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State prison inmates make, donate winter clothing for needy

Pierre, S.D. - State prison inmates are once again donating hand-made stocking caps to those in need and to various organizations that help others.

Staff from the South Dakota State Penitentiary gave 200 stocking caps to Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead and 200 more to Sioux Falls Police Chief Doug Barthel this week. An additional 60 stocking caps were given to the South Dakota Highway Patrol in the Sioux Falls area. Law enforcement plans to keep the stocking caps in patrol cars to distribute to those in need.

Stocking caps also were given to various community organizations and programs such as Special Olympics in Sioux Falls and Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center in Pierre and to Tribal Liaisons to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the various tribes in the state. Those caps will be given to those in need on the reservations.

Inmates knit stocking caps at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre using wooden looms, which are also built by inmates. The yarn used to make the caps is either donated or purchased at a discounted rate from area retailers.

Inmates are also able to give caps to their own children as they visit the inmates at a DOC facility or send them out to their children.

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