



“COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE”

Pike County Correctional Facility

# Greetings from the desk of Warden Craig A. Lowe

*A Pike County Corrections Professional Rides Off into the Sunset!*



As many of you may now know, beloved Pike County Director of Programs Irene Doolittle began her retirement on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Irene began her tenure at the facility in February of 2002 and in performing her duties employed her kindness, energy and infectious enthusiasm each and every single day. I submit to you all that without any doubt she is one of the kindest and genuinely selfless people I have ever met. You will not find a Pike County Correctional Staff member that will tell you anything different. Irene always placed the betterment of others at the forefront, and went to great lengths to provide counseling and support to countless offenders over the years. Irene’s influence on facility offenders has unquestionably led to happiness and fulfillment for those who may otherwise have languished in a cycle of crime and addiction. Without reservation I convey that we are all better human beings for having worked alongside Irene Doolittle.



One’s career is intended to span a significant period of time, and is fraught with many highs and lows. I can assure you that Irene valiantly toiled in an environment which many would fear to set foot in. She viewed each day as an opportunity to learn something new, and to teach others. She accomplished her responsibilities with grace, and met any obstacle with resolute desire to overcome and persevere. Throughout this past summer, Irene came to the decision that the time had come to move on, to let others carry the torch and pursue the mission of the Pike County Correctional Facility. We wish Irene and her beloved family all the peace and happiness she so richly deserves. May I wish you all a most enjoyable holiday season and a Happy Healthy New Year!

## PIKE COUNTY PRISON BOARD

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## *A message from the desk of Assistant Warden Robert E. McLaughlin*

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For this edition of the Newsletter I will begin with a heartfelt thank you and enjoy your retirement to Irene Doolittle and her family. I have worked closely with Irene over the years, and wish for everyone to know that she is one of the kindest most dedicated people I've ever

met. Although we will miss Irene, I want you to know that we will carry on, new staff members have stepped up and are exhibiting their skill, dedication and ability to accomplish the requisite offender treatment needs each and everyday. Treatment Counselors Erica Zaleck and Terry Mooney are leaning into the tasks at hand, and developing methods to recruit new volunteers and strengthen facility programs and counseling. I am confident we will continue to exist as an example of what can be accomplished at the County Correctional level behind these talented professionals. I'd like to thank all our valued volunteers, those who are active, and those who have moved on. You see, that is a dynamic of the Programs Department and our operation overall. The undeniable fact is, people come and go. They do this for various reasons, and it is a fact of life. But I must say that no matter the season our volunteer roster remains robust, we have many citizens creatively contributing to the post incarceration success of our offenders. We have many familiar faces that we love to see each week. If you know someone who may be interested in volunteering, simply contact Treatment Counselor Erica Zaleck at 570-775-5500 and she'll discuss program options. So in conclusion, thank you all very much for what you do, have done, or will do! May you all have a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year!



## Correctional Officer of the Quarter



### **ERIN CONWAY**

*July 1, 2010—September 30, 2010*

Correctional Officer Erin Conway has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for July 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010. Officer Conway has been employed at the facility since March 2009 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

*Congratulations!*

## Employee of the Quarter

### **IRENE DOOLITTE**

*July 1, 2010—September 30, 2010*

Director of Programs Irene Doolittle has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for July 1, 2010 through September 2010. Ms. Doolittle has been employed at the facility since February 2002 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.





**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2010**



Renate Muller (pictured above) has been chosen as Pike County Correctional Facility “**Volunteer of the Year**” for 2010. She has been faithfully providing spiritual and moral support as well as G.E.D. and educational tutoring for the facility inmates since 1997. This benevolent citizen has led prayer discussions, assisted with Mass and Communion service and has graciously donated prayer cards and pamphlets all for the betterment of the offenders. Ms. Muller was presented with an award at our 8th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luau.



