

# GEO World

2nd QUARTER 2024

A GEO Publication for Employees and their Families.



## The GEO Group Celebrates National Second Chance Month with Second Annual Second Chance Brunch



# Letter From The Executive Chairman

## To the GEO Family,

During the second quarter of 2024, our company achieved several important milestones, which are underpinned by the dedication of our frontline employees and our organizational commitment to operational excellence. In our GEO Secure Services segment, our facilities underwent 62 audits including internal audits, government reviews, third-party accreditations, and Prison Rape Elimination Act, or PREA, certifications, with six of them receiving accreditation from the American Correctional Association (ACA) with an average score of 99 percent and one of our secure facilities receiving PREA certification.

We also received a one-year renewal from the Georgia Department of Corrections for our 1,500-bed Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. Our management contract with the Florida Department of Corrections for the 985-bed Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility was renewed for a two-year period.

As it relates to GEO Care, in the second quarter of 2024 we renewed 15 residential reentry contracts, including five contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Our reentry services facilities successfully underwent 79 audits, including internal audits, government reviews, third-party accreditations, and PREA certifications. Five of our residential reentry centers received accreditation from the American Correctional Association with a perfect score of 100 percent, while three of our residential reentry centers received PREA certification.

In April, our company celebrated National Second Chance Month, which has been recognized by the last two Presidential Administrations and highlights our nation's commitment to assisting justice involved individuals who are transitioning back into society. For several years, GEO has taken the lead in providing enhanced in-custody rehabilitation, including cognitive behavioral treatment, integrated with post-release support services through our award-winning GEO Continuum of Care®.

During this year's Second Chance month, our company highlighted and recognized second chances with various programs and events. Our divisions and facilities hosted Second Chance Employer Luncheons, participated in Reentry Webinars, coordinated community events for returning citizens, and partnered with community organizations to help deliver services and resources to those reintegrating into society. Our company also reaffirmed its commitment to Second Chances and rehabilitation by donating more than \$237,000 to Second Chance Reentry partners and community organizations.

By reducing recidivism and putting released individuals on a path to success, we can enhance the safety of our communities. As a company, we are at our best when we are helping those in our care reenter society as successful, productive, and employable citizens.



**George C. Zoley**

Executive Chairman  
of The Board





## 02 COVER STORY

### The GEO Group Celebrates National Second Chance Month with Second Annual Second Chance Brunch

In 2024, The GEO Group celebrated and recognized National Second Chance month with various programs and events.

## Articles

- 13 **Secure Services**
- 25 **International Services**
- 26 **GEO Care**

## FEATURED ARTICLES



## 13

### Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Hosts Post-Release Case Manager

The Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (KCRF) was pleased to welcome Mr. Antonio Berrios Jr. in April to meet and greet with current and prospective participants in the Continuum of Care (CoC) program.

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Audra E. Birt  
Editor-in-Chief  
abirt@geogroup.com



## 25

### On the Journey to Reconciliation

National Reconciliation Week is held annually from May 27 to June 3, as a time for all Australians to reflect on the country's shared history, cultures, and achievements.

## CONTRIBUTORS

George C. Zoley  
Pablo E. Paez  
Chris V. Ferreira



## 28

### Former BI Incorporated Engineer, a Pioneer in Electronic Monitoring Systems, Leaves a Legacy

Donald Melton, a longtime electrical engineer at BI Incorporated, who was the driving force in the creation of many BI electronic monitoring hardware for more than two decades, passed away in May 2024.

# The GEO Group Celebrates National Second Chance Month with Second Annual Second Chance Brunch



In 2024, The GEO Group celebrated and recognized National Second Chance month with various programs and events. Second Chance Month highlights the importance of recognizing individuals, communities, and agencies for their role in supporting the safe and successful reentry of justice impacted individuals. GEO celebrated the importance of transforming lives by kicking off the month with the second Annual Second Chance Brunch.

Community Partners, Second Chance Employers, GEO Alumni, and GEO staff gathered at the company headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida, to honor Second Chance Month with our second annual brunch. Senior Vice President of GEO Secure Services, James Black; Executive Vice President of GEO Reentry and Continuum of Care, Derrick Schofield; Divisional Vice President of Continuum of Care, David Burch; and Senior Director of Programs, Angela Geisinger, each shared their personal commitment to supporting second chances through servant leadership.

Oswald Newbold, a GEO Alumni member, welcomed keynote speaker Frank Murphy, who shared his very personal and truly inspiring story. Murphy is a former NFL star, author, and

philanthropist. Frank was not the only second chance story of the day; GEO Alumni from across the country shared their experiences during a second chance panel series hosted by Tim O’Boyle, Manager of Alumni Services.

Several awards were presented at the event, including, Continuum of Care (CoC) Facility of the Year (Lea County Correctional Facility), CoC Alumni of the year (Dakota Jones), CoC Post-Release Case Manager of the Year (Amlak-I-Foley), CoC Instructor of the Year (Yvonne Turner), CoC Transition Case Manager of the Year (Natoshi Jones), CoC Program Director of the Year (Kevin Shields), Lifetime Achievement Award (Arthur Townes), and Second Chance Employment Partner of the Year (Gayle Harrell/Another Chance Community Development). Additionally, Reentry Community Partners, Timothy’s Gift and Skill Builders Solutions, were also recognized with GEO Game Changer Awards.

GEO’s celebration of Second Chance Month was impactful, reflective, and full of engagement. As the world leader in rehabilitation and post release services, GEO will continue to support second chance initiatives.

Beyond Second Chance Month, GEO is continually striving to make a difference every day through:

- **Policy Reforms:** Policies create more promising environments for individuals impacted by the Criminal Justice System. This includes revising hiring practices to be more inclusive. The GEO Group is proud to be a second chance employer.
- **Partnerships with Local Organizations through Post-Release Services:** By collaborating with housing providers, employers, faith-based groups, mental health treatment providers and community organizations, GEO ensures our graduates receive the comprehensive support they need. These partnerships result in continued access to job training, higher education, aftercare, and housing assistance while receiving guidance and motivation from post-release case managers with lived experience.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** We all play a critical role in shaping public perception. Through awareness campaigns, we educate the public on the importance of giving reentrants a second chance, thereby reducing stigma and encouraging community acceptance and support. To learn more please visit [wearegeo.com](http://wearegeo.com).
- **Direct Engagement:** Engaging directly with the population we serve helps GEO understand specific needs and challenges. Town halls, surveys, and advisory boards where pre- and post-release participants can voice their concerns and suggestions are excellent for fostering dialogue and designing more effective programs.
- **Financial Support:** Each year, GEO reaffirms its commitment to Second Chances and rehabilitation by supporting Second Chance Reentry Partners and Community Organizations through The GEO Group Foundation. In 2024, The GEO Group Foundation has donated more than \$237,000 to Second Chance Partners, including:
  - » Palm Beach County Reentry Summit
  - » The Jack Brewer Foundation

- » National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
- » Libra Life Mentoring Services
- » Integrated Wellness Care
- » Reentry One Inc.
- » Barracks Legends Foundation
- » Broward County Sheriff's Advisory Council
- » Jasmine's House of Hope
- » The Lord's Place
- » City House Inc.
- » The Hanley Foundation
- » Reborn Assistance
- » Florida Justice Center
- » Another Chance Community Development
- » Mentoring with Purpose Charity
- » The Victory Program
- » People of Purpose Foundation
- » American Probation and Parole Association
- » Leap for Ladies
- » Ball Stars Charity Foundation
- » iMatter2
- » Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
- » Florida Corrections Foundation
- » Skill Builder Solutions
- » Alabama Council on Crime and Delinquency
- » Center for Improving Youth Justice
- » Freedom Recovery Inc.
- » Palm Beach County Police Athletic League



# The GEO Group Foundation Supports The Arc of Palm Beach County

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

The GEO Group Foundation is a proud supporter of The Arc of Palm Beach County (The Arc), having supported the organization since 2011. In 2024, The GEO Group Foundation made a \$50,000 donation to The Arc and participated in its annual charity gala and golf tournament.

