

N.C. Correction Enterprises' Janitorial Plant works toward...

Cleaning and Greening our World

By Karen A. Brown, Director, NC Correction Enterprises

Since 2008, Correction Enterprises (NCCE) Janitorial Plant has partnered with Mission PACT, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving hygiene to curtail the threat of disease in third world countries, to produce soap products.

In early spring 2010, Mission PACT contacted Correction Enterprises and explained that they had seen pictures of women in third world countries washing clothes in the river using Mission PACT bath soap manufactured by Correction Enterprises. They asked if NCCE could develop a more versatile bar soap that could be used for multiple purposes – washing clothes, washing dishes and bathing.

Plant Manager Forrest Fesperman and Correction Enterprises Supervisor Itena Lynch eagerly went to work investigating and developing a soap to fit this unique need.



Always mindful of costs, Mr. Fesperman sought out manufacturers who might have scrap soap or raw materials that could be donated or purchased at a savings. Mr. Fesperman located a soap manufacturing company that had “a warehouse full” of scrap soap and were happy to donate it to Mission PACT. According to Mr. Fesperman, “Had this scrap soap not been reused by Correction Enterprises, it may well have ended up in a landfill”.

Once the material was received, Ms. Lynch worked with the inmates at the plant to adjust the manufacturing equipment to make a much larger shaped and denser soap product. A die was made by a local North Carolina company. The resulting product resembles a clean smelling brick that is environmentally friendly and can be easily transported to the river.



The first truckload of 46,368 bars of soap were manufactured and delivered to Mission PACT in late May. These pallets were immediately shipped to El Salvador, Zimbabwe and Mali.

The inmates are extremely proud that they have produced a product that is being shipped around the world. As stated by Ms. Lynch, “Very seldom do they have the opportunity to help someone less fortunate. This is very motivational for them”.

This project is a win-win for all parties involved. Mission PACT is able to fulfill a need at an extremely low cost; the soap manufacturing company is able to free up his warehouse space while obtaining a tax credit; the soap scraps are kept out of the landfill; and Correction Enterprises is able to provide additional training and work opportunities for inmates.