



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Inmates Assist with Snow Removal in Sioux Falls, Yankton

(Pierre) – State prison inmates assisted elderly and disabled residents in Sioux Falls and Yankton over the past two weeks.

Minimum-security inmates from Unit C of the Jameson Annex of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls were dispatched to shovel snow for 57 elderly and disabled homeowners who were unable to clear the snow themselves or are financially unable to hire someone to do so for them. Inmates also cleared snow last week from the Family Connection, a Sioux Falls non-profit organization that provides resources to family members of inmates.

Inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit assisted 46 residents in Yankton following a storm last week and 45 more residents after drifting snow there this week.

The "Scoop It" snow removal program is coordinated through community resource organizations in the respective communities. In Sioux Falls, the HelpLine Center coordinates the effort, while the Senior Citizens Center does the same in Yankton. The organizations do a screening of those asking for the assistance and then inform the prison units of the need.

A correctional officer accompanies the inmate crew, which is made up of non-violent inmates who are nearing the end of their sentences.

The "Scoop It" program began in 2001. Inmates have assisted 91 households in Sioux Falls so far this winter.