

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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DOC Laundry Shop Lauanders 8,500 Bras for the Cause

Media invited to the Nov. 4, 10:30 a.m. project in Sykesville

TOWSON, Md. (Nov. 3, 2010) – Inmate workers at Central Maryland Correctional Facility (CMCF) on Thursday will wash, dry and fold more than 8,500 bras in one of Maryland Correctional Enterprises' (MCE) largest community projects. That's about 1,200 pounds of bras, which would cost about \$500 to have commercially laundered.

The bras are collected by the Frederick radio station WFRE during the month of October as part its "Bras for a Cause" drive. MCE launders the undergarments for free before they are distributed to local women's groups and shelters.

Media is invited to visit the facility at 10:30 a.m. Thursday during the project. Please RSVP to Erin Julius, above. Please remember that no cell phones, weapons of any kind or other contraband are allowed in the facility.

Last year, MCE participated in the charity drive for the first time, laundering 5,035 bras for the cause. That year, WFRE's campaign raised more than \$6,000 for the Susan G. Komen For The Cure (\$1 per bra, donated by a radio station sponsor, plus cash donations).

This year, the drive raised \$10,212. That amount will be donated to the Breast Cancer Unit at the Frederick Memorial Hospital Regional Cancer Therapy Center.

The laundry operation at CMCF in Sykesville was established in 1959 (as the "Central Laundry Unit") and is now run by MCE, which is the prison industry arm of the Division of Correction (DOC). It employs approximately 100 inmates. The three-year recidivism rate for MCE inmate workers is less than half that of released inmates as a whole. Roughly 50% of all released inmates return to the system within three years; for MCE inmates, the recidivism rate is 24%.

Directions to CMCF (7301 Buttercup Road, Sykesville): Md. Route 32 to Raincliffe Road (just north of the Howard-Carroll County line); turn east onto Raincliffe; first left onto Buttercup Road. Central Md. Correctional Facility is immediately on the right.

The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.

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