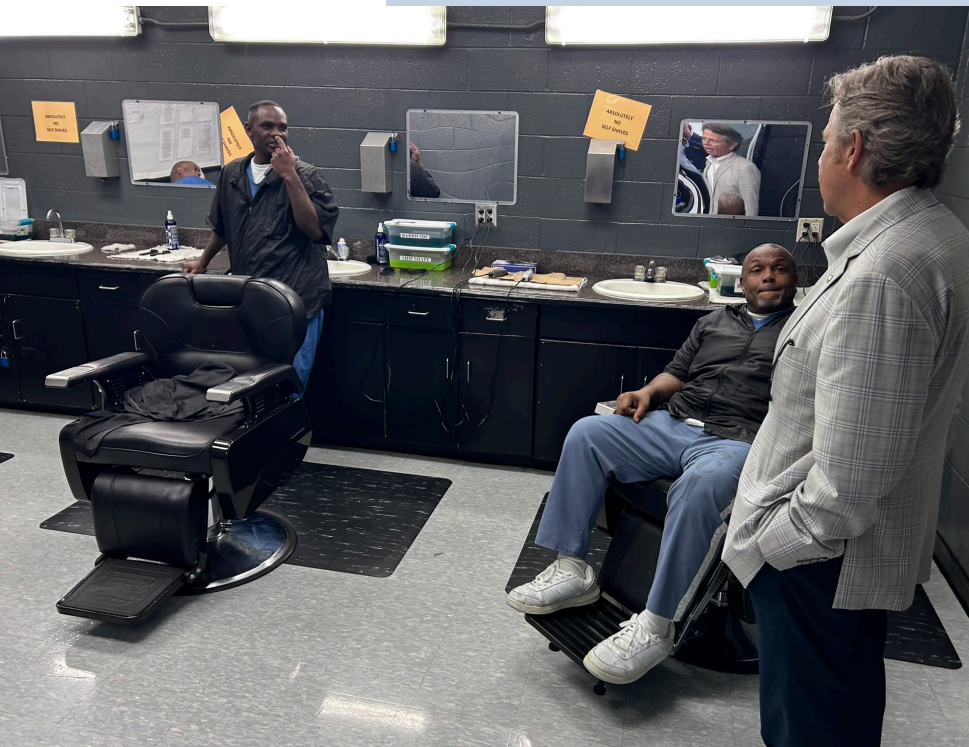
Correctional Workers Appreciation Week at the Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Written By **Micha Neal, Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

Correctional Workers Appreciation Week is a time filled with events, food, and activities designed to create memorable experiences for all correctional workers, fostering morale and appreciation for everyone in the field of corrections. During Correctional Workers Appreciation Week 2025 at the Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, the staff had the pleasure of welcoming GEO's Chief Executive Officer, David J. Donahue to the facility. Although many activities were scheduled for the week, Mr. Donahue had the chance to

participate in the most popular event of all: "The Tank Drop." This game attracts staff eager to toss balls at a target that triggers the seat of the person in the box, causing them to fall into a tank of water. The goal is to get the staff member everyone wants to see dropped into the tank, and on the day of the visit, Troy White, the Director of Nursing, was the fortunate one sitting in the seat. Mr. Donahue took part in the game, hitting the target and sending Mr. White into the tank, followed by several other staff members doing the same.

In addition to the activities, staff helped prepare food, including hamburgers and hot dogs with chips, which were enjoyed by everyone present. Throughout the day, random drawings were held, giving staff the chance to win various prizes. However, the highlight of the day was the speech delivered by Mr. Donahue. He expressed his pride in the staff and his deep appreciation for the work each person does. His message resonated with everyone and remains a topic of discussion at Moore Haven to this day. These moments serve as reminders to the staff that their efforts and sacrifices do not go unnoticed.





Correctional Workers Week 2025

Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

Written By **Michelle Coomer, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

The first week of May at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) is a week full of food, games, and activities to appreciate our correctional professionals that often go unnoticed. Correctional workers are some of the most hard-working public servants that deserve more support for what they do. Corrections is a 24/7, 365-day operation which means there are no weekends or holidays for many. They work with a challenging population with an increasing number of inmates with mental health and substance abuse issues. The Employee Appreciation Committee takes pride in giving the staff at HTCF a great Correctional Workers Week. Thanks for all you do!



Broward Transitional Center

Written By **Daniel Caranton, Broward Transitional Center**

Broward Transitional Center (BTC) proudly kicked off National Correctional Workers Week and Nurses Week with a heartfelt message of gratitude for the dedicated professionals who keep our facility operating smoothly. The administrative team and the Correctional Workers Committee expressed sincere appreciation to every staff member for their resilience, commitment, and exceptional service—especially during challenging times. This week of celebration honored the crucial roles our correctional officers and nurses play in the safety, care, and success of our community.

A full week of engaging events was organized to recognize and uplift our incredible team. The festivities began with bagels and coffee, followed by a breakfast for morning shifts and lunch for

the afternoon shift. Then throughout the week we featured a delicious burger and salad bar, and had the Smokey Bear Barbecue food truck serve a crowd favorite followed by a sweet treat on Dessert Day. We concluded the week with Sneaker Day and personalized gifts for every team member—adding comfort and joy to end the week on a high note.

The spirit of appreciation was palpable throughout the week, bringing smiles, unity, and a renewed sense of pride to the BTC family. These celebrations were a small yet meaningful way to acknowledge the extraordinary work our staff performs each day. On behalf of the leadership team, thank you for your dedication, your heart, and your service. You are truly the backbone of BTC.

Eagle Pass Detention Facility

Written By **Monica Reynaga, Eagle Pass Detention Facility**



The first week of May is recognized as Correctional Workers' Week, officially proclaimed by Presidential Proclamation in 1984 as a time to honor the work and sacrifices of correctional officers and support staff. The Eagle Pass Detention Facility celebrated our correctional employees with a week full of delicious treats served during each shift. The staff expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the efforts made by the facility's events committee.

Correctional Workers' Week is truly a special time to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance and value of the correctional profession. Our events committee aims to demonstrate to our officers just how meaningful their work is, not only during that week but throughout the entire year.

Scarves for Survivors

Written By **Tiffany Hartley, Western Region Detention Facility**



and activities aimed at alleviating their stress. Numerous detainees have been victims of abuse and have expressed a desire to support others who are suffering.

Counselor Monterrey has led a crochet project with our detainee population, and the response has been remarkable! Our goal is to create at least 100 scarves by fall, which we will donate to a local women's shelter. We plan to continue this initiative throughout the colder months. This project has provided an uplifting experience for those involved, and we hope that this small act of kindness will touch the hearts of the recipients. It has certainly moved the hearts of those who are making the scarves.

Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Volunteers Build Community Through Rodeo

Written By **Amber Griffiee,**
Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Volunteers from the Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (KCRF) participated in a weekend of fun and community engagement at the annual Kingsmen Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Rodeo. This beloved event not only brings excitement to the arena but also supports a variety of civic and charitable initiatives through "The Kingsmen," a local group of dedicated professionals. These events benefit numerous causes, including cancer awareness initiatives, college scholarships for local high school students, and equestrian events that serve the wider community.



In a demonstration of community spirit, GEO Group volunteers hosted a meet-and-greet, attended by distinguished representatives including Facility Administrator, Johnny Choate, Deputy Facility Administrator of Operations, Nicholas Pastella, Deputy Facility Administrator, James Morrish, Assistant Facility Administrator, Guerrero, Captain Johnston, Lieutenant Claridge, and Operations Lieutenant Jonsek.

Our dedicated staff and their spouses worked diligently to manage admissions, run concession stands, oversee VIP entry, and assist with security throughout the event. One of the weekend's most heartwarming highlights was the Mutton Bustin' competition, a crowd favorite where FA Choate took charge at the chutes to ensure an unforgettable experience for the young riders.

The Kingsmen Rodeo continues to be a vibrant example of how KCRF and the local community can unite to create a lasting, positive impact.



The rodeo weekend began with a gala night featuring dinner, dancing, and an engaging auction. The GEO Group generously provided tables and chairs for the evening and contributed beautifully handcrafted auction items created by inmates, adding a meaningful touch to the event.

Florida Corrections Secretary Visits South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Written By **Angela Geisinger, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

It was a wonderful day at the South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (SBRF) as Secretary Ricky D. Dixon of the Florida Department of Corrections toured the GEO Continuum of Care site alongside Facility Administrator (FA) Shay Hatcher and the dedicated SBRF team.

Secretary Dixon, accompanied by FA Hatcher and staff, walked the grounds, engaging closely with frontline employees and program leaders. The tour showcased SBRF's commitment to evidence-based rehabilitation and reentry preparation, featuring firsthand looks at several transformative initiatives:

- The Jack Brewer Foundation Fatherhood Program, where participants acquire parenting skills, emotional intelligence, and a renewed sense of purpose.
- The GEO Second Chance Center, a hub for reentry planning, workforce readiness, and comprehensive support services that prepare residents for life after incarceration.
- Behavioral Health and Education Spaces, where clinical counselors, academic instructors, and vocational trainers collaborate to provide individualized programming focused on healing, learning, and skill-building.

The day concluded with an impactful, motivational Q&A session between Secretary Dixon and the entire SBRF staff. In a room filled with correctional officers, clinicians, teachers, and reentry specialists, Secretary Dixon expressed heartfelt appreciation for their work and reminded the team of the crucial role they play in transforming lives and strengthening communities.

Secretary Dixon's visit reaffirmed SBRF's status as a model for rehabilitative programming throughout the state. The energy, engagement, and shared commitment to positive change made it a truly memorable day—one marked not only by innovation but also by inspiration.



South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Receives Designation as the First Second Chance Pell Correctional Institution in Florida

Written By **Angela Geisinger, Continuum of Care**

In 2015, the Second Chance Pell initiative was launched, aimed at granting Pell Grants to individuals who are incarcerated and enrolled in eligible post-secondary education programs. Subsequently, the FAFSA Simplification Act was signed into law on December 27, 2020, as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act. This legislation reinstated Pell Grants for all qualified individuals in federal or state correctional facilities, enabling them to engage in post-secondary education for careers that offer reasonable wages. The GEO Group, under the leadership of Angela Geisinger, Vice President of Programs, collaborated with Katherine Thompson from the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC), Professor Kris Bertelsen from Ameritas Huntington College, and representatives from the Florida Department of Education to diligently finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to secure the essential authorizations for implementing the program at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (SBCRF).



To manage and initiate the program, a working committee for the Second Chance Pell Program was created. This committee included Shay Hatcher, Facility Administrator, Dr. Cheralee Morgan, Programs Director at SBCRF, Cheryl Mason, and Dana Phelps from FDC, Jim Flanagan from Ameritas, along with members from Securus Technologies. Following several monthly meetings focused on discussing the terminology and procedures



outlined in the MOU, along with evaluating on-site resources such as infrastructure, technology (DTEN monitor, tablet learning), instructional methods, enrollment processes, administration, and oversight, the Florida Department of Education granted approval for the program. This approval marked SBCRF as the first facility within Florida to provide the Second Chance Federal Pell Grant higher education program for incarcerated individuals. After thorough screening processes, 75 students successfully completed their FAFSA applications and became the first cohort of incarcerated individuals in Florida seeking an Associate degree in Business Administration through the Second Chance Pell Grant program.

In May 2025, members of the Higher Learning Commission, representatives from Florida's Department of Corrections, and officials from Ameritas College Huntington visited SBCRF. The facility's administrator, Shay Hatcher, along with a GEO corporate representative, other executive management team members, and education department staff, facilitated the visit. The primary goal of this assessment was to evaluate and confirm the facility's higher education program. The accreditation process involved a sequence of multi-level reviews led by Dr. Yarbrough of the HLC, focusing on Accreditation and Assessment, with different groups from all involved organizations. Reviews were executed with FDC staff, Ameritas personnel both in-person and via Zoom, and the GEO/SBCRF executive team, including the program's director, Dr. Cheralee Morgan.

The visit concluded with a delightful lunch prepared by the Culinary Arts students, followed by a tour of the college classroom and the college wing. The guests expressed their astonishment at the college environment and the array of resources available to students in the college wing and classroom.

Art Therapy for Substance Abuse Use Disorder

Written By **Julianne Cartwright,**
Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

The Cerbat unit at Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility has developed a Systematic Wellness Program for individuals struggling with substance use and antisocial behaviors. This program includes six months of substance abuse education taught by a certified recovery support specialist, three months of cognitive behavior therapy, Moral Reconnection Therapy (MRT), 12-Step Programs, individual counseling, and our new class: Art Therapy Group.

Art therapy is often a nonverbal process that allows those in recovery to explore, understand, and resolve issues they may feel uncomfortable discussing in traditional talk therapy. Participants can safely process a full range of emotions surrounding their addiction experiences.

