

# GEO<sup>®</sup> World

4TH QUARTER 2016

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



## THE GEO CONTINUUM OF CARE CONFERENCE

*At a recent series of the inaugural "GEO Continuum of Care" conferences held in July 2016, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Founder George C. Zoley announced "a call to action" to reinforce GEO as the world leader in offender rehabilitation through the "GEO Continuum of Care." **Read More on Page 2***



# Chairman's Letter

George C. Zoley, Chairman, CEO and Founder

**These industry-leading efforts underscore our continued belief that as a company, we are most effective and at our best when those we care for re-enter society as productive and employable citizens.**

## To the GEO Family,

Over the course of this year, our company has taken significant steps to strengthen our position as the world's leading provider of evidence-based rehabilitation to offenders both in-custody and post-release.

What started as an innovative concept a few years back is now being implemented at more than a dozen GEO facilities around the country. Our 'GEO Continuum of Care' provides enhanced in-prison offender rehabilitation programs including evidence-based treatment, integrated with post-release support services.

The goal of our in-custody programming is to facilitate a successful transition for our offenders to daily life in their communities. Our evidence-based treatment begins with individualized risks and needs assessments and offers several unique and enhanced programs:

- Enhanced academic programming with the use of Smart-Board technology for interactive learning in every classroom

- Enhanced vocational training through nationally certified programs focused on future job and career opportunities
- Industry-leading Cognitive Behavioral and Substance Abuse treatment based on nationally recognized curricula
- Faith and character based services with an emphasis on mentoring and modified therapeutic community settings

Our 'GEO Continuum of Care' integrates these enhanced in-custody programs with post-release support services, which entail active case managers and 24-hour support to assist offenders with the most crucial needs upon their release back into the community, including housing, employment, and transportation assistance.

To emphasize the importance of this initiative, our company held inaugural 'GEO Continuum of

Care' conferences in July of this year with all of our facilities around the country in attendance. These inaugural conferences highlight our commitment to develop industry-leading programs aimed at reducing recidivism and helping offenders reenter society.

Every day, more than 30,000 men and women in our facilities participate in evidence-based, in-prison rehabilitation ranging from academic and vocational classes to life skills and treatment programs. Additionally, through our network of community reentry facilities in the United States, approximately 7,000 individuals on a daily basis participate in programs aimed at helping their reintegration into the community.

These industry-leading efforts underscore our continued belief that as a company, we are most effective and at our best when those we care for re-enter society as productive and employable citizens.

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## Continuum of Care Conference



# THE GEO CONTINUUM OF CARE CONFERENCE

WRITTEN BY THE CONTINUUM OF CARE TEAM, CORPORATE

**PICTURED FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Michele Iannucci, Beth Ellefson, David Burch, Dr. Ann Schlarb, Dr. George C. Zoley, David Donahue, Derrick Schofield, Brian Evans, and Jennifer Houston. **BACK ROW:** Dr. Ralph Fretz, Steve Farugie, Angela Geisinger, Rick Glau, Dr. Mathew Abraham, and Blake Davis.

### **The GEO CoC is defined as:**

**The GEO Continuum of Care (CoC) is enhanced in-prison offender rehabilitation programs including evidence-based treatment, integrated with post-release support services.**

At a recent series of the inaugural "GEO Continuum of Care" conferences held on July 13-14 and July 20-21, 2016, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Founder George C. Zoley announced "a call to action" to reinforce GEO as the world leader in offender rehabilitation through the "GEO Continuum of Care" (CoC). The conference provided a picture-perfect setting for Chairman George C. Zoley and the executive leadership team to unveil a new chapter by defining the CoC, and how the leadership and the concepts of the CoC are applied at the facility level.

Dr. Ann Schlarb, President of GEO Care, hosted the conference and set the tone by presenting the conference objectives and key personnel in the CoC programs. GEO Corrections and Detention President, David Donahue, welcomed participants and emphasized a sense of urgency to the CoC initiative. Regional Vice Presidents Blake Davis, Reed Smith, and James Black presented their commitment and support for the initiative.



CoC Executive Vice President Derrick Schofield, a new and valuable addition to the CoC staff, introduced himself to the attendees. Mr. Schofield described his professional background and emphasized his commitment to the CoC. Mr. Schofield described his role in leading CoC, as well as, emphasized the importance of validating CoC implementation by adhering to evidence-based principles through objective measures and ongoing feedback.

Handling the daily operations of the CoC team is Divisional Vice President David Burch. During his presentation, David Burch stated, "Facility Administrators must provide leadership for CoC programming. I am certain that you will continue to reach new heights of excellence, due to all the hard work each of you put in every single day." David Burch introduced his team of subject matter experts that included Dr. Mathew Abraham, Director of Training, Steve Farugie, Director of Post-Release Services, Angela Geisinger, Director of Programs, Beth Ellefson, Manager of Training, Rick Glau, Manager of Faith & Character

Based Services, and Michele Iannucci, Manager of Substance Abuse Programs.

With more than 90% of offenders eventually returning to the community, it is important that we provide them with an opportunity to change their behavior. CoC addresses that need in a comprehensive evidence-based manner. The core focus is ensuring we provide a comprehensive approach to addressing each offender's needs. The Continuum of Care team develops theories which grow into strategies that are based upon research using policy analyst, area specialist, and empirical evidence. From assessment and programming, to post-release services, the focus is on services for the offender. All CoC facility staff are trained in motivational interviewing, thereby taking advantage of every encounter with the offender to reinforce positive thinking.

In describing what constitutes a CoC facility, there are twelve specific items that start with "Additional." From

additional Case Managers, treatment programs, training and training space, to post-release services, each characteristic is implemented with an emphasis on enhancing the offenders' chances for success.

A major focus being driven by the CoC team is on academic success. We are committed to being the industry leader in academic excellence and are focused on maximizing educational opportunities through a variety of technology based services. We understand that we truly do provide a world of opportunity. At the dinner reception, Dr. Edward Latessa, a leading expert in offender rehabilitation, presented the state-of-the-art principles that underlie effective offender rehabilitation.

The GEO Continuum of Care training conference provided a foundation to launch our "call to action," and empowered facility staff with the support needed to continue leading the world in offender rehabilitation.

# ACA ACCREDITED GEO FACILITIES

Accreditation is an important validation that GEO's correctional facilities comply with standards through a series of reviews, evaluations, and audits. The American Correctional Association (ACA) established a national accreditation process to improve professionalism in the field of corrections. At the ACA conference held in August 2016, in Boston, MA, six GEO Group facilities received recognition for being either first time ACA accredited or reaccredited. Congratulations to the following facilities!

*Photos courtesy of the American Correctional Association.*



**99.7%**  
McFarland FCRF



**98.3%**  
Central Valley MCCF



**100%**  
El Monte Center



**100%**  
Marvin Gardens Center



**100%**  
Oakland Center



**100%**  
Riverbend Correctional Facility

## GEO Donates 120 Backpacks to Children In Need

The GEO Group helped children in need succeed this school year! The Operations department at corporate donated 120 backpacks to the Florence Fuller Child Development Center in Boca Raton, FL. Barbara Merlucci, Administrative Assistant for Operations, drove to the center to drop off the backpacks.

Barbara took a picture with a few of the cute and thankful children.





## Semi-Annual Graduation Celebration Held at Moore Haven

Written By **Natoshi Jones, Moore Haven Correctional Facility**

On June 24, 2016, The GEO Group's Moore Haven Correctional Facility (MHCF) held their first semi-annual graduation ceremony in the Visitation Park. Twice a year, there is a celebration for all the students who have earned their GEDs through the MHCF academics department. In addition, we also recognize those students who have completed vocational classes.

For this graduation, MHCF had a group of nine students who earned their GED, nine graduates who completed the Commercial Driver's Licensing class, and seventeen graduates from our barbering program.

Our education department does its best to prepare inmates to reenter society through engaging instruction and rehabilitation.

The barbering program, taught by Ms. Turner, is rigorous and thorough. It consists of a 1,200-hour course and is the only barbering program in the State of Florida's Department of Corrections that provides the opportunity for its participants to acquire state licensing.

The Commercial Driver's Licensing (CDL) program, taught by Mr. Ealey, equips its students with the prerequisite

information needed to obtain their Commercial Driver's License. The option is also available for them to garner their Fork Lift Operators Certification. Furthermore, Moore Haven's CDL program has simulators which help to cultivate the skills necessary for employment.

The leadership provided by our Program Manager, Mr. Eric Martin, has helped nine students at Moore Haven achieve their GED. His team of academic Instructors, including Mrs. Baysah, Mr. Turgeon, and Mr. Justice, diligently provide their students with the necessary

knowledge and understanding to further their education.

Usually, we invite an outside speaker to encourage the men along their journeys in higher learning, but this year we did things a little differently. Recently we gained a new Warden, Mr. Gary English, originally from GEO's Blackwater Correctional Facility, and we thought it was only right to have him as our keynote speaker. Therefore, the inmates could hear the Warden talk about the importance of education and thus be motivated along their path of higher learning.

High school graduation is upon us again and it's time to award our hardworking graduates! Arizona State Prison – Florence West and Central Arizona Correctional Facility awarded \$21,000 in scholarships to the Florence Unified School District through The GEO Group Foundation.

Recipients received a scholarship certificate along with a letter of congratulations for all their hard work and outstanding academic performance.

To show our support to the scholarship recipients, Warden Mauldin, Warden Rollins, and their Administrative Assistant Jennifer Glispie attended the Florence High School Award and Scholarship Ceremony on May 17, 2016.

## The GEO Group Foundation Awards \$21,000 in Scholarships to Students in Arizona

Written By Cami Tryon & Jennifer Glispie, Arizona State Prison-Florence West



## Graduate Sends Thank You to GEO!

Written By Marilyn Dodge, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility

In July 2016, Warden Horton received a graduation invitation from Ms. Audrey Tenorio, who is graduating from New Mexico State University (NMSU). What makes this invitation so special? Back in 2012, when Ms. Tenorio graduated from Santa Rosa High School, she received a \$1,000 scholarship from The GEO Foundation/Guadalupe County Correctional Facility. Along with the invitation, she wrote a thank you card in appreciation of the scholarship she received her Senior year. She is graduating NMSU with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry.

Ms. Tenorio was able to purchase books for two semesters with her scholarship money. After graduating NMSU, Ms. Tenorio plans to further her education and get a Master's Degree in Bio Technology. This degree will take her one year to complete, and then she will go into the field of Genetic Research. Ms. Tenorio wanted GEO to know how grateful she is for the scholarship and expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the help GEO provided to her educational pursuit.