This year, The Arc’s annual “Go All In” charity gala featured a “Casino Night” theme and was attended by Brian Evans, GEO’s Chief Executive Officer, and his wife Tara; Ann Schlarb, GEO’s former Senior Vice President and President of GEO Care, and her husband Dan; Amber Martin, Executive Vice President of Contract Administration; Ed Stubbs, Executive Vice President of Transportation; and Jose Rosario, Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer; and his wife Becky. The event took place at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

GEO also had a team participate in The Arc Invitational, for which The GEO Group Foundation was the title sponsor. The golf tournament took place at the Breakers West Country club and was attended by Brian Evans, GEO’s Chief Executive Officer, David Venturella, GEO’s former Senior Vice President of Client Relations; Joe Negrón, GEO’s General Counsel; Adam Hasner, GEO’s Executive Vice President of Public Policy; John Bulfin, GEO’s former General Counsel; Shayn March, Executive Vice President of Finance and Treasurer; Larry Sherman, Executive Vice President of GEO Care Finance; Chris Ryan, Senior Vice President of Human Resources; Marcel Maier, Executive Vice President of Tax; Ron Brack, Executive Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer, and Controller; David Burch, Divisional Vice President, Continuum of Care; and Thomas Michuda, Senior Director of Financial Planning.





**2024 Angel of Hope  
Honoree**

**Rebecca**  
*D'Emic*



**Keynote Speaker**

**Tori Hope**  
*Petergen*

Place of Hope is non-profit organization providing programs and services to children, youth, and families to end the cycles of abuse, neglect, homelessness, poverty, and human trafficking in our local communities.

## The GEO Group Foundation Supports Place of Hope Brunch

Written By **Christopher Ferreira,**  
Corporate Relations

The GEO Group Foundation was a “Defender Sponsor” at the Place of Hope’s 10th Anniversary Angel Moms Brunch and Benefit in April. The Foundation donated \$2,000 to support the event, which was attended by Jennifer Houston, Executive Vice President of Client Relations; Ann Schlarb, Former Senior Vice President and President of GEO Care; Amber Martin, Executive Vice President of Contract Administration; Beth Crews, Executive Vice President, Legal; and Latoya Lane, Vice President of Community Solutions.



As part of GEO’s Second Chance Month celebrations in April, members of GEO’s Senior Management Team and Executives attended The Jack Brewer Foundation’s 18th Annual Blue Carpet Gala in West Palm Beach, Florida. The theme of this year’s annual Blue Carpet Gala was Fatherhood and several previously incarcerated men participated in a panel in which they spoke about the family challenges and experiences they faced while in prison and afterwards. The panel included Elmo Golden, Johnny Branham, Duke Tanner, and Adam Jolly.

## The GEO Group Supports the Jack Brewer Foundation Annual Gala

Written By **Christopher Ferreira,**  
Corporate Relations

The GEO Group Foundation helped support the gala by providing a \$15,000 table sponsorship. In attendance were Brian Evans, GEO’s Chief Executive Officer, and his wife, Tara Evans; Derrick Schofield, Executive Vice President of GEO Reentry and Continuum of Care, and his wife Gina Jules; Joe Williams, Vice President of Residential Reentry, and his wife Anne Casey; David Burch, Divisional Vice President of the Continuum of Care; Angela Geisinger, Senior Director of Programs; and Chris Ferreira, Director of Corporate Relations.



# GEO Employees Recognized by the FAU Alumni Association

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

In April 2024, Angela Prestia, GEO's former Chief of Nursing, and Pablo Paez, GEO's Executive Vice President of Corporate Relations, were recognized by the Florida Atlantic University Alumni Association. Angela was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame, while Pablo was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni for the College of Business.

Dr. Angela Prestia's first choice of careers was not nursing. However, an influential mother insisted she should be able to financially support herself, resulting in enrollment at the local community college. She completed an associate's degree in the nursing science program at Broward Community College. This turned out to be a remarkable career choice, lasting over 47 years. Dr. Prestia believes the profession of nursing has graced her with so many opportunities, specifically, the gifts of friendship and of service to those in need of care. She completed both a bachelor's and a master's degree in nursing from the University of West Florida and Vanderbilt University, respectively. She is certificated as a Health Care Administrator and as a Nurse Executive. In 2014, she graduated with a Ph.D. in nursing from Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Prestia worked at The GEO Group as the Chief of Nursing from 2015 to 2017.

As her tenure in nursing leadership grew, Dr. Prestia became a Chief Nursing Officer. As nursing challenges presented themselves, she began to write about the underlying concepts and phenomena. One article turned into 50 articles. Dr. Prestia's work has been published in peer-reviewed nursing journals. She has written chapters in textbooks and authored a book titled, *Becoming the Chief Nurse: The Science, The Stories, The Truth*. Additionally, she has worked as an adjunct professor at Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing since 2015.

Currently, Dr. Prestia is the President of the Association for Leadership Science in Nursing. In this capacity, she works to assure the proliferation and dissemination of leadership research relevant and meaningful to practice partners. She has presented her research locally, nationally, and internationally.

Pablo Paez serves as the Executive Vice President of Corporate Relations for The GEO Group and is responsible for the oversight of GEO's investor relations, external communications, media relations, and community engagement. He also serves as the Executive Director of The GEO Group Foundation and is responsible for the oversight of The GEO Group's charitable donations and community involvement. Additionally, he serves as Chairman of The GEO Group's employee-funded Political Action Committee (GEO-PAC).

Mr. Paez joined The GEO Group in 2003 as Manager of Corporate Communications and has served in increasingly senior positions. He currently serves on Florida Atlantic University's Board of Trustees. He has served on a number of community and charitable boards, including as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Florida Atlantic University Alumni Association, Vice Chair of the Florida Atlantic University Finance Corporation Board, and Board Member of the Palm Beach County Chapter of Take Stock in Children. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Real Estate in 2003 and a Master of Business Administration Degree in 2008 from Florida Atlantic University, where he served as Student Body President.





**Fun fact: GEO's Founder and Executive Chairman, George C. Zoley, was the first recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for the College of Business. Mr. Zoley has bachelor's and master's degrees in Public Administration from FAU.**



# Former GEO Post-Release Case Manager, Amlak-I Foley, Participates in FAU Second Chance Panel

Written By Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations



**Amlak-I Foley,  
Former Post-Release Case  
Manager**

In April of 2024, Amlak-I Foley, a former Post-Release Case Manager at The GEO Group, participated in a Second Chance Month Panel entitled "Struggles and Triumphs." The event was hosted by the Florida Atlantic University School of Criminology and Criminal Justice within the College of Social Work and Criminal Justice. It was moderated by Dr. Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, PhD, and Samantha White, a Criminal Justice Major and Vice President of the Criminal Justice Student Club.

Amlak-I was joined by Victoria Amoroso, Founder of the Victory Program; Jonathan Bleiwiess, Executive Director of the Florida Justice Center; and Talmedge Hayes, a Printer and Graphics Specialist with Palm Beach County. All four panel members had been previously incarcerated and shared their stories with the audience. People who have been incarcerated face numerous barriers upon returning to the community, many of which continue to follow them years and even decades after being released. The panel brought together four returned citizens – who spent a collective 50+ years incarcerated – to discuss the obstacles they faced when returning home to the community and how they overcame, and continue to overcome, these obstacles to lead successful lives.







## FAU Alumni at GEO Support The College of Business 2023 Business Leader of the Year Awards

Written By **Christopher Ferreira, Corporate Relations**

In May of 2024, several GEO employees who are also Florida Atlantic University Alumni attended the 2023 Business Leader of the Year Award, hosted by the College of Business at the Boca West Country Club. George W. Schaeffer, President and CEO of People's Trust Insurance was selected as the Business Leader of the Year for his successful career and commitment to the community.

The event was attended by Adam Hasner, Executive Vice President (EVP) of Public Policy; John Tyrrell, EVP of Pricing; Lisa Marsella, Corporate Controller; TaCara Chambers, Director, Contract Administration; Craig Spatara, Director of Post-Release Services; Chris Ferreira, Director of Corporate Relations; Fidel De Nobrega, Sr. Business Manager for GEO Care; and Javier Bustamante, Manager of Revenue and Billing.

