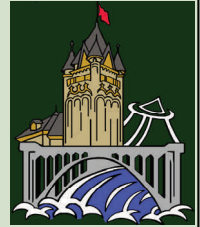




Spring 2015



Spokane County Detention Services

# Community Corrections Newsletter

Director John McGrath

Lt. Joanne Lake

## *Our Mission:*

Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

## *Our Principals:*

- We believe change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe all people are equal and diverse individuals having intrinsic worth who deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that emphasizes individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

## Offender In Class For Wrong Reason, Discovers Right Reason

*"I enrolled in Geiger's Breaking Barriers program hoping that it might be viewed favorably by the Judge at sentencing. At first in class we were just responding to what Ms. Butterfield told us to do, like being led by the nose: go here, do that, do this, go there. It was like a stick and a carrot. About half-way through the course, I began noticing some small changes in the way people were acting and thinking. They were small steps, but they were genuine. Now, at the end of class, we have a clearer picture where our challenges lay, the work that remains and the knowledge that we have the capability to succeed. I see a lot of eagerness to continue building what's been started."—**Breaking Barriers Graduate "Robert," April 30, 2015***

## Partners In Change Tag-Team Geiger Graduates

Geiger Corrections Center celebrated its 36<sup>th</sup> Breaking Barriers Graduation April 30 with a moving keynote address by Rev. Danny Green of the Family of Faith Community church and congratulatory address by Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich.

This graduation was particularly special because Sheriff Knezovich and Pastor Green, both strong supporters of positive change programs for offenders, shared the Geiger podium for the first time. The evening was inspirational for offenders, their guests and for Geiger staff.



**Rev. Danny Green (left) addressed Geiger's 36th Breaking Barriers Graduation on April 30. Sheriff Knezovich (third from left) told the grads and their guests why he's a big supporter of Rev. Green, Celebrate Recovery and the annual "Recovery Walk."**

Family of Faith Community Church, Rev. Green and the Recovery Coalition organize the annual "Walk For Recovery" every September at Franklin Park.

Sheriff Knezovich explained he attends a lot of meetings and events because he's obligated. "The Recovery Walk with Rev. Danny Green is one of the events each year that I sincerely look forward to. While I feel it's important for the highest-ranking cop in the county to show support for positive offender change, this is something I really believe in and enjoy attending. Some jurisdictions and municipalities will not affiliate or partner with faith-based organizations, but as you see from the programs presented at Geiger and the strong feelings I have for Rev. Green's projects, I completely support our faith-based volunteers. We are all indebted to them for the work they do in helping offenders get their lives turned around, here at Geiger and throughout the community."

Rev. Green is the Spokane area leader for "Celebrate Recovery," an addiction-recovery, support and mentoring organization. He lists hundreds of former addicts as members of the Family Of Faith congregation. John Haley of Family Of Faith leads Celebrate Recovery meetings for Geiger males each week. He's been coming to Geiger for two years. Donna Scheidt began leading weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings for Geiger females in April.

Among the volunteer groups supporting Geiger programs are Catholic Ministries, Jehovah's Witness, Center For Justice, The Lands Council, AA, Celebrate Recovery, Spokane County Detention Services Chaplaincy, and Mt. Spokane Church.

## Project Green Sleeves Offender Ed Program Takes Root At Geiger



Geiger inmate places protective grow tube over fragile nursery seedling as part of a stream rehab planting project on Latah Creek. Project Green Sleeves is managed by Kat Hall, Programs Conservation Director for The Lands Council.

Spokane-based conservation non-profit The Lands Council, in partnership with Geiger Community Corrections, is offering Spokane County offenders an opportunity for landscape and conservation “green education” while propagating native tree and shrub species to rehabilitate and protect local streams.

“Project Green Sleeves,” with a generous grant from Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund and support from the Mountaineers Foundation, this spring added several thousand more seedlings to the native nursery plot located at Geiger Corrections Center.

The Project Green Sleeves initiative provides hands-on training to offenders, education of current environmental matters and employable skills, and the opportunity impact local, degraded watersheds such as Hangman Creek, Deep Creek and Coulee Creek. The fledgling trees and shrubs reared at Geiger are replanted in riparian areas to stabilize stream banks, curtail erosion and improve water quality to the benefit of both fish and wildlife.

Amanda Parrish and Kat Hall of the Lands Council are teaching twice weekly at Geiger, offering a series of environmentally-themed classes including Fundamentals, Water and Waste. The curriculum provides a foundation for further education in ecology and conservation-related vocations. College credit through SCC is available to offenders continuing in ecological and conservation studies after release from Geiger.

