

# CS TODAY

### **SPECIAL ISSUE**

From the Desk of the Commissioner **Acting Commissioner** Anthony J. Annucci New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision



#### **DOCCS Makes A Difference** 2018-2019

Between 2018-2019, Community Supervision and facility staff "Made A Difference" in their communities.

You donated food, gave blood, served meals, contributed clothing and personal items, and delivered boxes of books to communities statewide. You held coat, toy, food, and other drives for community members and organizations.

You supported a host of organizations, including the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, Autism Society of America, Catholic Charities, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Center for Prevention of Child Abuse, Empowering Young Minds Within Inc., Exodus Transitional Community, Inc., Honor Flight, Hope House, Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, SEFA Shriner's Hospital, and Special Olympics, – to name just a handful.

Even incarcerated individuals got involved.

Men in Horticulture programs grew pumpkins, plants and flowers that were donated to community residents, organizations, and local food banks. They crafted centerpieces and wreaths to adorn hospital rooms during the fall and Christmas seasons.

Men in the Building Maintenance Vocation Shop at Lakeview Shock Incarceration Facility built two Adirondack chairs and a small table that were raffled off at the Van Miller Annual Golf Tournament. And Instructor Burgess's Vocational Horticulture Program students grew 1,039 pounds of produce that was donated to local food pantries.

The Veterans Group of Auburn donated knitted/ crocheted hats, scarves and mitten sets for adults, baby hats, and stuffed animals. They also donated \$700 to education, veterans agencies and food pantries.

And the Program for a Calculated Transition (PACT) members at Green Haven Correctional Facility donated 250 school bags and supplies to children *visiting in August – a donation worth \$5,000.* 

When we provide service and assistance to our communities, it not only is one of the most rewarding things we can ever do on a personal level, but it is also a way we advance our collective humanity.

Thank you for all you do and for your continued *support for the communities we serve.* 



### DOCCS TODAY

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### Community Supervision Efforts

#### December 2019

- Bronx Reentry: Staff completed the 2020 SEFA campaign with 21 staff members committing to making bi-weekly payroll deductions to various charities for an annual total of \$2,271. They also donated \$196.25 to the Autism Society of America and Catholic Legal Immigration Network.
- Brooklyn III: Staff donated clothes, coats and toys to fifth graders at P.S. 284 in Brownsville.
- Poughkeepsie: Staff donated toys to the Christmas Toy drive for Exodus Transitional Community, Inc.

#### November 2019

Brooklyn II: Bureau Chief Welch and her daughter collected donations for the non-profit organization, Empowering Young Minds Within Inc., providing for the delivery of food to three local churches, as well as turkeys and other food items to 24 families for Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day, the donations aided three churches in feeding over 500 less fortunate men and women. PO Gray also assisted and donated food and money to this cause. Also, PO Jackson helped feed seniors at the R.D. Brown Senior Center, Brooklyn on Thanksgiving Day.

#### December 2018

- Brooklyn Region: On December 14, Bureau Chief Smith, his wife, and her students from P.S. 284 visited the Brooklyn Regional Office and provided staff with a holiday performance, including singing and dancing to holiday carols. The students also presented staff with custom designed paperweights they had created. Bureau Chief and Mrs. Smith provided the students with lunch and staff gave them gifts as part of this holiday celebration and community relations event.
- Poughkeepsie: Staff donated toys to Dutchess County Exodus program to be given to children of clients at Exodus for Christmas.
- Staten Island: Staff invited designated parolees to "Christmas Toys for All" on December 22. The event is sponsored by The Community Life Center, which helps individuals obtain toys for their children, reducing the financial burden returning citizens might have during the holiday season.

#### **BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**

In October 2019, the Manhattan/Staten Island Reentry staff participated in National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They sold Breast Cancer Awareness pins for \$5 donated proceeds to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and Breast Cancer in Young Women-Young Survival Coalition. Reentry hosted its Pink Ribbon Day on October 18, where they continued to sell Breast Cancer Awareness pins and asked purchasers to join the staff in wearing the pins and pink clothing.













### **Facilities Efforts**

The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) renewed its commitment to assist people and agencies throughout New York State.

Although not all activities were conducted on National Make A Difference Day, October 26, 2019, DOCCS employees participated in activities throughout the year to benefit a variety of community organizations.

Based on the submissions from the correctional facilities, the following information is based on cumulative efforts, taking note of special acts of kindness, some of which were conducted on Saturday, October 26, 2019.

Total number of staff participating: 10,289

Total number of incarcerated individuals participating: 618

Total amount of money raised: \$99,599

Total value of donation: \$209,151

Thanks to everyone who participated in making a difference!



The DOCCS Make a Difference Committee winner will be announced and featured in the next issue of DOCCS Today (Spring 2020)



### **Angel Tree Donations**

Every child has a story. For 2.7 million children in the U.S., that story may be filled with the abandonment, loneliness, and shame that comes from having a mom or dad in prison. Angel Tree reaches out to the children of prisoners to help them know that their parents, although incarcerated, do care about them. (www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree)



During December 2019, Lakeview **S.I.C.F.** staff participated in the Angel Tree Program through the **Brocton Central School and** donated gifts for 55 students.

Angel Tree has been an annual project for Five Points Correctional Facility and its Make a Difference Committee has supported Angel Tree since the facility first opened in 2000. Committee members Deb Kennett and Mandi Schultz received a call from Seneca County Social Services with the names of local children in need of gifts for the holiday season. As in previous years, the employees stepped up and donated toys, games, bikes, toiletries, and clothing, which were delivered in December.



### **Albion Correctional Facility**



#### **Harvested for Donations**

August 1: 157 pounds August 19: 278 pounds September 16: 259 pounds

October 11: 447 pounds October 23: 415 pounds August 8, 2019: 420 pounds September 5: 453 pounds October 2: 431.5 pounds October 15: 255 pounds

#### **TOTAL DONATION 3,115.5 pounds**



### **August Blood Drive**

16 total presenting donors 11 whole blood donors 1 double red donor 10 First time donors with Unyts

#### Albion Make A Difference Committee Members

DSP K. Vasile, SIGM M. Thomas, IRC II A. Pearl, IRC II, and RPL II K. Olinger

### **Altona Correctional Facility**



In October 2019, NYSCOPBA members and staff at Altona participated in the national "Wear Pink" campaign for breast cancer awareness.

