

Michigan Department of Corrections

Corrections Connection





Michigan inmates have produced the state's license plates since 1918. Check out how they're made on [Page 3](#).

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Corrections Connection is a publication of the Office of Public Information and Communications. Story ideas and comments can be submitted to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

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Summer, please don't go! The image on the cover was taken at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island by Accounting Assistant **Kristin O'Shesky**. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email a high-resolution version of the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

Help Make Things Right



How It's Made

Michigan State Industries' license plate operations at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility churn out about 1.5 million plates a year.

But how do they do it?

The wall above Will Rondeau's office inside Gus Harrison Correctional Facility's license plate factory is a kaleidoscope of colors – every hue an example of each state-issued plate ever made.

The display stretches from one end of the factory to the other, showcasing the Michigan Department of Corrections' long history outfitting drivers with plates for their vehicles. It's easy to see Rondeau, the plant manager, and his 65 inmate

employees take pride in their work. The factory floors shine – a feature most visitors notice immediately – and machines whir as prisoners work expediently to produce an estimated 1.5 million plates per year.

Each of the more than 8.8 million registered vehicles in Michigan must include a plate made at the factory, which cranks out about 12,000 license plates per day. That makes accuracy and efficiency imperative to the plant's operations.

Every step of the process is carefully monitored by prisoners, who individually emboss letters and numbers on to each plate, wipe away any stray splatters of ink, and re-inspect thousands

of plates a day for quality before packaging them. Mistakes that result in bad plates are rare, Rondeau said. "By the time that a plate is started to be made and by the time it goes out the door, it's probably been in the hands of 15 different people to make sure it's done properly,"

Rondeau said.

The plate-making process begins when a coil of aluminum that weighs up to 2,500

pounds is hoisted onto a decoiler machine that unwinds the 12-inch wide roll and sends it through a straightener that evens out any imperfections in the material.

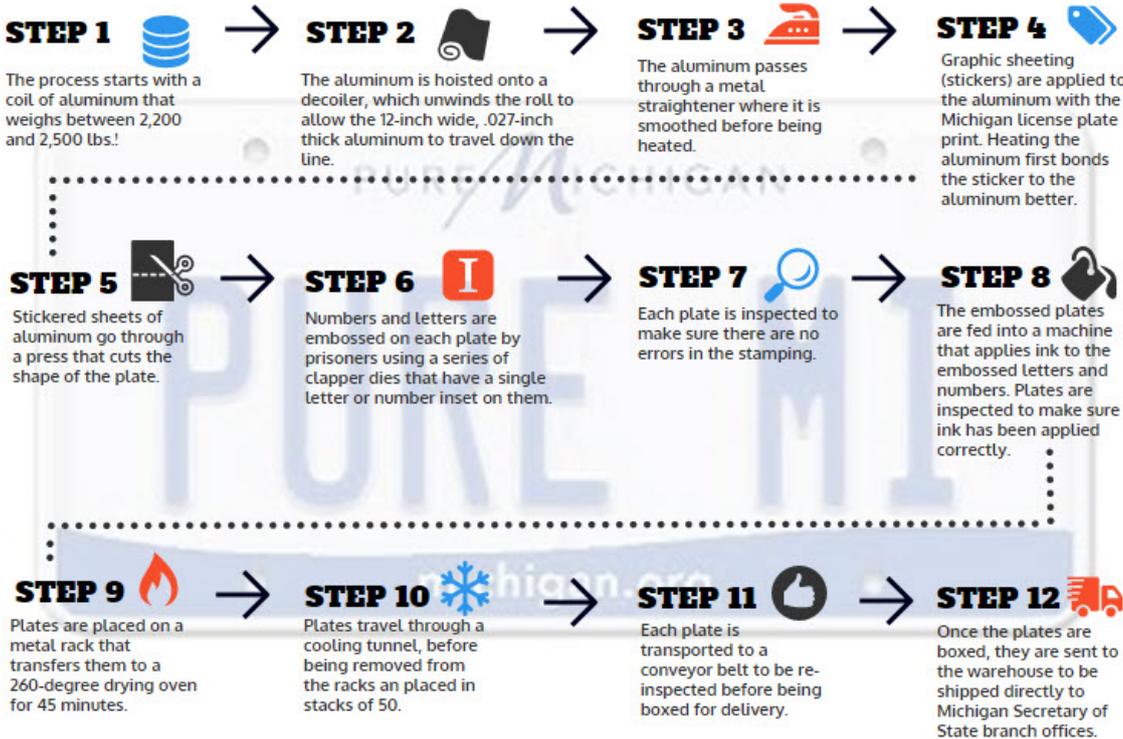
The factory is able to make about
Continued on [Page 4](#)

[Click here](#)
to take a
video tour of
the license
plate factory
to see the
process in
full swing!

