



Friday
January 28,
2011

W e e k l y V i e w s

The Henryville Correctional Facility invited Walter Smith to address the offender population. Mr. Smith, a former offender, explained his keys to success after leaving prison. Walter further communicated to the offenders how prison had transformed and saved him from life as a dope dealer and drug addict. Mr. Smith also shared his persistence to achieve the goals in life that led him to become a successful body builder, community leader, radio talk show host and be employed by a school district in Columbus, Ohio.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Captain Gloria Dye of Knox County has retired after nearly 19 years of service. The longtime custody supervisor was a member of the facility's SITCON Team, served on the Wabash Affirmative Action Committee and received numerous Letters of Commendation and Appreciation during her tenure. Superintendent James Basinger presented Captain Dye with an appreciation plaque during a reception held in her honor.



Miami Correctional Facility's Sergeant Thomas Todd was recognized recently for his quick action when coming to the aid of a choking offender. While on duty in the chow hall, Todd performed the Heimlich Maneuver and dislodge a large amount of food from an offender's throat. He then made sure the offender stayed calm and relaxed while the medical team was enroute.

A group of Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) residents celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a theatrical presentation entitled "A Celebration of Equality and Justice." Participants entertained the audience with songs, spoken word poetry, speeches, and dramatizations that highlighted Dr. King's life's work and sacrifice. (see photo above)

Ten students from Camp Summit Boot Camp attended the Victim Impact Panel (VIP) at the LaPorte County Courthouse. The students heard from victims of crimes and the negative experiences that criminal behavior has had on them. Later, the students wrote essays on what they learned from listening to the victims speak of their experiences of being crime victims, their own feelings associated with their crime, and the impact that they feel it may have had on their victims and society. The VIP is one of several components of the Balanced and Restorative Justice initiative undertaken by the Division of Youth Services, which promotes individual responsibility, respect and reparation for victims.

Dental Hygiene students from Indiana University Northwest located in Gary, Indiana came to the Indiana State Prison to assist with offenders having their teeth cleaned. The collaboration between IU Northwest and Indiana State Prison is a win-win situation as the students get patient credit towards their graduation and approximately 240 offenders get to have their teeth cleaned each semester.

The Westville Correctional Facility showed it's appreciation for the Northern Regional CISM team by hosting a luncheon in the team's honor. The CISM members were treated to a delightful 4 course meal presented by the facility's Ivy Tech Culinary Arts program.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center held a "Concessions Fair Food" sale for staff, selling items such as elephant ears, corndogs, nachos and pretzels. Over \$200 was raised for the annual Employee Appreciation Week!

Providence Jr./Sr. High School at Pendelton Juvenile Correctional Facility recognized five students for completing their GED or High School Diploma. Three students earned their GED and two students successfully completed course work to earn their High School Diploma. In addition to various members of the different departments within the facility, family members of the students were in attendance. Immediately following the ceremony, refreshments were served to the students and their families, allowing them an opportunity to visit and celebrate their student's accomplishment.

Ivy Tech Community College at the Correctional Industrial Facility had 11 GED graduates in December, 2010.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility has joined the 2011 March of Dimes Campaign for the Wabash Valley area! The facility will field a March for Babies Team and the PLUS unit will provide quilts for local babies in need as the push begins to help meet this year's regional goal of raising \$190,000.

As part of the Biggest Loser contest in Central Office, several staff members have joined together to form a "Health Food Co-op" of sorts. Each participant is assigned a day to bring in fresh fruits, vegetables, or other healthy snacks to share with the group. Everyone has enjoyed the variety of goodies and all agree it is helping them in their weight-loss efforts.

Miami Correctional Facility's American Legion Post 555 had a very successful offender food sale. The offender organization sold Hostess pies, pop and Pizza Hut pizza rolls and buffalo wings. Approximately \$3,500 of the money raised will be donated to local charities.