Members pledged funds and wore authorized pink articles of clothing, ribbons and pins to show their support. A total of \$1,000 was raised between donations and food sales and then donated to Northern New York Chapter of Guardians of the Ribbon, also known as "Pink Heals."

Pictured are participating members and NYSCOPBA Chief Steward N. Ayotte presenting Jim Garrant, Co-Owner and Operator of "Pink Heals", with a check for \$1,000.

Believe that you make a difference.

@MARIEFORLEO

### **Attica Correctional Facility**



In December 2018, Attica MAD committee members met with an innercity afterschool program housed at Villa Maria College. Committee members read books to students, provided a healthy snack, and even had a snowball fight with Frosty the Snowman.

**Pictured: MAD Committee members** Lois Ingalsbe, Amber Sikorski, Kristen Warren, Emily Mayback, Dan Snyder (Frosty), Laura Chiarmonte, Sister Roz and students of the Villa Maria College **Afterschool Program** 



In October 2019, Attica MAD committee members traveled to the New York State Veterans' Home in Batavia. Members engaged in conversation with residents, served cider and donuts, and provided a festive fall craft activity. Each resident was given a poppy flower crocheted by an incarcerated individual and the Attica Correctional Facility was able to donate \$200 towards the Veterans' Home Activity Fund.

Pictured: MAD committee members Amber Sikorski, Dan Snyder, Kristen Warren, Mary Huebbers, Sister Roz, and President of the Veterans' Home Activity Committee, Jerry Schenck

### **Auburn Correctional Facility**

# You Make A

- Employees collected and donated toy items for the local Christmas Toy Drive in December 2018.
- Last holiday season, the Auburn Four Committee Employee Fund donated \$1,128 to the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency for the Christmas Elf Program to assist families in need with gifts, food, and necessities.
- Auburn Community Guardians donated \$1,054 to the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.
- The Veterans Group of Auburn crafted blankets, scarves, gloves, booties and other handmade items that were donated to area charitable organizations at their annual Veterans Christmas Giveaway in December 2018. They also made hats and booties that were donated to the Auburn Community Hospital Maternity/ Birthing Center.
- To date, over 100 boxes of food, clothing, and personal care items from the Package Room were donated to the local Cayuga-Seneca Community Action Agency and the Salvation Army in Auburn worth approximately \$11,500.
- The Jean Day Program runs throughout the year. For a \$1 donation, employees can wear jeans on Fridays. At the end of the year, the money is donated to the local Community Christmas Elf Program, which provides families in need with food, clothing, gifts and other items during the holiday season; \$1,600 was donated in 2018 and \$1,300 has been collected for the 2019 donation.
- American Red Cross Blood Drives were held twice this year with approximately 40 employee donors participating.
- The Auburn Community Guardians conducted a Toiletry Drive to benefit the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency. Personal hygiene products, including body wash, soap, toothpaste, feminine products were collected. They raised money approximately \$3,000 to purchase additional items for the local Domestic Violence Abuse Shelter and other local agencies.
- The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive donated 40 pounds of food for the St. Alphonsus Food Pantry and an additional 120 pounds to the Auburn Salvation Army.
- The Veterans Group of Auburn donated \$700 to education, veterans agencies and food pantries.
- They held a Hot Dog Eating Contest at a local, off-site location and raised approximately \$1,000 for the Seneca/Cayuga ARC.
- The Veterans Group of Auburn donated knitted/crocheted 275 hats/scarves/mitten sets and 50 stuffed animals to four local food pantries and to the Auburn Community Hospital and Auburn Community Center. An additional 157 baby hats were crafted for Auburn Community Hospital.

### **Bare Hill Correctional Facility**



Bare Hill presented AAENY with a check for \$1,636.94.

L-R: DSA Kemp; Teacher J. Johnston; Teacher M. Leonard; AAENY Local Representative; C. Van Houten, Ora M. Fountain; DSP Barton; Superintendent Yelich; and DSS Bishop

Bare Hill Correctional Facility's submission for the category of Most Impactful Activity Performed in the Community is our 2018 Make a Difference Day benefitting the Autism Alliance of Northeastern New York (AANENY).

In November 2018, Bare Hill Correctional Facility crewed up for Make A Difference and raised money for the AANENY. Each department was encouraged to put together a holiday themed basket for the basket raffle. Some of the baskets donated by facility staff included holiday wrapping, cookies and cocoa, handmade coffee tables, holiday centerpieces, holiday pet supplies and a holiday kitchen basket. Facility staff also volunteered to put together a spagnetti lunch and raffle baskets raising a total of \$1,636.94.

The AANENY is a resource center that helps fund speech and language, music, Applied Behavioral Analysis, occupational, floor time, educational, and skill therapies. There is a five-point plan that can help make a difference to thousands of families. This plan affords opportunities, effective communication, community participation, housing, and access to information to people with autism.

Autism affects 1 in 68 children. Reports show that autism is more prevalent in males than in females. One-in-34 males and one-in-151 females are affected; boys are five times more likely to suffer from autism than females.

Over 3.5 million people in the United States have autism, costing each family an average of \$60,000 a year through childhood with the majority of costs for special services and lost wages related to increased demands on one or both parents. Costs increase with the occurrence of intellectual disability.

Through support and education, AANENY empowers individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and their families, within Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties.

Bare Hill's donation to AANENY went directly to provide services to families affected by autism spectrum disorder in Northern New York.

