As 2016 draws to a close I reflect upon the superlative performance of my staff members and the many accomplishments and contributions of our valued volunteers.

I am proud to recognize the efforts of so many dedicated people who are intent on making a difference within our communities.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Nicole Nocilla, L.S.W., our new full time mental health clinician. I am excited about this new treatment dynamic and anticipate Nicole greatly assisting our offenders and strengthening our operation from a treatment perspective.

The diligence which is employed in operating this facility, and in providing the cutting edge programs, counseling and guidance which is offered to the offenders we house is magnificent, and pivotal to the offenders post incarceration success.

Simply stated, we wouldn’t be able to pursue our mission, in the absence of so many wonderful people.

Allow me to wish you all a most joyous and festive Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year!
As we near the end of the year I reflect on the many momentous events of 2016. It has been a busy year of hard work, important accomplishments and even the election of a New President of the United States who promises to Make America Great Again! At this time I choose to focus on what I perceive to be great already. I consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity to observe greatness here at the facility on a regular basis. I submit that when we’re mired in the tasks we must complete each day, it becomes easy to overlook the ongoing selfless efforts employed for the betterment of others by both our dedicated staff members and members of our community. I think it is probable that many in our community aren’t even aware of what our staff members and volunteers accomplish here at the facility each and every day. So I will take this time to convey a sincere thank you and once again remind you of the magnificence of the quiet, diligent work you do. As I am completing my twenty first year here at the facility I feel qualified to report on what I’ve viewed over all these years as a “constant”. Whether referring to staff members or our great volunteers I have observed a group of wonderful people willing to consistently report to a correctional facility to perform assigned duties professionally or to volunteer to facilitate programs and/or counseling out of the goodness of the heart. From my perspective, although the days seem to go by in a blur, I recount the days I’ve walked through the facility corridors and observed wonderful people from all walks of life working hard to rehabilitate our offenders. This work goes on every day, once again, quietly and unbeknownst to many, just to try to make an offenders life better. To give them hope for a better life upon release. When you think about our everyday hero’s which includes Law Enforcement Officers, Fireman, Military Personnel, Medical Personnel and educators can you can you think of a reason that Correctional staff members and Volunteers don’t belong on this list? I didn’t think so, me either. I recognize all of your efforts, and diligence and consistency and my hat is off to you, great job!!! I wish you all a safe and prosperous 2017!!!!!
"Acts of Kindness"

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK:

FEBRUARY 12-18, 2017

"If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction."

~ Martin Kornfeld
Terry Mooney
October 1, 2015-December 31, 2015

Treatment Counselor Terry Mooney has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for October 1, 2015-December 31, 2015. Ms. Mooney has been employed at the facility since November 29, 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Joe Knapp
January 1, 2016– March 31, 2016

Maintenance Technician Joe Knapp has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for January 1, 2016– March 31, 2016. Mr. Knapp has been employed at the facility since March 20, 2000 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
EMLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

James D’uva
April 1, 2016– June 30, 2016

Maintenance Technician James D’uva has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for April 1, 2016– June 30, 2016. Mr. D’uva has been employed at the facility since 2014 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Kathy Cronin
July 1, 2016– September 30, 2016

Accounts Clerk Kathy Cronin has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for July 1, 2016– September 30, 2016. Ms. Cronin has been employed at the facility since August 17, 1995 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Joel Castillo
October 1-December 31, 2015

Correctional Officer Joel Castillo has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for October 1, 2015—December 31, 2015. Officer Castillo has been employed at the facility since March 2015 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Allison Gomer
January 1–March 31, 2016

Correctional Officer Allison Gomer has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for January 1–March 31, 2016. Officer Gomer has been employed at the facility since June 2015 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Natalie Cunningham
April 1-June 30, 2016

Correctional Officer Natalie Cunningham has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for April 1, 2016—June 31, 2016. Officer Cunningham has been employed at the facility since April 2014 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Thomas Schwartz
July 1–September 30, 2016