No artistic talent is required. All participants need to do is open themselves to the experience and engage in the process to benefit from this practice. This form of treatment is especially beneficial for those emerging from long-term addiction for various reasons. Many recovering addicts face underlying mental health conditions that make verbalizing their feelings challenging. Art therapy can serve as a vital tool for enhancing their ability to express themselves, thereby opening new avenues for self-discovery and expression that may not be accessible through traditional counseling methods.

Art therapy for substance use is a voluntary program currently serving 15 clients, with a waiting list for inmates interested in joining the next group. Participants enjoy the art projects and the classical music played during the sessions. The program has been successful and we aim to extend it to all inmates at Cerbat in the future.

The Kingman Substance Abuse Department believes in tailoring our treatment programs to meet the unique needs of each inmate seeking assistance. Incorporating art therapy into rehabilitation programs offers numerous benefits during the creative process.



Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Earns Cognia Accreditation

Written By **Angela Geisinger, Continuum of Care**

In a breakthrough milestone for correctional education and rehabilitation, the Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (RCRF) has successfully received Cognia accreditation an international hallmark of excellence and continuous improvement in educational institutions.

This accreditation marks a notable expansion of GEO Group's robust Continuum of Care® (CoC) model, earning RCRF a place among facilities globally recognized for superior rehabilitative and instructional programming. The CoC model emphasizes individualized learning, behavioral treatment, vocational training, and reentry readiness—now further validated by Cognia's rigorous standards.

Cognia is renowned worldwide for evaluating institutions across K–12 and postsecondary education using stringent, research-based performance standards. Accreditation indicates that RCRF's education and care programs meet or exceed these criteria, from policy and instructional quality to cultural and learning environments.

RCRF joins South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and Backwater River Correctional Facility in Florida as Cognia-accredited sites within GEO's network. These facilities have demonstrated that high-quality education and rehabilitation programs can thrive inside secure environments.

Building on these successes, GEO will expand its accreditation efforts in 2026 to multiple additional sites nationwide, further aligning its correctional programming with recognized educational excellence. This expansion reflects GEO's commitment to ensuring every resident has access to accredited, outcomes-driven education and rehabilitation services.

Why This Matters for Riverbend

- **Independent validation:** Cognia's accreditation provides external endorsement that Riverbend's efforts toward inmate education and rehabilitation are both effective and continuously improving.
- **Enhanced credibility:** This achievement strengthens the facility's standing with stakeholders including correctional authorities, educational partners, and residents reinforcing trust in its mission.
- **Commitment to excellence:** As part of the CoC network, Riverbend now joins a select group operating at the intersection of correctional care and quality educational standards.

With this accreditation, Riverbend is well-positioned to engage in ongoing institutional improvement and partner with other Cognia-accredited organizations to enhance programming. It signals a shared commitment within The GEO Group and the broader corrections field to elevate rehabilitation through learning and continuous progress.

Picacho School Garden

Written By **C. Sepulveda,**
Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



In May of 2025, Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility donated \$500 to the Picacho Elementary School Special Education Classes to help them with the purchases of items needed to get water to their vegetable and tree garden.



The Wright Way at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Written By **Angela Geisinger, Continuum of Care**

South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility recently welcomed former NFL player, philanthropist, and motivational speaker Major Wright to officially launch a new Second Chance Partnership aimed at inspiring transformation and building brighter futures for incarcerated individuals.

Major Wright, a former University of Florida Gator and Chicago Bear, infused the facility's education and program wings with his trademark energy and personal testimony, engaging directly with residents and staff. This visit marked the beginning of a long-term collaboration focused on rehabilitation, life skills, and successful reentry.

The day commenced with a guided tour led by Facility Administrator Shay Hatcher, showcasing South Bay's extensive Continuum of Care® programming. Major Wright explored vocational training areas, behavioral health classrooms, and the education department. Staff proudly shared success stories, highlighting residents who have earned industry certifications, completed parenting programs, and demonstrated personal growth through consistent participation.

After the tour, Major Wright addressed residents and staff, recounting his journey from humble beginnings to NFL success and the life lessons he learned along the way. His message emphasized discipline, accountability, and the belief that it's never too late to change the trajectory of one's life.

"I'm here because I believe in you," Wright told the crowd. "I believe in second chances. The choices you make today can open doors tomorrow—not just for you, but for your families and your communities."

The Second Chance Partnership will provide ongoing mentorship and motivational events, aligning with The GEO Group's mission to prepare returning citizens for productive lives beyond incarceration. Through this initiative, residents will have increased access to positive role models, practical skill-building, and opportunities to give back through community service projects.

Facility Administrator Hatcher reflected on the significance of the event: "When residents see someone like Major Wright, who has overcome challenges and achieved success, they realize their own potential. This partnership reinforces our commitment to rehabilitation and reentry."

The visit concluded with one-on-one conversations between Wright and program participants, many of whom expressed renewed determination to set personal goals and work toward them. The enthusiasm was palpable, setting a positive tone for the months ahead as the partnership develops.

With the launch of the Second Chance Partnership, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility continues to lead by example, demonstrating that when rehabilitation is paired with opportunity and mentorship, lives can truly be transformed.

Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility HOPE Event

Written By **Richard Jackman**, Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility



In April of 2025, Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility hosted a HOPE Event to celebrate April as Second Chance Month. 23 volunteers from the Prison Fellowship participated, sharing music, live dance, testimonials, and a powerful resurrection message of hope. Over 120 inmates attended to hear how the saving grace of Jesus transformed the lives of ex-offenders and addicts, offering them a second chance at life.



South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Wins Corrections Got Talent Art and Music Regional and State Competitions

Written By **Dr. Cheralee Morgan, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

In the regional and state finals of the Corrections Got Art and Corrections Got Talent Music competition, inmates from South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (SBCRF) outperformed competitors from all facilities within Region IV. This competition provides inmates with a platform to display their artistic talents, singing skills, and craftsmanship at every correctional institution in the region. Those who excelled at the facility level advanced to the final round hosted at Everglades Correctional Institution. The victor from Region IV then competes at the state level against finalists from three other regions to secure the title of state champion. From the beginning, the artwork displayed by SBCRF was distinguished, showcasing exceptional artistry, and creativity. It invoked strong emotions, sparking numerous reactions and enthusiastic reviews from viewers, who were captivated and stood spellbound as they admired the pieces. Thus, it was not unexpected when



the judges crowned Roger Pitts from SBCRF the winner of the Corrections Got Art competition for his work, "Monster I am Not." Mr. Pitts subsequently represented SBCRF and Region IV at the state finals, where he took home the state championship trophy, gaining recognition for both The GEO Group and Region IV.

