

## **GEO-LED CONSORTIUM AWARDED PPP CONTRACT For The Financing, Development & Operation Of 1,300-Bed Ravenhall Prison in Australia**



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# Chairman's Letter

**George C. Zoley**

Chairman, CEO and Founder



**The new Ravenhall Facility will provide unprecedented levels of in-prison and post-release programs aimed at reducing reoffending rates under the "GEO Continuum of Care."**

## To the GEO Family,

During the third quarter of 2014, our company achieved several important milestones which are representative of our continued growth and leadership position within our industry.

In early August, we reactivated our company-owned, 300-bed McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility under a new contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The new contract includes a provision for a 300-bed expansion to be developed within 12 months upon the state exercising this option. The facility houses female inmates and will provide enhanced rehabilitation and recidivism reduction programs under the "GEO Continuum of Care." This important contract is expected to generate approximately \$9 million in annualized revenues.

Also in August, we worked with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to repurpose our

company-owned, 532-bed Karnes County Residential Center in Texas to house families as a result of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis along our nation's Southern border. The Karnes County Residential Center was designed as the first residential, civil center built in accordance with the new, enhanced federal detention standards issued in 2009. The Center is expected to generate approximately \$26 million in annualized revenues.

Our company's public-private partnership with ICE dates back to the 1980s. In early September, we added to this long-standing partnership when our wholly-owned subsidiary, BI Incorporated, was awarded a new five-year contract for the continued provision of case management and supervision services under the Intensive Supervision and Appearance Program, which provides case management and supervision services for individuals in immigration proceedings. The new contract is expected to generate approximately \$47 million in annualized revenues.

Finally in mid-September, a consortium led by our GEO Australia subsidiary signed a contract with the Department of Justice in the State

of Victoria for the financing, development, and operation of the new 1,300-bed Ravenhall Prison to be located near Melbourne. The new Ravenhall Facility will be developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) financing structure with an equity investment from GEO of approximately \$120 million.

GEO Australia will operate the Facility upon its completion in late 2017 under a 25-year contract. This important contract is expected to generate approximately \$96 million in total annualized revenues. The new Ravenhall Facility will provide unprecedented levels of in-prison and post-release programs aimed at reducing reoffending rates under the "GEO Continuum of Care."

These growth milestones were complemented by the execution in late September of a new \$250 million bond offering at an interest rate of 5%. This important transaction will give our company additional flexibility to continue to pursue growth opportunities in the delivery of diversified correctional, detention, and community reentry services as well as offender rehabilitation programs through our industry-leading "GEO Continuum of Care."

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# **GEO-LED CONSORTIUM AWARDED PPP CONTRACT**

## **For The Financing, Development & Operation Of 1,300-Bed Ravenhall Prison in Australia**



**O**n September 15, 2014, a consortium comprised of GEO's wholly-owned subsidiary, The GEO Group Australia Pty. Ltd., John Holland Construction, and Honeywell signed a contract with the Department of Justice in the State of Victoria, Australia for the financing, development, and operation of a new 1,300-bed Prison in Ravenhall, a locality near Melbourne, Australia.

Development of the new Ravenhall Facility is expected to begin in 2015 under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) financing structure with an equity investment from GEO of

approximately \$120 million. GEO Australia will operate the Facility upon its completion in late 2017 under a 25-year contract. GEO's contract is expected to generate approximately \$96 million in total annualized revenues.

### **GEO Continuum of Care**

The new Ravenhall Facility will provide unprecedented levels of in-prison and post-release programs aimed at reducing reoffending rates and helping offenders reintegrate into society.

GEO's operation of the Ravenhall Facility will have a unified commitment to providing new approaches

to reducing reoffending, including the establishment of the world's first fully integrated 'Good Lives Model' delivered through the "GEO Continuum of Care." Specifically, the Ravenhall Facility will include:

- A world-class forensic mental health unit with an integrated and holistic model of care for male offenders with mental illness.
- Progressive accommodation units, including a unit for offenders with challenging behaviors, which will enable the delivery of group and individual evidence-based programs.

- Integration of respected community resources to aid in the delivery of recidivism reduction programs for indigenous offenders.
- IT-based learning modalities specifically aimed at addressing the needs of youthful offenders.
- Intensive evidence-based programs, including the innovative use of in-cell IT-delivered programming, designed to deliver maximum impact in minimum time for offenders with short sentences.
- Collaborative partnerships with community based organizations to assist with the successful reintegration of offenders into society, which will allow offenders released from custody to continue rehabilitation programs and training courses in the community.
- General health services provided at the prison by more than 50 healthcare staff.

GEO's Continuum of Care at the Ravenhall Facility will be based on the integrated delivery of pre- and post-release services by approximately 80 dedicated programming staff, which will result in 30 percent or more of the offenders at the Facility actively participating in rehabilitation intervention programs at any given time during the day.

In addition, the Facility's 375 custodial and support staff will receive specialized case management training to ensure the overall central mission of reducing recidivism and achieving successful offender reintegration into the community.

GEO's contract with the State of Victoria will include incentive bonuses under a 'Payments by Results' structure for meeting targets to cut offender recidivism rates.

### **GEO's Industry Leading Rehabilitation and Reentry Services**

This important milestone underscores GEO's position as the world's leading provider of offender rehabilitation and reentry services. On any given day, approximately 23,000 offenders are enrolled in evidence-based in-prison rehabilitation programs at GEO facilities in the United States and overseas.

Additionally, GEO's Community Reentry Halfway Houses and Day Reporting Centers provide programs designed to help more than 7,000 federal, state, and local offenders transition back into society on a daily basis.

Overall, GEO's industry leading rehabilitation and reentry programs serve more than 30,000 offenders daily and represent an annual expenditure of approximately

\$100 million, which over the last decade has resulted in the award of 10,000 GEDs; 40,000 vocational program certificates; 90,000 life skills and cognitive behavior program completions; and 100,000 substance abuse and therapeutic program graduations.

This unmatched level of offender rehabilitation programming has positioned GEO to partner with government agencies around the globe to implement innovative and industry-leading solutions through the "GEO Continuum of Care" which integrates in-prison rehabilitation services with post release treatment and reintegration aimed at reducing offender recidivism.

**Pictured Left to Right:** The GEO Group Consultant Wayne Calabrese, The GEO Group Australia Managing Director Pieter Bezuidenhout, The GEO Group Australia Commercial Director and Ravenhall Project Manager Frank Thorn, and State Project Director Ben Dempsey.

Pieter Bezuidenhout and Frank Thorn signing the contract for development and operation of new Ravenhall prison in Australia.

Wayne Calabrese and Frank Thorn signing contract.

Capella Capital Director Ryan Slocombe and State Commercial Lead Jim Boston.

Wayne Calabrese, Pieter Bezuidenhout, Victorian Minister for Corrections The Hon. Edward O'Donohue, and Frank Thorn.





## McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility Will Provide Enhanced Rehabilitation Under "GEO Continuum of Care"

Written By **Steven Farugie**, McFarland FCRF

On August 4, 2014, the hard work and long hours of preparing for activation all paid off as the McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility (MFCRF) welcomed its first group of offenders from the California Institute for Women, in Chino, California. The 37 offenders received a warm welcome from security staff, programs staff and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) officials. Warden Wanda Wilson welcomed the new arrivals to MFCRF and presented an inspiring message which was accepted with applause. Also present at the greeting was Carolyn Cooper, Chief Deputy Warden from the CDCR, John D. Thurston, Divisional Vice President, Continuum of Care, and Dawn Zobel, Assistant Director of Regional Operations.

With the legislation shift in California and the focus on cutting recidivism, this is a perfect fit for the company. GEO is poised to operate a model system of therapeutic corrections through the "GEO Continuum of Care" within its institutions and many community based programs. Women at the facility will be assessed to determine what their criminogenic needs are and based on those needs consequently placed in the appropriate evidence based program including substance abuse, criminal thinking, family relations and anger management under the "GEO Continuum of Care." Participants will meet with a case manager twice a month, focusing on treatment plan goals. As the women approach release, staff will have the ability to utilize community based organizations as well as our 24 community based programs spread throughout the state, as they create a comprehensive reentry plan that will allow a warm hand off to their community.

In preparation for this important endeavor, GEO partnered with Doctor Stephanie Covington, Doctor Barbara Bloom, Doctor Barbara Owens, and Twyla Wilson,

Licensed Social Worker to assemble the best program that is responsive to women's needs as they prepare to rebuild their lives. Staff received training to recognize and treat trauma and provide participants the tools to respond appropriately when facing difficult situations. In addition to the evidence based programs, the women will be able to attend GED preparation, and take computer lab, vocational, and other educational classes to include college courses offered by Coastline Community College.

All staff was privileged to receive the State's first revised gender response training curriculum from the CDCR. GEO staff embraced the training with the mission in mind to foster and create an environment where the women can be treated with dignity and respect, under GEO's Continuum of Care.

We recognize the importance of keeping the body and mind strong, and have taken a proactive holistic approach. Warden Wilson collaborated with a new recreation yard equipped with state of the art fitness equipment. We also offer Zumba classes, giving the women the opportunity to start new routines, and hope they continue with these practices and improve their self-care here during their recreational time and upon their reentry into their communities.

Upon entry into MFCRF, Warden Wilson issued each inmate a welcome pamphlet addressing the facility's mission statement, "To provide offenders with an individualized treatment approach with services to include but are not limited to, substance abuse treatment and cognitive behavioral training as well as family and relationship groups. The goal is to provide modern and innovative skills that will empower each offender in their preparation back into the community. Our commitment is to promote and maintain a safe, encouraging environment fostering their ability to succeed."

## RECORDS RETENTION & DISPOSAL

Written By **Erin Keenen**,  
Central Arizona Correctional Facility



Until now, the records retention area for Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) and Florence West has been the loft area of the warehouse, with no secure enclosure. Recently, this all changed, thanks to Maintenance Supervisor Jay Lowmsberry and his inmate work crew.

Due to their efforts, all CACF and Department of Corrections records are now fully secured, with limited access. Human Resources and Payroll records, while being part of this secure area, are behind yet another fence and lock, with extremely limited access.

By securing all of the facilities' records, we are ensuring the safety of information and documentation not only of our current staff, but that of former staff members and inmates who have been incarcerated at these facilities.

Now that all of the records are secure, the next step will be for all these records to be catalogued on a GEO Master spreadsheet. This will enable better tracking of all records for CACF and Florence West and will help in tracking files that need to be securely destroyed, after the specified time outlined in GEO Policy 1.1.7.

