

WI Department of Corrections

# Division of Juvenile Corrections

## E-News Bulletin



September 2009

Issue No. 2

Welcome to the second issue of the DJC E-News Bulletin! Please feel free to forward this to others who may be interested.

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DJC will reserve space in each news bulletin to include program changes, program improvements & highlights, training opportunities, and resourceful information. If you have a contribution for the next bulletin, please forward it to Jocelyn Petersen at [jocelyn.petersen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jocelyn.petersen@wisconsin.gov). Thank you.

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## **Lincoln Hills School Cadet Achievement (CAP): Greenhouse/Garden Community Service Project**

The Cadet Achievement Program (CAP) is Wisconsin's Juvenile "Boot Camp." The main focus of the program is education with an emphasis on work ethic, job skills, and community service.

For the past seven years, the program has operated the greenhouse and vegetable garden as one of its several community service projects. Each year they have been able to expand the program and volume of what they can give to our surrounding communities. This past spring, the following plants were started from seed and cared for by the cadets. These plants were then delivered to eight different counties in North Central Wisconsin. Their totals were:

Tomatoes	3,485
Peppers	1,465
Cauliflower	410
Cabbage	1,155
Broccoli	945
Herbs	380
Assorted Flowers	2,175

Plants are started from seed in the greenhouse in the middle of March. The cadets nurture the plants until mid-May when they can be safely transplanted outside. The CAP community service crew and their supervisor, Mr. Wasmund, travel daily to work sites in the surrounding area. When the plants are ready to go, the community service work crew takes them to various sites. They coordinate with the Commission of Aging program in each county. They distribute the plants from their meal site and through their *Meals on Wheels* programs.

Another method of distribution is through local food pantries where needy families can pick up the started vegetable plants. There has also been a new interest in "Community Gardens" which have been started in residential areas. They supplied plants to several of these gardens. Lincoln Hills School has also been able to benefit from the cadets' hard work. Flowers such as petunias, marigolds, asters, 4 o'clock morning glories and zinnias are used to beautify the grounds throughout the entire institution. This allows the cadets to see and take pride in their work.

The second part of the project is having their own vegetable garden at Lincoln Hills School. Cadets till plants and nurture a large garden throughout the growing season. They grow a large assortment of vegetables and as they

are ready to harvest, they are delivered to local food pantries.



The benefits of the program, besides the obvious, is the aid it provides to the community in addition to how it benefits the cadets. For many of our inner-city youth, they have never really grown anything and had no idea where their food originates from. This gives them a whole new appreciation of how food ends up on the grocery store shelves. The greenhouse and garden are both excellent work sites to teach job skills and work ethic. Every time they are working on this project, the staff stresses the importance of following directions, staying on task and being productive.

It is their hope that these skills will serve them well in the future. It is not unusual to have cadets inquire about careers in greenhouse gardening, landscaping, and agricultural related fields.

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### **Victim Impact Program at Lincoln Hills School**

The Victim Impact Program (VIP) is based on the California Youth Authority curriculum that focuses on understanding the impact of crime on victims. The VIP program was piloted in August of 1999. The mission of the VIP Program is to assist offenders with the concepts of empathy and compassion; the effect crime has on their victims and families and their communities. The program also provides an opportunity for victims to share their experiences in an attempt to educate the offender as part of the victims' healing process. There are three facilitators for each VIP segment. Current facilitators include: teachers, teacher assistants, social workers, program assistants, youth counselors, and assistant unit managers. Lincoln Hills offers six to eight sessions throughout the year.

VIP is an intensive three-week long program. VIP is presented through lectures, discussion, group activities, assignments, daily journals, videos, and guest speaker presentations. Offenders earn ½ of a credit in social studies at the completion of the program. The program is divided into ten units. The course begins with property crimes issues and culminates with the crime of homicide; it is only after building rapport and trust, when youth begin to take ownership for their crimes. Groundwork has been laid to delve into the impact of these serious crimes.

The most effective component of VIP is having various guest speakers talk to the group. These speakers are survivors of crime and/or experts in the area of victims' services/restorative justice practices. LHS/VIP speakers have been impacted by property crimes, violent crimes, domestic violence, crimes against the elderly, sexual assaults, robbery, alcohol and drug related crimes (including drunk driving), and homicide. There are also

professionals from the surrounding communities that come in to speak to the offenders regarding the impact of crimes on their professions and how the crimes affect the community. The following professions have contributed: insurance agencies, police officers, firefighters/EMTs, funeral directors, the MADD organization, emergency room nurses, and X-ray technicians.

