

Hotline

SENDING SUPPORT TO DEPLOYED STAFF

For the past five years, **Jan Moravec** from the MCF-Faribault has been creating books with facility, Department of Corrections (DOC) and local news and sending them to deployed service members from the facility. She began making the books after she was asked to help the Yellow Ribbon Committee put items in the Master Control Lobby in support of Faribault's deployed staff. The books include facility information to keep these staff informed and messages from other staff to thank them for their service. The books have received positive feedback from both the service members and their military supervisors saying they "couldn't wait for the next one" and the books are a "great training tool" for employers to keep staff connected to the workplace. Faribault currently has four deployed staff members. For more information on the books contact Moravec at jan.moravec@state.mn.us.



Jan Moravec with one of the books which will be sent to deployed Faribault staff

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

The MCF-Lino Lakes staff is involved in three different Polar Bear Plunges this winter to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics Minnesota. On January 28, over 30 Lino Lakes staff, family and friends plunged into White Bear Lake. On February 11, Officer **Jared Pullis** will participate in the Super Plunge in Rochester. The Super Plunge involves plunging 24 times in 24 hours! Also on February 11, the First Annual



Anoka County Polar Bear Plunge will be held. Officer **Breana Beach** along with officers from various law enforcement agencies are part of the planning committee. A few minimum security offenders from the MCF-Lino Lakes will help set up the plunge on February 10. If you are interested in making a donation or joining the State Pen Plungers, go to www.SOMN.org and follow the links posted on the Special Olympics Minnesota website.

STEVE ALLEN REELECTED CHAIR OF ACMHA

In December, **Steve Allen** was reelected as the chair of the Association of Correctional Mental Health Administrators (ACMHA). Each state and the Bureau of Prisons elect one representative to become their ACMHA member. The ACMHA was created with strong support from the National Institute of Corrections to help define, support and advance the field of correctional mental health services through research, training and dissemination of knowledge concerning evidence-based, innovative and best practices in the field. Allen is the director of Behavioral Health Services for the department.



SECOND CHANCE DAY ON THE HILL

Many advocates for offender reentry gathered at the Capitol on January 31 for the Second Chance Day on the Hill. The effort supports second chances for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. The day is sponsored and supported by a partnership of over 65 Minnesota nonprofits and companies. More information about the effort is available at www.mnsecondchancecoalition.org.



FUNDING FOR FACILITY REPAIRS AND UPDATES

The legislative session started January 24, and Governor Dayton proposed over \$53 million in general obligation (GO) bonds for the DOC. GO bonds are a type of municipal bond used by state or local government to raise funds for public works. Of the \$53 million in GO bonds, \$15 million is recommended toward general repair, replacement, and renewal in the 10 facilities; \$5.4 million to construct a Shakopee perimeter security fence; \$29.9 million toward building a new St. Cloud intake unit, health services unit, and loading dock; and \$3.4 million to replace the Stillwater well and water treatment facility.



Well and water treatment at Stillwater is inadequate to provide fire protection



View of Shakopee Prison from neighboring elementary school.

FEMALE OFFENDER TRAINING

A subcommittee of the Advisory Task Force on the Woman and Juvenile Female Offender in Corrections has created a self-administered training, **Strategies for Working with Female Inmates in Jail**, directed toward anyone working with women offenders and designed to help understand the behavioral differences between men and women. It is available at www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/Strategies_for_Working_With_Female_Offenders.pdf.

TRAINING TO ADDRESS ADULT EDUCATION GAP

Rick Frye from Shakopee and **Sue Henkel** from Rush City were selected as participants in the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)/Adult Basic Education (ABE) new initiative titled Academic, Career and Employability Skills. ABE Teaching & Learning Advancement System, a Hamline University-based program, works with the MDE on its Transition to Post-Secondary initiative, helping facilitate training and projects to address the gap between ABE and post-secondary education.

RUSH CITY SERGEANT RECEIVES AWARD FOR OFF-DUTY HEROIC ACT

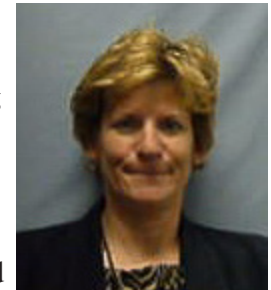
On January 18, MCF-Rush City corrections sergeant **Matthew Jabs** was recognized by the Chisago County Sheriff for his quick thinking and willingness to aid a deputy in restraining an emotionally disturbed and violent man in December. Jabs was on his way home from work when he witnessed a deputy struggling to restrain the man. Jabs quickly offered to help, and the man was subdued and taken into custody without injury to himself or the deputy.



Sergeant Jabs receiving a plaque from Chisago County Sheriff Rick Duncan for his bravery aiding a deputy

STAFF CHANGES

After thirty years with the DOC, **Swantje Willers** has announced her retirement starting February 1. During her career, Willers has worked as correctional counselor at the MCF-Shakopee, corrections agent in Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln and Lyon counties, project consultant for the Youth Level Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI), and as both district supervisor and regional supervisor for Field Services.



Dayna Burmeister has been appointed as Field Services southern regional manager. Burmeister will replace Swantje Willers. Burmeister has served as the Chaska district supervisor for the past seven years. Her previous experience includes work as a DOC corrections agent in LeSueur, Lyon and Lincoln Counties, as well as with Rock/Nobles Community Corrections. Burmeister has also worked as a correctional officer at the MCF-Shakopee. She has been active in a variety of DOC and statewide committees over the years and was also instrumental in the statewide implementation of the YLS/CMI in 2000 and 2001.

