



Impact Georgia

Holiday Newsletter

Administration Division Lends a Helping Hand to Twenty Underprivileged Children

Contributed by Manager Mitzi Richards-Kellum



Administration Division standing with the gifts they will give the Hubbard House Children

On December 6th, the Administration Division dropped off gifts for 20 underprivileged boys and girls from Samuel E. Hubbard Elementary School in Forsyth, Georgia.

The division raised approximately \$1,400 for the cause, and each child will receive a coat, shirt, pants, shoes, underwear and socks.

The children were selected from the Elementary School's Angel Tree, an event done every year by the school. The school identifies children with needs and

helps provide the basic necessities each Christmas. The school not only provides for the children of the school, but for each sibling in the family. Mitzi

Kellum and her Consolidated Banking Unit staff decided as a group to adopt five children from the Angel Tree this year for their community outreach effort. After Kellum shared this effort with the Administration Division, Director Becky East approved a coordinated effort to include all of her Division.

"The thing that hit home with me was the fact that the items we were asked to provide were essentials and not toys," said Division Director of Administration Becky East. "I am very proud of the staff in Admin for pulling together to help so many this Christmas season," added East.

"To be able to find enough support for what turned out to be a total of 20 kids was a humbling experience. We have such an amazing staff here at GDC," said Consolidated Banking Unit Manager Mitzi Kellum. "Participating in events like this truly brings home the spirit of Christmas. Doing for others that have a need greater than your own, only helps each person realize just how fortunate they are. I was honored to coordinate the event for the Administration Division and look forward to possibly expanding the participation next year," added Kellum.

Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Donates Gifts to Families in Need

Contributed by Chief Probation Officer Chad Purvis



L to R: PO III Allen Kirby, PO III Georgia Boyer, PO III Marci Day and CPO Chad Purvis.



Gifts collected

The Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit partnered with the Baldwin County & Putman County Department of Family & Children Services and the Greene County Empty Stocking Fund to help

families in their circuit give their children a Christmas to remember.

The Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit collected new toys from Novem-

ber 16th to December 9th for children in Greene, Morgan, Putnam, Jasper, Jones, Baldwin, Wilkinson and Hancock counties.

Staff members delivered the donated gifts on December 12th to the local agencies.

Happy Holidays from the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit!



Macon Transitional Center Charitable Contributions

Contributed by Superintendent Terry Seltzer



Staff at the Macon Transitional Center have adopted a special family within the community through the Department of Family and Children Services this holiday season.

"This is the first year we have adopted a family through DFCS," stated Superintendent Seltzer.

On December 5th, Macon TC staff received their adopted family of eight children from ages 10 months to 15 years.

Staff had the opportunity to

review the family's wish list and decide on which gifts they wanted to purchase.

"If the gifts they requested were too expensive, I encouraged my staff to buy items that were appropriate for the family member," said Seltzer. "This would allow for all staff members to participate and for the family to receive a gift from our heart," added Seltzer.

Each child received at least three gifts ranging from clothing to toys.

Macon TC staff will present the gifts to the children on December 19th, just in time for Christmas.

In addition to helping this family, Macon TC collected non-perishable food items which will be donated to the Macon Food Bank on December 20th.

Happy Holidays from Macon Transitional Center!



Macon Transitional Center with gifts they will present to their adopted family

West Central Pre-Release Center Food Drive for the Holidays

Contributed by Continuous Improvement Cathy L. Smith-Curry



Can food collected by West Central PRC and other local PRCs, PDCs and TCs

Thirty six thousand non-perishable items! That is the amount donated to families in need during the holiday season thanks to Georgia Department of Corrections employees.

In a unified effort coordinated by Warden Edd Sanders, the West Central PRC team and other local PRC's, PDC's and TC's, have collected dry goods and toiletries to donate to food pantries, homeless and battered womens shelters and other organizations who lend year around support to Georgians in need.

This annual event started nine years ago when Warden Edd

Sanders challenged other facilities comparable in size to West Central to join in this very worthy cause. The goal is to see which facility collects the largest amount of dry goods. It is up to each facility to select the receiving agency or organization. Warden Sanders operates on the honor system and each facility reports the number of items collected. Once the numbers are tallied, the facility with the greatest amount receives a plaque donated by a local business.

