

Correction News

July
2005

North Carolina Department of Correction / www.doc.state.nc.us / (919) 716-3700

8 named top Community Corrections officers



From left, front row, **Eboni Douglas**, **Dawn Dye** and **Kevin Caldwell**. Back row, **Courtney Stewart**, **Carolina Vence** and **Mahala Burch**. Not available for the photo were **Garry Garner** and **Carl Craven**. Details are available on pages 2 and 3.

Eight employees from throughout North Carolina were honored as Department of Correction Probation/Parole and Community Supervision Officers of the Year during a ceremony on Wednesday, July 20, at the Office of Staff Development and Training in Apex.

The officers were cited for various accomplishments, including their dedication to helping offenders, efforts in community policing, personal service to their communities, outstanding contributions to the department and service above and beyond the call of duty.

Presiding over the ceremony were Correction Secretary **Theodis Beck** and Division of Community Corrections Director **Robert Guy**. Secretary Beck said the officers are "role models" and "ambassadors" for the department.

"They work closely with sheriff's deputies and police officers, with judges and

See **OFFICERS**, page 4

Grandbabies give new meaning to SECC

An epiphany -- a life moment when you understand something really important in a totally different way -- it is very difficult to explain to others, unless they, too, share your perspective. But **Wendy Carter** wants to try anyway.

Wendy is administrative secretary to Correction Enterprises Director **Karen Brown**.

"It happened on my first visit," Wendy said.

Wendy had gone to UNC Hospitals in

Chapel Hill where her daughter-in-law was admitted for the emergency delivery of twin daughters in mid-February. Her son's girls would be born 13 weeks early and in the hospital for up to three months. At least one of the parents, **Joey and Allison Talton** of Angier, would need to be at the sides of **Caroline and Madison** at all times or at least within a very short travel distance.

"I knew **Joey and Allison** needed a place to stay, and could not afford a hotel

See **WENDY**, page 7



Wendy Carter's son, **Jason Talton**, cuddles one of his daughters, affixed to a respirator and other medical equipment, on the warmth of his chest under his shirt.



Sherry Pilkington, left, special assistant to Correction Secretary **Theodis Beck**, extends greetings on his behalf to workshop participants. Right is **Barbara Pierce**, NC Correctional Association president.

Association workshop focuses on women working in corrections

Approximately 150 people from across the state gathered near Raleigh on July 21 to attend a workshop on women working in corrections. Sponsored by the NC Correctional Association (NCCA), the session's theme was "Empowerment in the Workplace."

The one-day workshop, conducted at Wake Technical Community College, was attended predominantly by women. It featured several speakers on a wide variety of subjects.

Opening the workshop were **Barbara Pierce**, NCCA president, and

See **WOMEN**, page 5

Community Corrections Officers of the Year

Mahala Burch

intensive case
manager
District 6A
Halifax County



Mahala Burch was selected for her work ethic and for serving beyond the call of duty.

As an intensive case officer, Burch makes numerous in-person visits with offenders, often conducting searches of their residences that sometimes reveal large quantities of drugs that would have been sold and hundreds dollars in cash generated from drug sales.

In an extraordinary act, Burch helped law enforcement officers quickly resolve an armed robbery after hearing of their search for the suspects over her mobile radio. On routine business at the time, Burch was at the same location as the suspect, whom she detained until sheriff deputies arrived.

Burch has been District 6A coordinator for the State Employees Combined Campaign since 1997, with her efforts being recognized by Secretary Theodis Beck. She also influences the design of criminal justice instruction at Halifax Community College, whose trustees appointed her to the school's Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

"She has made a significant impact on her unit," said Burch's supervisor, Unit 506AB Chief Probation/Parole Officer **Doug Hardy**. "Officer Burch has time and time again gone beyond the call of duty in carrying out her responsibilities as an intensive officer, as well as frequently assisting law enforcement agencies."

The wife of a Halifax County Sheriff's Department investigator and the mother of three boys, Burch is very involved in her sons' activities. She is active

in PTA and in the Police Benevolent Association.

Burch began her college studies at NC State University and completed the requirements for a criminal justice degree in 1989 from NC Wesleyan College. In 1991, Burch began working in District 6A-Unit 506AB as a probation/parole officer, and was named intensive case officer there in 1998.

Kevin Caldwell

intermediate
probation
officer
District 21
Forsyth County



Kevin Caldwell was recognized for an incident that occurred April 17, during a routine home visit to one of his offenders.

After Caldwell knocked, the offender stumbled to the door in obvious distress. He was incoherent and going in and out of consciousness. Caldwell, believing the offender was having a diabetic episode, rendered aid and called 911.

Recognition was also given to Caldwell for developing a proposal that helped reduce the number of no-shows at the Forsyth County Day Reporting Center. Under Caldwell's plan, all offenders are required to report each morning at 9 o'clock for lineup and daily instructions.

A native of Forsyth County and a graduate of Livingstone College in Salisbury, Caldwell joined the Division of Community Corrections as a probation officer in 2000.

Caldwell has a wife and two children, and the family resides in Winston-Salem, where he volunteers as a Twin City Little League coach.

Carl Craven

intensive case
officer
District 5
Pender County



Carl Craven was selected for high productivity, significant impact on the sex offender control program and exceptional work.

In February 2004, Craven assumed the responsibility of supervising all sex offender cases in Pender County as a new Sex Offender Control Program was being implemented statewide. This responsibility requires Craven to travel throughout the county to maintain frequent face-to-face contacts with the sex offenders under his supervision, ensuring that they are following the rules and attending treatment. Craven was also instrumental in recruiting a sex offender treatment provider for the county.

Additionally, Craven recently volunteered to coordinate a Community Corrections team to conduct routine searches on eligible offenders. Under his direction, the searches conducted by the team have been very effective, resulting in the seizure of illegal drugs and weapons.

"Officer Craven regularly seeks new challenges, having requested and successfully completed training to be an instructor in general supervision, pepper spray use and unarmed self defense," said **Jean Walker**, chief probation/parole officer. "He also has served on the electronic house arrest response team, has been a school partnership officer and has regularly volunteered to assist other officers with arrests and retrievals of captured absconders."

