

DYS **Ohio** | Department of Youth Services

VOLUNTEER NEWS BRIEF



Harvey J. Reed
Director

Volume 19

Office of Community Partnerships

Fall 2015

Volunteer Spotlight



John Dilworth



Dale Richardson



Kenneth Warren



Youth Speak

about Volunteer and Religious Services Programs



Massillon Bible College

Rock of Ages

at the Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

EPIPHANY WEEKEND at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

Thirty volunteers from various area churches held the eleventh Epiphany weekend at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility. Chaplain Neal said, "The weekend was a huge success. The volunteers were energetic and spirited as they engaged the youth." The four day event was comprised of testimonies, motivational speaking, break-out sessions, biblical skits, and powerful preaching that challenged all in attendance to live out their faith inside the walls of IRJCF. Both the volunteers and the youth expressed how they are looking forward to the next Epiphany weekend in April 2016.



Epiphany Reunion

An additional group of volunteers came out and offered Epiphany Reunion. They engaged the youth in small and large group activities. Youth reviewed what happened at the previous weekend. Volunteers talked one-on-one with youth, shared personal stories of how they overcame obstacles and challenges, prayed with the youth, and shared a common meal with them.



Rock of Ages Massillon Bible College

A team of theology students from the Massillon Bible College held a five day preaching revival series at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility. Students, whose ages ranged from 18-21, delivered numerous messages on God's love, grace and mercy.

Each student preacher gave a detailed testimony of the destructive paths they were on and how their relationship with God changed them. Twenty IRJCF youth attended each night. Chaplain Neal said, "They were both encouraged and somewhat amazed at the passion and boldness in which these young preachers spoke and their willingness to come into our facility. "



Son Reign Ministry serves Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility



Son Reign Ministry from Dayton, Ohio came to Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) with a variety of volunteers for the sole purpose of ministering to the youth in the facility.

Chaplain Torrey Kershaw said, "Son Reign Ministry, led by President Louise Wilson and her very capable staff, come every first Monday and teach a bible study on our intake unit. Also, they are faithful in service and minister every first Sunday monthly. They have singers, skilled musicians, and often provide powerful testimonies that they share with our youth. As they fellowship, they let the youth know that Jesus is the Son that reigns in their services!"

Sixty-five youth attended the service. One youth said, "I enjoyed the interaction and the singing, Son Reign Ministry is one of my favorite volunteer ministries." Another youth said, "I appreciated the time they took to pray for each of us that wanted prayer, it was a real good service!" Volunteer Lee Behnken from Son Reign Ministry took the time to pray individually for each youth during a recent service held at CJCF.

Sixty-five youth attended the service. One youth said, "I enjoyed the interaction and the singing, Son Reign Ministry is one of my favorite volunteer ministries." Another youth said, "I appreciated the time they took to pray for each of us that wanted prayer, it was a real good service!" Volunteer Lee Behnken from Son Reign Ministry took the time to pray individually for each youth during a recent service held at CJCF.

Son Reign Prison Ministry, an independent ministry comprised of many churches through the Miami Valley area, has visited prisons around the United States. Founded in 1983, they have providing hope to hundreds of inmates. President of Son Reign Ministry, Louise Wilson, said, "God has promised me that our family circle has not been broken in heaven. Son Reign has seen many inmates come to the Lord since we first began. We will be ministering in the prisons until Jesus comes and we will remain completely submitted to the authority in each facility. Son Reign believes that if we can help any youth get on their feet spiritually and financially, they can become productive citizens."



Road Riders for Jesus starts 2nd Chance Ministry at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility



Road Riders For Jesus teamed up with Circleville First Church of Christ and Christian Union to start 2nd Chance Ministry at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility.



James Senig, a Road Rider for Jesus volunteer at CJCF, partnered with members from Circleville First Church of Christ and Christian Union to continue providing service at CJCF. James said, "The Circleville Chapter of Road Riders for Jesus International disbanded because there were too few members. I wanted to continue working with the young men at Circleville and didn't want to abandon them, so I went to First Church of Christ and Christian Union and we decided to start a new ministry. We were overwhelmed because the number of youth attending began to grow. Attendance jumped from twelve to sixty. We

just could not abandon them. Volunteers began to talk about Jesus and what he did in their lives. I thought, if we can just reach one young man it is well worth it. Second Chance Ministry volunteers share testimony of how God gave them a second chance from drug abuse and imprisonment. They all share their second chance story."



