

# GEO<sup>®</sup> World

4TH QUARTER 2017

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



CONGRATULATIONS  
GEO EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



# Chairman's Letter

**George C. Zoley**, Chairman, CEO and Founder

**"The Ravenhall Facility in Australia will be the ultimate 'GEO Continuum of Care' demonstration site with over \$30 million per year dedicated to in-prison and post-release programs; more than 80 in-prison rehabilitation and programs staff; unique partnerships with community-based service providers; and intensive evidence-based rehabilitation programs."**

## To the GEO Family,

As we near the end of another successful year, we can reflect on a number of operational milestones that have strengthened our position as the world's largest private provider of correctional, detention, community reentry, and evidence-based rehabilitation services.

We began the first half of the year with several important project activations and contract awards at the federal level. In Georgia, we completed the intake process at our company-owned, 780-bed Folkston ICE Processing Center, during the first quarter, under a five-year intergovernmental agreement between Charlton County and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Subsequently, we entered into a new ten-year contract with ICE for the development and operation of a new company-owned 1,000-bed Processing Center in Conroe, Texas, and we were also awarded two ten-year contracts by the Federal Bureau of Prisons for the continued operation of our company-owned 1,800-bed Big Spring Facility and 1,732-bed Flight Line Facility in Texas.

Since the beginning of the second quarter, our GEO Corrections and GEO Care business units have worked

diligently to successfully integrate our acquisition of Community Education Centers, a national provider of rehabilitation services and reentry programs. This important transaction, which we completed in April of this year for approximately \$360 million, will continue to position us to expand our delivery of tailored real estate, management and programmatic solutions across a diversified spectrum of correctional and rehabilitation services.

We've also strengthened our commitment to be the world's leader in the delivery of evidence-based rehabilitation by doubling our annual company investment from \$5 million to \$10 million in 2017 to expand the delivery of our 'GEO Continuum of Care,' which provides enhanced in-custody rehabilitation including evidence-based treatment, integrated with post-release support services.

We have already launched 'GEO Continuum of Care' programs at fifteen GEO facilities in the United States, and on October 12th of this

year, we held a dedication ceremony for the new 1,300-bed Ravenhall Facility in the State of Victoria, Australia, which is scheduled for activation on November 1, 2017. The Ravenhall Facility will be the ultimate 'GEO Continuum of Care' demonstration site with over \$30 million per year dedicated to in-prison and post-release programs; more than 80 in-prison rehabilitation and programs staff; unique partnerships with community-based service providers; and intensive evidence-based rehabilitation programs.

All of these important achievements underscore our leadership position within the industry, which continues to be underpinned by the hard work, dedication and professionalism of our growing workforce. Please join me as we congratulate the 'GEO Employees of the Year' and as we thank our 23,000 GEO employees around the globe who commit themselves every day to having a positive impact in the lives of the men and women entrusted to our care.

# Table Of Contents

25



**4TH QUARTER 2017**  
Volume 23  
Issue 4

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Editor-in-Chief  
**Esther D. Patton**  
epatton@geogroup.com

Contributors  
**George C. Zoley**  
**Pablo E. Paez**  
**Christopher V. Ferreira**

## Employees of the Year

- 02 U.S. Corrections & Detention**
- 06 International Services**
- 09 GEO Care**

## Articles

- 12 U.S. Corrections & Detention**
- 25 International Services**
- 27 GEO Care**

## Features

- 13 The McFarland Café**  
The McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility in partnership with Bakersfield College, welcomed 15 students to its first Culinary Arts class.
- 26 Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre Supports Parents of Preterm Infants**  
Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Australia sponsored the Preterm Infants Parents Association (PIPA) team competing in the Bridge to Brisbane fun run called PIPA's Little Feet Big Feat.
- 29 Tooley Hall Celebrates First EMBARC (CBT) Program Graduation**  
Tooley Hall located in Denver, Colorado, was proud to host its first graduation of residents who completed the EMBARC (Enhancing Motivation by Achieving Reshaped Cognition) program.

# WARDEN OF THE YEAR

# JOHNNY CHOATE

AURORA ICE PROCESSING CENTER

WARDEN AT AURORA ICE PROCESSING CENTER

WORKING AT GEO: 20 YEARS

CURRENTLY A BOARD MEMBER FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



After working for the the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Warden Johnny Choate joined The GEO Group as Chief of Security in 1997 to help open GEO's first facility with the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Taft, CA. After a few years at Taft Correctional Institution, he moved onto Assistant Warden at Rivers Correctional Institution and Lea County Correctional Facility, as well as Warden at Central Valley/Golden State MCCF. In May 2012, he was selected as Warden at the Aurora ICE Processing Center (AIPC).

Warden Choate is a self-starter who is engaged, focused, and determined. His reputation is accentuated by his hands-on approach to delivering excellent customer service, community relations, safety, and sound operations. He is credited with being the driver of several key achievements during 2016, including an unexpected surge in population to accommodate an emergent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) need. Since the

deactivation of the Hudson Correctional Facility, Warden Choate has maintained indirect oversight of the facility.

In 2016, he invested \$20,000 towards employee recognition programs including annual/milestone service awards, employee of the month/year, as well as monetary awards. Warden Choate places a strong emphasis on volunteering and giving back to the community. Some events/organizations AIPC gives back to include the Special Olympics Polar Plunge and Law Enforcement Plane Pull, Boys Hope Girls Hope, Arapahoe County Adopt a Family, and the Mayor's State of the City luncheon, just to name a few. He also established a quarterly community relations board which currently has twenty community leaders.

When he is not working, Warden Choate enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time with his wife Nikki and three children, Lincoln and twins Saylor



**"Warden Choate is a self-starter who is engaged, focused, and determined."**

and Sawyer. Without a doubt, AIPC has achieved many successes under Warden Choate's leadership. He has built a team, strengthened GEO's partnership with two of GEO's most valuable customers (ICE/ United States Marshals Service), and forged a bond between the facility and the community. He has touched the hand of every employee and year-by-year has improved critical statistics. It is for these reasons, as well as countless others, that Warden Choate was selected as the 2016 Warden of the Year.

# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

# AMY CAMPOS

GUADALUPE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

ACA COMPLIANCE ADMINISTRATOR AT  
GUADALUPE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

WORKING AT GEO: 14 YEARS

MOST INFLUENTIAL ROLE MODELS AND  
MENTORS ARE HER GRANDPARENTS



Amy Campos was raised in a modest neighborhood where she learned values of discipline, hard work, respect, and dignity. Amy's exposure to everyday challenges and a good moral upbringing has helped define her personality and belief structure. Amy's most influential role models and mentors, her grandparents, instilled in her the work ethic she has today and to lead by example.

After completing her education in 1996, Amy worked in local hospitality. After some time, she made the decision to become a correctional employee. In 2003, Amy accepted the challenge of joining Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (GCCF) in Santa Rosa, New Mexico, as the Administrative Clerk. Since then, she has worn many hats throughout the facility before accepting her current position as the ACA Compliance Administrator.

Amy's commitment to The GEO Group and GCCF is unmatched by most. Amy is

a confident leader respected by her peers and the inmates. She knows what must be done and inspires others to set and achieve their own goals. Amy is an exceptional, well-rounded employee. She communicates and works well with employees, inmates, and the facility's customers.

She is recognized as a dedicated hard worker and a true team player who is willing to perform numerous duties in order to gain a positive and complete outcome.

Amy is a coach and mentor to new employees at the facility. Amy is an employee most supervisors will go to when things need to be done efficiently and effectively.

Amy has been married for seventeen years and has two sons. Amy and her family enjoy taking trips to sporting events as well as enjoying time with the family dogs. She also enjoys relaxing at home and watching sports including football,



**"Amy is a confident leader respected by her peers and the inmates. She knows what must be done and inspires others to set and achieve their own goals."**

basketball, baseball, and softball. She hopes to further her career within the company one day. Amy Campos is a loving, caring, hard-working person, not only as an employee, but as a friend. She strives for perfection and does not accept anything less of herself. Congratulations Amy on being selected as the 2016 Employee of the Year!

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

# RUSSELL JENSEN

KARNES COUNTY RESIDENTIAL CENTER

ASSISTANT SHIFT SUPERVISOR AT  
KARNES COUNTY RESIDENTIAL CENTER

WORKING AT GEO: 1.5 YEARS

SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
FOR OVER 20 YEARS



Assistant Shift Supervisor Russell Jensen at the Karnes County Residential Center has been employed with The GEO Group for one and a half years and was recently promoted to Assistant Shift Supervisor. Prior to being employed with GEO, Russell's patriotic impulse turned into a United States Air Force career in medical operations for more than twenty years. Over the course of his service, Russell gained a level of success both personally and professionally, achieving accomplishments which have helped shape him into the person he is today. Russell retired from the United States Air Force in 2003 and continued his career working in the field of Orthopedics. In 2015, Russell and his wife Viola moved to Karnes City to be closer to their family, where he soon after became employed at the Karnes County Residential Center.

Recently, Russell used his training and quick thinking to immediately respond to a medical emergency. A resident had

exited her suite panicking because her child was not breathing. Upon assessment of the child, Russell discovered the child did not have a pulse. Russell notified the medical department of the situation and started rescue breathing. The quick thinking and actions on behalf of Russell aided in saving the child's life.

Russell considers GEO a home where he gets to work with top flight people and where his focus is always on them. He possesses a solid understanding of the skill set that is required to execute his job. Russell demonstrates a strong commitment to increasing productivity by going above and beyond his assigned duties. He has earned the respect and trust of others through his uncompromising integrity and openness. He exhibits a high level of confidence in himself as well as others. Russell tolerates a great deal of pressure, and he quickly assumes a strong leadership role whenever action is needed. He works hard to improve the quality of his own work and promotes



quality awareness throughout the organization. The work he produces meets standards for accuracy and completeness.

Russell also values his time away from work. He and his wife Viola have four children and eight grandchildren. He enjoys spending time off with his family going fishing and hunting.

His philosophy in life is said to be, "Every day when you wake up you have a choice to make, are you going to be positive or negative in your outlook or are you going to be a leader or not?" He also has three core values in life, "Integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."

# GTI OFFICER OF THE YEAR

# TRACY BOWENS

LASALLE ICE PROCESSING CENTER

GTI TRANSPORTATION OFFICER  
AT LASALLE ICE PROCESSING CENTER

WORKING AT GEO: 9 YEARS

ENJOYS WATCHING HER GRANDCHILDREN  
PLAY SOFTBALL AND OLD WESTERN MOVIES



Congratulations to GEO Transport, Inc. (GTI) Transportation Officer Tracy Bowens on being selected as GTI Officer of the Year. Ms. Bowens joined The GEO Group at LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LaSalle) in 2008 as a Correctional Officer and was selected as a GTI Transportation Officer in 2011.