A Pender County native, Craven started his career in corrections in 1995 as a program

assistant at Pender Correctional Institution. A few years later he made the transition to Community Corrections by becoming a surveillance officer and eventually a probation officer.

Eboni Douglas

probation
officer
District 26
Charlotte



Eboni Douglas specializes in the supervision of domestic violence offenders. Ninety percent of Douglas' probation caseload consists of offenders convicted in Mecklenburg County's domestic violence court.

"Officer Douglas is an asset to our department and represents the best of community corrections," said Chief Probation/Parole Officer **Tracy Lee**, who is her supervisor.

Douglas often attends group counseling sessions and confronts domestic violence offenders in group sessions about their behavior and attitudes. She also works with domestic violence victims, providing safety tips, assistance and referrals when needed.

She is a member of the North Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force, which is researching new supervision guidelines for domestic violence offenders.

Douglas is a native of Durham, and earned her criminal justice degree from Fayetteville State University in 1998. She joined the Division of Community Corrections in 2001.

The deadline for the Aug. 2005
Correction News
is Sept. 1. Items since July 2005
will be accepted.

Community Corrections Officers of the Year

Dawn Dye

probation/
parole officer
District 10
Wake County



Dawn Dye was selected for high productivity, significant impact on the house arrest program and exceptional work.

Since November 2002, Dye has specialized in supervising offenders on electronic house arrest. She takes that role very seriously, ensuring that the monitoring devices are working properly and that offenders who have violated their house arrest are dealt with quickly.

Dye supervises approximately 30 offenders assigned to house arrest by the courts. Those offenders reside predominantly in northern Wake County, including North Raleigh, Wake Forest, Morrisville and some in downtown Raleigh.

Guiding offenders down a productive path, Dye takes pride in helping them turn their lives around.

"Dye not only helps other house arrest officers, but all staff, and can be expected to step in at a moment's notice to handle anything that needs to be taken care of," said **Catherine Eagles**, chief probation/parole officer.

In addition to Dye's professionalism at work, she's very involved in civic activities. She works with at-risk female youths through Family Youth Incorporated, and helps feed the homeless. Dye speaks to high school students on career day, serves on a disaster response team, raises funds for Special Olympics and represents the department at Cary's Law Enforcement Day.

Dye started her career in corrections in 1994 as a correctional officer at North Carolina

Correctional Institution for Women. A few years later, she made the transition to Community Corrections by becoming a probation/parole officer.

Garry Garner

intensive
surveillance
officer
District 12
Cumberland
County



Garry Garner was selected for a contribution to the department that was above and beyond the call of duty, high productivity, having a significant positive effect on a program and exceptional work performance.

Garner, who was named Judicial District 12 Officer of the Year for 2005, often "seems to be in the right place at the right time" and is the district's "go-to person" when help is needed, according to District Manager **Wayne Marshburn**.

On at least two occasions, Garner has assisted local law enforcement with traffic and crowd control at automobile collision scenes, receiving recognition for his aid from chief officers. In one of the collisions, which involved four vehicles, Garner was the first official on the scene and ensured the dispatch of emergency medical assistance.

Garner also helped law enforcement officers keep a sex offender suspect detained. Garner informed police that a man arrested on charges of exploiting a minor and taking indecent liberties with a minor was a wanted probationer. The information resulted in a bond that the suspect could not make.

Internally, Garner readily assists with arrests and searches, is constantly on the

lookout for absconders and often volunteers for extradition trips.

"Garry is a pleasure to work with, has a positive attitude and is always willing to help," said his supervisor, Chief Probation/Parole Officer **Terry Paige**. "He is often called on by team members for help, does his job without complaint and needs very little supervision. He is respected in the community among the different law enforcement agencies and highly respected by his co-workers."

A military veteran, Garner served 10 years in the US Marine Corps and 10 years in the US Army. He has an associates degree in criminal justice from Fayetteville Technical Community College and has studied at Fayetteville State University. Garner began working for the Department of Correction in 1996 as a correctional officer at Hoke Correctional Institution in Raeford, and was named an intensive surveillance officer in 1998.

Courtney Stewart

surveillance
officer
Iredell County
District 22



Courtney Stewart was selected for high productivity and exceptional work.

Stewart was cited for an exemplary attitude and work ethic in a unit that is staffed mostly by first level probation/parole officers. The statement nominating her for the award said Stewart demonstrates "a true team concept of supervision."

With an "I want to help" attitude, Stewart is supervising two absconder caseloads, two intensive caseloads and 25 community cases from the caseload

of an unfilled position. She conducts curfew checks, arrests violators and absconders, performs drug screens and office visits, and checks addresses for first level officers. Additionally, Stewart has provided approximately 100 hours of training as the judicial division's certified instructor.

"Officer Stewart is a model of what a true surveillance officer should be, according to the new supervision strategies established by the division," said Chief Probation/Parole Officer **Phil Keller**. "Courtney is a professional and dedicated employee who deserves the distinction of Officer of the Year."

Stewart, who has experience as a municipal police officer, began working with the Department of Correction as a correctional officer at Davidson Correctional Center in Lexington in 1994, and was named surveillance officer in Judicial District 22 in 2000. She has a degree from Central Piedmont Community College.

Carolina Vence

probation/
parole officer
District 29
Henderson
County



Carolina Vence specializes in the supervision of sex offenders and Spanish-speaking offenders.

"Carolina has been instrumental in holding sex offenders accountable," said **David Guice**, a chief probation/parole officer and Vence's supervisor.

Vence collaborates closely with therapists who treat sex offenders, and she regularly participates in treatment group sessions. She has made presentations on investigation/interrogation of sex offenders to law en-

Vence, from page 3

forcement classes at the North Carolina Justice Academy in Edneyville.

Fluent in their language, Vence supervises a caseload of Spanish-speaking offenders. She has volunteered her time to help interpret in court, at courthouse agencies and at the Henderson County Jail, in addition to assist-

ing fellow officers with their Spanish-speaking offenders.

