



Friday
May 20, 2011

Weekly Views

During Correctional Employee Appreciation Week, Parole Agent John Larson was recognized as the Gary Parole District's 2011 Parole Agent of the Year, as unanimously voted by his fellow parole agents. Mr. Larson celebrated his ten year anniversary with the Parole Division in April and has worked for over 20 years in community supervision. Congratulations Mr. Larson on a job well done.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters representatives attended Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's Staff Re-Call meeting to thank the PLUS unit for providing quilts to at risk children in need and urging staff to consider helping the over 100 youngsters in the Wabash Valley area needing a Big Brother or Sister. Superintendent Dick Brown, himself a Big Brother, said the benefits are huge; 46% are less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 52% less likely to skip school and participants have the great feeling of "giving back!"

Lisa Williams from PEN Products and Tricia Pretorius from Miami Correctional Facility presented a proposal for implementation of a Career Housing Dorm to Miami's Community Advisory Board. The Career Dorm concept is designed to bring re-entry/employment focused training into the housing unit.

At Putnamville Correctional Facility, 1,576 pizzas were sold to the offender population during a pizza sale hosted by the facility's PLUS Unit. The sale generated over \$4000 in proceeds, making it the facility's most profitable fundraiser to date. PLUS will use the money generated from the sale for charitable donations and to purchase program supplies.

The Totally Free Ministry presented a week-end long seminar for the offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison. The keynote speaker was Sheila Raye Charles, daughter of musical legendary artist Ray Charles, who shared her story of struggling with a 20 year drug addiction.

Offenders at New Castle Correctional Facility were awarded 33 Associate Degrees and 14 Bachelor Degrees from Oakland College University.

Westville Correctional Facility hosted a Purdue University graduation, honoring 85 offender graduates. The offenders shared this successful event with invited guests and enjoyed cake and punch to celebrate the occasion. The facility welcomed guest speaker, Purdue North Central Chancellor James Dworkin.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility was able to collect \$200 for the Alternatives Shelter in Madison County during National Crime Victims' Rights Week in which staff and students from PNJ participated in multiple fundraisers, such as selling ribbons. The students also participated in poster contests, bookmark contests, specialized lesson plans, and placed "victim's shoes" in the education building.

Camp Summit Boot Camp hosted a Victim Impact Panel Presentation. 25 students listened as a convicted drunk driver and his victim recalled a night that changed their lives forever. This Victim Impact Panel is a part of the Restorative Justice program running at Camp Summit and embraced in many communities at this time. This program is designed to bring the Student and their Victim together and evaluate how their negative actions not only affected themselves but others in their communities. It also empowers the victim by making them an active participant in the juvenile justice system.



A pinning ceremony was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility to recognize Correctional Officers Boyd Lunsford and Joshua Shaver who were promoted to the position of Correctional Sergeant.

The Correctional Industrial Facility passed its first year audit from IDOC Director of Field Audits Wendy Knight, her staff, and other personnel from the Department. The auditors were very complimentary of the facility.

Recent heavy flooding put a damper on Wabash Valley Correctional Facility's 2011 Trash Bash, but offender crews still managed to fill over 1000 bags of trash along U.S. 41 in Sullivan County. Wabash offenders, working with the National Guard then came to the aid of New Harmony helping to fill over 13,000 sandbags for the levee, saving the town water supply and sewer system. Crews helped fill another 18,000 sandbags in the Evansville area. (photo above)

Staff from New Castle Correctional Facility attended the Annual Dinner Meeting for the Henry County United Fund.

Pendleton Juvenile held a Kairos Torch Reunion for 60 volunteers and 20 student participants. The program is a three day weekend event of carefully coordinated talks, discussions, meditations and music led by the loving servant spirit of the volunteers.

Congratulations to Bill Goodhart on his 20 years of service to the State of Indiana. Bill has served the entirety of his tenure as a Librarian at the Correctional Industrial Facility.

Wabash Valley staffers provided the gift of life this week, donating 49 units of blood to the Indiana Blood Center.