

Remember Our Troops



P.R.I.D.E. at Work



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence



Holiday Greetings

As the end of another challenging year comes to a close, please pause and consider the many blessings that have allowed us to successfully confront and overcome whatever has come our way. As always, I am eternally grateful to you, the dedicated staff of our agency, which daily insures that we remain strong and safe. You are the rock solid foundation that allows us to build upon secure facilities, a more progressive correctional system that includes a crucial emphasis on such matters as re-entry and mental health care. My thoughts also turn to those staff who continue to serve our country's military. May they be safe and soon return home to their family and friends. And to our extended correctional family, my deep appreciation for the compassionate support you provide year round so that your loved ones can fulfill their daily duty of protecting the public. May you all be blessed with the happiest of holidays and a bountiful New Year.

Theresa C. Lantz



Our Mission



The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration.

About and for correctional
professionals



December 1 - 31, 2007

2007 Holiday Gathering



Christmas came early at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, where the agency hosted the Annual Family Oriented Christmas party. The party was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Kids and adults crowded together in the holiday decorated gymnasium. A giant-screen television showed continuous Christmas classics, such as “A Christmas Story,” “Frosty the Snowman,” and “Rudolph.” The kids were treated to face painting and balloon animals by Mrs. Claus. DOC staff, decked out as Santa’s helpers, manned the snow-cone and cotton candy stations. The Food



Services staff provided a delicious array of holiday treats and goodies. Santa and his “Elves” were busy taking photos and giving out chocolate filled candy canes.



All those who attended brought new unwrapped toys for the Nutmeg Big Brothers/ Big Sisters donation box.



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Distributed to 7,000 staff and via the internet throughout Connecticut and the nation by the Department of Correction.

Theresa C. Lantz,
Commissioner

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Iraq Veteran Gets “NEAD”ed Help From DOC



Josh and Mazey

We’ve all heard the old adage about a dog being man’s best friend. But that saying has taken on special meaning for an Iraq war veteran and one of the NEADS Pups raised at the York Correctional Institution.

Joshua Ferguson, 30, lost his left leg to a roadside bomb in Iraq while on duty with the Army. His recovery has included a new prosthetic limb and a dog named Mazey a yellow lab service dog, which now acts as his walking cane.

Mazey, which is short for Amazing Grace, was raised at York CI, as part of the Prison PUP Partnership Program in collaboration with NEADS, the National Education for Assistance Dog Service. Selected inmates, who meet behavioral and programmatic requirements, raise the dogs from puppies after being instructed on basic obedience, grooming, health, and service dog tasks.

For Mr. Ferguson, who is currently stationed in Alaska, and other vets like him, the NEADS Pups have taken on the roll of walker dogs. They provide balance via a special harness on their backs when the veterans are ambulatory. When their prosthetics are removed the dogs go into service mode, picking up dropped articles, retrieving items and turning lights on and off.

Continued on Page 5 , See *NEADed Help*

Around The Cell Block



Washington- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, one in every 32 people in the United States was in prison or on parole or probation in 2006.

Arizona- An intricately carved walrus jawbone costing \$1,750 and purses made from motorcycle license plates are among the items for sale at the prison outlet store.

California- The state has admitted to miscalculating the release dates of some 33,000 offenders over the past two years with errors ranging from a few days to two years.

England- Prison officials are using a helicopter to stop inmates from fishing with string over prison walls for drugs and cell phones tied on by friends.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
December 15, 2007
23,442
On December 15, 2006
the population was
23,646**

Northern CI Staff Host Bike Drive For BB/BS



In the month of October Correctional Treatment Officer James Zuccalo and Correctional Counselor Tara McEwan (pictured at left) of the Northern Correctional Institution conducted a bike drive for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. A total of 15 bikes were collected from staff at the facility and then brought to the Cheshire CI to be

refurbished. The refurbished bikes were then donated to kids that had been on a waiting list for the items.

Thank You

Our family thanks you for the support, cards and gifts that we received in response to the passing of our Mother and Grandmother Ann Rossi.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness has helped us through very difficult times that our family has had over the last year. We greatly appreciate everything.

*HRSpec.DoreenRossi-CO,
OA Heather Klemanski -CO,
Officer Jennifer Mitchell-WCI,
and Officer Thomas Mitchell-
MWCI*

Did You Know?...



Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692.7554. This article has been written by Environmental Analyst Rich Pease and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860.692.7562.

Ozone is a colorless gas that can be found in the air we breathe. Ozone exists naturally in the Earth's upper atmosphere, known as the stratosphere, where it shields the Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. However, ozone is also found close to the Earth's surface. This man-made, ground level ozone can be a harmful air pollutant.

Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NOX) in the presence of sunlight. Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are the major sources of VOCs and NOX.

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA has set protective health-based standards for ozone in the air we breathe. EPA and others have implemented a variety of programs to meet these health-based standards. These programs have led to significant improvements in ozone air quality over the past 25 years. In 1983, New England had 90 unhealthy days due to ground-level ozone, compared with 43 days in 2002 and 16 days last year.

Ozone concentrations can reach unhealthy levels when the weather is hot and sunny with relatively light winds. Groups that are sensitive to ozone include children and adults who are active outdoors, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma.

You may have seen the Air Quality Index (AQI) reported in your newspaper or on TV. The AQI is a scale used by state and local air agencies to report how clean or polluted the air is. Ground-level ozone is one pollutant reported. An AQI of 100 or less (green or yellow) is considered satisfactory for most people. Air quality values above 100 (orange, red, and purple) are considered unhealthy, first for sensitive groups, but then for everyone as the AQI gets higher.

Continued on Page 7 See *Did You Know*

Bridgeport CC Gives Back NEADed Help Cont'd



(l-r) Chaplain Nasif Muhammad, Correction Officer P. Daniels, Dale Holder, (Director of the Janus Center) and Correction Officer D. Smith.

Bridgeport Correctional Center staff, under the leadership of Captain James Keel and Lieutenant John Coleman, donated 59 bookbags filled with school supplies to the Janus Center (Center for Youth in Crisis) and the Bridgeport Eastside Work and Learn Program.

In May 2006, NEADS became the first Service Dog Program in the country to be invited to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., and has been chosen to train dogs for injured soldiers through the Canines for Combat Veterans program.

“It is an honor for the York Correctional Institution to be able to assist a veteran who has defended our country,” said Warden Daniel Martin. “This program allows the inmates to give something positive back to society and the vets are grateful for the work the inmates put in training their dogs. The program is a win-win for all involved.”

DOC Wellness Program

Did you know that the average life expectancy of a Correctional Officer is 58 years? Let's work to CHANGE this staggering statistic and to PROMOTE many healthy years into retirement!

The DOC WELLNESS PROGRAM is dedicated to providing all DOC employees opportunities to learn about healthy living strategies. The wellness program, through the Quality of Work Life Committees, shall improve the physical, emotional, social status and quality of life in our Corrections Community by assisting individuals in reducing their health risks, and increasing their health and wellness knowledge.

We are looking for your ideas, interests and participation in this statewide initiative to improve and maintain the health of all DOC employees. Three pilot programs have been identified at MacDougall-Walker CI, Bridgeport CC, and Central Office based on the results from their needs and interests surveys. The needs and interests surveys are coming to your location soon! Be specific, tell us what you want within your facility and get involved in making changes!

Coming attractions include Healthy cooking and recipe contests, Health and Wellness days, educational seminars, 50 million pound challenge, discounts at participating fitness programs, walking groups and much more! Look for more information in the January issue of PRIDE .

We are looking for a Wellness Program LOGO and volunteer committee members in each DOC location. Contact Ginger Frasca in Central Office 860.692.6817 with your LOGO ideas and to volunteer within your facility.

