

# Volunteer



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Director

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**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

# BUCKEYE REACH

EDUCATION MENTORING PROGRAM

## Receives 2013 Service & Volunteerism Award



# BuckeyeREACH



The Buckeye REACH program at Circleville Juvenile receives **TOP HONORS**



This year's recipient of the ServeOhio Award was the Buckeye REACH program at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF). The award honors an outstanding group whose volunteer service has been instrumental in designing or sponsoring a program or project to benefit the community and individual needs, demonstrated extraordinary initiative and commitment, the ability to leverage volunteers in service to their organization and demonstrable impact and unwavering commitment to their community.

Dr. Patricia Cunningham, director of social change for the Office of Student Life, said about 100 OSU students participate in the mentoring program. The Buckeye Reach Program is designed as a way to help kids who are incarcerated at state juvenile facilities improve their education and not return to prison once they are released.

The program came out of a need to help stop young people from repeating mistakes and going to prison, Cunningham said. REACH stands for Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope. Cunningham said the REACH program is having a positive outcome on the students.

"This is almost a thankless job because a lot of the kids they are visiting are forgotten about," she said. "I think it says something about the OSU Students character when they would rather visit the prison than go to the Penn State game."

The Buckeye REACH program also has been implemented in the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility and starting at the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Facility.



## Birthday Bash

At Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility



In September 2013 CHJCF celebrated 9 youth and 2 volunteer birthdays. Youth attend Birthday Bash Sundays

with excitement, and eagerly await the portion of the service devoted to cake, ice cream, games and other expressions of celebration. In addition to the volunteers and family members who regularly attend Worship, a volunteer from their Original Church joined us to assist with serving the youth on this special day.

October Birthday Bash was attended by 47 youth who helped us celebrate the 17 youth birthdays born in the month, 6 of whom actually attended Worship. One Volunteer celebrated a birthday with us. There were 4 family members with us throughout the celebration. Mural Painting

# The Fall Bible Bowl Tournament at CJCF

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

## Circleville Wins Again !!!

The fall Bible Bowl Tournament at CJCF, held September 24<sup>th</sup> resulted in another victory for the team at CJCF. Outside guests and volunteers formed the opposing teams and were very knowledgeable in the Bible. However, the Circleville youth were much faster in buzzing in on the questions and outscored the opposition three games to one. The quizmaster, Mr. Gass, did a great job in keeping the game organized despite the speed of each game.



The next tournament will be scheduled during the December School intersession and promises to be more exciting than the last two. There will more outside teams that will be invited and other DYS teams will be challenged. Please keep this vital program in prayer and invite volunteers to come in and coach teams.

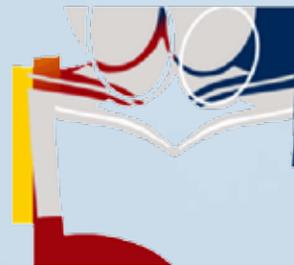
# Bikers for Christ back at Circleville

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

The roar of the bikes drew youth to their windows to see what was happening on the yard. As they watched 15 Gleaming motorcycles and their riders moved along the sidewalk and on to the outside basketball courts. Youth from each unit came out to see the bikes and talk with the members.

Each member gave a personal testimony and encouraged the youth with faith in God and a gentle spirit of grace. The youth had an opportunity to see Christian men demonstrating their faith walk outside the normal church stereotypes.

Members of Bikers for Christ meet with youth at CJCF



**PROJECT MORE**  
MENTORING IN OHIO FOR READING EXCELLENCE



DYS is looking for reading tutors to assist youth 1 hour per week at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. Project M.O.R.E. (Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence) is an evidenced based tutoring program designed to improve the reading level of a youth. Tutors will work with youth one hour per week, during each one-on-one tutoring session. All tutors will receive volunteer training. No specialized educational training is required. Many DYS youth are in need of improved reading skills. Helping a youth learn to read will increase their opportunities for employment and

improve their quality of life. Interested volunteers tutors will receive training in December of 2013 and Project M.O.R.E. is scheduled to begin January 2014. If you are interested in working to improve a youth's reading skills, please contact Mary Beth Conklin at (614) 466-9318 or e-mail at [marybeth.conklin@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:marybeth.conklin@dys.ohio.gov) for additional information.



