



Impact Georgia

October 2014 Newsletter

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Have a great story Idea?

Send to

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House officially launches the Veterans Reentry Program Dorms

Story By Gwendolyn Hogan
Photo courtesy of Governor's Office



L to R: Assistant Commissioner, Chief of Staff Dozier, Assistant Commissioner of Education Dr. Evans, Warden Benton, Governor Deal, Warden Hatcher, Commissioner Owens, and Assistant Commissioner Ward

On September 25, Governor Nathan Deal and the Georgia Department of Corrections officially launched the Veterans Reentry Program Dorms with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house event at Rutledge

State Prison.

The ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the newly established veteran dorms at Johnson State Prison, Rutledge State Prison and Emanuel Women's Facility.

"The final step toward a las-

ing criminal justice overhaul is successful re-entry into society," Governor Deal said. "We must work to remove barriers to employment, housing and education for rehabilitated offenders – it would be counterproductive not to. These re-entry dorms will offer veterans a supportive place to live as they transition back to their families and into the workforce, reducing recidivism and saving taxpayer dollars. Through this initiative, we are ensuring that those who are willing to change the direction of their lives will find a helping hand."

The program was implemented on June 14, 2014 in partnership with the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs, Georgia Department of Veterans Services and the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

(see **VETERANS** pg. 3)

Commissioner introduces Education Cup

Story by Gwendolyn Hogan

The Department is pleased to introduce the Commissioner's Education Cup, designed to award the leading facility or center with the highest percentage of GED completion rates! In addition to the Cup, the Department will award facilities and centers that meet or exceed state goals as well as award students with the highest GED scores across the state of Georgia.

"The implementation of the Com-



missioner's Education Cup will help award those facilities and centers that are working hard to increase our offender GED completion rates," said

Dr. Buster Evans, Assistant Commissioner of Education.

The agency began tracking GED completion results in July of this year and will continue until June 2015. The Commissioner's Education Cup will be awarded at the GDC Annual Teachers Conference in Macon, Ga in July 2015.



Calendar Events

Thursday, October 2
Board of Corrections Meeting

Deputy Wardens of Security Academy Graduation

Thursday, October 9
Sergeants Academy Graduation

Friday, October 10
Commissioner's CERT Challenge

Monday, October 13
Columbus Day
****HOLIDAY****

Thursday, October 16
Baldwin State Prison Faith and Character Based Graduation

Friday, October 17
5th Annual Derek Chance "Top Gun" Competition

Thursday, October 23
Savannah Day Reporting Center Commencement

Tuesday, October 28
GDC Quarterly Awards Ceremony



Department begins 100,000 books initiative

Story by Gwendolyn Hogan

The Department is pleased to announce the Georgia Department of Corrections' 100,000 Books Initiative! With literacy and reading being a critical component for an inmate's academic success, the Department implemented this initiative to collect 100,000 books. Through donations, purchases and drives, we will now have the opportunity to update and increase literacy and comprehension levels as well as stock 35 GDC institutional libraries (3,000 books per facility).

In order to make this initiative a reality, the depart-

ment is seeking assistance from regional libraries, public schools, religious groups, civic clubs, individuals, book publishers, and book processing centers. Preferred books for donation include spiritual and motivational novels as well as biographies. Genres we cannot accept for donation are romance and crime.

For more information regarding this initiative, please check back on our social media sites: Facebook and Twitter as well as our public website at dcor.state.ga.us.



The Big Thank You 2014 Is Here! Help us get all Military Members deployed overseas a thank you letter!

Every single serviceman and woman deployed outside the United States deserves to receive a letter of gratitude on Thanksgiving Day. We want to give our troops a "Big Thank You" with a little taste of home this Thanksgiving.

Last year GDC employees wrote more than 2,000 letters to send to our troops overseas. With 12,000 employees we can do even better this year!

Over the past several years, The Bert Show community helped to express a BIG THANK YOU with over a million hand written letters of thanks to every serviceman and woman deployed outside the United States. This year our goal is the same, but we can only do this with your help. Let's pull together to make this project a success.

The due date is October 29, but don't wait until the last minute! Guidelines for the letters are as follows:

Each letter should be heartfelt, handwritten, original, and free of any political statements. The purpose of the letter is to express thanks to the military personnel currently deployed outside the United States. We reserve the right to eliminate those messages that are political in nature and do not reflect a positive message in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

- All letters must be on 8.5" x 11" paper or smaller.
- Do not use glue, tape, staples, cardboard, glitter or otherwise attach anything to the paper.
- NO construction paper.
- Decorate using crayons, markers, pens or pencils.
- Use both sides if you like, but use one page per letter only.
- Do not send greeting cards or photographs.
- Feel free to include your mailing and email address.
- **Individual letters SHOULD NOT be sealed in envelopes.**
- Do not send anything except letters.

