



# Strafford County Department of Corrections Family Newsletter May 2010

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**LEST WE  
FORGET...**



My editorial this month will feature some of the many volunteers that make it possible for the doors of the Family Reception Center to remain open for the inmate families and friends. Our mission is to provide a comfortable, trusting, and supportive environment where inmates' families and friends may come before or after a visit to receive validation, support and resources that may lessen the negative impact experienced through incarceration of a loved one.



Jim with  
Commissioner  
Maglaras



Jim and Ralph

Just within the week Jim, a long time volunteer received our first ever Family Reception Center Volunteer of the Year award. A plaque in his name will hang in the Family Reception Center area and a new volunteer honoree will be selected each year by the Family Reception Center honoring his many years of service to the Family Reception. Pictured here is Jim with the Easter Baskets that he and his friend made possible again this year through purchasing almost everything found in the baskets, including stuffed animals.



Another volunteer pictured here is Fred with Major Bird. Fred worked for several months to make possible an updated Spanish visitor's handbook. Some of our volunteers staff the FRC, while others volunteers like Fred assist the Family Reception Center in other ways such as the translation of the Visitor's Handbook into Spanish, while others may serve in dual capacities! For example, over half of our Family Reception Center Board members serve both as a Volunteer and Board member.

If you are a visitor please stop by at the Family Reception Center if the doors are open. Your visit with them tells the volunteers how much you appreciate their efforts. If you are sending money to your loved one incarcerated please know if they are buying a picture they too are supporting the Center since this picture taking effort and grants, are the only way the Family Reception Center is funded! As mentioned before, grants, picture taking, and community donations are the sources of support. There are no tax dollars in this program.

My thanks again to all the families and inmates that support us in this way, thus assisting in keeping the doors open at the Family Reception Center. We know that "families do time too" and the Center's mission is to make the incarceration of a loved one just a little easier.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Allen  
Family Reception Center Coordinator

## FRC Special Activities

Pictured below are some of the special activities that are sponsored through the FRC:



Valentines for Incarcerated Loved Ones



Free Raffle for a Bicycle



Holiday Baskets



Children are invited to take home a "friend"

Stuffed animals for children to take home from their first visit



Christmas Party with Santa and Gifts for Children

## Upcoming Events

### Family Barbecue

Saturday, June 12 11:00am- 3:00pm

Special Event planned for kids including free pictures to be given to incarcerated loved ones

Hot dogs, chips, soda & cookies

**All are welcome!**

### Inmate and Staff Barbecue

Coming in June - Date to be announced



Good Food



Balloon Lady

## **Pebbles In My Pond** *by M.G.*

Instances in life the pebbles, though I am the pond  
Scattered simultaneously, as with a magic wand

Rippled waves moving outward, entertaining and overlapping  
Like an intricate web, entangling and entrapping

Moving and changing, as tones from a bell  
Each pebble a different cadence, individualizing our lives as well.

Pebbles themselves sink deeply into the ponds depth  
Forever changing its fathomly landscape, where its darkest secrets are kept

As every season changes, it alters the ponds substance too  
Along with vegetative growth, always rendering the balance slightly askew

At the end of the last season, will you still love me, once all my pebbles are in my pond  
Once all the changes have taken effect, of me, will you still be so fond?

“And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free.  
And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me.”

~Lee Greenwood

**Please commemorate Memorial Day and remember  
all those who gave their lives for this country.**

## **GED Upcoming Graduation**

Several more students are about to graduate with their GED. This diploma allows a student to enter college just as easily as some who graduate from high school. If you are interested in obtaining your GED while you are residing at Strafford County Department of Corrections please contact the Programs Department!



Federal inmates are also eligible. It is a great opportunity to accomplish something great during a difficult time in your life.