While not an easy undertaking, once this is complete, filing, retention and disposal of mountains of documents, will be a little less challenging and a lot more efficient.



## 1st Annual Motorcycle Benefit Ride

Written By Trina Randall, New Castle Correctional Facility

This year as part of Correctional Employee Appreciation Week, New Castle Correctional Facility decided to have its 1st Annual Motorcycle Benefit Ride on May 10, 2014. Money raised was donated to the Special Olympics of Indiana.

We had fifteen bikes participate with nine passengers, for a total of twenty four riders, a great turnout, since it was a chilly morning that looked like rain could begin at any moment. Staff enjoyed the ride that ended with a grand finale of riding around the facility's perimeter road. We are looking at having two outings next year so all shifts can enjoy the ride.



## Central Arizona Correctional Facility 1st Annual Programs Retreat

Written By Dr. Tom Selby  
& Sheryl Augstums, CACF

The programs department at Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) consists of 28 team members from the sex offender education & treatment program, correctional program managers, academic teachers, self-improvement counselors, mental health professionals, the librarian, and the Chaplain. Every department contributes their own unique component to helping the inmates become more productive citizens upon their release. The programs department normal routine was altered for a day of brainstorming and idea sharing. Warden Bennie Rollins kicked off the day by stating that GEO's Vision calls for our facility to be a leading provider in rehabilitation & community re-entry for inmates. He was clear in his recognition of the CACF Programs Unit as being more than able to accomplish these goals.

Just a few of the topics that were structured to encourage understanding of how the programs department operates as a unit include sharing our individual & subgroup mission statements & realizing how much in common we share in these goals, recognizing each other's areas of expertise, how we can enhance our own work, and how to stay motivated through collaboration. Ideas were developed for a programs orientation for all employees of CACF, as well as for an inmate class on how to succeed on probation.

The day was interspersed with fun exercises designed to help us get to know each other. The participants came away with a better understanding of the diverse personalities on our team, and how our different perspectives all intertwine. The event left us all motivated to cultivate even better teamwork to benefit CACF and the surrounding communities.

# THE ROAD TO WELLNESS

Written By **Susan Napolitano, Corporate HR**

Recently, we asked GEO Employees who made changes in their lifestyles to send us their stories. This "Road to Wellness" led us to different places and different faces where we heard the heartfelt words of those in our GEO family who took the steps to improve their health. Each month we shine the spotlight on one individual whose journey impacted their life positively and inspired those around them. For sharing their success with us they received a \$100 gift card. Check out the four individuals who were selected so far. Keep submitting your stories and you may be the next person "In The Spotlight."



**Jessica Rodriguez,**  
**Desert View MCCF**

"I was diagnosed with arthritis...the pain was horrendous. I began to hit the gym hard and really work on my cardio and my endurance. I noticed I began losing more weight and my pain was also decreasing in severity and duration."



**Armando Garcia,**  
**Mid Valley House**

"The cardiologist advised me that I was overweight and told me that my main artery was 30% clogged. I started running and lifting weights every day and eating healthier. I would run approximately 50 miles per week. I lost 40 lbs!"



**Vincenia Davis,**  
**BI ISAP Baltimore, MD**

"After months of therapy, the doctor suggested several invasive medical procedures to provide relief for the pain or lose weight. I decided to workout 3 times a week, reduced my junk food intake and ate more fruits and vegetables. My weight loss prevented me from having surgery. I have seen positive impacts such as lower blood pressure, lower blood sugar levels, and lower cholesterol."



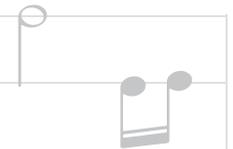
**Jenalea Bevans, New Castle CF**

"I lost a total of 64 lbs while completing the Biggest Loser. I had the support of my co-workers, and my family supported me at home. I now no longer take blood pressure meds."



## COOL SOUNDS ON A HOT SUMMER DAY

Written By **Sheryl Augstums, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**



The temperatures may have been in the triple digits, but that didn't affect Central Arizona Correctional Facility inmates from showcasing their musical and dancing talents for the enjoyment of other inmates and staff members.

The selections ranged from Tom Petty, to Elvis, to Mexican Mariachi tunes. I'm sure Michael Jackson was smiling down as he watched a nearly professional looking dance routine to "Billie Jean," choreographed by the inmates themselves.

This was a welcome opportunity for the inmates to shine and the staff to enjoy a break in the busy day's activities. A big "shout out" goes to Chaplain Sylvester Ajagbe as well as self improvement counselors, Beth Fagenbush and Darlene Wuertz, for organizing this bi-annual event.

# RIVERBEND CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FIRST PRIVATE PRISON IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO RECEIVE THE FLOYD BLIVEN AWARD

Written By **Beth Greene, Riverbend Correctional Facility**

It would be nearly impossible to walk through Riverbend Correctional Facility (RBCF) without seeing or hearing the phrase, "Where operational excellence is the key to success!" It's obvious this inspiring message and spirit has been present in the daily work of the RBCF Medical Team. They were recognized on June 25, 2014 by the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) to be the first private prison in the State of Georgia to receive the Floyd Bliven Award!

Recipients of the Floyd Bliven Award, like Riverbend, are those few facilities which exhibit a special excellence in medicine, in regards to the health and well-being of offenders.

This prestigious award was established in 1997 by the MAG House of Delegates and named after Dr. Bliven, a physician who spearheaded the development of an award

to acknowledge medical excellence in correctional facilities. Recipients of the Floyd Award must achieve 100% on their MAG audit and demonstrate a concerted effort on the part of administrative, security, and clinical staff for professional medical excellence. Since its inception, only five awards have been granted.

Clyde Maxwell, the MAG Director of Correctional Medicine, was on hand to present the Floyd Bliven Award to Riverbend Correctional Facility during a ceremony complete with an inmate Color Guard and the RBCF Choir. Riverbend's Health Service Administrator, Tammy Bailey, accepted the award on behalf of the institution. Medical Director, Dr. William Sightler and Director of Nursing, Tina Clark, were also acknowledged for their expertise in supervising the Riverbend Medical Department.

In attendance at the awards ceremony to celebrate this momentous occasion was, Warden Fredrick J. Head, Georgia



**Pictured L to R:** VP Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ada Rivera, Warden Fredrick J. Head, HSA Tammy Bailey, Eastern Region Medical Director Jeanne Keel, MAG Board Member Dr. Paul Smith, Corporate Director of Health Services Lucie Taylor and MAG Director of Correctional Medicine Clyde Maxwell.

Department of Corrections (GDC) Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward, GDC Field Operations Manager Victor Walker, GA Correctional Healthcare Regional Manager Cassie Hargrove, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ada Rivera, Corporate Director of Health Services Lucie Taylor, Eastern Region Health Services Director Jeanne Keel, Eastern Region Health Services Manager Terry Oaks, and MAG Board Member Dr. Paul Smith. Also present were Riverbend's Advisory Board Members Ashley Bacon, Dr. Collinda Lee, and Pastor Tony Fraley.

After the awards ceremony, Ms. Bailey said it was an honor and a tribute to the hard work of the Medical Team to get the Floyd Bliven Award. She added that the Medical Team was anxious to get back to work, providing excellent medical and mental health care to the inmates. "Where operational excellence is the key to success" is not just a phrase on the wall at RBCF; it is a spirit that is alive and well with the staff that work there every day.



## HEALTH FAIR COMES TO ADELANTO

Written By **Liz Lopez, Adelanto Detention Facility**

During the month of April, the Adelanto Detention Facility held its annual Health Fair, and it was a huge success.

Employees were able to receive free health screenings and health tips, goody bags that consisted of GEO items, fruit, and even a free massage. An incentive of receiving a health screening was employees being able to sit down one-on-one with on-site experts to go over their screening results and

receive valuable information on how to live a healthier lifestyle. This event has proven to be a favorite among employees in the past, and this year was no different.

HR Assistant, Kristine Wozniak stated, "It was great to see all the employees taking such concern over their health. I believe having the health fair every year will help provide incentives for each employee to stay on a healthy track."



**Pictured Clockwise:** Sergeant Brown decides to take a snack after his health screen. Officer Sandra Briseno relaxes while getting a massage. HR Assistant, Kristine Wozniak hands out goody bags and fruit to employees.



## Rivers Partnering In Education

Written By **Amy Gillus, Rivers Correctional Institution**

As students get back to school and resettle into their routines, Rivers Correctional Institution helped students get ready for the school year by donating school supplies. Principal Lori Morings from Riverview Elementary noted, "We are especially in need of backpacks, socks and belts for the young boys." The supplies were delivered to Riverview Elementary School in time to meet the needs of any student without all the necessary tools for a successful school year.

During the school year, Rivers helped share the burden in the classroom, by partnering monthly to send a strong message that we are acknowledging interest in what goes on in the daily lives of the youth in our community.

**Pictured:** Principal Lori Morings, three students and Amy Gillus, Rivers Community Relations Liaison.

## VETERAN OF THE QUARTER: SERGEANT BENJAMIN D. GRIFFITH

Written By **Gina Larsen, Corporate HR**

Shift Supervisor Benjamin D. Griffith, from Northstar Center, is GEO's Veteran of the Quarter. Prior to working at the Northstar Center, Benjamin joined the U.S. Army in 2009 out of Bloomington, Indiana. He became a medic and was immediately stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Following his training, Benjamin spent a year with his company and platoon before they were deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011.

Of his time serving in the U.S. Army, Benjamin says, "We were very close. An infantry company is something I never could have imagined if I did not experience it firsthand. As a medic, I had one mission while I was in the Army and in Afghanistan, and that

was to save my brothers, if ever they should fall. The lives of 25 men were in my hands if something were to happen. Their trust in my trained skills was all they had to go on and they gave that trust to me completely."

During his time serving his country, Benjamin received the Combat Medic Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and made the Commandant's List in the Warrior's Leadership Course. Benjamin says, "The team at the Northstar Center work well together and in some aspects reminds me of my old platoon." Benjamin also says that he is glad that he found employment with The GEO Group at the Northstar Center and is also glad he became a part of the Northstar Center team.



# 2014 QUALITY CONFERENCE

Written By **Patricia Persante & Trina Maso de Moya**,  
Contract Compliance, Corporate

The 2014 Quality Conference was held June 16-20 at the Embassy Suites, in Boca Raton, Florida. Corporate Contract Compliance staff arrived from across the country for a rare opportunity to meet together as a group. The annual department meeting provides the only opportunity for all compliance staff to collaborate in person throughout the year.