## GTI OPERATIONS

# East Hidalgo Detention Center

Written By **Julian Olivarez,**  
East Hidalgo Detention Center



Driver Trainers Hector Tarango & Jennifer Gonzalez

The East Hidalgo Detention Center (EHDC) located in La Villa, Texas, is a combined minimum to maximum security facility with a 1,300 bed capacity. The current EHDC contract, with the nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service, entails housing, medical care and transportation for federal detainees. EHDC also provides transportation services for Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) by ensuring the safe and humane care of ICE detainees.

GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) operations at EHDC are managed by Julian Olivarez. His elite transport team consists of eight Transportation Officers and one Sergeant. Serving with great pride, EHDC Transportation Officers possess a wealth of knowledge and experience. On a daily basis, GTI Officers ensure that detainees housed at EHDC are safely transported to their court ordered appearances at the federal building. GTI assists the U.S. Marshals Service with daily operations at the cellblock to provide safe, secure care of federal inmates in their custody. In addition to the daily off site mission to the federal court house, GTI Officers are responsible for transfers, scheduled medical appointments, emergency hospital transports, and facility operations.

The two driver trainers at EHDC, Hector Tarango and Jennifer Gonzalez, provide safe driving and Department of Transportation regulations training to all transport staff to ensure all GTI staff performs at the highest level. Their work ethic and attention to detail are admirable and serve as the standard for upcoming driver trainers within our facility. EHDC's fleet consists of ten vehicles which include buses and vans. On average, GTI Transport Officers at EHDC safely drive an average of 13,500 miles a month while transporting 1,500 detainees. EHDC maintains an impressive safety record with no USDOT reportable accidents. The GTI Officers at EHDC continually strive to fulfill the GTI Mission Statement, "To provide safe and secure transportation of detainees and inmates with quality service second to none."

**Pictured From Left to Right:** Santos Talavera, Juan Munoz, Jose Garza, Ricardo Olivarez, Hector Tarango, Julian Olivarez, Pedro Trevino, Josephine Rodriguez, Jennifer Gonzalez, and Jose Martinez.



## Allen's Relay for Life

Written By **Kayla Courville,**  
Allen Correctional Center

Allen Correctional Center held its 9th annual offender Relay for Life on April 22, 2016. Offenders enjoyed a free-throw contest, sumo wrestling, and karaoke. All Offender clubs such as Jaycees, Benevolent Brothers of Allen, Sports Education Association, and Veterans sold various food items which staff were also able to purchase.

The Veterans performed an energetic march during opening ceremonies. Overall, this was another successful event which raised \$8,178 for the American Cancer Society.

**Pictured:** Offenders conducting opening ceremony.

# Heart Disease: Controlling The Silent Killer

Written By **Susan Napolitano,**  
**Corporate Human Resources**

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While high blood pressure or hypertension does not always reveal itself with identifiable symptoms, adherence to therapy is extremely important to prevent a heart attack or stroke. High blood pressure puts excessive strain on the cardiovascular system, causing damage to the heart and blood vessels. Without regular treatment, patients are at increased risk for heart attack or stroke. Most people assume they only need to take their medication when they are sick, meaning when they experience symptoms. In the case of hypertension, this type of thinking could kill you. Patients with hypertension often have no symptoms—which is why it is often called the silent killer. The belief that symptoms such as headaches, nose bleeds, nervousness, sweating, difficulty sleeping or facial flushing are signals to take blood pressure medication is a **myth**.

**Roughly 1,600 GEO employees and family members take medication to control their blood pressure.** Are you a risk taker or are you safely under a doctor's care and compliant with your medications?

**Higher Risk For Heart Attack And Stroke**—Many individuals delay filling their blood pressure medications, thinking they only need to take it when they're stressed or have a headache. The problem is that patients with hypertension may feel perfectly fine before suffering a heart attack or stroke. **DON'T JEOPARDIZE YOUR HEALTH. STAY COMPLIANT WITH YOUR MEDICATIONS**, even if you have no symptoms. Also, keep track of your blood pressure readings, which can help prevent unnecessary hospitalizations or emergency room visits.

**Be An Engaged Patient**—Normal blood pressure is less than 120/80, but consistent levels above 140/90 require immediate medical attention. By keeping your blood pressure under control, you decrease the risk of heart attack by 25%, stroke by 33% and heart failure by 50%. For individuals with white-coat hypertension, those whose blood pressure rises from the stress of being in a doctor's office, a home blood pressure monitor is a good option.

Some useful tips for monitoring your blood pressure at home include taking blood pressure readings in a seated position with your arm at heart level, to regulate the monitor, discard the first reading and keep a record of your blood pressure levels to bring to your doctor appointment.

**Lifestyle Changes Can Help**—In addition to staying adherent to blood pressure medication, regardless of symptoms, the following lifestyle modifications can also improve cardiovascular health: Consume a heart-healthy diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables, and low in salt, fat and cholesterol, engage in regular aerobic physical activity, and manage your weight, limit alcohol consumption and do not smoke.

**Value Of Professional Support**—Even with lifestyle modifications, most patients need at least two medications to reach their blood pressure goal. Intervention and education from doctors and pharmacists will provide you with important resources to improve your medication adherence. Do your part to bring a little more noise to this silent killer.



## God Behind Bars

Written By **Chaplain Askew & Amy Gillus,** Rivers Correctional Institution

Since 2009, God Behind Bars has partnered with churches around the country to transform the lives of inmates and their families. God Behind Bars focuses on the physical, spiritual and relational needs of inmates and their families. They also provide a way for family members of inmates to watch the same worship service at the same time to attend church together.

On August 13, 2016, Rivers Correctional Institution employees, including Chaplain Roosevelt Askew, Assistant Warden Wallace Branch, Assistant Warden of Programs/Continuum of Care, Training Director Kenneth Burgess, and God Behind Bars Coordinator RaeAnne Hance, assisted in completing Gods Behind Bars training at Community Church, Chesapeake, VA. Chaplain Askew trained sixty-four volunteers. "A wonderful reception from the pastor and congregation," said Chaplain Askew.

**Pictured Top: Left to Right:** *Kenneth Burgess, Rae Anne, Wallace Branch and Chaplain Askew.*



RESEARCH CORNER

# Tracking Success

Written By **Jason Boggs and Kasia Kijanczuk**, Continuum of Care Research Department, Corporate

The many individuals who are referred to our GEO Reentry programs come from all kinds of different circumstances; they are either released from prison on probation, parole, end of sentence, technical violations or they are referred to our programs in an effort to avoid having to serve time in prison. No matter the reason, our reentry service centers offer an assortment of programs and services designed to assist in addressing criminogenic needs, substance abuse, provide cognitive restructuring, guidance in obtaining employment and education among other services.

Research has shown that delivering an effective intervention takes time and the amount of time that it takes depends on the individual's specific needs (*Bourgon & Armstrong, 2005; Sperber, Latessa & Mararios, 2013*).

Some of the suggested key indicators that can help track reentry programming are:

While providing programming and services to individuals with different needs, it is important to keep track of the elements that make up our reentry programs in order to measure our impact on recidivism.

Some of the questions that we should be asking ourselves are: Which elements of our programming contribute to an individual's successful completion of the program? What aspect(s) of the reentry program have the most impact on effective intervention? Recent data gathered from GEO reentry service centers in Illinois was used to analyze our programs' ability to impact recidivism.

**The analysis led to the following conclusions:**

- Those individuals who completed all program requirements and graduated from our centers were 2.5

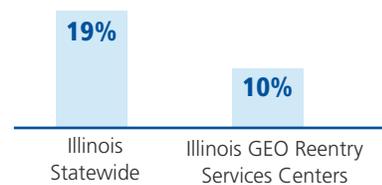
times less likely to recidivate within a year compared to those who were unsuccessful in completing the program (e.g., absconded, violated their parole, and/or recidivated).

- Those individuals who participated in the program, but did not graduate due to being transferred out of the community or those whose probation terminated prior to graduation were 1.6 times less likely to recidivate compared to those who were unsuccessful.

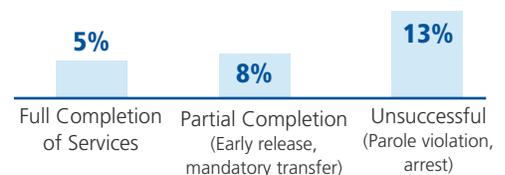
Based on the analysis of the Illinois reentry service centers thus far, there is a tangible benefit for individuals who graduate from GEO's reentry service centers in reducing their criminal behavior. Keeping track of the many elements that make up our programming and interventions is essential for our ability to measure success and deliver results.

Key Indicators	Indicator Checklist
Attendance	Has the individual missed any scheduled check-ins?
Criminogenic Needs	Is the programming addressing individual's criminogenic needs?
Drug Testing	Have the positive tests decreased over time?
Program Hours Completed	Is the individual progressing through the program?
Stable Living	Are the living conditions conducive to reducing criminal behavior?
Length of Stay	Has the individual completed all programming before discharge?
Education/Employment	Is the individual working towards employment and education?

**1-Year Recidivism Rate**



**1-Year Recidivism by GEO RSC Departure Status**





## Health Services Administrators Conference

Written By **Angela Prestia PhD RN NE-BC, Corporate Health Services**

The summer months were busy for the GEO Health Services Division. Leadership training was held for over forty Health Service Administrators (HSA), Managers and Directors. With the full support of Dr. George Zoley, Chairman and CEO of The GEO Group, Inc. and Mr. David Donahue, President of GEO Corrections & Detention, the HSA group came together on two separate weeks to participate in three days of educational offerings.

Dr. Ernesto Alvarez, Executive Vice President, Health Services and Dr. Juan Castillo, Vice President, formalized the framework for timely and pertinent sessions related to teamwork, execution of strategic priorities, clinical updates, accreditation standards and successful management of customer contracts. Presenters included our colleagues from the departments of Human Resources, Legal, Compliance and Operations; along with subject matter experts from within the department representing medicine, nursing, mental health, finance, credentialing and managed care networks. Both groups were treated to a one-on-one conversation with Dr. George Zoley. He placed a strong emphasis on the importance of the HSA's role in assuring quality patient outcomes at all of our facilities. A special presentation by Mr. David Donahue focused on operational excellence, its definition and strategies to achieve this goal.

Despite the conferences being complete, the learning continues. Each participant received two books during the conference. Both books can be referenced by HSA participants to remind them of key concepts for successful leadership. Additionally, quarterly "All-Call" meetings will be scheduled on an on-going basis to continue the learning process with Health Services staff.

