



DOC TALK

Maine Department of Corrections Newsletter

Department of Corrections Energy Progress

by Jeffrey D. Merrill, Director of Energy

Over the past several months, I've had the unique and rewarding opportunity to work with the Business Managers and Maintenance personnel at all our facilities on energy savings initiatives. Our department is the second largest user of electricity and fuel for the state.

As we all know, our department can not afford any more cuts in personnel or our operating budgets; therefore our only potential savings is within our energy resources. I'm pleased to say that I've observed energy savings initiatives already in place within our facilities. Conservation on everyone's part can offer substantial savings. Much more still needs to be done.

The wood pellet boiler installation at the MVYDC has experienced some unfortunate start-up delays. It is my understanding that a final agreement has been reached and work will continue this fall to get this system operating. Additionally, at the Charleston site the 12 month recording of the wind data for wind harvesting is completed and suggests a very favorable location for a wind turbine. Superintendent **Eric Hansen**, Deputy Superintendent **Dave Lovejoy**, Director **Jeff Morin**, and I, along with representatives from the Bureau of General Services (B.G.S.) held a meeting with the Charleston Selectmen, and are very close to launching a *Request for Proposal* (RFP) to determine what companies may be interested in assisting us with this project.

For the Downeast facility, representatives from B.G.S. and I advertised an RFP to seek assistance in developing an alternative heating source for that facility. Unfortunately, we were not successful in receiving an interested party; so, we'll be working on another approach.

Manager of Correctional Operations, **Mark McCarthy** and I have been working with Siemens' Corporation and Honeywell Company to identify energy savings initiatives that would have a short pay back period (3-4 years). As a result of numerous meetings and facility tours, we were able to list nearly 1.5 million dollars worth of projects, many of which are very cost effective. That list has been submitted to the B.G.S.'s pool of projects that will be competing for special funding from the legislature this fall. If approved, work will start mid-winter/early-spring. Thanks to all the facility staff that have assisted us with that project.

I was authorized by B.G.S. to submit two RFPs for energy savings studies. The first request was for an assessment of energy savings to repair/insulate 48 failed windows at Maine State Prison. The results suggested that we could not capture a quick return on the investment under energy savings, but that the windows do need to be repaired or replaced as they are deteriorating rapidly. **Gene Goss**, Chief Maintenance and **Karen Carroll**, Director of Support Services at MSP will be working with B.G.S. on this endeavor.

The second request was for a study to determine the cost savings of heating the domestic hot water from solar panels for a 100 bed housing unit at Bolduc Correctional Facility. The results were very favorable, providing we get financial assistance from Energy Maine. This solar project has an even larger cost savings potential as we have duplicate housing units at the Maine Correctional Center and the Charleston Correctional Facility. I will be taking this project to the next phase.

In the meantime, I'm continuously working with companies and firms that are interested in assisting us with energy savings. Our eventual goal is to develop and install a bio-mass system, pellets or chips, that can also provide co-generation for electricity at one of the larger facilities.

I'm discovering that planning is a slow process, but that we do have some great potential. In the mean time, remember:

"It's everyone's job to conserve - who knows, the job that you save may be yours".

For Your Information

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS WITHIN THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Measuring Volunteer Services Shows a Savings of \$276,470.00 for MDOC

by Ellis King

The increase in Volunteer Service Hours is one measure for assessing the progress of the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) in meeting the goals that are outlined in the Department's Strategic Plan. This measure specifically addresses **Objective B-2:** To reduce the rate of recidivism of offenders who have been released from the department's supervision.

Volunteer Services includes any work or service that is performed for the MDOC by a person that is not employed by the MDOC. Examples of Volunteer Services are literacy volunteers, mentors, religious program providers, substance abuse program providers, and education service providers. If the volunteer receives any monetary benefit for his/her labor it is not considered volunteer services.

The total MDOC Volunteer Services performed for 2009 were 27647 hours in both juvenile and adult correctional facilities. The financial value of these services can be based on a hourly rate of \$10.00/hour would be **\$ 276, 470.00**. This is a low estimate because the professional services that are being provided by the volunteers would cost much more if the services were provided by MDOC staff or contracted services.

The services which are provided by volunteers that offer services to the MDOC can be contrasted to the Community Services (These services were described in the last issue of the DOC TALK) that are provided to the communities by offenders that are incarcerated in the custody of the MDOC. The MDOC and the local communities of Maine have established a collaboration that exchanges services so that it results in a win-win situation for everyone involved in either the volunteer program or the community service program.

The goal of the MDOC Strategic Plan is continual improvement, each year the department should increase the number of hours that are provided by volunteers. Each adult and juvenile correctional facility has a volunteer coordinator to recruit, train, and schedule volunteers. Continual program evaluation and regular contact with the volunteer ensures that he/she is being used effectively and feels valued for the services that he/she is providing.

A special thanks to the volunteers that are contributing their time and expertise to provide the offenders with much needed services. And thanks to the individuals within the MDOC that are working with the volunteer programs and documenting the services for the performance measurement.