# FROM SCRATCH

Volunteers Teach Youth Cooking Skills

## Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

From Scratch is the name of a faith-based volunteer group of ladies. The group originated from Meadowbrook Christian Fellowship Church in Dublin, Ohio, 7 years ago. The focus of the volunteers is to heed Jesus' words in the Bible (Matthew 25:34-40) in which He shares His concern for those in prison. From Scratch volunteers do crafts of all kinds with the girls. The latest activity is to teach two girls to cook and serve a meal. Fun, fun, fun! Volunteers are blessed in this work as we watch the girls relax and become calm as they create. Also, a smile, laugh, and friendship are priceless gifts the girls give us.



Youth at Scioto working together to prepare a special meal for guest



Volunteers and Guest enjoy a meal prepared by youth at Scioto



## EPIPHANY WEEKEND #9

Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility



Epiphany volunteers work with youth at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

During the month of October Indian River hosted Epiphany Big Weekend #9. There were over 20 volunteers from various churches that came together to serve and encourage youth about faith, hope and love.

There were 20 youth that have the opportunity to experience Epiphany for the very first time. To assist the volunteers and to serve the youth there were 8 youth deacon leaders. Deacon leaders are youth that have attended a

previous Epiphany weekend as well as one that demonstrates positive behavior. Every day was filled with food, fun and games, songs and life changing topics. Some of the topics included: forgiveness, forgiveness of oneself, forgiveness of others, loved by the Creator, understanding that each has a purpose and growing in one's relationship with God. Overall the weekend was life changing for all involved.

# VOLUNTEERS GRADUATE FROM CHAPLAINCY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

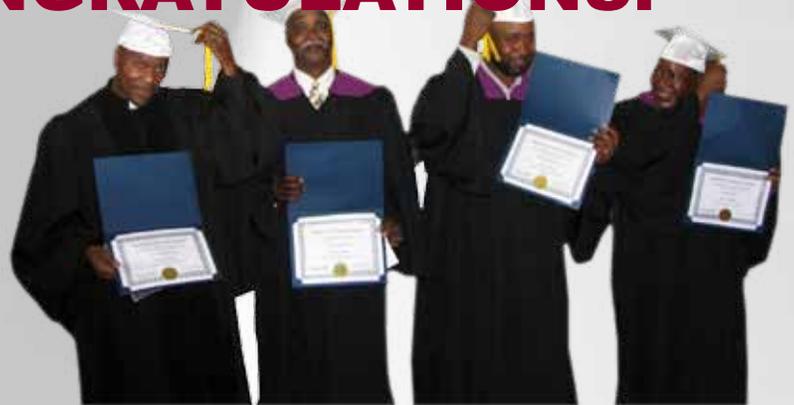
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility



## CONGRATULATIONS!



Family and friends celebrate with new Chaplaincy graduates



Chaplaincy Graduates Celebrate at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

During the month of August, the volunteers at CHJCF participated in the monthly Birthday Bash, a renewed program, Families in Touch (FIT), and the Chaplaincy Internship Program Graduation.

Parents, Patsy and Duane Dole, now head up the FIT program designed to help parents and families new to the facility be able to navigate the system, share information and support one another through the incarceration of the youth. This program uses biblical principles but is not only biblical and non-biblical principles to help all people regardless of their faith. The class is open to family members of the incarcerated youth's visit list.

Birthday Bash is always a time of celebration at the Hills.

Volunteers help youth, staff and volunteers enjoy their birthday by serving cake and ice cream for everyone. In addition, after the worship service, organized games and activities help the youth feel special.

