



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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December 20, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inmates, DOC Staff Members In Holiday Spirit

(SIOUX FALLS, S.D.)- State prison inmates and staff members from the Department of Corrections are helping to make the holiday season brighter for others.

More than 1,700 wooden toys such as cars, puzzles and jewelry boxes were made from scrap lumber in prison shops in Sioux Falls and Springfield to be given to law enforcement agencies and various charitable organizations for distribution to underprivileged children across the state.

Inmates at the State Penitentiary also knitted more than 1,650 stocking caps and made nearly 600 pairs of fleece mittens for distribution to those in need.

Toys, hats and bicycles refurbished by inmates in Springfield as part of the Pedal Power from the Pen program at the Mike Durfee State Prison were also given to youth attending various holiday events and visiting DOC facilities during the month of December. More than 450 bicycles were distributed to law enforcement from across the state during the annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Game Feed in Sioux Falls in November. The bikes are taken back to their communities and given to youth.

DOC Administration staff members donated money to fund holiday meals for two families through the Pierre Area Referral Service. Staff also donated \$50 to the Pierre Animal Welfare Society. Staff members from the Board of Pardons and Paroles office donated \$300 to the Sioux Falls chapter of Kids Against Hunger and \$100 to the Children's Inn of Sioux Falls.

The Sioux Falls Juvenile Community Corrections (JCC) office donated nearly \$200 to a family of three the staff sponsored through the Center of Hope Holiday Clearing House. Staff purchased toiletries, hygiene items, clothes, shoes and toys for the 3-year old child. Staff members of the Yankton JCC office donated a total of \$150 for fruit baskets for those in need, the Boys and Girls Club, and Toys for Tots.

(more)

“I’m very proud of the efforts of offenders and staff alike to make Christmas special for those in need,” said Secretary of Corrections Denny Kaemingk. “I have visited with inmates that are using their talents to make these gifts. They are very proud that they have been given an opportunity to give back. It certainly is a process that benefits both the inmate who made the item and the child that is receiving the gift.”

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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.