As the seedlings mature, offenders go afield with Lands Council conservationists to strategically plant them in areas needing stream shade and shoreline stabilization. Often, these are initially planted in areas where crews must return to water a couple times before fall rains arrive and roots set. The most recent planting project was on Latah with Work Crew Officer Bobby McGowan.

Geiger Programs Officer Ray Gawenit supervises inmates working in the native nursery and assists Geiger education programs. Ray noted there was a slight setback this spring. “The trees the inmates planted last year wintered very well, but we had to move several thousand to a new location. Apparently we placed the nursery right over a water pipe that recently needed to be removed by the county during demolition of 4 buildings formerly occupied by Geiger Corrections. This set us back a few days, but otherwise, all the stock we’ve received so far this year is planted and looking great.”

Those offenders working in the Green Sleeves initiative typically have two or more months jail time to serve at Geiger, allowing them significant participation in the program and the opportunity to complete one or more of the “Roots Of Success” environmental literacy modules. The “Roots Of Success” curriculum integrates environmental and academic literacy with job readiness skills and is in use by over 150 organizations through the US and Puerto Rico.

The Green Sleeves habitat restoration project and “Roots Of Success” environmental curriculum dovetail well with Geiger’s Community Garden. Inmates participating in Geiger’s cognitive behavioral change classes work in the Community Garden, giving back to the community for their offenses by donating the garden’s harvest to Spokane area non-profit kitchens and food banks.

One inmate working in Project Green Sleeves gained valuable experience immediately after release by volunteering on nursery and planting projects with the Lands Council. He subsequently secured employment with a local plant nursery.

## Geiger Corrections Center Staffers Honor Slain Sgt. Moore

Geiger Corrections Center staff has been active in support of the family of slain Coeur d’Alene Police Sgt. Greg Moore. Sgt. Moore was shot while on patrol May 5 in Coeur d’Alene. He died later that day.

Geiger food service cook James Knapp donated a ladies tanzanite/platinum ring appraised in excess of \$5,000 to a fund-raiser, with all proceeds given to the family. Raffle ticket proceeds at press time were approaching \$3,000.

James explained his aunt operated a jewelry boutique in California, and when she passed away, the family liquidated much of her inventory. “But there were a lot of items, and we held some of them back. We donated the ring because this is something she would have wanted us to do.”

Geiger Corrections Sgt. Brett Sobosky designed a commemorative t-shirt honoring Sgt. Moore. “It started just as a t-shirt to honor his dedication to public safety and show support for his family,” Sobosky said. “But Geiger Corrections Officer Micah Page made some contacts and the orders began flooding in. All proceeds from sales of the shirt were donated to the family.”

## Fulcrum Instructor Brings Geiger's Education Classes Wider Perspective

Justin Van Elsberg, Fulcrum Institute instructor, is bringing fresh teaching strategies to Geiger inmates studying Anger Management, Partners In Parenting and Creative Writing. Justin just arrived at Geiger in mid-March, joining Fulcrum Job Skills and Communication instructor Anthony Foster.

Justin graduated from WSU in 2013, earning majors Psychology and Anthropology. Following graduation, he accompanied a WSU Professor to Thailand to teach and assist in research. Returning to Spokane, Justin began instructing Anger Management, Job Search and Theft Awareness at the Fulcrum facility, before adding Geiger classes to his schedule. Justin has also accepted the mantle of Fulcrum Institute Education Director.

Many of those in the Theft Awareness classes he teaches at the Fulcrum facility are court-ordered to attend. "Those classes can be challenging. **The classes we offer at Geiger are attended voluntarily. I've been impressed by the Geiger offenders' general level of aptitude, their genuine inquisitiveness and the interesting questions they bring to class.**"

Justin thought he might encounter a negative response from some inmates when he showed up to teach Partners In Parenting. "You probably couldn't blame them if they thought I was in the wrong classroom. While I've never been a parent, I explained to them that I have studied and worked in child psychology. Apparently the offenders feel my subject knowledge is sufficient and that I'm here with their best interest in mind, so it's not been an issue at all."

One of the more rewarding challenges for Justin has been leading the Geiger Creative Writing class. "I suggested to Lt. Lake that the class could be more than creative writing; perhaps incorporate some therapeutic writing based around their crimes. Lt. Lake and the Case Managers were cautious, noting that in the past some offenders have used such exercises as an opportunity to shift blame or glorify their behavior. So we instituted some very specific writing parameters the inmates had to follow, and it's worked out pretty well. For instance, one of the exercises was an expository paper on how your crime affected the victims and your family. They put a lot of effort into organizing their thoughts and analyzing flawed decision making."



Justin Van Elsberg of Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic has found adult offender education to be as rewarding as it is challenging. Justin has been teaching at Geiger since mid-March.