Tuesday marked the official conference kick-off for the meeting of over 75 participants, representing compliance administrators and specialists from Corrections & Detention, Youth Services, and Residential Reentry facilities. The theme of the 2014 Quality Conference was "Leadership," with courses on characteristics and habits of good leaders, DISC personality assessments, effective listening, time management tips for *Getting Things Done* by David Allen, and how to influence without authority.

The conference was designed to provide the attendees with tools for practical application at their particular facilities, and included sessions on current issues in PREA guidelines and training for Internal Auditors, tactics for successful medical auditing, database updates, workplace violence, environmental controls auditing, training for those new to the compliance administrator position and a full day of hands-on training for those moving into ACA Automation.

Breakout sessions by regions/divisions and clients are offered every year and provide an opportunity for attendees

to focus on specific clients or sectional issues and resolutions, share best practices from their own institutions and discuss corporate and facility changes.

## Conference comments included:

**"The conference places my focus back entirely on compliance, which is sometimes difficult within the institution. I value the networking, the tools I am given, and the ability to ask questions and seek clarifications without embarrassment."**

**"The workshops and presentations provided a tremendous amount of information and practices that I can take back and implement at the facility."**

**"The opportunity to speak with leaders and peers allowed me to evaluate my processes and focus."**

**"It was an excellent use of my time. Allowed me to refocus on why I do this job and why I work in this industry. Gave me time for self-reflection on some important topics that will help me be more effective."**

In conclusion, the conference provided great networking and training opportunities, and attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance and interrelatedness of the topics. Thank you organizers, presenters, Facility Administrators, and attendees for your support in making it possible. See you next June!



## timeline



**The GEO Group, Inc.**  
September 19, 2014

The GEO Group Foundation donated to the Boca Raton Police Athletic League!



18 People Like this.



**The GEO Group, Inc.**  
September 8, 2014

Your world of opportunities starts here...  
Hiring Substance Abuse Counselors in AZ!

**New Career Opportunity! The GEO Group, Inc. has an opening for a SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR in...**

**Job Responsibilities:** With your background in non-profit, social services and/or human services as our Substance Abuse Counselor, you will be counseling inmates, individually and in group sessions and assisting in...



**The GEO Group, Inc.**  
September 8, 2014

Please help me congratulate Moshannon Valley on receiving a reaccreditation score of an outstanding 99.8% from ACA!



21 People Like this.

**Be part of our story.**  
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## WELCOME Randall Henderson

Written By **Patrick Donnelly, GTI,  
Central Region Office**



GEO Transport Inc. (GTI) has recently filled the vacant GTI Operations Compliance Manager position in the Central Region Office. Randall (Randy) Henderson, a retired Assistant Field Office Director for Immigration, Customs, Enforcement (ICE), has accepted the position effective August 19th, 2014.

Randy is a native of Ohio; however he's resided in various states over the years. After serving almost nine years in the U.S. Army, he began his federal civilian career with the Bureau of Prisons at FCI Milan in Milan, MI and FCI La Tuna in El Paso, TX, working as a Correctional Officer. Randy remained at South Texas Detention Complex until this past July, when he retired from an almost 32 year career with the Federal Government.

As GTI's Operations Compliance Manager for the Central Region, Randy will ensure GTI transportation is conducted properly in compliance with Department of Transportation and GTI Policy Standards.

Randy's duties will also include conducting transportation audits at GTI Facilities, training of GTI staff and providing transportation guidance to the GTI Facilities and staff in the Central Region.

Randy brings with him a wealth of knowledge, contacts, and experience dealing with one of GEO's largest clients, ICE. Please join us in welcoming Randy Henderson to the GEO and GTI family.



Pictured: Rivers CI  
Tony Gainer and  
Herbert V. Lassiter

## GTI HIGHLIGHTED FACILITY RIVERS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

Written By **Peter Provencher, Corporate GTI**

River Correctional Institution (RCI) is located in Winton, North Carolina, in the northeast corner of the State, approximately 30 miles from Virginia Beach. RCI serves their client, Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP), with great pride and dedication to excellence, which FBOP has given RCI the nickname as the "Jewel of the East." The GEO Transportation Inc. (GTI) operation is managed by Tony Gainer and his team of five dedicated Transportation Officers who maintain an impressive safety record without any USDOT reportable incidents.

The Rivers team of professional Transport Officers has a unique assignment with weekly transportation missions to our nation's capital, Washington D.C. GTI Transport Officers maneuver a Motor Coach (MCI) bus in tight alleys and busy highways to get into the Washington D.C. USMS Jail, located over 400 hundred miles away from RCI. Additionally, the facility supports the United States Marshal Service (USMS) Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) Air Operations. Mr. Gainer and his team maintain all local off site transportation missions and work security posts, on a daily basis. Officer Bobby Dunning, is a member of the RCI Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT). One of the current Transportation Officers, Herbert V. Lassiter, has 20 years of experience as a former city Bus Driver for New York City. Officer Lassiter delivered the first forty inmates to Rivers Correctional Institution when the facil-

ity first opened in March 2001 and has been a member of the GTI team since. Mr. Lassiter has an impressive driving record as a professional driver for 50 years, with a clean driving record and no safety violations.

Mr. Gainer and Mr. Dunning are also trainers to GTI drivers. Both have successfully completed the intensive GTI program and are certified to train and certify GTI Drivers on DOT road tests. The RCI team travels an average of 7,750 safe, accident free miles a month. On an annual basis, RCI averages 93,000 miles driven, 1,800 detainees transported, and 650 off site secure transportation missions completed. The GTI team also provides transportation missions for medical appointments, courthouse hearings, and supports JPATS missions from USMS operations at the Raleigh Durham Airport located 270 miles away from Rivers.

The RCI GTI team plays a crucial role in maintaining GTI's outstanding safety record while upholding the GTI commitment to our client and to the public, which is **"to provide safe and secure transportation of detainees with quality service, which is second to none."**



# Eastern Region Safety Conference

Written By **Chuck Leeper, Eastern Region**



**D**uring the week of June 16, the Eastern Region's safety leaders converged at the Regional Headquarters in Charlotte, NC for the first Annual Fire & Safety Managers Conference.

The attendees included Shiela Rucker from New Castle, Nathan North from Plainfield, Dan Danko from Moshannon Valley, Terry Holloway from Riverbend, Michael Stanton from Blackwater River, Ian Barland from Broward, Shardon Greaves from South Bay,

Gary Wosnik from Moore Haven, Glenn Brown from Rivers, Alfred Kimbro from Robert A. Deyton, James Sorrells from Graceville, Richard Murray from D. Ray James, LaSonya Thomas-Fruge from Allen, Kenneth Garganus from LaSalle, Laura Torgeson from Lawrenceville, and Kendria Turner-Carr from Bay.

The week included a busy schedule with sessions running from 8am to 5pm. Topics ranged from incident investigation training to tactical and strategic methods

for injury reduction. But the main goal of the conference was to introduce the entire Region's Safety Managers to each other and facilitate open lines of communication, collaboration, and team building. There was an abundance of effective information exchanged and current best approach sharing, between the attendees, which was well received.

Several members of corporate and the regional staff contributed to the conference by delivering presentations, in their subject of expertise. The presentation included human resources, risk, transportation, and leadership.

Guests included Vice President Dave Donahue, HR Director Julie Owens, HR Manager Sabrina Urquhart, Director Kevin Sidebottom, Transportation Manager Peter Provencher, VP Risk Tom Boyer, and VP Risk Philip Dugger.

The team departed newly revived in spirit and skill, to return home with a set of achievable goals for the rest of the year. Overall, notwithstanding the rigorous schedule, the conference was time well spent, enjoyed by all and a big success with everyone looking forward to next year.

## NEW PICTURES AND VIDEOS FOR USE

Written By Gina Larsen, Corporate HR



Whether you are looking for GEO images to enlarge as posters for your facility, need pictures to create a flyer, or need pictures to include in a presentation, we have new shots for you. Earlier this summer a photo shoot commenced at Broward Transitional Center, and we are thrilled with the amazing photos. If you are interested in using our new images, please contact **Gina Larsen** at [GLarsen@GEOGroup.com](mailto:GLarsen@GEOGroup.com).

We also have new recruiting videos to share with potential candidates. Please view GEO's YouTube Channel and feel free to share it with others: [www.youtube.com/user/TheGEOGroupInc](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheGEOGroupInc).

## CORRECTIONAL WORKER WEEK AT CENTRAL ARIZONA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Written By Billy Massingill, Central Arizona Correctional Facility



Correctional Worker Week (CWW) started early with a team commitment to the Healthy Roads program. Each Wednesday, all staff are invited to join a "Walk with the Warden." Our next event was participating in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Several staff members, including Warden Bennie Rollins, supported and attended the event.

Students from a local elementary school decorated popcorn bags for our much anticipated Popcorn Bash. This was greatly appreciated by staff, and knowing that our local community supports our daily



efforts added just another heart felt feeling amongst us all. CWW events included, Coffee & Donuts, Cheese Nacho Day, Ice Cream Float Day, and Family Tour Day. The week concluded on a tremendous note with a catered Mexican Feast served on all shifts by the Administrative Team.

Though this was a week full of fun and celebration for our staff, minds are never too far from the observance of our fellow correctional professionals and the many sacrifices we all make to ensure the safety of the public and the security of the inmates.

# Adelanto Helps Save Lives

## THROUGH BLOOD DONATIONS

Written By **Liz Lopez, Adelanto Detention Facility**



**Pictured from Top to Bottom:** Lieutenant Donald Dutcher helps support the cause, Lieutenant Regina Duran is ready to donate, and Officer Christopher Marble patiently waits while he donates.

Each year, the employees of the Adelanto Detention Facility (ADF) come together to support the American Red Cross blood drive. On May 23, 2014, ADF staff once again participated in this event, rallying to provide over thirty pints of blood and plasma.

ADF Chaplain Edgar Stephens, who coordinated the event, stated, “The local blood bank credits the Adelanto Detention Facility as being one of the most productive locations to donate blood.” Lieutenant Regina Duran was one of the first individuals to donate and stated, “We don’t realize our donation may help save a life.” Staff knowing their participation in this event can save a life, motivates many of the employees to donate, helping make this event a success, year after year.



