

December 2015

Pike County Correctional Facility

“ COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE ”

From the desk of Warden Lowe

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THANKFUL THINGS



As we close out 2015 I am happy to report that our weather has been cooperating nicely. No snow and temperatures in the 65-70 degree range are fine with me.

The pleasant summer like weather has allowed for the bridge on 739 to be replaced and reopened on schedule. Our local volunteers now have a much shorter drive to our facility.

Sergeant Hugo Demarco has retired after twenty (20) years of dedicated service to the Pike County Correctional Facility. I thank him for his commitment and dedication to our mission and wish him well in his retirement.

Rich Shea, our Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist has made a significantly positive impact on our operation. He has been dutifully providing addiction treatment to our offenders during incarceration and then upon release ensuring that continuity of treatment is scheduled with Catholic Social Services.

On June 17, 2015 the Pike County Commissioners endorsed a “Stepping up Initiative Resolution” vowing to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jail. Pike County is one of only five (5) Counties in Pennsylvania to take part in this initiative.

Sadly, Correctional Officer Pierre Delaplace was seriously injured in a motor vehicle accident on October 17, 2015 on his way home from work. I am happy to report that he is making great progress with his recovery and making strides every day. We pray for his full recovery and look forward to his eventual return to duty.

As this year ends I have no doubt we will face many more challenges and at times it may appear as if there are no answers. In the face of this uncertainty I implore you all to stay the course and take the time to recognize and embrace the things that we should all be thankful for. In closing, I thank my entire team of Correctional Professionals for making the Pike County Correctional Facility a standout in the Correctional industry. I wish you all a safe and prosperous 2016!

From Assistant Warden McLaughlin's Office



It seems as though we can't turn on the television these days without seeing a terrible tragedy. The "Breaking News" banner is ever present and every day there's a school lockdown for some reason, people are stealing parcel packages off the front porch, there are mass shootings occurring and general unrest in communities across our country. Without a doubt there is no shortage of the barrage of sensational criminal activity to include the scourge of drug and alcohol addiction which all too often ruins lives in so many ways. At times, it seems as though the darkness which dims our spirits is inescapable. This news is important, we do need to know what is occurring but it's not the only news. These facts are why I view my annual newsletter thank you to our volunteers as particularly poignant this year. You see, for all the nastiness, and negativity, and although it is rarely the focus of the discussion, the power of good is alive and thriving and will prevail! When crimes take place and when bad things happen there are people willing to help no matter the risk, no matter the price that might have to be paid. These people are vivid proof that there is light in the darkness! As facility volunteers you have been the sources of that blinding light for many years. You have dedicated yourselves to working with our offenders so that they may return to their families and their communities to exist as productive citizens. No mention of *your* work on the news, no fan fare, just a steady stream of offenders quietly returning home for good. So I ask that as 2015 winds down turn off the television and quietly look in the mirror for there you will see the face of hope. To all our wonderfully talented and dedicated volunteers I convey a sincere thank you. May you all have a joyous holiday and most prosperous new year!

Pike County Correctional Facility Officer of the Year Officer Kimberly Graham



Officer Kimberly Graham has been employed as a Pike County Correctional Officer since September 23, 2002. Officer Graham clearly understands the mission of the Pike County Correctional Facility and takes great pride in her profession. Officer Graham has displayed an ability to learn rapidly and quickly adapt and apply policy and procedure modifications. Officer Graham has proven to be an exceptionally skilled Officer, receiving certifications as a Central Control operator, Intake Officer, as well as firearms certification. Officer Graham is adept at taking charge of complicated situations without the assistance of her supervisors. Officer Graham excels in communicating with her peers as well as the inmate population which are critical skills enabling her success. Officer Graham consistently performs her duties at the highest level while placing an emphasis on attention to detail regarding task completion. Officer Graham is without question a corrections professional “Committed to Excellence” and has unquestionably earned the distinction of 2015 Pike County Correctional Officer of the Year!

OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Quinn Smith

October 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

Correctional Officer Quinn Smith has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for October 1, 2014 December 31, 2014. Officer Smith has been employed at the facility since October 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



Pierre Delaplace

January 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015

Correctional Officer Pierre Delaplace has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for January 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015. Officer Delaplace has been employed at the facility since October 2000 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Michael Buckingham

April 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

Correctional Officer Michael Buckingham has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for April 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015. Officer Buckingham has been employed at the facility since March 2008 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

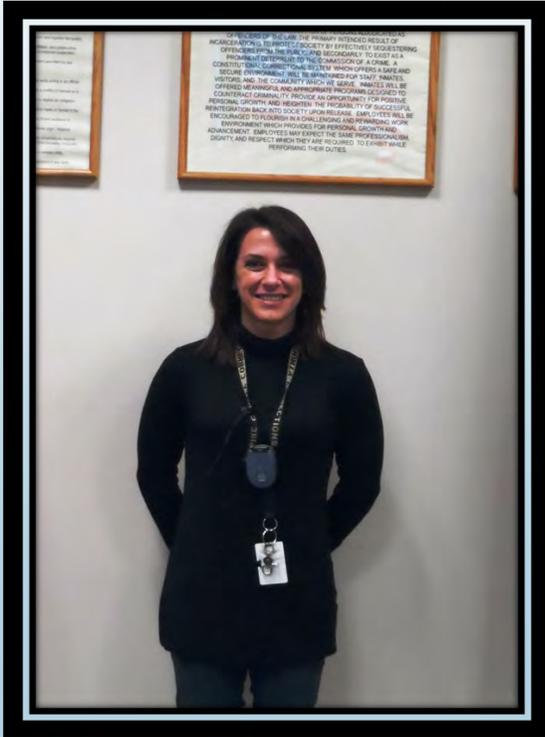


Steve Riemer

July 1, 2015 - September 30, 2015

Correctional Officer Steve Riemer has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for July 1, 2015 - September 30, 2015. Officer Riemer has been employed at the facility since November 1998 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Mary Keller

October 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

Treatment Counselor Mary Keller has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter for October 1, 2014-December 31, 2014. Ms. Keller has been employed at the facility since March 2011 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

William Deleeuw

January 1, 2015 - March 31, 2015

Maintenance Technician William Deleeuw has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for January 1, 2015-March 31, 2015. Mr. Deleeuw has been employed at the facility since October 1995 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Dorothy Devuyt

April 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

Food Production Supervisor Dorothy Devuyt has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for April , 2015 - June 30, 2015. Ms. Devuyt has been employed at the facility since September 2014 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Deborah Ryan

July 1, 2015 - September 30, 2015

Administrative Secretary Deborah Ryan has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for July 1 , 2015 - September 30, 2015. Ms. Ryan has been employed at the facility since August 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



SAYING GOODBYE.....

SGT. HUGO DEMARCO

By Treatment Counselor Keller



Pike County Correctional Facility Sergeant Hugo DeMarco began his employment at The Pike County Correctional Facility on August 3, 1995. He attended basic training at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Training Academy with other newly hired Correctional Officers. Upon graduating from the Academy he attended an additional four weeks of basic training here at Pike County Correctional Facility and graduated as a member of Class #2 on September 29, 1995. Prior to the official opening of Pike County Correctional Facility, Hugo assisted in the monumental task of organizing and preparing the facility to ensure it was ready for operation. He was Central Control Certified and Intake Certified in 1996. As an Officer, Sergeant DeMarco served as a positive role model by his exemplary discipline with several years of perfect attendance exhibiting his dedication to his duties and this facility. He was named Officer of the Year in 2000 for his outstanding performance, exemplifying the highest standards as a correctional professional. On April 19, 2004, Sergeant DeMarco was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is a member of the National Sheriffs Association and the Gang Task Force and has certifications in Apprenticeship and Psychomedics Sample Collection to name a few. In the years that I have been here I have found Sergeant DeMarco to display professionalism and conduct himself with pride. I believe I speak for everyone who has worked with Sergeant DeMarco over the years in saying it has been an honor to work with someone who exudes professionalism and integrity in such a demanding profession. After 20 years of dedicated service to the Pike County Correctional Facility it is with a heavy heart that we say farewell. He has been an integral component to the success of this facility and will be missed greatly. On behalf of the entire facility we would like to wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and always remember goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end they simply mean we'll miss you until we meet again! Congratulations!

2015 Pike County Correctional Facility Volunteer of the Year

Wanda Manning



The 2015 Pike County Correctional Facility Volunteer of the Year award was bestowed upon volunteer Wanda Manning. Wanda Manning has been volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility since 1998, during which time she has facilitated a Bible study program for both the male and female offender population. She recently began facilitating a H.O.P.E. program that she conceptualized entitled "Write On" in which the participants are encouraged to write stories, thoughts or ideas which they may find difficult to share verbally. Those who desire to do so, may read their contributions out loud to the group participants, which is therapeutic in nature. To quote several program participants, "This volunteer is one of the most inspirational and positive people that comes to the facility to help us." Wanda never shows up to the facility without a smile on her face and always has the desire to help those in need. Thank you Wanda!

