2019 ~Year in Review~

Pike County Correctional Facility

“Committed to Excellence”

From the Desk of Warden Lowe

As we nestle in for the winter and move into 2020, I would like to reflect back on 2019. One of our greatest achievements was experienced in December during our Annual Holiday Food Drive at the Pike County Correctional Facility. Last year (2018) our staff donated 700 non-perishable items to support those in need in our community. This year (2019) our dedicated staff members brought in 1,200 items. Based on the fact that we nearly doubled the amount of food items from 2018, it was decided that we would donate to three (3) Pike County Food Pantries, Milford Ecumenical, St. John Newman and Bushkill Outreach were selected to receive the blessed gift.

The recent creation of the Opioid and Re-entry Task Force is something that we believe was needed long ago. Both of the groups meet monthly at the Pike County Training Center and both have proven to be effective in determining ways to combat addiction and reduce recidivism. The groups are comprised of people who are filled with the desire and heart to effect positive change within our community.

Whether we are preparing the food for the Meals on Wheels Program for our seniors, picking up trash on Route 739 or cooking for our staff/volunteers at our Annual Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Dinner, we are always trying to strengthen the community and recognize everyone for their ongoing commitment to excellence.

In closing, I ask for your continued support and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Happy New Year!
2019 has been a particularly busy and productive year in Pike County. The efforts of facility staff members, support agency personnel and our invaluable volunteers have continued in earnest for the betterment of our offenders. Factual data reflects, however, that addiction and related issues continue to exist as a scourge on society. The crisis continues and more needs to be accomplished to reduce recidivism and ensure post incarceration success. To that end, in January 2019 the Pike County Re-Entry Coalition was formed under the direction of Melanie Snyder, O.W.D.S., M.H.F.A. who is an accomplished Re-entry, Trauma, Resilience and Trauma informed care consultant and trainer. Melanie conveyed that she was impressed by what is already being accomplished here in Pike County, but the work of the coalition continued to augment this ongoing work. Each month an impressive array of county agency personnel and citizens meets to discuss methods to further the success of returning citizens. The same effort is being employed by virtually the same group of people at the monthly Pike County Opioid Task Force meeting chaired by Jaime Drake, Executive Director of Carbon, Monroe, Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission. This important work will continue into 2020 (2020, can you believe it??!!??) so that offenders released from incarceration can escape addiction and enjoy societal success. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a most prosperous new year!!!!
Correctional Officer Diane Taranto has been selected as “Correctional Officer of the Year”. She has been employed at the facility since November 2001 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

Terry Mooney
October 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

Treatment Counselor Terry Mooney was selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for October 1, 2018-December 31, 2018. She was employed by the county of Pike since November 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission. Terry Mooney retired on February 8, 2019.

Salvatore Cama
January 1, 2019- March 31, 2019

Maintenance Technician Salvatore Cama was selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for January 1, 2019- March 31, 2019. Salvatore Cama was employed at the facility since September 2018 and exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Donna Miller
April 1, 2019– June 30, 2019
Food Production Supervisor Donna Miller has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for April 1, 2019– June 30, 2019. Ms. Miller has been employed at the facility since October 10, 2001 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

David Meyers
July 1, 2019– September 30, 2019
Maintenance Technician David Meyers has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for July 1, 2019– September 30, 2019. David Meyers has been employed at the facility since March 2018 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Allison Gomer
October 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

Correctional Officer Allison Gomer was selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for October 1, 2018—December 31, 2018. Officer Gomer has been employed at the facility since June 2015 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Kevin Wagenhoffer
January 1, 2019 - March 31, 2019

Correctional Officer Kevin Wagenhoffer was selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for January 1, 2019—March 30, 2019. Officer Wagenhoffer has been employed at the facility since October 2016 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

Kristopher Freymuth
April 1, 2019-June 30, 2019

Correctional Officer Freymuth was selected as "Officer of the Quarter" for April 1, 2019—June 30, 2019. Officer Freymuth has been employed at the facility since February 2017 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

Quinn Smith
July 1, 2019—September 30, 2019

Correctional Officer Quinn Smith was selected as "Officer of the Quarter" for July 1, 2019—September 30, 2019. Officer Smith has been employed at the facility since June 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.
Sergeants Promotions on 3/31/19

Jason Annunziata
Sgt. Annunziata has been employed at the facility since 8/3/98 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission. Sgt. Annunziata is Central Control and Intake certified and was recognized as Officer of the Year in 2009 and Officer of the Quarter for January 2005–March 2005.