## GEO Supports Forgotten Soldiers

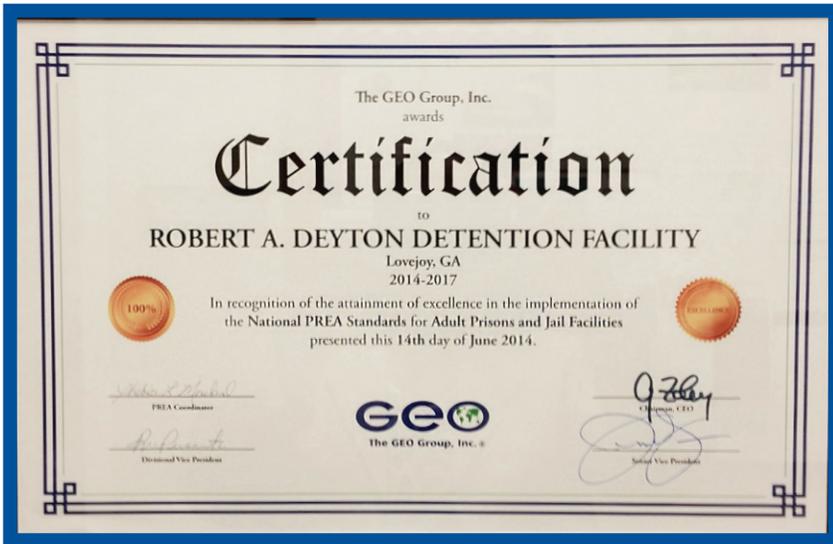
Written By **Barbara Merlucci, Corporate**

The GEO Group proudly supported the Forgotten Soldiers at the 2016 Leadership Conference with fun and challenging games. The GEO employees were first placed into teams. There were about 10 different teams, each with a unique name. The objective was to finish all fifteen challenges, so their team could earn the items needed for our Forgotten Soldiers.

We were honored to have the ROTC from a local high school present the National Anthem and flag bearing.

GEO was able to donate thirty care packages containing travel sized health and beauty products, microwavable meals, snacks and a note from each team member. Everyone who participated had a blast and was happy to support a worthy cause.





# PREA Milestone



Written By  
**Phebia Moreland,**  
**Contract Compliance,**  
**Corporate**

August 19, 2016, marked an important milestone for the Prison Rape Elimination Act and GEO's PREA Program. The Department of Justice (DOJ) National Standards to prevent, detect and respond to incidents of sexual abuse and sexual harassment of individuals in confinement was released August 20, 2012 and agencies were given one year from that date to implement these standards in all facilities under the agency's control.

**As of August 19, 2016, 62 of the 70 GEO facilities that fall under the DOJ PREA Standards have been audited and 58 of those facilities are 100% PREA Compliant.**

The first three-year audit cycle began August 20, 2013 and ended August 19, 2016; and agencies are required to ensure that each facility under its control is audited at least once during each three-year period. Furthermore, during each one-year period, 1/3 of each facility type (prison, jail, overnight and

community confinement facility) must be audited.

GEO operates all four types of facilities, specifically; 40 prisons/jails, 20 reentry community confinement, 7 youth and 3 overnight facilities. GEO completed its first PREA Certification Audit in April 2014 at our Guadalupe County Correctional Facility.

As of August 19, 2016, 62 of the 70 GEO facilities that fall under the DOJ PREA Standards have been audited and 58 of those facilities are 100% PREA Compliant, 2 are under appeal and 2 are completing corrective actions (*for a complete list visit [geogroup.com/PREA\\_Certification\\_Information](http://geogroup.com/PREA_Certification_Information)*).

### **Some noteworthy things to know about our GEO PREA Certified Facilities:**

- Alhambra, Baldwin Park and Montebello are 3 of the ten certified overnight facilities in the country.
- Cordova Center is the first certified PREA facility in the state of Alaska.

- All of the BOP Contracted Reentry Facilities are 100% PREA Compliant.
- Central Valley, Desert View, Golden State and McFarland CDCR facilities are the first certified facilities under the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The final 8 of the 70 facilities required to comply with the DOJ PREA Standards will be audited for certification in 2017. Our 10 ICE Facilities must comply with the Department of Homeland Security National PREA Standards as ICE developed their own set of PREA guidelines. DHS/ICE has not begun their certification process at this time; however, these facilities are working aggressively to prepare for these upcoming audits.

It has been a great three years for The GEO Group and I would like to personally thank Dr. Zoley and everyone at the corporate and regional levels for your continued support and assistance with this program. Thank you Regional PREA Coordinators, Facility Administrators and PREA

Compliance Managers in U.S. Corrections & Detention, Reentry and Youth Services for your dedication and commitment to the success of your individual facility PREA Program and our PREA program as a whole.

A special thank you to Executive Vice President, Contract Compliance, Patricia Persante and the entire Contract Compliance team for your assistance with ongoing oversight of this program.

A special thank you to the "boots on the ground" team who assists me with PREA Technical Assist, Mock and Certification Audits: Divisional PREA Coordinator – Youth Services Dr. Danny Cole, Divisional PREA Coordinator Reentry Services Director Jonathon Dressler, Corporate PREA Manager/Investigator Robert Walling, and PREA Data Specialist Ellen Leiner.

I am looking forward to the second 3-year audit cycle to set new records and continue to demonstrate our commitment to operational excellence.

# 5th Annual Quality Conference 2016

Written By **Patricia Persante, Contract Compliance, Corporate**



The 5th annual Quality Conference was held on June 21-24, 2016, at Corporate Headquarters and the Embassy Suites, Boca Raton, Florida, to discuss, encourage, train, and brainstorm on divisional, customer and compliance issues. Compliance Administrators (CA) from 45 U.S. Corrections/Detention facilities, Quality and Compliance Specialists from 6 Youth Services facilities, Facility Directors or their designees who conduct compliance at the 20 Residential Reentry Centers, and the Corporate Contract Compliance staff

gathered from across the country for a week of workshops, breakouts and presentations designed to advance compliance practices and understanding for GEO. For one afternoon, the nationally located Contract Compliance Department came together from Los Angeles, San Antonio, Denver, Charlotte, Indiana, Pittsburgh and Illinois for a once a year meeting of our group.

This year, we hosted several breakout sessions, not only for work sessions on a diversity of topics, but also sessions

for specialized training: ACA Automation Training for 6 hours with 9 Residential Reentry Facility Directors who will be using the automated system for ACA compliance on their next accreditation audits—presented by Accreditation Director Michael Bradley and Riverbend Compliance Administrator Catherine Price; New Compliance Administrator Training for 12 Corrections Compliance Administrators who have been in their positions for under one year—conducted by Vice President Janet Hardwick and Compliance Directors and Managers; a tour of Moore

Haven Correctional Facility by several Youth Services representatives; and compliance training for Correctional Health Care Managers and Reentry/BI/ISAP Managers.

All in all, the conference provided great networking and training opportunities and attendees expressed appreciation for the relevance and interrelatedness of the topics. Thank you all—organizers, presenters, Facility Administrators, attendees—for your support in making it possible. We look forward to seeing you next June!



**Pictured:** Chaplain Roosevelt Askew speaking in front of inmates at Rivers.

## Global Leadership Summit

Written By **Chaplain Askew & Amy Gillus, Rivers Correctional Institution**

The Global Leadership Summit held on August 11-12, 2016, was an exciting and motivational event for the staff and inmates at Rivers Correctional Institution (RCI). There were fifty inmates identified to participate in the Summit. Forty-two actually participated, along with five staff members. The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day event telecast Live from Willow's campus near Chicago every August to hundreds of locations in North America. The Global Leadership Summit has pioneering pastors and leaders from around the world who lecture about leadership, intentional skill development and experiences that help local churches thrive. Chaplain Askew served as the facilitator for the two-day Summit. The inmates were very enthusiastic about having the opportunity to experience such an event. They took notes and followed up with discussion. Several inmates expressed how appreciative they were for the Global Leadership Summit coming to RCI. When asked if they wanted more opportunities like the Global Leadership Summit, they gave a resounding yes! RCI is looking forward to next year's Global Leadership Summit.



## Prepared and Professional in the Northwest

Written By **Lt. Mike Snyder, Northwest Detention Center**

Tucked among the warehouses and factories of Tacoma's tide flats sits the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC). Our facility is a short-term Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility and is home to NWDC Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT). With the constant evolution of the corrections and detention environment, NWDC CERT has had to evolve as well.

Currently, NWDC CERT consists of 17 members, including a Commander and Assistant Commander. Team members come from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from law enforcement to personal trainers. Situated near Joint Base Lewis McChord, we benefit by having multiple members with prior military experience, including former Special Forces, military intelligence and combat medics.

A 40-hour CERT Academy was recently held, in which the team trained on riot formations, defensive tactics, less-lethal munitions, team building, and the bread-and-butter of every good CERT team: report writing. Throughout the year, these topics are covered repeatedly until they become second nature. Additionally, at least twice per year the team trains alongside the NWDC negotiation team, and also participates in the yearly disaster drill. NWDC CERT has conducted numerous operations over the years, including forced cell moves, high risk transports and the occasional disturbance. In every instance, the team has displayed their professionalism and responsibility.

Though emergencies requiring CERT intervention seldom happen, our goal is to instill confidence in NWDC staff so they know there is a group of capable professionals ready to put their training to use and come to their aid if needed. It is this selfless attitude and willingness to put themselves in harm's way for one another that makes me very proud to be the Commander of NWDC CERT.

## ASP-Kingman Supports Their Community

Written By **Shannon Hilton,  
Arizona State Prison-Kingman**

Since GEO assumed management of the Arizona State Prison-Kingman (ASP-Kingman) on December 1, 2015, the facility staff and inmates have participated in numerous community events to establish GEO as a good neighbor that cares about positive community relations. Recent examples of reaching out to the community include GEO's corporate sponsorship of the Kingman Boys and Girls Club, participation in the Arizona Special Olympics, and GEO's donation of scholarship funds to schools in Mohave County, Arizona.

On August 17, 2016, Warden Wrigley presented a check for \$10,000 on behalf of The GEO Foundation to the Kingman Boys and Girls Club. Director Bill Ward accepted the donation and expressed his deep appreciation to GEO and ASP-Kingman.

Recently ASP-Kingman staff participated in the Kingman Law Enforcement Torch Run to raise funds for the Arizona Special Olympics. Staff also were a big hit with all participants, as they gave free snow cones and water to everyone at the event. Numerous Case Managers at ASP-Kingman organized special events at both the Cerbat and Huachuca facilities so inmates could also donate funds to the Special Olympics. Inmates at Cerbat raised \$9,800 and Huachuca inmates crushed their friendly competition by raising \$12,500! Combined into one donation, Kingman inmates raised \$22,300 for the Special Olympics!