# Ways to Focus on your Financial Wellness

Written By **Johanny Handel, Corporate, Human Resources**

In today's fast-paced world, achieving financial wellness is not merely about earning a comfortable income but also about managing it wisely to secure your future. The American Psychological Association found that 72% of adults report feeling stressed about money most of the time. Financial wellness as a practice can help to cope with the mental and physical toll of financial stress. But what is financial wellness? Financial wellness is a balanced approach to money that promotes stability, reduces stress, and fosters long-term financial health. Here are some key strategies to help you focus on achieving financial wellness:

## 1. Set Clear Financial Goals and share with your Household

Defining clear and achievable financial goals is the first step towards financial wellness. Whether it's saving for retirement, buying a home, paying off debt, or funding your children's education, having specific goals gives you direction and motivates you and your loved ones to take concrete steps towards achieving them.

## 2. Create and Stick to a Budget

A budget is a fundamental tool for managing your finances effectively. Start by tracking your income and expenses to understand your cash flow. Allocate funds for essentials such as housing, utilities, food, and transportation, and set aside savings for your goals. Regularly review and adjust your budget as your financial situation changes.

## 3. Build an Emergency Fund

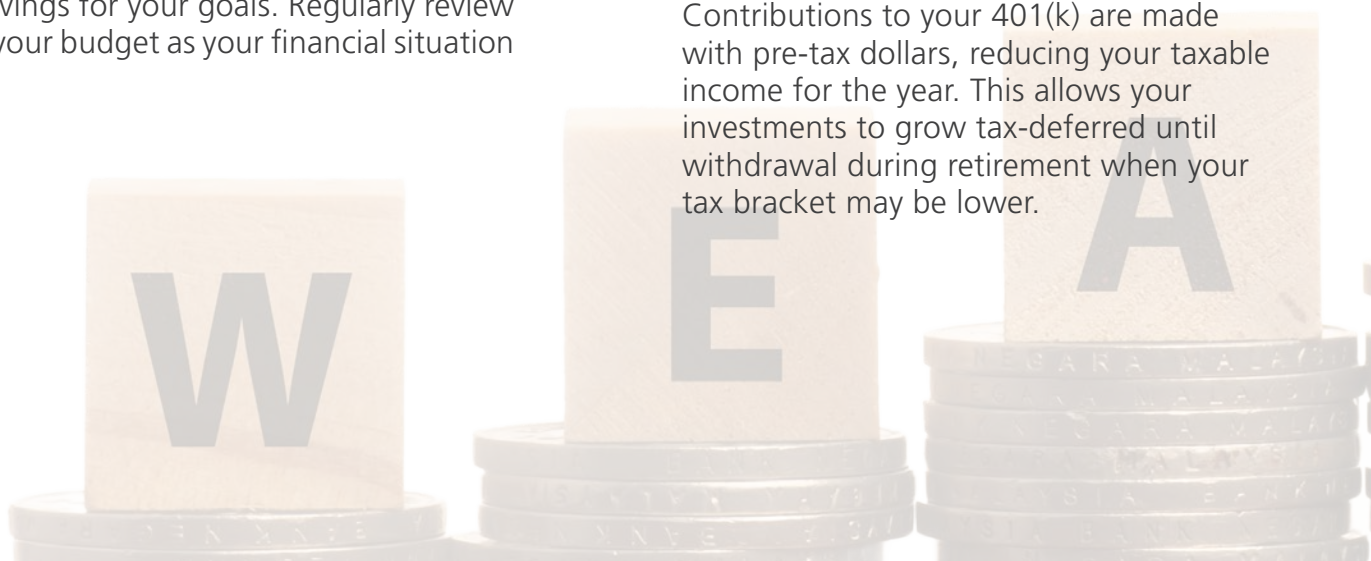
Financial emergencies can derail your progress if you're not prepared. Aim to build an emergency fund that covers at least three to six months' worth of living expenses. This fund acts as a safety net, providing financial security during unexpected events like medical emergencies or car repairs.

## 4. Invest for the Future

Investing is crucial for long-term financial growth and building wealth. Depending on your goals and risk tolerance, consider investing in retirement accounts such as 401(k)s or IRAs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate. Diversify your investments to spread risk and maximize returns over time.

One of the most valuable aspects of employer plans is the opportunity to save for retirement with tax advantages. Here's how to make the most of it:

- **Contribute Enough to Get the Employer Match:** The GEO Group's match is 50% of the first 5% deferred. This is essentially free money, so contribute at least enough to maximize this match—it's an instant return on your investment. Visit: [www.empowermyretirement.com](http://www.empowermyretirement.com)
- **Take Advantage of Tax Deferrals:** Contributions to your 401(k) are made with pre-tax dollars, reducing your taxable income for the year. This allows your investments to grow tax-deferred until withdrawal during retirement when your tax bracket may be lower.





## 5. Educate Yourself About Personal Finance

Take the time to educate yourself about personal finance principles, including budgeting, investing, taxes, and retirement planning. Resources such as books, online courses, and financial advisors can provide valuable insights and guidance tailored to your specific financial situation.

The GEO Group Magellan EAP program offers sessions that provide counseling and resources for personal and financial issues with a Money Coach. For more information visit:

[Member.MagellanHealthcare.com](https://Member.MagellanHealthcare.com)

## 6. Protect Your Financial Health

Safeguard your financial wellness by having adequate insurance coverage, including health, life, disability, and property insurance. Insurance protects you from unexpected expenses and provides peace of mind knowing that you and your loved ones are financially protected in case of unforeseen events.

- Health Insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) or Kaiser: Understand your health insurance coverage—premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and coverage limits. Also try to use in-network providers to minimize out-of-pocket costs.
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA) with HealthEquity: This account allows you to set aside pre-tax dollars for medical expenses that must be used during the calendar year. Visit:

[wageworks.com/employees/](https://wageworks.com/employees/)

- Health Savings Account (HSA) with PNC Bank: If you elect the medical High Deductible Plan BCBS, this is a bank account you can open and use for medical expenses that can accumulate funds year-over-year and is portable. The GEO Group contributes \$500 for employee-only coverage/\$1,000 for employee/family coverage per year to the HSA!

## 7. Review and Adjust Regularly

Financial wellness is not a one-time achievement but an ongoing journey that requires regular review and adjustment. Monitor your progress towards your goals, track your spending, and adjust your strategies as needed to stay on course.

- **Annual Enrollment:** During open enrollment periods, review your benefit options, and make adjustments based on changes in your life, such as marriage, having children, or changes in health.
- **Monitor Investments:** Regularly review your retirement account investments and make sure they align with your goals and risk tolerance.

Achieving financial wellness requires discipline and a proactive approach to managing your money. By implementing these strategies and staying focused on your goals, you can build a strong financial foundation, reduce stress, and create a secure future for yourself and your family.



# Celebrating a 35-Year Career Milestone

Written By **Margie West, Human Resources**



Mark Kellner, Director of Contract Compliance for the Eastern Region, has reached an impressive milestone in his career. Kellner has dedicated 35 years to working for The GEO Group.

Mr. Kellner began his GEO career in the summer of 1989 as a Recreation Specialist at Kyle Correctional Center (KCC) in Kyle, TX. KCC was the third facility that GEO opened. His story began in the spring of 1989 when Kellner was an assistant baseball coach at Southwest Texas State University. While coaching, his wife came up to him between a double-header and said, "I'm pregnant again and you need to get a real job!" He knew they were going to build a prison in the small town they lived in, so he decided to apply for a job there. He started with the intention of only staying a year and then returning to teaching and coaching baseball. Funny how that worked out!

When asked about a specific moment that changed or influenced Mr. Kellner's career, he replied: "I've had so many experiences throughout my career that have influenced me that it's hard to choose one. One thing that comes to mind is being a part of the ACA team at Kyle. In 1990, Kyle was the first private correctional institution in the country to receive ACA accreditation. That let me know early in my career that GEO was a company that was focused on doing the right thing."

"I've had the opportunity to learn from the high quality of people I worked with both past and present. There is a list of individuals who need to be thanked for keeping me employed. Thanks to all of you!"

It is very inspiring to hear about someone who has put in 35 years of hard work at the same company and is looking forward to many more! Congratulations, Mark, on reaching this incredible milestone!



# Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility Hosts Post-Release Case Manager, Mr. Antonio Berrios Jr.

