

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.

MD. CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES INMATES TO LAUNDER 5,000 DONATED BRAS AS PART OF BREAST CANCER CHARITY CAMPAIGN

***Thursday, November 12 at Noon
Central Md. Correctional Facility in Sykesville***

Towson, MD (November 10, 2009)---Maryland Correctional Enterprises' main laundry plant will perform an unusual laundering job this Thursday, November 12: inmates will launder 5,035 bras that were collected by a Frederick radio station to raise money for Susan G. Komen For The Cure, a major foundation supporting breast cancer awareness and research.

WFRE Radio's campaign raised more than \$6,000 for the Komen foundation (\$1 per bra, donated by a radio station sponsor, plus cash donations). The bras will be laundered by inmates at the Central Maryland Correctional Facility, whose laundry plant in September cleaned more than 300,000 pounds of linens for DPSCS, state hospitals and Health and Mental Hygiene facilities, and other agencies. The laundry operation, established in 1959 (as the "Central Laundry Unit") and run by Maryland Correctional Enterprises as a business unit since 2008, employs approximately 100 inmates.

Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) is one of the nation's top ten prison industry groups. A part of the Maryland Division of Correction, MCE provides approximately 2,000 inmate jobs in operations as diverse as meat processing; Chesapeake Bay shoreline grass growing; oyster cage building; upholstery; graphics; and many other units. MCE plants are located throughout the state: in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Jessup, and on the Eastern Shore. Inmates produce virtually all flags flown in the State; supply meat products to all State correctional facilities and other agencies; and build or rebuild furniture for many State and local government agencies and nonprofits. MCE is not in competition with small businesses, and is restricted by law to sell only to nonprofits and government agencies.

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MCE inmates learn valuable work skills which aid tremendously in their re-entry transitions. Some MCE inmate workers have gone on to earn actual paying jobs with MCE itself upon release; many others now work good-paying jobs in their communities.

Additionally, the three-year recidivism rate for MCE inmate workers is less than half that of released inmates as a whole. Roughly 50% of all released inmates return to the system within three years; for MCE inmates, the recidivism rate is 24%.

Maryland Correctional Enterprises is headquartered in Jessup. Its CEO is Steve Shiloh, who is an Assistant Commissioner in the Maryland Division of Correction.

Central Maryland Correctional Facility (CMCF) is a Division of Correction Pre-Release Center housing approximately 516 inmates who are in the final two years of their prison sentences. Virtually every inmate works a job of one kind or another. In addition to the huge laundry operation, CMCF is home to one of the nation's few inmate-run thoroughbred horse retirement farms. The facility's administrator is Kathleen Landerkin. The warden of the Maryland Pre-Release System is William Filbert.

Members of the media are welcome to see the bra laundering and interview staff, inmates, and a representative of Susan G. Komen For the Cure. Please R.S.V.P. to the numbers above.

Time: 12 noon

Date: Thursday, November 12

Location: Central Maryland Correctional Facility, 7301 Buttercup Road, Sykesville

Directions: Md. Route 32 to Raincliffe Road (just north of the Howard-Carroll County line); turn east onto Raincliffe; first left onto Buttercup Road. Central Md. Correctional Facility is immediately on the right.

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