Vence was born in Florida and lived in several countries while she was growing up. She received her bachelor's degree from Lenoir-Rhyne College and a master's degree from Western Carolina University. She resides in Hendersonville.

Officers, from page 1

counselors and with families and friends, doing whatever it takes to maintain the right level of supervision and to get offenders the help they need to lead productive and crime-free lives," Beck said.

"Each officer plays a critical role in preserving our public safety, and we owe them our thanks. To the officers being honored today, and to all those who work across North Carolina every day, I say thank you for a job well done."

Gov. Mike Easley proclaimed July 17-23 as Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Officers' Week for 2005, recognizing over 2,000 community corrections officers who supervise more than 118,000 criminal offenders in North Carolina communities.

The officers honored were:

Division I

Mahala Burch, Intensive Case

Officer, District 6A, Halifax County.

Carl Craven, Intensive Case Officer, District 5, Pender County.

Division II

Dawn Dye, Probation/Parole Officer, District 10, Wake County.

Garry Garner, Intensive Surveillance Officer, District 12, Cumberland County.

Division III

Kevin Caldwell, Intermediate Probation Officer, District 21, Forsyth County.

Courtney Stewart, Surveillance Officer, District 22, Iredell County.

Division IV

Eboni Douglas, Intermediate Probation Officer, District 26, Mecklenburg County.

Carolina Vence, Probation/Parole Officer, District 29, Henderson County.

O'Konek-Smith named superintendent at Eastern Correctional Institution

MAURY – Carla O'Konek-Smith, a 30-year veteran with the department, has been named superintendent at Eastern Correctional Institution, according to **Boyd Bennett**, Division of Prisons director.

"She brings a lot of experience in a variety of roles to this position," Bennett said. "That experience and her enthusiasm make her the ideal person to lead this facility."



O'Konek-Smith

O'Konek-Smith started her career in corrections as a program assistant at Carteret Correctional Center. She also held the positions of program supervisor and assistant superintendent at that facility. She has been superintendent at Martin and Duplin correctional centers and most recently at Wayne Correctional Center. She has also served as deputy area administrator and acting area administrator in the former Eastern Area Office that had oversight for 11 prisons.

As superintendent at Eastern CI, O'Konek-Smith will oversee the daily operations of the adult male medium custody facility that houses more than 400 inmates. Nearly half of those inmates are receiving treatment for mental health and chronic medical conditions.

"I'm very excited about this new challenge," O'Konek-Smith said. "I look forward to working with the staff and getting them involved in carrying out the mission of the prison."

A native of Virginia, O'Konek-Smith graduated from Southampton High School in Courtland, Va. She says she really feels like North Carolina is home, because she spent so much time here growing up. She studied criminal justice at Craven and Martin community colleges and Liberty University. She received an advanced certificate from the Criminal Justice Training and Standards Commission.

O'Konek-Smith is married and has three sons. Her father, Carlton Everett, passed on to her his passion for corrections after serving 33 years as a correctional professional in Virginia.

Easley makes 2 appointments to supervision and parole commission

Gov. Mike Easley has appointed **Charles Mann Sr.** of Sanford as chair and **Willis J. Fowler** of Raleigh as a member of the N.C. Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission.

Mann, who is serving his third term on the commission, is a career state employee with more than 30 years of service in probation and parole. He is a member of the N.C. Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board, the



Mann



Fowler

District Selective Service Board and the Sanford-Lee County Airport Authority. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a past com-

mander of the American Legion Post 18. Mann attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Campbell University.

Fowler is chief post-release parole revocation hearing officer at the N.C. Department of Correction, Division of Community Correction. He is an honorary member of the N.C. Sheriff's Association and a member of the N.C. Probation/Parole Officers

Association. Fowler attended Wake Tech Community College and the Raleigh Police Academy.

The commission makes decisions regarding paroles and inmate population in the state and advises the governor in clemency matters. The commission has three members, each serving four-year terms. The governor appoints all members.

Atkins looking forward to return to homestead

DURHAM -- Co-workers, family and friends helped Judicial District Manager **Billie Jo Atkins** kick-off her retirement at a farewell luncheon July 28.

"It's surreal," said Atkins who is still having a hard time believing she's retiring. "Some people count down the days until they retire, but I haven't. I've enjoyed every day of my career with the department."

The Fayetteville native started her career in corrections in 1975 in Wilmington. She worked briefly with the Division of Prisons in opening a halfway house. Six months later she transferred to Durham to be a probation officer. She eventually returned home and held such positions as chief probation/parole officer and assistant judicial district manager. In June 2003, she was named Judicial District 14 manager, which covers all of Durham County.

"Billie Jo Atkins has been a hard working employee," said **James Fullwood**, Division Two chief. "She has been dedicated to the Division of Community Corrections and Division Two. She has gone beyond the call of duty and is known by managers as the person one can count on to get the job done."

Atkins says she'll miss a lot of the people she has worked with, but she says she'll have plenty to do to keep her busy. She'll be returning to her home in Fayetteville where she says she has a lot of work to do to get the house back in shape. She says she looks forward to doing some landscaping and bringing her rose garden back to life. Atkins is also planning a fall trip to the New England area.



Atkins

Eastern Region director bids farewell

GOLDSBORO -- Dignity and integrity. Those words were echoed by speaker after speaker who stood up to wish **Joseph Lofton**, Eastern Region director, well in his retirement during a luncheon July 29. About 200 family, friends and co-workers turned out to celebrate Lofton's career and wish him well.

Joseph Dunlap, retired chaplain at Greene Correctional Institution, started off the tribute by saying, "This is a man who walks with wisdom, dignity and integrity."

Some attendees wore green buttons that read, "Lofton's 3 Cs." The 3 Cs signify a mantra Lofton became known for, which stood for communication, coordination and cooperation.

"I have that mantra in my office and I pull it out at times when I feel I most need it," said **Boyd Bennett**, Prisons director. He added, "Joe is a first class individual who taught me to remain calm under fire, which he was always able to do."