Amanda Mills
Sgt. Mills has been employed at the facility since 4/18/16 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission. Sgt. Mills is Central Controlled certified and was recognized as Officer of the Year in 2017 and Officer of the Quarter from April 2017–June 2017.

Brad Howlett
Sgt. Howlett has been employed at the facility since 6/6/16 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission. Sgt. Howlett has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and is Central Control and Intake certified. He received Officer of the Quarter from April 2018—June 2018.

Edward Geisler
Sgt. Geisler has been employed at the facility since 5/29/18 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission. Sgt. Geisler has 25 years of security experience and certification along with being a Pennsylvania Constable since 2008.
2019 Pike County Correctional Facility
New Hire
Treatment Counselor Susan Kenthack

Susan Kenthack is an inspiring new addition to the programs department. Our newest Pike County Correctional Facility Treatment Counselor was previously employed by C.S.S. and administers the A.R.R.O.W program. She was born in Queens NY, then with her parents moved to Pennsylvania and attended Wallenpaupack Area High School. After graduation she continued her education at East Stroudsburg University of PA, studying both Sociology and Human Services. With her passion for children, she began working in the Mental Health Counseling field becoming a specialist in Autism and Safe Crisis Management and continued that career for over ten years. Susan has a love for movies and the outdoors and she loves practicing with and watching her daughter sing and perform at concerts.

In accepting the position with Catholic Social Services she had decided to make the career move to the Drug and Alcohol treatment field. She facilitated the male offender group and conducted individual treatment counseling for the ninety day CSS Drug and Alcohol Program conducted at Pike County Correctional Facility. Her most recent post was at Dunmore Comprehensive Treatment Center for Medical assisted Treatment. Susan has conveyed that returning to Pike County Correctional Facility is the most exciting move in her career; she has the dedication and passion to help others succeed in reaching lifelong sobriety.

2019 Pike County Correctional Facility
New Hire
Administrative Clerk Dawn Schreppel

Dawn Schreppel is our newest addition to the administration department. Dawn grew up in Northern New Jersey, but coming from a family of police/firemen, she spent a decade in South Carolina after graduating from the South Carolina State Trooper Academy. Moving back to New Jersey she worked as a manager for the United Parcel Service, UPS in their corporate building where she would meet her husband of 22 years and eventually move to Pennsylvania with their two dogs, Oliver, a Jack Russell and Summer, a Miniature Greyhound. When she became aware of the administrative opening, Dawn said it was, “Right up her alley”, and working environment she would feel comfortable in. She enjoys watching NASCAR racing and Giants and Yankees games. In the winter she enjoys snowmobiling and eventually her goal is to retire and travel the United States.
The Pike County Correctional Facility is excited to welcome Heather Arculeo, a new Drug & Alcohol Treatment Counselor from Catholic Social Services. Heather was born in Childress, TX, but was raised on her family’s small farm in Haviland, KS. She is a graduate of Haviland High School where she participated in a multitude of extracurricular activities, such as band, choir, forensics, cross-country, track, basketball, and cheerleading. Heather was offered a full scholarship to Pratt Community College for music, but declined the offer to join the United States Marine Corps. She was an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter in the Marines for 8 years. Heather’s personal experiences fueled her desire to help others so she started her education. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology at University of Phoenix and later decided she needed more education to accomplish the things she really wanted to do. Heather received her Master’s of Social Work from The University of Southern California in 2018. Prior to relocating to Pennsylvania, Heather was working as a Program Manager at North County Serenity House, a perinatal rehabilitation center for women and children.

Although she enjoyed her job and all that she was doing, Heather wanted to live closer to family. Thus, she relocated to Milford, PA. Heather’s passion has always been helping others, so she sought out employment opportunities that were in line with that. Heather found a position as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor for Catholic Social Services, but what intrigued her most was the population she would serve here at Pike County Correctional Facility. Heather has worked with recently incarcerated individuals that suffered with substance abuse issues, and she knew that she could continue to make a difference with that population. Heather is specially trained in Moral Reenactment Therapy, which is a systematic, cognitive-behavioral treatment strategy designed to decrease recidivism rates by increasing moral reasoning. Heather looks forward to lowering recidivism, improving program completion, enhancing treatment adherence, and increasing staff satisfaction at PCCF.