Correctional Officer Thomas Schwartz has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for July 1–September 30, 2016. Officer Schwartz has been employed at the facility since October 2003 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
The Pike County Correctional Facility is proud to introduce a new Treatment Counselor! Becky grew up in a suburb of New York. Her mom retired as an elementary school teacher, while her father worked with emotionally disturbed children. Becky followed the family tradition and went to The State University of Albany majoring in education. She took a year off to travel throughout Europe, exploring thirteen countries, returning to get her Masters degree in Special Education. For three years, Becky taught in the inner city, eventually relocating to the Poconos in order to start a family with her new husband. A year later, they had a baby boy. Becky wanted to pursue a new career path, and became a Correctional Officer at our facility. When the Treatment Counselor position became available, Becky chose to better utilize her skills and abilities to assist offenders and reduce recidivism. Becky has proven to be a quick study and is already making significant progress for facility offenders. She is an outstanding addition to the facility programs department.
The Pike County Correctional Facility is also proud to introduce another new Treatment Counselor Michelle DeCroce. Michelle was born and raised in Northern New Jersey and attended Morris Hills High School and County College of Morris. At an early age, Michelle developed a desire to assist others who may be in need. During this time, Michelle unknowingly began developing many of the skills which would be critical to her success as a facility Treatment Counselor. Michelle oversees the M.O.R.E. Program, facilitates group programs, as well as providing individual counseling. In short order, Michelle has proven to be a caring, talented individual who strives to assist our offenders who truly need a second chance, or perhaps a gentle nudge toward normalcy. Michelle is performing her duties splendidly, and playing a valuable role in the facility treatment department. We are pleased to report that Michelle is another outstanding addition to the facility Programs Department.
Pike County Correctional Facility is thrilled to announce our newest addition, Nicole Nocilla, LSW. Nicole has been hired as our Full Time Mental Health Clinician. Nicole is a Pennsylvania native who graduated from Marywood University as a licensed social worker in 2011. Contracted through Prime Care Medical Inc., Nicole has already proven her diligence and skill in her new position. She has embraced her new role in reducing recidivism by working with our inmates/detainees to promote optimum mental and emotional health while they are incarcerated. These services are being provided in the facility 24/7 as Nicole is present at the facility forty (40) hours per week and Telemed Video System is utilized in her absence. We are confident that the inmates/detainees are able to work together with Nicole to ensure they receive the best chance of reintegrating into society with new coping skill to become functioning citizens. We are very excited to officially welcome Nicole to our team!
New Correctional Program at PCCF


The SMART Recovery “4-Point Program” offers participants tools and techniques for building and maintaining motivation, coping with urges, managing thoughts, feelings, and behaviors and living a balanced life. The primary focus in this structured approach to recovery is the instruction of self-empowerment and self-reliance which is conveyed in meetings which are educational, supportive and include open discussions amongst participants. Techniques for self-directed change are emphasized as well as the importance of a healthy lifestyle for continued success. This cutting edge program differs from Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and other twelve step programs. The program promotes rational thinking and self-empowerment rather than reliance on a higher power. Participants may draw upon their faith if they choose, which is certainly not discouraged, but also not discussed in this program.

Our facility is fortunate to have two very dedicated volunteers who come in to facilitate this highly innovative and successful program on a weekly basis. Luke Barbalich works with the female population in the H.O.P.E. Program (Helping Offenders Promote Excellence) and Karen Capparelli works with the male population enrolled in the A.R.R.O.W. Program (Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows). Both male and female program participants have responded very favorably to this unique new approach to recovery, and appreciate the time and effort of our cherished volunteers.
The 2016 Pike County Correctional Facility Appreciation Brunch was held in the Lakeview Dining Room at the Inn at Woodloch. On the way to the event, the drive along the magnificent Lackawaxen River placed us all in a festive mood, anticipating a scrumptious feast with all of our cherished volunteers. We counselors greeted all the familiar faces, and everyone was smiling. There was a buffet with everything from bagels, cream cheese and salmon to fruit, salad, crepes, pancakes and waffles, eggs, bacon, ham, sausage and a separate station where chefs created a personal omelet upon request. Vibrant sun sparkled on the lake as we ate, chatted and soaked up the view. Many facility employees received service awards. The 2016 Volunteer of the Year, Kathy Cerny, has dedicated twenty years of her personal time for our offenders. When Assistant Warden McLaughlin began describing our secret volunteer of the year (it’s always a surprise!), it was a thrill to watch the look on Kathy Cerny’s face change from intently listening to complete shock when the story being told became all too familiar. As each guest left us, they received an appreciation certificate along with a choice of gourmet cheese on a cutting board, or a basket of specialty jam and flavored butter with fancy crackers. Each year, our H.O.P.E. Program Participants crochet or loom a lovely homemade gift which each volunteer receives. This year, it was a crocheted pumpkin with a lid that is a perfect fall decoration for the table. From our hearts, we are thankful for what each of our volunteers do for us day after day, year after year.
The 2016 Pike County Correctional Facility Volunteer of the Year award was bestowed upon volunteer Kathy Cerny. Kathy has been volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility since February of 1996, during which time she has facilitated Bible study programs for both the male and female population. She began “Singing the Bible” with her fellow volunteer who accompanied the group on the guitar, singing the words on a sheet of paper. The program became “high tech” with a laptop which was plugged into the television and the words to the songs were displayed on the TV screen. (remember Mitch Miller’s “follow the bouncing ball?”) Inmates were encouraged to write their own songs and they did! In her spare time, Kathy also enjoys ballroom dancing. When she describes the latest steps, her eyes dance too! Once again we extend our sincere appreciation and congratulations to the 2016 Volunteer of the Year, Kathy Cerny!
Volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility