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### **Improvements: The SPRITE House**

The SPRITE House, located in Oregon, Wisconsin is receiving some structural improvements identified as critical in a 10-year facility review conducted by the Department of Administration in 2007. The following improvements will be implemented: energy efficient lighting, low maintenance flooring, upgraded lavatories and youth showers, replacement windows and new roofing will ensure that the SPRITE Program has a safe, efficient facility well into the future.

The next SPRITE session will be held **October 7-30, 2009** with completed referral packets due by September 23.

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### **Victim Impact Activities at Southern Oaks Girls School**

Southern Oaks Girls School's social workers, Sherryl Buska, Becky Schrack, and Stacy Truman, have recently begun incorporating Victim Impact activities within the framework of the Juvenile Cognitive Intervention Program (JCIP). While the two programs remain distinct for the majority of sessions, facilitators have discovered that a number of lessons complement each other quite positively and reinforce learning concepts with great success.

Upon successful completion of JCIP Phase I, Southern Oaks Girls School students begin to attend uniquely tailored group sessions of Victim Impact Programming. These sessions introduce the basic restorative justice concepts, overarching principles and key definitions, the six major impact areas of crime, victim and offender rights, and a review of current crime statistics. Following these foundation building sessions, this larger group is subdivided into crime-specific groupings.

These crime-specific subgroups participate in three treatment sessions. During this time students learn to appreciate victims' perspectives relative to the harm crime creates. Students utilize the *Listen and Learn* Curriculum, in conjunction with the JCIP concept of *Train of Thought*, to identify beliefs which drive their cycles of offending. Students also complete reflective assignments which focus on developing empathy for their victims. In-depth discussion and processing of emotions are key components in effectively facilitating these activities.

Completion of a crime impact statement is also required within the new programmatic format; students must engage in an assessment of their delinquent behavior from the victim's perspective. These are highly challenging issues which require facilitator tenacity and patience!

The group comes together for a culminating event during which students present an apology letter written to the victim of their committing offense. Students also share a visual representation of their *Cycle of Offending*, which demonstrates the Victim Impact and JCIP concepts learned. Within the *Cycle of Offending*, each youth identifies their supporting beliefs, thinking patterns, feelings, behaviors, and consequences relative to their committing

offense. Apology letters to victims are presented orally from a personal point of view to an audience consisting of peers and institution treatment staff. These are highly emotional presentations with powerful impact on all those in attendance.

On July 29, 2009, Division of Juvenile Corrections Administrator, Margaret Carpenter attended the presentation of apology letters at Southern Oaks Girls School in support of these programmatic modifications.



Pictured from left to right: Becky Schrack, Sherryl Buska, Margaret Carpenter, Stacy Truman

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### **Program Highlight: Education Talent Search at Lincoln Hills School**

Education Talent Search (ETS) is funded by a federal grant. They are currently in their third year of the five year grant. Staff members include: Rick Habeck (Director), Miranda Day (Tutor), and Ian Schoone (Tutor).

This program is designed to assist students who are interested in continuing their education in a post-secondary school program after receiving their high school diploma. The program will provide academic, career, and financial counseling, and tutoring to the students who are enrolled. All students at Lincoln Hills are eligible for services.

The primary goal of the program is to increase the number of youth who graduate from high school and enroll into a post-secondary program of their choice. Currently, sixty two youth have completed placement tests (ACT or Accuplacer/Companion), enrollment applications, and have been accepted as a future student in the post-secondary educational system of their choice.

The following is a list of services that are offered:

1. Academic, financial, career and personal counseling including information related to post secondary programs offered by NTC and other post secondary schools
2. Career exploration and assessments
3. Provide tutoring and post-secondary entrance test preparation services to Lincoln Hills students.
4. Student financial assistance, including the completion of the FAFSA required by the Federal Government in order to apply for grants, loans and work study
5. Assistance in completing college admission forms, as well as completing a waiver letter that pays the

schools admissions fee.

6. Individual assistance in preparing for college entrance such as the ACT and Accuplacer tests.

This year's reporting period began on September 1, 2008 and continues through August 31, 2009. A total of 315 Lincoln Hills Students that have participated in the program this year. Of the 351 students, 157 are continuing from 2007-2008, and 194 have been enrolled since September 1, 2008. To date, we have had 62 students send applications to a variety of post-secondary schools for enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year.

