

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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DPSCS Salutes its Volunteers During National Volunteer Week, April 15-21

TOWSON, MD (April 16, 2012)---Even with a ten-figure budget, Maryland corrections could barely function without volunteers---special people who choose to help the men and women incarcerated in DPSCS-operated State prisons and pre-release centers.

This week, during National Volunteer Week, Maryland correctional facilities will celebrate the thousands of men and women who teach conflict resolution and mediation; host aerobics classes; assist incarcerated veterans with special services; and conduct religious activities for dozens of faiths, to name just a few.

Eastern Correctional Institution, the state's largest prison, alone has more than 200 registered volunteers---folks who come in on a regular basis to help the dedicated staff provide services and activities for an inmate population of more than 3,300. ECI will host its annual prayer breakfast, organized by the facility's chaplains, on April 24th.

Maryland Correctional Training Center, the state's second largest prison, hosts a picnic lunch in Boonsboro's Shaver Park for its scores of much-appreciated volunteers.

Western Correctional Institution in Cumberland has a luncheon slated for April 20th.

In the Baltimore City pre-trial facilities, hundreds of volunteers perform a wide variety of services, from helping indigent veterans find work; to teaching women how to make jewelry out of recycled paper; and even teaching teenagers awaiting adult charges how to grow vegetables and tend a garden.

DPSCS facilities have Volunteer Activity Coordinators, whose mission, in short, is to provide as many activities, services, and programs for inmates as possible without spending taxpayer dollars. These employees are responsible for recruiting, training, and supervising the several thousand volunteers who daily make prison life better and safer for staff and inmates alike.

DPSCS salutes its volunteers, chaplains, and Volunteer Activity Coordinators during this National Volunteer Week.

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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