By “Volunteer of the Year”

Kathy Cerny

I have been volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility since February, 1996, and can say that it truly has been a labor of love. At that time there were no female inmates in the Facility. Not being sure of which direction this was going to take me, yet knowing that my program would be Bible based, we started out with a Bible Study including sing-a-longs. To my surprise, the men were interested in both. We would read the Bible, discuss what we read and finish up with songs of encouragement. We had a number of men that could not speak English, so we grew into a bilingual group. There were a few interpreters, so we all benefited by the discussions. Some inmates would write their own songs, and then share them with everyone at the following meeting.

When women started to come into the Facility, I was asked if I would switch over to provide a program for the women. At that time there were quite a few men's programs already started. The women had different issues than the men. They had a hard time accepting that they were in the Facility, because of something they had done. It was always “someone else's fault”. I have never asked anyone, why they were put in jail. If they wanted to talk about it, that was fine, but I would not want them to think that I was judging them.

Over the years the group evolved in different ways. We started out as the "Singing Bible Study", but after a while the women did not want to sing anymore, and less people came out for the program. I needed to try different avenues, while still giving the same message. I tried a variety of different things from sit down Bible Study and discussion to sing-a-longs, watching Documentaries, movies and plays, and then discussing the facts of life and how to deal with it. A short time ago, we needed a new name for the program, so I decided to call it "Living the Life". Hopefully the offenders will all learn to live it to its potential with the help of all of the Volunteers.

The women coming in at this time are dealing with a lot of substance abuse, as well as the men. Substance abuse is devastating to everyone, the individual, their families and friends and the victims of their crimes. Addiction is a serious matter. I am well aware of this because I had this problem a long time ago. It has been over 43 years since I had my last drink or drug. Though I never committed a crime or ended up in jail, I know what it's like to struggle with addiction. I also know that someone has to really want to stop, in order to be helped.

As Volunteers, how can we help? Be a good listener. Sometimes it gives us a better understanding of the needs of others. If we want respect from the inmate, then we must first give respect. We need to remember to do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. Believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see, otherwise you could be deceived. Show a little kindness and compassion. We must fight the good fight, run the race that has been set before us and persevere in our endeavors.
Peeps for our Favorite (Senior) Peeps!

All three of us Treatment Counselors took our first annual “field trip” of the year on March 16, 2016. It was a partly sunny day with a hint of spring in the air as we rode through the countryside, meandering along the edge of the beautiful Lackawaxen River. Arriving at the Lackawaxen Senior Center, we came upon the usual group, this time just women, quietly playing Rummikub. Our friend Astrid, who came from Columbia many years ago, immediately remembered us as her bright eyes lit up behind her oversized, orange “pretend” glasses. “Have you brought us something?” she asked. We lined up various stuffed chicks, meticulously crocheted by our female HOPE Program Participants, fashioned after the famous “peep” marshmallow candies that we all remember since the 1950s. The colorful peeps were complete with beaks, wings and tiny feet, with a slight tuft of yarn for hair on each of their little heads. Adorable!
Michele and Victoria who enjoy crafting, diligently crocheted to meet the goal of one hundred fifty chicks for spring delivery to our seniors. The colors were making us hungry, they said, Strawberry Banana, Lemon-Lime, Mint Cream, Zesty Grape, Raspberry Blue Ice, as they took shape, slowly becoming multi-colored Peeps. We started naming the peeps as their individual personalities began to emerge Arthur, Tommy, Lisa. They were all on the table peering at us while we created their little bodies. It’s amazing how a simple pattern on a piece of paper can result in something three dimensional which gives us such joy. Working in a circular motion, it was opposite of most everything else in crocheting. Each one becomes its own little marvel. Constantly stitching until the very last knot, the body is made first, stuffed it a little bit for firmness, and then we pop in the eyes, creating the beak next and three-toed feet. Michele’s favorite part like “Foghorn Leghorn” (“Well, I say I say!”), making her giggle each and every time she made another foot. Everything but the eyes are hand-crocheted. What mattered to these program participants the most was how much our seniors enjoy receiving these gifts. They both agreed; it warms their hearts to touch someone out there, so that they know someone in here cares for them. They should know that people on the outside care about them too.
Michele and Victoria were looking for a novel gift for the Volunteer Appreciation event and since it usually takes place in the fall, they were looking through a book of crochet patterns when the fall colors of a pumpkin shaped candy dish simultaneously caught their attention. “We knew it was something we could do,” they said, “as well as something our volunteers could make use of right through November. We’re enjoying working with fall colors right now even though spring has just begun, because we know we will be home by then. Every one we make is one step closer to being with our loved ones. The pumpkins go faster than the peeps with fewer overall details, however, we vary the size of the needles we are using for the array colors of the decorative leaves on top of the lid.