13th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner At the Malibu Dude Ranch





The Thirteenth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

It has been 13 years since the tradition of holding an annual volunteer appreciation dinner first started. Looking back on its inception, it's hard to believe that the dinner was once held in the programs room where many of our volunteers hold their programs. As you all know, this room is small when we compare it to recent venues. Over the years, our roster of committed volunteers has become so robust that we have had to change the venue of the dinner several times. This year's dinner was once again held at the Malibu Dude Ranch in Milford PA.

Upon walking into the lobby of the main building on a cold and rainy day, volunteers were given a warm greeting by Program staff who presented each volunteer with a Certificate of Appreciation. After receiving their certificate, volunteers were left to mingle and discuss the various ways their time is donated to help those in need with each other, as the dinner buffet was set up. Wild West décor could be found through out the room from lassos, to cowboy hats and cow hides. The mood was definitely set for a night of fun and relaxation.

After enjoying a vast selection of delicious items on the buffet line, the volunteer of the year award was presented. I could see that while Assistant Warden McLaughlin was giving his speech describing one of the facility's most kindhearted volunteers, that many in the room became teary eyed. As he was nearing the end of his speech and volunteer Wanda Manning realized his kind words were describing her, I could see a look of happiness and even a modest shake of her head, as she stood up and fought back tears, to accept her most deserving award.

At the conclusion of the festivities, each volunteer slowly made their way back into the lobby, and was bid goodnight after receiving a small gift and blanket knitted by female program participants. With another year filled with selfless acts of others gone by, we thank all of you for the contributions you have made!



Words of Reassurance

By L. S.



I can remember like yesterday when I first came to the Pike County Correctional Facility. I was very nervous not knowing what was ahead of me. I just knew that a new chapter had begun and one had ended. Only thing that wasn't clear was how many pages this chapter would hold. Every woman's face held its own deep story. Each tear hoarded a burning burden, years of many addictions. It's like seeing yourself in different stages, the beginning and the ending with youth fading and wrinkles remaining, so many ages. Life flashes by and now I am a resident of the Pike County Correctional Facility's sleepless nights. I had to fight many demons. I kept dreaming, but never again, I have to change. I had good days, battled long days and survived my solitary days. It wasn't easy, I couldn't play chance, and I wanted to change. I accepted my change and fell in love with my own mind it was all I had left. All of the volunteers were a reminder to me that my God had sent ANGELS from above. He was still with me. My lord never left me, thank you Jesus I have 3 days left I made it. Some will learn some will return with each visit I encourage you to take advantage of all of the programs Pike County Correctional Facility has to offer and most of all in the process find out who you are. Don't let addiction of any kind stifle you and know that every chapter does not end in Pike County Correctional Facility.



Turkeys stuffed with Foam and Lots of Love – Part I

By Terry Mooney

My colleagues, Erica Zaleck and Mary Keller and I took a field trip on November 12th. It was a rainy, fall day as we rode through the countryside, skirting the beautiful Lackawaxen River. The aroma of gravy that housed perfectly formed meatballs from Meals on Wheels wafted toward us as we sought refuge from the rain drops at the Lackawaxen Senior Center, coming upon a group of men and women quietly playing Rummy Kub. Their serene faces broke into smiles as we unveiled our gifts for them – stuffed turkeys with great big eyes and fanned out tails that helped them stand to attention. These gifts were diligently crafted individually by our female offenders. We spoke with each one for a while. Our friend from Columbia, who's been in America for many years, was the life of the party. She embraced her little turkey and said she looked forward to seeing us again next year.





Turkeys stuffed with Foam and Lots of Love – Part II

By Terry Mooney



Today, we took another beautiful ride through a different part of our Pocono paradise to visit the Dingmans Senior Center located at the lodge tucked away off Route 209. These enthusiastic seniors were playing a card game called “May I.” They each had a plastic contraption that held their cards in place, and an automatic card shuffler that made a soft sound as the cards slid through and were expertly separated. Each person received a turkey, and looked as if we’d handed them a winning Lotto ticket! We all gathered together for a group picture. The secret word “turkey” made us all smile.



Turkeys stuffed with Foam and Lots of Love – Part III

By Terry Mooney



Last stop Milford! The senior center is located in the new Milford Library building. Such a bright, positive atmosphere, the participants there are all business. We spoke about the Pike County Correctional Facility and the programs that we offer to those housed there. People listened intently. One gentleman, a retired police officer, shared with us that his niece began using drugs at the age of thirteen. Now, at the age of thirty-five, he told us, “she is lost to us.” A groupie of the rock groups Motley Crew and Rolling Stones, and a lifetime of fast living and heavy drugs, there is no turning back, he said. She came from a good family, he added. Sometimes there’s just no way to explain it.