For additional information on volunteer services within the Maine Department of Corrections contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the correctional facility in which you are interested, or contact Ellis King in MDOC Central Office at 287-4342 or e-mail at Ellis.King@maine.gov

Measuring Community Service Shows a Savings of 1.8 Million

by Ellis King

The increase in Community Service Hours is one measure for assessing the department's progress in meeting the goals outlined in our strategic plan. This measure specifically addresses Goal C. to ensure that offenders are accountable to both their victims and the communities in which they offend. *In 2009 the dollar value of community services provided by the MDOC Adult inmates was approximately \$1,828,297.00.*

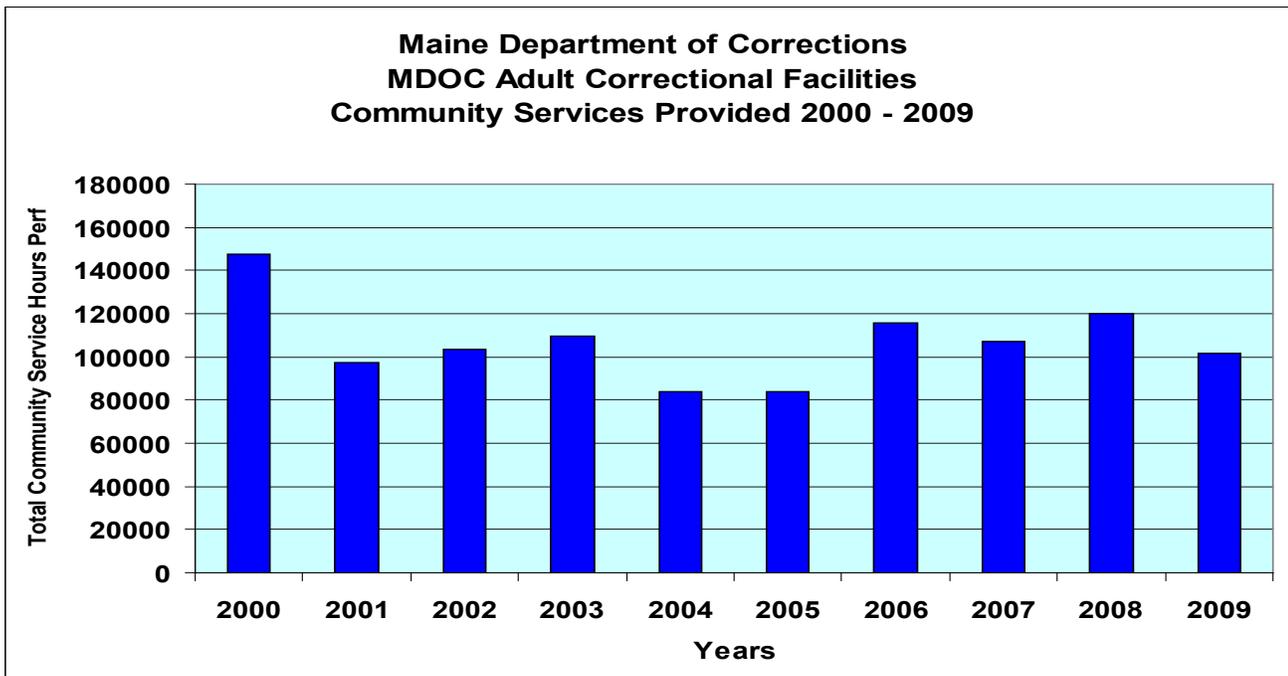
Community service includes any work that a juvenile or adult offender performs for a nonprofit organization, town, county, or state agency other than the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC). Examples of community service are work crews that work on the restoration of local town buildings, maintain town and State Parks, and perform services for the Department of

For Your Information

Transportation. If the offender receives any monetary benefit for his/her labor it is not considered community service.

The financial value of the annual community services is based on the State of Maine Report on 2009 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. Using the average wages of people involved in construction trades (SOC Code 47-0000) because almost all of the MDOC community services are covered by these categories.

The goal of the MDOC is consistent improvement and the goal for each year is to exceed the previous year's annual total of community services.



DOC HOT-SHOT RESPONSE TEAMS

by Jeffrey D. Merrill, Director of Energy

As the Department's forest fire coordinator with the Department of Conservation, I'm pleased to say our department has nearly 100 employees and prisoners trained, certified and available to respond if necessary. Fortunately, the need to activate these teams has been limited this summer, which is hard to believe with such dry conditions. These teams are a tremendous assistance when needed, and our thanks to all those that are involved.