Help Make Things Right

HOW PRISONERS PRODUCE YOUR PLATES

The making of a license plate in 12 steps



Fast Facts:

- An experienced inmate can produce 20 license plates per minute.
- Michigan State University is the top-selling specialty plate in Michigan (Sorry, Wolverines).
- Michigan issued its first license plate in 1910. It was made of cast iron.
- License plates were manufactured by inmates starting in 1918.

5 license plates per pound of aluminum.

The material is then heated to allow it to bind more easily to graphic sheeting – a kind of sticker – with the Michigan license plate logo that is applied to the metal before it is cut into the shape of a plate.

These blank license plates are taken to the factory’s Hydraulics Department where an inmate with a series of metal clapper dies with a single letter or number on them inserts the blank plates and dies into a hydraulic press to stamp out the needed configuration. The job requires great coordination and dexterity, and an experienced inmate can stamp out 20 plates per minute.

The stamped plates are inspected, sent through an ink-roller machine to apply color to the raised numbers and letters, and then inspected again for stray ink spots and even color application. Inked plates are transferred to a metal rack where they travel

through a 260-degree oven for 45 minutes to dry before being cooled and placed in stacks of 50 to be re-inspected and packaged for shipment to Michigan Secretary of State branch offices. Want a plate that touts your alma mater or a cause, rather than the standard-issue version? Those are individually made using a silk screen application that requires each color to be painted on and dried before the next color is applied.

“Some plates have five or six different colors ... so it takes quite a while to produce, but in the long run, the quality of these plates are just so beautiful,” Rondeau said. “It’s worth the extra effort to make them look perfect for our customers.” Some of those customers are Michigan high school booster clubs, which order decorative license plates with the school’s logo to help fundraise and support school spirit. Other nonprofit organizations have also ordered decorative plates from

the factory for fundraising. “It’s kind of fun,” Rondeau said. “They make money for their booster program. We know how tough money is nowadays out there, so it’s a big thing for them and it’s good for us.” The plant has also branched out to make a variety of other products including engraved plaques, cutting boards and clocks, coasters, charity collection boxes, and bird houses from recycled materials. The factory operates in four 10-hour shifts, Monday through Thursday. Employment at the factory is a coveted job for prison inmates, who gain work experience and learn valuable soft skills. “We employ inmates that learn a profession here that hopefully they will take out to the world with them, which means they will get a good job and not come back to prison,” Rondeau said. “That’s one of our major goals here... to teach these guys a skill.”

Battling for Brody

Field agent fights for a cancer cure in memory of her son

Tanya Etelamaki is on a mission inspired by her son, Brody. He was a “happy-go-lucky” toddler with a big smile when he was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2013. Brody battled the illness for a year and passed away at just 4 years old. Any parent knows a child’s death leaves a wound that will never heal,



Tanya Etelamaki with her son, Brody

Etelamaki said. But from the family’s fight with the disease came a mission to prevent others from experiencing the pain of childhood cancer.

“I didn’t want other people to go through what we went through,” said Etelamaki, an Ontonagon County parole and probation agent. “If we can fund better treatments, and hopefully a cure, then other parents and more children won’t have to go through this.”

Last year Etelamaki started the Brody Strong Foundation, which aims to raise money for pediatric brain cancer research and awareness about the disease.

The foundation has raised more than \$25,000 so far.

“We don’t want it to be your child,” she said. “Cancer doesn’t discriminate. It doesn’t care what color you are, or if you are rich or poor. It can strike at any time and turn your world upside down.”

On Monday, Etelamaki participated

in a jog across the Mackinac Bridge that preceded the 58th annual walk over the Michigan landmark and used the opportunity to spread awareness about pediatric cancer. An estimated 160,000 to 250,000 children worldwide are diagnosed with cancer every year, according to the American Childhood Cancer

Organization. One in four children will die within five years of their diagnosis – a rate that has remained unchanged for 20 years, according to the organization. Brain tumors affect almost 2,500 children in the U.S. each year and account for 20 percent of childhood cancers, according to the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, which is researching pediatric cancer treatments with the help of donations

from Etelamaki’s Brody Strong Foundation.

