

Volunteering Matters

FALL 2014

NEWSLETTER

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The Office of Victim, Volunteer and Chaplaincy Services

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Volunteering Matters, the official newsletter of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Volunteer Services Program. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is grateful for its many volunteers who help improve the lives of our youth both in our facilities as well as in the community at large. With the introduction of Volunteering Matters, we hope to highlight the great work that takes place daily due to the hard work and efforts of our volunteers.

The Volunteer Services Program is responsible for the recruitment and screening of prospective volunteers, as well as their orientation and training. Volunteers with DJJ serve in a variety of capacities in all 21 Regional Youth Development Campuses, 7 Youth Detention Centers, and 92 Court Services and Supervision Offices in Georgia.

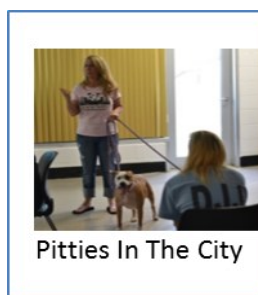
The DJJ Volunteer Services Program Mission is to recruit, retain, and promote volunteers who are dedicated to providing an array of services to DJJ Youth. The volunteers will help motivate and

empower our youth to become productive and law-abiding citizens in their communities.

The DJJ Volunteer Services Philosophy is to develop and increase volunteer opportunities which enrich our young offenders. The program is established to encourage a lifetime of volunteer commitment to service.



Dedication of Waycross RYDC's Griner Library



Pitties In The City

You can help!

The Department of Juvenile Justice is seeking additional volunteers to take on the challenge of working with young offenders in our facilities and communities. DJJ is actively recruiting stakeholders in the community to work together to rehabilitate young offenders to become productive and law-abiding citizens.

If you are 18 years or older, if you can dedicate at least an hour of

your time, can successfully pass a background and fingerprint check, you are eligible! Please complete the Volunteer Application form and email it to DJJVolunteerServices@djj.state.ga.us

or Mail your printed forms to:
Department of Juvenile Justice, ATTN:
Volunteer Programs, 3408 Covington
Highway, Decatur, Georgia 30032.





Glaukos the Gargoyle went to the Atlanta Youth Development Campus. It was our first official Rescue 2 Restore event.

“What a great program, helps the kids and the animals.....Thank you to all who helped start and continue to work with Rescue 2 Restore!!!! “
Elaine H. G.

The youth and dogs at our Muscogee YDC heading back to the kennel after training. These kids have been working hard for weeks to get their dogs adoption ready.



Chrissy's Corner

Christine Kaczynski (Chrissy), Friends of DeKalb Animal Services founder, is the Program Coordinator for the Department of Juvenile Justice's Animal Care and Adoption Program, Rescue 2 Restore. Chrissy's passion for working with rescue dogs and educating youth on animal care has been a great benefit to the department and the youth.

Rescue 2 Restore was established in June 2014 as a component of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Division of Operations and Compliance, Volunteer Services Unit.

Rescue 2 Restore is a mutually beneficial program aiming to improve the quality of life for youth housed in juvenile detention centers

around the state of Georgia while providing a second chance for rescue/shelter dogs that would otherwise have been euthanized.

The department identified animal programming as a successful method to provide youth with life skills, while educating the youth on animal care and compassion. Behaviorally, animal programs have proven to alleviate depression and encourage good behavior.

Rescue 2 Restore is responsible for building community partnerships and providing the youth with positive animal interactions and lessons.

To learn more about Rescue 2 Restore, visit them on the web at

www.djjnewsandviews.org/rescue2restore

How does the Rescue 2 Restore program work?

With the Rescue 2 Restore Program, there are currently eight pairings of youth and dogs in DJJ's dog training programs. Introduced at the Muscogee YDC and Dalton RYDC's, Rescue 2 Restore has proven to be a popular program, providing opportunities for youth to bond emotionally with their dogs. Based on this initial success, there are plans to bring the program to additional security facilities in the near future. This program provides opportunities for youth to form

stronger bonds with their dogs and establish greater impact.