DOC PRISON INDUSTRIES PROGRAM

by Jeffrey D. Merrill, Director of Energy

Our prisoner industries programs are surviving, yet still struggling, as with most businesses during these economic times. Our facilities are continuously working with the Industries Council to seek new markets and ideas for our projects. Currently, we are meeting with the Bureau of Purchases to see how we can get more involved with state used products that we can produce. Presently, we provide much of our assistance, services and goods to the Department of Transportation, Conservation, and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Victim Services



APPA Public Hearing on Victim Issues

Criminal Justice Journalists, **Ted Gest** report on APPA Public Hearing on Victim Issues: "Crime victims urged probation and parole officials today to pay more attention to their cases and issues. The unusual appeal came near the conclusion of the 35th annual American Probation and Parole Association training institute, held this year in Washington, D.C. **Andrea Conte**, wife of Tennessee **Gov. Phil Bredesen**, said that crime victims sometimes have viewed probation and parole agents as enemies, more sympathetic to offenders than to victims; she urged more attention to issues like restitution by offenders to their victims. Conte founded an anticrime group called *You Have the Power--Know How to Use It*. She was the victim of a pistol-whipping by a would-be kidnapper 20 years ago. **Susan Russell**, a Vicim Services Consultant in Vermont who was kidnapped, raped, and nearly killed 18 years ago, complained that the state had given her misleading and inaccurate information about the offender.

Pat Tuthill, whose daughter Peyton was raped, tortured, and murdered by a probationer who transferred from another state to Denver in 1999, made a plea for victims and their families to get more information about convicts' whereabouts and status. "Offenders have many rights, victims have few," she told the meeting. Victims advocates acknowledge that most offenders eventually will be released from custody or supervision; the victims ask that they be notified every important step along the way, including about the conduct and treatment of offenders who are in prison. The general theme of the program was that victims are getting more respect in the criminal justice system, but there is a long way to go. Other victim advocates who spoke included **Mary Dodd** of Nevada, **Rick Fiori** of Maryland, **Elizabeth Page** of Texas, and **Carroll Ann Ellis** of Virginia. Listening were senior officials of the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs. Moderator was **Anne Seymour** of Justice Solutions in Washington, D.C."

The Ride of My Life

The last week of June, first week of July of this year, **Wayne**



Theriault, an employee here in Central Office, and a friend became some of the first people ever to ride a motorcycle across Labrador. To

read a narrative of

their ride go to: [1,000 Miles of Dirt, Motorcycling Across Labrador.](#) or contact Wayne Theriault at wayne.r.theriault@maine.gov



MADD

Submitted by Ellis King

In 2008, 11,773 persons died in motor vehicle crashes in the United States involving at least one driver with a BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) of .08 or higher. This number represents 32% of all motor vehicle crash fatalities for that year, an average of one fatality every 45 minutes where a driver was above the legal limit for alcohol. Traffic crashes cost society more than \$230 billion each year. Despite progress since the 1980s in reducing alcohol-related fatalities, they remain unacceptably high.

I researched a comparison figure that can be used to realize the significance of this number:

In 2008, 11,773 persons died in motor vehicle crashes in the United States involving at least one drunk driver – This is higher than the number of Americans who were killed in the Vietnam War in 1969 (11,616). The public uproar protesting the deaths in the Vietnam War in 1969 nearly ripped the country apart. But the fact that one American is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes seems to go almost unnoticed by the general public. Please do everything that you can to raise public awareness of this issue. Visit the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) web site at <http://www.madd.org/> to see what you can do to help in the fight against drunk drivers.

IN THE PRISONS

July - August 2010

6

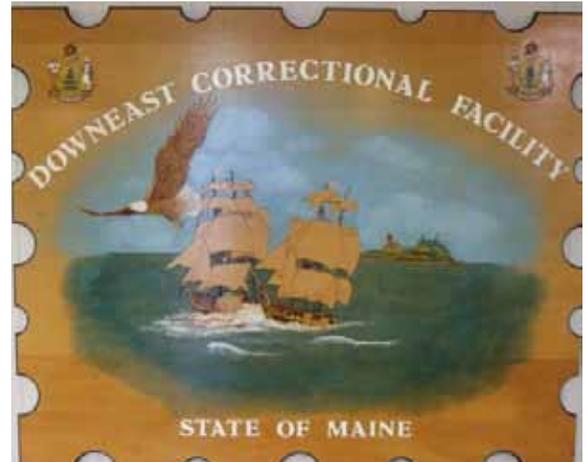
DOCTalk

Think About It !!!!

At a recent training session the instructor asked the group to consider a statement that he had recently read. The discussion that followed was interesting so I thought that I would share it with the entire MDOC staff to think about.

The statement was "Conservatives ignore the humanity of criminals when creating laws and the Liberals ignore the pathology of criminals when creating laws" The discussion compared the stereotype perceptions of correctional program staff with the liberals and correctional security staff with the conservatives. The final decision of the group was that each philosophy, in itself, will yield poor results and that only by considering both viewpoints will the best results be found.

If you would like to comment on this article please send me an e-mail to Ellis.King@maine.gov



Downeast Correctional Facility

Retired

Tony Jans retired July 15, 2010 after 23 years of state service. Tony served as the vocational instructor for the carpentry trade program as well as the Army Reserves. He served overseas in three different combat tours.