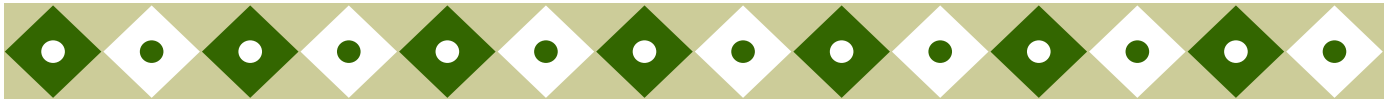
## M. O. R. E. Program

In the M. O. R. E. program I've learned many things first among them that it's up to me to want M. O. R. E. I've been in many programs, and this is the first that I really paid attention to. Every other program I've done was forced participation, but, M. O. R. E. requires my initiative to not only go but learn. I had to decide that I want this change. M. O. R. E.'s volunteers made a huge difference in that decision and its application. I believe that they genuinely care. Not only because they take their own time and resources to help, but because of the concern they show for each inmates progress. I owe each of them a great debt that I can only repay through my actions. Some of the more specific lessons I've learned are that understanding another persons view point goes a long way. If I can't be tolerant of others then I have no control over my emotions. Anger is a choice and each time you choose it, it becomes easier the next time and eventually part of how you carry yourself. I've learned that to gain control first I have to surrender to the fact I have no control. When I try to force my will things only get more difficult. I know now that drugs weren't the start of my problems, but they made them a lot worse. I can't see any benefit to them. They numbed my pain, but every time they wore off my situation was a little or a lot worse. It's up to me to take responsibility for my actions, not blame my circumstances or environment that I grew up in. I made my choices. If I remember that, that the past can't be changed, and that my past doesn't dictate my future I have a chance at redemption. If I put half the effort and time I applied to negativity, I think I have a good chance at success.

***I want M. O. R. E. That is what I learned from this program and am very grateful for it.***

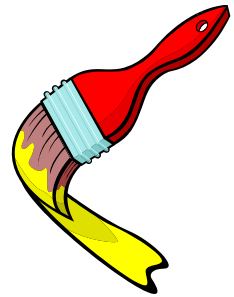
Sincerely,

Anthony



## C.O.R.E. Program

*Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively*



Being incarcerated in this facility and having a program like this to take advantage of is a blessing. To be able to leave the facility and learn new trades as in carpentry, welding, automotive, painting, and landscaping will become invaluable skills for the future once released from being incarcerated. These skills will supply an inmate with more possibilities for an income and to help be a respectable member of society.

Being outside the facility helps us get through the day and at times you can almost forget you are incarcerated. Being able to keep ourselves busy by putting in a full days work helps the time go quickly and gives you a purpose.

The two C. O. R. E. officers are extremely helpful at sharing their knowledge and are not afraid to get their hands dirty as well. They create a work environment that is conducive to learning. They truly get the best out of us.

Having the C. O. R. E. program will give us the opportunity to give back to society instead of being a burden.

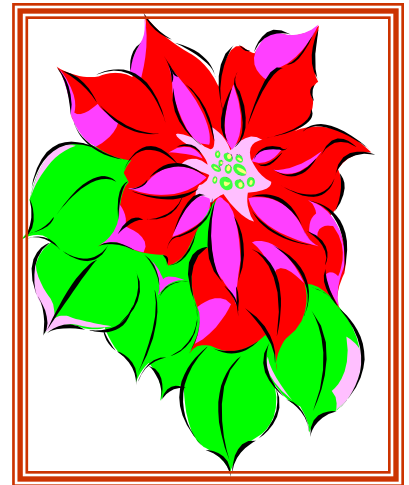
*Submitted by Dustin*



## H. O. P. E. Program

*WRITTEN by HEATHER*

When I first came to Pike County Correctional Facility I thought it was the worst thing that could have ever happened to me. I didn't realize until later that it was actually a blessing in disguise. When I first joined the H. O. P. E. program it wasn't because I expected to get anything from it, it was just a way to get off the block. I never imagined I would actually gain anything from it, but much to my surprise, I have. The H. O. P. E. program has helped give me the tools I need to work towards my recovery and stay clean. I've learned so many new things and have met some great people. I've learned how to face my addiction and not let it face me. The program has helped give me a new understanding and coping skills to deal with issues we face on a day to day basis. I've gained self control and can deal with my feelings and emotions better than I ever could before.



Because of the program I have had the pleasure of meeting some really wonderful people who genuinely care about the girls here. They treat us as a friend or person rather than an offender or inmate. Thank you to all the volunteers who take time out of their day to be here with us. We truly appreciate you and all you do. The H. O. P. E. program has really helped to make a difference in my life. The tools and skills I now have make me a better person and because of the program I will continue to grow.

## **A.R.R.O.W. Program**

*WRITTEN by THOMAS*

Joining the A. R. R. O. W. program has been the best decision I have made since I began my incarceration at the Pike County Correctional Facility. Putting all my attention into completing this program has further bettered me to be a model inmate and has prepared me to re-enter society with a higher knowledge in spirituality, money management, food service and most important to me...substance abuse.

Since I have began this program I have gained much knowledge on sobriety and recovery. I have attended meetings as well as programs in this facility that focuses on my issues. I hope to use the knowledge I have gained through this program and use it to stay clean and better myself.

Using all aspects of the A. R. R. O. W. program will help me in many different ways, in my life and the life of others around me. I gracefully thank all volunteers and staff members who put their time and consideration into this program. Because of them, this program is possible and able to help people, like myself, who really do need that extra hand in a time of need.



