

# 2021 Year in Review

## Pike County Correctional Facility



### PRISON BOARD

#### Commissioners

Matthew Osterberg

Ronald Schmalzle

Steve Guccini

#### President Judge

Gregory Chelak

#### District Attorney

Raymond Tonkin

#### Sheriff

Kerry Welsh

#### Solicitor

Thomas Farley

*"Committed to Excellence"*

### From the Desk of Warden Lowe

The end of 2021 is here and like most others, I am glad to see it go.

As we continue into 2022, I can only hope and pray for COVID to disappear as quick as it appeared. For those non believers, I hope and pray every day for your overall health and wellbeing. Throughout this pandemic our entire staff has continued to push through and remain vigilant in completing our mission. However, they too have been shaken in one way or another by the effects of COVID.

During this difficult and worrisome time, we need to be patient, listen, understand and be a little more tolerant of one another. Check on your neighbors, call your family and friends, but most of all don't forget to look in the mirror to monitor your own well being.

Thank you for another wonderful year serving you as Warden of the Pike County Correctional Facility. Be well, stay safe and enjoy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Happy New Year!**

## Happy Retirement to Kathy Cronin and Jennifer Hughson!



Kathy Cronin was employed at the Pike County Correctional Facility since August 1995 and proved to be an integral part of the facility! Thank you Kathy for all your hard work and dedication! You will truly be missed!

Jennifer Hughson was employed at the Pike County Correctional Facility since

September 1998 and proved to be an integral part of the facility! Thank you Jenn for all your hard work and dedication! You will truly be missed!



C O R R E C T I O N A L   O F F I C E R  
O F   T H E   Y E A R  
2 0 2 0

Melissa Conway



Correctional Officer Melissa Conway has been selected as "Correctional Officer of the Year". She has been employed at the facility since March 2004 and has performed her duties in an outstanding manner, demonstrating extraordinary levels of correctional professionalism, job proficiency, and 17 years of dedication to duty with extreme diligence.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

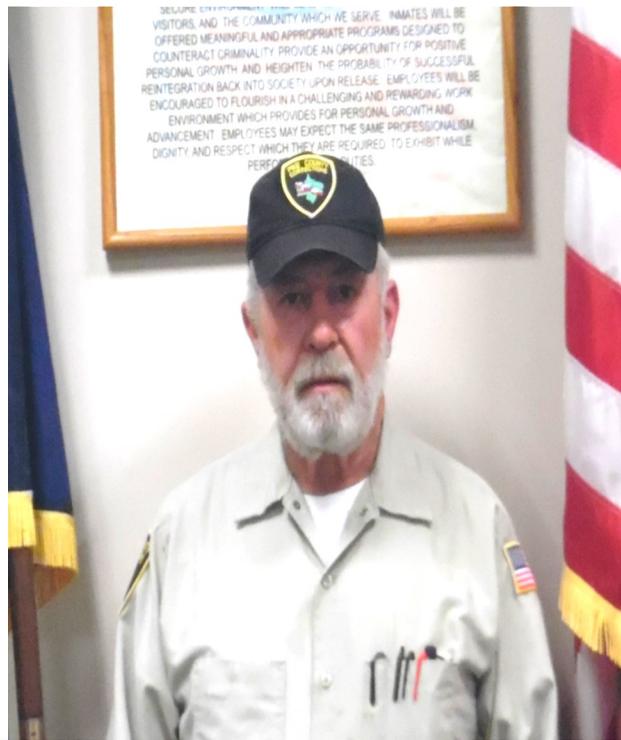
**Brittany Viola**

October 1, 2020-

December 31, 2020



Maintenance Technician Brittany Viola was selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Brittany Viola has been employed at the facility since November 2019 and exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



**Kevin Roster**

January 1, 2021-

March 31, 2021

Maintenance Technician Kevin Roster was selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021. Kevin Roster exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

### **Dorothy Devuyst**

April 1, 2021–

June 30, 2021

Food Production Supervisor Dorothy Devuyst was selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021. Dorothy Devuyst has been employed at the facility since September 2014 and exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



### **Richard Pryor**

July 1, 2021–

September 30, 2021

Maintenance Technician Richard Pryor has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021. Richard Pryor has been employed at the facility since March 2005 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

## O F F I C E R O F T H E Q U A R T E R



**Kevin Wagenhoffer**

October 1, 2020—

December 31, 2020

Sergeant Kevin Wagenhoffer was selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Sergeant Wagenhoffer has been employed at the facility since October 2016 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

**Jesse Stang**

January 1, 2021—

March 31, 2021

Correctional Officer Jesse Stang was selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021. Officer Stang has been employed at the facility since January 2015 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



# OFFICER OF THE QUARTER



**Nicholas Meyers**

April 30, 2021–

June 30, 2021

Correctional Officer Nicholas Meyers was selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for April 30, 2021 to June 30, 2021. Officer Meyers has been employed at the facility since December 2019 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

**Elisha Salgado**

July 1, 2021—

September 30, 2021

Correctional Officer Elisha Salgado was selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for July 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021. Officer Salgado has been employed at the facility since August 2015 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



# Staff Promotion on January 31, 2021!

Kevin Wagenhoffer



Sgt. Wagenhoffer has been employed at the facility since October 2016 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission. Sgt. Wagenhoffer is Central Control and Intake certified and was recognized as Officer of the Quarter in 2020.