MVP'S

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| Alvarado, Daniel,CO | BCC | Esposito,Joann,PuplSrvSpc | MYI | Mercier, Michael, CO | BCI |
| Arcari, Ken, Capt. | CRCI | Ethier, David, CO | BCI | Miller, Bryan, SST | MYI |
| Arena, Dan, Voc. Inst. | MYI | Feliciano, Jose, CO | CCI | Miller, Richard, CO | CRCI |
| Avery, Brian, CO | CCI | Fontano, Lisa, CO | CCI | Moffat, Randy, CO | CCI |
| Barnes, Marie, Lt. | CCI | Freeman, Patricia, Capt. | CCI | Murray, Gemini, Capt. | CRCI |
| Bartley, Scott, CO | CCI | Gallick, Craig, CC | CCI | O'Donnell, Melissa, CO | MYI |
| Bates, Edwin, CO | BCI | Gargiulo, Marc, Capt. | CRCI | Oliver, Tasha, Sec1. | CO |
| Beaulieu, Jason, Lt. | CRCI | Girard, Jeff, SST | MYI | Ortiz, Carlos, CO | BCC |
| Beaumier, Steven, SST | CRCI | Gonzales, Sherri, CO | CCI | Pape-Davis, Carlene, CS | MYI |
| Beaumier, Victoria, ClkTyp | CRCI | Goode, Jo, CFSSII | YCI | Papallo, Franco, CO | CRCI |
| Berry, Mike, Voc. Inst. | MYI | Guadette, Sherron, CO | CRCI | Pearsall, William, CO | BCI |
| Billington, Scott, CO | BCI | Gugliotti, Corie, CO | CRCI | Pelletier, Alicia, SST | MYI |
| Billups, Yolanda, CTO | CCI | Gutierrez, Cristobal, CO | CRCI | Phelan, Gary, CO | MYI |
| Blanc, Richard, Lt. | CCI | Haesche, Jacquie, SST | MYI | Quiros, Marilda, Sec.2 | CO |
| Booker, Wanda, CC | BCC | Hanrahan, Michael, CO | BCI | Regan, Matt, Capt. | CRCI |
| Bosco, Michael, Voc Ed. | CCI | Harris, D.J., Lt. | CCI | Reid, Charlene, CO | MYI |
| Boucher, Robert, Lt. | CRCI | Hensley, James, CO | CRCI | Rice, Timothy, CO | BCI |
| Branch, Linwood, CO | BCC | Hespelt, Robert, CO | HCC | Roberts, Jerry, CFSSIII | YCI |
| Bomster, Matthew, CO | BCI | Hobby, Jennifer, Sec.1 | CO | Rodriguez, Bernardo, Chap | BCC |
| Breining, Donald, CO | CCI | Ignacio, Michael, CO | CCI | Rodriquez, Carlos, SST | CRCI |
| Bridgman, Cara, CTO | YCI | Jakabauski, Laura, CC | CCI | Rodriquez, Cheryl, CO | CRCI |
| Caccavale, Paul, RS | CRCI | Jinks, Robert, Lt. | CCI | Rosado, Arthur, CO | MYI |
| Carey, Robert, CHN | CRCI | Johnson, Christopher, CO | CCI | Rucker, Timothy, Lt. | BCC |
| Cassese, Gladys, CO | CCI | Johnson, Gavin, CO | BCI | Rudzinski, Paul, CO | MYI |
| Christie, Rochelle, Sec.1 | CO | Johnson, Lavone, Lt. | CRCI | Saladin Hasan, CO | CCI |
| Church, David, CO | YCI | Joseph Sikora, CO | CCI | Santana, Angel, CO | MYI |
| Clark, Dawne, Lt. | CRCI | Kaplan, Eric CO | CRCI | Schmidt, Kevin, Lt. | BCI |
| Corbett, James, CO | CCI | Keel, James, Capt. | BCC | Seavey, Sheila, RN | CRCI |
| Correia, Nelson, Lt. | CRCI | Kelly, Larissa, CTO | YCI | Shell, Garland, CO | CCI |
| Couture, Mark, SST | MYI | Kendall, Brian, CO | MYI | Smith, Dana, CO | BCC |
| Cyr, Heather, SST | MYI | Kerrigan, Kevin, CO | CCI | Sniadecki, Elizabeth, CO | CCI |
| Daniels, Patricial, CO | BCC | Lauray, Kim, CTO | MYI | Staton, Vernon, CO | CRCI |
| Defrancesco, Robert, CO | CCI | Lawrence, Dwight, CO | CRCI | Strange, Bruce, Lt. | CRCI |
| Degenais, James, CO | CRCI | Lawson, James, CFSSII | CCI | Tilghman, Larry, CO | MYI |
| Deko, Jennifer, CSA | MYI | Lizotte, Marc, CO | CCI | Todd, Lillie, Sec. 2 | CO |
| DeLucia, Johm CFSSII | CCI | Lucey, Mark, Lt. | CRCI | Untiet, William, Plumber | CCI |
| Depalma, Allen, CO | CCI | Markopoulos, Fotis, CFSSI | YCI | Valeur-Brown, Jacqueline,CO | BCC |
| Desormiers, Richard, CO | MYI | Martin, Tim, CFFSIII | WCCI | Vitarelli,Gina, CN | CCI |
| Doughty, Doug, GMO | CO | Mazurek, David, GMO | CO | Wall, George, Lt. | CCI |
| Doulette, Michelle, CFSSII | YCI | McCarroll, Brian, RS | MYI | Whittingham, Nolice, CO | CRCI |
| Draper, Danita, CO | CCI | McLaurin, Sharon, Lt. | BCC | Williams, Timothy, CO | BCI |
| Duperault, James, CO | CRCI | Meeker, Kelli, CC | BCC | Wilson, Debra, CN | CCI |
| Duval, Christine, CFSSII | CCI | Meglio, Carol,CC | MYI | Trotman, Sidney, CO | CCI |
| Edward, William, CO | CCI | Melewski, Mark, CO | CCI | Zacynski, Stephen, Lt. | CRCI |