## **NEW VOLUNTEER!**

The list of volunteers who donate their time in an effort to aid the inmates of this facility continues to grow. Recently, Ms. Ruth Obegi of the Stroudsburg Seventh Day Adventist Church joined our roster to teach the female inmates Computer Skills. Ms. Obegi has an extensive list of talents and in addition to our inmates she shares her talents with the senior citizens at Northhampton Community College where she is a volunteer. Her drive and compassion to help others will make her a perfect addition to our team of volunteers. We look forward to her utilizing her skills in an attempt to improve the lives of our inmates while they are both incarcerated and on the street.



## **NEW PROGRAM**

As our list of volunteers grows so does the list of programs offered. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, a new program originating from the Christian Men's Network featuring the Ed Cole Video Series was started by Mike Neel and the Yokefellowship Prison Ministry for participants of the A. R. R. O. W. program. This program, similar to a Men's Issues program, addresses issues such as divorce, personal loss, financial troubles, and parenting skills. The program was designed to teach inmates how to positively face these issues once they are released. This program was also designed to teach responsibility and to help the inmates realize the "ripple effect" that their actions have on others. The inmate response to this program has overall been a positive one and we look forward to welcoming other programs such as this for General Population inmates and the female inmates of the H. O. P. E. Program.



## **A Message from one of our dedicated volunteers....**

One of the great joys I have had for the past six years plus is coming to the Pike County Correctional Facility on Mondays and Thursdays to work with the inmates at the facility. I have seen so many men who have come to the end of their rope, change their lives and become model citizens. It is a joy to be part of their awakening and growth.



I work with men who have various backgrounds and different reasons for being in jail and find these men to be above average in intelligence, personable, and quite frankly, not much different than some people I have met in the free world. Quite frankly, had God not come into my life some years ago and changed my life for the better, I might have been sharing one of the cells at PCCF or someplace worst.

I try to share my strengths, hopes and experiences with men who have made mistakes, perhaps caused by addictive behavior, and point them in directions that will change their lives and keep them out of jail in the future. It is important to realize that some men are in denial about the real reason why they are incarcerated and do not believe the need to change behavior in order to change their lives and stay out of jail. These men will continue making the same mistakes that caused them to be incarcerated in the first place and they will return to jail until they learn they must change.

Many of the men I have met over the years have accepted responsibilities for their actions and have made the decision to change the way they act. They have learned how to stay clean and sober while in jail, have developed a relationship with God and have continued to grow once they are released. It gives me great pleasure to see how God is able to change the lives of these men and return them to society changed people who become part of the solution to our problems rather than the problem itself. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to get to know these future leaders of our state and country.



## **“The Pike County Correctional Facility 2010 Volunteer Dinner an accomplishment for those Committed to Excellence”**

*by Treatment Counselor Terry Mooney*

As two tornados and a microburst hurled toward Queens and Perth Amboy, New Jersey, we sat in a large tent decorated for a Hawaiian luau.

At the entrance was a “Welcome” Tiki hut, palm trees all around and a Tiki bar with smiling young women serving frozen Margueritas and Pina Coladas, sans alcohol.

Behind the scene, Warden Lowe, Assistant Warden McLaughlin and Assistant Warden Romance were getting a facial – from the steam rising out of the barbeques they were slaving over to cook our meals. Pouring sweat, they dabbed their faces as they diligently flipped the food, adding more items to feed the hundred or so volunteers.

The wind taunted the sides of the tent which added to the coziness inside. Rain trickled down the clear plastic in places as we sat bathed in the soft light and gentle company. There’s nothing more satisfying than food lovingly prepared and graciously served on a damp, rainy night.

The walls were decorated with pictures of sea creatures, and an entire underwater scene. The tables were graced with a bowl of leis for each of us to wear. A coconut cup sat in front of every place setting with a tropical flower and straw attached. For an evening, I was in Hawaii, and not on the grounds of the Pike County Correctional Facility.

The Reverend gave the Invocation, and Pike County Commissioner Richard Caridi welcomed the volunteer attendees. The volunteers were told how valuable they are to the facility, and subsequently to our community. After all, those who are incarcerated eventually return to the society they left, and our goal is to help them heal and learn how to cope, a skill not everyone is taught as they mature.

The Pike County Correctional Facility is a prototype, one that fiercely focuses on rehabilitation. Warden Lowe continually emphasizes how crucial it is for inmates to be treated respectfully and with compassion. This does not mean that they are coddled. Weekly, I witness the frustration and pain that the women suffer due to the lack of freedom and basic privacy that we all tend to take for granted, as well as separation from loved ones.

Each inmate struggles to learn from their mistakes, many of which were made as a result of learned behavior, a destructive way of dealing with adversity and emotional pain. Many of them hope and pray to move beyond the place that got them into trouble, but it won’t be easy for them when they are released. The same old challenges and demons will be waiting for them, coupled with a poor economy.

