



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Inmates, DOC staff help brighten holiday season

Pierre, S.D. – State prison inmates and staff members from the Department of Corrections are helping make the holiday season brighter for others in a variety of ways.

Inmates at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls hand-knit more than 16-hundred stocking caps to be given to those in need. Penitentiary staff distributed the stocking caps to the Bowden Youth Center, The Banquet, Children's Home, Children's Inn, St. Francis House, Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House, Volunteers of America, the Gospel Mission, Sioux Falls School District, Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department, Sioux Falls Police Department and South Dakota Highway Patrol. Those organizations then hand out the hats to people who are in need.

Penitentiary staff also delivered toys that are made in the prison carpentry shop from scrap lumber. More than 500 toys were delivered this year to The Banquet, 200 to My Sister's Friends House, 100 to the Family Connection and 50 to the U.S. Marines for their annual toy drive.

Hats and toys were also sent to contacts on the Indian Reservations across the state so that they can be distributed to those in need.

Inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison refurbish abandoned and donated bicycles throughout the year to be given to youth in need across the state. A total of 550 bikes were handed out at the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Wild Game Feed in Sioux Falls on November 18th. More bikes have since been given out to other organizations throughout the state to be distributed to underprivileged youth.