Ms. Bowens exemplifies what a professional GTI driver should be and sets the example for other drivers to follow. Her dedication has led to Ms. Bowens selection to attend the GTI driver trainer course. The skills she garnered during this training coupled with her natural leadership abilities allow her to produce exceptional drivers for LaSalle and any facility that she is temporarily assigned to.

Most recently, she was assigned to the Pine Prairie ICE Processing Center (Pine Prairie) to assist with driving missions and to provide driver training during the facility startup. Ms. Bowens works tirelessly to ensure each driver understands

**"Ms. Bowens exemplifies what a professional GTI driver should be and sets the example for the other drivers to follow."**

the importance of prevention. She conducts annual and spot training on accident prevention, proper spotter training, ground guiding skills, and requirements. On many occasions, Ms. Bowens has taken charge of potential problematic situations. Ms. Bowens' ability to adapt is demonstrated by being able to coordinate sudden changes to the schedule.

Always observant of her fellow drivers and mindful of driver fatigue and drive time violations, she elevates any potential issues as well as recommendations she may encounter. Ms. Bowens has proven herself as a selfless team member. She volunteered to be temporarily assigned to Pine Prairie as a driver and a trainer for their newly hired staff. Repeatedly, Ms. Bowens demonstrates her willingness

to sacrifice her own time to help other drivers, other departments, and other facilities to be successful.

Ms. Bowens was born and raised in Jena, Louisiana, where she has three children and three grandchildren. Ms. Bowens loves spending her free time surrounded by her family and friends and enjoys watching her grandchildren play softball. She relaxes by watching old western movies, and of course, John Wayne movies are her favorite.



AUSTRALIA EMPLOYEE **OF** THE YEAR

# ASHLEIGH HARRIS

FULHAM CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER  
AT FULHAM CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

WORKING AT GEO: 3 YEARS

COMMISSIONER FOR CORRECTIONS  
VICTORIA COMMENDED HIS ACTIONS



A successful attempt to save a life, multiple messages of praise from local community leaders, and a dedication to his community work teams that have resulted in their work being praised throughout Gippsland is just a snapshot of Ashleigh Harris, the father of two, who is GEO Australia's Employee of the Year.

An outstanding recipient, the mild-mannered Correctional Officer has been at Fulham Correctional Centre (FCC) for three years after a twenty-year career in building and construction. His colleagues have already acknowledged his initiative, commitment, and dedication by successfully nominating him for two GEO employee recognition awards during 2016.

Typical feedback highlights Ashleigh's ability to generate a wonderful team effort from his community work teams and to enthuse them about the various challenges they face. Each community work team consists of six inmates who

help with requested projects throughout the community. In the historic gold mining township of Walhalla, Ashleigh and his community work team made news across Australia. FCC regularly sends teams to Walhalla to assist in preparing for the tourism season and clean up afterwards. Last August, a 91-year-old man was found unconscious and convulsing in the town's toilet block.

Two inmates who had recently undertaken a CPR course at FCC administered first aid while the other inmates ran messages to the only available landline in town. In the eighty minutes that the ambulance took to reach them, Ashleigh ensured that his team worked calmly and efficiently to keep the elderly patient alive.

It all made for an interesting dinner conversation with his partner Carlee and his eleven-year-old son Brady that night, although five-month-old Sophia slept through it all. A few days later, Ashleigh

**"Ashleigh's colleagues have acknowledged his initiative, commitment, and dedication by nominating him for two employee recognition awards in 2016."**

received a letter of commendation from Jan Shuard, the Commissioner for Corrections Victoria, praising his actions in managing a difficult situation.

"It's the variety and working with the teams that I love," Ashleigh said when discussing his working life at FCC. "It's keeping active, thinking through the challenges of each task and working among the community," he said. He was especially proud when an inmate on one of his work teams impressed a local builder and was offered a job upon his release. Now that really makes the job worthwhile.

The other award finalists were Jennifer Shaw, Shaun Dowd, and Amber Beaton.

UK EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

# JOHN TAGGART

DUNGAVEL HOUSE IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE

RESIDENTIAL MANAGER AT DUNGAVEL  
HOUSE IMMIGRATION REMOVAL CENTRE

WORKING AT GEO: 6 YEARS

ENJOYS PLAYING GOLF AND CLEANING



Congratulations to John Taggart who has been chosen as The GEO Group UK Employee of the Year.

John began working at The GEO Group's Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre (Dungavel) in 2011 as a Detainee Custody Officer. During his time at Dungavel, he has actively engaged with new tasks and projects and always has a positive attitude, treating all staff and detainees with respect and courtesy.

He has developed his skills during this time, holding various positions such as Security Manager, Duty Operations Manager, and his current role of Residential Manager.

John was recognised by his peers for his ability to see the positive in every situation, his determination to complete tasks and projects thoroughly, and to always work and lead his team with a smile.

**"John was recognised by his peers for his ability to see the positive in every situation, his determination to complete projects thoroughly, and to always work and lead his team with a smile."**

John displays the qualities expected of a Manager working for GEO, with one nomination stating, "I cannot think of anyone better and more deserving of this award." Sarah Lynch, Centre Manager at Dungavel, congratulated John on his achievement, "John is deserving of this award for his consistently high levels of performance this year, and throughout his time at Dungavel. His work ethic, professionalism, and compassion sets the standard for others to follow."

Outside of work, John can be found playing golf and cleaning. We are told that his cleaning skills are far better than his golf skills!

All of us at The GEO Group UK are proud of John's achievements this year, endorsed by Joanne Henney, Chief Operating Officer, who added, "John consistently strives for excellence in everything he does, his enthusiasm and work ethic are to be commended. Congratulations John, you are a credit to Dungavel and a very worthy winner of this award."



## SOUTH AFRICA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

# SHONISANI NEMAULUMA

KUTAMA SINTHUMULE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

TRAINING CLERK AT KUTAMA  
SINTHUMULE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

WORKING AT GEO: 5 YEARS

ENJOYS LISTENING TO MUSIC AND  
PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



Ms. Shonisani Nemauluma is the Training Clerk at the Kutama Sinthumule Correctional Centre in South Africa. She joined the facility in 2012 after a short spell with the Department of Agriculture as an intern in 2011. Shonisani's strength is in promoting her service as a package to the fellow employees and other service providers she interacts with in her line of work. She offers professional training disciplines such as the operation of in-house training facilities, on-site training programs, and participating in group training programs.

Shonisani was born at Vhufuli, a beautiful village near Thohoyandou in the Vhembe Region of the Limpopo Province in South Africa. She is the fourth child of Mr. Reckson and Mrs. Salphinah Nemauluma and has three older brothers Tshifhiwa, Vhahangwele, and Dzudzanani.

She attended the Mphigalale Primary School and completed her matric at Tshivhase Secondary School at Vhufuli.

Inspired by her parents favourite Tshivenda proverb 'Pfunzo ndi ifa' (which means education is wealth), she furthered her studies at Tshwane University of Technology where she graduated with a diploma in Human Resource Management in 2009. Shonisani then proceeded and obtained a B. Tech degree in Human Resource Development at Tshwane University of Technology in 2013.

Shonisani is the secretary of both the Employment Equity Committee and the Training Committee where she executes her tasks with diligence and commitment.

She approaches her work and tasks with energy and unflagging enthusiasm. During her employment in the company, she has learned the value of the excellent business model, which sets the facility apart from the rest. She embraces the facility environment where trustworthiness, reliability, and honesty are core values.

**"Her demonstration of effective leadership and her willingness to learn has earned her respect and admiration by both colleagues and external agencies."**

Shonisani has done exceptionally well over the years with special attention on annual audits of the training department. She gives her best at the job and always exceeds expectations. Her demonstration of effective leadership and her willingness to learn has earned her respect and admiration by both colleagues and external agencies.

Her favourite pastime is staying at home and spending quality time with her family. She also enjoys listening to music and participating in outdoor activities. She is in the process of enrolling in a Masters program for her own personal development and to enable her to grow her career within The GEO Group.

BI EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

# SIERRA RAMIREZ

BI INCORPORATED

PROPOSAL MANAGER  
AT BI INCORPORATED HEADQUARTERS

WORKING AT GEO: 5 YEARS

ENJOYS SONG WRITING, SINGING, & RECORDING  
MUSIC AT HOME WITH HER FIANCÉ



Sierra Ramirez said she was, “shocked and humbled by the announcement.” She remembers every Employee of the Year since her tenure at BI and is aware of how it carries great honor. She feels she was chosen because of her dedication to bringing in business for the organization. “That means putting in the work hours to develop the best product possible.”

Sierra has been honing her skills in BI’s proposal department for five years and during that time has become a proposal development expert. Her project successes are demonstrated through: ISAP III, where she was a co-lead on the proposal, Alaska Department of Corrections, which was a huge account retained, and the California day reporting centers. She leads each proposal smoothly with patience, discipline, diligence, and precision.

Sierra’s management of the team provides a solid, consistent foundation to ensure proposal work is assigned, has oversight,

and continues in a productive manner. She also supports the Reentry bids team based in Boca Raton, Florida, on a regular basis.

Her biggest success is the implementation and ongoing refinement of the proposal development process - not only with her colleagues at BI, but across company-wide levels. She works with multi-disciplinary teams throughout the GEO Care organization and trains subject matter experts on how the process works. Her most effective and recommended tool for working and collaborating together is using the white-board.

“Since day one, Sierra has demonstrated a great work ethic, creativity to the process, and discipline. She has been very successful in leading key proposals assigned and arguably has the best win record of all current and past proposal writers since joining the company,” said Bob Murnock, Vice President of Sales.

**“Sierra has been very successful in leading key proposals assigned and arguably has the best win record of all current and past proposal writers since joining the company.”**

Her family is the reason she works so diligently. Sierra is close with her whole family, including her fiancé, Ric, and Topopo Burrito, her 46-year-old Double-Yellow Headed Amazon pet bird. Sierra is also a musician, singer/songwriter, and visual artist. She enjoys creative writing as a table-top role playing gamer. She also enjoys song writing, singing, and recording music at home with her fiancé.

