



Correctional Employees Week: May 4-10, 2008

Hotline

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

In April, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed this year's **bonding bill**, which generally appropriates funds for state infrastructure and capital improvement projects. With a number of line-item vetoes, the \$925 million bill was reduced to \$717 million. No projects for the Department of Corrections (DOC) were vetoed from the final bill. Under the bill, the department will receive \$16 million for expansion at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Faribault, \$10 million for asset preservation, and \$6 million for a new vocational education building at the MCF-Red Wing.

Governor Pawlenty has announced the fourth annual **Operation Clean-Up**. The project will use offender work crews and Adopt-a-Highway volunteers to pick up litter along the state's highways through September. Work crews of non-violent offenders will spend more than 35,000 hours picking up trash along roads through the Sentencing to Service and Institution/Community Work Crew programs. Since Operation Clean-Up began in 2005, more than 95,000 offender hours have been dedicated to cleaning Minnesota's roadways.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate **Archbishop Desmond Tutu** addressed residents at the MCF-Red Wing on April 12, 2008, as part of the annual Day of Peace. The celebration is a collaborative of the facility and "youthrive," an affiliate of the International Peace Jam Foundation. Tutu told residents they are each a "VSP-very special person." The residents made a \$312 donation to the Desmond Tutu Foundation and a drum group of 10 American Indian residents performed.

On April 18, 2008, the **Frank W. Wood Religious Resource Center** at the MCF-Oak Park Heights was dedicated. In his 37 years in corrections, Wood served as a warden, deputy commissioner and commissioner of corrections. Wood was the first warden at the MCF-Oak Park Heights and was instrumental in staffing and planning for the facility's opening in 1982. In 1992, he was appointed deputy commissioner of institution services. In 1993, he was appointed commissioner of corrections by Governor Arne Carlson. Wood was reappointed commissioner in 1995 and retired from state service in 1996.

Gun Tower 4, East Wall Inside Stillwater Prison, a watercolor painting by William Murray, has been donated to the MCF-Stillwater by the artist.

Murray was an art instructor at the facility for more than 30 years and retired in 2003. Before being donated, the watercolor was displayed at the Groveland Gallery in St. Paul. The painting will be permanently displayed in the warden's office at Stillwater.

The **manufacturing of license plates and tabs** for the State of Minnesota began at the MCF-Rush City in late March. Previously, this work opportunity for offenders had been housed at the MCF-St. Cloud. The move also includes a change from embossed license plate production to flat plate production using digital technology. In the first two weeks of operation at Rush City, more than 70,000 registration tabs were produced, and manufacturing of plates has begun.

More than 90 employees at the MCF-Faribault participated in a **wellness challenge** to walk 10,000 steps per day. The employees used pedometers to count their steps. During the six-week challenge, participants walked a total of 13,980 miles.

Mobile mammography services are now provided on-site to offenders at the MCF-Shakopee. The mobile unit is available to the facility through a partnership between Correctional Medical Services and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. This service will help the department provide required health services while reducing transportation and security costs.

In March, the DOC participated in a news story for **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)-Radio 4** about prison overcrowding. The BBC reporters spoke with department staff and visited the Challenge Incarceration Program at the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake. A transcript of the program, which aired in March, is available online at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/18_03_08_fo4_prison.pdf.



The Office of National Drug Control Policy has published **What Works: Effective Public Health Responses to Drug Use**. The booklet highlights cost-effective, research-tested prevention and treatment interventions. Topics include screening, providing low-cost treatment and establishing drug treatment courts. The booklet is available at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/global_against_meth/index.html.

Two new publications about the DOC's **Restorative Justice** (RJ) program are now available. The RJ Backgrounder, which provides general information about RJ, can be found at www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/backgrounders/documents/04-08RJbackgrounder.pdf. A summary of 2007 RJ activities in the facilities and community services can be found at www.doc.state.mn.us/rj/documents/RJactivities2007.pdf.

DOC STAFF CHANGES

Debbi Larson has been named acting chief financial officer of MINNCOR, the department's prison industry program. She succeeds Rich Schoenthaler who has left the agency.

OPENINGS

Todd/Wadena Community Corrections has an opening for a **corrections agent**. The position includes supervision of offenders, investigative report writing, and other responsibilities. Applicants must have a B.A. in one of the social sciences. To receive an application packet, contact Kathy Langer at 320/732-6165 or Kathy.Langer@co.todd.mn.us. Applications must be postmarked by May 16, 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The MCF-Red Wing will host the 26th annual **Field Services conference** *Hurt, Damaged, Broken: Working with Youth in Corrections* on May 8-9, 2008. The two-day event will include sessions such as Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement, Traumatic Brain Injury, MySpace and Technology of Today, and Self-Protection and Personal Safety. The deadline for early registration is April 25. For more information, contact Judi Mickelson at 651/267-3672.

Victims: The Real Story, the 21st annual **Conference on Crime Victims**, will be held May 28-29, 2008, at Cragun's Conference Center near Brainerd, Minnesota. The event is hosted by the Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs, with the goal of providing education and training on issues related to crime and victimization. Workshops include Working with Immigrant Communities, Overcoming the CSI Effect, and Poverty and Sexual Violence. Conference registration is \$110 plus lodging costs. For more information, visit www.dps.state.mn.us/OJP/MCCVS/Conference/index.htm, or contact Alicia Nichols at 651/201-7318.

Unlock the Mystery: Managing Mental Health from Corrections to Community, the **National Mental Health Conference**, will be held June 23-25, 2008, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Presented by the Indiana DOC, the conference will spotlight solutions for managing the growing number of mentally ill, substance abuse and sex offender populations within the adult male, adult female and juvenile populations in jails and prisons. Additional information about registration and conference details is available at www.in.gov/indcorrection/unlockingthemystery/index.htm.

The **2008 National Institute of Justice Conference** will be held in Arlington, Virginia, July 21-23. The conference brings together criminal justice scholars and practitioners at the local, state and federal levels to share the most recent findings from research and technology. Registration for this event is free. Visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference/welcome.htm or contact Maria Young at 301/650-8660 extension 136 for more information.