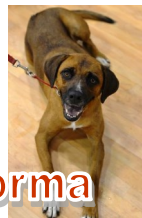
A volunteer trainer comes in once a week to work with youth and dogs at DJJ facilities where dogs are kenneled on campus. The trainer runs the program like a typical canine training class. The one-hour weekly classes teach youth how to train the

dogs using commands and to work through any difficulties. The youth then practice commands with their dogs during the week.

In addition to the training class, several guest speakers have visited DJJ secure facilities to provide one-time educational programs.

Getting to know the animals...

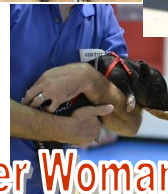
- “Glaukos the Gargoyle” the Mastiff
- Xena the Warrior Puppy
- Big Daddy Biscuits'
- Pit Bulls “Gauge” and “Flirt”
- Vinny the Pit bull
- Zaxby
- And Wonder Woman the pig



Norma



Bella



Wonder Woman



Zaxby

The Girl Scouts are now at the Metro RYDC!



The Girl Scouts Of America, the largest national organization devoted entirely to helping girls build skills for real world success, is now meeting at the Department of Juvenile Justice. With the support of Deputy Commissioner

Helping the girls get to where they need to be, while in the RYDC! Shawanda Reynolds -Cobb and the Division of Operations and Compliance, a Girl Scout Troop has been established at the Metro RYDC.

Girl Scouts of Atlanta provided troop leader training to Loronda Giddens and Sara Gardner with Victim Services and Monique Brandenburg with DJJ Gang Services.

Through scouting, girls learn to engage in healthy living programs

that help build physical health, emotional health, and self-esteem. By participating in leadership and people –skill building sessions, girls empower themselves and improve their connections to their communities.

Girl Scouting helps girls develop their full potential, relate to others with increased understanding, develop skills to assist with sound decision making practices and contribute to the overall betterment of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.



A Taste of Jamaica



Bringing greetings to the more than forty youth and staff in attendance, Assistant Director of Programs Audrey Stokes kicked off **A Taste of Jamaica** Gourmet Module at the Maratha k. Glaze RYDC facility. This year's **Taste of Jamaica** included a food preparation demonstration and samples of local Jamaican fare including mild and hot jerk chicken, yellow rice, steamed cabbage with mixed vegetables, and lemonade, and apple pie.

A wide range Departmental speakers were able to come to **A Taste of Jamaica** to offer their expertise and support. Carrie T. Hamilton-Shavers, DJJ Program Coordinator, gave an overview of the Office of Volunteer Services as well as sharing the purpose of the Jamaican food project. DJJ Food Service Managers Anita Bennett of the Metro YRDC and Magsie Nsubuga of the Martha K. Glaze RYDC were present to provide

their expertise on Jamaican cooking and preparation. Both also gave inside food services tidbits with Ms. Bennett discussing how DJJ selects individual Meal Plans and Diets and Ms. Magsie going into detail about the Jamaican culture and food history.

Based on the success of this “taste”, the Department of Juvenile Justice looks forward to the start of other cultural food programs in the near future.

“This was the best meal I’ve ever had at this facility.”
Student

National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

Facts:

- ◇ Bullying is against the law in Georgia Schools
- ◇ Bullying occurs within families
- ◇ Bullying does occur on the internet (Cyber-bullying)
- ◇ A child being bullied rarely reports the incidents

Myths:

- ◇ Reporting bullying makes it worse
- ◇ A child being bullied will get over it
- ◇ Nothing can be done about being bullied
- ◇ A child who bullies will grow out of it



Victim Services staff Loronda C. Giddens giving a presentation on Prevention of Bullying



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Chaplain's Corner



Commissioner Avery D. Niles has appointed Rev. Danny A. Horne of College Park, GA. to the newly created position of Director of Chaplaincy Services for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. Chaplain programs help educate juvenile corrections staff about various faiths and sensitize them to religious cultural traditions. Chaplain Horne can be contacted at DannyHorne@djj.state.ga.us or 404-508-6500.

Up Coming...

Hope For The Holidays Toy Drive
Christmas Day Holidays
New Years Day

Nov 18-Dec 9th
Dec 25 -26th
January 1, 2015