## Spotlight on the Star

### SGT. GARY HILLIN

Written By **Shihpei Stevenson, Northwest Detention Center**

This installment of the Spotlight on the Star features Sgt. Gary Hillin for his adventure ride, conquering the Washington Backcountry Discovery Route (WABDR). According to its website, the WABDR is a scenic off-road route for dual-sport and adventure motorcycles that runs north to south, from Oregon to Canada, across the state of Washington.

The 575-mile route uses mostly unpaved back roads through the beautiful Cascade Mountains and some arid landscapes of Eastern Washington. The difficulty level of this route is off the chart and therefore requires a certain level of skills and determination in order to complete this 575-mile ride.

When asked about the most difficult part he encountered during the ride, Sgt. Hillin answered without hesitation, “the danger of it and the fatigue.” He was riding 10 hours a day for five days straight! Some of the roads were next to steep cliffs where a slightest mistake could cost him his dear life.

Sgt. Hillin compared this experience to his approach to a workplace. It takes skills and endurance to get the job done. Sgt. Hillin kept his eyes on the finish line and pressed on until he completed the race. Just like riding on those rugged trails, when facing challenges, one must overcome difficulties in order to accomplish the task. Sgt. Hillin hopes that by sharing his story of the WABDR race, he could inspire others to have the determination to complete a challenge.



## Getting Fit With GEO

Written By Nicole Allen, Western Region Detention Facility

Since the inception of GEO's Biggest Loser and Step it Up with Steve programs, the Western Region Detention Facility has not had a shortage of sign-ups. For the non-participating by-standers, we have witnessed firsthand those whose lives have been impacted for the better and the success they have had. Rosa Valdez, Payroll Specialist, was motivated by her son and was able to lose 27% of her body fat and a spot as a top finalist. Rosa did not stop there; she continued enlisting in the different programs, losing an additional 11% body fat and winning an iPad for the "Where is your Actiped?" challenge. Adrian Cortez, Transportation Officer, participated in the Biggest Loser competition in February 2014, and Adrian lost approximately 40lbs.

Remulous Sacatani, Laundry Supervisor, participated in the Step It Up With Steve program three times, and each time had amazing results. In spring 2014, Remulous came in 3rd place. In July 2014, he came in 1st place with 1,200,000 steps. His last competition was the Warden's competition at the facility level, and of course, he came in 1st. When asked what motivated him, Remulous said facility pride, having good health, and of course, the money.

**Left to Right:** Payroll Specialist Rosa Valdez along with Transportation Officer Adrian Cortez. Rosa Valdez's submission for the "Where is my Actiped" competition. Laundry Supervisor Remulous Sacatani.



## GEO Supports The Community

Written By Donald Bowen, Robert A. Dayton Detention

On April 4th, The Robert A. Dayton Detention Facility was a silver sponsor for The Connection Church Annual Golf Tournament held at Lake Spivey golf course, in Jonesboro, Georgia.

It was a good day on the links for Mr. Michael Lovett and Mr. Jimmy Jones, the two employee teams representing The GEO Group. First, Mr. Lovett won the putting contest and then the GEO Team took home first place trophies with a score of 66, six under par. Mr. Lovett credits their win to teamwork, "J.J. and I made a great team and we had a lot of fun."

Proceeds from the tournament, which netted approximately \$3,000, go toward the Children's/Youth ministry. They are very active in local homeless shelters and working with children and families in need of assistance. Reverend Lance Sumner, Pastor of the Connection Church and their Youth Ministry expressed his gratitude to The GEO Group for supporting the church's mission to lend a helping hand to the community.

## Losing to Win

Written By Traci Wright, Corporate HR

**Bryan Skirko**



Before



After

**Eric Woolley**



Before



After

Season 4 of GEO's Biggest Loser competition saw tremendous results. From January 13 to May 31, 2014, contestants weighed in each week hoping to shed pounds and win big. Overall, we had 572 individuals compete and lose a total of 4,398 pounds company-wide. Added to the previous competition totals, we've lost a whopping 20,875 pounds since GEO introduced the Biggest Loser competitions! Leading the way was our Biggest Loser, Eric Woolley, a Correctional Officer at Arizona State Prison in Florence, Arizona. Eric lost an outstanding 74.8 pounds and took home the top prize of \$2,500. Way to go!

The Grand Prize Winner in the percentage of body weight lost was Bryan Skirko, a Detention Officer at Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. Bryan beat his fellow competitors by losing a total of 23.83% of his body weight and won \$2,500. What an accomplishment! GEO also awarded cash prizes totaling \$29,975 to those contestants who lost at least 10 pounds or 10% of their body weight. Congratulations to all those who participated and successfully lost weight in Season 4.

## Northwest Detention Center Staff **RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD**

Written By **Dayle Nelson, Northwest Detention Center**

On August 19, 2014, Northwest Detention Center was proud to host the presentation of the Patriot Award, which was given to Lieutenant Marcus Hoffmeister, an eight-year employee at Northwest Detention Center. Lt. Hoffmeister was nominated to receive the award by fellow Detention Officer and U.S. Army reservist, Derek Martinez.

“We’ve got a lot of reserves here at GEO. It is something many of us have in common to tell stories about. It is great to receive this honor from the military, and to have the support of The GEO Group.”

The Patriot Award is given by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), under the U.S. Department of Defense. The Patriot Award reflects the effort made to support Citizen Warriors through a wide range of measures. ESGR Area Chair, Wayne Hilton, a volunteer who covers several northwest counties, came to Northwest Detention Center to present the award to Lt. Hoffmeister.

When asked how it felt to receive the Patriot Award, Lt. Hoffmeister replied, “It is the last thing I expected. We’ve got a lot of reserves here at GEO. It is something many of us have in common to tell stories about. It is great to receive this honor from the military, and to have the support of The GEO Group.”

Anyone can nominate an employer for the Patriot Award. Officer Martinez nominated Lt. Hoffmeister because he appreciates how his lieutenant always supports the time he devotes to serving in the U.S. Army Reserve. Said Officer Martinez, “He has never stood in the way of my duties as a soldier. There is a lot of support there. I really appreciate The GEO Group management, allowing me to do my duty.”

Northwest Detention Center also received a certificate from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, honoring the facility for supporting employees who continue to serve their country while employed by The GEO Group.

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**Pictured Left to Right:** Warden Lowell Clark, Mr. Wayne Hilton, Detention Officer Derek Martinez, and Lt. Marcus Hoffmeister.





## VETERAN TO VETERAN ALLIANCE AT PLAINFIELD INDIANA STOP FACILITY

Written By **Dan LeFlore & Rhonda Gardner,**  
Plainfield Indiana STOP Facility

When beginning this journey several months ago, the staff at the Plainfield Indiana Short Term Offender Program Facility (PISTOPF) had no idea of the amount of support they would receive from their community, government, and the local media. They started with a simple thought, “To restore our veterans to a productive life.” They had no way of knowing how many people felt the same, and desired to join their mission.

On May 20, the inauguration of the Veteran to Veteran Alliance was held in the PISTOPF Chapel. This included Cathy Kynard, Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialist with Indiana Workforce Development, who has been instrumental in bringing this mission to fruition. Among the welcomed guests included The National Guard Color Guard, Co-founder of The Path Home Robert Luenebrink, who presented a check for the Veteran’s Career Source Resource Center established at the facility, State Director Hodge Patel, Office of Senator Joseph Donnelly, Eduardo Perez from Operation Job Ready Vets, Special Assistant to the Governor Jeffrey Cardwell, Office of Governor Mike Pence, and Brigadier General Wayne L. Black, Assistant Adjutant General-Army, Indiana National Guard.

The most honored guests were the Family of Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakely, as the American Legion Post at the PISTOPF was named in his honor. Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakely’s parents, widow Patty, and children Whitney and Ricky were present to accept a plaque in his honor.

Richard A. Blakely was a Plainfield, Indiana native and a Hoosier Hero. Staff Sgt. Blakely was assigned to the 38th Main Support Battalion and deployed with the 738th Area Medical Company, Monticello, Indiana. On June 6, 2006, Staff Sgt. Blakely, 34, was killed by enemy small arms fire while on patrol, near Al Khalidiyah, Iraq. Staff Sgt. Blakely had

already been presented the Purple Heart Award from Governor Mitch Daniels weeks prior to his death. He was injured several months before by a sniper and returned to active duty the same day. “Loss of any Hoosier soldier always hits us hard, but I can’t help but be especially affected by this case,” Daniels said in a press release in 2006.

The Veterans at the PISTOPF are profoundly honored to have their post named after Staff Sgt. Blakely. “We will through our actions make Staff Sgt. Blakely proud,” stated one of the veteran members at the PISTOPF.

The veterans are supported by the many community partners involved in making this program a success. American Legion Post Commanders from the surrounding communities are familiar faces at the PISTOPF. In addition to mentoring the veterans for successful transitions through preparation and planning, Cathy Kynard provides a job readiness and career development workshop on a weekly basis. She also brings in Veteran resources including Health Care for Reentry Veterans, Hendricks College Network, HVAF of Indiana, Inc., Veterans Justice Outreach, VA Public Contact Regional Office, American Legion Service Officer, Save our Veterans, Vet Center, County Veteran Service Officer, VA Homeless and Vocational Rehabilitation,

Local newspaper, *The Hendricks County Flyer* helps to keep the community informed regarding American Legion Post Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakely. American Legion Post Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakely is already working on a fundraiser. “From a simple thought to making a difference. There is no end to what we can do together.” stated Superintendent Burch.

**Pictured from Left to Right:** Bob Luenebrink, Co-Founder of Path Home and Superintendent David Burch.

## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Written By **Dan LeFlore & Rhonda Gardner,**  
Plainfield Indiana STOP Facility



The Plainfield Indiana Short Term Offender Program Facility was honored to receive the Business of Month Award from the Plainfield, Indiana Chamber of Commerce. The commitment to making community involvement a priority inside and out of the facility has been recognized by the Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to being active members of the Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, by serving on several committees and events, the facility provides charitable donations, community partnerships, and fresh garden produce to local food banks from the “Hope Garden” grown inside the facility.

“As a unique community partner, we are humbled to be acknowledged for our commitment to service,” added Superintendent David Burch. It is the mission of the Plainfield Indiana Short Term Offender Program Facility to provide integrated and holistic individual re-entry treatment to the offender population. Programs are implemented to develop the skills and mindset to productively re-enter society upon release with a strong understanding of community values.