Every lid is totally unique from the others. Burgundy, gold, pine green, Kelly green, sea foam green, even bright orange mimicking the changing colors of the trees. Each leaf has its own realistic features, the veins, the stem and the way they curl. They look like they just came out of a pumpkin patch. You can almost smell them! Being incarcerated, we go through seasons too, stormy times, sunny days and cloudy afternoons. We reflect on life on the outside, and our future, and it’s a sober thought. Life is going on without us right now. On a lighter note, we will both be out in June and every day will be summer and the sweet fresh air, sun and rain. We hope that the volunteers enjoy these pumpkins as much as we have enjoyed making them!
Blankets to Warm Our Favorite Seniors!

On a very cold “almost” winter day (not official yet but it was about ten degrees), the Pike County Correctional Facility Treatment Counselors bundled up and headed off to the local senior centers to deliver blankets lovingly crocheted by the female inmate participants in the H.O.P.E. Program. Those seniors who braved the cold to show up at the center were having a Bingo Tournament, an assortment of prizes spread out on a table for the lucky winner. They all received a blanket and a Christmas tree ornament resembling an acorn also crocheted by the H.O.P.E. participants. In true holiday spirit, our friend Ana hung one ornament on each ear for our traditional picture, as always, her smile showing a glint of mischief!
Christmas Gift Bags for Inmates/Detainees!

Once again this year on “Christmas Eve-Eve”, Santa came to the Pike County Correctional Facility to distribute a colorful gift bag to each and every inmate/detainee housed in the facility. Included were cakes, cookies, chips and candy, and as well as a handwritten Christmas card with warm wishes from CentrePeace, an organization dedicated to sharing the love and peace of the season. As is the case each year, the jolly old elf scampered from housing unit to housing unit spreading Christmas joy to the offenders. This kind gesture lifts the spirits of the offenders each year during a difficult time to be incarcerated. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the 2013 PCCF Volunteer of the Year Ed Shaffner, who provided Santa with “technical support” for this year’s mission! ;)

Thanksgiving came early this year at the annual luncheon held at the First Presbyterian Church in Hawley, recognizing the hard work and dedication of so many volunteers who offer their services to the community as well as the Pike County Correctional Facility.

While we feasted on homemade turkey and all the fixings, we listened as Executive Director David Sutton extolled the virtues of the many volunteers who give their time and teaching expertise to help people learn to read, obtain their G.E.D. as well as “have the opportunity to pursue appropriate educational or job credentialing opportunities,” as stated in their ProLiteracy philosophy.

The Pike Wayne Adult Literacy Program Mission Statement is to provide educational skills improvement for adults who face barriers and challenges to their educational and employment goals. We are very pleased to report that these wonderful volunteers are the life blood of the PCCF GED Program!

Thank you so much to, our cherished and dedicated volunteers!