Etelamaki hopes raising money to support cancer research will help improve survival rates for children diagnosed with the illness.

“The biggest thing is to spread awareness and hopefully get some funding for a cure,” she said.

On Etelamaki’s T-shirt for her jog across the bridge were a pair of angel wings and the words “4 ever 4” – representing

Brody’s eternal status as that happy-go-lucky 4 year old. She hoped

participants would ask about their meaning so she could share the story of the life of her son, which motivates her to continue to fight for a cure.

“He touched a lot of lives,” Etelamaki said. “He touched more lives in four years than I will in a lifetime.”

A Look Back: Remembering the fallen on 9/11

Fourteen years ago today, hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania, in a terrorist attack that killed almost 3,000 people.

MDOC employees and prisoners reacted to the tragedy with an outpouring of support for victims and relief efforts.

As of November 2001, the MDOC had contributed at least \$57,000 to organizations such as the American Red Cross, that were providing aid to victims of the attacks.

Employees organized blood drives, fundraisers and collected clothing. The department donated 52 jumpsuits, 14 safety vests and 30 coveralls made at Michigan State Industries’ Kinross factory to volunteers assisting with rescue and relief efforts.

Prisoners also pledged to contribute money from their prisoner benefit funds to help victims of the terrorist attack. Some employees even travelled to New York City to assist rescuers.

“T.V. and photographs do not even come close to depicting the horrible scenes,” Southern Michigan Correctional Facility Sgt. Robert Schiller said in a 2001 edition of the newsletter after returning from a trip to help rescuers. Please keep the victims of these attacks and their families in your thoughts on the anniversary of this tragedy.

Help Make Things Right

[Click here for more information, or to donate to the Brody Strong Foundation.](#)

Staff fill backpacks for students

Employees across the MDOC donate supplies for the start of school

Three years ago, Melissa Sandborn started a project to collect school supplies and donations from staff at Michigan Reformatory to help local elementary school students in need.

Since then, the effort has expanded to include staff at all of the Ionia complex facilities, with each institution supporting a different area school. This year, Michigan Reformatory set a goal to provide 20 backpacks to students at Emerson Elementary School in Ionia.

Ultimately, the facility collected 30 backpacks, as well as five pairs of children's shoes and numerous school supplies, said Sandborn, records office supervisor at Michigan Reformatory. Michigan Reformatory prisoners also pledged to contribute \$100 from the Prisoner Benefit Fund, she said.

The most rewarding part of the project is seeing the excitement from students the day the donations are delivered, Sandborn said. "They're so thankful," Sandborn said. "We're in these communities. The least we can do is give back." Numerous other Michigan Department of Corrections facilities and field offices have made donations to local schools to help underprivileged students obtain the supplies they need to succeed in class.

Here are a few highlights:
Ingham County Parole
 The Ingham County Parole Office contributed its casual day funds to help purchase backpacks, lunch boxes and

school supplies to be handed out to Lansing-area families during Bless Fest, a two-day Christian festival that included distributing a variety of donations to those in need.

"There are so many needy children and families in our community and I like that this is a way to help them," said Stacy Austin, an Ingham County parole agent who participated in the event. "I like that we can lessen the stress for some parents and help many children start the school year with confidence."

St. Louis and Central Michigan correctional facilities

St. Louis and Central Michigan correctional facilities donated 163 backpacks full of school supplies to the St. Louis School District.

In addition to employees contributing school supplies they purchased, the facilities also collected more than \$600 in donations to purchase backpacks

and other items.

Staff started collecting school supplies at least five years ago to help give students in need a good start to the school year.

Gus Harrison Correctional Facility

Homeless students in Lenawee and Monroe counties benefitted from \$3,000 in donations from Gus Harrison Correctional Facility's Prisoner Benefit Fund. That donation included 120 backpacks and numerous school supplies.

Beth McCullough, home and school liaison for Adrian Public Schools, visited the prison to thank inmates for the donation and said she is often flooded with requests at the start of the school year to help homeless children obtain school supplies.

She told prisoners students were excited to have the items they needed to be prepared for class, and parents were extremely grateful.