**Pictured from Left to Right:** Chief Shad Rice, Rose Wells, Jacob Pruis, Rhonda Gardner, Paul Klahn, ASR Dan LeFlore, Chamber of Commerce Director Brad DuBois, Superintendent David Burch, Laney Gauker, Selina Lewis, James Galloway, Jacob Westmoreland, and Captain Michael Murff.

# ARIZONA STATE PRISON - FLORENCE WEST Helps Against Abuse, Inc.

Written By Rachel Neibarger & Shellie Stout, Arizona State Prison - Florence West

Recently, Arizona State Prison - Florence West staff met with Luisa Williams, Director and Executive Director Pat Griffen of Against Abuse, Inc. for a tour of their facility. The private non-profit organization assists women and children who have been victims of domestic violence. Not only do they service Pinal County, for over 32 years, but they also serve as the National Domestic Abuse Hotline.

While at the facility, we made a donation to Against Abuse, Inc. for a total of \$592, from our blue jean and inmate fundraisers.

For years, Warden Mauldin has given back to the local community by donating funds that have been raised in various ways. Each Friday, non-security staff are able to wear blue jeans with a \$1 admission fee, with all proceeds going to charity.

In addition, the inmate population selects a local food vendor to order at 100% mark up, and the entire profit is then donated.

After the tour, the staff at Florence West decided to have a friendly competition. Security vs. Non-Security penny drive/food drive. In just a few short weeks, we raised a combined total of \$602 by filling up 5 gallon water jugs with pennies! On top of that, we received a \$500 check from James Black on behalf of the Western Regional Office to be donated as well. Staff also donated 739 food items which allowed for home cooked meals and also included items such as baby food and desserts. This was an exciting team building activity that allowed us to raise money and food items for a good cause.

To learn more about Against Abuse, Inc. and how you can help, visit their website at [www.against-abuse.org](http://www.against-abuse.org).



**Pictured Top to Bottom from Left to Right:** Warden Rick Mauldin, Administrative Assistant Shellie Stout, Executive Director Pat Griffen, and Director Luisa Williams. Administrative Assistant Shellie Stout, B. Munoz, Assistant Business Manager Brenda Duran, Programs Secretary Rachel Neibarger, Director Luisa Williams and Dorothy Encinas. Capt. B. Dennis, A. Nutting, Deborah Jansen, B. Munoz, C. Sepulveda, Shellie Stout, A. Valero, M. Brass and K. Duggan.





## Declare Your Independence Contest Winners

Written By Susan Napolitano, Corporate HR

The Step It Up With Steve, Declare Your Independence contest, which started on the 4th of July, had a total of 493 individuals logging steps throughout the competition.

The race for 1st place was fierce, but in the end our winner was **Remulos Sacatani** of San Diego. He walked a whopping 1,260,064 steps, winning a \$500 gift card! The 2nd place honor went to **Gloria Griffin** of Allen Correctional Center who will receive a \$250 gift card for her 1,248,936 steps. **Elizabeth Brown** of Moshannon Valley won 3rd place and will receive a \$150 gift card after logging 1,220,624 steps.

Three additional walkers hit our "Million Stepper" Club and will receive a \$100 gift card. Give a round of applause to Virginia Cannon at Adelanto, Hattie White at Rivers Correctional, and Virginia Owen at D. Ray James.

30 competitors beat Stephen Fuller's step count of 462,780 steps, earning them a \$50 gift card. Additionally, 36 random individuals who logged at least 100,000 steps received a \$25 gift card for participating in this fun event. Stay tuned for our next contest so you too can "Step it Up."



**Pictured Top to Bottom from L to R: WRDF Steppers:** Sevilla Cacho, 1st Place Winner Remulos Sacatani, and Katherine Ramos. **WRDF Steppers:** George Wohlgemuth, Catherine Dougher, Evelyn Rubio, Jaime Madarang, and Ezequiel Murillo. **Rivers Steppers: Front Row:** Vanessa Holley, Carol Ward, Debra Jones, Hattie White, and Sydel Green. **Back Row:** Tara Alexander, Timothy Stafford, Joseph Bunch, George Smallwood, and Gladys Sexton.



## Let's Get Social

We want your stories and likes!

Written By Gina Larsen, Corporate HR

Would you like to be a Featured Employee on GEO's Facebook Page?

If you have stories to share about employee recognition, events and conferences, charitable involvement, or community outreach at your facility, we'd like to post them on our page at <https://www.facebook.com/GEOGroup>.

Please email Gina Larsen at [GLarsen@GEOGroup.com](mailto:GLarsen@GEOGroup.com), the short story you'd like to share, corresponding photos, and photo release forms of employees that are pictured. GEO's Facebook page has 5,005 likes. Our goal is to reach 6,000 by the end of the year!

We encourage you to "like" us on <https://www.facebook.com/GEOGroup>. Once you "like" GEO on Facebook, please visit our page for exciting, up-to-date GEO news and information. We look forward to receiving your stories and "likes."

## Want to Know What's Going On at GEO?



Facebook

Look up The GEO Group, Inc. and **like us!**



Twitter

Look us up @GEO News Room and **follow us!**



Our Website

Look up [www.geogroup.com](http://www.geogroup.com) and read our latest news features, learn about our services, and look at all our locations world-wide.

## NEW WARDEN at Allen Correctional Center

Written By **Syble Ryder,**  
**Allen Correctional Center**



The Vice President for the Eastern Region of The GEO Group, Inc., David Donahue made the trip from North Carolina on June 24, 2014 to Allen Correctional Center to make the announcement that Keith Cooley, Deputy Warden at Allen Correctional Center has been promoted to Warden of the Facility. Warden Cooley has been with the company since 1992. He has served in a variety of capacities, including Business Manager, Eastern Regional Business Manager, Assistant Warden of Security and as Deputy Warden for the last 9 years. Warden Cooley stated, "I am extremely honored to be chosen as the leader of this facility, and I am excited about the future of Allen Correctional Center."

Warden Cooley is a member of the Louisiana Association of Wardens and Superintendents, the Southern States Correctional Association, the United States Deputy Wardens Association, and the American Correctional Association. Warden Cooley is also Allen's Facility Representative for the Louisiana Department of Corrections Employee Awards Committee.

Warden Cooley is a resident of Kinder, La. He is married to Jill Labuff Cooley and has three sons, Welles, Grant and Griffin. Warden Cooley is very involved with his family and community. He is a Board Member for the Kinder Chamber of Commerce, the Kinder Cemetery Association, Kinder Youth Basketball, and Kinder Athletic Booster Club, where he serves as President. Keith was named as the Citizen of the Year for Kinder in 2012. He is a member of Kinder Bible Church.



## Fill the Back-Pack Drive

Written By **Melinda Parker, LaSalle Detention Facility**

**T**his year, the LaSalle Detention Facility held a Fill The Back-Pack Drive, and each department was challenged to fill one backpack full of supplies, thus helping one student. Several departments supplied more than what was asked and at the end of the drive, thirty backpacks were filled, along with three boxes full of supplies!

The backpacks and supplies were delivered to the LaSalle Parish Media Center on August 6th to a very appreciative Assistance Program People LaSalle Education System (APPLES) crew. The local APPLES program was established in order to assist LaSalle Parish students in need of assistance in purchasing school supplies. Each year, approximately 600 students within the community apply to this program for help. Without the help of the community, the APPLES program would not be able to get all the supplies that these students need.

**Left to Right:** Rose Brown, Debbie McCartney, Kenneth Gurganus, Zackia Allen, Denise Neal, Britney Franklin, Ashley Aric, Emma Longmire, & Connie McCann.



2014  
**LEADERSHIP  
 CONFERENCE  
 PICTURES**

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*Celebrating 30 years*



## ARTHUR GORRIE HONOURED WITH **Minister's Award**

Written By **Sidd Mehta, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has been recognised for its outstanding commitment to the protection of the Queensland environment, with two Healthy Waterways Awards.

**A**rthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has been recognised for its outstanding commitment to the protection of the Queensland environment with two Healthy Waterways Awards.

The awards honour the efforts of individuals, groups and organisations helping to protect and improve South East Queensland's waterways.

Arthur Gorrie won the Community Award category, recognising initiatives that demonstrate a high level of community participation, as well as the \$10,000 Minister's Grand Prize, awarded to the most innovative and outstanding winner from all categories.

Presented by Assistant Minister for Natural Resources and Mines Seath Holswich at a dinner for over 300 guests, the awards are designed to raise awareness of waterway health issues, recognise those making a difference and inspire others to take action.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is part of a unique collaboration called Connecting Community for Waterways, that brings together the Correctional Centre, Natura Education, Save our Waterways Now, Gold

Coast Catchment Association, Nerang River Keepers, All Saints Anglican School and the City of Gold Coast.

Connecting Community for Waterways involves students and other members of the community collecting native seeds that are delivered to Arthur Gorrie for propagation by inmates enrolled in horticulture training programs. Last year more than 100,000 plants were grown and returned to the community for planting in waterway restoration initiatives.

Through this program, inmates gain valuable skills that help them find work upon release and they have the opportunity to be involved in an outstanding community reparation program.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre General Manager Troy Ittensohn said being a member of the collaboration was "tremendously rewarding."

"The chance for our inmates to make a positive contribution to the community is proving to be immensely worthwhile," he said. "The \$10,000 will allow our collaboration partner Save our Waterways Now to continue this great initiative."



**Pictured From Top to Bottom:** Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre's Inmate Development Manager Hanah Walton, Trade Instructor Jacobus Havenga, Finance and Administration Manager Sidd Mehta and Programs Officer Lael Brucknerat at the awards ceremony. Arthur Gorrie Trade Instructor Jacobus Havenga (left) and Finance and Administration Manager Sidd Mehta in a section of the centre dedicated to the horticultural program. A selection of plants being propagated at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre.



## Chocolates & Inmates Lend a Helping Hand

Written By Peter Maá & Lauren Lafo, Parklea Correctional Centre

**P**arklea Correctional Centre inmates recently took part in a chocolate drive fundraiser and raised \$2,500 towards reconciliation in the local community.

The money will go towards Blacktown's Police Citizens Youth Club's 'Nations of Origin' Rugby League 7s tournament. The tournament promotes reconciliation within communities and involves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal members in the club. It provides an opportunity for young indigenous people to identify with their culture and foster pride in their communities. It will also provide an opportunity for people of non-Aboriginal descent to learn about the local Aboriginal culture, foster relationships and understanding between local cultures.



## 21 Years in Junee

Written By Haley Robertson, Junee Correctional Centre

**S**ister Rosemary Terry recently celebrated 21 years of outstanding pastoral work as chaplain at Junee Correctional Centre.