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We are happy to introduce Brittany Viola, a new Administrative Clerk at the Pike County Correctional Facility. She is originally from Long Island, NY and relocated to Milford, PA almost five years ago with her husband. She is a new mother to a four month old little boy and happily married! She previously worked at the Delaware Valley School District working as an Instructional Assistant with special needs children for about four years. She grew up around law enforcement, as her father is an NYPD Officer, therefore she thought that making a career in the same field would be interesting, which led her to working in the Pike County Correctional Facility. She is currently enrolled in North Hampton Community College in Business Administration with the hopes of furthering her career. She is looking forward to learning all about Pike County Correctional Facility and says she is proud to call herself a staff member.
FEBRUARY 17, 2020

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!

Did You Know: Every year, for the last 17 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 side the road. They are determined to give back to the community with this kind gesture year after year.

randomacts of kindness.org
A Huge Welcome To our Newest Volunteers

Volunteering is a work of heart.

Kelly Hernandez
Marlene Bowman
Steve Schoonover
William Schaffer
Brian Evichin

Kenneth Bolling
Cordell Bowman
Brandi LaBarre
Tracy Stender

Tany Beecher
Heran Sanchez

Kevin Grimstead
Amy Davidson

Susan Lyons

Thomas Duggan

Joan Standora

Kristina Dorrough

Sanford Beecher
Pike County Reentry Coalition

In January 2019, Re-Entry consultant Melanie Snyder, assisted with the development of the Pike County Reentry Coalition, which was created to perpetuate the reduction of recidivism. The coalition identifies that critical skills are needed for preparation and success beyond the confines of the correctional facility. The key component in reducing recidivism is linking community services together for long-term support. By providing increased opportunities it enhances reentry success.

The coalition’s mission is, “To reduce recidivism by supporting returning citizens as they transition to their communities after incarceration. Members of the Coalition, which include: private citizens, medical and therapeutic professionals, faith communities, employers, educators, non-profit agencies, and government entities, will help to facilitate the transition by identifying needs and making referrals to those agencies able to help individuals attain success and independence”. With this strategic plan, this coalition will assist offenders to transition into society with the skills and support that they need in order to become productive citizens.

Coalition members goals are to prepare returning citizens for reentry, educate and engage the community to reduce stigma and welcome/support returning citizens, educate and engage employers to hire returning citizens, coordinate services, share information, reduce duplication across agencies, build capacity for safe, affordable transportation, housing, and other resources in short supply, offer life skills training at the Pike County Correctional Facility and in the community, facilitate positive support networks for returning citizens, and develop alternatives to incarceration. The Pike County Correctional Facility held a Reentry Coalition meeting on the inside of the facility along with serving lunch for all the members. Meetings for the Coalition are on the last Tuesday of every month from 9:00am-11:00am at the Pike County Training Center. For more information on how you can help or support the coalition, please contact Hampton Morgan by emailing him at choosingintegrity@gmail.com.
The Pike County Area Agency on Aging declares that their volunteers are precious jewels. We had the pleasure of attending the annual Pike County Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Appreciation luncheon at Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, PA. Even the rainy weather could not keep these volunteers from attending. Upon arrival, everyone received a ticket in hopes of winning a door prize. When we got to our seats there was a basket filled with a delicious array of breads and muffins.

The food was such a treat. There was roast pork and baked fish served family style with delicious sides of salad, potatoes and vegetables. For dessert there was rich chocolaty Black Forest Cake. The music playing had people dancing and really enjoying themselves. Games were played and people raced to pick out prizes from all the wonderful donations from generous donors around Pike County.

The Pike County Area Agency on Aging celebrated over 10,000 hours of volunteers’ service time for 2018. They estimated the dollar value of that service time to be around $250,000. Pennsylvania is ranked 22nd in the country for the highest percentage of Volunteers.