The Chaplaincy Internship Program Graduation is an important milestone in the lives of volunteers who've joined the program to learn how to give their best to prison ministry. Upon graduation, each volunteer is asked to serve the youth at CHJCF for an additional year of hands on education, and direction. Graduates and Volunteer Interns provide exceptional service to the facility because they have a greater understanding of the rules and of the most effective ways to serve in this ministry.

## EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS NEEDED TO FACILITATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH Ohio ONE Stop program

**WHO:** A collaboration between the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and local workforce development partners.

**WHY:** To reduce recidivism through pre- and post-release focused employment, training, and support services thereby ensuring that youthful offenders have a solid understanding of the job market, access to resources, opportunities for employment within specific markets, and are prepared to search and connect to work upon release via employment plans.

**HOW:** Through the operation and coordination of pre-release One-Stop Centers located in state managed juvenile correctional facilities (JCF) which are then further connected to the post-release network of Ohio's One-Stop System (Ohio Means Jobs).

**WHAT:** Utilization of the existing partner networks of community based services, One-Stop partners, and ex-offender coalitions that will provide in-house correctional facility services that replicate job search activities, physical sites, and programs in the outside world. This includes making available the Ohio Re-Entry Connections website within the juvenile correctional facilities which mirrors the OhioMeansJobs.com statewide job matching system.

**WHEN:** The first pilot at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility is anticipated to begin operations in late 2013. Implementation of other sites within the ODYS system will continue during 2014.

**WHERE:** Cuyahoga Hills JCF (CHJCF), Indian River JCF (IHJCF), Circleville JCF (SJCF)

If you are interested in becoming a partner with ONE Stop, please contact Kim Humphrey, Reentry Administrator, ODYS

Contact: Kim Humphrey  
Reentry Administrator, ODYS  
614.644.1765  
[Kim.Humphrey@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Kim.Humphrey@dys.ohio.gov)

# YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Builder Update - Trade Magazine Recognizes Vocational Program at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



Employment is one of the keys to a successful reentry, and DYS is committed to planting the seeds for youth to become reliable, productive workers for today's workforce.

DYS is delighted to announce the launch of the DYS Youth Apprenticeship Program. By offering apprenticeship opportunities to those youth who are ready to assume more responsibility, DYS is improving opportunities for career preparation.

Apprenticeships are comprehensive educational options that include teaching a youth how to be part of a workforce. These opportunities help to instill the values of hard work, character, reliability, dedication, productivity, cooperation and work excellence, which serve youth well throughout their working years. Apprenticeships provide a useful education and career choice that help youth learn while getting ahead.

The Youth Apprenticeship Program at DYS is launching this month for youth who have a High School Diploma or General Education Development (GED) Certificate. DYS will offer youth real work experiences that provide training that is recognized by the United States Department of Labor through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. The first offering of the Youth Apprenticeship Program is the Culinary/Cook Apprenticeship. This program, which is beginning at all four facilities, will prepare youth for the restaurant industry through hands-on experiences in the facility's cafeteria.

DYS anticipates expanding apprenticeship opportunities to Facilities Building Management, Landscape, Dog Training and more in the coming months.



Youth learn how to work with power tools and the importance of measurements



## Holt Launches Innovative Vocational Program for Scioto Youth



John Holt of New England Homes recently created an innovative program to help youth at the Ohio Department of Youth Services' Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility learn construction trades.

Holt, a volunteer at Scioto, came up with the idea for the Vocational Bridge Professional Program, known as VBPro, after talking to a teenager during a Scioto bible study class. The youth had a dream of becoming a brick mason – but no idea how to make his dream come true. This struck close to Holt's heart because he began his homebuilding career as a brick mason.

The conversation gave Holt the inspiration to start VBPro, a program to introduce Scioto's young men and women to the different trades in the construction industry. Holt says the project's goal is to give Scioto youth something to be excited about for their future.

VBPro's training modules each focus on a specific trade and include an introduction to the trade plus a hands-on demonstration of how it is performed.

In VBPro's first project, students are learning the basics of framing by working on wood shelving for the Fifth Avenue food pantry currently being built by Vineyard Columbus.

