



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Yankton Trusty Unit Honored for Community Work

(Yankton) - The Yankton Trusty Unit (YTU) has been named Volunteer of the Month for March by the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton.

United Way representative Pam Kettering presented the award to YTU staff Sgt. Bruce Fisher, Unit Manager Sherry O'Connor and Case Manager Becc Coyle March 12th.

YTU staff and inmates have been involved with several community service projects in the Yankton area, including the Marne Creek clean-up project that started in 1999. The project utilized approximately forty inmates a day for eight months. An inmate crew conducts clean up of the creek twice a year.

A garden project maintained by YTU inmates was started on the grounds of the Human Services Center in 1997. The produce harvested from the garden at the end of 2001 amounted to a market value of \$21,000. The produce was donated to senior citizen centers in Yankton and Springfield for disbursement to senior members of the community, the Yankton Adjustment Training Center and the Area Wide Banquet. Springfield Elementary Schools also received pumpkins that were grown in the garden for Halloween.

A snow removal project was initiated 2002 for senior or disabled citizens in Yankton. A Correctional Officer supervises up to twelve inmates that shovel walks or driveways when requested.

Inmate crews have also helped with the New Year's Eve Children's Benefit Dinner in 2000 and 2001.

A YTU disaster crew was deployed to the Yankton Mall in 2001 during a flash flood of Marne creek. The crew was utilized to prepare sandbags.

Other Yankton projects have included the Fox Run golf course, Yankton Fire Department, Yankton Chamber of Commerce, flower planting, senior citizen construction projects and citywide clean-up.

YTU inmates have also been utilized for projects Avon, Tyndall, Centerville, Clay County, McCook Lake, Spirit Lake, I-29 clean-up, Lennox, Oglala, Mitchell, Mt. Vernon, Scotland, Spearfish, Spencer and Volin.