The Pike County Correctional Facility continues to partner with the Pike County Area Agency on Aging in supporting homebound seniors by providing nutritionally balanced meals, which are prepared in the kitchen of the Pike County Correctional Facility.
Spring Chickens

Throughout the year the H.O.P.E. Program participants crocheted and loomed for our local seniors and children. The women spend hours each week working on their precious projects, whatever the occasion is. The females made chicks this year for Easter and donated them to the senior citizens of the Area Agency of Aging. Treatment Counselor Michelle DeCroce, who oversees the H.O.P.E. program, delivered these fun festive Spring chicks at Easter time. The seniors sprung with glee when they were given their festive gifts.

Spreading HOPE All Year Round

The H.O.P.E. program participants have also made scarves this year for our volunteers that were given out during the Volunteer Appreciation dinner and are currently making blankets for Christmas time.

An average of thirteen females work daily to loom or crochet beautiful items given out to the community throughout the year!!
Safe Haven Clothesline Project

The Clothesline Project was developed in 1990 when a group of women heard the statistically high rate of violent crimes against women as a result of domestic abuse. These women wanted to educate and spread awareness of this issue to the public. The project honors the survivors, acts as a memorial for victims, and promotes the healing process for those who have been directly affected. Debra Longo of Safe Haven of Pike County comes into the facility and works with the incarcerated females having them design some of the shirts that will be displayed to the public. Each female gets to decorate their own personal shirt, telling their story. Safe Haven is a crisis intervention center providing support to victims, survivors and their families experiencing, past or current, domestic violence, sexual abuse, child-abuse, and other crimes.

There has been two (2) domestic violence victim service providers in Pike County this last year, Safe Haven and Victims’ Intervention Program (VIP). In order to reduce confusion, avoid duplication of services and otherwise ensure that victims/survivors and the greater Pike community get their victim awareness education, prevention, and intervention needs met, Safe Haven has ceased operations on October 31, 2019. VIP has hired three of Safe Haven’s staff members and is committed to maintaining the good work that Safe Haven has done in the community over the last twenty-eight (28) years. Safe Haven has worked closely with VIP to refer new clients to them as they ramp up their capacity to serve the community. A formal press release has gone out to the public. The Pike County Correctional Facility will continue to assist Victims’ Intervention Program with their mission through support and awareness. VIP has started programs within the facility to help individuals who are incarcerated transition into the community.
Another successful year at the annual volunteer appreciation dinner at the Pike County Correctional Facility expressing our gratitude for our volunteers. Our volunteers are the backbone of our recidivism reduction programs at the Pike County Correctional Facility. We take the evening to spend some quality time with our volunteers on a more personal level and thank them for all that they do. Our volunteers came out regardless of the misty rain and had dinner with us. We served delicious steak, chicken, and shrimp kabobs with corn on the cob and an array of side salads. The Warden and Assistant Wardens were hard at work behind the grills making sure there was plenty of food for all. Some may say, the best part was that amazing cheesecake with strawberries that everyone boasts about.

We also recognized our staff for their long-term service: Classification Coordinator Eliisa Wenzel, Sergeant Daniel Scully, Officer Melissa Conway, and Officer Ray Kimble were recognized for their 15 years of dedicated service and Jonathan Freeswick for his 10 years of dedicated service. Assistant Warden McLaughlin then congratulated the Volunteer of the Year, Luke Barbash, who offered a thoughtful speech on his experience volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility.

To end the evening, Warden Lowe thanked the volunteers on what an amazing job they do at the facility and offered them a gift of appreciation. We all joked that this should be the year that he hands out umbrellas because of the rainy night, but the volunteers were very happy with their new portable folding chairs. The H.O.P.E. female participants also made festive fall crocheted gifts and scarves for the volunteers' choosing.

It was another successful year in expressing our gratitude to all of our staff and volunteers. It is amazing to witness the amount of people that give their free time to help others and never ask for anything in return. All of us here at the Pike County Correctional Facility want them to know that we could not be successful without our dedicated staff and volunteers. If you or you know someone that may be interested in volunteering or seeking employment, please call the facility and ask to speak with a Treatment Counselor or security staff.
Luke Barbalich

The 2019 Pike County Correctional Facility Volunteer of the Year is a shining example of an individual who is supremely dedicated to the betterment of both our offenders and our communities’ citizens. For years we have observed this program facilitator to be a consummate professional, who has been unfailingly consistent, caring, and focused on the delivery of the highest quality programming and counseling for the offenders we house.