Dan Stieneke, chief deputy secretary, presented Lofton with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. After special presentations from nurse managers and food service managers, **Dr. Paula Smith**, Health Services director, presented Lofton with an honorary doctorate to thank him for his all his support.

Faye Lassiter, assistant chief of programs, followed with a certificate of appreciation from the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

Lofton started his career in corrections as a correctional officer in January 1978. He held many positions including superintendent at Sampson and Neuse correctional facilities. He was named Eastern Region Director in 1997, but managed the Youth Command for approximately one year before taking on his region director role.

It's a career Lofton says he has truly enjoyed. He looks forward to spending more time with family and getting in some walking. He'll be doing some occasional contract work for the department.

He closed the event by saying, "The day has finally come... and so I bid you farewell."



Joe Lofton, center, at his retirement party, with **Boyd Bennett**, left, Division of Prisons director, and **Dan Stieneke**, chief deputy secretary.

Women, from page 1

Cordelia Clark, who chaired the workshop's planning committee. Pierce is administrative services manager at Scotland Correctional Institution; and Clark is a Division of Prisons program manager.

Welcoming participants on behalf of Secretary **Theodis Beck** was **Sherry Pilkington**, special assistant to the secretary.

Other speakers included: George Allison, an association director who sits on the Human Relations Committee; **Felix Taylor**, a correction training specialist II at Pasquotank Correctional Institution; **Betty Brown**, director of chaplaincy services; and

Kristi Hyman, chief of staff in the NC Attorney General's Office. Also speaking was **Tanisha Bagley**, a domestic violence and abuse survivor who has written a book about her experiences.

The NCCA, with more than 700 members, is dedicated to the improvement of corrections and the training and development of correctional professionals. The association provides a forum for discussion of correctional issues, using publications, workshops and other activities, to stimulate constructive action to make corrections more effective and responsive to the needs of citizens.

Clark said the workshop was considered a big success.

"From the feedback we got, the participants said they enjoyed the presenters and the information that was presented," she said. "I think it really served as a morale uplift." "Each person in attendance left with an uplift to our morale."

Workshop literature featured a Winston Churchill quote: "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."



Felix Taylor addresses the workshop participants.



Workshop attendees line up to buy a book from **Taqnisha Bagley**, seated right, one of the speakers at the workshop.



Monitoring center opens doors to clients

Community Corrections' Electronic House Arrest monitoring center opened its doors to current and potential non-DOC client agencies on July 21. Numerous agency representatives stopped by. In the top photo, from right, are Judy Stephens and Carlotte Gray, both from the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. They are talking to, from left, **Tammy Braswell**, EHA assistant manager; Mary Later and Hannah Rowland, both of G4 Securicor, a monitoring equipment vendor; and **Jo Hight**, EHA manager. In the lower photo, **Patricia Moore**, seated, EHA specialist, shows how the computer records monitoring data to Columbus County Sheriff's Department officers Capt. Benny Herring, left, and Lt. Gray Cole.



Support for domestic violence victims



Above, Victim Services employees and other DOC staff members attended a June 10 event to promote awareness of domestic violence in North Carolina. The event was orchestrated by Interact, an agency that provides

safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Interact invited Victim Services to attend the event, where, left, agency members read the names of domestic violence murder victims. In May, 10 domestic violence murders were committed, for a total of 21 for the year.



Alexander CI staff enjoying fellowship during the "One Day with God Camp" at along with Erica Harold, middle, Miss America 2003, are, from left, **Doug Walker**, **Keith Whitener**, **Dawn Artis-Roberts**, and **Casey Ammons**.

'One Day with God Camp'

Alexander Correctional Institution staff helped arrange for more than two dozen inmates on July 16 to go to "One Day with God Camp." It meant a day with their children and entertainment from a former Miss America.

Ms. Scottie Barnes of Forgiven Ministries arranged the event in cooperation with the prison's program staff, including **Doug Walker**, programs director; **Keith Whitener**, assistant superintendent for custody/operations; **Dawn Artis-Roberts**, case manager; and **Casey Ammons**, programs supervisor.

Staff selected participating inmates from among those who were 60 days infraction free, have their kids on a visitation list, and are not sexual offenders.

After the kids checked in, they were assigned a volunteer mentor who stayed with the child and father the entire day. When reunited with their fathers, the children participated in a variety of activities, including games, crafts, songs, dancing and a movie complete with drinks and popcorn. Erica Harold, Miss America 2003, helped children with crafts, signed autographs, took pictures and sang for the participants.

Ms. Barnes was Alexander CI Volunteer of the Year in 2003.



Inmates help create 'construction zone'

Through the coordination of various staff members at Avery/Mitchell Correctional Institution, 24 inmates helped a local church with its vacation Bible school, creating the backdrops, props, paintings, signs and other materials needed for the weeklong event. The theme for this year's Bible school was "Construction Zone." Using imagination and recyclable materials, the inmates made signs, trucks, machinery and murals that were used to depict the sanctuary as a highway construction zone with biblical messages. Several other churches have used some of the durable props for their Bible schools, too.

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DOC graduates first welding journeymen

POLKTON – Six inmate apprentices graduated as journeyman welders on July 8 and received recognition from Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry at Brown Creek Correctional Institution.

The inmates had completed 320 hours of classroom education, through a vocational program at Harnett Correctional Institution. After the classroom training, they were transferred to Brown Creek to complete their on-the-job training in the Correction Enterprises metal plant, under the instruction of welding supervisor Nick Nicholson and plant manager Randy Green.

"We call apprenticeship 'the

other four-year degree,'" Berry told the graduates. "The time and effort you put in is the same as four years in college."

One of the inmates spoke for the graduates by reading a poem he had written.

Correction Enterprises Director **Karen Brown** praised the craftsmanship of the inmates, talking about how the products manufactured at the Brown Creek metal plant "far exceed our customers' expectations."

"I never hear a complaint about our stainless steel products made here," she said.