Thank you to our staff for  
your time and dedication  
to the facility!

10 Years!

Walter Mruczkewycz, Maintenance Technician



15 Years!



Joseph Yencik, Correctional Officer

20 Years!

Peter Brady, Correctional Officer

Elvis Loor, Correctional Officer

Maureen Smith, Correctional Officer

Diane Taranto, Correctional Officer

Donna Miller, Food Production

Supervisor



FEBRUARY 17, 2022

## ***Random Acts of Kindness Day***

Celebrated on February 17th each and every year, Random Acts of Kindness Day is a day where everyone has the opportunity to do something nice for a complete stranger, a family member or a coworker. So, Remember to Spread the Kindness.

**Kindness is contagious!**



**"NO ACT OF KINDNESS,  
NO MATTER HOW SMALL,  
IS EVER WASTED."**

random acts of kindness day



**Did You Know:** Every year, for the last 18 years, Warden Lowe and facility supervisory staff members pick up litter twice a year on a 2 mile stretch of Route 739 in front of the Pike County Correctional Facility. They walk the side of the road and fill a truck load full of garbage bags twice a year that are stuffed with litter that had been discarded along the side of the road. They are determined to give back to the community with this kind gesture year after year.

[randomactsofkindness.org](http://randomactsofkindness.org)

# Identifying Elders in Need within PCCF

In our continued efforts to provide all offenders with the appropriate services and recommendations, the Pike County Correctional Facility has been working more closely with Pike County Area Agency on Aging.

Through this increased effort to assist our elderly offenders, Pike County Correctional Staff quickly identifies elderly offenders who are in need of assistance and will submit a referral to the Pike County Area Agency on Aging. These collaborations not only assist the offender throughout their incarceration but helps to ensure services continue to be rendered upon release.

In addition, the Warden and the Programs Department have become involved in the Pike County Elder Abuse Task Force. This task force meets once a month to discuss Pike County's elder population and identifies issues or concerns within the Pike County Correctional Facility and/or within the community.

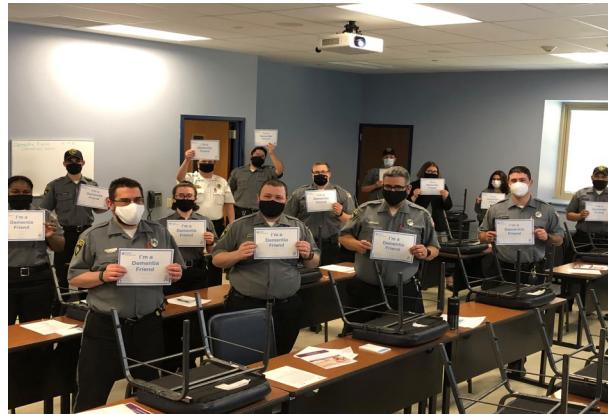
*"The mission of the Task Force is to train professionals such as bank staff, aging agency representatives, medical, legal, clergy, and tax personnel to identify and report cases of potential exploitation, fraud, neglect and abuse of older-adults. Education of the family, concerned citizens and the general public about elder abuse and how to recognize, prevent and report it is the ultimate purpose and goal of the Pike County Elder Abuse Task Force."*



## Recent Training Opportunities for PCCF Staff!

### Dementia Friends

Dementia Friends USA is part of a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. A Dementia Friend is someone who, through viewing a series of online videos or attending a live interactive session, learns about what it's like to live with dementia and then turns that understanding into action.



Robin Skibber, from Area Agency on Aging, was gracious enough to provide the Dementia Friends training to PCCF staff. This training included lots of important information, best practices, and fun scenarios! At the completion of this training, participants were awarded with a Dementia Friend Certificate!

### Trauma 101 and 102 Training

On August 16, 2021, the Programs Department and Sergeant Wetklow participated in a virtual Trauma 101 and 102 training. This training provided staff members with an overview of Trauma-Informed Care and the basic skills of Trauma-Informed Care.

Trauma 101 included a multi-media, interactive workshop where professionals worked together to build a powerful image that helps them appreciate the complex nature of trauma and its aftermath. Trauma 102 expanded on information provided in the Trauma 101 workshop. Here, professionals expanded their understanding of trauma and are provided specific skills that enhance abilities to interact in emotionally and relationally healthy ways with people impacted by trauma. As professionals become trauma-aware, they have a responsibility to prevent, avoid and respond to trauma. In this hands-on, interactive workshop professionals are provided opportunities to implement and practice the skills presented.

## Reentry Coalition Discusses Possible “Earned Time” Program to Reduce Inmate Sentences



On August 25, 2021, Pike County Commissioner Steve Guccini presented a detailed proposal to the Pike County Reentry Coalition regarding an “earned time” program for inmates. This program is intended to create incentives for inmates to participate in facility recidivism reduction programs and to volunteer for work

opportunities within the facility. Not only will this opportunity encourage inmates to participate in programs and work opportunities, but it ensures inmates are provided with appropriate services to reduce the risk of future recidivism.

