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Have a great story Idea?

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Facilities, employee excellence highlighted at GDC's 10th Annual Awards Ceremony

Story and Photos by Lisa Rodriguez Presley

It was a day of inspiration for employees who were honored during the 2013 Annual Awards Ceremony held at Roberts Chapel on June 24, as Mercer University Men's Basketball Head Coach Bob Hoffman shared his formula for success at work and in life. The Mercer Bears shocked the sports world during the 2014 NCAA Playoff Tournament by beating the nationally ranked, and heavily favored Duke University Blue Devils, but even more inspiring were the stories of dedication and selfless service of the Georgia Department of Corrections employees, award winners and nominees alike.

This year's ceremony saw the introduction of some new awards presented by the American Red Cross for the "Battle of the Badges" Competition held at facilities around the state throughout the year. These awards, were another example of the dedicated service and sacrifice that GDC employees display on a regular basis.

"Give all you've got, all the time" said Hoffman. "Your future is decided by your habits. Your habits are decided by your choices. You all choose to serve others everyday and that's an amazing thing." *(For photos and names of the winners see page 2)*



Mercer University Basketball Coach Bob Hoffman shares secrets to his success with the audience in Roberts Chapel at State Offices South at Tift College during the GDC 10th Annual Awards Ceremony on June 24.

Gainsville Joint Task Force helps clean up crime

Story By Stephanie Colwell

Like the summer spike in temperature, Probation Officers from the Lawrenceville Probation Office teamed up with The Gwinnett County Sheriff's Department and several local police departments last month to bring the heat down on those attempting to escape the law.

In this operation running from June 11th-12th, Officers went in at 4:00 PM and worked well into the night focused on war-

rant service of all types, ranging from failure-to-appear to felony probation warrants, in addition to new charges. Over 100 dedicated Officers had two days to serve 204 warrants all over the Atlanta area. By the end of the operation, the Joint Task Force had served 77 of those warrants, resulting in 59 individuals being brought to justice.

"The outstanding results of this multi-agency warrant

sweep are a clear indication of how law enforcement agencies working together can accomplish more in protecting and serving the public," said Deputy Director of Probation Operations Marcia McIntyre. "The efforts of these departments do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We are proud of the part our officers play in these operations and their dedication to meeting the mission of the Georgia Department of Corrections."



Calendar Events

Friday, July 4
Independence Day
HOLIDAY

Tuesday, July 10
Military Career Fair
Moody Air Force Base
Valdosta, GA

Tuesday, July 15
Tifton DRC
Commencement Ceremony

Friday, July 18
Corrections Family Day

Friday, July 24
Military Career Fair
Fort Stewart
Hinesville, GA

Tuesday, July 29
GDC Quarterly Awards
Ceremony

Thursday, July 31
Rouse DRC
Commencement Ceremony



GDC 2013 Annual Awards Recipients

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

- Burning Bush Ministries
- Rev. Russell Gray
- Cynseria Jenkins
- Dottie Benson
- Malachi Dads
- Gene Deloach
- Pat Quinn
- Mike Hale

FAITH BASED CONTRIBUTORS OF THE YEAR

- Word of Life Church
- Stronghold Group of Brentwood, TN
- First Impressions
- The Refuge of Hope

PARTNER AGENCY OF THE YEAR

- Cobb Anti Gang Enforcement (CAGE)
- Georgia State Patrol Peer Support Team
- Long County Sheriff's Dept.
- Ludowici – Long Co. Fire Department
- Moultrie Parole Department
- Cash Prosperity Campaign
- Albany Police Department
- Advantage Behavior Health Services
- Telfair Co. Sheriff's Office – Telfair State Prison

AMERICAN RED CROSS BATTLE OF THE BADGES

- Largest One-day Blood Drive - GA State Prison
- Largest Overall Collection - Wilcox State Prison
- Battle of the Badges Traveling Trophy for most collected staff participation - Enotah Judicial Circuit.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Charles Stone – Patten Probation Detention Center

PROBATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Justin Ussery – Dahlongega Probation Office

FACILITY SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Jacob Beasley - Telfair State Prison