Promotions

Carol Geel was promoted to Correctional Program Manager on August 29, 2010. Carol has over 23 years of combined state service. Carol began her career with the Department of Human Services in 1987 and transferred to Downeast Correctional Facility in 2004. She will continue the caseworker duties as well as program manager duties until a new caseworker is secured. We wish Carol the best of success in her new position.

Welcomes to our Newest Correctional Officers:

Christopher Stanhope	07/12/2010
Walter Jessiman	07/19/2010

Maine State Prison Bolduc Correctional Facility

IN THE PRISONS

Honor Guard

The Maine State Prison Honor Guard marched in the Winslow 4th of July parade. Despite very hot and humid weather, we had a great time and were honored to represent the Maine State Prison in the state's largest 4th of July parade.

Present (from left to right);

Sgt. Matt Barnett, Officer Phil Newth, Captain Dennis Ruel, Officer Joe Chaplin, Sgt. Mark Slivinski, Officer Mark Engstfeld, and Officer Eric Jones.



July - August 2010

7

DOCTalk

Maine State Prison New Hires - Welcome

Robert Dickey, Correctional Officer
Craig Donahue, Correctional Officer
Benjamin Dube, Correctional Officer
Randall Gelo, Correctional Officer
Michael Lagueux, Correctional Officer
Jeremy Roberts, Correctional Officer
Susan Scott, Nurse II

Ralph Ferguson Retires

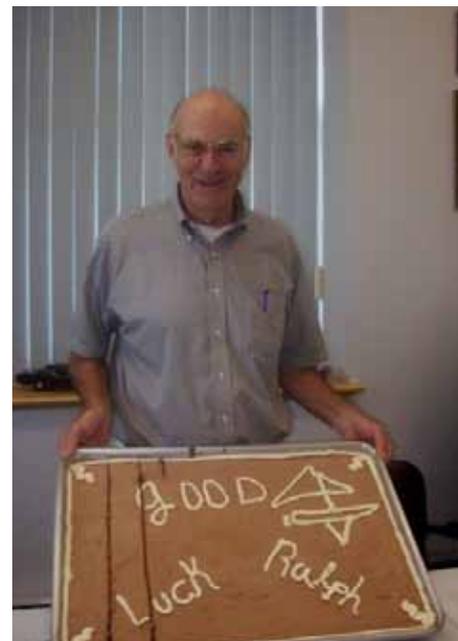
Bolduc Correctional Facility gave a fond farewell on July 30 to **Ralph Ferguson**, the facility's Clinical Social Worker.

Ralph came to BCF in 2001 with a background in Psychiatry. He received his Master's in Social Work (LCSW) from the University of New England in 1991; in 1965 he graduated from the Maine Maritime Academy with a Bachelor's in Marine Science.

He was considered a valued BCF member and well respected by both staff and prisoners. In fact, in 2006, a group of prisoners acknowledged their appreciation in writing regarding Ralph's "Anger Management" group. They stated their surprise that this "tool" was not mandated for all prisoners at all facilities.

We miss him but we're also happy to know that he is enjoying his free time and was able to spend quality time with his beloved dog, Penny.

HAPPY RETIREMENT, Ralph!



IN THE PRISONS Retirements

Maine Correctional Center

Last DOC Talk we reported that **Lynn Madar** and **Dr. Barbara Heath** had retired. We would like to thank them for the work that they did during their time at MCC: Dr Heath years of service to MDOC were at both MCC and LCYDC. We did not mention her work in the field of MH in corrections and her work with the women's unit and finally in reception assessments. Lynn Madar's contributions were also valued. Her work, especially in classification file set up and transfers was often viewed as tedious but very necessary for the functioning of the operations within the system. Good job. Our belated thanks to both.

Good Luck to Officers **Martin Jauregei** and **Jeffrey Ross** upon their retirement from the Maine Correctional Center. Jeff had previously retired from the USMC and Martin had worked in private industry.

Thanks to **Jim Quinn** who retired after 20 years. Jim started his career at the Maine Youth Center in 1989. He moved to the Maine Correctional Center as a Correctional Trades Instructor, became our Laundry Supervisor and retired in July 2010. Thanks for 20 years of work.

Honor Guard

The Maine Correctional Center's Honor Guard is fast becoming one of southern Maine's most requested parade color guard units. During August they appeared, once again, at a Portland Seadogs game and were greeted by U.S. Senator Susan Collins. They are great ambassadors of the Maine Correctional Center to the People of Maine.

Troy Roma, Peter Turner Jr., Nathan Thayer, Senator Susan Collins, Joseph Salisbury, Robert Leclair, and Travis Hon



Troy Roma, Peter Turner Jr., Nathan Thayer, Senator Susan Collins, Joseph Salisbury, Robert Leclair and Travis Hon

Hadlock Field, Portland, Maine

August 6, 2010

More MCC

IN THE PRISONS

Kudos

The MCC farm crew has had a busy summer. They have delivered over 6500 pounds of produce to the main kitchen, the Woman's Center kitchen and Long Creek Youth Development Center. They have also delivered more than 900 pounds of produce to the Windham Food Pantry. All produce was gratefully received.