Youth were taken back by the stories the volunteers told about the scars that some of them received before they got their second chance. One gentleman showed his leg where it had been disfigured and nearly destroyed from heroin abuse. Chaplain Kershaw said, "When the youth saw his disfigured leg, you could hear a pin drop. The volunteer then showed them how at one point in his life he could have put a straw through his leg as a result of the damage caused by his addiction. Some youth asked him why he didn't just stop using when he saw his body being destroyed. He shared that he didn't intend for his abuse to go as far as it did, but he got a second chance and now has to live with the scars of his bad choice."

There was a great response for change that day and many youth made a commitment to the Lord. Pastor Blake J. Neff, as a result of that response, donated 60 copies of his book entitled "Beginning Again" to help the youth on their new Journey with Jesus Christ.

Beginning again discusses starting a new life in Christ. The 2nd Chance Ministry has committed to visit the youth and conduct this program every other month.



Volunteer Spotlight

Kenneth Warren Shares Story of Redemption, Reconciliation, and Restoration

Kenneth Warren visited Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility and shared his story of how substance abuse, truancy, and petty theft, led him to major crimes and more serious consequences. Mr. Warren shared with youth how his downward spiral of addiction and self-sabotage nearly destroyed his life.



Mr. Warren shared with youth that on September 30th, 1999 he surrendered to the hope of recovery. From that day, he gained his freedom from drugs and the life of crime. He has not turned back since then. He shared his story of redemption and reconciliation and how he uses his mistakes to now be a gatekeeper to prevent youth from going the wrong way!

Volunteer Kenneth Warn encouraged CJCF youth to avoid the many pitfalls of drugs and crime. Mr. Warren taught youth that a lifestyle that is sometimes glamorized is not all it may seem. One youth said, "I really enjoyed his story. He's a real dude!" Mr. Warren's basic message to the youth is "If I can do it, so can YOU!"

Dale Richardson Brother-2-Brother

Dale Richardson, a volunteer at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility, has served as a volunteer in criminal justice for more than twenty years. Functioning both as a faith based and non-faith based volunteer, Dale volunteered with a program called Brother-2-Brother, a positive relationship building and mentoring program.



Dale said, "I have found that I often start mentoring a youth in the detention center and that relationship continues with him at the DYS facilities. Building relationships and reaching our youth has to start with the basics before we get to the Bible. They have to build trust with you and know that you are there to hear their concerns and pains before they will hear your gospel. When the youth know you love them, they will listen, even if you have to say something hard that might be hurtful. But if there is a relationship, that youth will receive what you have to say."

Dale Richardson has been a member of Bethesda Church of Cleveland for more than forty years and has a heart for the youth.

Volunteer John Dilworth offers non-faith based Job Readiness Program at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

John Dilworth, from Church of the Lakes of Canton, is a two year volunteer and coordinator of the Career Readiness Program at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility. We asked Mr. Dilworth, "Why do you volunteer?" He replied "I enjoy the opportunity to work with the youth, volunteers, and the chaplain. I enjoy being able to see how the youth start out and how they open up and develop trust. John Williamson started the group. He helped them find and keep jobs once they left the facility. The youth depended on him even after they left the facility. When he took ill and went into hospice, he called me and wanted me to make sure that the program continued. It is an honor to continue his work."



We asked John, "What would you like to see for DYS youth?" He responded, "More youth participating in the program! Our program ensures that the youth have all the documents that they will need to get a job. We help them build a resume. We teach them what they need to do to keep a job. We teach them about punctuality, winning the respect of your employer, not stealing from your employer, doing what you are asked to do, being dependable, not calling off sick all the time, being ready for random drug testing, and much more. We put all this information into a binder called a career profile and give it to them when they leave the facility. When the youth leave the facility, we want them to have everything they will need to be successful."

YOUTH SPEAK ABOUT VOLUNTEER AND RELIGIOUS SERVICES PROGRAMS

How have volunteers and their programs helped you?