In late Spring, GEO donated a total of \$34,000 to the five high schools in Mohave County and the Mohave County Community College. ASP-Kingman's Executive staff attended the scholarship award program ceremonies at each school. Staff and inmates continue to expand their efforts to be a good neighbor in the community!



## Honoring a Fallen Officer

Written By **Betty Beckham, LaSalle Detention Facility**

In April 2016, during the monthly selection process of nominating those employees who are being recognized for Employee, Officer, and GTI Employee of the month, the executive staff of LaSalle Detention Facility (LDF) decided to present the Officer of the month award to the late Willie Hall, who fell ill and passed away on April 17, 2016. After an overwhelming amount of nominations, especially by his shift, the facility only felt it was right to present his family with this award. The shock of his absence from the facility and his shift affected us tremendously and we are all still healing. His support to his fellow Officers, his infectious personality and contagious smile will never be forgotten. To the day of his passing, he was a dedicated member of the GEO family and had been since 2008. Comments entered by his staff on the selection process were very special.

On April 25th, the LDF staff and Officer Hall's family held a balloon release on the grounds of the facility in his honor. A wreath was placed on the parking spot signifying his name as Officer of the month and the family was presented with the award certificate signed by Warden Cole, a beautiful framed shadow box including his Officer shirt and insignia, specially made by Mr. Jeff Free, LDF's Transportation Manager. LDF also presented the family with the monthly monetary acknowledgement award.

**Pictured from Left to Right:** Mrs. Christy Hall – Widow of Willie Hall, Mrs. Bertha Hall – Mother of Willie Hall and Warden D.C. Cole.



## ALC's Correctional Worker / Nurses' Week

Written By **Kayla Courville, Allen Correctional Center**

Allen Correctional Center began its Correctional Worker / Nurses' week on Monday, May 2, 2016, and ended with an off site crawfish boil on Saturday, May 7th. Door prizes, gift cards, and day off gift certificates were raffled to all shifts. A staff baby picture "guess who" game was fun for all who participated. All staff were able to enjoy a hot breakfast, BBQ burgers and sausage link for lunch as well as chips, ice cream, popcorn, candy, and cotton candy. The executive staff members served all food items and staff were very appreciative.

## 1st Place in Prison Art Contest

Written By **Marilyn Dodge, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility**

On April 15, 2016, Chaplain Bridges received a congratulatory letter from Ms. Ann Edenfield Sweet, the Executive Director and Founder of Wings for LIFE International, notifying inmate Frank Morrell that he had won 1st place in their Prison Art Contest, and won \$100 for his weaved rug, titled Peace of Mind. Ms. Bridges called Mr. Morrell and Guadalupe County Correctional Facility's (GCCF) Weaving Instructor Mr. Sylviano "Silver" Chavez to the Chapel and surprised him with his 1st place winnings; needless to say Mr. Morrell was overwhelmed with appreciation. Mr. Morrell started making beaded jewelry in 2007, and started weaving a year and a half ago. Mr. Morrell attributes his artistic side to his father who is Native American. His father painted cathedral ceilings of many Churches in Germany. GCCF's weaving Instructor, Mr. Chavez has been a weaver for over 50 years, and started teaching the weaving class here at GCCF in 2011.



## GTI OPERATIONS

# Brooks County Detention Center

Written By **Javier Aleman**,  
Brooks County Detention Center



The Brooks County Detention Center (BCDC) is located in Falfurrias, TX. BCDC is a combined minimum, medium and maximum security facility with a 652-bed capacity. Brooks County Detention Center contracts with the United States Marshals Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Border Patrol and Hidalgo County.

Detainees are transported to and from BCDC via ground transport from various locations inside the BCDC's area of responsibility which runs from the U.S./Mexico Border, up north as far as Houston, TX. The GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) team for BCDC consists of one Transportation Supervisor and ten Transportation Officers. These motivated and dedicated individuals are constantly on the move to meet the demands of our various clients. We are responsible for the movement of inmates from BCDC to five different Court Houses and back.

BCDC was part of the LCS acquisition in February 2015, so the GTI operations section was new to the facility. There was a large learning curve and obstacles to overcome in order to accomplish getting detainee transportation into compliance with Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations and GTI/GEO standards, rules, and policy.

The staff were provided with and welcomed the needed training provided by GEO/GTI. They gained a wealth of knowledge regarding DOT regulations and GTI policies, standards, and rules. With this knowledge, they understood what was expected of them, as GEO provides the best in class service. The staff was very pleased with being provided the training and guidance, as it had been lacking under the previous employer. Ultimately, the goal was accomplished resulting in BCDC operating a near flawless detainee transportation operation whose transportation audit scores are consistently outstanding.

Since the commencement of GTI Operations in February 2015, the transportation team has transported 18,484 detainees, and driven over 301,259 miles without a serious accident or an escape.

GTI Officers have accomplished mission after mission, along with achievements of outstanding performances in the facility, on the road, and in the surrounding communities.

**Pictured from Left to Right:** *Dioncia Lopez, Dawn Bazan, Irma Lopez, Patricia Flores, Marissa Carbajal, Jaime Benavides, Joseph Benavidez, Roberto Hinojosa, Daniel Villarreal, and Ruben Mejia.*



## Eastern Region Hosts 3rd Annual St. Jude Charity Golf Tournament

Written By **Laura Schwab**,  
Eastern Region Office

On June 2, 2016, The GEO Group's Eastern Region Office commenced the 3rd annual St. Jude Classic Golf Tournament at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Charlotte, NC. Regional Vice President, Blake Davis, along with the regional team gathered with vendors and facility staff to once again support the great charity of St. Jude! Over the past two years, the Eastern Region has donated over \$225,000. Sights were set high for the 3rd year and the goal was exceeded thanks to the generous contributions of all of the sponsors. At the end of the day, a check for \$190,000 was presented to St. Jude.

At the welcome reception, the guests had an opportunity to hear from a St. Jude Mom. She shared her story and told of how St. Jude helped her family. It really brought to light how much St. Jude does for their families by assisting with everything from housing to diapers, leaving them to only worry about their children. The Eastern Region looks forward to many more years raising money for this fantastic charity.

## 2016 GEO's Women In Leadership Award

Written By **Mike Castagnola,**  
**D. Ray James Correctional Facility**



The staff at the D. Ray James Correctional Facility (DRJCF) are proud of their Health Service's Administrator, Robyn Cross. Ms. Cross is the 2016 recipient of GEO's Women in Leadership Award.

Ms. Cross easily evokes dynamic leadership qualities. Within the last year, she successfully navigated the institution through two episodes of Chicken Pox. With her empowering medical background coupled with her decisive leadership, this event was defeated and only affected a minimal number of inmates. Through her level of energy and vitality, she became a vital asset to the commencement of the Healthy Inside program.

Robyn is able to support her staff by facilitating learning and developing creative potential. It cannot go unnoticed that there is a direct correlation between the drastic reduction of deficiencies and the exceeding rate of staff retention in the Health Services department.

For the last four years, Robyn has been a sitting board member for the Camden County chapter of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). This year, more than 25 DRJCF staff members participated in a 5K run in support of CASA. This year's event raised over \$5,600.



## Blackwater River's First Service Dog Graduation

Written By **Julie Stack, Blackwater River Correctional Facility**

On June 13, 2016, Blackwater River Correctional Facility (BRCF) in Milton, Florida held their first Graduation Ceremony for the America's VetDogs ([www.vetdogs.org](http://www.vetdogs.org)) Service Dog Prison Program.

Canine Program Director, Julie Stack, described the process of training both inside and outside of the facility. Weekend volunteer Lori Carter and guest speaker Randy Wheeler, a VetDogs recipient, brought the audience to tears as they shared their heart-touching stories.

These dogs will work as Service Dogs for Veterans with PTSD, helping our nation's heroes regain the lives they once led. Barnaby and Kenve have learned to open handicap doors, interrupt nightmares, turn on the lights and retrieve any item from the floor and/or counter.

The program began in June 2015, when BRCF received their first two puppies, Barnaby and Kenve, at ten weeks of age. Each puppy is assigned to two inmate Canine Handlers, many whom are veterans themselves, and have full responsibility of the puppy Monday through Friday. On the weekends, the puppies leave the facility to live with volunteers for socialization. At fourteen months the dogs are returned to America's VetDogs to be assigned to a Veteran with PTSD.

BRCF has ten dogs in the program that will be graduating this year, with hopes to increase the number to fifteen next year.

Thank you to every staff member at BRCF and the Milton area community for giving back to our Veterans and making this a successful program.

## Offender Recognition Achievement

Written By **Ann Buck, Allen Correctional Center**

On May 13, 2016, Allen Correctional Center (ALC) held the 1st annual Offender Recognition Achievement (ORA) Event. The event was part of a three-month long contest that allowed staff to nominate an offender based on an achievement, improvement and/or other recognition based on the concept "Promoting Positive Change." The contest was part of Warden Keith Cooley's vision to embrace the Continuum of Care initiative and encourage personal growth and development. In December 2015, Warden Cooley designated a team from the program department led by Program Manager Krystle Simon to focus on the motivation and development of offenders.

The first contest introduced allowed offenders to show recognition to a staff member for their hard work and dedication. The offenders were required to write an essay explaining why they nominated a particular staff. This contest was a huge success, providing staff a confirmed sense of appreciation for their hard work and effort. The second contest, the ORA contest, provided offenders with the same opportunity to be recognized for their achievements and/or the positive impact they provided. The ORA contest resulted in 69 nominations. The result proved that encouraging and acknowledging personal growth and development can be one of the most powerful motivators we possess as correctional leaders, teachers and supervisors. The event focused on providing a solid foundation for our recognized population, encouraging them to assist fellow offenders to embrace the Continuum of Care vision. The ORA recipients received a message of hope, certificate of recognition, meal, and a movie.



### KCRC Employee Saves Child's Life

Written By **Kourtney Standlee, Karnes County Residential Center**

The Karnes County Residential Center recognizes Resident Advisor, George Garcia for performing life saving techniques to a 2-year-old female resident child who was choking on a slice of apple in the dining hall. Mr. Garcia quickly took control and proceeded to perform life saving techniques to dislodge the apple. Garcia was successful at saving the child from choking. The child was taken to medical where medical determined the child was in good health. It was because of Mr. Garcia and his quick response that the child was unharmed. Facility Program Director, Rose Thompson awarded Mr. Garcia with a spot award and commended him for his quick response and ability to remain calm and take control in a crisis situation.

