



Impact Georgia

March 2014 Newsletter

In This Issue

Pg. 2



Ugandan Thunder Children's Choir performs at Telfair State Prison

Pg. 3

Around the Agency

Risk Reduction announces new phase of certification program

Pg. 4

Coastal State Prison & Rutledge State Prison Audit Awards

Have a great story idea?

Send to
Lisa

Rodriguez-Presley

Email:

rodri100@dcor.state.ga.us

Griffin Day Reporting Center helps rebuild their community with Habitat for Humanity

Contributed by Ashley Hanson

Restorative justice programs focus on what needs to be healed, what needs to be repaid and what needs to be learned in the wake of crime. In an effort to promote that healing, participants in phase II of the Griffin Day Reporting Center program worked with Habitat for Humanity restoring homes in the local community on Feb. 8.

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Habitat is founded on the conviction that every man, woman
(See HABILITAT Pg. 2)



Nine participants from the Griffin Day Reporting Center worked with Habitat for Humanity restoring homes in their community as part of the restorative justice process.

Chainsaw Strike teams deployed for severe weather

Story by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley



Ice in the trees at State Offices South at Tift College was a good indicator of just how cold it was during the winter storms in February. Rain, snow and frigid temperatures made for dangerous conditions, prompting Governor Nathan Deal to declare a state of emergency for a large portion of Georgia and the closure of all state offices.

As Governor Nathan Deal declared a state of emergency for the winter storms Feb. 13, the Georgia Department of Corrections, Georgia Forestry Department and the Department of Natural Resources staff mobilized 13 chainsaw strike teams to assist with clearing downed trees and debris.

Four GDC teams consisting of inmates supervised by Correctional Officers were deployed throughout metro Atlanta, North, Central, and East Georgia to remove debris that brought down power lines or blocked roads that emergency or power company crews would otherwise be unable to access.

The crews were equipped with chainsaws, 4x4 vehicles, backhoes and debris removal equipment and helped expedite the state's recovery process from the devastating winter weather.

Calendar Events



Thursday, March 6
Board of Corrections
Meeting

Friday-Sunday March 7-9
Olde Order of Tift Alumnae
Reunion

Saturday-Sunday
March 8-9
Forsythia Festival

Tuesday, March 11
CJCC visit to Coastal
RSAT

Macon DRC
Commencement

Tuesday, March 18
Thomasville DRC
Commencement

Thursday, March 20
Military Job Fair at
Fort Gordon, Augusta, Ga

Tuesday, March 25
Athens DRC
Commencement

Thursday, March 27
Sergeant's Academy
Graduation



Ugandan Thunder brings message of hope to Telfair

Contributed by Susan Knowles

Telfair State Prison had the unique opportunity to host an extraordinary performance by the Ugandan Thunder Children's Choir on Feb. 19. Staff and inmates enjoyed the moving performance by the children and were inspired by their mission, which is to "help Africa's most vulnerable children today so they can help Africa tomorrow."

The Ugandan Thunder Children's Choir hails from the Royal School and Orphanage and Morning Star school in Uganda, and consists of 22 children, ages 8-13. Sporting festive traditional attire, the children performed Ugandan drum songs, track songs in the Lugandan lan-

guage as well as songs in English.

The tours are made possible by the organization, Pennies for Posho, Ted Moody, founder and CEO and Daniel Stokes, Chairman of the Board for the organization. In 2007, Pennies for Posho was formed from the donations of children who generously gave coins to their church's VBS offering, allowing the organization to adopt four orphanages in Uganda. Today the number of children fed by the organization each day has grown to more than 5,000.

For more information on Pennies for Posho visit their website at <http://www.penniesforposho.org>.



Pictured with the Children's Choir members are Peter Kaweesa Mulondo, Moses Kaweesa, Queen Susan and Telfair State Prison staff members, Warden William Danforth, Deputy Wardens of Security Sam Zanders and Annetia Toby and Officer Daniel Stokes.

(HABITAT from Pg. 1)

and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety.

The nine participants had a chance to use their carpentry skills and spent the day hanging sheet rock, putting in insulation and painting the exterior of the house.

"By having offenders participate in these types of programs, we hope to give them a sense of being a part of the community," said Ashley Hansen, Griffin Day Reporting Center Administrator. "This is an important part of restorative justice because we

want offenders to realize that their behavior has a ripple effect in their family and subsequently in the community. Crime effects more than just the victim, it effects us all."

Day Reporting Centers allow select probationers and parolees the opportunity to change criminal thinking and behavior through a combination of counseling, educational programming and close supervision.