# **Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**



EVENT/PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT RAISED/DONATION VALUE	BENEFICIARY
SEFA	\$10,800	
Veterans Coat Drive	65 Coats/\$81.25	VA Hospital, Montrose
2018 AIDS Walk-A-Thon	\$164	Vocal A NY 80
Project HOPE Food Drive	85 pounds/\$106.25	13 Local Charities
ALS Charity Bake Sale	\$1,200	Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association
Martin Luther King Food Drive	175 pounds/\$218.75	Local Food Bank AME Zion Church
Martin Luther King Literacy Drive	158 books/\$197.50	Reach Out and Read Greater New York
Veterans BBQ	Fed 48 Veterans/\$192	VA Hospital, Montrose
Breast Cancer Awareness	\$2,591	Community organizations to be determined

### **Cape Vincent Correctional Facility**

Benefit Winter Coat Drive: Cape Vincent now provides this benefit to five local school districts. MAD spent \$1,288 on children's winter coats and boots for Alexandria Bay, Cape Vincent Elementary, Guardino Elementary, LaFargeville Central and Lyme Central Schools. L-R: MAD members Darlene Vaughn, Ann DeJourdan, Jolene Radley, and **Linda Stone** 

Clayton Community Christmas Fund: MAD sent \$100 to the Clayton Christmas Fund to provide groceries and gifts to families in need.

Literacy Project: Each year, Cape Vincent funds a book purchase for a local elementary school. This year, MAD gave \$454 to the Cape Vincent Elementary School for books for students in grades K through 5. Children were allowed to pick the book of their choice and each book was labeled a gift from Cape Vincent.

Adopt a Platoon: To date, the MAD committee sent books, hygiene products and non-perishable food items weighing 285 pounds to our Armed Forces serving abroad.

Thousand Islands School District Backpack Program: Cape Vincent donated 48 new backpacks to Thousand Islands Central School, which feeds hungry children in the local community.

School Supplies Drive: Committee members shopped for children's underwear, sweatpants, socks and school supplies and equally distributed them between Alexandria Bay Central School, Cape Vincent, Guardino, LaFargeville and Lyme Elementary Schools. L-R: MADD members Meredith MacKay, Jolene Radley, Leslie Moore, Sally Hennigan, Brittaney Cole, Linda Stone, Ann DeJourdan, and Darlene Vaughn

Gouverneur Women's Breast Cancer Fund: Staff raised \$280 for the Gouverneur Women's Breast Cancer Fund.

Martin Luther King Food Drive: Staff donated \$292 (150 pounds of canned food) to the Clayton and Cape Vincent Food Pantries.

SEFA Drive: Staff contributed \$20,190.

Community Gardens Vegetable Donations: 1,370 pounds (\$2,430) of assorted vegetables was donated to the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County.

MAD Valentine's Day Sale: Baked goods were sold in the facility to fund charitable donations throughout the year.

L-R: MAD members Linda Stone, Dori Eyles, and Hope Ann LoPresti









# **Cayuga Correctional Facility**

In October, Cayuga raised \$160 in Domestic Violence Ribbon sales, \$545 from the Domestic Violence Basket Raffle, and \$6,245 for SEFA.

From June through October, 2019, 25 incarcerated individuals participated in the Harvest Now program, helping to donate over 3,000 lbs. to local food banks.

### **Clinton Correctional Facility**

From November 2018 through October 2019, the Make a Difference Committee raised \$1,300 and made donations to: Toys for Tots, Honor Flight, North Country Food Bank, Parkinson Disease Foundation-Team Fox, JCEO-Food Shelf, Thera-Pets, Elmore SPCA, Alice Hyde Medical Center—Reddy Cancer Center. In December 2018, staff from the facility attended the Polar Express annual local presentation with a donation of toys from the facility for Toys for Tots, as well as a monetary contribution to the Honor Flight organization.

### **Collins Correctional Facility**

In December 2018, and January, March, April, June, July, August, September and October 2019, staff donated hundreds of pounds of food and non-food items to the Greater Gowanda Area Food Pantry.

In May 2019, staff collected 297 hygiene items Hygiene Drive.

In August 2019, staff donated 19 board games to the Compass House of Buffalo.

In October 2019, staff collected costumes for local elementary students in need.

In February 2019, staff raised money for Character Education, a student incentive program at a local school.

And in January 2019, the Adopt a Family Christmas Project collected various gifts donated by facility workers for the locally adopted families, as well as three \$200 grocery cards.

### Corcraft

Corcraft participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive and collected 386 pounds of food. For the Martin Luther King, Jr. Literacy Drive, staff collected 209 books and \$403.50 in cash donations. It held soup sales, which raised \$364 in contributions

### **Eastern Correctional Facility**

Eastern participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive and collected 572 pounds of food, which it donated to the Rondout Food Pantry. In March 2019, its bake sale amassed \$215. And 95 staff participated in the May 2019 blood drive, saving 297 potential lives.

### **Edgecombe R.T.F**



#### Photo 1: Food Drive

Edgecombe employees supported those struggling to feed their families by donating approximately 139 pounds of food to the New York City Food Bank on 116th and Frederick Douglas Boulevard. The donations were a collaborative effort by volunteers, employees, and the incarcerated population. A variety of snacks and nonperishables, such as Ramen noodles, pasta, and canned food were delivered.

#### Photos 2 & 3: School Supply Drive

Edgecombe continues to support the academic efforts of youth and recognize the classrooms in need of supplies. In response, staff organized a school supply drive during August and backpacks were filled with school supplies collected and then donated to MS 328, the middle school next door. Edgecombe supports community youth and strives to enrich their academic efforts. Its annual school supply drive collected 18 backpacks full of much-needed school supplies.

#### Photo 4: Halloween 2019

Staff and incarcerated individuals at Edgecombe celebrated Halloween 2019 with the Harlem community. Treat bags were donated by the ILC and distributed to over 50 neighborhood trick or treaters. Candy was also distributed to visitors, incarcerated individuals and parolees. Staff were in the Halloween spirit as they donated their time and donned costumes to distribute the goody bags. ADSP Malfi (L) and Superintendent Miller are shown in costume before going outside to distribute the Halloween treat bags.



# Edgecombe R.T.F.



An officer contributes to the bake sale fundraiser



Sister Bivens announces Pink Cheer Raffle winner

Making a difference in people's lives throughout the year has become practice for the employees at Edgecombe Residential Treatment Facility. Staff willingly support the Washington Heights community and are generous with their time and donations. This year, Edgecombe donated 23 turkeys to students for Thanksgiving. Also, several staff and their families participated completed the 5-Mile Central Park Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. And Edgecombe contributed \$1,356 to the American Cancer Society.