Sister Rosemary joined the Presentation Sisters in 1961, and after completing a two and a half year probationary period, she trained as a teacher and taught in Wagga before undertaking voluntary work at Junee Correctional Centre.

A few months later, she moved to a part-time position at Junee, and that is where she has been diligently counseling inmates since 1993.

Established in Europe in the 18th Century, the Presentation Sisters order has been offering pastoral guidance in Wagga for more than 140 years and with Sister Rosemary as part of the team for 50 of them. A rare feat? Well actually, Sister Rosemary recently celebrated her Golden Jubilee with a Mass attended by family and friends. But also celebrating with her was another sister with 50 years of service and another three with sixty years each.

Sister Rosemary sees her pastoral care as "giving them a sense of hope, that someone does care." Sister Rosemary said she had been blessed in having this calling in her life.

**Picture:** A morning tea was held to help Sister Rosemary celebrate this important milestone. Pictured with general manager Andy Walker.

## Culinary Classes at Fulham Using Indigenous Plants

Written By Regina Regulska, Fulham Correctional Centre



In an effort to improve the health of Aboriginal inmates at Fulham Correctional Centre, an innovative cooking class using indigenous plants and herbs has commenced in the Yeerung Unit. The classes are part of the Certificate II Hospitality course offered by Fulham's education provider, Kangan Institute.

The cooking classes use native Australian herbs and spices that were traditionally used by indigenous people. While most ingredients are sourced externally, some are being propagated and grown by inmates and Kangan Institute staff in Fulham's horticultural nursery. Yeerung Unit manager Greg Battley came up with the idea of the cooking classes, after attending a number of meetings with indigenous groups in the Gippsland area.

Greg noticed that Aboriginal elders at the meetings were all female. Further enquiries revealed that the overall poor health of a majority of Aboriginal males thwarted their chances of living long and healthy lives and reaching elder status. Following further research, Greg realised that the health of incarcerated inmates could be improved with holistic programs that focus on knowledge of diet and culture. This led to the development of the indigenous cooking class and a motivational course titled 'Life Choices'. Opportunities for exposure to cultural and traditional practices are being provided through an Aboriginal art program and regular visits by elders and Koori Court officers. The Koori Court is a division of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria which sentences indigenous defendants.

The indigenous culinary classes have proven to be very popular, and the waiting list for future courses is growing.



## NAIDOC Week Celebrated at Fulham

Written By **Jim Sanders, Fulham Correctional Centre**



**Pictured from Top to Bottom, L to R:** Daphne Dowd, Aunty Bess Yarram, General Manager Trevor Craig and Ivy Yarram. NAIDOC Week dance group

**N**AIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week is held in the first week of July and is celebrated at all of GEO's correctional facilities in Australia. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to the country.

At Fulham Correctional Centre, NAIDOC Week activities commenced with a flag raising ceremony on Monday, July 14. The traditional 'Welcome to Country' ritual, where an Aboriginal custodian welcomes people to their land, was conducted by inmate Sydney Austin, representing the Gunai Kurnai people of Gippsland.

The sounds of the didgeridoo and clap sticks filled the air as the Torres Strait Islander Flag and Australian Aboriginal Flag were raised behind Indigenous inmates performing a welcome dance.

Special guests at the ceremony included Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place manager Shaun Braybrook, Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation business manager Frank Grubb, Latrobe Valley elder Aunty Bess Yarram and her daughters Daphne and Ivy.

At the completion of the flag raising ceremony, Fulham's general manager Trevor

Craig invited inmates, staff and guests to the plaza area to sample cultural food including crocodile, kangaroo, and emu.

The following day, the inmates played a football game with an Indigenous team taking on a side comprising non-Indigenous inmates. The result was a big win to the Indigenous side and a medal presentation was held in the main gymnasium, acknowledging players from both teams.

On Wednesday, Indigenous inmates relaxed by watching culturally relevant movies including First Australians. The next day, the inmate families were treated to a family day. Traditional foods were served including a kangaroo ragout (stew) that was prepared by inmates from the Yeerung unit undertaking an Indigenous cooking course.

The fun-filled day included children's activities, raffle prizes of small paintings and boomerangs and NAIDOC show bags for each child, containing lollies as well as a boomerang, bracelets and necklaces made by Indigenous prisoners.

NAIDOC week concluded with an Elders Day on Friday. Twenty-seven elders from all over the Gunai Kurnai country attended to celebrate with the inmates and they were treated with cultural song and dance, a traditional lunch and a gift.

## RUGBY ROYALTY IN NEW ATTIRE

Written By **Peter Maá & Lauren Lafo, Parklea Correctional Centre**



Parklea Correctional Centre has offered some needed sponsorship to junior Rugby union players in the Penrith district. Parklea Correctional Centre's support assisted to supply sporting equipment and uniforms to the large number of children playing Rugby locally in Penrith.

Parklea Correctional Centre General Manager, Peter Maá, also attended the presentation night for all the Penrith teams which participated in the NSW State Championships. Players from the under 10's to under 17's age group received their representative jerseys on the night. The under 12's age group side went on to win the State championship.

**Pictured:** Peter Maá presents representative jerseys to players.

## ART CONTEST



Kutama-Sinthumule Correctional Centre held an inmate art contest. Pictured above are the impressive paintings that won. These and the 93 other paintings will be framed around KSCC, making the facility full of color and expression!



## ARTHUR GORRIE GOES SMOKE FREE

Written By Selena Landman, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

**A**rthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is now smoke-free after implementing Queensland Corrective Service's (QCS) new tobacco and smoking policy.

All Queensland prisons became smoke-free on May 5. As part of the lead-up, local working groups were established to develop strategies to support correctional officers and inmates, in the transition to a non-smoking environment.

The Arthur Gorrie working group was a multi-disciplinary team comprising staff from various departments, senior management and representatives from Queensland Health and Queensland Corrective Services.

The group initiated a comprehensive education and communication strategy to inform inmates and staff of the

health risks associated with smoking and the support programs available to help them quit.

Inmate representatives were consulted through the Prisoner Advisory Committee, and peer support systems were put in place.

Some of the initiatives included wristbands for inmates on nicotine replacement therapy to identify those needing support, and dedicated health promotion nurses communicating with staff and inmates.

Nicotine replacement therapy patches arrived in early March, providing the opportunity for inmates to get an early start on the program. A healthy lifestyle expo was also staged at the cultural centre with the support of health providers and cultural elders.

More than 70% of the Arthur Gorrie inmate population who smoked, voluntarily participated in the quit smoking process prior to the introduction of the policy.

QCS acting commissioner, Mark Rallings, recently wrote to Arthur Gorrie General Manager Troy Ittensohn, to thank the local working group for their "outstanding work" in planning and effecting the transition to a smoke-free workplace. Arthur Gorrie is now a healthier environment for staff, inmates and visitors.

**Pictured:** Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre's Finance and Administration Manager Sidd Mehta, Health Services Manager Shirley Sheppard and General Manager Troy Ittensohn now enjoy a smoke-free environment at the centre.

# FULHAM FIRE RECOVERY WORK

Written By Regina Regulska, Fulham Correctional Centre

Inmate work crews from Fulham Correctional Centre have once again assisted property owners in the region following devastating bush fires. Coordinated through the Wellington Shire Emergency Planning Unit and Fulham's industry manager, the crews completed around 2,500 hours of work on 13 different properties.

The community assistance crews from Fulham provide more than 30,000 hours each year to help the local community and its environment.

Work included removal of fire-damaged fences, fence wire and debris, repairing fences where practical and installing new fencing. Inmates removed and stacked burnt sheets of roofing and concrete house stumps, as well as broke up and removed concrete slabs from former house sites.

During an informal visit to the area, Minister for Corrections, the Hon Edward O'Donohue, joined Fulham Correctional Centre General Manager Trevor Craig, Industry Manager Ian Riley and work crew Supervisor Jim Bannister to see first-hand the work carried out by inmates.

Ms. Lilly Targett, one of the property owners the crews assisted, spoke with the Minister and recalled events when the fire raged through her small property taking with it livestock, farming equipment, fencing, and shedding. The fire killed over 120 chickens, three goats, and a cow that were her means of income and her supply of dairy products.

Ms. Targett expressed her gratitude to the work crews, which rebuilt her poultry shedding and yards and replaced fencing along the driveway.

The crews tackled the list of jobs enthusiastically, working alongside the supervisor and Ms. Targett, none of them wanting to stop until the day's work was done.

"While the devastating effects of the recent fires in Gippsland will be felt in these communities for a long time to come, it is fantastic to see the extensive work that has already been completed thanks to Fulham's very successful community work program," Mr. O'Donohue said.

The community assistance crews from Fulham provide more than 30,000 hours each year to help the local community and its environment.



Pictured Bottom L to R: Fulham Correctional Centre General Manager Trevor Craig, work crew Supervisor Jim Bannister, property owner Lilly Targett and Corrections Minister Edward O'Donohue.





## Tasty Treats at Fulham Graduation

Written By Regina Regulska, Fulham Correctional Centre

One of the highlights of a recent graduation ceremony for Fulham Correctional Centre inmates, who had completed a range of tertiary courses, was tasting the specially prepared refreshments on offer, following formal proceedings.

Students enrolled in Indigenous cooking classes provided an afternoon tea, featuring special treats flavoured with native Australian herbs and spices.

Graduating students and special guests also enjoyed a variety of coffees served by students undertaking the barista component of the hospitality course offered at Fulham.

Ten inmates were presented with certificates by Fulham Correctional Centre's general manager Trevor Craig and Wellington Shire councilor Bob Wenger.

Councilor Wenger applauded the students' effort in completing courses in automotive, engineering, furniture, horticulture, and micro business.

Certificates were also awarded to six inmates, who had successfully completed the barista module of the hospitality course.

**Pictured Top to Bottom Left to Right:** General Manager Trevor Craig and Wellington Shire Councilor Bob Wenger congratulate inmates on their achievements. TAFE Teacher Melissa Edwards assisting Barista course student.

## Junee Shines For Kids

Written By Haley Robertson, Junee Correctional Centre



Shine for Kids has been associated with Junee Correctional Centre for the last three years, enabling Aboriginal inmates to participate in the Colourful Dreaming Program.

Wiradjuri elders, Aunty Kath Withers and Aunty Pat Simpson, manage the program that seeks to engage Aboriginal inmates through culturally specific arts such as basket weaving and traditional painting.

