

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

The **2006 Capital Investment Bill**, passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Pawlenty, provides funding for several Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) initiatives, including: \$28M for Phase II expansion at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Faribault; \$19.5M for a high-security segregation unit at the MCF-Stillwater; \$5.3M for MCF-Shakopee expansion; \$2.4M for the MCF-Lino Lakes Medical Unit; \$623,000 for Education Building design at the MCF-Red Wing; and \$5M for asset preservation. “This funding will help the department meet its bed-space needs and decrease the number of offenders housed in non-lockable cells,” said Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian. “It represents a significant investment in staff and public safety.” ■

Sherry Hill has been appointed Department of Corrections Intensive Supervised Release (ISR) District Supervisor effective April 26. Hill, of Bemidji, joined the DOC in 1987 as a corrections officer at the MCF-Lino Lakes. In 1992, she was promoted to case manager, and in 1996 she transferred to the Bemidji District as a corrections agent. She was promoted to career corrections agent in 1998 and later served as an enhanced sex offender supervision agent and ISR agent. She was chosen as *DOC Corrections Agent of the Year* in 2005. Hill succeeds Mike Fall who retired in April. ■

Bob Hanson, Adult Division Director for Ramsey County Community Corrections, is retiring on June 30, 2006. A celebration of Hanson’s 36 years of service to the corrections field will be held June 29 from 4-6 p.m. at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. The event is an open house, but a program will be held at 5 p.m. Gift contributions can be sent to Peggy Powers, 710 Arcade Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55106 (651/266-1777) or Nancy Young, 50 West Kellogg Boulevard, Suite 460, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 (651/266-2322). ■

MCF-Moose Lake offenders are paying penance with yarn. As part of the facility’s restorative justice

program, offenders may join a knitting group to learn how to knit or improve existing skills. The program requires that finished goods be donated to nonprofits or churches working with those in need and has partnered with several groups in this effort. Currently 30 offenders are in the program and knit a variety of items including afghans, mittens, sweaters, hats, scarves, and baby blankets. The facility appreciates yarn donations, which can be made by contacting Chaplain David Hagemann at 218/485-5066. ■

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) has received a grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration of the Federal Department of Health & Human Services to aid in identifying, assessing, and supporting offenders with **traumatic brain injury** (TBI). The DOC will receive \$100,000 each year for three years, starting in fiscal year 2006. Offenders with TBI may have higher rates of depression, anxiety, cognition problems, violent thoughts, suicide attempts, and discipline violations.

“Offenders with traumatic brain injuries can be particularly disruptive or vulnerable within our prison system,” said Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian. “This funding will enhance our ability to better support these offenders, protect our staff from violent acts, and enhance the safety of our communities through appropriate reentry programming.” ■

Twelve **MCF-Shakopee offenders** recently graduated from the facility’s metal forming pilot program. Metal forming is the manufacture of products made out of metal – furniture, medical devices, etc. The program provided industry-level metal forming skills along with problem solving, team building, workplace safety, and communications training. The graduating students are eligible to take the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) exam and receive an industry credential. Job-seeking assistance is also provided. The program represented the joint education and training partnerships of the DOC, HIRED, Precision Metalforming Association, Hennepin Technical College, the National Association of Manufacturers’ Center for Workforce Success, and NIMS. ■

The Minnesota Department of Corrections recognized April 24-28, 2006, as **National Crime Victims' Rights Week** with a host of activities involving staff and offenders. Visit www.doc.state.mn.us/media/news/NCVRW2006.htm for a recap. Also, for a list of restorative justice facility activities in calendar year 2005, visit www.doc.state.mn.us/rj/Default.htm. ■

OPENINGS

The Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) is soliciting Letters of Interest (LOI) from qualified parties to serve as a **contractor to provide executive administrative services**. The contractor will provide administrative, planning, and representational support to MACCAC in conducting its business. The contractor will also have liaison responsibilities with the Association of Minnesota Counties and other professional organizations. The contract implementation date is January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007, pending funding availability, with potential annual contract renewal beyond December 31, 2007, with agreement by both parties, pending funding availability. MACCAC reserves the right to reject any or all LOIs that do not satisfy LOI requirements; the LOI does not obligate MACCAC to complete the LOI process or enter into a contract; and MACCAC reserves the right to cancel the LOI at any time for any reason. LOIs should speak to the applicant's professional qualifications, experience, and ability to provide executive administrative services to an organization, along with familiarity with Minnesota and federal law and administrative rules in the corrections area, including enabling legislation for the Minnesota Community Corrections Act (M.S. Chapter 401). Interested applicants can access the Request for LOIs at www.maccac.org or request a copy from Dee Skeens, Contract Manager, Dakota County Community Services Administration, Dakota County Northern Service Center, 1 West Mendota Road, Suite 500, West Saint Paul, Minnesota 55118-4773, phone 651/554-5874, or deanne.skeens@co.dakota.mn.us. Deadline for response is 4:00 p.m. central time August 15, 2006. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Conference 2006, July 17-19, 2006, Washington, D.C. NIJ's annual conference brings together criminal justice scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to share the most recent findings about what works, what doesn't, and what research shows as promising. New developments in technology related to public safety will be featured this year.

For the conference agenda and other information and/or to register online, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/events/nij_conference2006.html. Register at a reduced cost before June 9. NIJ is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and is dedicated to researching crime control and justice issues. For more information on NIJ, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij. ■

OTHER NEWS

We've got the Bogey Fever! Golfers of all abilities will be gathering their clubs and heading out for a great day of golf. The Winona County Restorative Justice Program invites golfers to join in on their **6th Annual Golf Scramble and Silent Auction** on August 21, 2006, at Cedar Valley Golf Course in Winona, Minnesota, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Entry fee is \$60 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, New York strip steak dinner, golf towel, and goodie bag along with a chance to win great door prizes. Restorative justice is seeking golfers and tournament sponsors. Contact Teresa Small at 507/457-6457 or tsmall@co.winona.mn.us to register. All proceeds go toward supporting Winona County restorative justice youth programs. ■

Fore! The Minnesota Correctional Education Foundation (MCEF) second annual **Golf Open - Best Ball Scramble** will be held August 18, 2006, at Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake, Minnesota. Cost per golfer is \$125 (\$25 tax-deductible). Non-golfers are invited and encouraged to attend the awards luncheon and auction at a cost of \$30. A wide variety of exceptional donations has been received and will be offered at the silent auction, including a custom-built oak poker table and portable bar, hotel rooms, gift certificates, and more. All proceeds go toward supporting DOC educational programming. MCEF is seeking golfers, sponsors, and volunteers to staff the tournament. For more tournament information or to learn how to support MCEF in other ways, contact Liz Evensen at 651/642-0285 or liz.evensen@state.mn.us. ■

The **Minnesota Corrections Association** is seeking nominations for awards recognizing excellence by individuals and programs in the field of corrections. Awards will be presented at the MCA Fall Training Institute in October. Nominations must be received by August 15. For nomination categories and procedures, contact Chuck Ness, Box 278, Pipestone, Minnesota 56164 (507/825-6890). ■