No Snow but Lots of Snowmen!

By Terry Mooney



Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow ...**SNOWMEN!** Thanks to El Nino, our weather has been very spring like, but that didn't stop the Pike County Correctional Facility from creating many happy, plump snowmen for delivery, yet again, to our senior population. Originally made as tree ornaments, one jolly participant named Anne (aka Lady Godiva), chose to hang one on each ear. Oh well. To each his own!





The Pike County Correctional Facility GED PROGRAM A Fast Track to Success!



By Terry Mooney

Pike County Correctional Facility Treatment Counselors are now capable of administering GED exams to make it possible for offenders to obtain their G.E.D. certificate while incarcerated.

The success of the program is predicated on the work of volunteer tutors from the Wayne Pike Adult Literacy Program who come into the facility multiple times a week to work with offenders. Participants study diligently to prepare and arrive at an appropriate level to take the exams.

David Sutton, Executive Director of the Wayne Pike Adult Literacy Program, volunteers tirelessly first to assess the offender, and then to tutor groups of males at one time. Carole Linkiewicz has been volunteering faithfully since 2011, tutoring female offenders three times a week. Jim Borer was already a volunteer at our facility, and found that he could serve a greater need by tutoring male offenders. We are actively recruiting G.E.D. tutors because, as the size of the program grows, there is a greater need for tutors of all academic levels.

The three Treatment Counselors employed at the facility are certified and approved to facilitate the following exams that comprise the GED certificate:

- Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- Math

Practice exams are required of each offender once they are deemed ready to take them. If they pass, they take the final exam in each of the four subjects which comprise a G.E.D. Certificate. If they fail, they are given a printout of areas that they need to work on in order to pass the next time. Our tutors work diligently with the offender on weak areas until they are ready to take the actual GED exam. Offenders who have achieved their GED certificate at the Pike County Correctional Facility are indebted to their tutors, as are we all!



Volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility

By Volunteers

Luke Barbalich and Donna Piazza

The Stress Management-Parent Life Skills Group presented by Luke Barbalich and Donna Piazza, LCSW addresses various ways to decrease stress levels and manage other overwhelming emotions. The Parent Life Skills training program provides knowledge and skills to assist parents with promoting positive health and personal development in their children.

We work to develop individual's insight into their own behaviors by providing a framework to assist them in recognizing and changing a pattern of undesirable behavior(s) related to life choices and parenting and achieve more positive outcomes.

This interactive, evidence-based program is found to reduce and prevent substance use and violence. While drug use is caused by many factors, our efforts are to assist the inmate in developing the insight into the underlying causes of what propelled their addiction. Our hope is that they will engage individual therapy upon release for support rebuilding their lives and becoming productive citizens in their communities.

We appreciate all of the positive feedback we've received from the inmates, personnel, and community since beginning our volunteer efforts at the Pike County Correctional Facility. It is a very enriching experience for us to witness the effort made by those with the courage to change and heal as we work to guide them through a very difficult time in their life. The changes they make can improve their lives to the benefit of their family and community as well. We have been embraced, supported and encouraged by the staff and that means a lot to us. We thank you for giving us this opportunity to help those in need that otherwise may find it challenging to access our services.



The A.R.R.O.W. Program

“Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows”

Written By James



What A.R.R.O.W. has meant to me? I have been incarcerated for the last four weeks for the first time in my life. Coming into the Pike County Correctional Facility that first day, I was petrified, not knowing what to expect.

I then heard about a program right away called A.R.R.O.W. Having no idea what it was about, I did some investigating. First, I wanted to find out what A.R.R.O.W. stands for. It reads out Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows. This made no sense to me so I broke it down.

“Actively” means causing or involving action or change. “Reducing” quite simply means to lessen. “Recidivism” means to have a tendency to return or to fall back on previous behavior, especially criminal behavior. “Open” means to change or move from a shut position. “Windows” is an opening to let air or light in.

So, putting it all together from left to right, A.R.R.O.W. stands for positive action with change which helps to lessen one’s tendency to relapse or return to previous criminal behavior, and help us to seek out opportunities that will let us develop positively.

In the short time I have been in this facility, A.R.R.O.W. has been a very positive part of my incarceration. I work in the kitchen as part of the program from 6a.m. until 1p.m., then I am engaged in two programs daily in the afternoon and evening such as Money Management with Ed Schaffner, Employments Skills with Mr. B., Recovery with Mike Neel and Forgiveness with Hampton Morgan. There are also programs such as Sober Living, Character Development, Life Skills, Reintegrating Successfully and Relapse Prevention.