She sees her future in this role a year from now as one, “where we’re celebrating an environment of comradery and success.” Clearly, one of her goals in her position is to win business. She also wants to foster and promote a positive team environment and collaboration across all divisions.

## REENTRY SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

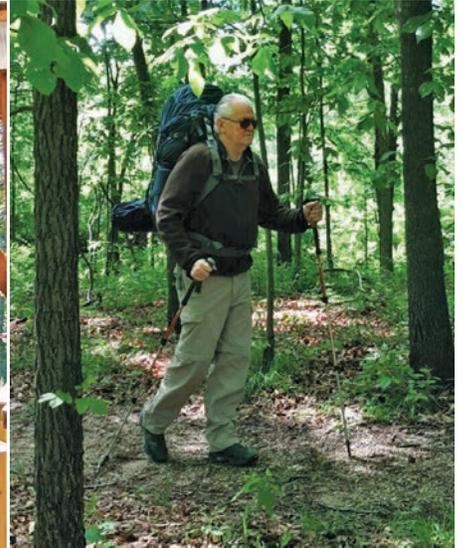
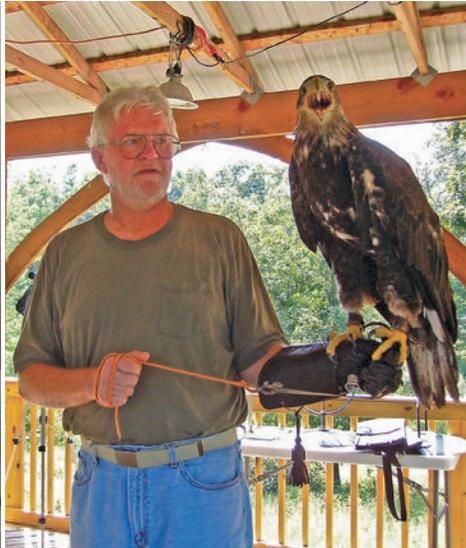
# DENNIS CUNNINGHAM

DECATUR DAY REPORTING CENTER

SUPERVISING CASE MANAGER  
AT DECATUR DAY REPORTING CENTER

WORKING AT GEO: 12 YEARS

DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED THE NEW  
PARTICIPANT PEER MENTORING PROGRAM



Dennis Cunningham joined the Decatur Day Reporting Center (DRC) on opening day in January 2005 as a part-time Client Services Specialist. He was quickly promoted to Case Manager, again promoted to Employment/Education Coordinator, and currently holds the position of Supervising Case Manager since 2014.

Mr. Cunningham has had an interesting career path that began as a railroad switchman for twenty years. He later returned to school and became a certified repair technician and decided he might enjoy teaching more, so he enrolled in college. While completing his undergraduate work, he also completed his student teaching requirements in Illinois. He soon after accepted the job at the Decatur DRC and soon came to enjoy the challenges of working with and making an impact in the lives of participants who had recently returned to the community. Mr. Cunningham stated, "I enjoy the daily interaction with people, the continual improvement and evolution of the program,

the new challenges, with no two days being the same. It is rewarding to see the success that some of the participants achieve."

Mr. Cunningham is a great asset to the Macon County Adult Redeploy Illinois (ARI) program, where he oversees the case managers and groups, and regularly meets with probation and the County's program steering committee. Prior to supervising staff, he conducted classes, intakes, and Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy meetings, and still performs those duties whenever needed. When the office was short-staffed, he took on a caseload of forty to ensure the office would continue to run smoothly. The current Program Manager Ms. Kinnison, greatly benefitted from Mr. Cunningham's operation and data system knowledge. Mr. Cunningham is excellent at handling concerns from staff, customers, and participants by staying engaged, maintaining a positive work environment, organizing staff development, evaluating staff performance, and generally making

**"Mr. Cunningham maintains an exceptional level and quality of services that he gives to the staff, customers, and participants."**

sure that everyone is satisfied and focused on their job. Mr. Cunningham was very instrumental when working on the ARI grant proposal with the grant administrator. Mr. Cunningham provides exceptional quality of services to the staff, customers, and participants. He also designed and implemented the new participant peer mentoring program. The mentoring program continues to go well and the participants and ARI stakeholders are pleased with the program outcomes.

In his spare time, he and his wife enjoy camping, hiking, and bicycling throughout the Midwest, and attending auctions to buy and sell antiques. His dream for the future would be to retire in rural Wisconsin and continue doing the things he enjoys.

## YOUTH SERVICES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

# JEANNE GODLESKY

ABRAXAS I

COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPERVISOR  
AT ABRAXAS I

WORKING AT GEO: 29 YEARS

FORMED AN ARTS & CRAFT CLUB  
TO ENHANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH



Jeanne Godlesky is the Community Services Supervisor at Abraxas I located in Marienville, PA. Jeanne is responsible for managing and directing the referral, acceptance, and intake process for the young men and women who are sent for treatment at the facility.

She is frequently the primary point of contact with internal departments, customers, and probation officers as youth enter and transition from the program. Over the course of her twenty-nine years with Abraxas, she has played a pivotal part in the lives of countless young people who began their road to recovery at Abraxas I.

At Abraxas I, the trauma informed care approach emphasizes the importance of community service. Jeanne has spearheaded a series of therapeutic arts and crafts activities including making tie-off baby blankets, loom-knitting infant caps, and crafting holiday wreaths. In addition to the time spent creating these

items, Jeanne coordinates with several local hospitals and nursing homes to donate the crafts. They include Children's Hospital and Magee-Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, Shriners Hospital in Erie, PA, and Snyder Memorial Nursing Home in Marienville, PA.

Jeanne frequently accompanies the youth when they donate their items so the youth truly understand the importance of taking care of themselves and others. Facility Director Jim Town stated, "Jeanne's efforts not only expand creativity to support recovery, but reinforce the importance of volunteerism as a building block to being a responsible member of society."

Jeanne has also formed an Arts and Craft Club to enhance opportunities for our youth to learn basic crocheting, knitting, and sewing skills. She coordinates Abraxas I's Christmas party along with the Leadership Christmas Meal served to the youth. Jeanne is also the gatekeeper



**"Jeanne's hard work and dedication is a testament to believing that you can change the world one child at a time."**

and editor for articles submitted to The Abraxas Chronicle (the Abraxas Youth & Family Services newsletter) and to the GEO World magazine.

Jeanne is a superb team player and an ambassador for Abraxas I. Jeanne's hard work and dedication is a testament to believing that you can change the world one child at a time.

# 13 ACA ACCREDITED GEO FACILITIES

At the August 2017 American Correctional Association (ACA) conference held in St. Louis, Missouri, five GEO Group facilities received initial ACA accreditation and eight GEO Group facilities received ACA reaccreditation. With 64 facilities currently accredited, GEO's facilities are always praised for their commitment to high operational standards.

Pictured are ACA Commissioners Tom Stichrath, Donna Lawrence, Owen Murray, and Rodney Bivens along with Catherine Price, GEO Director of ACA Accreditation, Ann M. Schlarb, Senior Vice President and President, GEO Care, Derrick D. Schofield, Executive Vice President, Continuum of Care and Reentry Services, GEO Care, Blake Davis, Vice President, Eastern Region, and each GEO Facility Leadership Team. Congratulations to all accredited facilities!



**99.8%**  
Brooks County  
Detention Center



**98.6%**  
East Hidalgo  
Detention Center



**100%**  
Coastal Bend  
Detention Center



**99.5%**  
Arizona State  
Prison-Kingman



**100%**  
Moshannon Valley  
Correctional Center



**100%**  
Broward ICE  
Processing Center



**100%**  
Taylor Street Center



**99.4%**  
South Texas ICE  
Processing Center



**100%**  
Las Vegas Community  
Correctional Center



**100%**  
Penn Pavilion



**100%**  
Walker Hall



**100%**  
Oxford Facility



**100%**  
Alle Kiski Pavilion

## Thankful Recipient of GEO Group Foundation Scholarship

Written By **Fredrick J. Head,**  
**Riverbend Correctional Facility**

Each year, the Riverbend Correctional Facility through The GEO Group Foundation, awards fifteen \$1,000 college scholarships to students graduating from Baldwin County's three High Schools - Baldwin High School, Georgia Military Prep School, and John Millledge Academy. The following letter was sent to thank us from one of our scholarship recipients. We're so proud of this young lady and delighted to be able to assist her achieve her educational and life goals!

*Good afternoon, I am writing you to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for selecting me as a recipient of the 2017 GEO Foundation Scholarship. I can't begin to tell you how excited and truly honored my mother and I are for this award. As a young child and still today, my one career dream has been Pediatric Medicine. My plan is to major in Chemistry, then upon graduation, I will apply to medical school. My education will be lengthy and costly and I know your very generous scholarship will help to reduce the financial hardship on me and my mother as well as help me pursue the education and career of my dreams. Thank you again for your generosity and your investment in my future.*

*With Sincere Regards, A. T. Robinson*



**Pictured:** Warden Fredrick J. Head



## The McFarland Café

Written By **Claire Calvo, McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility**

In July 2016, the McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility (McFarland) in partnership with Bakersfield College (BC), welcomed fifteen students to its first Culinary Arts class. Led by BC's dedicated Instructor/Mentor Chef Coyle, the students proudly marched through the facility towards the kitchen and began their culinary journey.

The fifteen-month program offers not only classroom lecture, practical application, and internships, but also an opportunity for personal and professional growth. By February 2017, the class was ready to prepare a meal for staff and the facility dining hall was transformed into, "The McFarland Café." The dining hall set-up included table place settings, a team of participant waiters, and service with a smile. Staff dined on cheese and broccoli soup, Asian chicken salad, freshly baked rolls, and cheesecake. The students not only created elegant and scrumptious meals, but also provided top-notch service. Word quickly spread about the taste and quality of the food, and soon the list of weekly staff customers grew and even included the neighboring facilities, Golden State MCCF and Central Valley MCCF. The women participants are currently continuing classroom, hands-on, and internship hours and graduation is set for the end of the year. Once completed, the women will have achieved a Culinary Arts Certificate, college credits, and thanks to Chef Coyle and McFarland staff, will now have the confidence to be successful in any restaurant environment.

## KCCC Helps Their Community in Need

Written By **Brittany Machado, Karnes County Correctional Center**



With the devastation that Hurricane Harvey brought, Karnes County Correctional Center (KCCC) wanted to help those in need in anyway they could. KCCC helped partner with local organizations to feed 200 families and 500 individuals. Eighty-three displaced families found a safe place within KCCC's county. The following Saturday, a group of officers headed south and assisted with cleaning up in much needed areas.

