



Strafford County Department of Corrections

Family Newsletter

April 2011

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Dear Families,

Following is the message that is going out to your incarcerated loved ones:

How can you get productively involved at Strafford County Department of Corrections?

Well, hopefully this new newsletter will provide some additional ways to be productive just by reading it in its entirety. Seek out the many programs offered through the Education Department, Jail Industries (if qualified) as well as the many other jobs available at this facility. A new source of very special books and DVDs are also available. In addition, there will be an opportunity to show your talent in the art & writing departments. There is also a new program coming for women with children called Moms in Touch International. Look for the details on page four.

Since this newsletter is late some of you ladies may be participating in the Mother's program already. In addition, Sgt. McGowen has provided us with an article that challenges all of you to come up with new ideas for games that could be approved by the facility.

The very most special for me is to hear that several of you helped prevent two very serious incidents at this facility. Never be ashamed of keeping this facility as safe as possible in a non-violent way.

Caring for one another is the very best thing we can do to keep anywhere safe.

Peace,

Marilyn Allen

Jail Industries Director & Family Reception Center Founder & Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions

A reminder of questions families ask often so I am publishing the answers in both the family & inmate newsletters.

How do I send an e-mail to my incarcerated loved one?

Answer: visit OffenderConnect.com (Please remember that they will deliver the e-mail but the inmate cannot respond by e-mail back.)

How do I put money on an inmates account?

Answer: go to inmatebanker.com

You can of course always mail a money order directly to: Strafford County Commissary same address as the inmate 266 County Farm Rd. Dover, NH 03820 (Not to the inmate). Be sure to write the inmate's name down at the bottom of the money order in memo area

There is also a kiosk machine located inside the door of the booking entrance should you come to visit with cash



Dedication of the Robert Ervin Memorial Library

Chaplin Bob Ervin was on the Spiritual Care Board who became the part-time Chaplin her at our facility about two years ago. Unfortunately he was diagnosed with Cancer and before he died he expressed his desire to have some uplifting or challenging books or DVDs on a moral or intellectual level for the inmates. Consequently, that wish has been granted through some generous donations to the Memorial Fund. Here is a list of those books and DVDs:

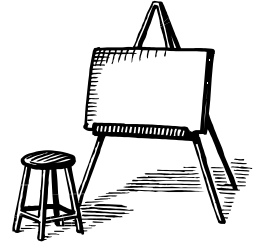
<u>BOOKS</u>	
Title	Author
<u>A Year in the Maine Woods</u>	Bern Heinrich
<u>Ahab's Wife</u>	Sena Jeter Naslund
<u>An Irish Country Doctor</u>	Patrick Taylor
<u>Corelli's Mandolin</u>	Louis deBernieres
<u>Children of God</u>	Mary Doria Russell
<u>Chosen by a Horse</u>	Susan Richards
<u>Gilead</u>	Marilynne Robinson
<u>Ishmael</u>	Daniel Quinn
<u>Les Miserables</u>	Victor Hugo
<u>Olive Kitteridge</u>	Elizabeth Strout
<u>People of the Book</u>	Geraldine Brooks
<u>Prayers For Sale</u>	Sandra Dallas
<u>Prodigal Summer</u>	Barbara Kingsolver
<u>Reasons For and Advantages of Breathing</u>	Lydia Peele
<u>Steps of Transformation</u>	Fr. Meletios Webber
<u>Strength in What Remains</u>	Tracy Kidder
<u>The Best American Short Stories</u>	Alice Sebold
<u>The Color Purple</u>	Alice Walker
<u>The Complete Stories</u>	Flannery O'Connor
<u>The Complete Works of Emerson & Thoreau</u>	Emerson & Thoreau
<u>The Housekeeper and the Professor</u>	Yoko Ogawa
<u>The Hungry Tide</u>	Amitav Ghosh
<u>The Princes of Ireland</u>	Edward Rutherford
<u>The Vision of Emma Blau</u>	Ursula Hegi
<u>Twelve Ordinary Men</u>	John MacArthur
<u>Thirteen Moons</u>	Charles Frazier
<u>Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus</u>	John Indermark
<u>Why Christianity Must Change or Die</u>	John Shelby Spong

<u>MOVIES</u>	
Atonement	G97
Ciderhouse Rules	G95
City of Joy	G96
Everlasting Moments	G102
Field of Dreams	G101
Pride & Prejudice	G100
Sophie's Choice	D63
The Gods Must Be Crazy	C94
The Namesake	G98
The Painted Veil	G94

See the librarian for your book choices.
For DVDs, send a request to Jake Collins in the Programs Department.

Upcoming Events

I hope you will find this exciting news! We are going to have another Art Contest as well as a writing contest. This will begin within one week after this newsletter is published.



All articles and art must be approved by the facility before your art or writing is submitted but we had great art from our last art contest. We have never had a writing contest before. The art may be in color with the use of your colored pencils or just in black & white, your choice. We will have judges for both your art and your writings and the public will be able to vote online through our website. Please participate - it will be great, really!