Following SBCRF's success in the Corrections Got Art competition, where the facility secured all awards, the entire South Bay community, led by Facility Administrator Shay Hatcher, adopted a "battle-ready mission posture" to gear up for the upcoming Corrections Got Talent Music competition. With excitement at an all-time high, the SBCRF music band, along with a large group of supporters, including executive management, security personnel, and program staff, made their way to Everglades driven by a singular goal: to claim victory in the Region IV competition.



The core band from SBCRF, known as "Men in Blues," rose to the occasion and delivered an unforgettable performance characterized as "poetry in motion." Their choreography was not only perfectly synchronized but also intricate, innovative, and rhythmic. The musical arrangement was of exceptional quality, captivating the audience. The climax of the performance was met with an explosion of cheers and applause from the audience, filling the room with excitement as it concluded.

The atmosphere was charged as the audience anxiously awaited the judges' decision on the top three contenders. Stepping to the forefront of the stage, Miss Tamara Harris, the competition coordinator, grasped the judges' scores firmly. As she revealed that SBCRF's band, "Men in Blues," had triumphed in the Region IV Corrections Got Talent Music Competition, the excitement surged to new heights. The applause and reactions from staff and competitors at other Region IV facilities made it clear that SBCRF was the undisputed champion. There is a shared anticipation that this team will be the one to challenge at the upcoming state championship in September. Special appreciation goes to Miss Devontae Campbell for her support in training the band and to Mr. Finkley, who served as the team's photographer.





Coastal Bend Detention Center Runs Beach to Bay

Written By **Annie Hinojosa, Coastal Bend Detention Center**

Coastal Bend Detention Center participated in the 48th annual Beach to Bay Relay. Beach to Bay takes place on the third Saturday of every May on Armed Forces Day to honor the men and women of the United States military. This year it attracted over 9,300 participants to run the 26.2-mile Relay. From the sandy shores to the bustling city streets of Corpus Christi, this race is a true testament of endurance, teamwork and the sheer joy of running. Beach to Bay embodies team spirit. This isn't just a race, it's a celebration of camaraderie and a shared experience that creates a true bond between colleagues, friends, and family.

Teams of six runners tackle various legs, each offering unique challenges and breathtaking sights. Lt. Ezequiel Huerta ran leg one, running 3.46 miles on the beach. He passed the baton to Tony Aleman, Officer, to run leg two which consisted of

running 4.67 miles that started on the beach and ended on the Northside of the Causeway Bridge. He then passed the baton to Maintenance Tech, Jr. Rodriguez, to run leg three which consisted of 4.36 miles across the Causeway Bridge. Next, the baton was passed to Business Manager, Annie Hinojosa, to run leg four which consisted of 4.60 miles through the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. The baton was then passed to Lt. Omar Elizondo to run leg five which consisted of 4.20 miles that started outside the Naval Air Station through Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi and finally handing the baton to the final leg runner. Officer, Paul Hernandez, ran the final leg that consisted of 4.93 miles through Swantner Park to the Finish Line.

The team finished 57th place in the Commerical Division with a time of 5:19:56.6.

Organizational Excellence at New Castle Correctional Facility

Written By **John Heppner, New Castle Correctional Facility**

The Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Ivy Tech Correctional Education Program recently held their first Ivy & Iron Awards luncheon. The awards were given to the best in class in correctional education across Indiana. A highlight from early in the celebration was the gift of a bench made by New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) building trades class to Sue Ellspermann. Ellspermann is in her final year as President of Ivy Tech Community College and was the keynote speaker for the event.

NCCF won two awards at the luncheon. Gin Jarnagin and Debbie Davis both won awards, representing our facility well for adult basic education and vocational programs. Both Gin and Debbie are instructors with Ivy Tech Community College and administered the Ivy Tech Correctional Education Program at NCCF. The facility itself was nominated as site of the year, John Heppner for IDOC site manager of the year, and Amy Bell, NCCF Clerk, for administrative assistant of the year. NCCF was well represented as a facility achieving organizational excellence in the recent academic year.



Gin Jarnagin won the Beacon Award. This award is presented to an adult basic education (ABE) instructor who illuminates the path to knowledge. There were seven other instructors from other facilities nominated for this award. Jarnagin has assisted many of the students through the program. Many of these students started with low level functioning and proceeded through the system all the way to high school graduation (HSE). This award is presented for professionalism, technique, and ability to inspire students. Jarnagin has produced very positive results in our program, and this recognition is well deserved.

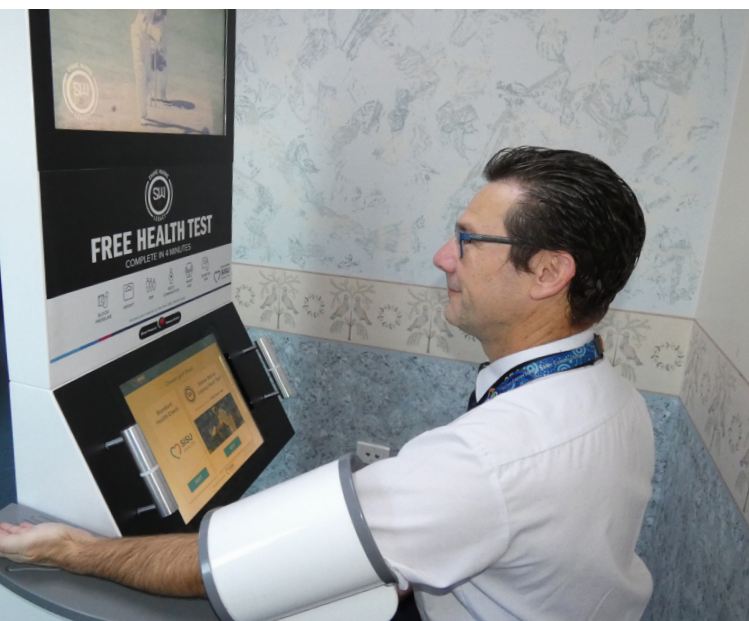
Debbie Davis won the Compass award at the luncheon. This award is presented to an instructor for being the heart of their school. Many of our career and technical education (CTE) instructors rely on the support, guidance, and advice of Ms. Davis. She has served many years at NCCF. Four other instructors for other facilities were also nominated for this award. Davis has been helpful with her culinary class over the years, lending a hand when catering or other needs are presented within the facility. These events provide valuable opportunities for her students.