The farm crew also brought in over 4000 bales of hay, did the fall planting and kept up with the institutions heavy equipment work. Good Job!

The Correctional Trades Instructors have also been busy with community restitution projects. Extensive exterior work was recently completed by a crew supervised by **Dennis Winslow** on the church pictured below.



IN THE PRISONS

Long Creek Youth Development Center

July - August 2010

10

DOCTalk

LCYDC Banner Ceremony

On August 19th 2010, a banner ceremony was held at Long Creek Youth Development Center recognizing **Joe Connelly** who coached the A. R. Gould Bears basketball team to the State Playoffs in 1982. The ceremony was attended by former and current school faculty, staff, family and friends of Joe Connelly. The pictures capturing the ceremony events note Joe, his wife **Judy** and daughter, Commissioner **Don Allen**, Commissioner **Marty Magnusson**, Associate Commissioner **Barry Stoodley**, Superintendent **Rod Bouffard**, **Lars Olsen**, and **Bob Lancaster**.



Joe Connelly



Joe Connelly, his wife Judy and Daughter, and Commissioner Don Allen



Joe Connelly and Bob Lancaster

More LCYDC

IN THE PRISONS

July - August 2010



Commissioner Marty Magnusson



Superintendent Rod Bouffard



Associate Commissioner Barry Stoodley and Lars Olsen



IN THE PRISONS

More LCYDC

July - August 2010

12

DOCTalk

The Long Creek Youth Development Center Library Mural

Lisa Wojcik, Librarian

Centrally located within the Long Creek Youth Development Center, the library is a hub of educational, cultural, and social activity. In 2009, the library received a "Community Arts & Humanities Grant", made possible by the generous contribution of the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Arts Commission. This grant funded the creation of a wall mural that depicts the Maine landscape.

The project had two components: one was art and the other was literature. Books by author **Sarah Graves**, of Eastport, Maine, were purchased and read by some of our students. The stories were chosen because they do a great job of describing the Maine landscape. They helped to formulate the students' ideas of what being outdoors in Maine means to them.

Kevin Tacka, of Portland, Maine was selected as the artist to paint the mural. Kevin began by meeting with the Librarian, **Lisa Wojcik**, to map out the process. He offered to create the mural in the Buon-Fresco style. Buon means "true" and



Kevin amazes both staff and residents with his talent



A member of the Maintenance team, applies his talents and skills to create the mural's frame

Fresco means "fresh" In layman's terms, it means that layers of a lime plaster are adhered onto the concrete block and a wash of pigment colored water is then painted into the plaster.

The next step was to have the artist meet with the students of the A. R. Gould School. Kevin met with the English class students and created a list and a sketch of each class's ideas for the mural. Kevin pasted the lists and sketches on the library walls. From this, he formulated the mural's conception.

Throughout the winter and into the spring, Kevin sketched and plastered and sketched and plastered again. Finally, he gave the mural its beautiful and unique application of pigment. Kevin came back after the painting cured and applied coats of sealant to the painting.

Both staff and students of the Long Creek Carpentry department designed, ordered and routed a frame for the entire mural; using approximately 150' of 3" wood. The Librarian, with the help of some diligent students, painted it. The Long Creek maintenance team cut and installed the frame. The mural was completed during the spring/summer of 2010. A reception celebrating the mural was given in July, 2010.



Each section took approximately 10 hours to paint



The mural encompasses 2 walls of the library

John C. Basso Memorial Scholarship

Colleen Whitcomb, daughter of LCYDC JPW **T.J. Whitcomb** and his wife **Patty**, was recently chosen to receive the John C. Basso Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was named for John C. Basso, who served as Director of the Maine AFSCME Council for many years. It is presented by AFSCME and is open to AFSCME members and their families. To apply for this award the student must submit an essay on how Unions are important to their family and be enrolled in a secondary education program of either two or four years.

A member of the National Honor Society in high school, Colleen is now enrolled as an Aiken Scholar Candidate in the Environmental Studies Program at The University of Vermont. Congratulations Colleen and we wish you well in your academic career!

IN THE PRISONS

Mountain View Youth Development Center

Welcome to our New Hires

Juvenile Program Workers: **Patrick Dillon, Kevin Dunn, Samuel Evans, Amy Gilbert, Jonathan Lilley, Mark McBrine, and Jeremy Vance.** Special Education Teacher: **Kathryn Lovering**

PROJECT IMPACT

by *Elizabeth Beaulieu, Project Impact Coordinator*

Project Impact teams at both Mountain View and Long Creek will be holding a workshop for community school personnel to discuss the Roles of both Project IMPACT and the schools, as well as to strengthen the relationship between community corrections and the schools in September. MVYDC is scheduled for September 21, 2010, and LCYDC is scheduled for September 23, 2010.

News from JMG

A student turns JMG internship into full time job at local restaurant!!

by *Pat Gillis, JMG Program Manager*

JMG student, took what he learned from his work on the Kitchen Crew and started an internship at a local restaurant as part of his Job Readiness training. Four weeks later he became the new BAKER and is now working full time on a work release program. This student is a shining example of what collaborative programming can do in juvenile justice: MVYDC, JMG, and the community working together to provide opportunities for incarcerated youth.