## NCCF Sewing Crew Place at Local Fairs

Written By **Andy Beguhn**,  
New Castle Correctional Facility

If you went to any of the carnival fairs local to the New Castle Correctional Facility this past summer, you would have been able to see the quilt entries submitted by the offenders in the PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) program/sewing crew from the facility. The participants submitted quilts to the Mooreland Free Fair, Spiceland Freedom Days, Henry County 4-H Fair, and the Indiana State Fair.

There were eleven total submissions, nine of which received a ribbon. The quilts received one 1st place, three 2nd place, five 3rd place, and one 5th place award. The participants were most pleased when they were notified about winning 3rd place at the Indiana State Fair as it is the most competitive and the quilts are compared to entries from across the entire state.



## Star Party III at Central Valley — Solar Eclipse!

Written By **David Davenport**, Central Valley MCCF

The cross-nation solar eclipse on August 21, 2017, was the subject of the third “star party” event in McFarland, California! The Sun is the biggest star of all, as seen from the Earth! While not in the path of totality, the sun was covered 68% from Central Valley MCCF. Like the previous events in the past year, this sky-watching experience included the use of celestial charts, a marine sextant system, and books about astronomy. To promote vision safety, no telescopes or other direct-view devices were used. Instead, various safe methods were used, such as a pinhole projection box, projections on the ground, and an artificial horizon accessory used with a marine sextant. At Central Valley MCCF, the eclipse started at 9:04 a.m., peaked at 10:19 a.m., and continued until 11:00 a.m. This two-hour event supported the Astronomy Science parts of the academic programs for Adult Basic Education and High School Equivalency/GED academic classes.

This event was made possible by Warden G. Morris, Assistant Warden G. Brochu, and Education/Programs Manager S. Aguilar. Astronomy supervision and expertise was provided by three academic instructors, Mr. Gillem, Mr. Cantu, and Mr. Davenport. Inmate-tutors with astronomy expertise provided assistance with solar reflection and celestial navigation tools. Security for the event was provided by Lieutenant L. Spray and Chief E. Perez.

## Central Arizona Correctional Facility Celebrates Administrative Professional Day

Written By **Leah Connolly**, Central Arizona Correctional Facility



On April 26, 2017, Central Arizona Correctional Facility's (CACF) executive staff thanked and celebrated twelve administrative professionals. The staff was treated to lunch at an Italian restaurant and was given the remainder of the day off. We would like to say thank you to Alyssa Hiniker, Michelle Hamilton, Joseph Nasal, Melanie Owens, Leah Connolly, Shannon Sherlock, Helen Kline, Anne Rubbert, Rosa Fernandez, Jesse Burns, Jack Moore, and Cammie Burke for their continued dedication, hard work, and the key role each play in the ongoing success of CACF.



## DOUBLING THE ODDS:

*Why those with diabetes are also at risk for heart disease*

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

If your odds to win were doubled, you'd surely make the bet. When the odds against you are doubled, it's time to take action. This is the case for folks diagnosed with diabetes and high blood pressure (hypertension). This is a lethal combination that **doubles** the risk for cardiovascular disease that leads to heart attack or stroke. The bad news is that roughly **2,500 GEO employees** are diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension as chronic conditions. The good news is that this is easily fixed!

### Turning the Tables

Take control and change the odds through simple, healthier lifestyle improvements and behaviors to control the risks of diabetes and high blood pressure:

**1. Increase physical activity:** Exercise or physical activity is great for your heart in general, helps lower stress, and controls high blood pressure while keeping your weight under control.

**2. Lose or maintain a healthy weight:** Extra weight is the best single predictor of type 2

diabetes. 90% of people with type 2 diabetes are obese or overweight.

**3. Eat a healthy diet:** Eating too many calories, saturated fats, and sugar raise bad cholesterol levels and lead to weight gain. Eating too much sodium (salt) is directly related to high blood pressure.

**4. Lower your cholesterol:** High triglycerides and low LDL (good cholesterol) increase the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Healthy eating, physical activity, and reasonable weight, can help improve lipids.

**5. Stop smoking:** Smokers are 30-40% more likely to develop type 2 diabetes and smoking makes it harder to control the disease. (Source: CDC)

**6. Limit alcohol:** Drinking excessively can cause blood pressure to rise dramatically.

Start small by carving out 30 minutes of your day for physical activity like walking, biking or a visit to the gym. As a snack before exercising, reach for a piece of fruit like an apple or

banana and notice a slight increase in energy. Soon you are looking forward to your 30 minutes of activity and view it as a stress reliever. You find your pants aren't as tight and move to the next belt loop. Now you have lowered your risk for both high blood pressure and diabetes, while reversing three direct risks for cardiovascular disease.

### Statistics to Believe

The following facts speak loud and clear that there is a strong correlation between cardiovascular disease (CVD) and diabetes:

- At least 68% of people age 65 or older with diabetes die from heart disease, and 16% of stroke.
- Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to die from heart disease than adults without diabetes.

Double your odds of winning! Eat healthy, lose weight, get active, sleep well, manage stress, stop smoking, and enjoy life! So go ahead and roll the dice with improved odds of being happy and healthy.



## WRDF Donates to Local YMCA

Written By **Tiffany Carney,**  
**Western Region  
Detention Facility**

On March 3, 2017, the Western Region Detention Facility located in San Diego, California, donated \$500 to the South Bay Family YMCA. Each year, the South Bay Family YMCA holds a campaign to help raise money for communities in need. The money raised helps youth development programs, seniors, military members, and families in need.

The YMCA is dedicated to helping families of all ages and backgrounds learn, grow, and thrive. During the 2016 annual campaign, the South Bay Family YMCA raised over \$380,000. The money provided scholarships and subsidies to fulfill the YMCA's mission to serve all people regardless of their ability to pay. The Western Region Detention Facility was delighted to assist the YMCA in helping the community.

**Pictured:**  
*Compliance Administrator  
Tiffany Carney with YMCA  
representative.*

## Changing Lives at McFarland Through Education

Written By **Claire Calvo, McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility**

On May 26, 2017, twenty-five participants received their completion certificates from the first "Train for Success" classes offered at the McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility through Westside Energy Services Training and Education Center (WESTEC). WESTEC is a non-profit educational cooperative offering short and long-term training programs in a wide variety of subject areas.

After two weeks of classes, the participants received certificates in a wide range of career disciplines including Supervisor Safety Training, Basic Employee Safety for General Industry, Contractor Confined Space, Defensive Driving, Forklift Operator Safety, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Safety Training, Oilfield Hazard Awareness, Emergency Response Technician, and CPR/AED/First Aid for infants, children, and adults.

The participants were proud to be the first graduating class at McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility and appreciated the staff's efforts in bringing this opportunity to them. **Pictured:** *McFarland Female Community Reentry Facility's Westside Energy Services Training and Education Center graduation class.*



## HTCF Supports St. Jude Children's Hospital

Written By **Selina Lewis, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) went all out for its fundraising events held during the months of April and May for St. Jude Children's Hospital. The HTCF's American Legion Post 198 kicked off the event series with a pizza fundraiser that raised nearly \$500. The employee appreciation committee held a Basketball Tournament and a kiss-the-pig contest. The PLUS Program wrapped up the event series with a successful fried chicken fundraiser that raised \$830. All totaled, HTCF presented a grand total of \$ 2,030 to St. Jude Children's Hospital through these collective efforts.

## Second Harvest Food Bank at New Castle Correctional Facility

Written By **Angela Price, New Castle Correctional Facility**

One of the community service projects that the Residential Reformatory Re-entry Program (RRRP) inmates at New Castle Correctional Facility participate in is the second Harvest Food Bank. Eight inmates are taken to the First Baptist Church and then assist by placing the collected food items into the vehicles of the families that pass through. A wide variety of foods are distributed every month, which include produce such as potatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and other items such as pasta, dairy, and bread. There are approximately 175 vehicles that pass through to receive food with approximately 30,000 pounds of food distributed each time. Without the assistance of the RRRP inmates, the Harvest Food Bank would not be able to efficiently distribute the food to the needy families of the community.



## LaSalle Supports The American Cancer Society

Written By **Amy Spence, LaSalle ICE Processing Center**



**Pictured from left to right:** Case Manager Wendy Brown, Assistant Warden Finance and Administration Brenda Sullivan, Training Administrator Tonya Adams, Warden D.C. Cole, Ms. Kristin Franks, Fire and Safety Manager Kenneth Gurganus, Executive Secretary Amy Spence, and Human Resource Manager Melinda Parker.

On June 29, 2017, GEO's LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LaSalle) Warden D.C. Cole presented the American Cancer Society's Community Manager Kristin Franks with a check in the amount of approximately \$8,089.

The LaSalle's Relay for Life event committee worked tirelessly throughout the year to exceed previous donations by hosting bake sales, raffles, T-shirt sales, and several other functions. As so many of LaSalle's staff are directly affected by cancer, LaSalle is extremely proud to be an annual supporter of the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

Warden D.C Cole challenged his staff to raise \$10,000 for 2018. If able to achieve the goal, Warden Cole has agreed to shave his head. To donate, please contact Amy Spence at [aspence@geogroup.com](mailto:aspence@geogroup.com) by March 31, 2018.

## LCCF Partners with the University of the Southwest

Written By **Angela Wimberley, Lea County Correctional Facility**



Lea County Correctional Facility located in Hobbs, New Mexico, partnered with the University of the Southwest to launch a seminary program within the inmate population. University of the Southwest students are instructed and mentored by a faculty member who demonstrates Christ-centered values. Lea County Correctional Facility is currently the first and only facility that promotes this valuable program in New Mexico.

Upon completion, the inmates' receive a Bachelor's degree in Theology. In July, along with the University of the Southwest, Lea County Correctional Facility held the first seminary graduation. During the ceremony, two diplomas were received as well as twenty-two certificates. The seminary program currently has forty-three new enrollments with many taking interest everyday.

# The Impact Of Program Completion

Data From Illinois Day Reporting Centers

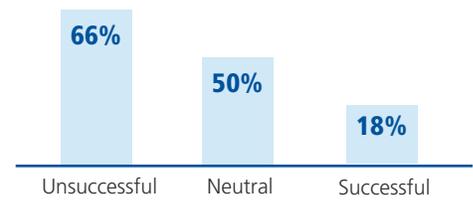
Written By **Jason Boggs, Michael Lucas, John Thurston, & Kasia Kijanczuk, Continuum of Care Research Department, Corporate**

GEO Reentry Service Centers (RSCs) have operated in Illinois since 1998 and deliver evidence-based, cognitive-behavioral treatment proven to reduce recidivism. Substance abuse, anger management, cognitive behavioral treatment, and employment and education services are the core treatment components at the Illinois Reentry Service Centers. Although uncontrollable events can prevent program completion (e.g., transfers, discharged by parole agent), our data shows that those who are able to complete the program are significantly less likely to recidivate, regardless of their risk assessment score.