The Harnett-Brown Creek partnership marks the first time two prisons have collaborated to



On a tour of the Brown Creek metal products plant as part of the welding graduation ceremony are, from left, NC Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry; **Karen Brown**, Correction Enterprises director; **Fred Aikens**, deputy correction secretary; **Susan Rogers**, Correction Enterprises office assistant; and **Nick Nicholson**, welding supervisor, metal products plant.

develop an apprenticeship program. A similar arrangement is planned in food service, with inmates completing classroom education at one of the cook

schools offered at several prisons, then moving on to work in one of three test kitchens that are staffed by Raleigh area prisons.

Looking for '5 'n '05'

Correction's Combined Campaign runs Aug. 15-Sept. 20

The Department of Correction's 2005 State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) will run Aug. 15 through Sept. 20. In celebration of its 20th anniversary, the statewide campaign is hoping to achieve "5 'n

'05" – contributions totaling \$5 million in the 2005 effort.

In 2004, Department of Correction employees contributed \$485,256. The top 10 charities benefiting from DOC employee generosity were: Diabetes Re-

search and Wellness Foundation, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, American Diabetes Association, Ronald McDonald House of Eastern NC in Greenville, American Cancer Society, United Negro College

Fund, Make A Wish Foundation of Eastern NC, Special Olympics of North Carolina, Victory Junction Gang Camp, and Cancer Treatment Research Foundation.

Since 1986, state employees

See **SECC**, page 10

Wendy, from page 1

room for weeks-on-end," Wendy said. "And the babies needed the best knowledge, the best equipment available."

That was when all the clichés happened: a light went on; it came to her out of the blue; it hit her like a bolt of lightning; and so on. Wendy, who has been active in the State Employees Combined Campaign for the past seven years, knew about the Ronald McDonald houses and the March of Dimes, both approved recipients of Combined Campaign contributions. In her special moment, Wendy "felt" the charities, "felt" the campaign.

"The story is really not so much about how wonderful it is to have a resource like a Ronald McDonald House or the research and facilities made possible by the March of Dimes," Wendy said. "My family and I could have been personally touched by any of the campaign's other charities in other types of emergencies. However, these are the two that touched our lives at this moment in time. Through their assistance our lives were changed forever.

Wendy's grandbabies are both home from the hospital, and

have grown well: Caroline is up to 12 pounds, 8 ounces; and Madison weighs 12 pounds, 4 ounces.

Her mind still bearing the images of the hand-sized infants with respirator and other life-sustaining tubes attached, a new Wendy enters the 2005 Combined Campaign.

"You may know *about* your favorite charity," she said, addressing her fellow DOC employees.

"I don't wish an emergency on you, but I hope through my experience you can feel what they do. There could be those of you who may become a first time contributor or you may change the way you think about the contribution you now make."



Wendy Carter looks at pictures of her granddaughters while talking about her experience with SECC charities.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Robeson Correctional Center

Robeson Correctional Center is a minimum security prison near Lumberton in Robeson County. It houses males with felony and misdemeanor convictions, operating at a maximum capacity of 304 inmates.

Robeson CC was one of 51 county prisons the state assumed responsibility for in 1931. It was one of 61 field unit prisons renovated or built during the late 1930s to house inmates who worked building roads for North Carolina. The prison has 21 buildings on 102 acres.

Operations Team

The operations team processes all inmate transfers in and out, bed movements and daily work assignments. It conducts unit counts, and maintains all OPUS and daily logs. Special assignments and programs staff are also housed in the operations building.

Community Work Program

Three Community Work Program work squads are at Robeson CC. The facility provides 40 inmates to the Department of Transportation road squad crews and two eight-man highway work crews for Robeson County.

Robeson also has five inmate labor contracts with the county. Also, Robeson CC provides inmates who assist with maintenance



Superintendent **Sandra F. Thomas**, seated, with her Assistant Superintendent **Gentry Jacobs**, left, and Programs Director **Harry Mitchell**. Together, the three have more than 75 years of DOC experience.

at Scotland and Lumberton correctional institutions.

Transportation

The Transfer Bus operates regular routes which cover 355 miles roundtrip, picking up and delivering inmates. The Close Custody bus route is a 14 -16 hours per day operation with two officers and a bus capacity of 32 inmates.

Canteen

The Robeson CC cash canteen, operated by an inmate, has anything from colas to handkerchiefs, all state approved for the inmates. This canteen serves approximately 304 inmates.

Clothes House

The clothes house, open six days a week and operated by inmates, does laundry for the inmate population. Responsibilities include washing, mending and folding clothes, and issuing clean clothes Monday through Saturday.

Mailroom

Inmate banking is the main duty within the mailroom, including money orders, deposits and service club deposits. The mail officer also puts in all visitation applications. On an average day, Robeson CC receives approxi-

mately 300 pieces of mail, which is censored. Also, such inmate welfare items as toothpaste and stamps are distributed through the mail room.

Housing

Robeson CC has five dormitories, with the first one built in 1930. The original dorm is still in use; it has a two-man barber shop and a library, both operated by inmates and each supervised by a correctional officer.

Food Service

The kitchen strives to prepare the best quality meals. The overall food quality is due to the food service staff vigilantly monitoring the preparation of the food by inmates. Staff is focused on the sanitation habits of inmates to ensure food safety.

Health Care

The prison has one registered nurse and a medical records clerk to help tend the inmates' health. In addition to providing medical attention, the health staff also handles such related responsibilities as maintaining records, ordering medications, updating on-line records and processing medical bills.

Programs

Among the services and activities provided by the Programs Department are work release, religious programs, volunteer programs, Alcohol Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, DART Aftercare, Cognitive Be-

See **SPOTLIGHT**, next page



Robeson CC programming staff are, back, Program Supervisor **Eric Locklear**; middle, case managers **Calvin Bethea**, **Dwayne McCormick** and **Debra Strickland**, and **Harry Mitchell**, program director; and front, **Amy Smith**, processing assistant.



Administrative staff, from left, **Michelle Gissendanner**, accounting clerk, and **Tina Norton**, administrative assistant.

Spotlight, from page 8

havior Intervention classes, library services, health maintenance, HRD Classes, and Napoleon Hill, Character Education and Think Smart programs. Robeson Community College works with the prison to provide classes to prepare for GED testing.