(AWARDS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



GDC 2013 Annual Awards Recipients

PROBATION SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Terra Taylor-Cochran – Americus Probation Office

INDIVIDUAL FITNESS AWARD



Eric Johnson - Douglasville Probation Office

THE TIFFANY BISHOP HORIZON AWARD



Michael Langford - Gainesville Probation Office

CUSTOMER SERVICE CHAMPION AWARD



Sara Hilliard - Telfair State Prison

THE CYNTHIA FLOYD AWARD



Jill Fischer - Cartersville Probation Office

LEGACY AWARD



J.M. "Bob" Plemmons - Board of Corrections

HEADQUARTERS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Michael Tolson - CHRM (ESU)

THE BOBBY FRANKLIN AWARD



Hollis Brown - Augusta State Medical Prison

FACILITY & CIRCUIT AWARDS

Facility/Circuit Fitness Award

Phillips State Prison

Facility of the Year

Telfair State Prison

Center of the Year

Clayton Transitional Center

Probation Circuit of the Year

Northern Judicial Circuit

County Facility of the Year

Jackson County Prison

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Dewanda Brisco - Baldwin State Prison

THE JAMES HENDERSON AWARD



Chris Reaves - Georgia State Prison

Congratulations to all of the award winners and nominees!



Around the Agency...

Macon DRC GEARs up



Content contributed by CPO Vicki Lee

GEAR up stands for Getting Excited About Recovery. On May 22, 2014, The Macon Day Reporting Center hosted a GEAR up Day for participants to learn new ways of having positive, drug-free fun with peers. The Macon Day Reporting Center served grilled hotdogs, chips, and drinks to participants for lunch as they watched movies, played board games, and mingled with one another to build cohesion and excitement about their path to Recovery. Stephanie Mooneyham, a representative from the local CSB (River Edge Behavioral Health Center), was present to offer information to participants about services offered at their agency. Mental Health is an area that is not embraced by everyone due to stigmas and stereotypes. According to participants, now they 'know' who they are sharing life experiences with inside of their substance abuse and cognitive therapy groups and are more likely to open up in classes. Another participant reported, "The River Edge representative helped me get an appointment. If she wasn't here I would not have gotten one as fast."

Ye Visited Me Prison Ministry group reaches out to Whitworth women

Story by Stephanie Colwell

It is not uncommon to hear of church ministry groups mentoring at local prisons. But if you paid a visit to Whitworth Women's Facility on Saturday May 26th, you might have been a little overwhelmed by the scene that greeted you.

The inmates at Whitworth were visited by the volunteers of Ye Visited Me Ministries. The vision of Pastors Larry and Faye Martin of Soul's Harbor Church in Canton, Georgia, this ministry travels around the Georgia prison system conducting what they call the "Day of Freedom". When Whitworth was contacted by Prison Ministry Coordinator Anita Taylor to set up this event, Warden Brooks Benton welcomed them gladly, knowing from prior experience at Lee Arrendale SP what a great day they had in store.

More than 30 volunteers showed up Saturday morning with a dozen motorcycles and an old police car in tow. This was not your typical prison min-

istry group—they were bikers, complete with leather, tattoos, and for several of them, records of prior incarceration.

The program began on a light note with entertainment such as music (live band), praise dancing, drama, motorcycles, puppets, and mimes, but as the day progressed the volunteers took on a more serious tone. Sharing testimonies of their histories with drug and alcohol abuse, incarceration, physical and sexual abuse, loss, family strife, and even doing some one-on-one mentoring, the volunteers of Ye Visited Me Ministries were able to use their life experiences to help show 240 inmates of Whitworth Women's Facility the way to a brighter future.

"The event was well received by the population," commented Mark Martin, Deputy Warden of Care and Treatment at the facility. "It offered entertainment and an escape from the everyday routine of prison life. We plan to schedule them for a return next year."

UPCOMING MILITARY CAREER FAIRS

JULY 10
MOODY AIR FORCE BASE
VALDOSTA, GA
10 AM - 2 PM

JULY 24
FORT STEWART
HINESVILLE, GA
10 AM - 2 PM

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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.



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