MDSP inmates, staff and volunteers assisted in packaging food for Mercy Meals December 6. The food will be sent to orphanages in Haiti.

More than 60,000 meals were completed, enough food to cover three months worth of meals.

MDSP staff delivered 400 bicycles to the Law Enforcement Appreciation Game Feed in Sioux Falls November 12.

Left to right are: Al Mudder, Travis Kemnitz, Travis Tjeerdsma, Terry Gehring, Rebecca Schieffer, and Leroy Nelson.
Inmate gardens in Yankton and Rapid City produced more than 22 tons of food for community organizations during 2014.

YMU inmates harvested a total of 37,825 pounds of beets, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cucumbers, dill, kohlrabi, okra, onion, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, rutabaga, squash, tomatoes, turnips, watermelons and zucchini this year. The produce is donated to the Yankton Senior Citizens Center; Yankton Banquet; Yankton Area Adjustment Training Center; Human Services Center Dietary; Yankton Monastery; Yankton, Bon Homme County, Scotland and Gayville-Volin schools; Springfield Senior Citizens Center; Scotland Good Samaritan Center; Cedar Village Assisted Living; and the Freeman Bethany Food Pantry.

RCMU inmates started a garden this year. All of the materials for the garden were donated by various community organizations who utilize inmate labor, including tilling by the Central States Fairgrounds, seeds provided by the Community Action Program office and yard waste compost from the Rapid City Landfill. The produce harvested was given to the Rapid City Food Pantry at the Community Action Program to be dispersed throughout the area. Plans call for the garden to be expanded next year.

Inmates at MDSP were allowed to purchase chicken and pastries from Hy-Vee and a portion of the sale went to a local charity. The food drive resulted in a $744.00 donation to The Bon Homme Food Pantry and a $744.00 donation to the Yankton Contact Center!