In summation, the A.R.R.O.W. program has been an integral and very positive part of my stay here. I hope to use it to reintegrate back into community life, and become a more productive citizen.



The M.O.R.E. Program

“Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Successfully”

By Derek



The Pike County Correctional Facility offers the 90 day M.O.R.E. program to those offenders who are not eligible for the A.R.R.O.W. program. The M.O.R.E. program focuses on different areas of study such as Healthy Relationships, Men’s Issues, Rational Emotive Therapy, Drug and Alcohol Education, and Anger Management to name a few. This program was designed to help offenders successfully become law-abiding and productive members of society.

Each individual program is designed to prevent past and current addicts from relapsing after re-entering the community. It also helps to prevent future drug users from ever using Drugs or Alcohol. Also these programs offer group and if need be individual counseling to offenders who need further rehabilitation.

The M.O.R.E. program also offers offenders a chance to get Anger Management counseling. This program helps offenders identify their anger problems. They also help offenders properly deal with their anger. This program helps offenders think more clearly and to make better choices.

Another part of the program is that it offers offenders institutional employment such as floor care and custodial work. By offering employment, the offender is trained to be ready to get employment upon his release. This program is highly essential for offenders who are re-entering the work force.





The H.O.P.E. Program

“Helping Offenders Promote Excellence”

By Victoria



As this is my first time in trouble and in jail, I really had no idea what to expect. My first week here, I saw girls going to program and I knew this was something that would be good for me to do with my time. I signed up for the H.O.P.E. program, went to meet with my counselor, Ms. Keller and started the ninety day program. Six days a week, several times a day, there are different program to attend. They include Self-Esteem, Parenting, the Rough Path, Looming, Forgiveness, Helping Women Recover, Safe Haven, Write-On, Anger Management, Narcotics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. All but two of these programs are made possible by the volunteers from our community.

I am proud to say that I am a graduate of the ninety day H.O.P.E. program. In every class I have leaned valuable life lessons to incorporate not only into my personal life but also into jail life as well. It has changed my outlook on others as well as myself. I feel more optimistic about myself spiritually, mentally and physically. This has made me realize that there are bigger and better things in life that I will accomplish. I would like to thank Pike County Correctional Facility, the volunteers and Mary Keller for putting together this valuable program and making a positive impact in my life.



The C.O.R.E. Program

“Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively”

Written By Alex and Kenneth



To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter to inform you of what C.O.R.E. means to us. The C.O.R.E. program is the most valuable and diverse program in the facility. Not only does the C.O.R.E. program teach you work ethic skills, but it also gives you valuable insight and introductions to many industry skills such as carpentry, machine maintenance and lawn maintenance. The C.O.R.E. program also helps teach you the necessary skills to make your reintegration as easy and seamless as possible. The Officers that lead the program are also well trained and very helpful. They are extremely knowledgeable in all the endeavors we participate in. Our normal day begins at five a.m. when we wake up for work and it doesn't end until 2:30 p.m. C.O.R.E. is a very valuable motivation to those inmates enrolled in the A.R.R.O.W. program as well because it gives them something to really strive for. C.O.R.E. is very valuable to us future inmates and our society all together.

**As the New Year
approaches we
are wishing staff and volunteers
along with your families a
wonderful 2016.
Happy New Year**

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PIKE COUNTY
CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY



In 1814 work began on the Pike County Courthouse; it was completed in 1815. This structure served as a Courthouse and Jail until 1851 when a small brick building was built in front of the present Courthouse. (This was removed when the present Courthouse was built in 1872-73).

The Pike County Correctional Facility was built in 1995. It is a 87,800 square foot, non-smoking Facility, situated on 268 acres in Blooming Grove Township. Our direct supervision 375 bed Facility houses both male and female offenders. Educational, religious, and rehabilitative programs are provided to assist offenders in reintegrating into society. During their incarceration, female offenders have the opportunity to participate in the H.O.P.E. Program (Helping Offenders Promote Excellence). The A.R.R.O.W. Program (Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows) offers qualified male Pike County offenders the opportunity to change their lives through intensive rehabilitative programming. Upon successful completion, eligible offenders may graduate to the C.O.R.E. Program (Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively) where they will continue their rehabilitative efforts by learning new skills through community service. The M.O.R.E. Program (Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Effectively) is available to all male offenders interested in making positive changes in their life. The Pike County Correctional Facility is working together to ensure that our community is safer for everyone.