



## SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DETENTION SERVICES

# Community Corrections Programs

Winter 2011-2012

### Our Mission:

To provide services to adult offenders which enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs which support positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

### Our Principals:

- We believe that change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe that all people are equal and diverse individuals who have intrinsic worth and 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.

*Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich*

*Detention Services Commander John McGrath*

## Drug and Alcohol Counseling - Changing Lives

Hello! My name is Eileen Jacobson. I am currently contracted through New Horizons Care Centers working at Geiger Corrections as a Chemical Dependency Counselor for the female inmates. Many years ago I became intrigued with the curriculum and classes offered as a Chemical Dependency Counselor or Addiction Counselor. The more I looked into it the more intrigued I became. I Earned a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling, and Organizational Leadership.

Over the last 20 years I have worked with adolescents, adults, law enforcement, courts, and hospitals educating and working with people afflicted by alcohol and drug use. Through my life studies I found that drugs and alcohol have



*Eileen Jacobson*

a profound effect on our society, family, friends and way of life. Throughout my career I have seen individuals change their lives and become successful citizens in society.

Although I don't have that magic wand to "fix" anyone, it is rewarding to see individuals who work hard and are devoted to changing their lives. I look forward to being a part of the Geiger team in helping individuals to make significant changes in their lives and helping them to fulfill their goals for the future.

## Employment Readiness Program (ERP) - Opening Doors



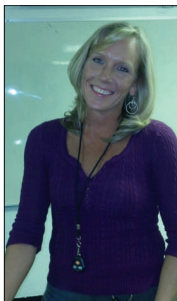
In Today's economic climate, finding a job is hard work.

Try adding the fact that you have been incarcerated, and that task is made much more difficult. We are very pleased to be partnering with Goodwill Industries Employment to offer a new Employment Readiness Program (ERP) to offenders housed at the Geiger Corrections Center. In March the Goodwill representatives will come and teach our first group.

The goal of this program is to provide valuable assistance in the process of preparing for and securing employment to sentenced inmates who are close to being released. This two-part, four hour class will cover areas such as: \*first impressions, \*selling yourself, \* job application preparation, \*use of "key words", \*handling tricky questions, \*interviewing tips, \*identifying your career field, \*search locations, \*use of resumes, etc. Goodwill has been providing this type of training for some time and preparing people to find employment is one of the many things they do very well. We look forward to tapping into their expertise in this area!

## GED Assistance - Improving Futures

Over the past few years the GED program here at Geiger has been a real success story. According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Center for Education Statistics, those who are without a high school diploma or its equivalent make salaries of 30-40% less than those who have a high school diploma or its equivalent. For those who have been convicted of a crime, finding employment is already a challenge. For those who have not acquired a high school diploma or its equivalent (i.e. a GED), that challenge is compounded.



*Rebecca Butterfield*

Geiger has been offering a comprehensive GED program since October of 2006. Rebecca Butterfield has been assisting and instructing offenders with skill and care since 2007.

Since the programs inception, a passing rate of over 90% has been maintained with over 2100 individual tests passed and over 250 GED graduates (passing all five tests: Reading, Social Studies, Science, Math, and Writing). Participation in the program is voluntary and involves individualized assessments and study plans, as well as one-on-one instruction when needed. Those who are not able to complete the entire five test battery prior to being released from Geiger often finish their GED with the Institute for Extended Learning. The participants regularly express their gratitude for the GED program and show great pride and renewed confidence when they accomplish their educational goals.

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**Newsletter questions or coments?**  
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## Work Crews - Serving the Community

When snow blanketed Spokane County on Thursday, January 19th, 2012 tying a record of 6 inches with more in the forecast, Spokane County 911 received 91 reports of traffic collisions. Sergeant Jason Robison, who leads the Geiger Work Crews, was monitoring the weather report, preparing equipment and organizing his crews for the day.

His first order of business was to clear all the Geiger Facility sidewalks, parking lots, and delivery access areas. The Facility includes two housing units, a dining hall, an education building, as well as support buildings in a campus type setting.



Later a call from Spokane Transit Authority (STA) came in, asking if the Geiger Crews were available to assist in keeping the bus stops clear for their riders. Sgt. Robison's response was "Absolutely!"

STA is one of our best customers for service in the winter months. It's a win-win relationship. STA receives supervised crews of 8-10 offenders to ensure their riders have clear, safe stops. The Sheriff's Labor Program receives funds for the service, which offsets some of the operating costs.

The County Roads Department also called requesting help. Sgt. Robison was able to dispatch his Work Crews to them as well. The Roads Department receives calls from elderly and disabled citizens when their driveways and sidewalks have been plowed in by the snowplows.



*One of the cards received from the community:*

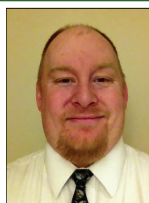
*"On Wednesday, the snowplow filled my driveway with ice and snow. I called the County Roads Department and they said they would send someone out. The Detention Work Crew came within an hour and took care of it for me. I have a big driveway, and they did a great job."*

Since 2006, Geiger Work Crews have performed in excess of 460,000 hours of service to organizations and our Community throughout the Spokane area.

Offenders perform manual and skilled labor such as litter pick up, graffiti removal, forestry work, limited maintenance, landscaping, and other projects for non-profit and government agency projects related to public health, safety, and welfare.

Participating on a Crew teaches offenders the importance of a strong work ethic, and gives them a sense of pride in their work and accomplishments, all benefiting them and the entire Community!

## "Money Smart" Classes - Lending Support



***It's never too late to fix credit report problems and take action. The sooner the better!*** I find the FDIC "Money Smart" program to be one of the best tools available in teaching the basics of what to

expect from your bank.  
*Tucker Santucci  
Washington Trust Bank*

By establishing a good relationship with a bank and the person opening the account, you are setting yourself up for success financially.

It was important to me to establish a vision of what life looks and feels like in a world of owning your home, driving your own car, knowing that you have a savings account with money in it for future purchases or emergencies, money set aside for a child's education and building a retirement plan to help you live life comfortably in your retirement years.

For the inmates attending these classes it was eye-opening for them to foresee a life of financial freedom.

Regardless of your personal situation, you need to take positive steps of action, no matter if you have established a negative credit history, or if you haven't established a credit history at all. Small successful steps will allow anyone to change their skill level in handling money.

Knowing there are tools out there to help support their growth through Online Banking, Online Bill Pay, Auto Transfers into savings or retirement accounts will help ease stress and maintain a toward financial freedom. I hope by teaching these classes to the inmates, they will learn they have to work toward these freedoms, and they can achieve them!

It is my pleasure to be a part of this partnership with Geiger Corrections and Sergeant Jon Simbler.

*Tucker Santucci*