Summer Financial Literacy Course a success at MVYDC!

JMG students recently completed a special summer course taught by **Pat Gillis** and intern **Kristy Trask** from Thomas College. Using an old JMG Financial Literacy curriculum as a guide, Pat and Kristy developed a new course specific to the needs of incarcerated youth. Called "Taking Charge of Your Future" this pilot program engaged JMG students in basic awareness of financial management using meaningful examples from their own lives. Students completed exercises in (1) understanding paychecks; (2) how to choose a bank; (3) how to manage accounts: savings, checking, and investments; (4) how to write checks, make deposits, pay bills, and reconcile a statement; (5) defining financial values and goals, and; (6) creating and maintaining a budget.

Students were appreciative of the course and inherently understood its value to their own lives. Many are getting ready to reintegrate into their communities and will be getting jobs and opening bank accounts of their own for the first time. In most cases, these students have never experienced this kind of essential training, never having completed such a course in school, never having been taught by parents or guardians and/or never have had a bank account, written a check, or received a legitimate paycheck.

For the moment, only JMG students are allowed to take the new Financial Literacy course, but JMG and the Education Department at MVYDC are considering how to expand this course offering in order to reach more students in the future.

Remember the SAVINGS mantra

A GOLFING EXPERIENCE

by *Bob Seccareccia, Health/Phys Ed Teacher*

On August 5, 2010, a group of residents from Mountain View Youth Development Center took a trip to White Tail Golf Course. **Shari Duthie** and her husband, the owners of White Tail Golf Course, a nine hole course, were very gracious to us and many thanks are given to them for a great experience. **Coach Seccareccia** planned this field trip as a follow up to golf instruction given in the "Life Time Sports" unit taught to the JMG students. In addition, security and expert guidance was provided by **Greg Curry**, an officer and a seasoned golfer who has been involved in many amateur tournaments in Maine. Greg was not only a great role model for the residents, he was a great help in teaching them some of the finer points of the game. This was the first golfing experience for all of the residents, and I suspect, based on their response to the day, it probably will not be their last!



Don DePoy and Martha Hills

by Larry Austin, Dep. Supt. MVYDC

Residents of the Mountain View Youth Development Center were entertained and exposed to a music American Folk presentation on July 07, 2010. **Don DePoy and Martha Hills** (Me& Martha) both former residents of Maine were in the area and came to perform their unique tribute to the oldest form of American music. American Folk music. Many of the songs tell interesting stories of events of the day or of the times in which the people lived. Originally written and performed by local players and passed down from generation to generation, these songs still often carry meaningful messages today.

Both Don and Martha are actively involved in a National Program to revitalize and preserve blue grass and folk songs in their joint effort with the Shenandoah Valley Mountain Music Makers. (Read more on the Internet by going to: Shenandoahmusictrail.com) The resident's were entertained as these songs were played on the instruments for which they were written. Guitars, banjos, Harpsichords, dulcimers, and bass fiddles filled the air and residents were provided an opportunity to try them out after the program.

Don DePoy is an accomplished musician and competes in various National Folk festivals. As a fifth generation, musician and with a PhD. in music Don and Martha bring a certain level of excitement to their presentation. We appreciate them taking time from their busy schedule to provide the program to our residents.



American Folk Festival



On Saturday, August 28th, 6 present and former music students attended the American Folk Festival on the waterfront in Bangor with their teacher, **Michael Cushman** and JPW **Dave Richards**. The American Folk Festival began as the National Folk Festival in 2002, and MVYDC music students have attended with Mr. Cushman every year except one.

Music performances this year included a lecture performance by Urban Artistry on the origins of House/Break Dance, as well as spinning records. Origins of each dance step were given, along with a demonstration of the steps put together. The performance ended in a demonstration of house dancing and break dancing, combining all the steps in one dance. Other performances included the Iraqi Oud, a lute-like instrument; Levent du Nord playing Québécois music with the hurdy gurdy and various French traditional instruments; Korean Drumming &

Dance; and Blues, Gospel, and Rhythm & Blues at the dance stage, where some students tried their hand at dancing to “old-fashioned” music.

Of course no visit to the Festival would be complete without food—which included alligator nuggets for all to try. We decided to forgo the hot sauce! The day was hot enough. We can't wait until next year.-

A Fond Farewell

Ryan Labrecque officially left us on July 30 to further his education in the University of Cincinnati's Criminal Justice Doctoral Program. This is an exciting opportunity for Ryan and a challenge he says he is so ready to take on and move up in his pursuit of his Doctoral Degree. But before we let him depart, staff members from all three Region One offices gathered for a pot luck luncheon in his honor on Thursday July 29 in the Portland Office. Ryan was presented with a card signed by fellow staffers and was sent on his way with a host of good wishes from all.