Volunteering at the PCCF since 2014 this year’s award recipient is presently facilitating programs to both our male and female population, entitled Smart Recovery, Assess Your Stress, and Raising Emotionally & Socially Happy Children for HOPE participants, as well as Integrity for ARROW participants along with individual counseling and release packet service reviews for any offender who requests it. In mid-July he became the executive director of Choosing Integrity, which now delivers more reentry programs at the Pike County Correctional Facility.

Our award recipient serves as the President of the Pike County Inter-agency Council, Chairman of the Board of the Carbon, Monroe, Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission and actively participates in the recently formed Pike County Offender Re-Entry Coalition and the Pike County Opioid Task Force. We are pleased to recognize Luke Barbalich as the 2019 Pike County Correctional Facility Volunteer of the Year.
Volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility

By “Volunteer of the Year”

Luke Barbalich

PCCF: Serving My Time: By Luke Barbalich

It is interesting to ponder why people choose to offer support to fellow citizens, an organization or their broader community. What leads them to extend acts of kindness that transcend monetary or material reward? While every individual may have a reason for doing so that is unique to them, collectively all volunteers are contributing to a cause and purpose greater than themselves.

Volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility (PCCF) presents the opportunity to assist many of our fellow citizens and their families, enhance and support the corrections process, and positively impact the broader community through successful reintegration of returning citizens. There is a great need for our community and various organizations to reach out and connect with incarcerated citizens to send a positive message, deliver education and training, and even guide them toward greater spiritual fulfillment.

I often think about the impact I’m having on the lives of people residing at the correctional facility. Occasionally the positive impact is quite apparent. At times it may be evident through direct feedback from those attending the programs I conduct or the success they share after returning to their respective communities. When I question the resolve of an individual to establish stability in their life and make the changes necessary for recovery, I reflect on a quote of theosophical origin, “When the student is ready the teacher will appear.” This reminds me that my patience is an essential part of the process.

It is widely understood that many individuals residing at the Pike County Correctional Facility are incarcerated for drug related crimes. While this may be true from a legal standpoint, the reality is that many underlying social, emotional, and trauma-related issues have led them to become involved in the legal system and now stand in their way of recovery and ability to avoid reincarceration. As a volunteer, in conjunction with the support of the PCCF administration, treatment counselors, support staff, and corrections team, we seek to break the perpetual cycle of unhealthy, risky, addictive behaviors that are counterproductive to these individuals living a wholesome, positively eventful, and satisfying life.

The personal satisfaction I find through service to others and community is uniquely gratifying. For those who haven’t tried it, you don’t know what you’re missing. The PCCF truly values the support of its volunteers and the contributions they make toward the betterment of every individual they connect with and the wellness of our broader community.

-Luke Barbalich
Pike County Correctional Facility Striving to Provide
Quality Service to People in Our Custody

The rise in immigrant detention has fueled demand for additional ICE detention bed space. As a result, the detention of immigrants for ICE in Pennsylvania county jails has generally grown over the past four years both in terms of the number of beds used and the length of time immigrants remain in detention. The Pike County Correctional Facility is the second largest ICE detention center in Pennsylvania, with York County being the main destination for most ICE detainees. Individuals from the community, the Pocono Immigration Coalition, and the Delaware Valley Action group were encouraged to come into the facility and tour the grounds. They were very impressed with amount of care that is given to the detainees along with the programs that are offered. Many of them became interested in being able to volunteer their services at the facility. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman of Shohola, PA wrote a really nice blog about the experience for local newspapers. It read:

“We hear so much these days about deplorable conditions in prisons and inhumane treatment of prisoners. Visiting the Pike County Correctional Facility yesterday with a group of Delaware Valley Action! was a refreshing experience. Our concern for ICE detainees led us to visit the facility in order to gather information and to find out how members of the community could help detainees know that they are not forgotten and that there are people who care about them. What we found was that the Pike County ICE detainees have very clean accommodations and a wide variety of programs that they can participate in while waiting for their cases to be processed. Hats off to Warden Lowe and his dedicated staff! - Cordell and Marlene Bowman, Shohola.”

