

ISP offenders participate in Inside Out Dads Program

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"This is a great opportunity for offenders to give back to the community, focusing on children, these offenders are looking forward to being a part of their children's lives upon their release, and this is a good start in the process."

Commissioner J. David Donahue

Indiana State Prison offenders participating in the Inside Out Dads Program, recently donated \$636.50 to the Michigan City Boys and Girls Club.

The Inside Out Dads Program is a 12-week course with 36 optional sessions geared toward enhancing the well-being of the children by their fathers being an integral part of their children's lives. The program was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance.

Participants were required to participate in a project to raise money and donate it to an organization that would benefit children. The offenders raised the money by having a food sale inside the prison.

"This is a great opportunity for offenders to give back to the community, focusing on children," said J. David Donahue, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction. "These offenders are looking forward to being a part of their children's lives upon their release, and this is a good start in the process."

Al Whitlow, executive director of Michigan City Boys and Girls Club, stated the money will be used to buy a digital dance program, which is designed to make exercising fun and will improve the children's physical fitness.

"Many of the programs being presented to the offenders have a foundation of educational, vocational, and everyday life skills to assist the offenders in developing the knowledge necessary to adapt to their home-town environment. We want them to be successful in their transition back into the community," said Superintendent Ed Buss.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.