The Griffin Day Reporting Center opened in August 2005 and serves the community in Fayette, Pike, Spalding and Upson counties.



Around the Agency...

Addiction Certification Prep Program begins fourth phase

Contributed by Antonio Johnson

The Substance Abuse Unit of Risk Reduction Services is pleased to announce the fourth phase of the Addiction Certification Preparation Program (ACPP). The class held its first meetings on January 14-16, and February 4-6. Subsequent monthly classes are scheduled for the 2014 calendar year.

The Addiction Certification Preparation Program helps to meet the increasing need for certified addiction counselors whom are trained and qualified to deliver addiction services to high risk, high need offenders. This training program provides the 270 hours required by state certification boards as partial fulfillment toward certification.

Previously this training was outsourced to inter-agencies, but the Risk Reduction Services Substance Abuse Unit

is now facilitating the training. The target population for this training is Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) counselors, working in a facility or probation setting, who provide 40 hours of direct services to a substance abusing population that has been identified by a formal assessment as needing substance abuse services.

GDC counselors enrolled in ACPP are required for certification to complete activities within the areas of Screening, Intake, Orientation, Assessment, Treatment Planning, Counseling, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Client Education, Referral, Reports and Record Keeping, and Consultation. GDC counselors interested in the Addiction Certification Preparation Program should contact the Substance Abuse Unit of Risk Reduction Services.

Several facilities celebrated Valentines day, and the end of the February ice storms with casual gatherings. Burruss Correctional Training Center staff held a Valentine cake and ice cream party, while Whitworth Women's Facility staff feasted on a variety of wings as they celebrated with their first ever Wing Fling Feb.18.



Patsy Bartlett, an account parapro enjoying her last wing fling gala with Whitworth Women's Facility staff. She retired on Feb. 19 after 25 years of service with the Department of Corrections.



Whitworth Deputy Wardens Mark L. Martin and and Sue Mickens enjoy the finger-licking meal.



The Department honored 24 graduates from the Corrections Leadership Institute during a commencement ceremony Feb. 6. The graduates were comprised of various employees from the Georgia Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice and the State Board of Pardons & Paroles. The Corrections Leadership Institute is a course offered through the Carl Vinson Institute of Government through the University of Georgia. The participants were selected by their directors to partake in this class that began in October 2013. Over the course of four months, the participants engaged in self and team evaluation and completed a project focusing on organizational performance.



Burruss staff enjoy some sweets during their Valentine's Day cake and ice cream party.



Rutledge and Coastal State Prisons both achieve compliance audit excellence

Rutledge State Prison

Officer Adrian Harris won an individual award for his work in Inmate Drug Testing. The auditor was very complimentary of his work ethic and organizational skills. He demonstrated an outstanding attitude of teamwork and had a comprehensive vision of the importance of his responsibilities. Congratulations to Officer Harris.



Coastal State Prison

Officer Ta-Tanisha Colbert won an individual award for her work in Key Control. This area scored 100%. The hard work and commitment to this area resulted in greater efficiency and organization. All paperwork is now being received in a timely manner. She is an asset to the facility and this agency. Congratulations Officer Colbert.



Officer Hagan won an individual award for her role in the audit. She had two areas that were audited. She is the Key Control and Tool Control Officer. Both areas had no findings. She is very knowledgeable of both areas and exhibits excellent organizational skills as she balances both of the critical functional areas while also performing other tasks as assigned. She sets the example for teamwork and commitment. Congratulations Officer Hagan.

Mr. Jackson won an individual award for his work in Security Threat Group. He recently took over this responsibility. Under his leadership, this process is now operating with a high degree of integrity. His organizational skills are very good and his filing system is efficient. Congratulations to Mr. Jackson.



Hazel Vaughn and her Medical Staff won the Team award during this audit. The auditors commented on the great teamwork exhibited by the staff. Documentation was very organized and very concise. They had no critical findings with a score in the upper nineties. They have a vast mission with a large mental health population. Congratulations to the Medical Team.



The Care and Custody Team won the group award for this audit. The auditors had high praise for this team. They were able to greatly improve the operation this past year. They keep great accountability of all property and improved the organization of the warehouse. Congratulations to the Care and Custody Team.

Like us on Facebook Check out our YouTube channel at [GACorrections](#) Tweet us at [@GA_Corrections](#)

MISSION

The Department of Corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change.

VISION

To be recognized as the best corrections organization in the nation.



BRIAN OWENS
Commissioner

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Joan Heath
Director

Gwendolyn Hogan *Managing Editor* Lisa Rodriguez-Presley *Editor/PA Specialist* Susan Megahee *PA Specialist*