Top left: Back packs donated to Lansing-area students in need for the Lansing Bless Fest. Top right: Donations from Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility to Ionia's Boyce Elementary School. Bottom left: Donations from St. Louis and Central Michigan correctional facilities to the St. Louis School District. Bottom right: Gus Harrison Correctional Facility Warden Paul Klee addresses prisoners before items purchased with a donation from the Prisoner Benefit Fund are presented to Beth McCullough of Adrian Public Schools.

Lansing academy graduates 269 officers, next academy begins Monday

The department's newest crew of corrections officers was sworn in during an August ceremony at a packed Lansing Center, filled with family and friends of the graduates.

The graduation ceremony for the Charles Sinclair class included 269 officers. Graduates received awards for academic achievement and personal conduct.

Award winners included:

- Corrections Officer Nicholas Ogle – Josephine B. McCallum Award
- Corrections Officer Derrick West – Jack L. Budd Award
- Corrections Officers Ryan Rayner and Bryan Cress – Top Academic Achievement Award

The final corrections officer academy for the year begins Monday, Sept. 14 at the Michigan State Police Training Academy and Summit Sports and Ice Complex with about 262 recruits.

The department-funded training program includes eight weeks of classroom instruction and eight weeks of on-the-job training with veteran corrections officers.

See [Page 13](#) for a news story on the graduation ceremony and the department's hiring efforts.



Governor Snyder honors fallen Corrections Officer Earl DeMarse

A stretch of U.S. Highway 41 was renamed in memory of the first corrections officer killed in the line of duty in Michigan.

Corrections Officer Earl DeMarse was killed Sept. 25, 1973 by an inmate at Marquette Branch Prison shortly after the start of his shift. DeMarse had worked for the MDOC for 26 years.

Gov. Rick Snyder, MDOC Director Heidi Washington, State Sen.

Tom Casperson, State Rep. John Kivela, members of the DeMarse family and a number of local officials travelled to Marquette Branch Prison in August for the ceremonial signing of a bill dedicating a portion of the highway in front of the prison to DeMarse.

"Renaming the highway in his honor is a reminder of the risks associated with this important profession," Snyder said during the ceremony. "It was an honor to join with Earl's family and the U.P. community in recognition of his sacrifice for the safety of our state."



Give back through charitable campaign

State employees can help charities with needed financial support by contributing to the State Employees Charitable Campaign, starting Sept. 14.

The campaign runs through Oct. 16 and gives employees the choice to contribute to more than 1,200 charitable organizations.

In 2014, 818 MDOC employees helped raise \$102,217 for charity through the campaign.

Pledging can be done online through payroll deduction at www.michigan.gov/selfserv, or by phone at (877) 766-6447 using a check or credit card. Payroll deductions begin the first pay day in January 2016.

More information on the State Employees Charitable Campaign is available at www.misec.org.

Employees receive Meritorious Service Awards for outstanding work



Michael Barrett

Michael Barrett was honored for his consistent professionalism and efforts to enhance the overall operation of the Mental Health Services program. After becoming a unit chief at Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, he made a significant impact on the mental health team and facility as a whole. His communication and leadership skills

are credited with creating better efficiency in the Mental Health Services Program and fostering cohesive operations between the mental health team and facility staff. Barrett continuously leads by example and strives to assist staff. He has provided a positive and supportive environment for those who work for him, demonstrating high levels of integrity.

Probation Agent Lisa Hendricks was recognized for her professionalism and efforts to keep four children safe after she found them unattended at the home of a probationer. Hendricks was conducting home calls in March and visited the residence of a probationer who had recently had a child. The probationer's mother and stepfather arrived at the home at the same time she did

and told Hendricks the probationer had been involved in a car accident and was critically injured. Hendricks and the probationer's parents entered the home and found four children younger than 5, who had been left unattended. Hendricks contacted Child Protective Services and local law enforcement and stayed with the children until arrangements had been made for their care.



Lisa Hendricks



Tim Lee

Tim Lee, a sergeant at Marquette Branch Prison, was honored for helping the Lansing Area Fugitive Task Force locate a homicide suspect. Lee was contacted and asked to provide information regarding visitors and contacts the suspect had made while he was incarcerated. By filtering through past information and

monitoring phone calls made by current prisoners, Lee was able to determine the possible location of the suspect. The suspect was ultimately located and arrested by the U.S. Marshals Task Force in West Virginia. Lee's efforts to go above and beyond to help locate the suspect helped protect the public from a dangerous individual.