Eagle Claw

The Eagle Claw Men's Club has an aluminum can recycling project which supports inmate projects. Projects have included: an annual \$1,000 scholarship at UNC-Pembroke; inmate cook-outs; Christmas programs for inmates' needy families; grounds beautification projects; musical equipment in the prison chapel; inmate sports tournaments; and a digital camera and printer for inmate visitation.

Recreation

The prison provides recreational competitions in checkers, spades, dominoes, chess, basketball, horseshoes, baseball, volleyball and weightlifting.

Chaplain

DOC's American Indian chaplain, **Tony Clark**, has his office home-based at Robeson CC. He provides revival, counseling, prayer services and other religious gatherings for inmates at all facilities statewide dealing with all Native American issues.

Evergreen

Robeson CC is the emergency back-up unit for Evergreen Rehabilitation Center, a private chemical dependency treatment facility. The center houses approximately 100 inmates. All inmates assigned to Evergreen are processed in entry and departure at the prison, which is also responsible for medical and court transfers, escapee searches and inmate discipline.

Human Resources

The main function of Human Resources is personnel — filling vacancies, conducting employee orientation and explaining benefits.

Accounting

The prison's Accounting Department is responsible for many functions that are essential to the operation of a prison facility, including the inmate trust fund account and inmate welfare money. This position also handles budget monitoring and forecasting.

Maintenance

Maintenance at Robeson CC is challeng-

**Sergeants and shift rotation officers**

Above left, the second shift 2A rotation correctional officers are, from left, back row, **David Muller** and **Sgt. Anthony Gerald**; middle row, **Dannie Stewart**, **James Bryant** and **Bruce Gipson**; and front row, **Larry Williams** and **Howard Reid**. Above right are Robeson CC sergeants. From left, from back, **Billy Batten**, **Kendale Jacobs**, **Jimmy Oxendine**, **Barry Deese**, **Hubert McDonald**, **Anthony Gerald**, and **Kenneth Emanuel**. Right are first shift 1B rotation officers: from left, back row, **Jarrett Hunt**, **Clyde Nobles**, and **William Bullard**; middle row, **Francis West**, **Robert Slate**, **Chris Smith** and **Michael Bridges**; and front row, **Patsy Malloy**, **Wallace Jones**, **Joy Davis** and **Sandra Ray**.



Right, transfer bus drivers **CO Leroy Hunt** and **Lead CO Mike Roberts**.



Left, transportation officers **Marshall Thompson** and **Otis Bridgers**.



Food Service officers are, from left, **Jason Wessendorf**, **Richard Breland**, **Nathaniel Warner**, **Michael Alford**, and Manager **Larry Shepherd**

Right, paper litter crew officers **Larry Freeman** and **Timothy Williams**.



Left, officers for the Community Work Program crews, **Amos Waymon**, **Roger Sumpter** and **Harry Coleman**.



Lucille Oxendine, left, medical records clerk, and **Kathy Dial**, lead nurse.



Glenn Beasley, left, maintenance CO, and **Sam Stallings**, can-teen/clotheshouse CO.



Raymond "Tony" Clark, statewide Native American chaplain.



Mitchell Lowery, District 15 disciplinary hearing officer.

ing because of the age of the equipment and the facility, but the staff is focused on safety first and making the facility the best-maintained small unit in the Division of Prisons. Also, Robeson CC hubs with Lumberton Correctional Institution for maintenance.



**60
years
of
service**

Two employees at Caledonia Correctional Institution were recently presented their 30-year service certificates. Above, Superintendent **Randy Lee**, center, and right, Capt. **Louis Wiggins**. Presenting the awards were, above, assistant superintendents **Harold Person**, left, custody/operations; and **Ricky Duke**, programs.



Nurses earn degrees

Three Corrections nurses earned their bachelor of science in nursing degrees this year. They are, from left, **Donna Brewer** (Mountain View), **Esmond Elliott** (Central Region nurse liaison) and **Faye Duffin** (infection control coordinator), who graduated cum laude.



Officer alert off-duty, too

Lt. **Michael Arrowood** was recently commended by Marion Correctional Institution for his part in capturing an escaped inmate. He was off-duty on the evening of July 3, when driving past the Minimum Security Unit of Marion Correctional Institution, Arrowood saw a man whom he suspected to be an inmate from the prison. Arrowood reported what he had seen to the prison and suggested that an inmate count be made. Within an hour, the man was found at a local store and identified as an escapee. Because of Arrowood's quick thinking and decisive actions, the inmate was apprehended without incident.

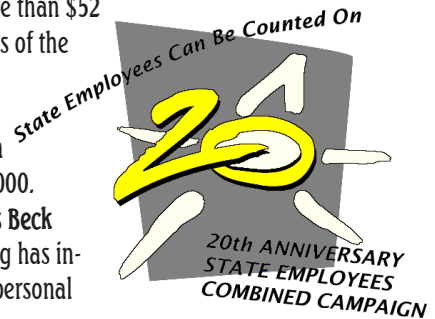
SECC, from page 7

have contributed more than \$52 million to the charities of the SECC. Department of Correction employees have given more than \$2.06 million since 2000.

Secretary **Theodis Beck** said the level of giving has increased yearly, with personal results.

"The charities of the Combined Campaign have provided uplifting, gratifying or even humbling experiences for many of you," Beck stated in a letter to employees. "If you have not been personally served, undoubtedly you personally know someone who has."

On-site campaign coordinators organize solicitation efforts and provide direction and guidance to the local agency coordinators. They undertake a state-wide campaign role and provide active and essential support to all of their agency locations.



For DOC, the site coordinators are: **Gwen Norville**, Division of Prisons, 838-4000; **Patsy Joyner**, Community Corrections, 716-3167; and **Janice King**, Administration, 716-3716.

The Combined Campaign gives state employees the opportunity to contribute to charitable organizations in an orderly and uniform process. No other charitable fund-raising campaign is permitted to solicit monetary contributions in the state employee workplace.