Cordell and Marlene Bowman, our newest volunteers now conduct an English as a Second Language (ESL) program here at the Pike County Correctional Facility. Susan Lyons from the Pocono Immigration Coalition has donated some books of diverse languages and designed a way for multiple volunteers to donate their time to sit and speak with any detainee that requests it. Going forward we will continue to strive to provide quality service to people in our custody.
Dining and Discussion

The Pike County Reentry Coalition invited all those from the community and surrounding counties to join the coalition for an information session and a complimentary barbecue held at the Pike County Correctional Facility on October 7th, 2019. On that rainy evening, Warden Lowe and Assistant Wardens McLaughlin and Romance grilled up delicious BBQ chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs, and steamed clams. There was live music and of course that delicious cheesecake that is so popular with those that attend our functions.

Members of the committee welcomed all attendees by explaining the committee’s mission in the hopes of recruiting new members. Co-chairs, Commissioner Steve Guccioni and Hampton Morgan both spoke to the crowd about working together as a team to help reduce the rate of recidivism. Luke Babalich spoke about Choosing Integrity and their actions to assist returning citizens in becoming successful members of society. A couple of returning citizens from the Pike County Correctional Facility were there to express their challenges in reentering society and how the reentry coalition has been able to help and support them.

Warden Lowe believes that by taking a collaborative approach, the reentry coalition is a supplement to our current reentry programs in reducing the recidivism rate. Each month the committee gets together to discuss the strategic plan of creating opportunities for former offenders, encouraging them to move forward through community support and resources. For further information please contact Hampton Morgan at choosingintegrity@gmail.com.

On November 26, 2019, both the Opioid Task Force and the Reentry Coalition decided to combine their meetings to further enhance collaboration between community resources, spread awareness and better assist offenders to promote successful reintegration upon release.

Spreading Drug & Alcohol Awareness for All to See!

As you may or may not be aware, many incarcerated offenders and their families have a dependency on drugs and/or alcohol. To address this issue, we have partnered with Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission (CMP) in providing services to those in need of help. There is a new banner on the front of the Pike County Correctional Facility encouraging all those in need to get help. The banner reads, “Do you or someone you know need Drug and Alcohol Treatment? Call Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission Toll Free 24/7 1.866.824.3578 Funding Available for the uninsured/ Pike, Monroe, or Carbon County Residents”. CMP’s vision is “To promote a community where recovery matters and strength and dignity is given to those affected by drug and alcohol use”. The Pike County Correctional Facility will continue to support Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Commission’s vision and mission in providing awareness and prevention services to our community.

Our goal is to have returning citizens go back to a stable and clean environment.
Taking Security to the Next Level

In a move to improve security at the Pike County Correctional Facility, we have installed a high-security contraband detection body scanner. Its purpose is to detect weapons and contraband hidden in an inmate’s/detainee’s body cavity or elsewhere. The use of this machine is very simple, in as far as the subject only needs to stand in the scanner for four seconds and remains stationary the entire time. The body scanner scans vertically instead of horizontally, allowing the scanning beam to pass through the shortest distance through the body, providing no image distortion, which leads to better and easier identification of contraband.

The scanner was installed in the facility’s Intake area where inmates and detainees are first processed. Unlike most scanners, where they can only detect concealed contraband under clothing, this scanner can find all types of contraband such as drugs, weapons, inorganic material, organic material, etc. outside and inside the body. With the leading technology, this scanner also ensures privacy because it does not show a person’s anatomical outline or facial features. With the new scanner, the intake process can be expedited providing a safer environment for all.

Taking Action Through Vaccination

A vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the spread and outbreak of Hepatitis A in the prison setting. In accordance with promoting proper hygiene and cleanliness at the Pike County Correctional Facility, we also offer the Hepatitis A vaccination to any inmate or detainee that requests it in order to prevent Hepatitis A from spreading. Hepatitis A is a highly contagious virus causing inflammation or swelling of the liver that prevents it from functioning properly. With records of recent outbreaks these past few years within jails and prisons across the nation, The Pike County Correctional Facility has partnered with Tammy DeLeo from the Department of Health/Bureau of Community Health Systems and her team from Milford, Pennsylvania. Tammy comes to the facility once a month to distribute the Hepatitis A vaccination to those that have requested it. With this option, many inmates and detainees have taken advantage of preventing themselves from contracting the virus.
Baptism

On May 5, 2019 Reverend Alma Maldonado Colon, President and Kenneth Bolling from Born Again Ministries came into the facility to conduct baptisms for any inmate or detainee that would like one. This event is scheduled randomly throughout the year.