Facilities may bundle letters together and mail them in bulk. Send your letters to:

Lisa Rodriguez Presley
Georgia Department of Corrections
Office of Public Affairs
300 Patrol Road
Forsyth, GA 31029



(VETERANS from pg. 1)

“It’s an exciting time for the Department of Corrections and the great state of Georgia,” said Assistant Commissioner of Education Dr. Buster Evans. “The Veterans Reentry Program Dorm affords us the opportunity to offer educational services that are tailored to an offender’s individual needs, which will allow for the offender’s successful reentry into our communities.”



There are 3,000 veteran offenders identified in our corrections system. Of the 3,000 veteran population there are 69 male offenders housed at Johnson State Prison, 24 male offenders housed at Rutledge State Prison, and 14 female offenders housed at Emanuel Women’s Facility.

Johnson State Prison offers programming specific to our disabled veterans population; Rutledge offers programming specific to our mental health offender population; and



Emanuel offers female specific programming such as active parenting courses.

To view more pictures from the event, please visit our agency

Facebook page. Also, don’t forget to watch the Real Time, Reel Life video of the Veterans Reentry Program Dorms here: <http://bit.ly/Y12R9N>

GDC Celebrates National Recovery Month



Savannah DRC Event Sept. 18

Content Contributed by Diane Robinson

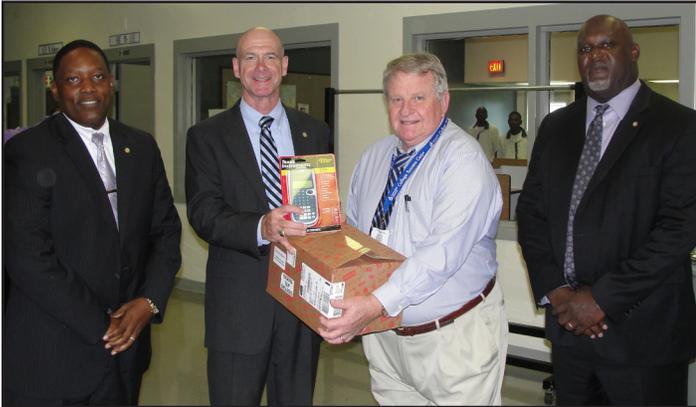
The Savannah Day Reporting Center (DRC) celebrated “Recovery Month” with a “Recovery Celebration” on Sept. 18, at the Savannah DRC. The probationers conducted a press release (via The Motivation for Change Class), a document where the participants outlined their knowledge of Motivation for Change, Active Parenting, Anger Management and Matrix Early Recovery Skills. Four participants stated the knowledge they gained from each class, and they encouraged the other participants to remain focused on their recovery. Several other participants recited poems, songs and spoken words about recovery; In addition, one participant outlined the “History of the Savannah Rose” and provided a “Rose” to the females attending the Recovery Celebration. The family members also had an opportunity to meet and greet the staff at the Day Reporting Center.



Headquarters Reentry Services Event Sept. 18



Around the Agency...



Asst. Commissioner L.C. "Buster" Evans and Director of Programs Mr. Anthony Jenkins visited Wilcox State Prison September 8th. He presented the Education Department with scientific calculators for the GED Testing Programs. He praised Wilcox State Prison Education Department on their outstanding GED passing rate.

Fire Marshall Larry Brown, Chief Charles Price from Macon State Prison, Chief Joe Thomas from Telfair State Prison and Chief Tammy Ayers from Lee Arrendale State Prison display the proclamation in honor of fallen GDC firefighter William Satterfield at the 2014 Georgia Firefighter Memorial Ceremony at GPSTC on Sept. 6.



Georgia State Charitable Contributions Program

2015 Campaign underway, September 1 - October 31

The State Charitable Contributions Program's (SCCP) annual campaign is underway! This is a once-a-year opportunity for you to support causes that are meaningful to you. Your contributions, combined with the pledges of thousands of your fellow state employees, will help Georgians in every part of the state, citizens across the nation and people throughout the world. Together we make a tremendous impact on the lives of others. We strengthen communities and bring hope for a better tomorrow.

The SCCP is a benefit for State of Georgia and University System employees to contribute to any of the 1,300 official charities through payroll deduction or a one-time donation. Each independent

charity or federation of charities has been certified by the program to be responsible, effective and up-standing through a rigorous application process. There are 114,000 employees that can participate and the program raised over \$1.39 million for the 2014 campaign.

For more than 17 years, State of Georgia and University System employees have generously contributed over \$33 million to support a cause of their choice. This display of compassion shows Georgia employees care passionately about our communities and their impact is felt both at home and across the nation. To make your contribution, visit:

https://www.giveattheoffice.org/_sccp/
or use the QR code with your smartphone.



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

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