At the close of the 2024 to 2025 school year, NCCF had met or exceeded nearly all the goals set by Ivy Tech and IDOC. The school is on track to exceed 100 high school graduates (HSE) and has launched a new Logistics IET program. At the present time, NCCF is the largest program in the state of Indiana by enrollment and completion numbers and is performing extremely well. It has been a very good year at NCCF!



Prioritizing Health: Shane Warne Legacy Checks Rolled Out for Fulham Correctional Centre Staff



Written By **Sheree Thorn,**
Fulham Correctional Centre

Following some unfortunate heart-related incidents for a couple of long-standing and much-loved staff members at Fulham, the Senior Leadership Team recognized the importance of staff keeping a close eye on the basic measures of a healthy life. To make this possible, Fulham arranged for a four-week loan of a SiSU Health measuring station. The machine provides basic information about your blood pressure, BMI, and Heart Age after a simple five-minute test. Staff can retest themselves multiple times to measure if any lifestyle changes have made a positive difference to their results. When discussing the benefits of having the machine in the Centre, Jodie Kennedy, Human Resources Manager, said “We hope this initiative assists our staff in being proactive about small changes that can make a big impact to their health.”

The SiSU Health measuring station is only one component of the Centre’s Annual Wellbeing Calendar, with various initiatives and resources being made available to staff throughout the year.

Community Connections, Correctional Garden Crew Making a Difference

Written By **Sheree Thorn,**
Fulham Correctional Centre

The men housed in the Nalu Minimum Security Unit at Fulham Correctional Centre have the opportunity to work in "Community Work Crews." These crews work under the supervision of experienced correctional officers to provide gardening, maintenance and basic repairs to various community organisations in the Gippsland Victoria region. Over recent years, work has been completed for the local girl guides, churches, recreation reserves, wetlands and cemetery. Regular feedback from the various community organisations tells us the work the men are doing is making real and lasting differences to the wider community.

Work includes the completion of extensive garden maintenance at the Coal Museum and Church in Yallourn North, Victoria, as well as clearing away a blackberry infestation and heavy weed growth around the old school site in the historic Township of Walhalla. Most recently, the Community Work Crew attended the Heyfield Wetlands to assist in clearing a large area in preparation for re-planting.

Not only is this work making a positive impact to the community, but it is also meaningful and engaging for the men. This work is one of the many opportunities that Fulham Correctional Centre offers the men as part of their path to rehabilitation and reintegration, offering them structure and practical skills that can assist them with achieving success after their release.



GEO Healthcare Staff Offer Support to the State

Written By **Kim Blinkhorn**, Western Plains Correctional Centre



The Western Plains Correctional Centre is Victoria's newest maximum-security prison, located 70 kilometers from the state capital of Melbourne. The facility can accommodate up to 1,248 inmates. GEO Healthcare staff are setting up a state-of-the-art medical clinic and wards within the new facility in preparation for its official opening.

However, a series of events in April this year at a neighboring facility required GEO Healthcare staff to establish a temporary health clinic to accommodate 30 inmates following their evacuation from Barwon Prison. GEO Healthcare personnel, located at both facilities, collaborated with the state's correctional officers to ensure a seamless evacuation and transfer of inmates, providing medical care within six hours of the request.

Under the leadership of Sally Morison, GEO Healthcare's newest Health Service Manager at Western Plains Correctional Centre, and with support from GEO Healthcare's acting Metropolitan Area Manager, Linda Franzoni, the team successfully has met the unprecedented challenges of delivering health services almost immediately and around the clock since that time. The state has praised Sally, Linda, and their respective teams for utilizing their experience and professional expertise to provide ongoing health services to those affected by the evacuation.

GEO Healthcare will offer a comprehensive range of primary health services at Western Plains, including nursing, medical, dental, and allied health services, as well as primary mental health services, Alcohol and Other Drug Programs, and

National Reconciliation Week Celebrations at Fulham

Written By **Sheree Thorn, Fulham Correctional Centre**

In late May, Fulham Correctional Centre celebrated National Reconciliation Week. As part of the festivities, an Aboriginal Art Exhibition was organized in the Faith and Cultural Hub Hall. Inmates and staff mingled together to discuss the beautiful Aboriginal art on display, and everyone was eager to learn about the stories behind each painting. To conclude the week, a Reconciliation AFL footy game was held on the oval. The game turned out to be a spectacular showcase of fun and camaraderie, enjoyed by a growing crowd of spectators.



Aboriginal Health services. The service delivery model will also include inpatient care provided in the new 10-bed sub-acute ward.

Rory Maguire, GEO Healthcare's Director of Prison Reconfiguration, stated: "The entire GEO Healthcare team came together to quickly establish operations at Western Plains to ensure we could maintain a high standard of care for our patients. By collaborating with our custodial and other partners, we were able to ensure that operations ran smoothly, and health services were not disrupted. The whole team demonstrated GEO Healthcare's values of teamwork and excellence by working together across departments to ensure all necessary supports were in place. This has also proven to be a valuable opportunity to test our processes as we prepared for the full commissioning of health services at Western Plains, which commenced on July 1, 2025."

Fulham Correctional Centre Employment Expo 2025

Written By **Sheree Thorn, Fulham Correctional Centre**

The Fulham Correctional Centre (FCC) hosted its inaugural Employment Expo for inmates, attracting a significant number of employment partners and a valuable post-release education provider. Engagement from inmates was outstanding, with a total of 165 men participating throughout the day. One of the stallholders, Veronica McLeod, a representative from Dairy Gippsland, remarked, "It was impressive to see the number of inmates wanting to voluntarily engage."

Dearne Barratt, the FCC Employment and Education Coordinator who organized the successful event, stated, "The men at Fulham Correctional Centre demonstrated today that they are committed and eager to invest in their future. We know that meaningful employment upon release significantly reduces the chances of recidivism. With 165 inmates taking the first steps toward this change, it was wonderful to see."



Correctional Officers Week - Alaska Edition

Written By **Elizabeth Logoleo,**
Cordova Residential Reentry Center

"Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success," famously quoted by Henry Ford, embodies what the Cordova Center represents through our dedicated staff. Based in Anchorage, Alaska, we offer more than just snow, moose, and salmon. This fun-filled week for Correctional Workers Week not only provided profound reminders of the importance and value of each individual but also reassured us of being part of a dynamic company. Our collaborative space fosters a diverse workforce, making our environment even more exciting! Thank you, GEO, for creating a positive atmosphere and a structured cultural organization that aligns with the values of your employees.