Recidivism is defined in this report as the return to an Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) prison within three years of the GEO RSC discharge date. The population included all 1,144 participants discharged from one of five GEO RSC programs in calendar year 2013. The GEO RSC program targets moderate to high risk individuals as identified by an intake assessment and less than 1% of these participants scored as low risk. This report data represents the parolees' status on the three year anniversary of RSC discharge. Parolee classification included in-custody or on parole, and, excluding 4 individuals who became deceased within three years, participant discharge types included *successful* participants (286) completed all requirements of the program, *neutral* participants (279) were either discharged by the assigned parole agent, or transferred, and *unsuccessful* participants (579) did not check-in for five consecutive days or were rearrested.

GEO recidivism outcomes revealed that 58% (589) of the 1,144 RSC participants returned to an IDOC prison within three years of RSC discharge, regardless of discharge type. Further, those who successfully completed the program were half as likely to recidivate (28%) compared to those who were unable to complete the program (64%).

## Recidivism by Discharge Category- High Risk Offenders



▲ The figure above shows the impact program completion has on higher risk inmates (Level of Service Inventory- Revised score >34) reflecting the significant effects associated with program completion and recidivism.



## Global Leadership Summit

Written By **Donald Emerson, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

The Global Leadership Summit was held on August 11-12, 2017, at the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF). This was an exciting event for the inmates, staff, and volunteers who participated in the Summit. One-hundred and forty-four inmates participated, along with fifteen staff members and five volunteers. The Global Leadership Summit is a two-day event telecast live from Willow's campus in Illinois that is broadcast every August. The two-day event has pastors and leaders who share their experiences and leadership skills to assist in personal development as well as church growth. The inmates were very appreciative to have the opportunity to participate in the event. The inmates took notes and asked follow-up questions to the chaplain and staff. HTCF is looking forward to next year's Global Leadership Summit.

## Hot Dog Fundraiser for GEO Family

Written By **Dayle Nelson, Tacoma ICE Processing Center**



Tacoma ICE Processing Center staff in Tacoma, Washington, recently raised money for GEO Detention Officer John Lingenfelter's 7-year-old daughter, Savannah, who battled leukemia twice. GEO Detention Officer Matt Smith donated his time and his commercial hotdog cart, Tacoma Wiener Company, to host the fundraiser for the family. With the help of Detention Officer Vincent Cvitanovic and Sergeant Joshua Steffens, Smith found himself grilling a steady supply of dogs throughout the day. By the end of the day, Smith and his crew raised \$2,500 for the Lingenfelter family, exceeding their goal. To learn how to help the Lingenfelter family, go to [www.paypal.me/teamsavannah](http://www.paypal.me/teamsavannah). After the fundraiser, The Lingenfelters received fantastic news from Savannah's doctors—Savannah is now cancer-free!



## GED Graduation at Riverbend

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

Riverbend Correctional Facility's spring GED graduation held on June 23, 2017, celebrated nearly fifty GED graduates. Several family members were in attendance to support their student graduates. Dr. Sandra Anderson, an ex-inmate herself, was the guest speaker with a powerful message. GED Teacher Donna Jacobs and Programs Officer Yolanda Bryant received Apple Awards from the valedictorian to recognize their commitment and encouragement to students in achieving their GEDs.

**Pictured:** Spring GED Graduation Class of 2017. Recipient of the Programs Apple award, GED Teacher Donna Jacobs. Recipient of the Security Apple award, Programs Officer Yolanda Bryant.

## Mr. Reed and Mr. Guffey

Written By **George Garcia, Central Arizona Correctional Facility**

Mr. Ricky Reed and Mr. Willis Guffey arrived at Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF) with a positive attitude towards making a difference in the classroom. As a result, they have produced fifteen High School Equivalency Diplomas in 2016, as well as thirteen inmates graduating in the first quarter of 2017. According to both, the acquisition of knowledge goes beyond a diploma. Lifelong learning is the common goal. Mr. Reed and Mr. Guffey arrive to the classroom with a "get the job done" attitude each day, ready to manage and teach their students. Both are accomplished and retired teachers. Their positive results of twenty-eight High School Equivalency Diplomas are an inspiration to everyone at CACF.

## Volunteer Training and Appreciation Events at LaSalle

Written By **Amy Spence, LaSalle ICE Processing Center**

LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LaSalle) and Alexandria Staging Facility (ASF) held its annual Volunteer Training and Appreciation events on July 8, 2017 and July 22, 2017.

Each year, LaSalle has been blessed with the continued support of their religious volunteers. Some of their volunteers travel as much as three hours every week to preach and counsel the population. Between the two days, LaSalle trained forty-four new and returning volunteers and honored twenty-five volunteers who continue to support LaSalle's population each week. LaSalle and ASF have representatives from five different denominations with volunteers who speak three different languages. Our new volunteers gained knowledge from our veteran volunteers, some of whom have provided weekly services for nearly ten years. The dedication to their assignment and the excitement that they show at every visit is inspiring to the population and staff alike. The Volunteer Appreciation event allowed us an opportunity to show our volunteers our heartfelt gratitude for their continued support.

**Pictured left to right: Back row:** Robert Corley, The Gideons International, Terry Head, Life Church of Olla, Pastor David McGuffee from the Lighthouse Baptist Church of Monroe, James Goodman, Christian Worship Center of Alexandria, Ron Fuqua, The Gideons International, Andrew Byon, The Gideons International, and Norman Preston, The Gideons International. **Front row:** Jeannie Huang, First Baptist Church of Ferriday, Linda Bratlie-Butler, Calvary Baptist Church of Jena, and Ellen Preston, Christian Worship Center of Alexandria.



## Karnes County Correctional Center Commits to Rachael's Challenge

Written By **Brittany Machado**, Karnes County Correctional Center

Rachel Joy Scott was the first student killed in the Columbine school shooting in 1999. After her death, friends, teachers, and random strangers came forth and shared stories about the impact Rachel had on them when she was alive. Because of this, her family created a non-profit organization in her name. Rachel's Challenge is a program that promotes and creates a positive change in students and in the school environment and culture. Through Rachel's Challenge, Karnes City Junior High (KCJH) creates a positive school culture based on kindness and compassion. Karnes County Correctional Center donated composition notebooks that will be used every week throughout the school year for journaling and brainstorming. It's an honor that the Karnes County Correctional Center gets to be a part of bringing positivity and kindness to youth in the community.

**Pictured left to right: Back row:** KCJH Counselor Deanna Wiatreck, HSA Nancy Currie, Transport Supervisor Lieutenant Jeri Hughes, Classification Lieutenant Estella Garza, and Executive Secretary Brittany Machado. **Front row:** KCJH Principle Teresa Molina, Library Officer Teresa Valdez, and Food Service Manager Jivette Taylor.



## Tent Revival at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

Written By **Selina Lewis**, Heritage Trail Correctional Facility

Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) had back to back tent revivals during the month of June that served to bring spirit-filled services to the inmate population.

The first revival was presented by Prison Tent Revival Services with Pastor Dave Brewer and his wife Deborah, with Kairos volunteers working to lead the men through message, praise, and worship. There were over 300 inmates in attendance. For the following revival, HTCF partnered with Jesus Inside Prison Ministry (JIPM) to hold a three-day revival. Pastor William Bumpus and the Jesus House Ministries led the men through services, inspirational speakers, choirs, gospel rappers, and poets. Over 500 offenders were entertained, motivated, and inspired daily by the words and music provided.



## LaSalle ICE Processing Center Partners with Local "APPLES" Program

Written By **Amy Spence**, LaSalle ICE Processing Center

Each school year, the LaSalle ICE Processing Center (LaSalle) partners with the local APPLES (Assistance, Program, People, LaSalle, Education, System) program in the LaSalle Parish area to participate in a back-to-school supply drive to help underprivileged and homeless children receive the necessary school supplies they need for the upcoming school year. LaSalle was asked to provide notebook paper, index cards, and boxes of tissues. Human Resources Manager Melinda Parker led the drive collecting over 200 donated items. **Pictured left to right: Back row:** Crystal Cripps, Kenneth Gurganus, Melinda Parker, and Becky Francis. **Front row:** Virginia Walters, Whitney McClure, Jodi LeDoux, Lindsey Vercher, and Missy Bignar.



## Emergency Equipment Training at Great Plains Correctional Facility

Written By **Mandy Davis, Great Plains Correctional Facility**

The Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) Commander Lieutenant Michael Gooch and co-commander Lieutenant Stephen Castiglione started providing emergency response training to non-security staff at Great Plains Correctional Facility. Training emphasized the location of the 30% room, defensive equipment, techniques, and formations. On June 29, 2017, the CERT commander and co-commander held a training class for the programs department. This training has not only brought awareness to all staff, but also preparedness for any emergency situation.

**Pictured:** Chaise Rogers, Olga Galipon, Sheela Rodgers, Tracy Sanderson, Jennifer Robertson, Silvia Garcia, Hallie Cozad, Eunice Wedman, Charlotte Kalamajka, and Jason Wood.



## Operation Independence – We Support our Troops

Written By **Brittany Machado, Karnes County Correctional Center**

Operation Independence collects items to be sent to military men and women serving overseas. Items such as personal care toiletries, games, snacks, and personal notes were collected, assembled by volunteers, and then sent to the brave service members. The Karnes County Correctional Center helped in collecting the items needed to show our military that we support them.

**Pictured left to right:** Training Coordinator Christina Faanoa, Inmate Accounts and Vet Miriam Davis, Food Service Manager and Vet Jivette Taylor, Otto Kaiser Memorial Hospital representative, and Human Resources Darlene Semlinger.



## East Hidalgo Detention Center Provides Scholarships

Written By **Jason E. Jones, East Hidalgo Detention Center**



**Pictured left to right: Front row:** Arnie Amaro, David Palomon, Jason E. Jones, Manuel Pena, and Lawrence Watson. **Back row:** Alma Moron, Mario Lopez, Manuel Hinojosa, Jorge Lopez Jr., and Jose Contreras.

