

Giving Back



2021

Inmates from the Rapid City Community Work Center assisted with the Auburn Fire near Rapid City in early October.



SDSP Deputy Warden Troy Ponto is pictured presenting checks to Julie Becker, Executive Director of the St. Francis House, left, and to Tamera Jerke-Liesinger who is the Executive Director at the Banquet, right.

Each charity was given a check for \$2,000. Inmates donated the money from recent pizza fundraisers.



Two inmates from the Rapid City Community Work Center were deployed Sept. 28-Oct. 1 to assist the Division of Wildland Fire with the Hat Mountain Fire in the Black Hills.

Officer Jim Binder is pictured at right gathering produce from the YCWC garden.

Produce that was grown in the garden has been donated to 10 local non-profit organizations so far this year.





An inmate pizza fundraiser at MDSP is benefitting the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 791 of Yankton!

A check totaling \$2,430 was presented to Post 791 on June 9.

Pictured left to right are Abby Spiecher, Dan Klimisch, MDSP Cultural Activities Coordinator Brian Foley, and MDSP Associate Warden Alex Reyes.

SD DOC K9 Handlers and their dogs pose with 1,500 confiscated cell phones that will be donated to Cell Phones for Soldiers, a national, non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing cost-free communication services and emergency funding to active duty military members and veterans.

Pictured left to right: Chris Happe, MDSP K9 Handler with Toby, SDSP K9 Commander Mark Kannenberg with Sadie, and Matt Geppart, RCCWC K9 Handler with Sadie.



Pheasantland Industries delivered some refurbished bicycles from Springfield Vocational Industries to the Promising Futures Fund in Sioux Falls April 9!

The Promising Futures Fund provides support to 12 elementary and two middle schools with the highest rates of poverty in Sioux Falls. The bikes are being distributed to the kids in those schools and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Sioux Empire.

KELO-TV aired a story on the bicycle donation April 13:

<https://www.keloland.com/news/positively-keloland/promising-futures-fund-working-with-doc-to-distribute-bikes-to-kids/>

Corrections Secretary Mike Leidholt, Chief Warden Darin Young and SDSP Deputy Warden Troy Ponto traveled to Mission, SD on Feb. 24 to donate items from state prison inmates to the Tree of Life Ministries, a non-profit relief agency. Inmates from the State Penitentiary donated \$4,000, hand-knit stocking caps and hand-made toys. KELO-TV documented the donation. You can watch their story here:

<https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/rosebud-reservation-receives-an-unexpected-donation-from-inmates/>

Inmates at the Rapid City Community Work Center recently donated \$352 to The Black Hills Children's Home as the result of an inmate pizza fundraiser January 29, 2021.

Pictured at right are Abby Sharp, the Volunteer Program and Development Coordinator for the Children's Home Foundation, and Hugh Foreman, Unit Coordinator for the Rapid City Community Work Center.

The Black Hills Children's Home is part of the Children's Home Society of South Dakota. It is a psychiatric residential treatment center and education school for children, ages 4-14, with severe emotional and behavioral needs. Many of the children are victims of domestic violence, neglect, and emotional, physical and sexual abuse. The Children's Home Society also partners with caring parents to serve children with emotional or behavioral needs. Most children are discharged from CHS/BHCH into a family setting including birth parents, relative placements, a foster family or an adoptive family. All funds received through donation are used for the children in the treatment center and to help with clothing the children and helping with the families learning how to manage the children.





Chief Warden and Director of Prison Operations Darin Young, left, and Native American volunteer Mary Montoya, right, presented a check for \$500 to Amy Carter, center, Director of Operations for the Children's Inn of Sioux Falls, Jan. 7.

The Lakota, Dakota and Nakota (LDN) inmate group at the State Penitentiary donated the money, which originally was earmarked for a powwow at SDSP. But the powwow was cancelled due to COVID-19 and the LDN group wanted the money to benefit others. The Children's Inn provides free services to victims of domestic violence, stalking, elder abuse, sexual assault and child abuse or neglect.

Along with the monetary donation, Children's Inn received a painting of a woman and child done by an anonymous Native American inmate.