Written By **Carol Bailey, Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**



The Kingman Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (KCRF) was pleased to welcome Post-Release Case Manager Mr. Antonio Berrios Jr. in April of 2024 to meet and greet with current and prospective participants in the Continuum of Care (CoC) program. Mr. Berrios has been working with CoC participants since the program began at KCRF in 2021. This was his second visit to Kingman, and he spent the day touring the facility, visiting various residence halls, and meeting with participants face-to-face.

Many of the participants expressed positive feedback in having met their future Post-Release Case Manager on-site and being able to attend his presentation to better understand the post-release side of CoC. Mr. Berrios also had the opportunity to observe various programs available, including a DUI course and moderate substance abuse treatment, to better understand some of the programs offered.

Approximately 100 current participants who will be released in or before June, as well as some potential CoC participants from the long waiting list, attended Mr. Berrios' presentation to discuss Post-Release Services. During the meeting, he explained what role he and other Post-Release

Case Managers play after release, discussed the process and importance of maintaining contact after release, the benefits that Post-Release Services provide, and also shared some success stories from returning individuals!

Following the presentation, Mr. Berrios was our guest of honor at a luncheon prepared by our Culinary Arts Program under the direction of Chef Stone. Chef Stone's cooking class began by preparing a spring salad, followed by handmade fettuccini pasta with freshly made Alfredo sauce and topped with chicken. The meal was rounded off with chocolate dipped strawberries. The entire meal was delicious and enjoyed by everyone! We look forward to welcoming Mr. Berrios back next year!



# Florence West Correctional Officers Week

Written By **Cruzetta Sepulveda**, Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

The first week of May was National Correctional Officers Week, and at Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (CRF), we celebrated our staff with a full week of activities. There was food, desserts and games every day of the week. Two of our staff were selected to attend the National Correctional Officers Luncheon that was held at the State Capital on May 8, 2024.



*Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility's **Nurse of the Year** was announced during the Week - Congratulations **Nurse Roos!***



*Dessert table*



*Officer J. Kelmer won 1st place in the tournament along with his partner C. Neal*



*Nursing staff and our CO's enjoying the luncheon*



*CO Contreras and COIII Ramirez represented Florence West CRF*



# National Correctional Officer and Employee Appreciation Week at Northwest IPC

Written By **Bruce Scott,**  
**Northwest ICE Processing Center**

Each year, the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) celebrates National Correctional Officer and Employee Appreciation Week. Every day, we recognize the contributions and sacrifices of correctional staff as they adapt to the ever-changing demands of correctional facilities. Requirements such as shift work, working holidays, and mandatory overtime have a significant impact on their everyday lives. From May 6-10 of 2024, we recognized the value of correctional officers and other NWIPC staff. Every day of this week, NWIPC employees were treated to meals and drinks including: Chick-fil-A, Jimmy Johns, pizza, bagels, and Krispy Kreme.

In addition, a number of NWIPC staff were awarded prizes throughout the week. Five NWIPC staff were randomly selected and received the following prizes:

- » Thomas Gravely/GTI Officer: a new Laptop
- » Shanay Linear/Officer: Galaxy Tablet
- » Jason Austin/Officer: Bose Wireless Speaker
- » Quasir Sanchez/Officer: Beats Wireless Speaker
- » Ryan Kimble/Business Manager: Google Nest

Every day, NWIPC is amazed by the staff's unwavering courage and commitment to improving the safety and integrity of our facility. NWIPC staff carry out their duties with a level of excellence that ensures the facility functions optimally and reflects the high standards we maintain. Your commitment is a beacon of hope and a testament to the GEO vision and mission.

# Kinney County Gives Back to the Community in the First Half of 2024

Written By **Kassie Zambrano,**  
**Kinney County Detention Center**

The Kinney County Detention Center has had a busy year of serving the community! In January of 2024, the facility donated \$1,500 to the Kinney County Junior Livestock Show, which benefits local children participating in 4-H and FFA programs. This organization offers members the opportunity to develop unique skills and learn more about the importance of agriculture. In addition, the facility donated \$1,000 to the Hope Outreach Center, which works to provide food, shelter and basic services to very low-income and unhoused people.

In March of 2024, the facility participated in Fort Clark Days as a Colonel Sponsor, donating \$1,000 to support a valuable historical event. Fort Clark Days brings together numerous students, tourists and historians to share their educational stories about early military settlement in South Texas and the unique history of the Lipan Apache tribe.

Additionally, the facility participated in supporting the Kinney County Little League in April and was named an All-Star Contributor. Finally, the institution donated \$10,000 in scholarships to Brackett Independent School District for the graduating class of 2024.

It was a rewarding season of giving as the citizens of Brackettville and Kinney County were very supportive and grateful for all the support provided to the community by The GEO Group at the Kinney County Detention Center.

## Giving back to the Florence Unified School District

Written By **Cruzetta Sepulveda,**  
**Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility and Central Arizona Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility were honored to give scholarships to the high schools in the Florence Unified School District. This year, scholarships totaling \$21,000 were awarded between the two facilities. Florence Union High School, Post Butte High School, and San Tan Foothills High School are the schools that were awarded the scholarships.



## LaSalle Parish Scholars Reception

Published in **The Jena Times, May 22, 2024**

### Thirteenth Annual Event Held in Jena on May 7, 2024



The thirteenth annual LaSalle Parish Scholars Reception was held Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Jena, sponsored by The GEO Group and the LaSalle Economic Development District (LEDD). More than 75 scholars were presented with 166 scholarships for a total of approximately \$93,000 at the reception held each year to honor parish scholars who receive scholarships and to honor businesses and organizations that sponsor the scholarships with the pictures featured in this special “Scholars Reception” section.

The program opened with the welcome given by Laurel Comeaux, representing LEDD, who also served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Jena High School Student of the Year Garrett Dotson gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Kaylin Peppers of LaSalle High School.

Walter E. Dorroh Jr., President of LEDD, gave a few opening remarks and recognized the donors.

“As President of LEDD, I would like to welcome each of you to this event—the 13th Annual LaSalle Parish Scholars Reception.

This event was spearheaded by David Cole, a former Warden of The GEO Group. As representatives of the business community, GEO and LEDD decided in 2012 to jointly host this event to honor both the recipients of the scholarships and our local donors. We wanted to celebrate academic excellence and challenge our best and brightest to further their education and choose to make LaSalle Parish their forever home.

At the first event, held May 15, 2012, we honored 26 LaSalle Parish graduates and celebrated with them as they received 50 scholarships totaling \$34,000. The event was held in Jena Town Hall. As you can see, this event has grown! Since that date, this event has awarded over 1,600 local scholarships valued at more than \$870,000 for over 800 LaSalle Parish graduates. This has truly become an event that the community has invested in!

I would like to commend the generosity of all the participating organizations tonight. A special thank you goes to the Caroline Bradford Family, The GEO Group and Homeland Bank. These three organizations collectively will distribute more than \$38,000 in scholarships tonight. The local organizations and families that you see on the program have a generous history of funding local scholarships. We commend them all for choosing to invest in our youth.

We are very proud of each one of you and our local school system. Academic excellence is a vital to economic and community development. Thank you for being a part of LEDD’s effort to strive for A Greater LaSalle. Congratulations to each and every one of you.

It’s a big night! Tonight 76 students will leave here with 166 scholarships valued at almost \$93,000.”





## McFarland Graduates Receive Scholarships

Written By **Minga Wofford, Central Valley and Golden State Annex**

In May of 2024, Facility Administrators, Timothy Johnson and Minga Wofford attended the McFarland High School Early College graduation ceremony. The GEO Group partnered with the City of McFarland to provide \$300,000 in scholarships to individuals who achieved valedictorian and honor student status. The Mayor, Principal, and students of McFarland's graduating class were very appreciative of the scholarship funding and the generosity of The GEO Group.



## Folkston ICE Processing Center Awards Scholarships

Written By **Michelle Bair, Folkston ICE Processing Center**

The Folkston ICE Processing Center (FIPC) continues its effort to be a good neighbor to the local community by supporting the school system and students. Each year, FIPC awards scholarships to high school seniors. Graduating seniors have the opportunity to apply for the GEO scholarships through their school and are chosen based on written essays, academics, and leadership accomplishments. This year, FIPC's Facility Administrator, Michael Breckon, and Business Manager, Doug Gowen, granted \$7,500 in scholarships to 13 graduates. Congratulations to the graduation class of 2024!