Eligibility for this program would be determined by the Judge during sentencing based on the Berks model and the State Recidivism Risk Reduction Incentive Program (RRRI). When an inmate is deemed eligible for this program, PCCF Treatment Counselors will create an individualized program that will address the inmate's specific needs. The creation of this program would involve input from other individuals/entities, such as Drug and Alcohol, Mental Health, Probation, etc. During the meeting, discussions involving GED participation being required for those who do not possess their GED or High School Diploma.

When the inmate successfully completes their program, they would receive a twenty (20) percent reduction in their minimum sentence. Time would be taken off of that credit for any disciplinary problems at the jail. As an inmate is approaching his or her minimum time, based on the credits referenced above, the Warden would have to certify that their program has been successfully completed. Lastly, there would be a sign off from Probation and the Court.

## Facilitated Programs and Visitation Resume



During the summer of 2021, the Pike County Correctional Facility resumed in-person facilitated programs and services! In our continued efforts to maintain the safety of our volunteers, offenders and staff, the facility continues to require masks to be worn and temperature checks before entry into the facility. In addition to in-person facilitated programs, visitation has resumed so offenders have the opportunity to meet with their loved ones!

While we understand some volunteers remain uncertain about entering the facility, we are still offering volunteers the ability to conduct their programs virtually! In addition, for family members who are unable to come to the facility for visitation, PCCF provided tablets to the inmate population which offers the offenders an opportunity to virtually meet with their loved ones.



***If you or someone you know is interested in facilitating either in-person or virtual programs for PCCF offenders, please contact the Programs Department at 570-775-5500 ext. 1563!***

## Continued Vaccination Efforts

A vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread and outbreak of COVID-19 in the prison setting. In accordance with promoting proper hygiene and cleanliness at the Pike County Correctional Facility, we also offer the COVID-19 vaccination or booster to any inmate, detainee, and/or staff member that requests it.

Our medical department facilitates clinics once a month and administers the COVID-19 vaccination. With this option, many inmates, detainees, and staff members have taken advantage of this clinic.



## ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

The Pike County Correctional Facility conducted a food drive last year and donated it to a local food bank charity to help feed those that are less fortunate for the holiday season. Last year, for the very first time, we donated over 700 nonperishable food items. This year we brought in 1,396 items that we will donate to three (3) food pantries including Milford Ecumenical, St. John Newman and Bushkill Outreach. Each food pantry will receive a donation of 465 items. It is a very exciting time when we get to give back to the community!



# Christmas Gifts For All!

Tradition at the Pike County Correctional Facility is that Old Saint Nick stops in to cheer up the entire facility with gifts for all. We provide holiday gift bags to all inmates housed within our facility. The gift bags are filled with yummy treats and a beautifully made card that is donated by the Christmas Cards for Inmates program. These gifts for those that are housed here at the Pike County Correctional Facility are all made possible by the donations of volunteers. Thank you to all that made this year special for those that cannot be with their families and friends for the holidays this year!



## Christmas Cards for Inmates

Every year CentrePeace Inc. conducts their Christmas Cards for Inmates Program where they have volunteers make holiday cards for those that are incarcerated to express the true meaning of what the holidays are all about. Each card is hand crafted or colored by the volunteers of all ages. Many of the cards are made by children that like to help pass the cheer to those that cannot be with their families for the holidays. This card is sometimes the only card individuals receive for the holidays. Everyone is very thankful for the hard work that CentrePeace Inc. does.

*CentrePeace Inc.  
3047 Benner Pike  
Bellefonte, PA*





Best of Wishes to  
You and Your Family  
in the Up Coming  
New Year!



L O R D S V A L E Y , P A B L V D I 8 4 2 8  
C O R R E C T I O N A L F A C I L I T Y  
P I K E C O U N T Y



In 1814 work began on the Pike County Courthouse; it was completed in 1815. This structure served as a Courthouse and Jail until 1851 when a small brick building was built in front of the present Courthouse. (This was removed when the present Courthouse was built in 1872-73).

The Pike County Correctional Facility was built in 1995. It is a 87,800 square foot, non-smoking Facility, situated on 268 acres in Blooming Grove Township. Our direct supervision 375 bed Facility houses both male and female offenders. Educational, religious, and rehabilitative programs are provided to assist offenders in reintegrating into society. During their incarceration, female offenders have the opportunity to participate in the H.O.P.E. Program (Helping Offenders Promote Excellence). The A.R.R.O.W. Program (Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows) offers qualified male Pike County offenders the opportunity to change their lives through intensive rehabilitative programming. Upon successful completion, eligible offenders may graduate to the C.O.R.E. Program (Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively) where they will continue their rehabilitative efforts by learning new skills through community service. The M.O.R.E. Program (Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Effectively) is available to all male offenders interested in making positive changes in their life. The Pike County Correctional Facility is working together to ensure that our community is safer for everyone.