On May 30, 2017, the City of La Villa held its 2nd annual award/scholarship ceremony. The City Youth Center was decorated and full of family, friends, and elected officials. Warden Jason Jones, Major Manuel Pena, and Training Administrator Lawrence Watson were invited to attend as guests of the City of La Villa. Warden Jones was asked to present the check for the scholarships to the City of La Villa in the amount of \$10,000. Afterwards, he was asked to speak to the group about the benefits of a college education. Warden Jones told them to follow their dreams and never give up. The ceremony ended with thirty-six graduating seniors receiving some kind of scholarship. The event was a huge success, and the East Hidalgo Detention Center was happy to be such a large part of it. The GEO Group is always proud and happy to give back to the community.

## Heritage Trail Honors Black History Month

Written By **Selina Lewis,**  
**Heritage Trail Correctional Facility**

Heritage Trail Correctional Facility (HTCF) was proud to celebrate and honor Black History Month. Beginning with the "spoken word," ten HTCF inmates wrote and read inspirational poetry to over 300 inmates.

In honor of Black History Month, there was a featured Jazz Night with 20-year-old contemporary jazz saxophonist Bryan Thompson. His styles range from jazz, to instrumental pop, and R&B. Bryan has had the opportunity to play the National Anthem at five Indiana Pacers games and has also performed in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and even in Nairobi Kenya, Africa. Bryan continues to master his craft while being innovative in the music business.

Later in the month, HTCF Chaplain Betty Alexander hosted a talent show giving the population an opportunity to entertain their fellow inmates with their many talents. Twelve inmates performed in front of approximately 230 inmates. HTCF wrapped the month up with a walk through American history — past, present, and future.



## Graceville's Faith-Based Program Highlights

Written By **Jill Parker,** **Graceville Correctional Facility**

March 18, 2015, was a milestone for The GEO Group's faith-based program in the state of Florida. The Florida Department of Corrections approved GEO's Graceville Correctional Facility's (GCF) residential faith-based program as the first private facility to have met its guidelines and mandatory requirements for official certification.

Since that date, 195 inmates have officially graduated from the sixteen-month, state-certified program. Today with a population of 188 inmates participating, GCF's program objective is to inspire the full development of each inmate's goals, abilities, and interests through in-classroom instruction and in-dormitory accountability. Our program utilizes volunteer instructors and mentors in classroom settings to achieve the highest possible standards of teaching and to promote a working relationship with the local community. Classes such as victim awareness, Thinking for a Change (T4C), SALT (7 Areas of Life Training), financial management, Family Integrity Training (FIT), and Getting It Right, specifically focus on character building, parenting, personal responsibility, and integrity. The cumulative result of the program is that we have already seen lower disciplinary rates for enrolled inmates. The program's goal is to see the faith-based graduate positively impact his dorm, facility, family, and ultimately his community. **Pictured:** Faith Based Coordinator and Senior Chaplain David Hendricks.

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## 20 Years of Service — Rosa Fernandez

Written By **Brenda Duran,** **Central Arizona Correctional Facility**



On August 29, 2017, Inmate Trust Clerk at Central Arizona Correctional Facility, Rosa Fernandez, was awarded her twenty-year service award. Rosa started with GEO at ASP-Florence West when it first opened in 1997 as a Mailroom Clerk/Receptionist. In her twenty years, she has worked as a Mailroom Clerk, Receptionist, Inmate Records Clerk, and is currently the Inmate Trust Clerk. She is excellent at her job and knows what needs to be done. Rosa has done a wonderful job in all her positions at both facilities and has undoubtedly showed that she is a loyal and dedicated employee of The GEO Group. When asked her secret to her twenty years with GEO, she stated "I love it here." Congratulations Rosa!



## Riverbend's Garden Feeds The Local Community

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

Officer Allen Jeffery has been supervising the harvest of okra, corn, tomatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, and cucumbers from Riverbend Correctional Facility's very own vegetable garden. On Mondays, Assistant Warden Angela Reaves delivers fresh produce to Café Central to assist with feeding hungry residents in their community of Milledgeville. Café Central continues to be the only place in Milledgeville where residents can come for a warm welcome and a free hot meal. Thanks to Riverbend Correctional Facility's garden, fresh cucumbers are now included in salads.



## The GEO Foundation Awards \$21,000 Towards Student Scholarships

Written By **Terrin Albanese & Jennifer Glispie,**  
**Arizona State Prison-Florence West**

Arizona State Prison-Florence West and Central Arizona Correctional Facility donated \$21,000 from The GEO Group Foundation to the Florence Unified School District to go towards student scholarships in the surrounding community. This is the third year in a row that the two GEO facilities have been able to donate \$21,000 towards scholarships for the Florence Unified School District.

To support the scholarship recipients, Warden Rick Mauldin and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Glispie attended the Poston Butte High School scholarship award ceremony on May 16, 2017. They were able to hand out scholarships to fifteen students. That same night, Assistant Warden Brenda Duran attended the San Tan Foothills High School scholarship award ceremony and issued scholarships to five students. Warden Bennie Rollins and Alyssa Hinkler attended the Florence High School scholarship award ceremony and awarded ten students with scholarships. It was a proud moment to be a part of an exciting time for the seniors. The scholarships were well received by all students. The students from Poston Butte High School wrote letters to both Wardens thanking them for helping them further their educations.

**Pictured:** Warden Rick Mauldin, Superintendent Chris Knutsen, Warden Bennie Rollins, and Administrative Assistant Jennifer Glispie. San Tan Foothills High School scholarship recipients. Poston Butte High School scholarship recipients.

## Lea County CF Donates to Ronald McDonald House

Written By **Angela Wimberley,**  
**Lea County Correctional Facility**

Rockwind Community Links recently held a golf tournament in August 2017 benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest. GEO's Lea County Correctional Facility proudly contributed \$600 towards the organization and participated in the two-day event.

**Pictured:** Warden RC Smith and Aaron Berry.



# 6th Annual Quality Conference 2017

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



The 6th annual Quality Conference was held on June 27-30, 2017, at Corporate Headquarters and the Embassy Suites in Boca Raton, Florida, to discuss, encourage, train, and brainstorm on divisional, client, and compliance issues. Compliance Administrators from forty-two U.S. Corrections/ Detention facilities, four Quality and Compliance Specialists from Youth Services facilities, Facility Directors or their designees who conduct compliance at the eighteen GEO Residential Reentry Centers (RRC), and

twenty-eight CEC RRCs gathered with the Corporate Contract Compliance staff from across the country for a week of workshops, breakouts, and presentations designed to advance compliance practices and understanding for GEO protocols. With the CEC acquisition in April, the number of RRC participants more than doubled and for the first time the Reentry Services group outnumbered the Corrections attendees. For one afternoon prior to the start of the Quality Conference, the Contract

Compliance Department came together from Los Angeles, San Antonio, Denver, Charlotte, Indiana, Pittsburgh, and Illinois for a yearly meeting of our group.

This year, we hosted several breakout sessions, not only for work sessions, but also sessions for specialized training. Six hours of ACA Automation Training was conducted by ACA Accreditation Director Catherine Price. Two hours of Compliance Rookie Training was conducted by Vice President Janet

Hardwick. Six hours of training on the full scope of PREA Policy and Investigations was conducted by Phebia Moreland, Jonathon Dressler, Rob Walling, and Jennifer Sheahan.

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 for your support in making it possible. We look forward to seeing you next June 24-26, 2018!

## NCCF's Food Service Team Awarded "Outstanding Food Service"

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



Aramark staff at the New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF) were pleasantly surprised on August 7, 2017, by John Schilling, Director of Contract Compliance, Indiana Department of Correction, when he awarded them with the traveling trophy for "Outstanding Food Service" for all Indiana correctional facilities. John Schilling and his team look at numerous factors including audit scores, responses, and community involvement when deciding which facility will receive this prestigious award, which is given every six months. John Schilling announced that NCCF is deserving of this award because the team members, under the supervision of Food Service Director Dawn Ellis, have gained confidence in answering questions in regards to audits and are always knowledgeable and helpful during site visits.



## Dungavel Staff Flying High for Local Charities

Written By **Gill Duffy & Kevin Williams, Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre**

A group of staff members from Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) recently skydived for charity. Gill Duffy, Angela Dorman, Chris Atkinson, and Mark McGhee jumped for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, while Kayleigh Flynn continued her annual fundraising and jumped for Pancreatic Cancer Scotland in memory of her mum. Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity funds enhance equipment and services at the Royal Hospital for children to ensure that all of their young patients receive the best possible care. Pancreatic Cancer Scotland offers funding both to individual researchers and to research centres across Scotland to encourage and support their long-term goal of developing effective treatments and improving survival rates of those suffering from pancreatic cancer in Scotland. The total donations received from staff, friends, family, and the union reached over £2,000. Joanne Henney, Chief Operating Officer for The GEO Group UK Ltd, commented, "I would like to congratulate the staff for their bravery and dedication in supporting local charities. They are a credit to Dungavel House IRC and The GEO Group UK Ltd."

*Pictured left to right: Mark McGhee, Angela Dorman, Kayleigh Flynn, Gill Duffy, and Chris Atkinson. Ready for take-off!*

## Junee Expansion Works Underway

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



Work has begun on the AUD\$220 million expansion of Junee Correctional Centre in Australia. The centre was identified for expansion as part of the New South Wales Government's plan to accommodate an increasing population. Local member of parliament, Katrina Hodgkinson, turned the first sod of soil in April with works expected to be completed late next year. Over 250 jobs are expected to be created during construction and about 130 construction, administration, and correctional officer jobs upon completion. The work will include refurbishments and extensions to several areas including the health centre, reception, administration, stores, kitchen, laundry, industries, and SHINE For Kids building.



## Arthur Gorrie Employee is an Ironman

Written By **Philip Goslin, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre**

Garry Alston, a 55-year-old Corrective Services Officer at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in Australia, has just completed the 2017 Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship triathlon event in Cairns.

Having competed in triathlons for 30 years, including representing Australia at four triathlon world championships, Garry described this Ironman event as the most important of his sporting career. "I had excellent club support and assistance from GEO with my shifts organised around training," said Garry. Garry described the opening swim leg of the Cairns Ironman as "rough," but he managed to exit the water in under an hour and in second place for his age group. Garry competed in the event with financial support from The GEO Group Australia. His next mission is to target the Olympic distance world championships on the Gold Coast in 2018.