"The volunteers have helped me get more into programs and understand Godly things."

"They have changed my mind about doing things."

"They have helped us to stay out of here."

"When volunteers come, it shows me there are people in the community that haven't forgotten about us."

"They have helped me know that there will be people in the community who will not judge me for my past."

"Many of our volunteers have encouraged me in my pursuit by giving advice and telling me to keep my dream going about doing this business thing."

"They have taught me how to build up a legacy not just for me but for my son as well with positive work ethics."

"Job classes are good. They helped me learn how to talk at interviews."

"Small groups are the best – large groups nobody gets anything because kids are talking."

"Volunteers have helped me with communication skills and to stay away from gang activities... basically to think about my life more seriously."

"I have learned a lot of beneficial knowledge from some of the program."

"Volunteers have helped me with my communication skills, but most of them make me get closer to the Lord."

What volunteer programs do you think would make an impact at your facility?

"Over the past few years, I have talked to several volunteers who come in to do programming about careers. I am interested in starting my own business in construction."

"Everything they can do for us."

"The Power of Peace."

"Volunteers to help with the violence and gangs."

"I need help with anger, hatred, and violence."

"Programs for youth with learning disabilities, I can't read well enough to understand the Bible."

"Rastafarians need volunteers."

"A finance program that helps with checks, balance, credit, and insurance."

"A career program that is about job planning."

"We need some more volunteers that teach us more life skills and living skills."

What volunteer program has really impacted you?

"The staff have impacted us."

"Epic Assemblies."

"The Power of Peace."

"Andrew Hackett had a really good program; he knew what we are dealing with and where we came from." "Mr. Hackett was locked up. We can relate to him."

"Epiphany was nice...the food was good."

"Church is cool, Chap is for real..."

"Job readiness was really good; I need help getting a job so I won't come back to this place."

"The smaller groups are better for a lot of us. Large groups are scary and some of the kids are mean to the volunteers and disrespectful."

"Epiphany. They not only fellowship with us, but they saturate our minds with the Lord."

"I would say Buckeye Reach and Epiphany are the two major programs that impact me."

#50 Fathers Movie Shown at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility (CHJCF) hosted the ninth private screening of #50Fathers. Denny Castiglione, a regular volunteer at CHJCF, is the executive producer of the picture. #50Fathers is a dramatic comedy written and directed by Joddy Eric Matthews and filmed in Northeast Ohio. Denny, having volunteered with “Brother to Brother” on Saturdays and Iron Sharpens Iron, a rites of passage program, knows all that youth would relate to in this film.



The story follows Dominique ‘Nique’ Hathaway, a blue-chip high school athlete (Johnathon L. Jackson) as he prepares to sign a lucrative professional sports contract to play football or baseball. He seemingly has the world at his fingertips except for the one thing he desires most...a father. He and a group of friends launch a social media campaign to attract candidates to serve as a father to his younger brother. Fifty prospects will be

screened and the one selected will be paid \$10,000 per month once Nique signs his pro contract.

“This isn’t a sports film; it’s not about teams, touchdowns or baskets. It’s about what’s really important in life... family,” says Matthews. “The focus is on the values of fatherhood and the importance of family,” he adds. “We believe the timing is perfect for a film of this nature.”

Thirty-nine CHJCF youth attended the showing. The youth identified with the characters in the story because this was real life for many of them before coming to our facility, stated Social Worker Gates. “All of our youth have stood in front of a judge and faced the life of the streets. They have experienced trauma and people using them for their gain. However, what the movie did was offer hope for the young. This was different from the typical “Boy in the Hood” story.”



Danny Castiglione knows that volunteers and good programming can be the catalyst in breaking the cycle of incarceration. Having a father and being a father to their own children can stop the cycle of violence. This is why many of the youth attending related well to the film. Danny donates his time every Sunday to ministry to youth who have committed to the Catholic faith.



Our Vision

A safer Ohio: one youth, one family and one community at a time



Ohio

**Department of
Youth Services**

Our Mission

***Improve Ohio's future by
habilitating youth and empowering families and communities***

Core Values

All people can change

Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated

Every life matters

We strive to provide youth everything they need to succeed

We want the best for youth, and we believe in families

We believe in being good role models