# **Elmira Correctional Facility**

#### Elmira staff raised:

- \$750 for the Salvation Army of Chemung County—Safehouse
- \$750 for the Catholic Charities of Chemung County—Victim Services
- \$500 for the holiday food donation to Catholic Charities

### **Fishkill Correctional Facility**

In January, Fishkill staff and its Diversity Management Committee participated in the Martin Luther King Food Drive and donated 532 pounds of food to the local pantry.

# **Five Points Correctional Facility**

In early November, Five Points collected gently used and new clothing, such as coats, sweaters, shoes and other warm weather items and donated them to the House of Concern in Seneca County, which gave them to local families.

In mid-December, Five Points had its annual Angel Tree event, which donates gifts to children. This year, they reached out to Seneca County Social Services and received the names of 10 children. Each child's name was added to an ornament and placed on the facility's Christmas tree. When a name was selected, staff received a card with the child's wish list. Once all names were selected and gifts collected, Make a Difference Committee members delivered the gifts to Seneca County Social Services.

Finally, in February, Five Points participated in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive. At the end of the drive, the food collected was donated to the local food bank, which helps replenish the food bank after the holidays.



Six boxes of nonperishable items were collected from December through February and donated to the Ovid Food Pantry in Ovid by Committee members W. Clinton and D. Kennett

Photo Left With the help of D. Kennett and M. Schultz, Five Ponts employees came through by donating over 500 clothing items responding to a request from Seneca Falls House of Concern and delivering them in time for the holiday.

Photo Right: Five Points Make a Difference and EAP Committees received hundreds of non-perishable food items in February, which were delivered to the Ovid Food Pantry by Committee members W. Clinton and D. Kennett.





# **Franklin Correctional Facility**





Photo 1: Make A Difference Day Committee Members Linda Ghostlaw, Bianca Rodriguez, Lisa Hopkinson, Terri LaPlante, Desirae Goodspeed, and Betsy Boyea present a check for \$800 to James O'Brien for the Burke Adult Center.

Photo 2: Make A Difference Day Committee Committee Chairperson Betsy Boyea, and members Bianca Rodriguez, Linda Ghostlaw, and Ruth Demarse present a check for \$800 to Ruth Demarse and Vicki Garrand for the Malone Adult Center.

### **Gouverneur Correctional Facility**

November 2018: Gouverneur donated over 125 items, such as hats, scarves, bottled water, blankets., and a \$100 monetary donation sanitizer to the Richard E. Winter Cancer Center in Ogdensburg for patients.

December 2018: Donated \$150 to the Gouverneur Central School/Kiwanis Backpack Program to help stock their pantry with items to place in 167 backpacks to help feed children in the school district.

February 2019: Collected and donated \$500 and 45 pounds of food to the Grace Food Pantry.

March 2019: Donated \$150 to "Friends for Pound Paws" for cat litter, cat and dog food and other supplies.

April 2019: Donated \$200 to Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley, which uses these funds for supplies and to care for individuals and families in need. The committee also purchased and donated 100 books for the Martin Luther King Book Drive for Gingerbread, a local preschool in Gouverneur.

May 2019: Donated \$175 to the Gouverneur Women's Breast Cancer fund, which helps those undergoing treatment for cancer. The committee also held an American Red Cross Blood Drive and 21 employees donated blood each drive.

June 2019: The committee donated \$175 to Meals on Wheels in St. Lawrence County.

June - September 2019: The committee purchased seeds for the Horticulture Program to grow vegetables and donated 5,670 pounds of produce to St. James Food Pantry in Gouverneur, including zucchini, yellow squash, lettuce, peppers, carrots, cucumbers, cabbage, tomatoes, corn, potatoes, and onions.

September 2019: Donated \$125 again to the Gouverneur Central School/Kiwanis Backpack Program.

October 2019: Held an additional casual day where staff wore purple to honor Domestic Violence Awareness and raised \$150 to donate to the Renewal House in Canton.

### **Gowanda Correctional Facility**



The 2019 Gowanda SEFA Campaign is reaching its \$10,000 goal. The final raffle directly benefited Oshei Children's Hospital, Roswell Park, Kids Escaping Drugs and Veterans One-Stop. Gowanda has a Josh Allen Color Rush Jersey and the Josh Allen Oshei Children's Hospital specially designed hat. Both items are limited in the number made and sold.



The Make a Difference Committee spent two Saturday mornings with the residents of Fiddler's Green Manor in Springville and the Absolut Care Center in Eden.





Photo 1: Gowanda donated three boxes containing over 90 books to the Gowanda Free Library for young teens and children. The collection was overseen by Senior Librarian Caroline Kennan and delivered by members of the Facilities Diversity Management Team, pictured.

Photo 2: Daren North, Building Maintenance Instructor, along with his students, built purple martin birdhouses that were donated to the Independent Order of Vikings, Lodge No. 65, in Jamestown. These birdhouses weigh over 100 pounds each and need a crane to lift them in place. Instructor North said this project offered an opportunity for his class to learn new skills and to give back to the community.

### **Great Meadow Correctional Facility**

December 2018: Donated winter hats, boots and mittens to the children at Fort Ann Central School as part of their Adopt A Family Program.

January 2019: The SEFA Campaign donated \$307.93 to a non-profit charity for Correction Officers and their families by providing line of duty death benefits and catastrophic assistance in cases of accident or illness.

April-May 2019: Staff sponsored several fundraisers amassing over \$3,000 to assist employees' families with personal tragedies, such as house fires and children with life changing illnesses.

June 2019: Over 150 staff members participated in a Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes and participated on the Evans Super Heroes Team for the son of a Corrections Lieutenant. Beyond the employees' personal contributions, the Make A Difference fund donated \$500. Also, over 50 staff participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run and staff donated \$1,000 to the Special Olympics Team.

### **Green Haven Correctional Facility**



Green Haven staff collected, assembled and donated nonperishable 180 pounds of food items with a cash value exceeding \$564 for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive. The food was donated to Castle Point Food Pantry in Wappingers Falls located in Dutchess County.