"It's A Girl" – Participant Generosity and Love at the Wichita Day Reporting Center

Written By **Andrew Young, Wichita Day Reporting Center**

Mr. Dillingham entered the Wichita Day Reporting Center program on January 1, 2025. His first Batters Intervention (BIP) Group was on February 19, 2025. He started attending BIP groups approximately one month after Mr. Dupree, a fellow participant. Throughout their weekly meetings, a friendship blossomed between the two men. Mr. Dillingham had been collecting his Motivational Incentive Program punch cards in hopes of organizing a pizza party for his fellow group members. He communicated to GEO staff that he intended to use his four accumulated punch cards for this collective event, focusing on the group rather than himself. One evening, Mr. Dupree revealed

some joyful news to the group, his girlfriend was expecting a baby! He mentioned that the due date was approaching soon. This announcement inspired Mr. Dillingham to think, "There's no better way to spend my \$60 worth of incentives earned through my attendance than to provide something for this new family." He then conveyed his ideas to his GEO Case Manager, Kali Mills. Ms. Mills agreed this was an excellent plan, and together they asked Mr. Dupree what items he and his girlfriend required for the baby. Mr. Dupree, along with his girlfriend, decided on a diaper bag. GEO purchased the diaper bag and presented it to Mr. Dupree during their group session. Overwhelmed with emotion, Mr. Dupree expressed his gratitude toward Mr. Dillingham, stating, "This is all love. This gesture, these groups, this place... all love."

West Fulton Day Reporting Center Community Resource Fair

Written By **Amanda Arroyo, West Fulton Day Reporting Center**

In June 2025, the West Fulton Reentry Services Center (RSC) co-hosted its annual community resource fair, the Summit of Hope, alongside the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Corrections, and the Cook County Sheriff's Office. The Summit of Hope is a community expo that brings together local service providers to foster a "one-stop" environment for parolees and probationers. Vendors offered a variety of services, including employment assistance, vaccinations, recovery programs, and housing opportunities.

The Summit of Hope presented a golden opportunity to recognize several important community members and leaders who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of West Fulton RSC's events. West Fulton RSC Program Manager, Sonya Davis shared the following compliment while recognizing a key community leader; "With deep appreciation, GEO and I want to thank Michael Gaines with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). His exceptional leadership in helping organize our community resource fairs and his partnership with GEO have been key pillars to the success of our community resource fairs. Mr. Gaines' commitment to this area, his leadership and his heart for the community have helped turn a vision into a meaningful reality for our returning citizens. Thank you for being an invaluable ally in this work."



Each year, the West Fulton RSC co-hosts this fair to give participants an opportunity to network with neighborhood resources and employers. More than 40 community vendors participated this year, including: the Illinois State Comptroller, Illinois Department of Employment Security, Illinois HIV Care Connect-Illinois Public Health Association, Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Meridian, Equity and Transformation (E.A.T.), Illinois Department of Human Services, A Safe Haven Foundation, 211 Metro Chicago Helpline, Association House of Chicago, Community Residential Authority, Institute for Nonviolence Chicago, Legal Aid Chicago, Department of Family and Support Services, and the CTA/Pace Second Chance Program.

The Summit of Hope was a great success, featuring food, honorary speakers, and raffles. The event supported around 200 community members, including 70 GEO participants, who were able to connect with vital resources. We are excited to host it again next year!



Alumni Letter

Written By **Chris Murphy, Alumni,
Southwestern Illinois Correctional
Center**

My name is Chris Murphy. I am writing this brief letter to share a bit of my story and my experience in recovery, specifically regarding my time with GEO and an employee named Tim O'Boyle. As of this time, I am three years sober, the longest period of sobriety I have had since I was 16.

I first met Tim at a facility in Paducah, Kentucky. I was feeling pretty defeated, just coming out of county jail again, knowing I was facing another prison sentence. I have spent a significant portion of my adult life incarcerated. Tim was there as staff and introduced himself. He did something for me that I had never experienced in an institution. He sat down and shared a bit of his story, identifying with me. He, too, had served multiple sentences in the Illinois Department of Corrections and had struggled with addiction like I did. Hearing how much his life had changed, especially how Southwestern and GEO provided him with a foundation for that change, gave me hope. Here was someone like me, who had walked a similar path, and by all outward appearances seemed genuinely happy—something I had not felt in a long time. More than that, he seemed to have found peace.

Thus began my recovery journey. Fast forward nine months. I was sentenced to seven years

in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The wreckage of my past caught up with me. This time in prison was different because I was different. I remembered the conversations Tim and I had, and I thought, if I had to go back to prison, what better place than Southwestern and GEO? I got to see firsthand what was possible because of the opportunities provided there, and I indeed ended up at Southwestern.

I arrived at GEO with an open mind and a willingness to continue my improvement. I would occasionally see Tim at the facility, and he was always encouraging. Tim planted the seed of trying to participate in the Certified Associate Addictions Professional (CAAP) program, and I was fortunate to be able to apply and get accepted into that program. Not only was I able to learn about my thinking errors and be part of the structure board on the unit, but I was also able to engage with CAAP. While Tim played a significant role in my recovery, I did not see him daily while at SWICC. GEO is fortunate to have many notable employees. All the staff in House 4 at that time were incredibly helpful to me. Ms. Macdonald, Mr. Kozik, Bruce, and one more man whose name I regret I cannot recall. Each of them played an instrumental role in my daily recovery, and I am grateful for the entire team.

I was a resident at SWICC for about a year. After making parole, I returned home to Southern Illinois. Tim stays in regular contact with me. He

reached out to the treatment center where I met him and arranged an opportunity for me to interview for a job in recovery. It has been a little over a year since then, and I am still employed at that center. Tim encouraged me to continue pursuing my education, and I am currently enrolled in community college to build a career in the recovery field. I am also taking classes to become a peer support specialist. I have custody of my youngest daughter, and we live in our own home and have our own vehicle. Today, I experienced inner peace that money cannot buy. I owe everything to God first and foremost, but also to the people He has placed in my life along the way. Tim has been one of those individuals. He began by identifying with me and quickly became my mentor. He has continued to be not just a mentor but also a valuable resource for various needs. I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet Tim and to be an alumnus of the GEO program.