## Diversity Through Music Concert at Desert View MCCF

Written By **Thomas Gerling, Desert View MCCF**

Desert View MCCF's Inmate Activity Group, Diversity through Music, is a facility sponsored group that provides for the cultural diversity and positive use of the musical abilities of the inmate population. The group held their first summer yard concert on July 1, 2016, on Desert View's recreation yard in Adelanto, CA. The production was attended by 200 inmates who enjoyed the entertainment event. The group planned for a two and a half hour event, during which five different bands played a variety of music. Under the dazzling summer sun, the concert audience was enthusiastic of the performances by the Rock, Reggae, Spanish, Hip Hop and Jazz musical groups. Some of the songs and lyrics were written by the members of the groups.



# Restoration into Prison Population

Written By **Tim Hatch,**  
**Northeast New Mexico Detention Facility**



In 2013, the New Mexico Department of Corrections (NMCD) began a mission to lessen the use of long term segregation. New Mexico Director of Adult Prisons asked GEO's Northeast New Mexico Facility (NENMDF) staff if they would develop a program to transition former gang members into a population setting and prepare them for release into the communities. NENMDF accepted the challenge.

When the first sixteen inmates arrived, many being in long term segregation for more than sixteen years, all exhibited signs of mental health issues, medical problems and severe paranoia. First, we addressed their mental health issues. Intense counseling with mental health began both as individual treatment and in group settings. Moral reconnection therapy, anger management, and substance abuse treatment was the foundation. From there, we began a relationship with Prison Fellowship and began The Seven Secrets of Effective Fathers. We were also able to establish an official Toastmasters group to help develop their speaking skills. With more inmates requesting to become part of the program, a dedicated program area was needed. The family visitation trailers that were no longer in use were renovated into programming areas and walkways and fencing were constructed by the Restoration to Prison Population (RPP) inmates.

This opened up a new set of opportunities for many who had no High School diploma or GED. We had twenty-one enrolled immediately and a dedicated RPP instructor was hired to begin GED sessions. General population vocational classes were combined, allowing the RPP population to attend Automotive Service Excellence certification, building trades/cabinet making certification, and Wind Energy Technology classes. With a successful start-up, needs for program specific housing and steps toward reintegration into general population began, thus the Recovery Oriented Community came to fruition. Modeled after the Therapeutic Community concept, inmates volunteered to participate in a full programming pod with self-help and peer support groups, Residential Drug and Alcohol program, community meetings, Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous, relaxation/meditation, anger management, and religious education.

Reentry became a priority as inmates became close to their release date. We began a pre-release/reentry and a Cuffs to Cuff Links program. Upon their release, the program provided a suit fit to each inmate for job interviews, and an extra helping hand. NMCD could no longer house the orientation program and asked GEO to take over and develop an orientation program. The program was designed and mentored by our first group of inmates, under staff supervision.

The National Institute of Corrections, in its most recent report on the use of segregation, noted that the RPP program was a best practice nationwide in the reduction in the use of segregation. To date, we have had one hundred inmates in the program, and we continue to look for opportunities to expand. "This program has not only changed individual lives, it has impacted the culture of the Department. Officers who believed these were the very worst of criminals now see the ability of even the most hardened criminals to change for the better." said NMCD Director of Adult Prisons Jerry Roark.



## TAILS Dog Program

Written By **Craig Chalmers,**  
**D. Ray James Correctional Facility**

In May, 2016, the D. Ray James Correctional Facility began a partnership with Pit Sisters, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to ensure shelter dogs, at risk for euthanasia, can receive the training and socialization skills to be placed in forever homes. The program offered is referred to as Teaching Animals and Inmate Life Skills (TAILS).

Each TAILS dog is assigned to selected volunteer inmate trainers and once matched, inmates are fully responsible for the dog's care, which include grooming, housebreaking and obedience training. Unit Manager Anna Tate and her Unit Staff, Counselor Josh Harden and Secretary Ann Santini, supervise the program and coordinate all activities and interactions with Pit Sisters. The initial TAILS graduation was held on September 24, 2016, and we are proud and happy to report all four dogs have been adopted into forever loving homes. The success of the program is such that shelter deaths are down 95% since the TAILS program began 12 years ago.



## Leadership from a Humble Heart

Written By **Chaplain Kathy Williams, New Castle Correctional Facility**

Most Reverend Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, does not bring attention to his title, but to his gentle heart and humility. Archbishop Tobin did not see inmates during the recent celebration of Mass at the New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF); his second in eleven months. He only saw his brothers in Christ. Using fluent Spanish as well as English, he shared his experiences throughout the globe followed by these words, "In all my time in Rome and at the Vatican," says Archbishop Tobin, "I've never encountered a more humble, spiritual group of people than you men here."

At the conclusion of the Mass, members of the PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) program presented the Archbishop with a fabulous handmade quilt. The Archbishop spoke to every person who wanted to meet him and take pictures with him, which included over one hundred inmates, volunteers, and staff. Warden Keith Butts and Unit Manager Eric Lowe attended the service and reception that was provided by the Culinary Arts department. Father Joseph Rautenberg and Deacon Russ Woodard assisted during Mass and the additional sacraments. NCCF has a multicultural Catholic choir who ministered the musical selections throughout the evening. It was a special day for the Catechumens and the NCCF congregation, made even more so by the Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin.



## ASP-Phoenix West Runs For Special Olympics

Written By **Andrew Beamer, Arizona State Prison-Phoenix West**

On May 5, 2016, staff from the Arizona State Prison-Phoenix West (ASP-PW) participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. This event included law enforcement agencies from all over the state, each one having their own section to run. The GEO staff received the torch from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, then proceeded to carry the torch for their leg of the run. During ASP-PW's run, everyone participated by carrying the torch for a portion of the distance prior to handing off the torch to the Phoenix Police Department.

T-shirts were purchased by all staff involved, as well as those who could not participate in the run itself. The proceeds all went to benefit Special Olympics. Overall, GEO staff had a great time and the event was a definite success.

On June 10, 2016, the Phoenix West inmate population participated in a fund raiser for the Special Olympics and raised \$1,800. Phoenix West will be planning more events like this to bring staff and the community together while representing worthwhile causes in the future.

The staff at Alexandria Staging Facility (ASF) challenged each other to fill backpacks for back to school time to donate to the Rapides Children's Advocacy Center. This organization serves two to three hundred children in foster care each year, with over one hundred active volunteer advocates. Using the published Rapides Parish School Board's supply lists, ASF staff was able to donate forty filled backpacks for elementary school kids, totaling roughly \$1,500.

**Pictured Left to Right:**

*Records Clerk Erin Ledet, Sergeant Sangria Fitch, Executive Secretary Marlene Womble-Williams, CASA's Executive Director Wade Bond, Lieutenant Samantha Hobdy, Warden David Cole, Detention Officer (DO) Jackie Davis, DO Cedric Bias, Records Clerk Angela Deters, DO Wayne Dawson, and DO King Williams.*

## Back to School with CASA

Written By **Marlene Womble-Williams, Alexandria Staging Facility**



## NCCF Partners with Army for PaYS Program

Written By **Myra Strobel, New Castle Correctional Facility**



The New Castle Correctional Facility's (NCCF) Human Resources Department has been working tirelessly to form a relationship with PaYS, Partnership for Youth Success. The mission came to life on May 18, 2016, as a signing ceremony took place at the NCCF. The ceremony was attended by several Indianapolis Army Recruiting Battalion officials, facility staff, and the Inspector General for the IDOC, Michael Osburn. The agreement, which was signed by Deputy Commanding General Donna W. Martin and NCCF Warden Keith Butts, "will provide soldiers the opportunity to serve their country while gaining valuable skills and experience." The lofty goal will be accomplished by both agencies by matching the job needs of the employer and the job skills of the Soldier. If the Soldier chooses a career in corrections, he or she is ensured to receive an opportunity to interview and possible employment after the Army. This is a unique community outreach program designed to assist Soldiers as they transition back to civilian life, which benefits the business partner, the Army, and the community. There are currently 615 agencies participating in PaYS all over the United States. NCCF is proud to be added to this distinguished list!

## 1st Annual Vacation Bible School

Written By **Ruben Segundo**  
& **Elvira Segundo,**  
Karnes County Residential Center



For two weeks, Chaplains Ruben and Elvira Segundo along with several outside volunteers took the school age children on an adventure deep within the depth of the ocean.

God and Church attendance are a very large part of the residents' lives at Karnes County Residential Center (KCRC). School age children are unable to attend regular chapel services due to required school attendance. Knowing school summer break would take place during July, KCRC Chaplaincy planned and sought outside volunteers to help with the first ever Vacation Bible School (VBS). This program gave the opportunity to the children to attend church at their level. Chaplain Elvira Segundo selected the theme "Sumergido, Encontrando la Verda Bajo la Superficie," focusing on Psalms 139. Each day the children would engage in music, Bible stories, crafts and recreational activities.

Over eighty children ages 4–12 participated on a daily basis. Every day the program would begin with a general assembly where the children would learn and sing a new song every day along with the theme song, "Sumergido." At the end of VBS, the children received a certificate of attendance and a children's Bible. We look forward to next year and to another time of submerging into Vacation Bible School.



## D. Ray James Supports CASA by Participating in 5K Run

Written By **Mike Castagnola, D. Ray James Correctional Facility**

For the second consecutive year, more than twenty-five staff members from the D. Ray James Correctional Facility (DRJCF) participated in a 5K run in support of CASA's Camden County, Georgia chapter. This year's event raised over \$5,600 for this non-profit program. Locally, this program serves many of the children in Camden County. Robyn Cross, Health Services Administrator at DRJCF, has been a sitting board member for the Camden County chapter for the last four years and is the primary organizer for this fund raising event. Every day in the United States, 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of community-based programs that recruit, train and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities.



## WRDF Participates in Fine Art Exhibit

Written By **Pat Thomas, Western Region Detention Facility**

When the opportunity to collaborate with local artist Alexander Salazar and display detainee art at his exhibit arose, Western Region Detention Facility (WRDF) immediately accepted. The gallery did not receive any financial profit and 25% of the proceeds went to the Houston Victim's Fund in memory of Alexander's father Ramiro. Knowing exactly what it meant to him and his family, Alexander found a way to give back, while reaching out to offenders through art. 28 pieces were chosen to be displayed at the exhibit. Once the exhibit ended, WRDF held its own art exhibit, displaying the pieces at the facility so all detainees could participate. WRDF was pleased to be a part of this endeavor. A special thank you to Maintenance Supervisor Art Extraordinaire James Watts and Recreation Specialist Alexis Hernandez for coordinating this successful event.



## A Piece of Home on the Inside

Written By **Marilyn Dodge,**  
**Guadalupe County Correctional Facility**

In March 2016, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility's (GCCF) Therapeutic Community Director Ms. Anna Marie Lucero wanted a place for her Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) members to be able to go to, so she came up with an idea for a mural within the pod. After presenting the idea to Warden Horton she got the approval to proceed.