The event extends until December 22, 2011 in an effort to collect as much as possible for organizations and agencies such as

DFACS who provide much needed assistance to families in need.

Happy Holidays from West Central Pre-Release Center!

Mountain Judicial Circuit Helps A Family in Need

Contributed by Chief Probation Officer Scott Chitwood



Gifts donated by the Mountain Judicial Circuit Probation Staff

CPO Chitwood became aware of this family in need through his position as chairman of the Christmas Program Committee for the lodge.

CPO Chitwood with the help of his probation staff purchased over \$250 worth of gifts including clothes, cosmetics, jewelry, MP3 player, music gift cards and more for this high school senior.

Happy Holidays from the Mountain Judicial Circuit!

Each year, Toccoa Masonic Lodge purchases clothes and toys for local underprivileged children.

This year, seven families with a total of 23 children under the age of 18 were identified to receive assistance.

The program usually accepts younger children however, CPO Scott Chitwood selected an 18-year-old high school senior who has been raised by her grandmother.

Baldwin State Prison Celebrates the Holidays

Contributed by Warden Sheila Oubre



Tree of Life with ornaments remembering those touched by cancer

Staff collected donations to send to CO Trawick during the holiday to let him know how much they appreciate him.

In addition, the facility has donated snacks and hygiene items to the Veterans at the Georgia War Veterans Home on Central State Hospital Grounds.

The Relay for Life Team put up a 'Tree of Life' within the facility and sold ornaments for \$1.00 to celebrate cancer survivors and to remember those loved ones who are battling and who have battled cancer.

Each ornament that adorns the 'Tree of Life' displays the names of the men and women who have been touched by cancer.

Lastly, the facility hosted a week of goodies and favors for staff.

"We wanted to let our staff know that they are appreciated for all their hard work and dedication," said Warden Oubre.

Happy Holidays for Baldwin State Prison!

During the month of December, Baldwin State Prison has worked together to bring holiday cheer to their staff and to the men and women who serve and have served our country.

"We have one of our own, Correctional Officer Richard Trawick, serving in Kuwait during this holiday season," stated Warden Sheila Oubre. "We applaud our military for their sacrifices with family and for their support of our country," added Oubre.



GDC Headquarters Assists Families In Need in Monroe County



Contributed by Confidential Secretary to the Commissioner Peggy Chapman



Jatavion Love helps load gifts into the van



Asst. Commissioner Ward with staff standing by gifts collected by GDC staff campus-wide



Executive Asst. to Commissioner Kenneth Mantle and Asst. Commissioner Ward bringing gifts to DFCS.

GDC employees at State Offices South at Tift College collected toys and clothing for children in conjunction with the Monroe County Department of Family & Children Services.

Collections began on December 5th and ended on December 16th.

The campus adopted eight families, a total of 24 children, to assist during this holiday season.

Wish list items ranged from video games, DVD players, CDs, bikes, shoes, body lotion, perfume, make-up, basketballs, roller blades, clothes, hunting and fishing items.

The campus came together and worked as "one team" to bring joy and happiness to these children's lives this Christmas.

"The campus staff made a difference in the life of a needy child this Christmas," said Confidential Secretary to the Commissioner Peggy Chapman. "Everyone

truly caught the spirit of the holidays," added Chapman.

Gifts were wrapped before they were delivered to the Monroe County Department of Family & Children Services.

Happy Holidays from GDC Headquarters!

OPT Partners Embrace the Holiday Spirit through Donations and Celebration

Contributed by Deputy Director Operations, Planning, & Training Division Sharon Shaver



"Box train" of gifts for the Forsyth Circle of Care family

The Operations, Planning and Training Division contributed to the local community this holiday season by providing gifts to two families through the Monroe County Department of Family & Children Services and by

adopting a family in need through the Forsyth Circle of Care.

The Circle of Care is a local non-profit organization comprised of member volunteers from various churches within the community



Holiday Dessert Bar on December 12th

and has been in place for more than 30 years. An Executive Council is in charge of the organization and our very own Pam Bittick is the Chairman for 2011.

OPT collected and donated gifts

to a total of nine children through these efforts.

Staff came together during a wrapping session and wrapped all donated presents before they were delivered on the 15th of

December.

