SDSP Warden Darin Young, right, and Associate Warden Troy Ponto, left, are pictured presenting a check for $3,004.50 to Kerri DeGraff, Development Director for Feeding South Dakota.

Inmates raised the money through a pizza fundraiser in which they are allowed to use money in their inmate account to purchase pizzas.

Feeding SD is earmarking the money for their Back Pack program, which provides meals to at-risk children on weekends and holidays.

More than 150 inmates at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield volunteered to pack meals for Mercy Meals/Operations Grain Train charities on Dec. 10.

The inmates met their goal of 60,000 meals for the charities. The meals are sent to people in need around the world.

This is the third straight year the inmates at MDSP have been involved with the project.
SDSP staff member Katie Olson delivered nearly 1,000 hand-made wooden toys and 400 hand-knit stocking caps to various organizations in Sioux Falls.

The toys and caps are made by inmates at the Penitentiary and then distributed to community groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, Child Protective Services and the Community Outreach. Those groups then hand out the items to those in need.
In October, inmates at SDWP participated in a pizza fundraiser in which they raised $598.00 to help the Suicide Prevention efforts at the Avera Hospital. Many of the offenders themselves, family members and/or friends have been touched by suicidal behaviors at some time in their lives. The inmates wanted to provide preventative education, assistance in coping with stressors as well as support for the family members who have suffered a loss through suicide in the surrounding communities through this community program.

Pictured are Unit Coordinator Ridge Percival & Avera Suicide prevention Coordinator Julie Moore.

The Yankton Community Work Center offenders participated in a fund raising event on November 17. Offenders were able to buy pizzas from Godfathers Pizza and a portion of the amount paid by the offender went towards benefiting the Yankton Contact Center.

Pictured left to right are Contact Center staff Dionne Hento, YCWC Unit Coordinator Jan Boeckman and the Contact Center Director Jennifer Adamson receiving the check for $82.

The Contact Center projects the needs to fulfill the upcoming holiday will be for over 350 families.

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Pictured are Unit Coordinator Ridge Percival & Avera Suicide prevention Coordinator Julie Moore.
More than 450 refurbished bicycles were made available at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner and Charity Fundraiser in Sioux Falls Nov. 9.

The bikes are fixed up by inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield.

Law Enforcement pick up the bikes at the annual dinner and take them back to give to youth in their communities who need a bike.

MDSP Cultural Activities Coordinator Nicole St. Pierre, right, is pictured presenting a check to Chris Jacobsen of the Bon Homme Snack Pack program.

The inmates at MDSP recently held a food project fundraiser. They were able to give $683 to the Bon Homme Snack Pack program.
A new program called Food for Thought-New School Food Pantry in Yankton is getting a boost from the state Department of Corrections.

The Yankton School District has partnered with Feeding South Dakota to open a new School Food Pantry, Food for Thought, at Lincoln Elementary. Anyone who has children enrolled in the Yankton School District (pre-K through grade 12) and is in need of food assistance is welcome at Food for Thought. The first distribution was on September 14, 2016. Another distribution session is scheduled for September 28 from 6-8pm.

The Yankton Community Work Center (YCWC) inmate garden, utilizing space on the grounds of the Human Services Center Campus, provided 1,035 pounds of produce for the distribution event.

The items donated from the garden were potatoes, squash, carrots, broccoli, peppers, green beans, watermelon and tomatoes.

Case Manager Bruce Fisher oversees the garden project at the YCWC.
The Rapid City Community Work Center is completing a successful growing season. This year, inmate workers planted numerous vegetables including peas, beans, cucumbers, squash and zucchini.

Harvested vegetables were donated to Feeding South Dakota and Community Action Programs. Both non-profit organizations are located in Rapid City and help distribute food to local communities.

So far, over 1,000 pounds of produce has been donated locally.

Pumpkins grown by inmates in the garden at the Rapid City Community Work Center were delivered to Feeding SD, who in turn took them to hand out to students at General Beadle Elementary.

The donation topped 1,300 pounds!
Inmates from the Yankton Community Work Center are assisting with the construction of the Yankton Fire Department Museum.

SDSP Warden Darin Young presents the proceeds from a recent inmate pizza fundraiser to Jeff and Rhonda Haverhals, representatives from Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare in Sioux Falls.

Inmates raised $3,492 for the non-profit, faith-based organization established to work alongside men and women, and their families, upon their release from prison as they re-enter society.
SDSP Associate Warden Troy Ponto presented a check in the amount of $1823.50 to Kerri DeGraff, Feeding SD Development Director.

This money was raised from a recent inmate pizza event and will go towards the Back Pack Program.

Sgt. Jerry Peterson escorted eight Yankton Community Work Center inmates to the one day project which was held at the Riverside Park boat dock on May 7. The inmates helped unload more than 2.5 tons of garbage, metal and tires from the boats that returned to the dock.
Yankton Community Work Center inmates recently completed their annual roadside cleanup project of 57 miles along I-29 from the Iowa line to mile post 57. Between 15 and 18 inmates worked each day of the six day project. The inmate crews picked up an estimated 17,400 lbs. of debris and garbage.

SDSP Warden Darin Young, left, and SDSP Associate Warden Troy Ponto, right, present a check for $3,728.50 to Traci Jensen from the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education program in the Sioux Falls school district.

Inmates raised the money during a food fundraiser in December.

The funds will be used to purchase necessities for the students, alleviating a barrier to education.
Inmates, staff and volunteers at Mike Durfee State Prison combined to package 60,000 meals for Mercy Meals on January 16.

The meals are then sent across the world to feed hungry children.

This is the second time the Orphan Grain Train has stopped at MDSP.