

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.

Metropolitan Transition Center Employees To Throw Another Breakfast With Santa Party for Elementary Students

Friday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m.

TOWSON, MD (December 1, 2009)---Employees from Metropolitan Transition Center (MTC), the former State Penitentiary that is America's oldest operating prison, will once again reach out to their neighbors this Friday, throwing their annual Breakfast With Santa at Sts. James and John Elementary School, 1012 Somerset St. The school is just blocks from the prison---and six other correctional facilities.

Employees at the former State Pen have been providing a hot meal, books and gifts for the children, and of course Santa for the past 18 years. Correctional Sgt. Maurice Smith, a close friend of Santa, has made sure that the friendly gift giver always shows up on time for the kids.

The annual party is a special way for correctional employees to reach out to a community that is home to seven DPSCS-operated jails, booking centers, and prisons. Together, the facilities house approximately 6,400 detainees and inmates.

"To see the looks on the children's faces is just heartwarming," says MTC Transition Coordinator Andy Stritch, a 43-year veteran of the prison system and one of the longest-serving employees in the Division of Correction. "When they see us there---especially the uniformed officers--- it reminds them that we are 'good guys' in law enforcement, officers who are there to help them."

MTC employees have also distributed Thanksgiving baskets at Johnston Square Elementary School. And their colleagues at the nearby Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center will throw a party of their own for four needy families on December 11.

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