Green Haven's donation assisted in replenishing the Castle Point Food Pantry, which will aid individuals and families in need.

With the approval of Superintendent Royce, the PACT inmate organization, with the assistance of DOCCS staff, donated 250 school bags and school supplies to children visiting the facility in August 2019. The Excel School campaign was funded by the PACT program and the value of the donations was \$5,000.

Since many of those incarcerated at Green Haven hail from New York City, this donation of 250 school bags assisted both parents and the children as they prepared for the new school year. This small gesture of kindness and goodwill has made a difference in the lives of recipients and donors.

### **Greene Correctional Facility**

From November 2018 through October 2019, Greene's Make A Difference Committee held several fundraisers to benefit the following local community:

- In November 2018, staff adopted 12 families from Albany and Greene counties, Catholic Charities and domestic violence shelters.
- In February 2019, The Committee held a flower sale for Valentine's Day, enabling staff providing roses and carnations.
- In March, staff raised money to donate to local food pantries.

# **Groveland Correctional Facility**

Groveland employees and incarcerated individuals enjoy giving back to the community and sprucing up a few of its neighbors for the 2019 fall season was one way they did. Lt. B. Semmel donated bales of hay and cornstalks. The Lifer's Organization grew pumpkins, squash, and gourds were grown in their garden, and mums were donated by Fitzpatrick's Farm Market in Arkport, a local farm the facility uses for its Horticulture Program.





Groveland Secretary 1 T. Daniels decorated the front steps and mailbox on the roadway of the Hornell Area Humane Society. Hornell Area Humane Society is a vital component to Groveland's Canine Program.



Groveland employees OA2 S. Zeh and E. Briggs, and Vocation Instruction S. Stanley, decorated the front steps of Kids Start, a local day-care center in Mt. Morris.



Groveland employees OA1 C. Miller and J. Harrison decorated the entrance of the Mount Morris High School in Mount Morris.

### **Hale Creek Correctional Facility**

The Make a Difference Day Committee at Hale Creek collected and donated over \$600 in toys to Catholic Charities of Fulton and Montgomery counties for families in need.

L-R: Acting Steward Michele Maye, PA Chrissy Gottbehut, PA Alyssa Duesler, and Officer Brockley



Hale Creek CF Make a Difference Day Committee held a fundraiser in October for Domestic Violence. Staff donated items, raised \$300, and purchased a Wal-Mart gift card to donate to the Family Counseling Center (Women's Domestic Violence Shelter) of Fulton County.



L-R: PA Alyssa Duesler, PA Christine Gottbehut and Darlene D'Onofrio



Hale Creek adopted a family for Christmas through Fulton County Catholic Charities and donated boots, sweaters, toys and \$282 to the family. L-R: PA Christine Gottbehut and Stewart Michele Maye



Hale Creek's Make a Difference Day Committee collected \$335 along with several boxes of school supplies.

The money was used to purchase school supplies, book bags and lunch pails. All items were donated to Warren Street School in Johnstown.

L-R: PA Alyssa Duesler, SORC Jackie Gibson, School Principal Nikki Lent, and PA Chrissy Gottbehut

# Lakeview S.I.C.F.

**Lakeview Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility** Executive members donated \$400 to Chautauqua County American Legion Boys State Program. Superintendent Kubik presented the donation to Henry Link, Commander of the John W. Dill Post 434 and Boys' State Chairman to cover the cost of attendance of a young man to Boys State in 2019.

Superintendent Kubik (left) pictured with 2018's Boys State participant, Gabriel Persch, and Commander Henry Link



In October, the Lakeview Vocational Painting and Decorating Program built, decorated and painted a snow-covered mountain display of boot tags for the Westfield Union Relief Association's "Winter Boot" donation; staff purchased boots for 60 local children.



In May, staff members participated again in the Annual Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run with Special Olympic Athletes carrying the torch from Dunkirk High School to Fredonia State College. Lakeview is the only group that runs in formation and sings cadence.



In December, staff collected 82 boxes of cereal for local families for Westfield Union Relief Association's "Cereal" donation.



### Lakeview S.I.C.F.





Building Maintenance Vocational Shop students constructed two Adirondack chairs and a small table that were raffled at the Van Miller Annual Golf Tournament for the Van Miller Scholarship Fund.

Lakeview Vocational Horticulture Program students participated in the Harvest Now Program under the supervision of Horticulture Instructor Burgess, providing 1,039 pounds of produce to Chautauqua County Rural Ministries and West Portland Baptist Church's food pantries.

# **Marcy Correctional Facility**

### Let's Make a Difference



#### November 2018: Veterans United Organization

Incarcerated participants of the Veterans United Organization donated \$500 to the Rescue Mission of Utica for their holiday season program, \$500 to the Rome Rescue Mission for their Christmas program, and \$700 to assist veterans during the holiday season.

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive

This year, Marcy collected and delivered 350 pounds of food and three bags of clothing to Central New York Veteran's Outreach Center.

# **Mid-State Correctional Facility**



In December 2018, the Mid-State Correctional Vocational Horticulture program created 20 beautiful holiday centerpieces and wreaths for senior citizens at Sitrin Nursing Home. Pictured: Vocational Horticulture Class with Vocational **Instructor Dan Pylman** 



Four Mid-State employees and their families walked the 5K Heart, Run & Walk in March 2019 to bring awareness and raise funds for the American Heart Association. Pictured: CO Bailey & Family, Diadre Poccia, OAII & Family, Jaclyn Misiaszek Vocational Instructor IV & DSP Teri Kozak



In December 2018, Mid-State Make a Difference Committee teamed up with the Office for the Aging and Big Frog 104 to bring 37 senior citizens gifts for the holidays. Staff raised funds, shopped for, wrapped, and delivered the items. L-R: Program Aide Kelley Renninger, ORC Courtney Laliberte, ORC Michaline Younis, ORC Suzette Moore, ORC Laura Parisi, ORC Alka Sowich, Teacher 4 Patricia Pierce-

Degraw, Teacher 4 Caitlin Kerr. and Teacher 4 Jocelyn Roe



In March 2019, Mid-State Make A Difference Committee fundraised to support Whitesboro School District and its students by providing necessary hygiene products.