"Employees of the OPT Division have compassionate spirits and are excited about the opportunities to assist those less fortunate during this holiday season," stated Deputy Director of OPT Sharon Shaver.

In addition to their charitable contributions, the senior staff of OPT hosted a Holiday Celebration Dessert Bar for their staff and the staff campus-wide on the 12th of December.

"It's a chance for the staff to network and get a jump start on their calorie and carb intake for the season," added Shaver.

Coastal State Prison Joins Community Efforts in Savannah this Holiday Season

Contributed by Warden Secretary Emma Arnold



Front row L-R: Dianne Threat, Sgt. Springer, Shavon Bailey, Chaplain Foster, Sgt. Bordeaux; Second row: L-R Lt. Johnson, Latika Gwynn, Hayley Miltiades, Cathy Garner, Officer Freeman, Sgt. Tucker, Patricia Huff, Henry Blount.

In the midst of the gift-giving season, Coastal State Prison has joined the community efforts of Savannah by donating to Savannah's Feed the Hungry.

with positive change within the lives of the offenders, but also making a difference within the community we swore to serve and protect."

For the month of December, the staff came together, once again in traditional spirit, to donate non-perishable food items to this worthy cause.

Happy Holidays from Coastal State Prison!

Staff wanted to ensure that the less fortunate families of Savannah had a blessed holiday.

Warden Koon has embraced this goodwill effort and rallied Coastal staff by stating, "We are change agents, not just assisting

Wilcox State Prison Spreads the Holiday Spirit

Contributed by OA Tech Nikki Warren



L to R: DW Todd Tripp, Warden Robert Toole, UM Phil Hall and DW Doris Evans standing with fruit bags for the residents at River Willows Nursing Home.

Wilcox State Prison participated in many charitable events this holiday season.

The first is a yearly tradition for the facility. Wilcox SP put together 100 fruit bags for the River Willows Nursing Home residents.

Residents at the River Willows Nursing Home are wards of the state and do not have any outside family.

The facility has been donating fruit bags to this nursing home since it opened in 1994.



L to R: DW Tripp, Warden Toole, DW Evans and UM Hall with gifts for DFCS.

Wilcox SP partnered with the Department of Family and Children Services to help with their annual community Christmas Toy Drive this year.

"In these times of economic hardship and financial uncertainty,

the staff has again supported this worthwhile program," said Warden Robert Toole.

Lastly, Wilcox State Prison sent a Christmas box to Brandy Blackshear, a soldier stationed in Germany.

"We send a box to a soldier every year," said Warden Toole.

Brandy Blackshear is the niece of Wilcox State Prison's Operations Analyst Linda Wilcox.



L to R: Warden Toole, D/W Evans, UM Hall and D/W Tripp with box for soldier Brandy Blackshear.

Columbus Probation Office Brings Christmas Cheer to Muscogee County Foster Children

Contributed by Chief Probation Officer Stacy Rivera



PO III Linfred Davis as Santa



PO III Linfred Davis getting arrested for being a 'Bad Santa'

On December 8th, Probation Officer III Linfred Davis agreed to dress up as Santa to bring a smile to the children of the Muscogee County Department of Family Services.

On December 18th, PO III Davis greeted the Muscogee County foster children at the Frank Chester Center in Columbus, Georgia.

Happy Holidays from the Columbus Probation Office!



Phillips Transitional Center Hosts Christmas Celebration for Residents and Families

Contributed by Counselor Jennifer Grey



L to R: Tracy Mosely; Clarence McDaniel; Katie Wright; Superintendent Lester McCord; Jerome Patillo; and Ali Fareed

On December 10, 2011, Phillips Transitional Center hosted a Christmas Celebration/Family Day for residents and their families.

Residents who have been actively participating in the It Takes a Village Today Reentry Fatherhood program (ITAV Today) were given the opportunity to have a Christmas Celebration/Family Day with their families.

Families were invited to come to the center for the day to visit with the residents and meet with

Phillips Transitional Center staff and the volunteers of the It Takes a Village Today Reentry Fatherhood program.

During the event, residents were able to give wrapped Christmas gifts to their children. The gifts were provided by the generosity of the membership of Hamilton Mill United Methodist Church. All remaining gifts were donated to the Gwinnett County Department of Family and Children Services to go to foster children in the area.

Happy Holidays from Phillips Transitional Center!