## New Browning Road Park Sign for McFarland Recreation and Park District

Written By **Timothy Johnson, Central Valley and Golden State Annex**

In May of 2024, Facility Administrators, Timothy Johnson and Minga Wofford were invited by Jeff Nickell, District Manager for the McFarland Recreation and Park District to the unveiling of the new sign at Browning Road Park, donated by The GEO Group's Central Valley Annex and Golden State Annex. Both facilities continue to be a positive influence in the community as they regularly partner with the City of McFarland, the McFarland Unified School District, and the McFarland Recreation and Park District.



## Golden State Annex Staff Participates in 5K/10K Run

Written By **Dan Meyer,**  
Golden State Annex



Golden State Annex (GSA) recently donated \$5,000 to the McFarland Foundation to help student-athletes achieve their goals with scholarships. After presenting the money and speaking with famed cross country coach Jim White, GSA employees Patricia Almaraz and Dan Meyer were encouraged to participate in the 7th Annual McFarland USA 5K and 10K Run or Walk on April 13, 2024. The event had a lot to offer. Over a hundred people took part, and the weather was perfect. The route wound through the almond orchards and over the Interstate 99 walkway, which was decorated with runner figures, so traffic from the road could see them, through McFarland High School and back over the 99 overpass bridge to the finish line. Patricia Almaraz took part in the 10K run, and Dan Meyer took part in the 5K run.

## Florence West Spring Olympics

Written By **Cruzetta Sepulveda,**  
Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Hundreds of inmates participated in the Florence West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility 2024 Spring Olympics. Inmates participated in several events including shot put, discus, broad jump, 30 lb. medicine ball toss, long jump, 400-meter relay, and 100-yard sprint, 400-yard sprint, and 4-mile run. The event had a great turnout!

## Above and Beyond, CPR Saves a Life

Written By **April Long,** Aurora ICE Processing Center

The Aurora ICE Processing Center is proud to recognize and present Resident Advisors, Andy Tran and Getacher Ashagre, with the Above and Beyond Life Safety Award. Tran and Ashagre, whom both work the graveyard shift, showed exceptional and quick response to a medical emergency where a resident was found to be unresponsive and not breathing. With quick actions, Tran and Ashagre were able to observe and assess the situation at hand. With quick thinking, they immediately began life saving chest compressions and successfully resuscitated the resident before medical assistance arrived. Emergency Medical Service had been called, and the resident was transported off-site to the local emergency room for care. The quick actions of Tran and Ashagre, along with the timely response of medical personnel, played a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of the resident.

Getacher Ashagre, a three-year Veteran employee, and Resident Advisor Tran, who recently started in April of 2024, acted on instincts, and relied on their Pre-Service training to provide this emergency assistance.

Their ability to work efficiently under stressful conditions speaks volumes about their hard work and dedication. Their outstanding performance is an inspiration to us all!

In recognition of their noble efforts, both RAs were awarded with a Spot Award as a well-deserved "Thank You."





# Folkston ICE Processing Center's Community Emergency Response Team

Written By **Michelle Bair, Folkston ICE Processing Center**

Folkston ICE Processing Center's (FIPC) Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members have had a busy few months. Outside of their day-to-day duties and monthly training sessions, they find time to attend facility and community events, as well as external training events.

In April of 2024, a select few FIPC CERT members traveled to West Virginia to participate in the Mock Prison Riot 2024 event. The participating personnel were Officer Harry Vernon, Officer Emily Burgess, Captain Daniel Bennet, and Officer James Dorns. They were able to watch as CERT, sheriff's officers, and military teams from around the world performed riot demonstrations.

In May of 2024, FIPC CERT color guard presented the flags during the memorial service for National Correctional Workers Week.

In June of 2024, FIPC CERT completed their fourth year of participation in the annual Charlton County Junior Sheriff's Academy. The program invites approximately 50 middle school students to attend the academy each year. CERT team members Harry Vernon, Sharena Doles, Angel Marquez, and Emily Burgess spent time with the students, talking and answering questions about

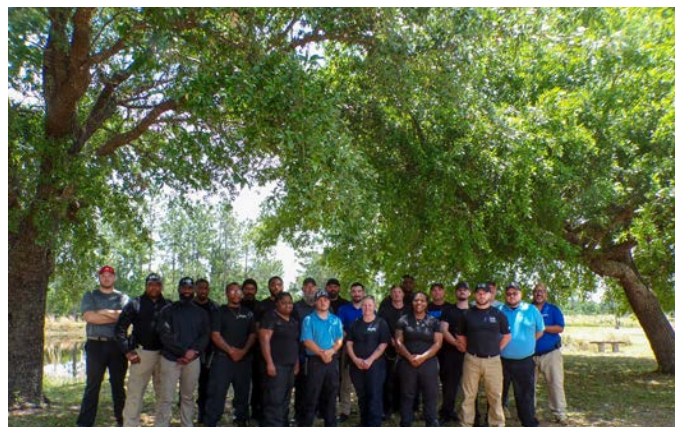
the facility and demonstrating what equipment to use to keep the staff safe when needed. The CERT split the students into two groups and each student wore a protective helmet, protective gloves, bandaged upper body parts (chest, back, shoulders, and forearms), and knee and shin pads. Along with FIPC CERT, students spent time throughout the week with the Georgia State Patrol Helicopter and SWAT Unit, local fire departments, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Bomb Robot, the Jacksonville Mounted Horse Unit and Motorcycle Unit, and the Florida Department of Natural Resources Rangers.



## Folkston ICE Processing Center Hosts Training

Written By **Michelle Bair, Folkston ICE Processing Center**

During the week of April 29 to May 3, 2024, the Folkston ICE Processing Center (FIPC) hosted a Defensive Tactics Instructor Course, taught by Controlled F.O.R.C.E. Employees. Staff from facilities throughout the Eastern Region, including Folkston IPC, Alexandria Staging Facility, Broward Transitional Center, Moshannon Valley IPC, Pine Prairie IPC, Robert A. Deyton Detention Facility, South Louisiana IPC, and Central Louisiana IPC were in attendance. During the training week, employees learned how to deal with certain situations in a controlled manner.





# Riverbend Readers

Written By **Vanessa Hawkins,**  
**Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

In 2024, Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility launched a Book Club. Engaging the inmate population was the idea behind forming the club. The concept was brought up at a meeting with the dorm representatives. As soon as people started asking to be involved, we conducted a survey to find books that people were interested in. We started to grow after we bought books and held weekly discussion groups. There are ten participants in each group and we currently have 80 readers in total.

We have gone above and beyond in answering requests to organize our readers into groups in order to encourage diversity in reading preferences, life experiences, and demographics. We also switch up the groups to afford everyone the same opportunity to participate. Using questions and prompts selected by Danny Eller, the peer organizer, each group holds a discussion. While there is a lot going on in the meetings, everyone is encouraged to participate politely. We constantly discuss how a group of people can share a common story in a very intimate way.

Being able to impact someone with something that deviates from prison life truly inspires me. Some of our readers have nothing but positive feedback on the program.

"Our discussions are not limited to Book Club members. Smaller but deeper discussions take place in the dorms and around the grounds. Even non-members get involved when they see a member with a book they have read or might be interested in. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the Book Club was the unexpected friendships." - V. Hughes

"The book club has given me the opportunity to escape mentally and gives me a chance to talk to people who enjoy reading as much as I do. I am truly grateful for this opportunity." - C. Garland

"I really enjoy participating in the Book Club. I have read books that I normally would not have read on my own. This was a great program to start." - W. Hollis

"Such an exciting journey through different literary works and story-telling we generally would not be exposed to. The discussions after a reading help to develop interpersonal skills as well as team building experiences." - C. DeLorenzo

"The Book Club has been a breath of fresh air. Even if I did not like the assigned book, to have an opportunity to sit down and discuss topics away from the chaos of the dorm is refreshing. Having a goal and preparing for the Book Club meetings gives me a feeling of purpose." - T. Bowman

"The Book Club is a great thing for those of us who like to read. There is also a positive aspect that allows me to open my mind to new things." - J. Brown

"I am glad we started this program; it has given others hope....people who had none, actually have something to look forward to now." - D. Eller

I hope that we will take advantage of additional chances for positive development in order to provide the population with more opportunities for success and to help inspire and motivate them.