## Geiger Corrections Work Crews Ready For Annual Summer Events

Geiger Corrections Center Work Crews were instrumental again this spring in Bloomsday preparation and clean-up. Part of the yearly ritual for race participants is throwing their sweatshirts and sweatpants in the trees along the route as the race begins. **Work Crews collected in excess of 9,000 pounds of this discarded clothing this year, which was donated to Goodwill Industries.** Crews were instrumental in Lilac Parade clean-up. One crew has already begun working daily at the Hoopfest warehouse for the June 27-28 event. This year inmates will set up and tear down 450 basketball courts spanning 42 downtown blocks. The summer schedule includes continued work at the Inland Northwest Rail Museum, downtown corridor beautification and litter projects for the City of Spokane, on-going road side litter detail, a slew of smaller projects for local 501-C(3) non-profits, plus the Spokane Interstate Fair.

## Geiger Native Nursery Tree Lot Population Doubled This Spring



**ROOTS  
OF SUCCESS**

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LITERACY  
CURRICULUM

Inmates participating in Project Green Sleeves potted nearly 4,000 seedling trees during early May at Geiger Corrections Center. The trees will spend a couple years at Geiger, then supply the Lands Council's restoration planting projects on local streams. In total, the inmates are presently caring for about 8,000 fledgling seedlings of various species.

## Geiger GED Program Joins With SCC Adult Education

GED (General Education Development) classes help people who didn't graduate from high school earn a high school equivalency certificate. Beginning Jan. 1, the entire Washington state GED program was changed so that all testing is now done on-line.

A major revision was instituted in the level of proficiency needed to pass each of the four modules (social studies, language arts, science and math) to better reflect the required level of education necessary for a successful transition to college or vocational training. Bob Wise, SCC instructor directing GED test preparation at Geiger, explained there are typically between 6 and 12 Geiger inmates working in GED prep and testing at any given time. "We've had two inmates pass all the tests and earn their certificate at Geiger this year, which is a lot fewer than last year. However, everybody is starting from square one this year. Curriculum modules passed last year don't count anymore. Previously, you could only repeat a failed module test three times in a year. Now you can attempt it more than three times. Also, those who've passed modules since Jan. 1 but not attained their GED before release have the option of attending additional GED preparation and testing at SCC and its satellite facilities in Colville, Republic, Pullman and Newport. Administratively, Geiger is now just like one of those satellite testing centers. Inmates are encouraged to continue test prep and test taking at SCC after release. Those offenders attaining their GED either while at Geiger or after release are eligible to enroll in vocational or Associate degree classes."

## Dave "Killer Bread" Dahl Revisits Geiger Program Inmates



Dave Dahl, creator of Dave's Killer Bread, returned to Geiger May 20th to meet with inmates working in Treatment and Re-Entry Education.

Dave Dahl of Dave's Killer Bread returned to Geiger Corrections Center May 20 to address the substance treatment, education and re-entry classes to offer hope, reality and motivation. "Don't kid yourself," he told the 50 offenders in attendance. "You screwed up, and it's going to be more difficult for you to find employment. You'll have to work harder and prepare better just to be on the same level as those without a criminal record. It's all about hard work and making yourself valuable to your employer. Even if you're flipping burgers, you must decide for yourself that you're going to be the best burger flipper ever."

Dave spent 15 years in and out of prison before he was diagnosed with depression and was able to kick illicit drugs. "After that, I was like a new person. I worked 80 hours a week at the bakery, developed some all-natural bread recipes that won top honors at an annual

Portland fair, then the brand took off. That was 10 years ago. We had a great run until a couple years ago when I suffered a mental health crisis, went off my meds, wrecked three cop cars with my SUV, and I was prosecuted for assault. It was a manic episode with feelings like I was in some way connected to God that day. This was not good for an ex-con, nor for Dave's Killer Bread. Sometime afterwards, I received a second mental health diagnosis as bipolar. It took two years to settle my legal issues and regain my driver's license. The court put a lot of new restrictions on my life. I am ordered to meet regularly with my Probation Officer and Psychiatrist, to maintain my mental health medication, and our rock band can only play venues where no alcohol is present."

Despite Dave's setback, he was anxious to return to Spokane once his criminal case was completed. "Speaking to others who are fighting addiction or suffering mental illness keeps me grounded as much as it helps them."

Dave still actively promotes Dave's Killer Bread and looks forward to furthering a program he started to help troubled youth. "It's been a long road back. Spokane is the first place I wanted to come and meet with offenders, because Judith Gilmore at Fulcrum Institute impressed upon me that I had a lot of support here—such as the Geiger staff—and that I still had something to offer people working to make positive change."

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We're on the web:  
[www.spokanecounty.org/  
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or comments?

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