In September 2019, staff held a bake sale and raised funds for about \$1,500 worth of supplies and hygiene products for Holland Patent School District. Pictured: Holland Patent Staff with Mid-State staff Melissa Hardiman (white sweater), Supervisor **Correctional Facilities Volunteer Services and** Jaclyn Misiaszek (stripes), Vocational Instructor IV and Holland Patent Principal Jason Evangelist

### **Mohawk Correctional Facility**



Vegetable Garden Program: Mohawk staff collected new hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to benefit Hope House.

Pictured: AA2 Laura Bell, AA1 Lorrie Manuele, AA1 Dana Spann, and Payroll Examiner/ACA Manager Melissa Minor

#### **Annual Food Drive**

In October 2019, Mohawk staff and the Food Production Center held its annual food drive, collecting nonperishable food items to benefit the Rome Rescue Mission.

#### **Annual Blood Drive**

In October, Mohawk staff held a blood drive to assist the American Red Cross replenish its blood supplies. It was the second blood drive held at the facility in 2019. A total of 37 pints of blood was collected.

#### Hope House

Hope House was the recipient of two boxes of women's and children's gloves, mittens, scarves and hats that staff donated. This drive was sponsored by the Diversity Management Committee.

#### Facility Dress Down Day

CSEA (Local No. 195) sponsored "Facility Dress Down Day" held on Fridays, and "Donut Day" held on payday Thursday. Money collected throughout the year from these two events are given to various local charities, including Ride for Missing Children, CNY Veterans Outreach, the Human Society of Rome, the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, and Ronald McDonald House.

Mohawk had another successful year of Make A Difference events and will continue to provide donations and assistance to organizations and individuals in need.

# **Ogdensburg Correctional Facility**



**Correction Officer Mike Rogers delivers** produce from Ogdensburg Correctional Facility's garden program to Potsdam **Neighborhood Center Director Kristal** Hayes

Photo credit: Cheryl Shumway, North **Country Now** 

Vegetable Garden Program: Ogdensburg donated 34,476 pounds of produce, including zucchini and yellow squash, banana peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, green and yellow beans, cucumbers, green and sweet peppers, spaghetti and butternut squash, tomatoes, red and green cabbage, eggplant, pumpkins, potatoes and cherry tomatoes to local organizations and received the following recognition:

#### Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry

"...I cannot begin to express what a HUGE difference this program makes in the lives of people who face food insecurity in the North Country! This program allows these families to have fresh fruit and vegetables on their tables that they otherwise would not be able to afford... On behalf of the families who receive food from the Norfolk Raymondville Food Pantry, as well as the senior citizens who reside at the High Street Apartments in Norfolk, thank you for our share of the 34,476 pounds of food distributed this summer!

Wendy Chambers and Patricia Matthews

#### Canton United Methodist Church

"...The Vegetable Garden program has helped so many individuals within the Canton community... We have witnessed several people come in while the dinner is started and go straight to the vegetable table... Thank you for keeping this program alive. You are not only teaching your inmates a skill, but you are helping hard working Americans stay healthy by providing fresh vegetables to their families.

Carlton Doane, Director of Hospitality

#### North County NOW Opinion: Canton food pantry thankful for donation from correctional facility November 5, 2019

We'd like to express our deepest appreciation to Ogdensburg Correctional facility and its garden crew for their generous weekly donations to our food pantry this summer. The highlight of the week was when CO Mike Rogers appeared with a truckload of fresh, nutritious and tasty food for our pantry families.

Church & Community Program food pantry serves low-income residents from the Towns of Canton, Clare, DeKalb, Hermon and Russell as well as the Villages of Richville, Rensselaer Falls, and Heuvelton. Need is great; in August we provided food for 244 households. Thanks to OCF, we were able to include a rainbow of fresh vegetables, which our families truly welcome.

Last summer, we offered free vegetables to seniors at the high-rises down the street from us, and Mike helped us hand them out. He was the star of the day with the seniors and we were delighted to offer the food. Since then, we've added a full delivery program to the high-rises and, again, the OCF donations are very popular.

I understand that the garden crew raised, and donated, nearly 35,000 pounds of food. That's incredible, and we simply can't say thank you enough for sharing with us.

Connie Jenkins, Church & Community Program, Canton director

Read North Country Now's article: "Ogdensburg Correctional Facility brings food to local pantries"

### **Orleans Correctional Facility**



The Make A Difference Committee donated to eight community-based organizations in Albion, Batavia, Buffalo, and Rochester. A committee member contacted each organization to determine their specific donation needs, which are identified below. The donations were made in person by the Make A Difference Committee.

**Ronald McDonald House:** Assorted kitchen items, such as crockpots, coffee cups, paper cups, K-

cups and a ceramic griddle.

**Crossroads House:** Two electronic video monitors, dosing syringes, \$40 Walmart gift card.

Dimitri House: A check for \$300. A check for \$300. ARC/Rainbow Preschool: **Hospice of Orleans County:** A check for \$300.

\$300 towards the purchase of food warmers and coolers for meal **Nutrifare Program:** 

delivery.

Assorted bathroom supplies, kitchen supplies, adult and children's **Lockport Care:** 

clothing, and personal hygiene supplies.

Knights-Kaderli: A check for \$300.

The Orleans Make A Difference Day Committee is comprised of the following members:

Lewis Urban, Deputy Superintendent for Programs Barbara Passarell, Secretary 1

Cathy Chmielowiec, Teacher Chris Sputore, SIGP

Connie Keller, State Shop Clerk John Gurney, Maintenance

Kim Niehaus, Payroll Clerk Kate Heinrich, Teacher

Patty Mitchell, Vocational Instructor Todd Tinkham, Vocational Instructor

Jacquie Snook, ORC

# **Otisville Correctional Facility**

Otisville staff and organization members conduct year-round activities to assist its neighbors in many endeavors.

