

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



DPSCS Communications Office Contacts:

Mark Vernarelli ~ 410-339-5065 ~ mvernarelli@dpscs.state.md.us

Danielle Lueking ~ 410-339-5011 ~ dwilmsen@dpscs.state.md.us

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

DPSCS Employees Spread Holiday Cheer Statewide

TOWSON, MD (December 18, 2009)--- As the holiday season arrives in Maryland, many employees from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services are taking the time to remember those less fortunate. Tough financial times have created a greater need for family assistance this year and our more than 11,000 employees have gone above and beyond their duties of keeping communities safe to see that those in need can enjoy the holiday season.

Below are some of the highlights of DPSCS employees' benevolence. *If media is interested in more information, or would like to attend the upcoming events, please contact the DPSCS Communication Office to arrange.*

CENTRAL MD

Baltimore City Correctional Center

Providing hats, gloves, scarves, for more than 90 children at the Cecil Elementary School, to be delivered by staff on Monday, December 21, 2009.

Holding a Christmas party and toy drive for children of offenders

Md. Police and Correctional Training Commissions

Provided wrapped gifts to patients at Springfield State Hospital

Provided holiday decorations for a family who lost everything in a recent fire

Annapolis Parole and Probation/Drinking, Driving Monitor Office

Delivering 3 boxes of food for The Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Stoney Creek in Pasadena for their food pantry.

Holding a new socks drive for The Lightstreet Shelter in Annapolis.

Aberdeen and Bel Air Parole and Probation Offices

Contributing to a hat and mitten tree, as well as collecting school supplies, for the benefit of the children who attend the George Lusby Elementary School in Aberdeen.

Maryland Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center

Sponsored Johnston Square Elementary School with donations of ten (10) Thanksgiving baskets for needy families.

A Christmas luncheon was held where three (3) adopted families will attend to receive Christmas gifts.

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Metropolitan Transition Center

Breakfast with Santa at St. James/St. Johns Elementary School. A donation of \$300 was given to the school to help purchase books and provide breakfast on Friday, December 4th. On Wednesday, December 23, 2009, staff will visit Johnston Square Elementary School to deliver food baskets to the needy.

Md. Correctional Adjustment Center

Donated a food basket to four (4) families at the Cold Stream Park Elementary School for Thanksgiving.

A Christmas luncheon at the institution included five (5) families chosen by the Department of Social Services, including a family consisting of a grandmother raising three (3) grandchildren. Christmas gifts were distributed to 12 excited children.

Baltimore City Detention Center for Women

Holiday party for children of detainees'

Jessup Correctional Institution

Door-to-door food basket delivery to needy families in Baltimore City for Thanksgiving
Food baskets provided to Jessup Elementary School
Adopted a family for Christmas and providing food, clothing, toys for the needy

Md. Correctional Institution for Women

Inmates assisting the Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving and Christmas meals

Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup

Donated meals to families for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Md. Correctional Enterprises

Canned food collection for the needy
Adopted a family for the holiday season

Brockbridge Correctional Facility

Donated holiday gift baskets to a family identified by the Baltimore City Department of Social Services.

Central Maryland Correctional Facility

Adopted a needy family recommended by the Carroll County Department of Social Services by purchasing gifts and food gift cards.

Eastern Pre-Release Unit

Chaplain Commodore's ministry is sponsoring a needy family with food and gifts for Christmas.

Jessup Pre-Release Unit

Adopted two (2) families from the Jessup Elementary School by delivering gifts and providing dinner on December 21st.
Donating coats and pants to Jessup Elementary School for children in need.

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Central Home Detention Unit

Donated all food necessary for Thanksgiving dinner for a fellow coworker who has been out on extended leave due to illness. This employee lives with her daughter, three small grandchildren, and her nephew. The HDU employees gathered enough food for Thanksgiving dinner and then some.

WESTERN MD

Cumberland DOC Facilities

Donated and wrapped hundreds of toys for "Toys for Happiness" program
Collected food for local food banks
Donated more than 100 inmate-made wooden toys to needy children

Hagerstown DOC Facilities

Staff and pre-release inmates helped prepare hundreds of packages of food and toys at Salvation Army/Toys for Tots
Provided food for Grace United Methodist food drive and gifts for several youth homes

EASTERN/SOUTHERN MD

Eastern Correctional Institution/Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit

Donated cooked turkeys to annual community Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by St. Mary's Missionary Baptist
Donated turkeys and canned food items to Joseph House in Salisbury.
Donated turkeys, ham, and canned food items to the Samaritan Shelter in Pocomoke.
Staff donations and gift items for Somerset County Department of Social Services Angel Tree Charity in support of needy families.
Cash donation to the food pantry at First Baptist in Crisfield.
Staff collected food donations and conducted car washes to benefit Adopt A Family, Christian Shelter and Maryland Food Bank.

Southern Maryland Pre-Release Unit

Provided a large box of non-perishable food items and a box of toys to the Christmas Connection in Charles County.

DPSCS Internal Investigative Unit

Adopted families on Maryland's Eastern Shore and donated holiday meals.