After discussing with the RDAP members, the group collectively came up with a theme of a serenity garden, which for the gentlemen in this pod, meant a little taste of home in New Mexico. Inmates Aram Montoya, David Chavez, Jose Monge and Adam Rodriguez, started working on a life size mural of an adobe home front complete with a flag stone (laja) walkway, a red chile ristra and water fountain, showing the open gate leading to "the road less traveled" which symbolizes living a sober and drug free life. The four men worked in shifts from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with Mr. Montoya being the main muralist.

Mr. Montoya's motivation is simple. He said he "wants to give back, I've been in here a long time, and before I leave I want to help those who've helped me, I want to show my respect," to his fellow inmates who are working and trying hard to better themselves and to the staff who have helped him along the way. They all agreed being able to look at this adobe home front, reminds them of better days with their parents and grandparents, reminding them of the family values and New Mexican traditions they grew up with.

Ms. Lucero and the entire Therapeutic Community Staff work tirelessly to ensure the inmates who are enrolled in RDAP have the tools they need in order to succeed. After listening to these men talk about the mural and what it means to them, it is evident that Warden Horton and the GCCF Therapeutic Community Staff have made this a successful part of their program.

## Healthy Inside Program

Written By **Craig Chalmers,**  
**D. Ray James Correctional Facility**

In June 2016, the D. Ray James Correctional Facility (DRJCF) formally implemented the Healthy Inside Program (HIP) for the inmate population. The program is voluntary, holistic and self-paced, and focuses primarily on lifestyle change, low impact exercise, nutrition and education as a means to improve one's health, self-esteem and life.

The HIP program, modeled after a similar program at a GEO facility in Junee, Australia, will provide participants with an opportunity to engage in a goal oriented recreation and educational program to improve one's overall health and reduce the risk of some preventable diseases caused by lack of exercise, poor eating habits and/or being overweight. The class meets twice per week and the inmates have to commit to exercise at least three times a week for twelve weeks.

An important component of the program engages the chronic care inmates who are at higher risk of complications. A separate exercise area has been set aside in the vocation area for inmates identified by the medical department, and they can begin an exercise program tailored to each participant's individual needs.

On June 15 and 29, 2016, an open house health fair was held to provide the inmate population health information and a first hand look of what the HIP program was about. The response was overwhelming and 1,092 inmates attended the open house. A blend of several departments including Health Services, Substance Abuse, Recreation, Culinary Arts, and Education, contribute to support the inmate population and provide them with this program.

Approximately 50% of the inmate population is involved in one or more education and/or recreation classes and activities.





## Making a Splash In Rio

Written By **Philip Goslin, Fulham Correctional Centre**

When 16-year-old Emily Beecroft dove into the water at the Olympic Aquatics Stadium in Rio de Janeiro in September, the elite multi-class swimmer did so with strong support from the Fulham Correctional Centre (Fulham) and The GEO Group Australia.

The daughter of Fulham Supervisor Garry Beecroft, Emily, secured her spot on the Australian Paralympic team earlier this year with outstanding performances at both the Australian age and open swimming championships.

Ranked in the top five in the world in the 50 metres butterfly, as well as the 50 and 100 metres

freestyle, Emily was originally working towards the 2020 Paralympics, but her brilliant times saw her make the team ahead of schedule.

One of triplets, Emily was born with a right arm limb deficiency and deaf in her left ear.

A member of the Traralgon Swimming Club, Emily's gruelling training regiment comprises nine sessions a week — seven in the pool and two gym sessions.

The Australian Paralympic swim team traveled to the United States for a 10-day camp before settling into the Games Village.

Emily's family flew direct to Rio for the opening ceremony.

"It's pretty overwhelming at the moment, I guess it hasn't sunk in yet, but I am really excited," Emily said.

Financial contributions from GEO and Fulham, as well as fundraising efforts by Fulham staff, have contributed almost \$5,000 to Emily's Paralympic campaign.

"Fulham and GEO are proud to be supporting Emily as she represents the nation at the Paralympics," said former General Manager Trevor Craig following a cheque hand over.

"Competing on the world stage is a huge financial commitment for the family — especially when you consider one race swimsuit costs \$500 and only lasts six races! I know the Fulham staff will be closely watching all of Emily's races and cheering very loudly every time she steps onto the blocks in Rio."

### **Pictured Left to Right:**

*Emily using the breaststroke swimming technique. Garry, Emily and Lauren Beecroft. Fulham Correctional Centre Operations Manager Col Caskie with Emily and Garry Beecroft.*

## Supporting Local Hospices

Written By **Kevin Williams,**  
Dungavel House Immigration  
Removal Centre



In May 2016, Dungavel House staff organised a charity event for two local hospices, Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, and St. Andrews Hospice. Earlier this year we sadly lost two employees to cancer. They are greatly missed at Dungavel House, so staff pulled together to organise an event that they would have enjoyed and raise much needed money for local charities.

Staff and detainees were able to participate in a range of activities and games, as well as purchase items baked by the staff. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Both Prince and Princess of Wales and St. Andrews Hospices offer excellent free palliative care and support to those that need it. They have a mix of specialist staff and wonderful volunteers who are trained to work with individuals and families who are coming to terms with, and living with, significant challenges to their health and well-being. The event managed to raise £396 for the hospices, with almost half of this being donated by detainees in our custody. Thank you to all for a wonderful event!

## New Beginnings Art Exhibition

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

Inmates at Junee Correctional Centre have expressed their artistic abilities and through an exhibition and auction of their artwork, raised a substantial amount of money for the local Anglicare organisation and its Ignite youth mentoring program. Ignite is a community based mentoring service that provides guidance, support and encouragement to socially disadvantaged youth and youth at risk.

"The program receives no government funding, so the money raised through the exhibition was invaluable for the program," said Anglicare Riverina's General Manager, Brad Addison. "Ignite really makes a difference for young people at risk," he said.

Five inmates worked with local artist Anthony Boerboom, who has been volunteering at Junee Correctional Centre for several years now, to create around thirty artworks. The pieces covered three categories — reflective, therapeutic and commercial.

Anthony said the art program at Junee Correctional Centre helped inmates develop new skills, confidence, and self esteem, and provided a positive pathway to further possibilities in art, education, and employment. He hopes to take more budding artists under his guidance and mentoring in the near future. The New Beginnings Art Exhibition was presented at Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory, and more than one hundred people attended the auction event. Featuring live music and wood-fired pizza, the evening was a huge success with most pieces sold, and approximately \$3,000 raised for Anglicare.



Staff at Dungavel House have been looking at ways to help their local community and have chosen to help Hillhouse. Hillhouse works to support individuals and families by supplying quality second hand children's clothing, footwear, and equipment to those in need.

Heather Bryson, Security Manager at Dungavel House, has been collecting items donated by staff, and recently visited Hillhouse with Detainee Custody Officer Allana Bruce to provide them with a large number of supplies, and see the work they do firsthand.

Hillhouse were extremely grateful and appreciative to Heather and all at Dungavel House for their donations.

The GEO Group UK continue to look for ways in which they can support the local communities and improve the lives of those within them.

## GEO Group UK Helping Local Communities

Written By **Kevin Williams, Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre**



## Junee Searches For Next Master Chef

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

In November 2013, Junee Correctional Centre launched the Offender Services Television Project (OSTV) to provide general information and health tips to inmates via an internal television channel. Keen to increase engagement and encourage inmates to watch the channel more often, Learning Resources Centre coordinator Rod Garrett developed a cooking show that has quickly attracted a devoted and growing audience. Called *Steve's Ez Eats*, the show engages inmates by encouraging them to submit recipes that are reviewed, and one is selected and presented as the recipe of the month. Hosted by inmate Steve, the show features the inmate whose recipe is chosen as a special guest. In addition to a recipe of the month, *Steve's Ez Eats* delivers food safety tips including information on food preparation, cross contamination, and the various forms of storage. It also discusses nutritional benefits and provides other health related advice. "Many have never prepared a meal for themselves before," said Rod Garrett. "However, there is food available through the kitchen that can be prepared by inmates and this cooking show helps them develop a very important life skill." The cooking show is filmed and produced at the centre with relevant internal departments ensuring the content is suitable for broadcast. The centre plans to create a cookbook for inmates from all the recipes submitted. There have been nine episodes of the cooking show filmed so far.



# Arthur Gorrie Completes The Kokoda Challenge

Written By **Alan Spiers, David Mears & Brett James,**  
**Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**

Employees at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (AGCC) have raised more than \$5,500 Australian dollars for youth programs through their participation in The Kokoda Challenge — recognized as the toughest team endurance event in Australia.

The Kokoda Challenge sees teams of four tackle a grueling 96 kilometer (60 miles) cross-country trek through Queensland's Gold Coast hinterland to raise funds for the Kokoda Youth Foundation.

It also honours Australian soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea during World War II — the distance of the event is the same as the track and the 39 hour time limit honours the troops of the 39th Battalion who were the first to fight at Kokoda.

Each team, with the help of a support crew, treks along fire trails, crosses 12 creeks and climbs summits of up to 5,000 metres. AGCC's four-man team comprised of Correctional Service Officers David Mears, Brett James, Alan Rugg and Travis Young.

Their support crew was Alan Spiers, James Radalj, Nathan Gott, Julie Mears, and Lyndall Lancaster. The support crew is responsible for attending four major checkpoints and providing food and drink, a change of clothing, medical attention if required, and as much encouragement as possible.

Under the team moniker of the 'GEO Wanderers', the quartet began training in early March for the mid-July event. They completed the tough

course in an impressive time of 29 hours 32 minutes and 28 seconds.

The Kokoda Challenge series comprises a number of events that raise funds for the Kokoda Youth Foundation. The foundation supports young Australians from all social backgrounds, delivering programs, courses, and opportunities that help them to gain confidence, direction, new friends, and the skills to overcome any obstacles that life may throw at them.

Through sausage sizzles, raffles, and donations, AGCC raised a staggering \$5,538 Australian dollars— enough to secure third position on The Kokoda Challenge fund raising table.

"I was overwhelmed by the generosity and support of AGCC's management and staff," said team leader David Mears. "The event represented a fantastic personal challenge, generated great support within AGCC, raised money for a very worthwhile cause, and helped us to remember the brave 'Diggers' of the 39th Battalion who fought on the Kokoda Track."