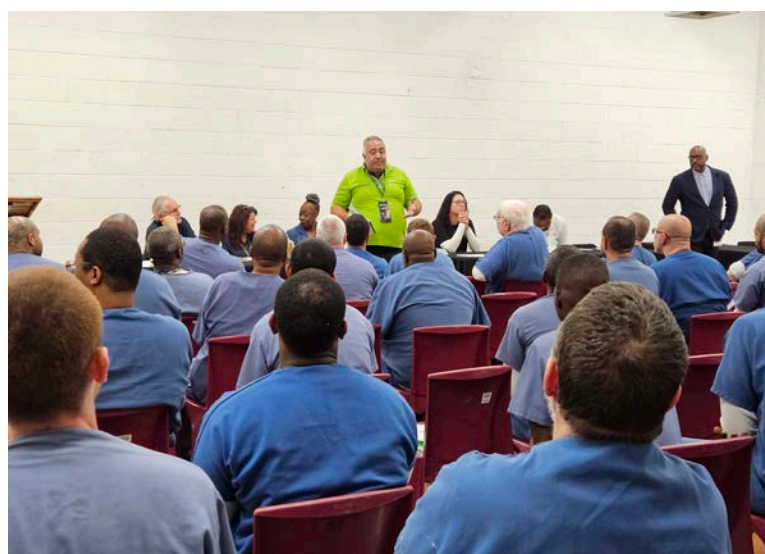
# Paving the Road for Reentry Success

Written By **Donna Jacobs**, Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility

Superman's lyrics, "It's not easy to be me," from the band Five for Fighting, perfectly express the sentiments of all returning citizens as they get ready to break through the barriers that have seemed to stand in the way of their hope for a better future. A person incarcerated is known to lose all hope, as though they were abandoned in a never-ending desert. But when the residents of Moore Haven Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility attended the Reentry seminar on July 12, 2024, hosted by Dr. Kenneth Garner and Natoshi Jones, hope appeared like an oasis.

Hope emerged from the efforts of Giovanni Sairras with Re-Entry One, John and Helen Eddings with Anchor House Outreach, Gayle Harrell with Another Chance Community Development, Jorge Murillo with Baker 360, Stacy Garcia with Rehabilitation of the Heart, and Christopher Kertesz with CDL Training School. These organizations understand the value of preparing people for reintegration into the community while taking into account the whole person. Each representative went into great detail about how their organization would take care of the needs of returning citizens. Housing, transportation, jobs, and further education were all outlined with timelines so that residents could schedule their release at reasonable intervals.

As the seminar drew to a close, expressions of gratitude flowed profusely from the residents in attendance. What does it mean to an individual to be declared a "menace to society" at the beginning of their sentence and then, at the end of their journey be shown loving and dedicated support? To quote one resident, "it means the world."



# Skill Builders Signing Ceremony at South Bay

Written By **Angela Geisinger, South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

Skill Builders Solutions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to constructing futures through quality training and apprenticeship programs, has proudly partnered with The GEO Group to launch an innovative Solar Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. This groundbreaking initiative aims to equip incarcerated individuals with the skills and certifications necessary to secure stable employment in the rapidly growing solar energy industry upon their release.

The Solar Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program is designed to provide comprehensive technical training to residents at South Bay Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility. Participants in the program undergo 296 hours of rigorous technical instruction, covering a wide range of essential topics. The curriculum includes training in NCCER Core, Photovoltaics, Heavy Equipment, and Electrical, which are critical for understanding the fundamental aspects of solar technology and installation.

In addition to these core competencies, the program also ensures that participants are well-versed in safety and emergency procedures. To this end, they receive OSHA 30 certification and CPR training, equipping them with the knowledge to maintain safe working conditions and respond effectively in emergencies.

One of the standout features of the Solar Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program is the opportunity for participants to earn nationally recognized credentials. The certifications obtained through this program are highly regarded within the industry and significantly enhance the employability of participants. The NCCER Core, Photovoltaics, Heavy Equipment, and Electrical credentials are acknowledged across the United States, providing a solid foundation for future career growth in the solar energy sector.

The collaboration between Skill Builders Solutions and GEO represents a significant step towards reducing recidivism and promoting successful reintegration into society for incarcerated individuals. By providing residents with valuable skills and certifications and direct access to further training and well-paying careers, the program aims to break the cycle of reoffending and foster a sense of purpose and hope for the future.

Participants in the program gain not only technical knowledge but also practical experience, preparing them for the demands of the solar energy industry. The hands-on training ensures that they are job-ready upon release, with the confidence to pursue employment opportunities and contribute positively to their communities. This program leads directly into a Solar Installer Apprenticeship with Skill Builders Solution's participating employers. Graduates of the program will enter their apprenticeship with the entire first year of related technical instruction completed.

The Solar Technician Pre-Apprenticeship Program is not just about technical training; it is about giving participants a second chance at life. By equipping participants with the skills and credentials needed for gainful employment in the solar energy industry, this program paves the way for a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

Skill Builders Solutions and The GEO Group remain dedicated to their mission of constructing futures through quality training and education programs. Together, they are making a tangible difference in the lives of incarcerated individuals, helping them transition successfully into society and build fulfilling careers.









## The Phoenix West Family Comes Together

Written By **Mary Coonrod,**  
**Phoenix West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility**

We belong to many different families throughout our lives, not just the one we are born into. Our work family is among the most important families we have. It is a circle of individuals who support one another due to the strong bonds formed while collaborating to accomplish shared objectives. It is not uncommon for the work family at Phoenix West Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility, a small facility, to grow very close to one another and to genuinely care for one another as they would for their own biological family. Happy moments, sad moments, and successes are shared. The Phoenix West family recently had the chance to unite in support of one of its members who was going through a tragic loss.

In May of 2024, Sgt. Francisco Perez's younger brother, Enrique Jr. Perez Santillan, sadly passed away. Perez remarked, "I will never forget him as my baby brother who, eager to play, would run to the middle of the court during my high school basketball games. He will always be that little child in my eyes, racing to play ball with his older brother." Many of the staff also donated to the Perez family "GoFundMe" page. To help the family even more, the Phoenix West team arranged a cookout and a car wash to raise money.

On May 17, 2024, employees washed more than 80 cars. Many employees stopped by on their day off to get their cars washed and/or help with car washing, while others managed to use their break to help out. Phoenix West Security Chief, Ramon Suarez, had the honor of cooking hamburgers on the grill and feeding almost everyone on site that day. Although a minimum donation was required for the car wash and barbecue, everyone donated far more than that, and a significant amount of money was raised for Sgt. Perez and his family.

It is heartwarming to know that the employees at Phoenix West treat each other like family and care deeply for one another. Thank you to all our employees; we appreciate you all.



# On the Journey to Reconciliation

Written By **Lyndell Coutts**, GEO Australia



National Reconciliation Week is held annually from May 27 to June 3, as a time for all Australians to reflect on the country's shared history, cultures and achievements, and the journey towards reconciliation with First Nations people.

This year's theme "Now More Than Ever" was a reminder to Australians that the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must continue.

With continued high rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the criminal justice system, corrections can play an integral role in improving outcomes for the people in our care, and the broader Aboriginal community.

During Reconciliation Week, correctional centre staff deliver a range of events that recognise the culture and history of First Nations people and help raise awareness of the ongoing impacts of colonisation, including social disadvantage and overrepresentation in the justice system.

GEO National Director, Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Dr. Fiona Murphy, said: "Part of being able to improve the outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is



acknowledgement and recognition of the past and a commitment to a shared future."

"It is an opportunity to learn more about our Aboriginal history, cultures and achievements and acknowledge the ongoing inequality and injustice associated with colonisation," Dr. Murphy added.

We are truly proud of the commitment of our staff to providing safe, respectful, and healing spaces for the First Nations people in our centres, including at our healthcare sites, and the provision of culturally responsive events and programs to support them while in custody. This includes healing and trauma-informed programs and supports, traditional Smoking Ceremonies, Yarning Circles, and events celebrating Aboriginal Culture including traditional food and performances.

The journey of recognition requires a commitment from all individuals. GEO demonstrates its commitment to embracing the principles of respect, justice, and equity through the continued implementation of our Aboriginal Wellbeing Strategy and ongoing pursuit of reconciliation, including acknowledgement of National Reconciliation Week.