Dave Sutton (Executive Director AND Volunteer)

Carole Linkiewicz

Joanne Brogan

Jim Borer

Dan Marcus
I love the H.O.P.E. program because I get a lot of beneficial information that I can utilize out in the real world. The HOPE program teaches addicts to live with structure and purpose. For instance, “The Four Agreements” being taught to us by Dan Marcus each week is teaching me to be impeccable with my word, to be honest with myself and others. It also stresses that we need to take personal responsibility for what happens in our lives. Practicing this has already set me free from so many of the burdens that the blame game has added to my already very full plate. I accept that what much of what I’ve done in my life hasn’t been the right thing, but in the H.O.P.E. program I am learning how to change that. I believe that by changing my ways I can teach my children a better way of life and lead by example. I love the Rough Path with Ed Schaffner because I am learning all aspects of the relationships in my life. We’re seeing how to figure out what we want from a relationship before jumping in, and that we always have the right to walk away. Luke Barbalich facilitates the Smart Recovery program that addresses behavioral issues and ways of thinking that keep us from recovery. He is very knowledgeable, and has a way about him that makes us feel comfortable discussing issues that many of us grapple with on a daily basis. Many of the Correctional Officers are also very supportive and teach us to love and respect ourselves. They are with us on the Housing Unit for eight hours a shift, and I feel that they genuinely do care about us. The Looming program where we make blankets and crafts is the time of day when I get to chill out with fellow inmates while being productive in making items for our seniors in the community.
The M.O.R.E. Program

“Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Effectively”

By Hassan

I like the Anger Management program because volunteer Dan Marcus has a lot of life experience and it seems like he understands anger issues and he has ideas on how to work through them. I can relate to what he says in my own life. Mike Neel has also helped me. It’s always good to talk to those who have been there than those who haven’t. Life experience is always better than what’s learned in a book. He’s been coming here for twelve years. Same with Mr. Valdes who comes to individually counsel me. When you use drugs as a solution for something, the first thing you do is that drug. It’s all in your mind. While in the facility, I work in floor care. I just recently stripped the wax off the floors in the entire facility, and re-waxed them. I like working because it keeps my mind off what I am going through. You see, I am an Immigration detainee and I am fighting to stay in the United States which has been my home since 2006. Due to the commission of a crime, my permanent residence was cancelled and I was ordered to be deported. I’m twenty four and that’s almost half an entire lifetime. The M.O.R.E. Program is helping me to cope with the stress, and to productively utilize the time I must spend here.
The A.R.R.O.W. Program

“Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows”

Written By Jamie

The ARROW program covers all the bases and reminds us of what we are supposed to be doing in life. It keeps us productive while incarcerated, from early morning food prep where we learn time management and team work which is huge for many of us. I make all of the special religious trays, and when I’m done I tend to help everybody else if they don’t need it. The volunteers that come in to facilitate various programs are very understanding of what we are dealing with because many of them have either been through it themselves, or have people close to them who have. It is very beneficial to have a person to interact with on a weekly basis other than the ones we are housed with or work with, and in addition to the work we complete on our own. The Employment Skills program offers everyone, incarcerated or not, tips on how to approach the job search. We can even help those we know on the outside with the knowledge we’re gaining here from that program. Mr. Bechthold told us about grants that can be obtained for those wishing to start their own business. His profession is human resources, and he has shared many useful tools regarding careers. Miss Capparelli facilitates the Smart Recovery program which is more a behavioral approach to recovery. Out of all of the programs, we all participate in that one the most. She can understand what we are dealing with. She encourages us to interact with each other and as a group sharing our problems and issues that we have on the outside that we might prefer to keep to ourselves. By successfully completing the ARROW program, sentenced county inmates may be eligible for the CORE Program which enables them to work outside. I find this appealing for the fact of no longer looking at four walls and not being confined all day, day after day, becoming institutionalized. It gives me something to look forward to while looking forward to going home.
When I was asked to write about my experience thus far in the CORE Program, I was honored. The CORE Program has given me a sense of normalcy while incarcerated. It has allowed me the freedom of working outside of the facility, doing work that I enjoy. I have always taken care of my own property and feel more at home being responsible for similar tasks while here at Pike County Correctional Facility. While incarcerated at another facility in 2015, I was never presented with the opportunity to join a program such as CORE. It has only been about a month since joining CORE, and already I feel that I have learned so much! I cannot wait to see what the next three months have in store. I see this program as a stepping stone back into society and I feel that I will be better prepared upon my release to handle life on life’s terms.
FROM ALL OF US HERE AT THE PIKE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH PEACE AND HAPPINESS!!

Happy Holidays
In 1814 work began on the Pike County Courthouse; it was completed in 1815. This structure served as a Court-
house and Jail until 1851 when a small brick building was built in front of the present Courthouse. (This was re-
moved 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 Win-
dows) offers qualified male Pike County offenders the opportunity to change their lives through intensive rehabili-
tative 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.