



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

Website: <http://doc.sd.gov/>

Follow us on Twitter: @SouthDakotaDOC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder, SD DOC Communications & Information Manager

Inmates Donate To Project Warm-Up

(SIOUX FALLS, S.D.) – State prison inmates recently donated more than \$3,000 to a Sioux Falls program designed to help children in need.

Inmates from the South Dakota State Penitentiary and Jameson Annex were recently allowed to order pizzas with money in their prison commissary accounts from Pizza Ranch stores in Sioux Falls and Brandon. A portion of the cost of each pizza was earmarked to aid Project Warm-Up, a program that provides students in need with warm fleece blankets.

“It is very encouraging to see inmates from SDSP donate to such a worthy cause. Inmates have very little access to funds and they have still found it in themselves to make this donation which is very admirable,” said Secretary of Corrections Denny Kaemingk. “Inmates are dealing with the consequences for their own shortcomings, but have still taken the initiative to help others. This should be a challenge to all of us.”

“We are so fortunate to have this donation from the inmates. We have never had that large of a donation from one source before,” said Project Warm-Up co-founder and Edison Middle School Vice-Principal Tracy Vik. “We will be able to make almost 300 blankets with a donation of that size. The best part is that children in the Family Connection Program who have a parent incarcerated will be recipients of a new blanket.”

The Family Connection provides temporary shelter, emergency supplies, services and support to the families of inmates in an effort to facilitate visitation and strengthen families.

For more information on Project Warm-Up, visit their website at: www.projectwarmup.org.

For more information on the Family Connection programs, visit their website at:

<http://www.sdfamilyconnection.org/>

-30-

Our mission is to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts. To provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.