Please send the entries to Marilyn Allen. Submissions must be received by April 29th.

Upcoming Events at Family Reception

- Easter Weekend: Friday April 22nd thru Easter Day April 24th. Easter baskets will be given out to all children visiting.



- Support Group for adult family members is taking place on the 2nd and fourth Saturday of each month. The next support group will be Saturday April 9th from 10:30- 11:30am. We have had two get togethers so far and the volunteers as well as family participants I think felt supported. This group is support only not counseling and everyone just shares what has helped them or what resources etc. they might have relied on to get through this tough time in their life of having someone incarcerated.

I encourage family members and friends to join us, It is meant to be only a means of lowering stress and sharing coping skills and ideas from others on how they might have solved a problem or gotten through the tough time. As my slogan says; " Families Do Time Too."

Support group meets just past the metal detector. Please give it a try. See you on April 9th at 10:30am. Just mention you are here for the support group.

Marilyn Allen
Family Reception Center Founder & Coordinator

Moms In Touch International Is Coming to Strafford County Correctional Facility!

A new support group is being introduced this year to the women at this facility. It is an interdenominational Christian prayer support ministry called Moms in Touch International. This ministry has been introduced effectively to prisons in 32 states and is rapidly growing. New Hampshire's first chapter will be here!

Women who choose to come to Moms in Touch on Friday mornings will find a warm welcome from Analuz, Rachel and Sharon, the coordinators and leaders of the group. During the session, there will be time to learn more about prayer and time to pray for inmate's children, grandchildren and other loved ones. When you can't physically hug your child, it is a wonderful gift to be able to bless them through prayer!

Patty, Moms in Touch Prison Ministry leader, writes: "Many of the women who pray in Moms In Touch groups ... sense the love of God for them and their children and the hope of something good."

Jennifer, another leader, writes: "The love that God gives a mom for her children can be a great power that motivates her to become a better person. Through prayer, she is given the opportunity to channel that love in a meaningful way, while other ways are not possible while incarcerated. In praying, she moves from feeling helpless and hopeless in regards to caring for her children, to feeling empowered."

Sharon Gamble, the New England Regional Director for the organization, says: "We welcome all female inmates to this program. No one will be required to pray out loud. We use the Bible as our guide for prayer, and we would be honored to pray for your children and loved ones."



Happy Spring!

Valentine Project a Success!



Valentines were written by families and distributed for their incarcerated loved ones again this year.

Many families participated and the valentine wishes were greatly appreciated by all of the recipients.

Bonding thru Basketball?

Yesterday as I was doing my usual rounds thru the units I was approached by one of my unit game coordinators K.D. he was running some games by me that he thought would be of interest to me (KNOWING THAT THE SUPERINTENDENT HAS BANNED BASKETBALL) he always attempts to put a spin on it by presenting it to me in a different light. He explains that he wants a game between three of our best officers against three inmates, when I told him "no" he further explained that it would be beneficial to the jail as it would provide a BONDING between the officers and inmates. Even the other inmates who heard this all rolled their eyes in disbelief. My answer of course was still "no" as I could not go against the supers wishes and it would be just my luck that someone would come up with two broken legs in the game. I guess that the point I am trying to make is that even though K.D. knows I am going to shoot down the basketball he hangs in there with ideas as well as M.M. also in G pod. This is for everyone's benefit in the unit and that by us talking about something other than a rule violation, blocked vent, dew rags in the dayroom or things posted on your room walls, we are speaking as people with a common goal and interest. We have an opportunity to see each other as human beings with lives and feelings and many common problems and interest. No this isn't boys town it's still a jail, but it's also what we make it, we need these games so we interact with other people in the unit so we can see each other for who we are and not just for why YOU are here. The budget for the tournaments has been hit by our economy but thankfully Sandy always comes through with commissary items to have for the winners. So get together and discuss with each other about some type of game for EVERYONE. I will be happy to talk to you about it.

Peace thru play
Sgt McGowen



A Thank You to a Long-Time Volunteer

Flor worked to translate the changes for our Spanish speaking population and I was sure you would like me to thank her on your behalf. I would like to officially thank you Flor, a long time volunteer, for taking a long time translating the most recent changes in

the inmate handbooks; which is the same handbook that families are given to help them answer the many questions they have when a loved one is incarcerated.

Unas Gracias a Una Voluntaria de Largo Tiempo

Flor a trabajado traduciendo los cambios en el manual de los detenidos para nuestra población que habla español y estoy segura que ustedes les gustaría que le de las gracias de parte de ustedes. Me gustaría oficialmente darle las gracias a Flor, una voluntaria de largo tiempo, por tomar mucho tiempo traduciendo los cambios mas recientes en el manual de los detenidos, el cual es el mismo manual que se le dan a las familias para ayudar a contestar las muchas preguntas que tienen cuando sus queridos están encarcelados.