Welcomes New Baby

PPO **Barbara Nichols** and hubby **Kip** are so very pleased to announce the birth of their daughter **Hadley Lynn** who came into the world on August 23 at Mercy Hospital. She made her debut at 7:44 PM and weighed in at 5 pounds 14 ounces. All reports indicate that Mom, Dad, and baby Hadley are all doing well and are home adjusting to a whole new time table that seems to come with the birth of a baby. From all of us here, HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS and may the joy of this event remain with you always.

Meet some proud Grandparents

PPO **Tom McLeod** and wife **Susan** are so pleased to announce the birth of their first grandchild **Toren Jace Johnson** born on August 26 at 2:23 AM. He came into the world weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 20 ¼ long. Word is that Mom, Dad and baby Toren are all doing well. Tom and Susan will soon find out that the best part of having a new grandchild is that they'll get to spoil him. CONGRATULATIONS to the whole McLeod family on this joyous event.

Westbrook Little League competes in State playoffs

PPO **David Redmond** has earned the right to brag a little as his son **David, Jr.**, a member of Westbrook Little League 11 year old all star team won the District 6 tournament in Westbrook. The team went on to compete in the state tournament in Bucksport with Westbrook winning the opener against Waldo County 14 to 3. David, Jr contributed to the victory by hitting one of the four Westbrook home runs. The team ended up losing to the eventual champion York but David, Jr. finished the all star games hitting an impressive .455. What a hitter he's turning out to be! The team spirit of these young Westbrook players and the overall drive to win the championship, earns this big High Five for a job well done! We're all so very proud of you!

OTB (Outside The Box) Reading Group

The OTB (Outside The Box) Reading Group is facilitated by MDOC Probation Officer's **Bud Hall** and Acting Regional Correctional Administrator **John Lorenzen** (The Region 3-A headquarters is in Augusta). The OTB participants read a selection of short stories and then get together, on a weekly basis, to discuss one of the stories. The OTB group is so popular that the group had to be split into two groups in order to fit into the meeting room.

Bud and John pick short stories that are usually based around decision making and the group discussion centers around the pros and cons of the decisions that are made. The reading sessions give the Probation Officers a unique insight into how the clients are succeeding in the reentry process.

The most recent book "Up-Country" was written by **Robert Kimber**, who happens to live in Maine. Bud and John invited Robert to visit a session of the OTB group. Mr. Kimber sat in on both groups that met on Monday, August 4th. The men and women who attended the group were very impressed that the author took the time and interest to talk to them. Robert talked about his experiences in writing the book and answered the many questions about the short stories. Many of the group participants asked the author to autograph and write personal comments in their books that they are allowed to keep.

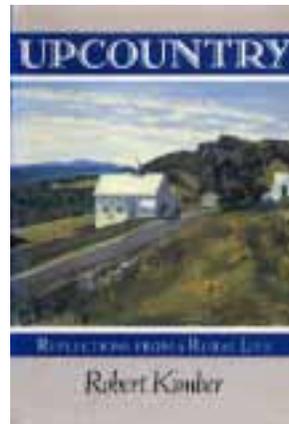
A reader describes the book in this way – "Kimber shares his adventures, misadventures, and reflections as a part-time farmer and fetcher of firewood, his struggles with recalcitrant sheep and aging tractors, the joys of roaming the hills with his dog, plunking for pickerel in the lily pads, and savoring the echoes of silence in a sleeping Maine village. Like a good apple pie, these essays are a blend of the sweet and the tart, the aromatic and the astringent, seasoned with a dash of wit and self irony, these love letters to life upcountry are as crisp, fresh, and bracing as they are affectionate."

Robert Kimber has produced an excellent collection of books and essays. He and his wife **Rita** left their academic life in Cambridge 25 years ago to create a life of subsistence farming, writing, translating, and editing in Western Maine.

The books for the OTB group are provided by the U.S. Dept of Education's Incarcerated Individual Grant that is administered by the Office of Correctional Education.

Note: If any other MDOC adult Probation Officers are interested in starting a reading group and may need funding for books, please contact Ellis King, MDOC Central Office, at 287-4342 or Ellis.King@maine.gov

Bud Hall, Author Robert Kimber, John Lorenzen.



File

Copy to Comm with monthly report.

Portland Press Herald

PORTLAND, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 25, 1969 Local News Page 15

12 Prison Inmates Learn To Transcribe For Blind

THOMASTON — Twelve inmates of the Maine State Prison have been having braille lessons since fall. The men hope to become certified braillists. The course may take a year or more.

Every other Saturday afternoon, two members of the Sisters of Mercy walk into a small classroom at the prison.

There they find the students waiting with pencils or the braille styluses. A stylus is a pointed instrument used to puncture heavy braille paper. It is on this paper that blind people run their fingers over the indentations made by the styluses and "read."

THE COURSE was made possible by the Maine State Prison Junior Chamber of Commerce. It is perhaps one of the first of its kind initiated inside a state penitentiary.

The two teachers, Sister Mary Miguel and Sister Patricia Pora, work well together. Sister Miguel goes over each new lesson with the students, while Sister Pora usually corrects the tests handed in every class period. To date, both seem quite satisfied with the progress of the class.