**Sincerely,
Chris Murphy**

Coach CJ Clark - Uplift Day

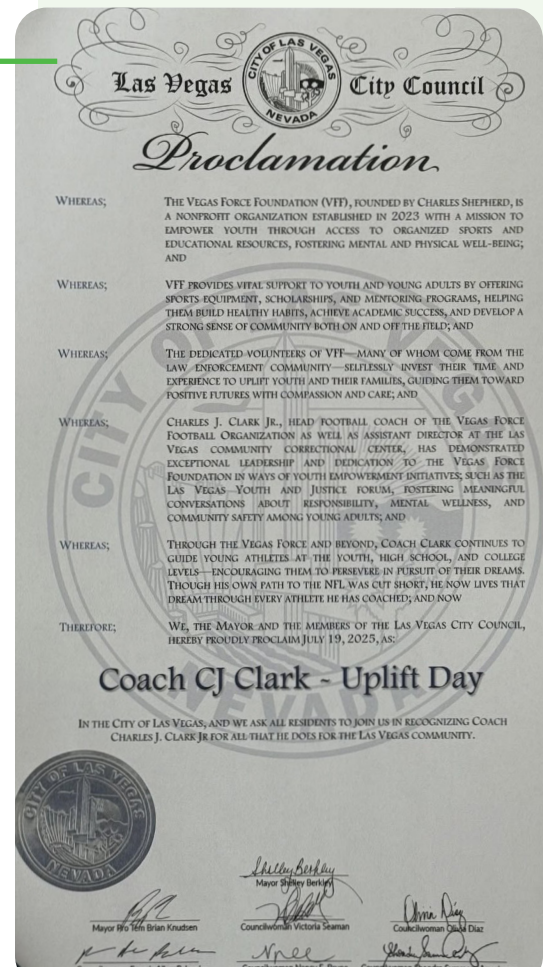
Written By **Ramon Montes**,
Las Vegas Community Correctional Center



On July 19, 2025, the Las Vegas City Council, with the mayor's approval, honored Charles J. Clark Jr. with the prestigious proclamation award and designated July 19th as "Coach Clark – Uplift Day" in recognition of his community service to the citizens of Las Vegas. Charles J. Clark Jr., the Assistant Director of the Las Vegas Community Correctional Center and Head Football Coach of the Las Vegas Arena Professional Football Team, has

exhibited exceptional leadership and dedication as a community partner representing GEO. He utilizes his esteemed coaching and educational skills to uplift local youth and adults by promoting mental wellness, public safety, and justice reform.

City Councilwoman, Victoria Seaman expressed her excitement in presenting the proclamation award from the City of Las Vegas to Coach/Assistant Director Clark for his outstanding contributions to the community through youth sports sponsorships. "As the director of the Las Vegas Community



Correctional Center, I witness these skills demonstrated daily in Clark's work as a GEO employee," said Ramon Montes. Congratulations, Coach Clark, for your leadership in the Las Vegas Valley Community!



Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce: *Building Leaders, Strengthening the Community*

Written By **John Hogan and Kamila Timaul,**
Lycoming County Reentry Service Center

Since 1885, the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce has been a driving force behind business growth and community development in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. More than just a traditional chamber, the organization plays a vital role in advancing economic and social progress across the region.

By working closely with local, state, and federal partners, the Chamber advocates for the needs and priorities of the local business community. It also proudly oversees Leadership Lycoming, a transformative program designed to cultivate a new generation of community-minded leaders.

Leadership Lycoming identifies individuals from diverse backgrounds who demonstrate leadership potential and a passion for community service. Through immersive training, real-world experience, and dynamic networking, participants gain a deeper understanding of local challenges and opportunities while strengthening their ability to lead with purpose and impact.

GEO Reentry Services is proud to support the program and celebrate one of our own, Nicole English, Program Manager for Lycoming County as a member of the Leadership Lycoming Class of 2025.



Nicole's journey with GEO Reentry began in 2016 as an intern. Through dedication and a strong commitment to excellence, she rose through the ranks serving as Assistant Case Manager, Case Manager, and, since 2023, Program Manager. A certified trainer in both the Ohio Risk Assessment System and Core Correctional Practices, Nicole has introduced numerous innovations and enhancements to our Lycoming program.

We are honored to celebrate Nicole's achievements and her continued growth as a leader in our community. Congratulations Nicole, on your well-deserved selection for Leadership Lycoming 2025!



GEO Treatment Program of the Year Award

Written By **Mark McCoy, Charlotte Correctional Institution, In-Prison Treatment**

On April 25, 2025, The GEO Group staff from Charlotte Correctional Institution attended the Second Chance Brunch held at The GEO Group World Headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida. The staff proudly accepted the award for Treatment Program of the Year.

Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility's Family Service Program

Written By **Portsha Jones**, Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility



Family Service Programs aim to assist and strengthen the connections between participants and their families during and after periods of incarceration. These programs seek to improve family dynamics, reduce the likelihood of reoffending, and promote the well-being of both residents and their families. The recent session at Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility's Family Service Program focused on the topics of depression and safeguarding mental health. During this session, the group discussed the symptoms of depression, its causes, and coping strategies. Participants may experience depression due to family separation, death, or significant life changes. It is crucial to recognize the signs of depression, which include, but are not limited to, feelings of helplessness, reduced social interactions, increased sadness and crying, loss of appetite, and heightened anxiety or hostility.

Effective coping strategies used in our programs include Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Behavioral therapy helps individuals engage in healthy life activities, while Cognitive therapy fosters the development of behavioral skills and emphasizes addressing negative thought patterns related to depression. The group also collaborated to create a list of strategies to combat depression and support good mental health, which includes prioritizing sleep, engaging in physical exercise, practicing deep breathing techniques, meditating, expressing gratitude, utilizing music and art therapy, and maintaining a daily journal.



International Women's Day Luncheon

Written By **Stacey Velez**,
Luzerne County Day reporting Center

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 to honor the women's strike in Petrograd, Russia, in 1917, which ultimately contributed to the Russian Revolution. This date also holds significance in the broader fight for women's rights worldwide.

As the Program Manager for GEO Reentry Services in Luzerne County, in collaboration with the Luzerne County Dress for Success program, I have had the opportunity to attend this event for the past few years, and this year, I was asked to perform. I was invited to sing a closing number for the Luzerne County event and chose "What the World Needs Now is Love" by Sara Bareilles.

I have been the lead singer of an 11-piece show band, "Picture Perfect," for the last 26 years, based in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

I have been with The GEO Group for 15 years, and there are five other women Program Managers who are my colleagues in the state of Pennsylvania. In Luzerne County, we are also fortunate to have five women judges. President Judge Stefanie Salavantis, was our guest speaker at this year's event.



Strengthening Connections: Loved Ones Gather at Idaho Connection and Intervention Station

Written By **Kaitlin Blalock, Boise Connection and Intervention Station**

Second chances are not merely about new beginnings; they also serve as powerful reminders that growth, recovery, and hope are always within reach. April is designated as Second Chance Month to highlight the importance of providing fresh starts for individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Throughout this month, government agencies and community-based service providers host events to raise awareness. GEO proudly shares in that commitment.