## Chopping Her Way to Success

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



Caroline Wassink knows how to swing an axe. The 26-year-old Correctional Officer from Junee Correctional Centre (JCC) in Australia has just been crowned world champion at the 2017 Lumberjack World Championships. Held in Hayward, Wisconsin, the Lumberjack World Championships began in 1960 and showcase twenty-one unique competitions from logrolling to chopping, and the exciting 90-foot tree climb. Caroline competed in the women's underhand chop — a race against time using an axe to cut through a horizontal aspen log that is eleven inches in diameter and twenty-six inches long. Her time was 28.11 seconds — just shy of the 27.28 seconds world record set by fellow competitor Nancy Zalewski in 2011. Caroline got into wood chopping eight years ago after watching her stepfather teach her brother how to swing an axe. She has been on the Australian Women's Team since 2014, and at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show, competed against forty-five other elite woodchoppers for a place at the world titles. Caroline has worked for GEO since 2014 when she graduated as a Correctional Officer at Fulham Correctional Centre. She transferred to JCC in 2016.

## Support for Parents of Preterm Infants

Written By **Philip Goslin**, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre



Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre (AGCC) in Australia recently sponsored the Preterm Infants Parents Association (PIPA) team competing in the Bridge to Brisbane fun run called PIPA's Little Feet Big Feet. The Queensland-based charity's goal is to raise awareness of premature birth and to provide understanding, information, encouragement, friendship, and where possible, financial assistance to parents of preterm infants throughout Queensland. A premature baby is one born before thirty-seven weeks gestation. Over 5,500 babies (8.7%) are born premature each year in Queensland. AGCC Corrective Services Officer Greg Smith and his wife Jamie are both involved with PIPA. Celebrating its twenty-first year in 2017, the event course takes in some of Brisbane's most iconic landmarks with participants running over the Story Bridge and finishing at the beautiful South Bank Parklands. GEO contributed AUD\$500 to the PIPA team whose mission is to promote prematurity awareness and raise funds to support the association's work.

**Picture:** AGCC presenting donation to PIPA: AGCC representative Sidd Mehta, Eileen Cooke, Sonya Robinson, and PIPA representative Jamie Smith.

## NAIDOC Week Celebrations at Junee

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



The Cultural Centre at Junee Correctional Centre was a hive of activity during National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week in August 2017. More than 200 Indigenous inmates participated in a range of activities that celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. A dance group provided an opportunity for both the local Wiradjuri people and 'out of country' participants to celebrate their culture through dance. A focus on traditional Indigenous food was also important with kangaroo, emu, and crocodile being prepared by inmates. The theme for NAIDOC week in 2017 was 'Our Languages Matter' with the aim to emphasise the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity and in transferring history, spirituality, and rites through story and song.



## ADAPPT Staff Receive Citation From The City Of Reading

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

Staff at Alcohol & Drug Addiction Parole & Probation Treatment (ADAPPT) in Reading, Pennsylvania, were recently awarded a citation from the City of Reading for the consistent community service efforts of staff and residents. ADAPPT maintains a sustained record of volunteer work for the City, providing assistance with community needs and events. Recently staff and residents at the ADAPPT Reentry center lended a hand at the Reading Public Library on a renovation project, and the City chose to acknowledge the staff for their help.

“We are very grateful to the City of Reading for this important acknowledgment,” said

Monique Hendricks, Senior Area Manager. “The staff at ADAPPT does a great job in their efforts to get residents involved in community service and giving back to society.”

The citation was presented by Bronwen Gamble, Executive Director of the Reading Public Library. Most community service projects are coordinated by Donna Conley, ADAPPT’s Group Home Supervisor.

“It is an honor to receive this citation from the City,” said Ms. Conley. “We recognize the importance of community service as part of the reentry service mission. Our residents understand the concept of giving back and the importance of it.”

On March 24, 2017, volunteers cleared furniture and bookshelves at the Reading Public Library to allow for a new room to be constructed there. The ADAPPT team displayed a great work ethic and maintained a positive attitude throughout the day’s hard work.

Since January 2017, ADAPPT residents have contributed an average of 550 hours per month of community service to local non-profit agencies. Staff and residents consistently perform varied volunteer activities at local rescue missions, churches, organizations, and assisted the city with snow removal when appropriate.

ADAPPT has several locations in Reading, providing a comprehensive program of evidence-based treatment services. Services at ADAPPT include assessments, counseling, life skills, educational training, 12-step programs, and Rational Emotive Behavioral Therapy (REBT), as well as other evidence-based programming designed to prepare residents for a successful reentry to society.

**Pictured left to right:** Executive Director of the Reading Public Library Bronwen Gamble and ADAPPT Group Home Supervisor Donna Conley. Deputy Director of ADAPPT Sandra Van Sickle and ADAPPT Group Home Supervisor Donna Conley,

## Abraxas Marienville Joins Local League for Summer Hoops

Written By **Jeff Polley & Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**

Under the guidance of Head Coach Jeff Polley and Assistant Coach Dave Colbert, participants at Abraxas Marienville had the opportunity to participate in both a summer and fall varsity basketball league in Venango County, PA. The Oil City Area Boys Summer League hosted nineteen area varsity boys' teams this past summer. The season was nine weeks long and each team played twelve games.

Participants practiced together six times per week to enhance their skills. They had to learn how to work and play well together. Of course the goal is to win, but more importantly Abraxas Marienville wanted to teach their players to overcome adversity. In competitive sports, nearly all players have negative outcomes from time to time. The growth comes from the player who has the bad moment, accepts it, and keeps playing with the intent to get better. They finished the season with eleven wins and only one loss (with a last second two point shot). Many of the other league coaches shared how impressed they were with the Abraxas Marienville participants' talent and behavior. So much so, that the team was invited to participate in the Franklin Christmas Tournament. Participation teaches the players to have an appreciation for sports, develop good discipline, appreciate teamwork, accept responsibility, develop good work ethic, and learn to respect.



## 3rd Annual Orange County Reentry Resource Fair

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

The Orange County Reentry Partnership (OCREP), in partnership with The GEO Group and the Orange County Public Defender Office, co-hosted the 3rd Annual Reentry Resource Fair on June 13, 2017, at the Honda Center in Anaheim, California. There were approximately sixty community providers and sixty-five parolees in attendance. The Parole Service Associate Latisha Fairley shared about the many services the Santa Ana DRC offers, and many Parole Agents and Supervisors were in attendance to support the event. Santa Ana DRC Program Manager Yadira De Santiago and Transition Specialist Valerie Ross from Contra Costa County Office of Education had the vision of hosting this fair in December 2014. In January 2015, Valerie and Yadira both reached out to Chair of OCREP Meghan Medlin. Meghan and the board from OCREP was able to put together a planning committee and then successfully held their first reentry fair in May 2015.

## Thriving Garden at Community Alternatives of the Black Hills

Written By **Tessa LaHaie, Community Alternatives of the Black Hills**

Community Alternatives of the Black Hills' (CABH) annual resident garden is flourishing! "After a summer that started out as a drought, I wasn't sure if the garden would make it," said Director Tessa LaHaie. The garden has been a staple at the facility in South Dakota for several years. This year to save money, they bought more seeds than plants. The residents are growing squash, zucchini, jalapenos, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, and pumpkins. Social Services Coordinator Joan Freiberg oversees the garden every year. Joan makes the purchases and gets the residents to help plant, pull weeds, and water the vegetables all summer. Many of the residents find participating in the garden therapeutic. Head Cook Richard Adams takes items from the garden and adds them to the meals being prepared.



# Tooley Hall Celebrates First EMBARC (CBT) Program Graduation

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

Tooley Hall located in Denver, Colorado, was proud to host its first graduation of residents who completed the EMBARC (Enhancing Motivation by Achieving Reshaped Cognition) program. The graduation was held in May 2017 after the first ten residents completed the 90-day research-informed treatment program that uses strategies and techniques to work with high-risk individuals. Designed as a Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) program, EMBARC utilizes the CBI-CC treatment model developed by Dr. Edward Latessa at the University of Cincinnati.

Created as partnership between The GEO Group, the Denver Division of Community Corrections, and the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, this innovative, comprehensive program approach and model utilizes evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatment. This treatment is designed to provide the best mechanism to change behavior and fill the skill deficits of its participants. The program was recently awarded to Tooley Hall to engage community corrections residents in a CBT approach to assist in preparation for further treatment. Research supports the ability to change destructive thinking and behavior by cognitive restructuring and skill training with directed practice, therefore making an impact towards reducing recidivism.

"We are proud to partner with the Denver Division of Community Corrections to implement the EMBARC program," said Eric Holzwarth, Director of Tooley Hall. "Our residents made progress using this evidence-based method. It is rewarding to host the first graduation and know our residents are better prepared to continue further reentry treatment after completing EMBARC."

The EMBARC program offers a tiered system that targets the top four intrinsic criminogenic needs that are rooted in antisocial cognitions,



beliefs, and values. Emphasis is placed on treatment that specifically addresses social learning using skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. The intended outcome will prepare residents for further community corrections treatment and serve as preparation for ultimately reentering society as law-abiding citizens.

A ceremony was held at Tooley Hall complete with certificates awarded to the graduates. All the residents felt a sense of accomplishment and took pride in their progression towards continued recovery. They will be released to community corrections programs and be provided with further reentry programming before reentering the community.

***Pictured:*** Case Manager Ashley LeRossignol (left) distributes EMBARC graduation certificates, as resident Derek Thomas of Tooley Hall (right) steps up to receive congratulations for successfully completing the program.



## The Gift of Encouragement

Written By **Jeanne Godlesky, Abraxas Marienville**

In May 2017, Avonni came to me with an idea to make a quilt with words of encouragement from Abraxas Marienville residents on it. Avonni had struggled at Abraxas Marienville, but with support, she was able to progress in treatment. Her goal was to encourage other young people while they were here with the quilt. We purchased small white cloth squares and distributed a number of squares and fabric pens to each of the five dorms. Within a week or so, we had ninety squares that had pictures and words of encouragement proudly displayed upon them. It took Avonni a couple of weeks to complete the quilt, but she quickly mastered using the sewing machine and sewed the squares together. On June 5, 2017, one day before her scheduled discharge date, the quilt was finished! Soon this quilt will be framed and hung at Abraxas Marienville for all to read and hopefully feel support and encouragement by the words that have been shared by so many.