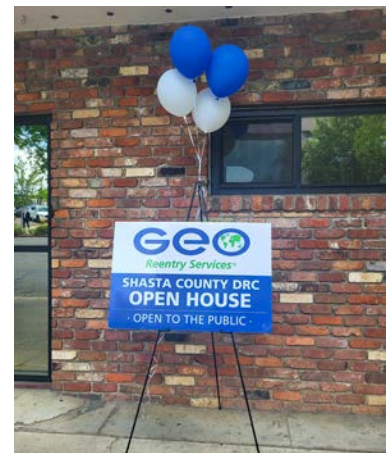


## Shasta Day Reporting Center Hosts 11th Annual Open House

Written By **Tara Levin, Shasta Day Reporting Center**

For the eleventh consecutive year, the Shasta Day Reporting Center (DRC) opened its doors to the community to celebrate and educate. The open house on April 24, 2024 offered attendees a glimpse into the transformative impact of the DRC on the lives of program participants. From exhibits outlining the curriculums, sharing outcomes and showcasing success stories, visitors had the opportunity to witness firsthand the positive changes occurring within the lives of program participants.

The open house is an opportunity to speak with community partners in more detail about the DRC program's offerings while celebrating 11 years of service. Eight Shasta DRC Peer Support Mentors attended the event, assisting staff with tours of the facility and sharing their experiences with the program. Attendees were impressed by the innovative programming, personalized advice, and access to essential services that the DRC offers. Many of the guests are familiar with the DRC and shared that while they didn't need a full tour or run down of services, they simply wanted to stop by the open house to show their continued support of the program. The event served to demonstrate the DRC's commitment to promoting public safety and reducing recidivism.





# GEO Sponsors ISAP Community Partner

Written By **Amber McMahon, Southeast Region - ISAP**

In May of 2024, The GEO Group Foundation sponsored the annual fundraiser for one of our community partners, The Family Success Center. The Family Success Center is one of ISAP's nonprofit partners, providing support services for our program participants. GEO's VIP sponsorship of the fundraiser was an impactful financial contribution to the organization.

The Family Success Center is based in Alabama but now provides services to ISAP locations in six states. Program Manager, Phillip West noted, "It is incredible to see how the connection we have built in Gadsden has grown to now include 10 ISAP offices. GEO's contributions to this organization and the services they provide to our participants have created a true partnership."

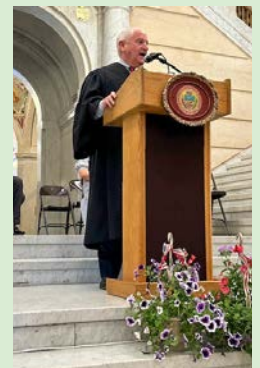
ISAP works to build true partnerships within the community to help stabilize our participants. The Family Success Center is a great example of this. The organization recently provided several of our offices with children's books in Spanish to share with participants with young children. The case specialists work diligently to find resources to help our participants.



## Luzerne County Reentry Service Center Summer Graduation

Written By **Stacey Velez, Luzerne County Reentry Service Center**

On a beautiful summer day, in June of 2024, 58 graduates of the Luzerne County Reentry Service Center celebrated their achievement with family and friends. Luzerne County Chief Judge, Michael T. Vough, and Luzerne County Department of Corrections, Director James Wilbur, were guest speakers at the event, held in the Rotunda of the Luzerne County Courthouse.



# Former BI Incorporated Engineer, a Pioneer in Electronic Monitoring Systems, Leaves a Legacy

Written By **Monica Hook, GEO Care Corporate**



Donald Melton, a longtime electrical engineer at BI Incorporated, who was the driving force in the creation of many BI electronic monitoring hardware for more than two decades, passed away in May 2024. Don retired from BI in 2016 as Principal Research and Development (R&D) Hardware Engineer, but his work at BI is still influential for the company and industry today.

Don was the inventor of many of the foundational technologies used in the electronic monitoring industry today. As an electrical engineer at BI for more than 25 years, he was involved in all aspects of some of the original BI electronic monitoring systems, including design, product development, testing, and supervision of the manufacturing of devices.

Don had his hands in many BI legacy electronic monitoring systems from the 1990s to his retirement in 2016. He was involved in the launch of the BI Home Escort 9000 system

introduced in 1992; the BI Juris Monitor system for individuals charged with domestic violence in 1995; and a cellular version of the BI Home Escort 6000 system in 1995. In the 2000s, Don helped lead development of the next generation of electronic monitoring systems, including BI HomeGuard 200 and BI HomeGuard 205 (cellular), and the introduction of tracking equipment that incorporated use of GPS, Wi-Fi, and cellular location technology to offer officers detailed information about a client's movement in the community. These systems included BI LOC8 and BI LOC8 XT. He was also instrumental in the innovative design of BI TAD, a device that continuously monitors individuals for alcohol consumption through a noninvasive skin sensor but also includes radio frequency monitoring capabilities. His primary focus was on design and development, working on the electrical circuits, including microchips, microcontrollers, and other electronics, the overall system design to meet safety and performance standards and prototype development to evaluate design concepts and functionality.

Electronic monitoring in the application of the criminal justice system began to be commercialized in the 1980s, following a judge in New Mexico dreaming up the idea for the tracking of individuals from a comic strip series. BI Incorporated was founded in 1978 and taken public in 1983, and it was less than a decade later that Melton joined BI and helped greatly expand and advance the company's efforts to bring devices to market to support criminal justice agencies.

"He was a bright guy and very focused on ensuring that the products were fit for the corrections market before they were introduced," said Joe Newell, R&D Senior Director, BI Incorporated. "The EM industry has lost a legend."



## ADAPPT Receives a Commendation from the City Council

Written By **Sharon Kelley, ADAPPT**



In June of 2024, ADAPPT was given a commendation by the city council of Reading, PA. This was for our weekly Clean a Street community service program for the City. Assistant Director, Cynthia Roussel was in charge of organizing the community service program, and

she deserves praise for her work. We intend to maintain our partnership with the City of Reading by offering volunteer hours to reentrants each week for the Clean a Street program.



## National Correctional Officers Week

Written By **Portsha Jones,**  
**Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility**

President Ronald Reagan established National Correctional Officers Week in 1984. This is an opportunity to show appreciation and recognize the courage and heroism required to work in corrections. Correctional officers are often hidden behind prison walls and are forgotten daily for their dedication and professionalism in challenging work environments. At the Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility, we celebrated the week of May 6-10, 2024. Our celebrations included catered breakfast and lunch, ice cream, and special gift bags. The dedication and loyalty of correctional officers is commendable not only during National Correctional Officers Week, but every single day.

## When All Good Things Come Together

Written By **Sandra Shearn, Richmond ISAP Office**



In June of 2024, the Richmond ISAP office was able to partner with the Capital Area Health Network (CAHN) and FeedMore to help those less fortunate. CAHN is one of our outstanding NGOs that provides invaluable services to many of our participants through various medical, dental, and now pharmaceutical care. Feedmore is a great organization that provides meals to people at home through a program called Meals on Wheels, providing food year-round to those less fortunate. Together they included us in their collaboration.

We were their hands and feet – handing out boxes full of fresh vegetables, breakfast and dinner items, condiments, and packages of frozen chicken. We directed traffic as the line of people snaked around the building. Many brought mini carts in which to transport their items.

The City of Richmond was also on hand to provide people with community resources. There was also another table for voter registration to help people navigate the voting process. Even though our team directed traffic, helped pack groceries, and handed out box after box of items, we were the ones who were blessed and left full. The entire team remarked on how they enjoyed seeing and engaging with the folks that came out. We all look forward to serving again.



## Graduation Ceremony Held for 49 Participants of Cambria County Probation Reentry Program

Written By **Julie Boring**,  
Cambria County Day Reporting Center

Recently, a graduation took place in Cambria County for people on probation that have successfully completed the intensive reentry program. A summer transition recognition celebration was held at the Cambria County Day Reporting Center. The ceremony comes after months of classes, intensive treatment and training; and ongoing testing for drug and alcohol use. This helps prepare participants for a successful reentry into their communities.