General Education Development

At the Pike County Correctional Facility we offer the GED program to all that request it. William Schaffer from North Hampton Community College comes into the facility weekly and provides a program that is designed for adult learners who need to improve their basic skills in the areas of math, reading, and writing in preparation to take the GED test. Our students come from many countries and varied backgrounds.

Wayne Pike Adult Literacy Program

Wayne Pike Adult Literacy Program has been supporting those at the Pike County Correctional Facility for many years by having volunteers come into the facility to tutor those that face educational challenges and help them reach their educational goals. “This program supports adults in their endeavor to function as literate and contributing members of society.”

English as a Second Language

Cordell and Marlene Bowman have recently begun their ESL program. This program is designed for individuals who are non-native speakers of English and who want to improve their ability to communicate in English at home or at work. These classes emphasize all areas of the English language, including listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
Dog Beds for Dog Heads and Kitty Mats for Special Cats

Annually the Pike County Correctional Facility saves mattresses and blankets that are no longer serviceable throughout the year to reuse the material to make dog and cat beds to donate for the animals at the Pike County Humane Society in Shohola, PA. The blankets get dried a pretty pink or purple color and then the female H.O.P.E. participants cut and sew the blankets to size to fit the beds. Once all the beds are made, the administrative and treatment staff drop them off personally to meet the cute furry friends that get so excited when visitors come. News station BRC 13 also attends to witness this charitable event which helps raise awareness in the community for the Pike County Humane Society. We look forward to visiting our furry friends year after year and will continue supporting our local Humane Society. Please contact the Pike County Humane Society if you would like to volunteer, donate, or adopt a pet.

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 1,200 items that we will donate to three (3) food pantries including Milford Ecumenical, St. John Newman and Bushkill Outreach. In the facility Muster Room a candy cane goal thermometer displays how close we are to reaching our goal. 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 jolly laughs and gifts for all. Volunteer Ed Schaffner looks forward to dressing up every year as Santa Claus, handing out holiday gift bags, and putting a smile on everyone's face. The gift bags are decorated festively by the female H.O.P.E. participants. They 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 donations of volunteers. Thank you to all that made this year special for those that cannot be with their families 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.

Angel Tree Christmas:
The Angel Tree program of Prison Fellowship provides a pathway for strengthening and restoring the relationship between someone that is incarcerated and their child. Their goal is to touch the lives of every child that has an incarcerated parent by allowing the parent to send their child a gift. Participating parents fill out an application at the Pike County Correctional Facility and choose a category that best fits the age and gender of the child. The application is sent in and the process of restoring the relationship between parent and child is accomplished when that special gift arrives.

Prison Fellowship 44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, VA 20176
Art Contests

One of the favorite past times for those housed here at the Pike County Correctional Facility is to express their creative side through beautiful art. We hold multiple art contests throughout the year for contestants to win prizes.

No matter what the theme is the participants will get amazingly creative and come up with fantastic designs and ideas. We can really see the hard work and effort behind them.

There is a pick for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. The selection can be very difficult at times as the drawings are creative and unique.

We will continue to conduct art contests throughout the year for we enjoy them as much as the artists do!
Written By
The M.O.R.E. Program
"Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Effectively"
Written By M.F.

I would like to start off by saying thank you for the valuable service you'll provide to the inmates at the prison. To often the staff that provide the instruction and guidance to the inmates get overlooked. I have personally benefitted from the programs offered to me as an inmate in the prison. Being a level three classification gave me limited resources, but this program gave me the capability to expand my educational abilities and use of some of the tools I have acquired through my personal studies. I enjoyed helping the counselors and volunteers get others in the group interested by sharing personal insights and experiences. We are all imperfect and make mistakes in life. I choose to be judged by my accomplishments and good deeds rather than my past shortcomings. "Problems are lessons designed from our edification," (thanks Lisa B.) and everything is meaningful in life when you view things in an optimistic and spiritual realm. I share this letter of praise with all responsible for both enabling the program and sharing the life lessons that so many of us incarcerated men and women need to maintain a modicum of normalcy in their lives. Having taken advantage of higher education, I appreciate the effort to help the inmates in search of their G.E.D. and High School Diplomas. We will never have this amount of free time again in our secular lives, so I encourage all the incarcerated with me to take full advantage of this one time as a gift. God puts people in our lives for a reason. I am not proud to have been in P.C.C.F., but I feel proud to have met all of you and to have had this experience.