Corrections Officer Michael Stewart was recognized for his role in helping to prevent an escape attempt by prisoners. Stewart was inspecting yard receptacles for contraband in February when he found a set of prisoner clothing that was painted black in one of the receptacles. Further inspection of the clothing revealed hair clippings in a pocket of the clothing.

Stewart, who has served with the MDOC for more than 15 years, reported what he found to a supervisor, which led to the discovery of an escape attempt by prisoners. Stewart's keen observation, diligence to his duties and decisive response was critical to uncovering the escape attempt and ensuring the safety of the state's citizens.



Michael Stewart

Staff presented with Lifesaving Awards for efforts to help others

Absconder Recovery Unity members Brady Bostain and Paul Raymond were honored for assisting the victim of a serious car accident in March.



Paul Raymond and Brady Bostain

Bostain and Raymond were working with the Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team when they saw a van strike

several vehicles, roll through the median between the north and southbound lanes of traffic and then crash on 9 Mile Road.

Bostain and Raymond and others jumped a highway wall and descended a hill to reach the scene of the accident.

They and other team members pushed the van onto its side to relieve pressure on the driver. They then helped hold the vehicle in that position to prevent it from rolling back on to the driver until emergency services arrived. Their immediate assessment of the situation and decisive response helped save the driver.

Muskegon County Parole Agent Jeffery Lucht was recognized for saving a church parishioner who was choking. Lucht was at First Lutheran Church in Muskegon with Corrections Officer Stan Shank, of Muskegon Correctional Facility, when he and Shank saw a church member who appeared to be having trouble breathing. The woman's lips were turning pale and

she seemed to be gesturing that she was choking on food. Lucht performed abdominal thrusts and was able to dislodge the obstruction in her airway, allowing the woman to breathe again. Lucht, who has been with the department for eight years, demonstrated quick thinking and a sincere concern for others that resolved a life-threatening situation.



Jeffery Lucht



Marcus Turner

Marcus Turner was honored for helping a man at a restaurant who was choking. Turner, a counselor at Ionia Correctional Facility, was having dinner in Lansing with his wife when he heard a woman scream for help. Turner saw a man choking and rushed to provide aid. He checked the man's breathing and saw

something lodged in his throat, so he began performing abdominal thrusts. "I saw the man choking and my training from the department took over," Turner said. His actions dislodged the obstruction and the man was able to breathe again. Turner's ability to act quickly in an emergency and apply his training helped save the man's life.

Flu vaccinations available to state employees this fall

It's not too early to take steps to fight the flu. State Employee Flu Vaccine Clinics will be held across Michigan this fall. The flu shot is fully covered for employees insured by a state health insurance plan. Click [here](#) for a list of clinic locations and schedules, or to sign up for a vaccination. You must sign up for an appointment to receive your vaccination at the worksite clinic.

Send us your positive stories

If you know about something an employee has done that deserves some praise, or a positive program that deserves recognition, let us know. Email Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center staff receive Meritorious Service Award for aiding prisoner experiencing a seizure



In April, a prisoner at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center appeared to have a seizure and almost fell from the fourth floor gallery. The prisoner was pulled back by a number of inmates to prevent him from falling. Several facility employees rushed to provide aid. Corrections Officer Donald Brussow was on the fourth floor gallery and Corrections Officer Steven Arnold was on the third floor gallery when they heard the commotion and ran to the scene to find the prisoner regaining consciousness. Corrections Officer Andrew Ward also responded shortly before the prisoner began to have another seizure. Corrections Medical Officers Gregory Atwood and Bradley Rennells arrived as the prisoner stopped breathing. Brussow, Arnold, Ward and Sgt. Laura Palmer alternated performing chest compressions and rescue breathing for about 10 minutes. Sgt. Bradley Kline also responded to assist. The group then carried the prisoner down the stairs to be transported to the hospital, where he passed away. Facility staff acted valiantly under stressful circumstances to make every effort to save the prisoner's life.

Remembering Corrections Officer Philip Kowatch

Philip Kowatch, a corrections officer at Carson City Correctional Facility, passed away at his home on Sept. 2. Kowatch began his career as a corrections officer at Riverside Correctional Facility in 1988, and transferred to Carson City in 1991.