December 2018: Donated \$8044 to the SEFA Campaign.

The Make a Difference Committee sponsored the following events:

November 2018: Sponsored two families for Thanksgiving dinner through the Holy Name of Jesus Church. Provided turkeys, roasting pans, and baskets full of everything you need for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Also donated \$209.45 to the Hospice of Orange & Sullivan Counties.

December 2018: Donated \$100 to the United Service Organization, \$150 to Hudson Valley Honor Flight, and \$100 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Organization.

February 2019: Donated five (5) boxes of hats, scarves, and stuffed animals to Bethany House.

March 2019: For the Martin Luther King Food Drive, donated 700 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable food to the Regional Economic Community Action Program.

June 2019: Held the Celebrate Your Children event and hosted a "carnival" themed event in which 52 children saw a magician, played games, painted, received gift bags, prizes, and had professional photos taken.

August 2019: Donated 34 backpacks stuffed with school supplies to Safe Homes of Orange County to help children and teens going back to school.

September 2019: Sponsored Heart Healthy screenings. A Registered Nurse from Orange Regional Medical's Healthy Heart Clinic performed screenings for approximately 30 staff members. Also, held the Dunk Tank Fundraiser when Otisville's Deputy Superintendent of Administration, Deputy Superintendent of Security and several Lieutenants and Sergeants volunteered for the dunk tank, raising \$700 to help a local family with expenses for their child's specialized heart surgery.

October 2019: Donated 24 Halloween gift bags to Orange Regional Medical Children's Ward.

The Otisville Mounted Horse Patrol: Officers volunteer their time to participate in facility and local community events throughout the year. They participated in the following events:

December 11 A Night at Otisville sponsored by Tribeca & John Jay at Otisville

April 28 Otisville Little League Parade

June 18 Barber School Grand Opening at Otisville

September 7 General Montgomery Day Parade

# **Queensboro Correctional Facility**





Queensboro contacted Hour Children to see how employees could assist the organization after receiving a tour. and an invitation to one of its graduating ceremonies. Queensboro staff (pictured above) decided to organize Hour Children's warehouse, which it uses to store everything from furniture, videos, music, and wedding dresses.

In August 2019, Queensboro collected more than 180 pounds of food and delivered it to the Food Bank for New York City. The food drive was a collaborative effort by the incarcerated population and employees.

Queensboro also provided community services to those they felt required assistance. Through the Volunteer Program of New York Cares, Volunteer Services Supervisor Wright along with family, set out to prepare, cook and serve food at St. John's the Divine Soup Kitchen on Amsterdam Avenue and 112th Street. Queensboro collected food from employees and the incarcerated population to donate. Volunteer Services Supervisor coordinated along with family, to assist in preparing, cooking, serving and cleaning up for more than 250 less fortunate individuals at the Soup Kitchen. Some of the recipients also received supplies donated and have expressed that Queensboro cares and "makes a difference."

Annually, Queensboro shows its commitment to fight breast cancer. Current and former employees and family members gathered at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens in October to walk three-plus miles around the park to bring awareness and fight against the deadly disease. Queensboro CO J. Frazier, Regional Coordinator Food/ Nutritional Services J. Bulaya, retired PO D. Harris and Volunteer Supervisor O. Wright participated in the Annual Breast Cancer Walk hosted by the American Cancer Society.





### **Riverview Correctional Facility**

**New Socks Drive** 



### Committee members Julie Guarino and Donna Matthys are

pictured (left) giving 50 pairs of socks to St. Joseph Nursing Home staff Sarah Matthie, Stephanie Lytle, Melissa Lalonde.

Brenda Horton and Donna Luckie



L-R: MAD Secretary Hillary George,





#### **Winter Clothing Drive**

Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center Director Andrew Miller, MAD Treasurer Donna Matthys, and MAD Chair Vernon Burns

#### Other Donations

Riverview Make a Difference Committee donated backpacks filled with nutritional foods and snacks for the Snack Pack Programs at all participating schools in St. Lawrence County, and donated clothing to the Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center.



L-R: Andrew Miller, Director of Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center; Vernon Burns, Make a Difference Committee Chairperson; and George Kelly, Make a Difference Committee Member

Martin Luther King Jr. Book Drive

During the holiday season, the Make a Difference Committee donated money to several local organizations providing meals to local communities.



### **Monetary Donation**

L-R: MAD Chair Vernon Burns, MAD Treasurer Donna Matthys, Past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 268 Bill Taylor. and MAD Committee Member Julie Guarino

Other events include Lights on the River. Law **Enforcement Torch Run for** Special Olympics and SEFAjust to name a few.

### **Shawangunk Correctional Facility**





Shawangunk donated school supplies to the Wallkill Central School District. They received a thank you letter from Superintendent of Schools Kevin Castle:

"We are very appreciative of the assortment of backpacks, paper, pens, pencils, notebooks and cravons... Our compliments and thanks go to all your staff [bringing] home the spirit of community and good people working together for good causes."

L-R: Wallkill School District Assistant Superintendent for Support Services Brian Devincenz, DSP Joan Taylor-Stewart, Accreditation Officer Joedy Stevens, RPL 1 Jason Bonagura, Senior Librarian Lauren Marcus, and Superintendent of Schools Kevin Castle.

#### **Print Shop Project**

In 2019, Shawangunk Print Shop printed 1,000 Town of Shawangunk Transfer Station Permits, 300 tickets for Most Precious Blood Roman Catholic Church's Barbeque luncheon in September, the Gardiner Senior Resource Committee's booklet "Senior Resources for the Town of Gardiner 55+ Population", and the Pine Bush Lions Club fundraising letters and envelopes. They received a thank you letter from Shawangunk Town Clerk Jane Rascoe, Pine Bush Treasurer Sue Wiand, Parish Secretary Lisa Wendel, and Gardiner Senior Resource Committee Co-Chairs Jane Barile and Marie Zapf.



#### St. Joseph's Pantry Food Drive

The staff at St. Joseph's Food Pantry were so grateful for the Shawangunk donation of approximately 150 pounds of healthy food.