"They're committing at least seven months of their life," says Program Manager, Julie Boring. "We require them to check in so many days, come to so many groups or have individual sessions. There's a lot of requirements for our program, so it's a huge commitment on their end and it's a big deal when they successfully complete our program," she added. Forty-nine participants were honored at the ceremony with the Honorable Magistrate, John Prebish being

---

## Tuolumne County Celebrates Success!

Written By **Heather Smith**, Tuolumne County Day Reporting Center

In May of 2024, Tuolumne County Day Reporting Center (DRC) held its first event of the month, an employee appreciation luncheon, during which each staff member received a recognition award and was highlighted for their valuable contributions to the program's success. Humberto Sanchez, the Central California Area Manager, also gave Program Manager, Heather Smith, the Leader of the Quarter award.

We also celebrated participant Jared Fuson's hard work and dedication as he completed the Jail Reentry Program on May 30, and we were honored to be able to hold our very first in-custody transition ceremony. After successfully

completing the in-custody program, Mr. Fuson, who had previously participated in the DRC program, excitedly announced that he would launch his own construction company following his release.

In June of 2024, Tuolumne DRC staff threw a "Family Fun Fair" at the facility, complete with games and prizes for kids of all ages! This was organized to allow program participants to bring their loved ones into the facility to meet all the staff, see where they spend their time, and showcase some of their accomplishments. This event celebrated the remarkable completion of the DRC core program by nine graduates.





## Second Chance Graduation

Written By **Portsha Jones,**  
Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility

In June of 2024, Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility (ATEF) held a Second Chance Graduation. Ten female graduates took part in this event. Each graduate took the following courses: parenting, trauma-informed group sessions substance abuse, and vocational training. Our very own



Tammie Smith, an alumna, was the guest speaker. She graduated in November of 2019. During the service, she offered words of encouragement, along with her personal testimony. Tammie is currently a student at the University of Colorado. She

volunteers with the Birmingham Urban League and is the founder of AGAPE Home, which is a reentry housing project for women. Ms. Smith and our graduates are true reflections of a second chance.

## Christmas in July

Written By **Portsha Jones,**  
Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility



A ministry called Christmas Behind Bars was created by Lemuel Vega to help inmates who have been abandoned by friends and family. Their goal is to demonstrate that long-lasting, beneficial changes are both feasible and achievable. This group began making Christmas visits to a small county jail a few years ago, and the inmates received care packages during the visit.

The organization now visits prisons 365 days a year as part of its expanded ministry. In July of 2024, Mr. Vega made a donation of 600 care packages to the Alabama Therapeutic Educational Facility. This gesture is known as Christmas in July. Personal hygiene products, devotional materials, snacks, beverages, and candy bars were all included in each package.

## Minds Matter

Written By **Danielle Gehrung,**  
Shasta Day Reporting Center



Shasta Day Reporting Center (DRC) staff, along with two members of the Shasta DRC Peer Support Team, recently hosted a booth at the annual Minds Matter Mental Health Resource Fair. The theme of this year's fair was "Shine! - Be a spark in the dark." Mini-workshops were offered to help participants expand their wellness awareness. Over 30 nonprofit service providers were on site, offering resources and sharing information about their organizations and services. Even though the day was rainy, people still came out to speak with mental health and substance abuse treatment providers and to gather information. In the DRC, participants were able to spin a wheel that asked questions about well-being and stress reduction. All participants received sweets as a prize. We're always looking for ways to be active in the community and give our peer support team a platform to shine!

# ISAP Community CONNECTIONS

Much of ISAP's success can be attributed to the support of its many community and non-governmental partners. These organizations provide essential services such as medical, housing, education, and food to ISAP participants and play an important role in achieving positive program outcomes. The following stories from 3rd quarter 2024 demonstrate ISAP's success in connecting program participants with community resources.

## **APRIL 2024 CONNECTIONS:**

**Medical Services - 1,345 Connections**

**Community Support - 539 Connections**

**Educational Services - 155 Connections**

**Housing - 183 Connections**

**Legal Services - 812 Connections**

**Wraparound Services - 4,351 Connections**

**MEDICAL SERVICES** **St. Paul:** During an office visit, a participant was concerned about her daughter's ear infection, noting her sensitivity to sounds and fevers. ISAP connected her with Diamond Head Clinic. During follow-up, she reported her daughter's successful recovery with treatment and medication. She expressed gratitude to the Diamond Head Clinic and ISAP.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT** **Fort Myers:** In April, the Fort Myers ISAP office distributed 23 cans of powdered baby formula and 16 six packs of prepared baby formula to participants. The office has an ongoing partnership with a local pediatrician who provides donations for participants struggling to feed infants.

**NUTRITION** **Newark:** During a virtual home visit, a participant asked the Case Specialist for assistance with food. She reported having a toddler and two teenage children at home. She was provided with information about a local Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. During follow-up, she reported she qualified for WIC program assistance. She was thankful for the help.

## **MAY 2024 CONNECTIONS:**

**Medical Services - 1,337 Connections**

**Community Support - 524 Connections**

**Educational Services - 186 Connections**

**Housing - 171 Connections**

**Legal Services - 770 Connections**

**Wraparound Services - 4,122 Connections**

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES** **King of Prussia:** During enrollment, a participant asked about taking an English as a second language course to improve her English and communicate better in the U.S. She was directed to Reading Area Community College (RACC). Upon follow-up, she told the Case Specialist she had registered at RACC and was taking classes. She was grateful for the support and consideration.

**MEDICAL SERVICES** **New Brunswick:** During enrollment, a participant said she was pregnant and had not received medical care. The Case Specialist connected her with Pediatric Primary Care by Monmouth Family Health Center in Long Branch, NJ. At her next office visit, she said she received assistance obtaining medical care.

**NUTRITION** **Little Rock:** During enrollment, a participant shared a struggle with food insecurity and needed help. The Case Specialist found Christ Corner Food Closet within five miles of the participant's home address. During her first in-person office visit, she reported utilizing the referral and receiving a variety of food. She was grateful for the help and reported she can return once a week to help feed her family.



## JUNE 2024 CONNECTIONS:

**Medical Services - 995 Connections**

**Community Support - 386 Connections**

**Educational Services - 195 Connections**

**Housing - 131 Connections**

**Legal Services - 560 Connections**

**Wraparound Services - 1,733 Connections**

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES** **Bronx:** During an office visit, a participant was worried her child would have too much time off waiting for the school year to begin in September. The Case Specialist found the Town of Fishkill School District had a summer school, and assisted her with registration. During follow-up, she said she enrolled her child in a seven-week summer school course.

**MEDICAL SERVICES** **San Diego:** During intake, a participant said she was asthmatic and needed a new prescription for an inhaler. ISAP connected her with Family Health Centers–National City. Upon follow-up, she said she received medical attention. She was thankful for the assistance.

**NUTRITION** **Marlton:** During a virtual home visit, the Case Specialist referred a participant to the House of Blessing food pantry in Lakewood, NJ. The Case Specialist provided details via Bl SmartLINK® messaging. In addition, she was supplied step-by-step directions on getting to the location from her house. During follow-up, she was pleased to report she received several items and was told she could return weekly.

**HOUSING** **Los Angeles:** During intake, ISAP discovered a participant was homeless with two children, one of whom had a medical disability. ISAP directed her to Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles, which houses single unaccompanied women and women with children throughout Los Angeles County. Upon follow-up, she reported the agency provided them with safe housing.

## A Journey of Commitment and Determination

Written By **Destiny Pereira,**  
**Merced Day Reporting Center**



Resilience and accomplishment have been hallmarks of Mr. John Pressell's GEO programming journey. When he re-enrolled in the program in 2023, he demonstrated his commitment and determination despite a series of setbacks that resulted in multiple incarcerations between 2017 and 2023. He completed the program with pride in May of 2024. His steadfast commitment to staying sober, both during and after the program, is nothing short of extraordinary. In addition to landing a full-time job, he proved to be a highly responsible member of the community by attending almost all family gatherings with his wife and loved ones. Moreover, Mr. Pressell's path reached its zenith when he gave a moving and heartfelt speech at his graduation, which was unforgettable to everyone in attendance. He won the title of Participant of the Month for February 2024 at the Merced Day Reporting Center, demonstrating his exceptional growth and moral qualities.

GEO WORLD MAGAZINE  
2nd QUARTER 2024  
Volume 42  
Issue 2