“Phil was loved by his family, friends and all the MDOC staff he had worked with over his 27-year career,” said Carson City Correctional Facility Warden Sherman Campbell. “Phil was a positive role model and hard

worker, and someone who could be counted on, no matter the situation.” Carson City staff also remembered him for his light-hearted demeanor. He and his housing unit partner were fondly referred to as the “grumpy old men,” who would play off each other to the amusement of others in a kind of comedy act that endeared him to the prisoner population in an effort to gain compliance from those who could otherwise be difficult to manage. “Phil was well respected and will be missed by all,” Campbell said. Visitation was held Sept. 4 with funeral services on Sept. 5. Condolences can be made online at www.lehmanfuneralhomes.com.

Field manager's son throws out first pitch

U.S. Army Capt. Jonathan Turnbull, the son of Field Operations Administration Field



Jonathan Turnbull
Photo courtesy of Weekly Choice

Manager Michael Turnbull, had the opportunity to throw the first pitch at a Detroit Tigers game in August. Turnbull, a West Point Military Academy and Special Forces graduate, had recently returned from deployment in Afghanistan when he was honored during the baseball game. Michael Turnbull said his son has since been re-deployed.

Probation agents package food for hungry families

Probation Agents from the Southwest District Probation Office in Lincoln Park spent a morning in late June packaging food for hungry families for the Forgotten Harvest program.

About 14 agents and their family members volunteered to help.

Volunteers made sandwiches for Forgotten Harvest's summer feeding program and re-packaged nutritious food into family-sized portions for those in need.



The organization relies on as many as 60 volunteers each day for six days a week to help prepare, package and harvest food for financially-struggling families. For more information on donating to, or volunteering with Forgotten Harvest, visit www.forgottenharvest.org.

Singapore dignitaries visit MDOC facilities

Two corrections officials from Singapore met with Michigan Department of Corrections leadership and staff in August to discuss training, smart justice and prison operations. Commissioner Soh Wai Wah and Commanding Officer Ong Aik San, of the Singapore Prison Service, travelled to Michigan following a corrections conference in Indianapolis. They were also interested in the training provided to MDOC Emergency Response Team members, who took first place

at this year's Mock Prison Riot competition.

The Singapore Prison Service leaders visited the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, Duane Waters Health Center, and G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facilities.

During their visit they received a demonstration on the Leader Dogs for the Blind training and Braille programs, toured housing units and Michigan State Industries operations, and ate lunch at the Epicurian Cafe.



Pictured: Assistant Deputy Director Bruce Curtis, Singapore Commanding Officer Ong Aik San, Director Heidi Washington, Singapore Prison Service Commissioner Soh Wai Wah, Deputy Director Ken McKee and Emergency Response Team members Daren Ferden, Jay Whitman, Kris Maddox, and Richard Drabek.

Around the MDOC

Parole Board staffer organizes event to thank law enforcement

Michigan residents will have an opportunity to thank law enforcement officers during a Sept. 20 event on the Michigan State Capitol lawn.

The event, which will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in honor of National Tell A Police Officer 'Thank You' Day, will include lunch, guest speakers and a "thank you station" for writing notes of gratitude.

A balloon release to recognize fallen officers will be held at the conclusion of the event, which is being organized by Parole Board Executive Secretary Jennifer Keller.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Keller at KellerJ1@michigan.gov.

Chippewa Correctional Facility golf scramble helps charities

Chippewa Correctional Facility held its second annual golf scramble on July 17 in Kincheloe.

Sgt. Richard Desrochers organized the event that included four-person teams playing for a designated charity.

"Team Steamboat" won the scramble and was able to donate \$950 to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Kids Care Fund and \$100 to EUP Home Health & Hospice.

Association holds MCO Crisis Fund ride Sept. 26

The Grey Dragons Motorcycle Association will raise money for the Michigan Corrections Organization Crisis Fund during a "Run for the Fund" event.

The annual fundraising ride begins at 9 a.m. Sept. 26 in Manistee and ends in Clare.

Participants will meet at Meijer, 15 Caberfae Highway in Manistee prior to the start of the ride. Participants can also start the ride at 10 a.m. at the Shell Gas Station, 1210 Michigan Ave. in Baldwin. The ride ends at the Clare City Bakery, also known as Cops & Doughnuts, 521 N. McEwan St. in Clare. A \$20 donation per vehicle is suggested.