During the week of April 18th, the Boise Connection and Intervention Station (CIS) held a Second Chance Spirit Week, offering several opportunities for participants to earn raffle tickets. Each service attended—such as check-ins, group sessions, UAs, and appointments—earned participants a raffle ticket. Additionally, each day featured a theme, and participants could earn even more tickets by dressing according to the theme. Staff members also participated in the themed days, fostering rapport with the participants.

The week culminated in a Family and Friends Night on Friday, April 18th, where the Boise CIS welcomed family members and friends of participants, providing them with a chance to

enjoy food, meet staff, and learn about the program. Tables were set up throughout the facility to showcase various aspects of the program and explain the rationale behind the requirements and steps that participants commit to daily. Attendees had the opportunity to earn additional raffle tickets by participating in a scavenger hunt that required them to ask staff specific questions about the program.

At the end of the night, three prizes were raffled off to attendees, drawn from the raffle tickets submitted throughout the week and during the event. Three lucky winners received wireless headphones, an Amazon Firestick, and a 40" flat-screen Amazon Fire TV. Guests were invited to take home any leftovers, and everyone left with a smile.

This event underscored the vital role of connection and support in the journey that second chances provide. As family and friends learned about the dedication their loved ones were putting into the program, it became evident that second chances thrive best within a community. Through events like these, the Boise CIS continues to promote growth, rebuild trust, and strengthen the bonds that help individuals flourish beyond their past.

Inside a Therapeutic Community Experiential Training Event

Written By **Lori Moore, Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center, In-Prison Treatment**



In May of 2025, Southwestern Illinois Correctional Center (SWICC) program managers, counselors, and support staff gathered for a unique experiential training focused on the Therapeutic Community (TC) model. Staff from Jacksonville Correctional Center (JCC) also participated. This training model employs a structured, peer-led approach to addiction recovery and behavior change. Spanning four days, the event allowed participants to experience firsthand the daily structure and emotional intensity of a functioning TC.

Organized by the GEO Reentry Services Training Staff, the training aimed to deepen participants' understanding of TC dynamics by having them assume roles typically held by residents. The goal was to foster empathy, reinforce TC principles, and promote staff consistency and buy-in.

The training was designed to simulate a typical day in a TC. Participants engaged in meetings, encounter groups, job functions, and accountability sessions. The trainers included Assistant Directors, Bruce Morrison and Warren Johnson, as well as Program Coordinator, Tommie Anderson.

A highlight of the training was the Encounter Group, where participants received direct, peer-led feedback. In this intense setting, "residents" (the staff participants) confronted one another about observed behaviors, practicing honesty, responsibility, and emotional regulation—core TC principles.

Another critical component was the Morning Meeting, a daily ritual designed to set the tone for the day. Residents created posters and developed creative ways to present information to the community, including, but not limited to, the Word of the Day, TC Term of the Day, TC Concept of the Day, Thought for the Day, Positive/Motivational Messages, and humorous ice breakers.

The event concluded with a debriefing session and a graduation ceremony. Participants reported increased empathy, a clearer understanding of TC culture, and a stronger commitment to supporting the model.

Experiential training like this is proving to be invaluable. By stepping into the shoes of the individuals they serve, staff deepen their insights, shift their perspectives, and ultimately strengthen the therapeutic environment.

Area Manager, Melissa Weglarz observed the final day of the training and was very impressed with the outcome. "SWICC's leadership team outdid themselves with this wonderful training. Experiential trainings that allow our staff to understand the TC in greater detail while gaining the unique perspective of the participants are invaluable. I am confident that everyone gained additional knowledge that will translate into better services for those we serve. Well done!"

A Fantastic ICBT Training Experience – *Energized, Empowered, and Ready for More*

Written By **Jacquelyn “Jax” Johnson, Central Region – Non-Residential Reentry**



The recent Central Region Individual Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (ICBT) training was nothing short of amazing. Co-led by Therapist, Ms. Mandy Veach from the Wichita Day Reporting Center, and Supervising Case Manager, Ms. Jax Johnson of the Rockford Reentry Services Center, the event was a tremendous success, and we're still riding the wave of excitement.

From the moment attendees arrived, the energy in the room was electric. We had the privilege of working with a group that was not only enthusiastic and engaged, but also deeply committed to learning and growth. Their positivity and participation made the experience unforgettable.

The entire session was fun, eventful, and empowering. We covered essential content, sparked impactful conversations, and witnessed new ideas spread across the room. It's always



rewarding to see people connect with the material in meaningful ways, and this group absolutely delivered.

To say it went well would be an understatement. It was dynamic, inspiring, and the kind of event that reminds us exactly why we do what we do. We're already looking forward to the next event. If this session was any indication, the future is bright, and we can't wait to light it up again.

Huge thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this such a phenomenal experience. We can't wait to do it again soon!

Minds Matter

Written By **Tara Levin, Shasta Day Reporting Center**

For the second consecutive year, the Shasta Day Reporting Center (DRC), joined with a multitude of other Community Organizations to get the word out about Mental Health.

The Minds Matter mental health fair has become an annual event designed to educate and provide resources to community members. We were excited to have two current participants join staff at the DRC booth, and share about the program. We are always looking for opportunities to offer a platform for our participants to share and engage with the community.



A Suit for a Second Chance

Written By **Dunia Ruhl, Santa Ana Day Reporting Center**

At a recent Prosocial Event, Mr. Bryon Gonzales, a participant residing at the Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC), won a brand-new suit in a drawing held for attendees. For him, this wasn't just a piece of clothing—it symbolized progress and transformation. "I felt proud of myself," he shared. "I am making progress in the program." His sense of delight grew when he saw himself in the mirror. "When I look in the mirror, I feel like a better person and I've changed. I feel more confident in myself." The timing of the gift was particularly meaningful, as he had a job interview at FedEx scheduled for later that same day; right after his Life Skills group. The suit provided him with the confidence and presence to enter that opportunity with his head held high. Reflecting on his journey, he credited the Santa Ana DRC with playing a significant role in his growth. "It has been helpful and has given me the tools to learn about myself," he said. "I recognize how to make better changes and decisions and stay sober." Since January, he has been living in DRC housing and working toward full independence. When asked where he sees himself in a year, he responded confidently, "Independent and working full-time." He left us with a powerful message for others on a similar path, "The only person that can change is you—as long as you ask for help. The tools are already there." His story is a testament to the power of support and second chances.



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