Holt says VBPro is designed to give Scioto's male and female youth not only a useful skill they can build into a career – but also a connection with the world outside the Scioto facility and a sense of pride for a job well done.

NOV/DEC 2013 BUILDER UPDATE



# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

## SCIOTO JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



Scioto Shows Appreciation to its Volunteers  
The Scioto Volunteer Appreciation Day took place on October 29, 2013. Approximately 92 volunteers attended the event. Ms. Jones (SJCF Superintendent) thanked the volunteers for serving the youth at Scioto. The youth entertained the volunteers with a puppet show, singing,

poems etc. Youth from the Wood workshop program displayed their carpentry skills of making corn-hole games and wooded cars during the event. Volunteers were delighted to win these prizes thru a raffle drawing. Chaplain Dunlap was also recognized during this time for his services in DYS.

## Ohio's Recidivism Rate Drops by 11%

NEW YORK — The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center's National Reentry Resource Center (NRRC) released a policy brief today highlighting a number of states reporting significant, reductions in recidivism. The states profiled in the report show significant declines in their three-year recidivism rates based on data tracking individuals released from prison in 2005 and 2007. Texas and Ohio reported reductions of 11 percent, while the Kansas rate fell by 15 percent and Michigan's rate dropped by 18 percent. Incorporating data through 2010 (and in some cases, through 2011), the report provides the most recent multi-state information available on recidivism.

US Senator Rob Portman (R, OH), a co-author of the Second Chance Act, applauded the states, including Ohio, for their accomplishments. "Second Chance Act programs, in collaboration with faith-based and community organizations and local reentry coalitions, have a proven record of helping inmates turn their lives around, and I applaud their continued good efforts to reduce recidivism. Encouraging people released from prison to become productive members of society not only strengthens communities, but also

reduces the burden on taxpayers who shoulder the costs associated with incarceration."

The brief, "States Report Reductions in Recidivism," highlights strategies that leaders in several states credit with helping drive down recidivism:

In Ohio, state policymakers standardized the use of a validated risk assessment instrument to focus limited treatment and supervision resources on those individuals assessed at the highest risk for reoffending.

Denise E. O'Donnell, Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) in the US Department of Justice, congratulated the states highlighted in the brief. "At BJA, we're supporting states who are committed to taking a data-driven approach to lowering re-offense rates of people released from prison and jail. Later this week, we'll be announcing major awards to a select group of states that are setting recidivism reduction targets, and like the states highlighted today, are using evidence-based approaches to meet the goals they set."

*Article from Corrections.com (Dec. 2, 2013)*



**Department of  
Youth Services**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Harvey J. Reed, Director

November 22, 2013

TO: Volunteers  
FROM: Director Reed  
RE: Facility Closure

I want to inform you of the Department's decision to close the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF) on May 3, 2014. Over the course of the past two years, the DYS population has dropped from an average of 685 youth in October 2011 to 525 youth in October 2013. With a 23 percent drop in population, closing the facility improves the efficiency of our operations.

As of yesterday, there were 38 youth at SJCF (20 males and 18 females who reside separately). Male youth will be gradually reassigned to the remaining facilities according to their security, educational and programming needs. I am confident that our staff is well-equipped to handle these youth safely and effectively. We are evaluating the appropriate placement options for our female youth, including placement at private residential facilities and Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs), and will certainly keep you informed as the plan advances.

We are required to follow all layoff procedures according to union contracts and the Ohio Revised Code; however, we will offer a DYS position to all staff impacted by this closure and who are not ready to retire. During the next few weeks, we will work closely with the affected bargaining unit and exempt staff to identify positions for which they are qualified.

For those of you who currently volunteer at SJCF, please know that we greatly value the gift of your time and service. We encourage you to consider volunteering at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility or at another location. Clifford Smith, Volunteer Coordinator for DYS, is happy to discuss options with you at 614-466-8561 or by email at [Clifford.Smith@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Clifford.Smith@dys.ohio.gov).

Thank you for all that you do to make a difference in youths' lives.