**Pictured Left to Right:**  
*Kokoda Team: Brett James, Alan Rugg, Travis Young and David Mears at the finish line. The Kokoda Team receiving a fund raising cheque: **Back row:** Travis Young, James Radalj, David Mears, Brett James. **Front Row:** Alan Spiers, Lyndall Lancaster, Sidd Mehta and Julie Mears.*

## GEO Care & Team Handball

Written By **Pam Bennett**,  
GEO Care Strategic Marketing



GEO Care supported and sponsored the World Championship of Handball in Hungary and had a presence at the Olympic games in Rio, thanks to Attila Agoston, a QA Automation Software Engineer at BI Incorporated (BI). Attila is Hungarian and has been in the U.S. for more than ten years and at BI for four years. He speaks several languages, which is how he started in this field.

Handball has been an Olympic sport since 1936 and is the second largest sport in the world by popularity, except in the U.S. where other national sports such as football, baseball, and basketball are more popular. Attila started playing handball as a youth before becoming an elite athlete and playing the sport professionally. When asked if he was famous back home, Attila said, "The local people know me well, and I give interviews when I go back to Hungary and Romania." In the U.S., the sport is called team handball to distinguish it from the court-type of handball played here. Everywhere else it is just called handball. The sport is similar to water polo, only without the water.

Attila is currently on the Board of Directors for USA Team Handball. He was also selected as the Coach of the Year, and recently participated in the World Championships in Hungary. Attila is grateful for the sponsorship from GEO Care as it helped the team participate in the World Championships.

Attila participated in the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro (Rio) as an organizer of the handball events. There were 24 teams (12 men's teams and 12 women's teams). Attila's days were heavily scheduled – the teams relied on him to organize the handball events and make sure everything went as planned. Attila said being part of the Rio organizers helps him with his job at BI, "As a tester I need to be good at critical thinking, business logic, and be able to see the big picture."

The Olympic Village, where the athletes live, is like a city within a city housing 200 delegations with nearly 18,000 athletes, coaches and officials. Rio built thirty one high-rise apartment buildings, mostly seventeen stories, in a great location on a bay. Rio will sell the high rises as apartments now that the games are over. The Olympic Village made a big impact on Attila. "It's like being with a big family – everyone is equal with really only ten people or so who would make you take a second look." Like Michael Phelps for example, Attila has a selfie of the two of them on the bus heading back to the Olympic Village.

Quite a few countries had "houses" for people to use as a gathering place during the Olympics. Attila spent some time at the Hungarian House where he socialized with the Hungarian Prime Minister, among others.

So, what was it like to be a part of such a momentous event? "It was an event of a lifetime for sure. The biggest experience you can imagine. The organizers did a great job." Attila definitely plans to participate in the Tokyo Olympics in four years! For more information about team handball visit: [USATEAMHandball.org](http://USATEAMHandball.org)

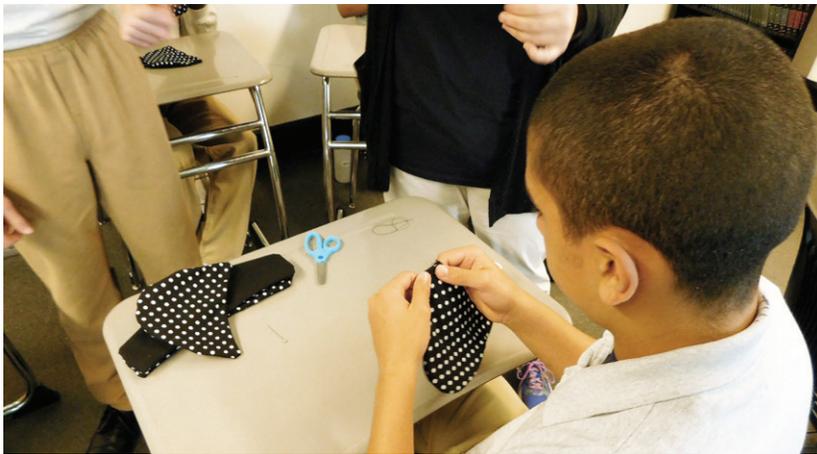


## Choose to be Extraordinary

Written By **Tara Hines**, **Abraxas Ohio**

Timmothy Kosiba, Counselor at Abraxas Ohio, knows a little something about being extraordinary. On July 28, 2016, he swam over twenty miles from Catalina Island to Rancho Palos Verde, California. This swim is one of seven most difficult ocean swims because it's a cold water night swim that has to be completed alone (as in, you cannot put your hand on a kayak to rest) armed with only a speedo, swim cap, and goggles. As of 2015, only 357 people had successfully completed this swim. Tim now joins this group of elite athletes. Tim pushed off Catalina Island at 11 p.m. and swam for 14 hours 11 minutes and 1 second to get to the mainland around 3 p.m. the next day.

Tim stayed in the water battling seasickness and vomiting for six hours while simultaneously trudging towards the California shore. "I couldn't have done it without my support team," said Tim. "I told my customers I was doing this to show them they could do anything."



## Abraxas South Mountain Supports Soles4Souls

Written By **Samantha Hepler,**  
**Abraxas Youth Center**

This summer, the Abraxas Youth Center literature classes started a unit devoted to Acts of Kindness. Each lesson provided a new opportunity to present one of the ten kindness concepts including assertiveness, caring, compassion, fairness, gratitude, integrity, helpfulness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, self-care, and self-discipline.

One classroom was specifically chosen for an opportunity to combine their literature unit with a hands-on math unit. The school purchased kits to make shoes, and students were asked to use their math knowledge of fractions and measurement to construct shoes that would be donated to those in need through an organization called Soles4Souls. Soles4Souls is an organization that collects unwanted shoes to donate to individuals around the world who do not have shoes.

Our students completed twenty-two pairs of handmade shoes! They took such pride in their workmanship and developed an understanding of the impact they could have in the world. Students began to think beyond themselves and discover a sense of gratitude for the things they have in their lives. One student said in an essay, "It made me feel proud. It is important to help the world because if you help the world, the world might help you."

As we finished up the shoe project and reached out to our Soles4Souls contact person, the students also started an employee shoe drive. They created posters and flyers that explained the cause and encouraged staff to donate unused shoes. They also collected Abraxas residents' unused shoes. With those shoes and the shoes made from our classroom, the shoe drive collected one hundred and sixty-five pairs of shoes to donate.

Two residents were given the honor of delivering the shoes to our Soles4Souls representative, Karin. She explained that all her shoes are selected to go to Haiti. Her passion has been to aid the women of Haiti so that they can support their families. Karin was impressed with our homemade shoes and will be hand delivering them to the people of Haiti.

## CCAP Awards GEO Reentry Services in Lycoming County, PA

Written By **John Hogan,**  
**Lycoming County RSC**

In September 2014, GEO Reentry Services and Lycoming County Pennsylvania (PA) opened a Reentry Services Center (RSC) to provide treatment, education, and supervision to participants in the local criminal justice system. Program participants are required to attend a multi-phase program that includes regular reporting to the center, intensive treatment, education, supervision, and ongoing testing for substance abuse.

The program is designed to hold participants accountable for their actions, while equipping them with the tools they need to change their lives and promote self-sufficiency and contribution to the community.

In February 2016, Program Manager, Michael Boughton and the Lycoming County RSC was nominated by Lycoming County for the County Commissioner Association of PA (CCAP) Best Practices in Criminal Justice Partners award due to the quality of the program administered and the successful participant outcomes. CCAP awarded Best Practices to Michael and the RSC and were recognized at an event on June 20, 2016, in State College.

Congratulations to Michael, The GEO Reentry Lycoming County team, and Lycoming County on their wonderful achievement!



# Lifer's Support Group at the Santa Ana DRC

Written By **Yadira De Santiago,**  
**Santa Ana DRC**



On June 11, 2016, the Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC) and Parole Agents hosted a one year anniversary celebration for the Lifer's Support Group. This group was initiated with the help of Case Manager Ms. Gonzalez and Program Manager Ms. De Santiago. The group has been facilitated by the Irvine Parole Unit's Agent Tong and Agent Williams on every second Saturday of the month. The group started with about fifteen Lifer's on Parole. This population was sentenced to terms of life imprisonment and they were given a second chance to reintegrate into society. This group was started to provide support, social skills, overcoming challenges, and most of all family reunification.

On June 11, 2016, the Santa Ana DRC had close to 60 people in attendance for this successful celebration. To see all the lifer's supporting each other, share their powerful reintegration stories, and see the support from their family members was really something. There were six parolees that have never missed a meeting, and the Santa Ana DRC was honored to give them a certificate and a perfect attendance medal. This group is not a part of the DRC programming, as they all come on a volunteer basis. The Santa Ana DRC congratulates them for their participation and commitment to the group and their peers.

## Behind The Walls

Written By **Melinda Hadlock, Susanville Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program**

When thinking about a positive healthy therapeutic community, one imagines society beyond the walls of prison. However, here in Susanville at the California Correctional Institution, our team focuses on what we can do behind the walls. The new contract here at the Susanville Substance Use Disorder Treatment program (Susanville) prides itself on creating a positive teaching environment that encourages participants to take part in practicing those skills that they are learning in a safe, prosocial environment, and at the same time, be held accountable in order to increase the likelihood of personal success. Susanville is unique in its own right, because it has a peer mentoring program where participants can apply for a job position as a uncertified Peer Mentor after successfully completing the program.

In addition, we also have a certified Peer Mentor position that is currently filled by a participant who has four left on his prison sentence term. This has not stopped Mr. Harris who has worked very hard in school and is one of thirty-five inmates in California to complete and earn his Certified Addiction Treatment Counselor Intern certificate. Mr. Harris serves as a positive role model by helping co-facilitate the group process and assists with developing a safe and healthy environment. Another attribute Susanville prides itself on when supporting a Therapeutic Community, is through housing Susanville program participants in the same dorms on the prison yard. This creates a safe atmosphere and participants are encouraged to try new cognitive behavioral therapy techniques through graduated practice, hold each other accountable, and assist with each other's personal growth.



## Love For Our Father's Event

Written By **Emanuel Barr,**  
**Chicago West Fulton DRC**

On June 11, 2016, GEO Reentry Services in Chicago, cosponsored a trip for families to visit their loved ones and fathers at the Sheridan Correctional Facility with Congressman Danny K. Davis.

This is the 3rd annual Father's Day initiative led by the Congressman. Over seventy-five family, friends, children, and volunteers participated in the trip or post-trip festivities. GEO Care Outreach Manager, Emanuel Barr, coordinated the logistics and transportation. "GEO Care is honored to be able to support this initiative. When the men meet with the Congressman after they see their children, many express gratitude and a desire to change. That is the business that we are in. Changing lives and families to create safer communities through our work in reentry."