Operation E.L.F.

(Embracing Lonely Families) to help Connecticut servicemembers and their families during the holiday season.

“The holidays are usually a time for festive family get-togethers and celebrations. This year, many military families will spend the holidays worrying about and missing their loved ones who are on active duty,” said Governor Rell. “Many of our Connecticut service members, in turn, are worried about their families back home.

This year’s **Operation E.L.F.** will primarily be focused on helping family members and their children. For the families, donations of grocery gift cards, department store gift cards, phone cards and new, unwrapped toys for all age groups, both sexes, are being sought. Donations of fuel oil, Christmas trees, snow removal services and financial contributions may also be made to the Connecticut National Guard Foundation, Inc.

2007 Care & Share Update

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for helping with this year’s food drive. We raised \$1800.00 and about 2000 lbs. of food. This will help feed many who are less fortunate. Happy Holidays and thank you for your generosity. - **Joe Testa, Agency Coordinator for the 2007 Care & Share Food Drive**

Did You Know Cont’d

When the AQI reports unhealthy levels, limit physical exertion outdoors. In many places, ozone peaks in mid-afternoon or early evening. Change the time of day of strenuous outdoor activity to avoid these hours, or reduce the intensity of the activity. Know how to recognize symptoms of respiratory discomfort, such as coughing, wheezing, and breathing difficulty, and reduce exposure if these occur. Rotate players in physically exerting games, rest players to reduce exertion. Provide alternative activities and allow kids that have asthma or other respiratory problems to participate in activities that are less physical when pollution levels are high. If possible, move physical activities indoors. Poor air quality affects everyone. There are actions we can take to reduce air pollution and keep the air cleaner:

- * Carpool, use public transportation, bike, or walk whenever possible;
- * Use less electricity by turning air conditioning to a higher temperature setting, turning off lights, TVs and computers when they are not being used;
- * Avoid using gasoline-powered engines, such as lawn mowers, chain saws, and leaf blowers on unhealthy air days;
- * Be careful not to spill fuel;
- * Follow manufacturer recommendations for use of products, chemicals and properly seal cleaners, paints, and other chemicals to prevent evaporation into the air.

When air quality is predicted to be unhealthy in Connecticut, EPA and the Department of Environmental Protection will announce an air quality alert for the affected areas. EPA asks that on these days, citizens and businesses take these actions to help reduce air pollution and protect the public health.

Current air quality conditions and next day forecasts for New England are available each day at EPA’s web site (www.epa.gov/ne/aqi). You can also sign up at this web address to receive air quality alerts that automatically notify participants by e-mail when high concentrations of ground-level ozone or fine particles are predicted in their area.



Scenes From the 2007 Annual Holiday Party



Holiday Message From The Governor

Dear Fellow State Employees:

I wanted to take time to wish all of you, our valued state employees, best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

Connecticut depends on the hard work and dedication of its state employees. Every day the job you do reflects on all of us and on your agency, on your colleagues, on your managers and on your friends and neighbors, whom you serve. When you bring your best to the job you bring your best to the people of Connecticut. On their behalf, I say thank you.

We should all stand proud of what we accomplished in 2007. Now, as we look forward to 2008, let's continue to devote ourselves to building the best Connecticut possible "together" for all state residents who call this state their home.

Again, from my family to yours, I wish you a happy holiday season and glad tidings to your loved ones both near and far. After all, family and togetherness continues to be the centerpieces of the many holiday traditions we celebrate right here in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Jodi Rell".

*M. Jodi Rell
Governor*