Employees share dreams, hopes and challenges by partnering their commitment of caring through their annual workplace fund-raising effort for qualified charitable organizations. They recognize the needs of North Carolina residents and communities and address them as "Partners in Giving."

The United Way of North Carolina serves as the Statewide Campaign Organization on behalf of the State of North Carolina. The organization employs full-time staff, including an executive director.

Special medical group reaches milestone

The Division of Prisons outreach nurse clinicians celebrate their 10th year anniversary. The group of 11 nurses were formed in January 1995 to provide HIV/AIDS prevention and education, counseling and case management for inmates housed in the North Carolina prison system. From left, front row, **Pamela Gibbs**, **Faye Duffin**, **Ruth Starck**, **Gina Frazier**, **Madge Rascoe**, **Lou Walker**, **Elaine Chavis-Young**, and **Dr. Paula Smith**, director of Health Services; second row, **Teresa Stallings**, **Edwin Cutler**, **Janice Wombough**, **Connie Bowers** and **Susan McNeely**.



Tornado twists Denny Eller's home, life

"Is Shirley all right?!" Denny Eller's thoughts shouted as he found his way into the driveway to his home in the early afternoon of July 7. The house had been badly damaged by a tornado, and he didn't know whether Shirley Fargus, his live-in mother-in-law, had survived.

Denny, a correctional officer at Alexander Correctional Institution, learned quickly that Shirley was indeed unharmed, and that the family's two dogs deserved the credit. Their home is about 3 miles from the prison in Alexander County.

"While I was trying to drive home in the hardest rain I've ever seen, a tornado had come up and was headed toward my house," a one-story, permanently anchored double-wide modular home, Denny said. Even though Shirley has a hearing impairment, "she could tell

The rear yard of Denny Eller's home was a mass of debris after a tornado struck on July 7. Eller's terrified mother-in-law and two dogs were inside at the time.



that a storm was outside, but she didn't think much of it until the dogs started barking like crazy and running around in circles," Denny said.

That's when Shirley heard a roar, and she and the two dogs dove into a nearby bathtub.

"She was right next to where most of the damage happened," Denny said. "It scared the heebie-jeebies out of her, hearing the timbers snap and stuff banging around off the walls."

When Denny arrived, the local fire department was already there, ensuring no one entered areas of the house's remains that were unstable.

In addition to the destruction to the house, Denny lost a car, couple of TVs, an entertainment center, lawn furniture and a pressure washer. Most of the furniture, the family's clothes, and linens and such were OK.

Help poured in. The family is staying temporarily with Denny's nearby sister. Several

fellow officers from Alexander CI helped move Denny's salvaged goods to a storage site and the sister's home. Also, various people in the Alexander County community were "so kind to bring food to us while we were working," Denny said.

Ever grateful for everybody's help, Denny was particularly impressed with a group of Methodist teenagers. The dozen 15- to 18-year-olds, all from out-of-state, were part of the church's nationwide summer youth mission.

"Those kids were something," Denny said. "They worked hard for three or four days cleaning up debris around my house."

Denny's current need is to get an insurance settlement on his house.

"I want to build back," he said. "I just love where I am."

A low-interest rate mortgage can make first home a reality

If you think home ownership is out of reach, think again.

As an employee of the N.C. Department of Correction, you may benefit from the low interest mortgages and downpayment help offered for first-time home buyers by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA). In fact, the agency teamed up with the N.C. Office of the State Treasurer in January 2005 on a two-year project to help 500 public employees buy their first home. Designed to raise awareness of the benefits of home ownership among public employees, "The 500 Project" aims to help you become a homeowner through the NCHFA's existing home buyer programs.

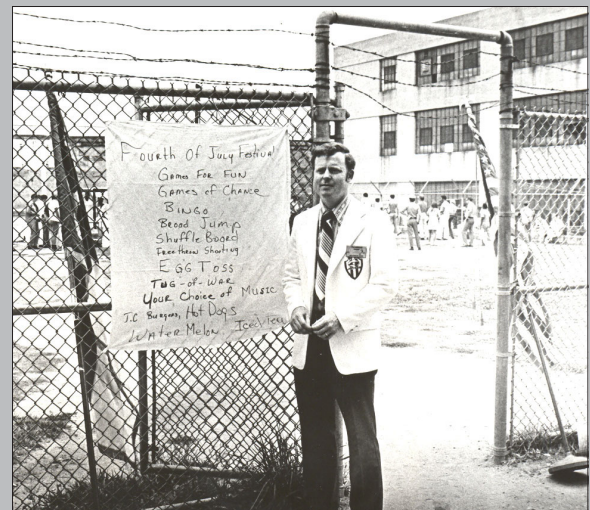
The agency makes buying a home affordable for first-time buyers by offering mortgages at below-market rates. You may also qualify if you haven't owned a home as your primary residence in the past three years or you buy in an area designated as economically distressed.

A self-supporting public agency, NCHFA works with nearly 700 lenders to offer 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages at interest rates that are below market rates. A 1 percent decrease in your interest rate could mean a \$15,000 increase in your purchasing power!

For buyers with lower incomes, the agency offers help with downpayment and closing costs. You pay as little as \$750 from your own funds, and an agency loan pays up to \$7,000 of the balance. This second mortgage is deferred and interest-free.

For information, go to www.nchfa.com or call (919) 877-5700.

From the Archives: The Past in Pictures



Perhaps one would call it prison patriotism. This photo was taken outside one of North Carolina's prisons a good number of years ago, when the facility was preparing for a "Fourth of July Festival," complete with games, competitions and, of course, hot dogs. **Correction News** invites you to let us know if you can identify the facility and the man who is all dressed up for the occasion. Send your information to

dgh02@doc.state.nc.us.