The same old wounds will be reopened and exacerbated, and there will be a Herculean struggle to react differently and more appropriately this time. The empathy and caring shown to them by a volunteer is like finding an oasis in a desert. These men and women, parched by suffering, are given a well of information and tools that serve as a healing spring to quench their thirst.

The deference and appreciation shown by the Correctional Officers adds to the sense of importance placed on what volunteers do from the Warden on down the line. The Officers are happy for the inmates because they know that these sessions help them, even if sometimes they just need a break from life on the housing unit. The Officers quickly and efficiently process the volunteers and have the inmates where they need to be for their session. They do this cheerfully and enthusiastically because these programs make life better for all.

Prior to my employment as a Facility Treatment Counselor, the opportunity to volunteer at the Pike County Correctional Facility was a privilege for me. Since the first day I walked in and met with Irene Doolittle, the Programs Director (retired), the warm way she welcomed me and the way she immediately found a place for me, gave me a sense of being needed and appreciated. This is the real deal – a profound commitment to the well-being of others, inside and out of the facility.

The importance of community involvement that Warden Lowe constantly stresses in his newsletters was most evident at our dinner when door prizes were given. Each volunteer received two gift tickets as they entered the tent, and Warden Lowe, Assistant Warden McLaughlin and Assistant Warden Romance conducted the gift giveaway. Everything from oil changes to spa treatments were given away, compliments of businesses from Greentown to Milford, forty-five local businesses that donated prizes in a show of support for the Facility and its many volunteers:

Frank's Drug Store	Tom's Pardis Garage	Gumble Brothers
Spanky's Restaurant	TruValue Hardware	Privacy Pines
RJ Haircutters	Busters Cafe	Greentown Agway
Pops Drug Store	Wholesale Favors	John's Restaurant
Serenity Massage	Rubber Ducky Boats	Ehrhardt's Restaurant
The Boat House	Sol Hoi Flowers	Wooden Den Treasures
Price Chopper	Kittatiny Canoes	Home Depot
Apple Valley	California Sun	Medicine Shopper
Myer Florist	Susie's Sweet Shop	Lords Valley TruValue
Northeast Cabinets	Ray & Charles Deli	Ryan's Deli
Delaware Tire	Wrenches Auto	Picture Perfect
Stevens Auto Spa	Cliff Park Golf	Spiritual Journeys
Robert Abdy Dog Food	Blueberry Farm	Rogers Car Care
Litening's Auto	Jenn-A-Snippers	Kelly Motors
Milford Diner	Healing Zone	Auto Zone

My life is so much richer for being accepted into this special group of caring people, those "*Committed to Excellence*" as the facility's motto states. Everyone in our community is encouraged to apply to become a volunteer, and I strongly recommend it. The Volunteer Dinner was a wonderful show of appreciation, but the real "thank you" is the opportunity to serve others in such a supportive environment, and the smile on the inmates' faces each day when I walk through the door.

## **New Addition to the Programs Department!!!**



Terry Mooney received her Bachelors Degree in English from Fordham University and is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in education from Marywood University. Prior to her employment as the new Pike County Correctional Facility Treatment Counselor, Terry was performing duties as a substitute teacher at the Wallenpaupack Area High School. Terry is originally from New York City and she moved to Northeast PA right after the attack in New York City on 9-11. Grateful to have survived that experience and surrounded by the peace and beauty of the Poconos Terry made the decision to give back to the community by volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility. Terry has been the volunteer facilitator for the weekly “Writing from the Heart” program for the facility H. O. P. E. (Helping Offenders Promote Excellence) participants. For the past year her enthusiasm for helping others with recovery and rehabilitation issues has played a significant role in the betterment of facility programs participants. Terry’s desire to assist the offender population led to her eventual employment, and we consider ourselves exceptionally fortunate to introduce her as our newest Correctional Professional committed to excellence!



# PIKE COUNTY CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES

TAMMY McCULLOUGH  
DIRECTOR



TELEPHONE (570) 296-3446  
FAX (570) 296-3540

506 BROAD STREET  
MILFORD, PA 18337

*December 17, 2010*

*Donna Miller  
PIKE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
175 Pike County Boulevard  
Lords Valley, PA 18428*

*Dear Donna,*

*This agency wishes to express their gratitude for the donation of the 22 infant hats made by inmates. Their thoughtfulness will help provide a more cheerful and pleasant Holiday for our families in need.*

*May peace be more than a season.....may it be a way of life.*

*Wishing You All the Joys of the Holiday Season!*

*Very truly yours,*

*Tammy McCullough*  
*Tammy McCullough*  
*Executive Director*



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Pike County Correctional Facility  
175 Pike County Blvd  
Lords Valley, PA 18428

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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 352 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.