During NAIDOC Week, the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery hosted a Shine For Kids Colourful Dreaming Art Exhibition, showcasing many of the artworks created by Junee Indigenous inmates.

This is the second year that these artworks have been on exhibition and available for sale, with proceeds used to fund Shine for Kids, which supports children with a parent in the criminal justice system.

This program is valuable for Aboriginal inmates who are incarcerated, as it enables them to connect with their cultural heritage. To have their artworks shown in a gallery exhibition elevates their self-confidence.

**Pictured Top to Bottom Left to Right:** Some of the artworks on display. Aunty Pat Simpson and Sister Rosemary enjoying the exhibition.

# June Youth Focused for Success

Written By **Haley Robertson, Junee Correctional Centre**

**J**unee Correctional Centre is extremely proud of its annual Youth in Focus scholarships, and two of its 2013 recipients have quickly proved to be outstanding choices.

Since Youth In Focus Scholarship was initiated by Junee Correctional Centre, there has been a total of \$23,000 awarded to 10 Scholarship recipients to assist with their studies.

Annabel White is one of four Australians selected into the ASSIST program, which creates life changing opportunities for international scholars to attend secondary schools in America.

She recently joined the prestigious Peddie School in New Jersey where she is continuing her swimming career, carefully monitored and assisted by six

coaches, including strength and conditioning coach.

Annabel is attending the school for 10 months, training for two and a half hours a day while attending classes, including classes on Saturday!

During the school holidays, Annabel will join a local family on their vacation.

Uniquely, the school has a student to staff ratio of 6:1 and about 90 percent of the teachers and their families live on campus.

Emily Butler has recently graduated from a university with distinctions in both Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Arts. Emily was also listed on the Dean's Merit List for achieving results in the top five percent of law students. She is now working for a law firm in the Hunter Valley, while waiting for graduate offers.



Ideally, Emily would like to work in regional NSW in property, employment, industrial relations or in the public sector. Currently, she is completing her Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice by correspondence. At the end of this course, she will be admitted as a practicing solicitor.

The Youth In Focus Scholarship was initiated by Junee Correctional Centre and has been awarded on Australia Day for the past three years. Since then, there has been a total of \$23,000 awarded to 10 Scholarship recipients to assist with their studies.

**Pictured From Left to Right:** Emily Butler at her graduation. Annabel White enjoying her last days at home.

## FULHAM HELPS FAMILY FUN DAY

Written By Regina Regulka, Fulham Correctional Centre



Recently, a local church group asked whether inmates could provide the labour to make lengths of colourful bunting for a community family fun day. Three inmates from the Nalu Challenge Community Unit spent a few hours each afternoon, over the course of a week, knotting lengths of flagging tape onto a rope.

The colourful flags added to the atmosphere at the festivities and many favourable comments were received by members of the church group. This project is an example of inmates contributing to a community group to achieve its goals, no matter how large or small the job may be.

## POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB TIME4KIDS FUNDRAISER

Written By Simone James, Parklea Correctional Centre



During the month of April, Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) across Australia held their major fundraising event, Time4Kids.

Community members and leaders, business leaders, celebrities and sporting heroes volunteer and commit to do time to stop youth crime.

As one of the community's local leaders, Parklea Correctional Centre's staff made a commitment to PCYC Blacktown to raise funds for youth development and police crime prevention programs for local youth.



Parklea staff volunteers were 'detained' in a special mock gaol for around half an hour. To be released they were required to raise a minimum of \$500 bail to gain their freedom. Over \$15,000 was raised on the day. All funds will be utilized for new equipment and programs for local youth.

**Pictured From Left to Right:** Two would-be felons doing time for a good cause, Industries Manager Jay Wilson and Area Manager Tony Mannweiler. General Manager Peter Maá negotiates the release of Parklea CC staff.



## PARKLEA Bird Survey

Written By **Wayne Olling**,  
Parklea Correctional Centre

**P**arklea Correctional Centre in western Sydney has two wetlands, one very large and one smaller, which have probably been the product of extensive landscaping works, on what was perhaps a rural dam and drainage line prior to purchase of the land for a correctional centre by the government, two or more decades ago.

The landscaping and the quiet surroundings of the secured outer grounds of Parklea Correctional Centre provide an ideal habitat for a wide variety of birds, particularly water birds.

The large wetland occupies approximately 5ha (12 acres) of area and includes quite a sizeable island which is well supplied with trees. To the south and north of the wetland, are expansive areas of naturally occurring and planted trees.

There are shrubs dotting the area to the south but shrubs, particularly *Kunzea ambigua*, are in more dense supply in the northern area. Native grasses, herbs and groundcovers are in ample supply, along with weed species, but unless protected by shrubs they are subjected to regular slashing. *Goodenia*, *Phyllanthus* and *Zornia* species are well represented.

Management of Parklea Correctional Centre kindly permitted Mark Fuller and Edwin Vella of Cumberland Bird Observers Club, as well as Peter Ridgeway and Wayne Olling to conduct a walk-around survey of birds on April 12, 2014.

The day was overcast and rain had fallen prior to the survey. The wetland was full of water and being at the tail of the season for migratory wading birds, conditions were not best for finding them.

However, such is the capacity of the wetland to attract a wide range of water birds in the warmer and drier months of the year. It is anticipated the site would be 'alive' with these birds when other wetlands might be struggling. All things considered, we were not disappointed with the number of birds detected in the two hours of observation. In and around the wetland, and in the wooded areas, a total of fifty bird species were detected.

The Cumberland Environmental Group and the Cumberland Bird Observers Club are indebted to the management of Parklea Correctional Centre for the maintenance of a viable bird habitat in Western Sydney and for affording us the opportunity to observe its function.

"The Cumberland Environmental Group and the Cumberland Bird Observers Club are indebted to Parklea Correctional Centre for the maintenance of a viable bird habitat..."



**Pictured From Top to Bottom:** Restless Flycatcher, Double-barred Finch, Little Corellas and Eastern Great Egret. All images on this page copyright © Mark Fuller.



## FULHAM INMATES Branch Out Into Art

Written By **Jim Sanders,**  
Fulham Correctional Centre

Inmates at Fulham Correctional Centre, in Australia, have made a significant contribution to the 2014 ACSO Art Exhibition, by submitting a number of pieces of Indigenous artwork.

The exhibition, titled 'Branching Out,' was staged in July, by the Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) at Yarra Gallery, at Federation Square, in Melbourne.

ACSO works to create safe and inclusive communities and runs programs designed to influence change in the lives of people who have found themselves on the wrong side of the law as well as those with chronic addiction, mental illness, and intellectual disability.

The exhibition's 'Branching Out' theme was developed to convey the pathways that ACSO clients take on their recovery journey. Fulham's involvement in the exhibition followed negotiations between the centre's Yeerung Unit Manager, Greg Battley and ACSO's Emma Bell. The pair decided to submit Indigenous art that could be auctioned to raise funds for a charity chosen by the artists.

The inmates pledged all proceeds to Aboriginal youth suicide prevention programs facilitated by Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation in Gippsland.

One inmate, Michael Morgan, was invited to attend the official opening to talk about the art he had submitted.

Rory Neal, the manager of Fulham's Nalu unit, believed this was an ideal opportunity for Michael to gain experience presenting his artwork, and that his participation in a community event would help build confidence and pride in his achievements.

A minimum-security inmate, Michael, attended the event with Rory Neal, Greg Battley, and Fulham's Aboriginal liaison officer Jim Sanders.

Just 20 minutes after the official opening, one of Michael's paintings sold for \$800. The Victorian Arts Minister Heidi Victoria made special mention of six items that were exhibited, and Michael's painting was one of them. During the event, Michael met with members of the public and shared his creative journey. At the conclusion of the night, he stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Upon his release, Michael plans to return to South Australia to continue with his painting and would like to teach his nieces and nephews.

**Pictured From Top to Bottom and Left to Right:** Fulham staff Jim Sanders, inmate Michael Morgan, Greg Battley, and Rory Neal. Indigenous artwork displayed at the exhibition





## Franklin County DRC Receives Best in Class Facility Operations Award

Written By **Herman Jordan, Franklin County DRC**

**F**ranklin County Day Reporting Center staff recently received the Chairman's Best in Class Facility Operations award for 2013, during a ceremony on August 12, 2014.

Presenting the award to facility staff, was Divisional Vice President Loren Grayer.

Grayer noted the great deal of work that goes into winning this award, including an exceptional internal audit score, complying with the customer contract, successful completions from participants, feedback from participants, and fidelity to the "What Works" mission.

**"You created a model that is being used around the country because it is so successful."**

Present at the ceremony were Regional Manager Steve Merrefield and District Manager John Hogan from The GEO Group, director of the facility, county commissioners,

Chief of Probation, Warden and Resident Probation Officer. The group discussed what The GEO Group has achieved in Chambersburg, and what it hopes to continue to work on in the area, including the important social work needs that the Day Reporting Center fills, with affiliations such as Jail Diversion and a county department that aids the co-occurring criminalistic and mental health participants of the program.

"This is a role model," said Divisional Vice President Loren Grayer. "What you've done here is make a template for all other areas that want a similar program to come and look at what you've developed, and it's working," Grayer said. "You created a model that is being used around the country because it is so successful."

**Pictured From Left to Right:** Adam Schlager, District Manager of The GEO Group, Franklin County Commissioners Chairman David Keller, Divisional Vice President of GEO Reentry Services Loren Grayer, and Program Manager of The GEO Group, Jordan Herman.

## March Against Meth

Written By **Steven Rodriguez, Madera County Day Reporting**



On Saturday, August 16, 2014, Madera County Day Reporting Program participated in the annual March Against Meth event. This was a community event, with several different community entities, that came together for a great cause as well as community awareness.

## AIDS Awareness Event

Written By **Peter Conerly, New Jersey CRC**



The New Jersey CRC recently hosted a presentation by the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation, for clients enrolled at the Center. Shante Edelen, Assistant Case Manager, arranged and coordinated the event, held on April 25, which consisted of a video about AIDS awareness, followed by an open forum discussion attended by 25 clients. The presentation was well received, with several requesting information about HIV testing. As a result, Shante arranged for the Hyacinth Foundation to return to the Center with their mobile test unit to perform free HIV testing for all interested. On May 16th, the mobile unit returned to the CRC and provided testing for 16 clients.



## ABRAXAS MARIENVILLE & SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL TEAMWORK

Written By **David Fitch, Abraxas Marienville**



The athletic programs at Abraxas Marienville takes on a much different approach than at most facilities. About 17 years ago, Abraxas Marienville started a co-op program with Sheffield Area High School specifically for football.