## ADAPPT Participants Help Berks Community Action Program

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**



*Pictured left to right: ADAPPT participant Angela Torres, participant Lonnie Maldonado, participant Dominique Guerrisi, Chairwoman for Berks Community Action Program, Patricia Wright, participant Acen Eastridge, and participant Damion Dietrich. ADAPPT participants Acen Eastridge, Damion Dietrich, Dominique Guerrisi, Lonnie Maldonado, and Angela Torres.*

Summer 2017 brought another opportunity for the participants at the Alcohol & Drug Addiction Parole & Probation Treatment (ADAPPT) residential reentry facility in Reading, Pennsylvania, to support the Berks Community Action Program (BCAP). BCAP is a local non-profit organization that aims to combat poverty and assist low and moderate income residents become self-sufficient citizens. On July 15, 2017, ADAPPT staff accompanied participants on a street cleanup project in the City's 6th Ward, an event hosted by BCAP. ADAPPT's record of community service continues to expand annually. In 2015, ADAPPT participants contributed nearly 5,000 hours of community service, and in 2016 their volunteer efforts grew to over 6,500 hours in service to local community non-profit organizations. "We are proud of our ongoing commitment to BCAP and the City of Reading," said Mike Critchosis, Director of ADAPPT. "Our participants are provided with an opportunity to give back to the community and experience the rewards of positive actions and responsible behavior."

## Bo Robinson Residents Plant Seeds For A Brighter Future

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**



Residents from the Albert M. Bo Robinson Assessment and Treatment Center willingly volunteered for community service with Arm in Arm of Trenton, New Jersey, for a day of outdoor gardening work on August 10, 2017. The male residents assisted by putting down soil and planting seeds for the community-based organization that operates a garden that grows fresh produce for local food pantry customers. Residents were volunteers from a unit that is designated for individuals classified by the New Jersey Department of Corrections as needing mental health treatment. The unit is located within the Albert M. Bo Robinson Assessment and Treatment Center, a residential reentry center in Trenton, New Jersey, with services provided by GEO Care.

## Casper Reentry Center & The Great Eclipse

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**



Staff and residents at the Casper Reentry Center (CRC) in Wyoming did not miss out on the great eclipse that took place on August 21, 2017, thanks to Director Joshua Brown. The residential reentry center was in the direct path of the eclipse that was only viewable in the United States. The totality phenomenon lasted for 2:26 minutes at Casper, one of the longest times recorded in the country. Director Joshua Brown purchased safety glasses for all at the facility to view the total solar eclipse that turned day to night for a matter of minutes. Staff and residents gathered outdoors to view the moon pass in front of the sun that darkened the daytime sky. "It was really an awesome sight," said Director Brown. "We witnessed something that is truly unique, something much bigger than us. I did not want our staff and residents to miss it, and I wanted to make sure everyone at CRC was prepared with the correct eyewear to experience this amazing natural occurrence." During the totality, Resident Charles sang the Lummi Nation fire song in his native language while drumming. The town of Casper experienced record numbers of people to view the eclipse; the highway counted 536,000 cars, an increase of 68% in traffic, and the local airport went from six flights a day to having 200 airplanes parked on the tarmac.



## PA State Representative Congratulates RSC Graduates

Written By **Jacqueline Schap, Dauphin County Reentry Service Center**

On May 1, 2017, staff and participants at GEO's Dauphin County Reentry Service Center (RSC) gathered together with members of parole and probation and loved ones to celebrate the achievements of the participants who completed their programming. The graduates that were represented were from the Cognitive Behavioral Interventions, Day Reporting, and Workforce Development programs. Dauphin County is proud to announce that a total of forty-four participants were eligible to graduate. Highlighting this event was special guest speaker, Pennsylvania State Representative Patty Kim. She expressed her sincere congratulations to the graduates for completing their programming and encouraged each one of them to tell their story. Her words of encouragement resonated with all in attendance when she stated, "It doesn't matter where you came from or what you did. It only matters where you are and what you do."

**Pictured left to right:** Staff of Dauphin County RSC: Elsie Schildt, Jamie Stum, Jacqueline Schap, and Kim Kreider. Pennsylvania State Representative Patty Kim.



## New Jersey Alumni Address Youth Group

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

Members of New Jersey Alumni Services were invited speakers at an event held by the Jersey City Youth program, Project USE (Urban Suburban Environments), to share with young adults about the importance of living a crime-free life. Five alumni members attended to share their message at the Bethune Center in Jersey City, on June 16, 2017. "As alumni members we are committed to carrying the message of living drug and crime free, and are grateful to share our stories about the rewards of becoming productive members of society," said Arthur Townes, Director of New Jersey Alumni Services. The five speakers consisted of Emmanuel Ross, Curtis Moore, Tia Reynolds, Arthur Townes, and Jermaine Butler, all alumni from New Jersey facilities. The young audience listened attentively, impressed by the powerful message delivered in a direct and heartfelt fashion.



## BI Manufacturing Teen Week

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

Kyle Kingrey has been working at BI Incorporated for eight years and in his role as Manager of Manufacturing, Kyle takes part in interviewing prospective candidates to work in the manufacturing department. Over the last three years, Kyle has noticed a significant decline in the skill level of people applying for manufacturing positions. Often the candidates have college degrees, but they don't have the pertinent experience needed for a position or career in manufacturing. This seems like a perfect fit for many young people today, but they need to know that these types of positions exist first. To help make that happen, Kyle joined the NoCo Manufacturing Partners, an organization that works to ensure Northern Colorado manufacturers and their communities thrive.

Part of the organization includes an initiative to educate young people called "Manufacturing Rocks!" The group offers in-class presentations for both junior and senior high school students by local manufacturers, including Kyle, who is a presenter for BI Incorporated. Kyle spends a lot of his own time doing presentations at schools where he discusses the history of BI Incorporated, what the company manufactures, how it helps make safer communities, and potential career paths such as mechanical engineering, purchasing, and quality assurance – just to name a few.

Kyle came up with the idea of hosting a Manufacturing Teen Week to give students hands-on experience on what a career in manufacturing would entail. The first Manufacturing Teen Week was held the week of July 10, 2017, and included eight teens ranging in age from grade six to grade eleven. Teams of two participants per day arrived at the BI Manufacturing floor at 7 a.m. to begin their eight-hour day. Following an early morning orientation with Kyle, each person spent time in several departments learning about inventory, assembly, soldering, testing, gluing, and data collection.

Kyle said after the success of their first Teen Manufacturing Week they plan to do it again. He is also working with educators to try to give students credit for participating in the program. Working with Manufacturing Rocks!, the next event coming up are a tour for High School students in October and then two to three more tours in 2018.

## Talbot Hall Residents Earn Vocational Skills

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

Talbot Hall in Kearny, New Jersey, is a residential reentry center that proudly introduced two new resident seminars that took place this past summer. The assessment and treatment center accommodates a capacity of 500 male residents referred from the New Jersey Department of Corrections. GEO Care provides a full program of evidence-based reentry treatment services at Talbot Hall through its contract with Education and Health Centers of America (EHCA).

Sheila Leonardo, EHCA's Director of Talbot Hall, is always on the lookout for ideas that will increase residents' chances for a successful return to the community. Two new peer-facilitated seminars have recently joined the curriculum of vocational training; Floor Waxing/Buffering and Introduction to Pesticides. Peer-facilitated seminars are taught by residents who are licensed and/or certified in the field they plan to teach or volunteers from outside professional services. These seminars have been very successful at Talbot Hall by introducing residents to career options and providing basic knowledge of a trade. Fifteen residents successfully completed the seminar, receiving a certificate of completion. An added bonus of the seminar is a contact that will help secure employment upon release for individuals willing to work.

The summer seminars proved beneficial, resulting in twenty-five residents at Talbot Hall who will be released with a start in a profession. In addition, a Commercial Driver's License class is being implemented at the center, as well as an Introduction to Kitchen work class.



## Alabama's ATEF Announces an Award from Probation and Parole

Written By **Karen Collins, GEO Care Marketing Manager**

The Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility (ATEF) is proud to announce the award of a new program from the Alabama Department of Pardons and Parole (ABPP) for a 70-bed male residential reentry program. ATEF has served a population referred from the Department of Corrections (DOC) since opening in 2008, approaching a ten-year successful hallmark of returning residents to society as productive citizens.

"We are grateful for the trust the State of Alabama has placed in us by granting us this award that recognizes the quality treatment services we provide," said Senior Area Manager, East, for GEO Reentry Services Gary Hetzel. The DOC research indicates that the rate of recidivism among individuals who have completed the ATEF program is more than 50% lower than the rate of those that have not completed the program. ATEF's recidivism rate since opening in 2008 is 15%. Residents referred from ABPP will be provided with a comprehensive program of reentry services that include substance abuse programming, life skills, family services, relapse prevention, educational and vocational services, and aftercare and alumni services. Over 6,000 residents have successfully completed the program since opening and have been provided with extensive treatment services that will help change lives and stop the cycle of recidivism.



*Pictured left to right: Director of the Alabama Therapeutic Education Facility George Edwards and Senior Area Manager East for GEO Reentry Services Gary Hetzel. Residents began programming at the center in August 2017.*

## GEO's Madera DRC Marches Against Meth and Gangs

Written By **Audrey K. Cross, Madera Day Reporting Center**

On August 19, 2017, the staff from Madera DRC and Madera Probation took part in the March Against Meth and Gangs event. The march started at 9:30 a.m. from McNally Park and ended at the Court House Park. At the park, vendors set up booths that provided resources in the community, free food, bounce houses, face painting, music, and carnival games, as well as booths that had information on Meth and gangs. While the community was visiting each booth, ex-gang members shared their stories on stage about how they changed their life and are now living drug-free lives. *Pictured left to right: Richard Garcia, participant Emilio Reyes, participant Andrea Owen, Substance Abuse Counselor Audrey Cross, Program Manager Jose Pedroza, Deputy Probation Officer Veronica Ruiz, and Teresa Anzaldna, Rachel Renberg, and Xavier Garcia from Madera Probation.*



## Suits for Success at Elizabeth CRC in New Jersey

Written By **Georgetta Robinson, Elizabeth Community Resource Center**



Through the collaborative efforts with the City of Elizabeth Reentry Coordinator Mr. Leonard Grayson and the Union County Task Force, where Ms. Georgetta Robinson, Assistant Program Manager at GEO's Elizabeth Community Resource Center represents GEO, a "Suits for Success" event for the participants at the center was held on June 9, 2017. The participants all received suits and accessories in preparation for job interviews. Thank you to the City of Elizabeth Reentry, Department of Health and Human Services, and Mary Joe of Give It For Tomorrow (GIFT) for making this event possible.

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