Movin' On Up

Promotions in July 2005

*Name
New job title
Location*

William Basnight III
unit manager
Pasquotank CI

Gary W. Beecham
chief probation/
parole officer
Judicial District 4B
Onslow County

Ray C. Bobbitt
deputy prison
warden I
NCCIW

Quinterlene C. Bowen
admin. secretary
Bertie CI

Joseph C. Braxton
sergeant
Eastern CI

David M. Brewer Jr.
lead correctional
officer
Avery/Mitchell CI

Ryan L. Call
sergeant
Caswell CC

Mary E. Carroll
regional operations
manager
Prisons Admin.
Raleigh

Mark D. Carver
asst. supt. -
custody/operations
Caswell CC

Michael B. Cox
probation/parole
officer II
Judicial District 29
McDowell County

Rebecca J. Dale
sergeant
Mountain View CI

Lee A. Day
programs supervisor
Wilkes CC

Donald L. Eddins
accounting clerk V
Fiscal
Raleigh

Alice L. Few
nurse (RN) lead
Wake CC

Odessa B. Gatewood
chief probation/
parole officer
Judicial District 9B
Granville County

Lawrence L. Gerald Jr.
sergeant
Neuse CI

Joyce L. Gray
programs supervisor
Greene CI

Angela Harris
food service
manager I
Eastern CI

Jennifer L. Harris
nurse (RN) clinician
Piedmont CI

Charles T. Hedgpeth Jr.
lieutenant
Hoke CI

Joseph F. Heil
purchasing agent I
Purchasing
Raleigh

Donald W. Hockaday
Correction Enterprises
supervisor II
Meat Processing
Wake County

Laura T. Holbrook
nurse (RN) lead
Lumberton CI

Eric M. Hood
lieutenant
Pamlico CI

James F. Horton
probation/parole
officer II
Judicial District 7
Edgecombe County

Sandra B. Huffman
psychological
services coordinator
Alexander CI

Anthony E. Huggins
programs supervisor
Caldwell CC

Alvin B. Johnson
lead correctional
officer
Charlotte CC

Jeffery G. Johnson
sergeant
Craven CI

Robert G. Jones
asst. supt. -
custody/operations
Bertie CI

Lance C. Kerney
institution
classification coord.
Eastern CI

Charlene A. Knecht
nurse (RN) lead
Piedmont CI

Beverly M. Manley
case analyst
Polk YI

Freddie Maynor Jr.
food service
manager I
Lumberton CI

William McGalliard II
nurse (RN)
supervisor II
Western YI

Leeann B. McRary
case manager
Foothills CI

Brenda Mickens-Powers
nurse (RN) lead
Neuse CI

Tamra S. Misenheimer
nurse (RN) lead
Piedmont CI

Julia C. Mitchell
programs supervisor
Western YI

Henry Monroe
probation/parole
officer II
Judicial District 8A
Lenoir County

Jeffery S. Morgan
HVAC supervisor II
Nash CI

Mary T. Mueller
diagnostic services
program manager
Prisons Admin.
Raleigh

Christopher J. Murphy
lieutenant
Greene CI

Jessica E. Norman
rehabilitation
therapist
Alexander CI

Swanora A. Oliver
programs supervisor
New Hanover CC

Barney C. Owens
captain
Pamlico CI

Janet L. Parker
nurse (RN) lead
Piedmont CI

Ronald K. Peeler Sr.
food service
manager I
Rowan CC

Cindy B. Penegar
diagnostic center
director
Piedmont CI

Jason M. Penland
programs director I
Mountain View CI

Brad A. Perritt
unit manager
Scotland CI

Tracy M. Phillips
sergeant
Eastern CI

Scott T. Pitts
sergeant
Alexander CI

Barry G. Pope
sergeant
Johnston CI

Robert C. Pope
HVAC mechanic
Alexander CI

Laura H. Price
personnel tech. II
Personnel
Raleigh

Michael Richardson
lieutenant
Nash CI

William E. Riddick
sergeant
Caledonia CI

Sandra C. Roberson
programs supervisor
Albemarle CI

Edward L. Robinson Jr.
probation/parole
officer II
Judicial District 29
McDowell County

Melissa A. Russell
processing asst. IV
Judicial District 5
New Hanover County

Vanell Simmons
institution
classification coord.
Caledonia CI

Kelvin T. Smith
sergeant
Caledonia CI

Terry E. Smith
programs director I
Cleveland CC

Myra E. Solis
probation/parole
officer II
Judicial District 26
Mecklenburg County

Benjamin Solomon-Stephens
sergeant
Scotland CI

Connie D. Strickland
office assistant V
Internal Audit
Raleigh

Teresa D. Thomas
lieutenant
Caswell CC

Cynthia D. Tinkham
nurse (RN) lead
Caledonia CI

Carolyn F. Todd
accounting tech. III
Hoke CI

Rondal P. Townsend
asst. unit manager
Alexander CI

Carl R. Varner
telecommunications
equipment tech. III
Prog. & Devel.
Caldwell County

Angela M. Willis
office assistant IV
Carteret CC

Timothy L. Willis
lieutenant
Caswell CC

Ronald S. Wilson
HVAC mechanic
Hoke CI

Vickie B. Wilson
personnel asst. V
Central Prison

Benita J. Witherspoon
asst. superintendent
Forsyth CC

Juansatta Q. Wray
accounting clerk IV
Raleigh CCW

Retirements in July 2005

*Name
job title
location
service*

Glenn Bradley
correctional officer
Foothills CI
10.6 years

Harold B. Buchanan
correctional officer
Avery/Mitchell CC
6.1 years

Danny C. Johnson
Correction Enterprises
supervisor III
Paint Plant
29 years

David R. Johnson
lead correctional
officer
Caswell CC
30 years

Doralene B. Knight
nurse (RN)
supervisor II
Harnett CI
15.5 years

Kay W. Pope
accounting clerk IV
Harnett CI
30.9 years

Benny P. Spencer
office assistant III
Tyrrell PWF
8.1 years

James A. Tingen
maintenance
mechanic IV
John Umstead
Laundry
30 years

Maurice A. Tripp
building
construction supt.
Eastern Region
Maintenance Yard
22.25 years

Administration

Michael F. Easley
Governor

Theodis Beck
Secretary of
Correction

Pamela Walker
Public Affairs
Director

July 2005 Death

Peter L. Luke
correctional officer, Harnett CI
4.75 years