It was a win-win situation. Sheffield received 20 athletes from Abraxas to help their participation numbers, and Abraxas residents were given the opportunity to play PIAA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association) football. This also meant that residents from Abraxas Marienville would be able to interact with local high school students in a way that was typically unheard of before such a co-op was developed.

The community openly welcomed the new Sheffield High football players from Abraxas and the partnership that paved the way for the co-op's expansion. Three other sports have been added, including wrestling, track and field, and softball.

Athletically, the co-op has fostered some great success stories. In 2011, they earned their first PIAA football playoff spot, a wrestler from Abraxas was able to advance

to the regional meet, and two young men from Abraxas were part of the 4x100 relay team that earned a spot in the PIAA State Track and Field Championship.

The 2012 track season was one for the record books. An Abraxas youth won two gold medals, and in doing so set the 200 meter state record, and the relay team medaled at States. In 2013, the football team won the AML (Allegheny Mountain League) Northern Division title, which is the first time the team has won the title since 1969. They also made a repeat appearance in the PIAA playoffs.

The 2014 football season is in high gear. Abraxas players on the Sheffield team hail from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, a few with college scholarship dreams for next season.

Trophies, medals, championship titles and "Wolverine fever" in the local Sheffield community aside, success with this unique co-op is not measured by wins and losses, but by the interactions between students and the friendships that continue long after our kids leave Marienville.



# CrossFit Games For Charity

Reality House teams up with a local CrossFit gym to raise funds for Friendship of Women, a P.R.E.A. partner

Written By Marko André Treviño, Reality House



**G**EO Reentry Services continues to promote fitness and living a healthy lifestyle with the Healthy Roads program. Several Employees at Reality House joined a local gym to help them start living a healthier lifestyle.

Joana Gutierrez, Employment Specialist has lost over 110 pounds in the past years, by changing her nutrition habits and daily exercise routine. She stated, “One thing that remains the same is my drive and determination to remain healthy.” Marko Treviño, P.R.E.A. Compliance Manager, lost over 50 pounds and has the determination to meet his goal of losing another 50 pounds by January 2015. Ivan Iglesias, Assistant Facility Director, has lost over 25 pounds and stopped smoking.

This month, Reality House partnered up with Extreme Body Transformation (EBT) CrossFit Gym, as a sponsor, to promote awareness in health and fitness in our community where obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure are an increasing problem. All proceeds of this event went to our P.R.E.A. Partner, Friendship of

Women. They serve as the Sexual Abuse victim advocates for residents at Reality House. Friendship of Women provides services such as counseling, housing, and victim advocacy to any potential victims of sexual abuse in our Community.

On August 9, 2014, EBT CrossFit Gym hosted the first annual South Texas Extreme CrossFit Games. The event was held at the Brownsville Sports Park in Brownsville, Texas. Two staff members, Josue Mascorro, Social Service Coordinator, and Joana Gutierrez, Employment Specialist, are members at EBT CrossFit Gym and were among the competitors in this event.

The competition consisted of three events with competitor levels ranging from Rxd (Advanced Athletes) to Novice (Rookies). Athletes were tested on strength, endurance, and skill level. The first event was a duathlon consisting of a one mile run and 5k bike ride race. The second event was a Clean and Jerk ladder to establish the strongest athlete and 30 chest to bar pull up burpees for time. The final event

tested skill and endurance, with a 50 meter handstand walk across the football field, 50 wall ball shots for endurance and accuracy, 50 kettle bell swings, 50 over the box jumps, and another 50 meter handstand walk across the football field.

Ray Garcia, Owner/Coach of EBT CrossFit Gym requested assistance from the community to put this event together. Reality House was one of the sponsors at this event by providing a hydration station which provided Gatorade, water, bananas, and oranges for all the athletes. Reality House is extremely proud of the two employees who competed in the event. Josue Mascorro placed 8th overall in the Men’s Scale Division, while Joana Gutierrez placed 1st overall in the Women’s Scale Division.

**Pictured Clockwise:** Joana Gutierrez, at the top of the podium after finishing 1st in her division. Mrs. Mancha, Facility Director and Mr. Treviño, P.R.E.A. Compliance Manager at the Hydration Station. Joana “Beast Mode” Gutierrez, maxing out at 150lbs on her ladder in the Clean and Jerk event. Josue “The Rock” Mascorro, climbing the ladder in the Clean and Jerk event.

## New Soccer Program at Hector Garza **INSPIRES YOUTH**

Written By **Carlos Miranda, Hector Garza Center**



"Helping youth develop life skills, by being a positive role model in their lives, has been such a blessing for me."

**M**y name is Carlos Miranda, and I am a soccer coach for Lions F.C. in Schertz, TX and a Youth Development Team Leader for the Hector Garza Center (HGC) in San Antonio. I started working at Hector Garza in February 2013. My experience here has been both inspiring and life changing. Helping youth develop life skills, by being a positive role model in their lives, has been such a blessing for me. It has given me the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the residents.

Working at the center has also allowed me to incorporate one of my biggest passions, soccer, as a tool for positive change in the lives of our residents. My experience as a coach at the high school, club, and community college levels along with being a former college athlete has enabled me to spark interest in the residents for this sport. But the true credit is owed to this world sport, the beautiful game: Fútbol, Balonpie, Calcio, Fussball, Futebol, Le Foot, Voetbal, and SOCCER.

Soccer has become a way of life at HGC. Residents strive to be on status in order to be part of the weekly co-ed soccer game. Male and female residents release their stress and tension, while both learning and growing, by being part of this new opportunity. Practice sessions teach our youth the skills of the sport along with values such as teamwork, work ethic and

respect. The residents showcase their skills in "The Theater of Dreams" aka HGC's soccer field.

Dr. Vukmirovic, clinical director at the Hector Garza Center, stated, "Research supports positive correlation between participation in regular exercise and various indicators of mental health. The evidence for psychological benefits is even stronger for psychiatric evaluations. Mood-elevation, anxiety-reduction, increased self-esteem and improved concentration are some of the common exercise effects. The additional benefit of sport is that it teaches values such as teamwork, work ethic, respect and overcoming adversity."

Part of the success of the co-ed soccer games is based on the fact that most kids who are admitted into the facility are very knowledgeable in football or basketball. This makes them competitive, and at times aggressive, if winning the game is at stake. With soccer, it is different. Most of the residents lack talent, knowledge, agility, or coordination in the sport, which makes them equal in talent to other players including the opposite sex. This reduces the amount of competitiveness and aggressiveness towards each other.

Their curiosity and "soccer fever" has motivated me to continue to develop a soccer program closely tied with the club that I coach in Schertz, TX.

One Senior coach for Lions F.C., Joe Schafer, has helped me to make this a reality at Hector Garza. Coach Schafer is a San Antonio native with vast experience in the game. He is a former Del Rio High School and University of Incarnate Word player, and now a full time coach with a USSF "E" License to coach soccer. He is in charge of four different teams in the Lions F.C. organization which is the oldest and one of the biggest soccer clubs in the city of San Antonio and south Texas.

Coach Schafer has been investing his time and hosting soccer practices for HGC youth. Residents are motivated and inspired to keep up with practices and to be part of what we have dubbed as the HGC Lions soccer team. The club has become so involved with the idea of this program that they have allowed the use of Pride Park (Lions F.C. Soccer Complex) for games, practice sessions and scrimmages free of cost to HGC.

HGC Lions started their season March 24, 2014. They are representing John H. Wood Charter School, the charter school that residents attend at HGC, in the Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League. This will be the first time in the history of the Hector Garza Center that residents will compete in a sports league for charter schools in Texas.

Coach Schafer has stated if a resident is talented enough and lives in close proximity to Bexar County, he or she will receive a scholarship to play for Lions F.C.

With the proper coaching and guidance, these selected children can finish school with a new-found and healthy way to cope with life's daily challenges. The ultimate perk of this initiative would be having the opportunity to attend college on a soccer scholarship or any type of scholarship. Eventually, with the help of anybody who wants to join the movement, this idea will evolve into an all sports program.

**Pictured:** Coach Carlos Miranda coaching the HGC soccer team.

## NAPA COUNTY REENTRY CENTER RECEIVES **APPA President's Award**

Written By **Elisa DiTrollo, BI Incorporated**

Napa County has been a pioneer in alternatives to detention and reentry programming since opening its day reporting program in 2009. The program, called the Community Corrections Service Center (CCSC), offers day reporting supervision and cognitive behavioral treatment and training programs built upon evidence-based principles.

**"Since program implementation, the Napa CCSC graduates' recidivism rate has been measured at a low 25 percent."**

Napa CCSC participants go through a multi-phase program designed to change criminal behavior by using cognitive behavioral therapy. The program also includes life skills training such as employment-readiness, GED and college prep, anger management, and parenting. Combined, the program elements empower participants to become productive members of their communities. Additionally, as part of Napa County's innovative approach to reentry

programming, the county opened an in-custody jail program that delivers cognitive behavioral treatment programs to address criminal thinking and prepare offenders for release. In 2009, the Napa Department of Corrections also began a unique Jail Education Employment Program that prepares inmates for gainful employment upon release.

It comes as no surprise that the American Probation and Parole Association has awarded Napa County the 2014 APPA President's Award for its integrated approach to probation and inmate supervision, treatment, and training, which has helped reduce recidivism and jail crowding.

The President's Award was created by the APPA in 1994 and recognizes exemplary community corrections programs throughout the country, that serve to advance the knowledge, effectiveness and integrity of the community corrections system.

"The BI Staff at the Napa CCSC never cease to amaze me," said Program Manager Amanda Owens. "The entire team is very



**Pictured Top to Bottom Left to Right:** BI Napa CCSC Exterior. APPA President Carmen Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Napa County Probation Dept., Amanda Gibbs, Chief Probation Officer, Napa County Probation Dept., Mary Butler, and APPA Vice President Mack Jenkins.

knowledgeable about evidence-based practices and they are trained on how to identify anti-social cognition and replace it with a more pro-social way of thinking. Because of their passion for helping people change, they continue to be successful and have strong outcomes."

For this prestigious award, APPA selects programs that embody the management and innovations necessary to lead community corrections into the next decade. Since program implementation, the Napa CCSC graduates' recidivism rate has been measured at a low 25 percent, including all probation violations and misdemeanors, while more than 65 percent of participants exit the program with employment.





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