For more information contact Patrick Isabell at IsabellP@michigan.gov.

With Thanks

Texas corrections director, Traverse City reverend express appreciation for MDOC support



Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Brad Livingston
Executive Director

July 30, 2015

Director Heidi Washington
Michigan Department of Corrections
Grandview Plaza 206 E. Michigan Ave
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Washington,

On July 25, 2015 a memorial service was held for Officer Timothy Davison, who was killed by an offender at the Barry B. Telford Unit earlier this month.

I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to you for allowing your staff to attend. Their presence was very humbling and unforgettable. The professionalism and dignity they displayed to honor Mr. Davison was overwhelming.

This tragic death will always be a reminder of how dangerous this profession is. The support of one another, even across the nation, is what motivates us to move forward and persevere.

Thank you and God Bless,


William Stephens
Director
Correctional Institutions Division
Texas Department of Criminal Justice



Central United Methodist Church
222 Cass Street Traverse City, MI 49684 (231) 946-6191

August 2, 2015

Governor Rick Snyder
111 South Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Governor Snyder:

The Pugsley Correctional Facility near Kingsley did an amazing job. The Girl Scout Troop sponsored by my church, Central United Methodist in Traverse City, needed flag poles. We contacted Mr. James Dawson, the coordinator at the prison. He and his team constructed three well-crafted sets. Their efforts were kind, and we appreciate the support for these young women.

Sincerely,



Reverend Charles Ellinwood
Chairman, Scouting Committee

cc: Senator Wayne Schmidt
cc: Director Heidi Washington

If you have letters of thanks from outside agencies that you would like to share, send them to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov.

Corrections Quiz

How many parole and probation offices are there in the MDOC?

Send your answer to Holly Kramer at KramerH@michigan.gov. The first person to answer correctly will receive a congratulatory shout out on MDOC social media, and the answer and winner will be published in the next edition of the newsletter.

August Quiz Recap

Question: Name this MDOC figure:



Answer: Gus Harrison, the MDOC's first director.

Congratulations to Financial Specialist **Debra Conine** for being the first to correctly answer the August quiz question.

Parolees, agents partner with Habitat for Humanity to build house for Kent County family in need

Kent County agents and parolees helped provide a mother and her children with a new place to live after partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build them a home.



The Habitat for Humanity house built with the help of Kent County parole agents and parolees was completed in August.

The agents and parolees helped build the home “from the ground up” starting in March, said Parole Agent Tim Clonan. The home was completed and turned over to the family in August.

“The parolees did a fantastic job,” Clonan said. “You name it, they did everything. They were in it from beginning to end.” Parolees helped install siding, flooring, and drywall, among other aspects of the home construction, he said.

The work was a collaborative effort between the parole office, Habitat for Humanity and other Grand Rapids-area organizations. Clonan said everyone at the parole office had a role in helping the project come to fruition, and agents also worked alongside parolees during construction.

The project gave parolees an opportunity to give back to the community and demonstrate their work ethic to participating organizations, which could help them land a job, Clonan said. The work had other benefits for parolees too, he said.

“They felt good because they saw something they worked on come together,” Clonan said.

Corrections in the News

[Corrections nears hiring goal](#)

— Lansing State Journal

[Making A Difference: Janelle Robinson](#)

— WDIV Click On Detroit

[Motorcade passes in front of prison in honor of former corrections officer killed by crash](#)

— Jackson Citizen Patriot

[Snyder to state workers: Tell us how to fix it](#)

—Lansing State Journal

[Section of US 41 has new name](#)

— Pioneer Tribune

[Judy Putnam: Parole officers arm kids with information](#)

— Lansing State Journal

[Prisoners grow produce for distribution to area pantries](#)

— Traverse City Record-Eagle

[Helping communities from behind bars](#)

— WILX TV10

Spread the word about some of the great things happening at the MDOC and share these stories with friends, family and coworkers.

Seen on Twitter...