#### **Operation Dalmatian**

Shawangunk participated in Operation Dalmatian and received a thank you letter from Rev. Jim Van Houten, Pastor of Walden Baptist Church and Walden Fire Department Chaplain:



"With the money and gift donations we received we were able to provide gifts for all the children on our list, as well as for the few dozen last minute names we received right up to Christmas Eve. Not one family in need was sent away without gifts! We were also able to make a few food baskets and distribute them to a

few families who were in need of more than just gifts. as well as gift cards to ShopRite, Hannaford, or Wal-Mart so they would be able to get a few groceries. "

# **Sing Sing Correctional Facility**

#### LACROSSE FOR DEPLOYED SOLDIERS

In May, American Legion Post No. 1123, composed of Sing Sing employees who are veterans of the Armed Services, hosted a great day of "Lacrosse for Deployed Soldiers". About 135 young players comprising six teams from Westchester, Rockland and Nassau counties took part in the games with each player donating a nonperishable food or toiletry item to be sent to our troops on deployment. The players enjoyed the day immensely and 12 boxes totaling about 425 pounds of supplies were sent to the soldiers. Players also received a letter of appreciation thanking them for their donation and awarding them four hours of community service for their







# **Southport Correctional Facility**

#### SENECA COUNTY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

This year, all staff were invited to participate in a series of Make & Take craft classes at the Quality of Work Life Building at Southport. The first class participated in painting signs on wood boards. Participants each paid \$28 and materials were donated for the class. Southport collected \$448 for the Kramer Foundation.





# **Southport Correctional Facility**

#### **SENIOR LUNCHEON**

Southport raised \$215 toward the Senior Luncheon in November and donated 572 pounds of food to the Town of Rochester Food Pantry for the 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive.



# **Sullivan Correctional Facility**

Toys purchased by Sullivan Inmate Liaison Committee (ILC) were given by ILC members to children visiting loved ones during the holiday season.



L-R: ILC members Gabriel Cabrera, Danny Hearns (Santa Hat), and Almodovar, Eshawn (Elf's Hat)



Denysha Cabrera, wife of ILC member Gabriel Cabrera, and their daughter, Gabriella

# **Ulster Correctional Facility**

EVENT/PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT RAISED/ DONATION VALUE	BENEFICIARY
Toys for Tots	\$430 in gifts	Children of Ulster County
Martin Luther King Food Drive	70 pounds/\$200	Ellenville families
Martin Luther King Literacy Drive	56 books/\$200	Kids Peace, Kingston
Heart-A-Thon TV Raffle/Meal Fundraiser	\$566	American Heart Association
Easter Egg Hunt	\$814	Family members' children
Officer Fundraiser	\$2,200	An officer whose child had a serious medical emergency
Wreath Donations	\$800	Various local charities
Domestic Violence Awareness	\$99/\$300	Item donations for local women's shelter

# **Upstate Correctional Facility**

\$3,697

**SEFA** 



# Wallkill Correctional Facility

#### Wallkill staff:

- Picked children's names from the Giving Tree and purchased 100 gifts.
- For the Martin Luther King Food Drive, Wallkill donated 138.9 pounds of food to the Wallkill Food Pantry.
- Civilian staff paid \$5 for dress down Friday for a total of \$155 donated to the Susan G. Komen for breast cancer awareness.

# Washington Correctional Facility

EVENT/PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT RAISED/ DONATION VALUE	BENEFICIARY
Make a Difference Fundraiser	\$227	
Food Drive	169 pounds/\$200	Sacred Heart Church
Food/Clothing Drive	132 pounds/4 boxes 36.05 pounds food 22.50 pounds clothing	Adirondack Veterans House
Senior Citizens Christmas Drive	40 boxes of food/\$1,600	
Martin Luther King Food Drive	\$297.95/341 pounds food 21 pounds clothing 32 pounds toiletries	
Adopt-A-Soldier	\$200	
Backpack Program	20 backpacks, supplies	Local school



### **Watertown Correctional Facility**



Watertown continued to give back by donating to local charities and participating in several community projects/ events.

MADD committee members included Superintendent O'Meara, DSP Knights, Carolyn Swiecki, Heavenly Duerson, Melissa Watson, Katelyn Jerome, John Rogers, Denise Cumoletti, Kaitlyn Duesler, and Benjamin Decker.

### Wende Correctional Facility



# Willard Drug Treatment Campus

Every year. Willard utilizes multiple plots of land surrounding the facility and its Vocational Horticulture Program plays an integral role from cultivation, to planting, to harvesting the vegetables.

Once harvested, vegetables are picked up by the Community Action Agency and transferred to local food banks for donation.

In addition to the donations. its program students are getting invaluable experience in the horticulture vocation.

By far, Willard's program is the largest donator of fresh vegetables for these food banks in the region. The project is a collaboration between Willard participants, its program and security staff.



# **Wyoming Correctional Facility**



Make A Difference Committee members at All Babies Cherished worked to give it a new look. L-R: Jessica Bramer, Rebecca McCowen, Mary Acker, Shanda Schmidt, Nate Montford, Wendy Walsh, Jed Balduf, and Sandy Rhoat with All Babies Aboard employees



L-R: Rebecca McCowen, Pantry Representative, Shanda Schmidt, Wendy Walsh, Nate Montford, Jessica Bramer, Jed Balduf, Sandy Rhoat, and Mary Acker





The Make a Difference Committee donated to The Michael Napoleon Memorial Foundation. L-R: Rebecca McCowen, Shanda Schmidt, Wendy Walsh, Foundation committee member, Jed Balduf, Sandy Rhoat, Foundation founder Nate Montford, Jessica Bramer, and Rebecca McCowen



The Make A Difference Committee donated candy to City Church/Teen City for the children's Halloween event.

L-R: Jessica Bramer, Mary Acker, Sandy Rhoat, Shanda Schmidt, Wendy Walsh, representative from Teen City, Nate Montford, Rebecca McCowen.

Superintendent Sticht, Jessica Bramer, Mary Acker, Sandy Rhoat, Rebecca McCowen, Jed Balduf, Cory Weber, Nate Montford, Wendy Walsh participate in the Angel Action Gift Drive