The goal of the sisters and men is simply to "help the blind."

Upon becoming a certified braillist, a person is qualified to transcribe books for the blind. These books are badly needed at the Blind Children's Resource Center in Portland and the inmates hope to provide them.

As soon as a student receives

originally asked for the approval of a program to help the blind.

Once the request was accepted, the jaycees contacted Courtland Perry, an Augusta lawyer, who was blinded in an accident in 1953, recommended that they contact

the resource center. The sisters seemed very willing to undertake the assignment.

According to Sister Miguel, the sisters are in need of textbooks up to the eighth grade. After the program is completed, the inmates will be capable of transcribing books at these lev-

els. After the books are transcribed, they will be donated to the center.

Both the inmates and the sisters take great pride in the course sponsored by the jaycees. Enthusiasm seems to have grown since the course began Oct. 1.

THE INMATES want to continue the course at the prison after the sisters are finished, by having another inmate teach. In this way, a continued supply of textbooks for the resource center would be guaranteed.

Each student has been equipped with all the items necessary to transcribe braille. The equipment includes braille paper, braille slate and board, the stylus, a braille eraser, and a braille transcription instruction book. The braille eraser, unlike the usual kind of eraser, is designed to level out the punctures that are made in the wrong place. After the mark is "erased," the student begins again.

Last week, the sisters brought in slides to show the inmates pictures of the children who are being helped at the center.

Some of the slides were over 10 year old and showed many young children, who since had grown up. Many eventually have gone on to college. One or two are now studying law. Their activity clearly dispels the notion that those unable to see must lead non-eventful, inhibited lives.

THE PRISON jaycee chapter

IMPORTANT NOTE ON THIS ARTICLE: I have depleted my existing supply of old MDOC photographs so I will have difficulty developing future articles. I will develop future "From the MDOC Archives" articles as old photographs are submitted to me.

Thank You!! Ellis

July and August

Service Anniversaries

5 Years

Rosemarie Burns	Maine Correctional Center
Rebecca Ashley	Bolduc Correctional Facility
Ricky Bagley	Maine State Prison
David Williams	Bolduc Correctional Facility
Kevin Sukeforth	Maine Correctional Center
Jennifer Gray	Long Creek Youth Development Center
Gary Osgood	Maine Correctional Center
Brandon Traknis	Maine Correctional Center
Robert Seccareccia	Mountain View Youth Development Center
Matthew D'Auteuil	Maine Correctional Center
Brent Ouellette	Long Creek Youth Development Center
Danielle Pekins	Region 1 Adult Community Corrections
Raymond Porter	Region 4 Adult Community Corrections
Brian Ahlquist	Maine Correctional Center
Brian Espe	Maine Correctional Center
Brent Stroud	Maine Correctional Center
Benjamin Bryant	Maine State Prison
Joseph Chaplin	Maine State Prison
Gary Grass	Maine State Prison
Brian Kimball	Maine State Prison
Nathan Staples	Maine State Prison
Holly Eastman	Maine State Prison
Marla Gerber	Mountain View Youth Development Center

10 Years

Charles Dame	Maine Correctional Center
Robert Bachelder	Maine Correctional Center
Charles Allen	Maine Correctional Center
Rodney Paulette	Region 1 Juvenile Community Corrections

15 Years

Faron Sawtell	Bolduc Correctional Facility
Bruce Domenech	Mountain View Youth Development Center
Rae Ouellette	Long Creek Youth Development Center

25 Years

Paul Charland	Maine Correctional Center
Paul Burtchell	Long Creek Youth Development Center
Barbara Boyce	Mountain View Youth Development Center
Susan Brown	Maine Correctional Center

30 Years

Robert Costigan	Maine State Prison
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40 Years

Harold Hodgkins	Bolduc Correctional Facility
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Department of Corrections Contributors

- Sally Kinney
 - Jenny N. Ardito
 - Judy Plummer
 - Debbie Day
 - Anne Allen
 - Brad Fogg
 - Sherri MacEachern
 - Priscilla McLellan
 - Cynthia Reid
 - Carol Carlow
 - Nancy Downs
 - Marsha Booker
 - Laurie J. Scott
 - John Coyne
 - Cynthia Brann
 - David Barrett
 - Ellis King, Editor
 - Martha Boynton
 - Dean Darien
- Bolduc Correctional Facility
 - Central Maine Pre-Release Center
 - Charleston Correctional Facility
 - Downeast Correctional Facility
 - Long Creek Youth Development. Center
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 - Region 1 - Adult Community Corrections
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 - Region 4 - Adult Community Corrections
 - Region 1 - Juvenile Community Corrections
 - Region 2 - Juvenile Community Correction
 - Region 3 - Juvenile Community Corrections
 - MDOC Central Office
 - MDOC Central Office
 - MCC Printing and Distribution

If this contributor list is incorrect or changed, please call Ellis King in Central Office at 287-4342 or FAX 287-4370 or E-Mail at Ellis.King@maine.gov