## Santa Ana Donates to St. Juliana Falconieri-Get On The Bus

Written By **Yadira DeSantiago, Santa Ana DRC**

On June 8, 2016, The GEO Reentry Santa Ana Day Reporting Center (DRC) donated \$1,000 to St. Juliana Falconieri - Get On The Bus (GOTB) organization. This is a non-profit organization being run by the center for Restorative Justice Works. This program makes it possible for children and their incarcerated parents in the California prisons to reunite on Mother's and Father's Day. This organization strongly believes in keeping families together by overcoming many of barriers from distance and cost of travel, to the significant paperwork required for clearance. Co-Chair person, Judy Hirou coordinates along with other Co-Chairs Barbara, and Joanne, St. Juliana Falconieri Catholic Community and The Congregational Church of Fullerton, and together they coordinate their annual dinner, silent auction and concert fundraiser once a year. This year they were able to fundraise approximately \$17,000 that was donated to GOTB. The GEO Reentry Santa Ana DRC thanks Fred LaPuzza, Director of the Office of Restorative Justice/ Detention Ministry in Orange, California, for connecting the GEO Reentry Santa Ana DRC with Judy, and GOTB organization for getting the opportunity to give back to the community.



## Keeping the Fidelity of Evidence-based Practices

Written By **Gloria Alcantara, Stockton DRC**

Evidence-based practice isn't just a term we learned and buzzed around, it's our spirit behind the application of what works in reducing recidivism in our community. As a team, we want to make a difference in our participants' lives. As a result of our passion, the Stockton Day Reporting Center staff earned recognition this quarter for their outstanding work. First, our staff received the Best Outcomes award at the annual Western Leadership Conference, then the Best of BI award for surpassing 95% on our annual corporate audit.

## Set For Success at Luzerne DRC

Written By **Amy Wood, Luzerne DRC**

Dress for Success Luzerne County founded by Executive Director, Linda Armstrong completed its signature employment development series called "Set for Success" at the Luzerne Day Reporting Center (DRC). The Set for Success Program helps women who have been unemployed or underemployed gain the confidence and skills needed to get back to work and build thriving and sustaining careers.

The seven-week series opened with a session lead by Deb Pavlico, a local therapist that spoke about her book, *Conversations With Women*, discussing "Defining You- Inside Every Woman." PNC Bank presented on Financial Literacy, Angela Gavlick from Jack Williams Tire & Auto discussed the correct way to apply for a job and the importance of presenting a solid resume to a potential employer, and an entrepreneurship discussion was led by the Small Business Development Center, Wilkes University. Other sessions included the importance of mentors and proper job searches. After the seven-week series, the women celebrated by attending a small graduation ceremony held at the Luzerne DRC.

# Criminal Justice Summer Camp 2016

Written By **Pam Bennett,**  
**GEO Care Strategic Marketing**



Florida Atlantic University (FAU) offered its first-ever Criminal Justice Summer Camp for high school students in July 2016. The concept was inspired by John Smykla, Director and Professor of FAU's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ). He knows that many high school students are interested in this subject, so he wanted them to get a better understanding of how the criminal justice system really works. He said, "While this is a fascinating field, it's complex, and things don't happen as quickly as shown on TV or in the media."

FAU is located near The GEO Group Headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida. Mr. Smykla reached out to Dr. Zoley, the Founder and CEO of The GEO Group, to see if the company was interested in being a sponsor of the event. Dr. Zoley agreed, and provided a donation used towards scholarships for families who couldn't afford the fee. The camp fee included a wide variety of activities jam-packed into each day of the camp, social activities, two camp T-shirts, and room and board. The students stayed in a dorm at the University which also gave them an idea of what college life is like.

The schedule included presentations regarding crime

scene forensics, a tour of a 911 call center, and demonstrations from the SWAT team, K-9 unit, and bomb squad. That was just the first day. The rest of the camp involved activities that included a visit to marine units, an underwater search and recovery demonstration, State Fish and Wildlife presentation, and a tour of the FBI offices – all giving the students an opportunity to see these aspects of criminal justice in action.

Back at campus, the participants took part in a mock criminal trial, where the students were assigned roles and staged a trial with a real judge, state attorney, and public defender taking part. Students also participated in a mock crime scene investigation, toured the FAU stadium arrest and processing area, and were given a behind-the-scenes view of what it takes to keep the campus as safe as possible. Even with these eventful days, the students had free time where they were able to unwind with an ice cream social, a pool party, a pizza dinner, and other activities.

FAU's SCCJ looks forward to putting on another summer camp next year, and appreciates the participation from the many agencies and other participants who contributed to the camp's success!

For more information, visit:  
[www.fau.edu/sccj](http://www.fau.edu/sccj)

## Water Newark Donation

Written By **Keith McIninch, Newark RSC**



In March 2016, school and public officials announced lead levels have been found to be elevated in Newark, NJ, schools since at least 2012. The announcement comes after the revelation that water in thirty of the district's schools tested as high as thirty-five times above the federal action limit for lead. In many of the schools, the water taps were shut off to prevent staff and students from drinking the water. Upon hearing of the water crisis in the schools, staff at the GEO Newark Reentry Service Center (RSC), asked what they could do to provide safe drinking water to the schools. Facility Director Paul Lagana was aware of The GEO Group Foundation and advised them of the situation. On May 25, 2016, staff of the GEO Newark RSC donated \$1,000 to provide more than 15,000 bottles of water for children in Newark's Cleveland Elementary School.

"I want to say thank you to Newark RSC for their community commitment." said Principal Mr. Derrick Davis. "GEO Reentry has been great neighbors of this community," said Gayle Chaneyfield, Councilwomen for Newark's Central Ward. "It's very personal to us. It's our families, it's our community." she said. "GEO Reentry has continued to help out the community. Whenever we've asked, they have reacted positively." said Councilman At-Large Eddie Osbourne.



## Taylor Street Center Gives Back

Written By **Jason Carpenter, Taylor Street Center**

The Taylor Street Center in San Francisco, CA, is proud of what they do for and in their community. Taylor Street Center believes it is an important part of any program for participants to be involved in community activities and giving back by volunteering.

The events range from helping the City of San Francisco monthly with the City Clean program, planting trees, and cleaning neighborhoods, to feeding the homeless at St. Anthony's dining hall. Other events have included coordinating with the local police department in setting up for The National Night Out, participants volunteering to hand out water for the San Francisco Marathon, and helping the GLIDE Memorial Foundation with its harm reduction program. Our volunteer program is not mandatory, but we get a great turn out every time. Not only do they participate in group volunteering events, but many participants choose to volunteer on their own. Some enjoy volunteering at City Impact, where they deliver meals and participate with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition by providing input on the effects of imprisonment.

Of all the programs, there is one program that garners participant pride above the others, and that is the work being done in collaboration with the United Playaz (UP). UP is an organization started by an exoffender who was born and raised in San Francisco. The organization does a variety of things for the children in the inner city of San Francisco. The participants, especially the long term offenders, are really committed to volunteering in the UP program.

Some examples of the volunteer activities participants are the most proud of are escorting the children from their school to the UP headquarters where the participants assist the children with their homework, mentor them, escort them to play basketball, being a chaperon on field trips, and fostering them with values and morals the children may be lacking. The founder of the UP program has seen and commented on the wide range of notable differences in the behavior of the children and continues to foster the relationship between the Taylor Street Center and his program. It's clear that the Taylor Street Center participants believe in restorative justice, and community involvement is paramount to them; by virtue and by value. By volunteering their time and giving back to the community, they are proud of the work they continue to do on a daily basis.

**Pictured:** Participants and staff volunteer in a park for a community clean event in San Francisco. Jason Carpenter, Program Manager is pictured centered in the front row, and to his right is CDCR Parole Agent Dina Aguilar with Parolee Service Center volunteers.

## Abraxas Marienville and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission – Trout Stocking for 20+ Years

Written By **Guy Bloom & Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**



Abraxas Marienville takes pride in developing and maintaining long term relationships within our local communities. One of our long term community partners is the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Erik Shellgren, Forest County Waterways Conservation Officer, has worked with the Commission and Abraxas for the past 21 years. He has led approximately 480 fish stocking trips with approximately 2,800 students while stocking an estimated 1,680,000 trout in local streams and creeks.

Each stocking experience begins with Officer Shellgren providing a safety briefing with six Abraxas students and two staff members. There are eight to twelve different stocking sites per day. At each stream or creek, students carry thirty to forty pound buckets containing twenty to twenty-five trout. They release the trout and stock the streams by dumping the buckets. Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout are released not only for fishing pleasure but also to repopulate the local streams.

Daniel Johnston, Fish Culturist for the Commission, fills the truck and delivers the trout to the various stocking sites. Daniel's job is to raise the fish to the point of stocking and then unload the several thousand fish from each truck, one net and one bucket at a time. Dan always has a positive attitude (even when soaking wet at thirty degrees), and he allows our students to get involved through hands-on learning and teaches them endless knowledge about the fish.

The partnership between the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has been beneficial to both the Commission, as well as Abraxas students by providing the students with thousands of community service hours, allowing Abraxas to obtain an Institutional Fishing License that enables the students to fish at no cost, allowing youth to participate in Youth Education Seminars where they learn about fishing, trout reproduction and trapping, and boating safety courses, building fish habitats and placing them in Tionesta Lake, working on the Ross Run Habitat Improvement Project for several years, and positively interacting with law enforcement personnel. To date, Abraxas youth have assisted with trout stocking in nine Pennsylvania counties. We look forward to many more years of this community partnership.

## Napa CCSC Moves Back Home

Written By **Karen Graff, Napa CCSC**

We're home! On August 24, 2014, Napa California experienced a 6.0 earthquake that instantly affected the program and services of the Napa Community Corrections Service Center (CCSC).

We were displaced for the next two years, but with the help and support of Napa County Chief of Probation Mary Butler, and other county agencies, we were able to continue serving our participants from other locations. After being relocated twice, while our building was being repaired, we have finally moved back home.

On July 18, 2016, the team at Napa CCSC moved back to the Hall of Justice, located adjacent to our client, Napa County Probation.

Together with our probation partner, we provide reentry services which include day-reporting for pre-trial participants, full program services such as cognitive groups, life skills and substance abuse classes, electronic monitoring, and domestic violence groups. Our newest program addition is our Spanish Track so we can serve an even wider population, and we are excited to be able to make a difference in so many lives.

The team remained strong through the numerous transitions and deserves a lot of credit for the smooth operation of the CCSC during the last two years. They kept their spirits up and worked hard to ensure that program participants stayed on track and evidence-based services were still provided, no matter where they were working. So much so, that the Napa CCSC received a 2015 and 2016 Best of BI award for audit scores over 95%. They proved that the strength of the Napa CCSC is in its people, not its building.



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