



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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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 once again helping to make the holiday season brighter for others.

More than 1,950 wooden toys such as cars, trucks, planes and castles 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 nearly 1,500 stocking caps 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. A total of 400 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.

Inmates and staff from Mike Durfee State Prison teamed up with local volunteers to help package 60,000 meals for the charity Mercy Meals on Dec. 6. The food will be shipped to orphanages in Haiti and will provide an estimated three months worth of meals.

DOC Administration staff donated money from special Jeans Days during the month of November to the Pierre Area Referral Service to buy holiday meals for families in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area who may not be able to afford one otherwise.

The staff at the Women's Prison collected books, coloring books, puzzles and markers to donate to the Sanford Children's Castle.

(more)

The Sioux Falls Juvenile Community Corrections office sponsored a family of three through the Helpline Sharing Christmas fund, providing gifts and needed household items.

The Yankton Adult Parole & Juvenile Corrections field office made donations to the United Way and to the Yankton Police Department "Shop with a Cop" program.

In Rapid City, Juvenile Corrections agents donated money to the Boys and Girls Club to assist with a winter clothing drive.

State Penitentiary staff members are holding special Blue Jeans days during December to raise money for a family in Parker that recently lost everything they owned in a fire.

"I'm very proud of the DOC staff members who give up their time and continually come up with ideas on how to benefit others," said Secretary of Corrections Denny Kaemingk. "I've had the opportunity to visit with the inmates making the toys and caps. It's heartwarming to see the pride they take in utilizing their talents to give back to others."

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Note: Video of inmates working on the toys and stocking caps is available on the DOC YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SouthDakotaDOC>.

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.