The H.O.P.E. Program
"Helping Offenders Promote Excellence"
Written By R.D.

I would like to respectfully voice what the importance of the HOPE program represents to me. I feel the program introduces multiple positive opportunities to only better us individually and also to help us come together as a community. This program offers us females resources to help improve our lives currently, our future and our choices. I feel it allows us to self reflect in ways we may not have been acknowledged yet. The program helps guide us in positive ways to create and sustain a healthy lifestyle, also it encourages us to develop short and long term goals. Each program presents a chance for us to become our best selves and to prepare for re-entry to society. The program is helping us with coping mechanisms for things like anger management, forgiveness, patience and recovery. I am thankful for the H.O.P.E. program and all it has to offer.

The C.O.R.E. Program
"Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively"
Written By L.N.

"He can who thinks he can, and he can't who thinks he can't". I have learned about landscaping, maintenance, wastewater treatment, basic construction, chainsaw operation, roofing, framing, and small operation and repairs. This program has helped me to cultivate solid work ethic which is important for a positive attitude with a commitment for experience that builds one's self-esteem, and character. This program will help me when I leave to be more valuable as I improve on these skills when I leave Pike County Correctional Facility. It will be a valuable asset for my community and my family.
The M.R.T. Program

“Moral Reconciliation Therapy”

Written By K.B.

I’ve been battling addiction for the last twelve years of my life. With addiction, I have witnessed the miseries that come with it, such as jails and institutions, but I know if I continue down this path, then death will be the end of my story. The reasons for being incarcerated in PCCF are solely drug related. Using drugs has resulted into me having numerous DUI’s and drug possession charges to deal with. But, on the upside, being incarcerated has given me a chance to reflect on my life along with thinking about some of the poor choices I’ve made in my past. But, more importantly it gave me a new start. From this moment, I now have more than six months clean and sober. With influence from the M.R.T. program, I’ve had a step by step treatment strategy designed to enhance self image, promote growth of a positive self identity and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning. This program has helped me break down key issues in my life that may be the cause of my addiction. I have fully surrendered my old thinking and be completely willing to change. I have felt a break through on my personal recovery and personal growth as an inmate towards success on a better lifestyle. I need to succeed to break old habits and with the help of this program that the jail offers, I first hand can see it making a difference. I am thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this program and I am looking forward to my new journey towards success. I would recommend this program to anyone that struggles with a lifestyle that involves a revolving door of incarceration.

The A.R.R.O.W. Program

“Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows”

Written By B.B.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the definition for recidivism is: A tendency to relapse into a previous condition. Here at the Pike County Correctional Facility we are fortunate to have various programs that may help to aid, assist, direct, and lead us on the right path to avoid coming back to jail. One specific program with the acronym of A.R.R.O.W. (Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows), is just that. There are many different topics that we as a group discuss, such as anger management, employment skills, building integrity, life skills, and more. Each of these are instructed, guided, and taught by volunteers whom all directly work in one way or another in each field. They bring a lot of experience and knowledge which is beneficial to all of us. When I signed up for these classes, I honestly only did it to make the days go by quicker, just to keep my mind and myself occupied. However, since the first class, I participated, listened, and learned. I now look forward to each class to learn more and move forward. They say you learn something new everyday. This is an accurate statement especially during these classes. Everybody incarcerated has their own story. In my opinion these types of programs, which are designed to educate, help do just that. They teach us to think first, to seek help when needed, to understand our families struggles as well during these times, and to realize what addictive behaviors have on society. I would suggest everyone incarcerated to sign up to one of these programs because there is always something new to learn. The education alone is priceless. It may save your life, a loved ones life, a strangers life, at the same time guiding yourself to chose the higher road. A quote from Frederic Douglas, “Without struggle, there can be no progress.”
2020

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

Happy New Year
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.