MichiganDOC retweeted
MichiganDOC-FOA @MDOCFOA · 3h
 #GoTeamFOAI Congrats to @MichiganDOC Field Agents @BahmcB & @cascaddanm on the great @LSJNews article! @marlan_russ

Chris Gautz @ChrisGautz
 A great column by @Judyputnam in the @LSJNews today about an @InghamParoleDOC program to help keep kids out of prison [lansingstatejournal.com/story/opinion/...](http://lansingstatejournal.com/story/opinion/)

MichiganDOC retweeted
MDOC FOA-Outstate @MDOCQA9 · Aug 19
 The Hard Work of Ionia Parolees, Reentry, CFA Education and Ionia Parole Agents Pays Off With Wonderful Harvest Items

To see more, follow the MDOC on Twitter

July New Hires

Bradford, Carrie
 Cermak, Jonathan
 Cook, Emily
 Dewey, Diana
 Fegan, Thomas
 Gasperich, Patrick
 Harris, Raquel
 Honeycutt, Jamaya
 Kinsey, Heather
 Kinsler, Victoria
 Lammi, Michael
 LaSarge, Cheryl
 McKelvie, Tara
 Miller, Sarah
 Parker, Terrance
 Peterson, Tracy
 Plumm, Dustin
 Rajala, Amy
 Ramsden, Nicole
 Theisen, Matthew
 Tudor, Donald
 Vanatta, Krista
 Vautaw, Robert
 Ware, Atarah
 Williams, Ashley
 Wolf, David
 Wright, Kimberly

Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries
 Parole/Probation Officer, Calhoun County Probation
 Dental Hygienist, St. Louis Correctional Facility
 Parole/Probation Officer, Macomb County Probation
 Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries
 Registered Nurse, Alger Correctional Facility
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
 Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
 Medical Records Examiner, Woodland Center Correctional Facility
 Word Processing Assistant, Jackson County Probation
 General Office Assistant, Carson City Correctional Facility
 Secretary, Chippewa County Parole/Probation
 Registered Nurse, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Parole/Probation Officer, Chrysler District Probation
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
 Corrections Officer, Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse, Baraga Correctional Facility
 Word Processing Assistant, Washtenaw County Probation
 Special Education Teacher, Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Maintenance Mechanic, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility
 Registered Nurse Manager, Newberry Correctional Facility
 Departmental Analyst, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Resident Care Aide, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Clinical Social Worker, Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Plumber, Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center
 Licensed Practical Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility

July Retirements

Barlow, David J.
 Beardslee, Virginia L.
 Bellingar, Bryan K.
 Berry, Diane L.
 Berwald, Rachelle E.
 Brandon, Mark A.
 Chieves, Carol
 Childs, Sharon R.
 Cooley, Kindra L.
 Durnell, Jillene M.
 Fairfield, Keith A.
 Fejes, Susan K.
 Flagel, Kathy L.
 Fruik, Patrick M.
 Gray, Clarence
 Green, Douglas J.
 Grubba, Vivian E.
 Hall, Kevin J.
 Hamilton, Nancy J.
 Hearld, Kathleen M.
 Hilgendorf, Owen L.
 Hughes, David B.
 Jones, Thomas E.
 Kingsley, Karen S.
 Maki, Malekka F.
 Martin, Marilyn I.
 McLeod, Randall J.
 Owen, Stephen W.
 Palmer, Deborah B.
 Powell, Michael E.
 Roberts, Daniel L.
 Roggenbuck, Joan M.
 Schirmer, James M.
 Shemanski, Kenneth J.
 Sowels, Kary L.
 Sumner, David A.
 Sutherland, Robert A.
 Trusty, Michael
 Vanbeelen, Raedine
 Walton, Jan M.
 Yates, Richard V.

Cooper Street Correctional Facility
 Carson City Correctional Facility
 Carson City Correctional Facility
 Muskegon County Probation Office
 Ojibway Correctional Facility
 Michigan Reformatory
 Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
 West Shoreline Correctional Facility
 Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Kinross Correctional Facility
 Woodland Center Correctional Facility
 Ionia Correctional Facility
 Macomb County Probation
 Michigan Reformatory
 Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
 St. Louis Correctional Facility
 G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
 Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
 Carson City Correctional Facility
 Corrections Central Office
 Records Administration
 West Shoreline Correctional Facility
 Marquette Branch Prison
 Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility
 Thumb Correctional Facility
 Oaks Correctional Facility
 Woodland Center Correctional Facility
 Macomb Correctional Facility
 Saginaw Correctional Facility
 Central Michigan Correctional Facility
 Jackson Human Resources Office
 Michigan Reformatory
 Lakeland Correctional Facility
 Oaks Correctional Facility
 Chippewa Correctional Facility
 Ionia Correctional Facility