A significant change in the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act* allows an increased number of incarcerated youth the opportunity to file for financial aid without providing parental financial and related information. One of the major hurdles for students attempting to enroll in post-secondary programs is the lack of follow-up by parents with the required FAFSA information. The students who have been involved with non-parental based living situations will be able to file as independents. Post-secondary school financial aid directors will require verification prior to granting specific financial aid packages.

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### Lincoln Hills School's Summer Games

Keeping up with their tradition, Lincoln Hills School will be holding its annual Summer Games from September 8-11, 2009. The Summer Games are a time for students to further develop athletic, academic, and artistic skills, and enter into competition with other youth. Students participate in the traditional team activities of football, softball, and basketball. The track and field events include: 100m dash, 60m hurdles, a mile run, shot put, and long jump. The non-traditional team or paired activities offered are: ultimate frisbee, bean bag toss, and two-ball. Nonathletic events include a quiz bowl, spelling football, chess, cribbage, speech contest, and a drawing competition.

On Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>, the games will be finalized with a three-legged race, a wheel barrel race, and a cottage run. A traditional summer picnic follows. The culminating event is the awards ceremony, where students will be presented with trophies and awards for their accomplishments. To commemorate September 11<sup>th</sup> and to show appreciation for the men and women of the armed forces, the speech and drawing competitions' theme is "Heroism". The winner of the speech contest will deliver their speech at the awards ceremony. Students participating in the art contest will use their imagination to create an original *mandala*, a historical tradition that provides an avenue to express thoughts, experiences, and creativity. These will be displayed throughout the school during Summer Games Week.

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## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual *Children Come First* Conference: November 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> WI Dells**

When: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday)

Where: Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells, WI

For further information, please visit: <http://www.wifamilyties.org/wifamilyties.org-events.html>

## **Juvenile Court Intake Worker Trainings: Upcoming Dates & Locations**

Upcoming Basic Juvenile Court Intake Training Dates:

**September 14-16, 2009** at the Wintergreen Resort & Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells, WI

**November 17-19, 2009** at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc, WI

For more information, please contact: **Melissa Williams**, Washburn County. Her contact information is:

P.O. Box 250 Shell Lake, WI 54871

PH: 715-468-4781

FAX: 715-468-4753

EMAIL: [mwilliam@co.washburn.wi.us](mailto:mwilliam@co.washburn.wi.us)

\*Registration for classroom training can be mailed, emailed, or faxed. Phone registration will no longer be accepted.

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## **Appointment of Ray Woodruff to Corrections Program Specialist Project Position under the Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Grant**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ray Woodruff to Corrections Program Specialist under the Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Grant Project. His appointment was effective June 1, 2009.

He has a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Criminal Justice-Forensic Psychology from Tiffin University. Ray was most recently employed as a Correctional Program Specialist from 2006 to 2008 at the Pickaway Correctional Institution (PCI) in Orient, Ohio. He performed interviews and evaluations on inmates to complete reentry plans; he was an instructor/facilitator for two reentry programs called "Commitment to Change" and "Moral Reasoning". Ray also complete release plans, security reviews, and regularly reviewed past policies and procedures for updating.

Welcome, Ray!

## **Appointment of Shannon Fenceroy to Juvenile Services Specialist Project Position under the Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Grant**

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Shannon Fenceroy to Juvenile Services Specialist under the Juvenile Sex Offender Reentry Grant Project. Her appointment was effective June 1, 2009. Shannon is responsible for coordinating and providing reentry services for high risk sex offenders and their families beginning with the youth in the institution and continuing upon their release/transfer from the institution into the community.

She has a BA in English with a minor in Philosophy and she has a Master of Science degree in Community Counseling from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. After graduating in 2005, Shannon began her career as a teacher developing lesson plans for teaching behaviorally-challenged middle and high school students. Then from 2006-2008, she was a Care Coordinator in the Wrap Around Milwaukee Program.

Welcome, Shannon!

## **Ethan Allen School Welcomes New Psychology Interns**

Ethan Allen School welcomes the following new psychology interns:

**Brendan Eberenz** (Wright State University) Dayton, Ohio  
**Kiela Bolden** (Illinois School of Professional Psychology) Chicago  
**Kristin Thompson** (University of Arizona) Tucson, Arizona  
**Omar Jamil** (DePaul University) Chicago  
**Andrew Moskowitz** (Pacific University) Palo Alto, California

They will be with us from the beginning of September through August of 2010. Welcome!

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