

Volunteering Matters

Victim and Volunteer Services

Fourth Quarter October—December 2015



Department of
Juvenile Justice

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DJJ Youth "Flip" for World Champion Strength Expert

Did you know that the Hall County Community Services Office has a World Champion in fitness and strength in its ranks? In 2010, Sergeant Greg Cochran set the Guinness World Record for flipping a 550 pound earth-mover tire 203 times in a row!

Using his strength and world record as a motivational tool for DJJ youth, Sergeant Cochran donated his time and talent

speaking at several facilities this fall. Delivering his motivational message about achieving goals, the importance of fitness, and that every person has a special talent in life, Sergeant Cochran share his inspiration (and tire!) with over two hundred youth around the state.



Eastman RYDC Fall Festival

When the leaves turn different colors and drop, you know that it is time for the Fall Festival at the Eastman RYDC. Games, food, and fun were at the heart of the Eastman RYDC Fall Festival as youth with good behavior were rewarded as part of the DJJ PBIS program.

Youth and staff had laughs playing "Hangin' Donuts", the donut catching game, "Golf Ball Shoot-Out" with marshmallows and hot air, the "Guess What's In the Box" guessing game, and the ever popular cheese-catching game called, "Cheese Ball Head". Special thanks go out to all of the RYDC staff who volunteered their time to make the Eastman Fall Festival a big success.



Hangin' Donuts



"Cheese Ball Head"
Shower caps, shaving cream and
Cheese Ball.



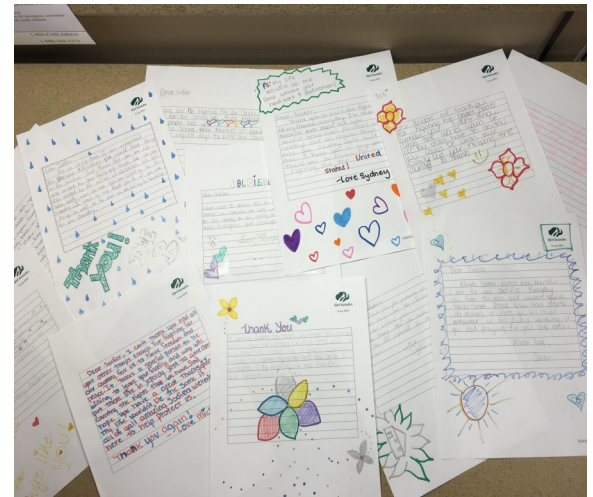
"Guess What's In The Box"
PRICELESS



Girl Scout Troop #965 Teams Up with Q100's The Bert Show for the "Big Thank You"

For each Thanksgiving holiday season, Atlanta radio's Q100 The Bert Show organizes the "Big Thank You", a public letter writing campaign dedicated to sending thanks to the men and women of the American Armed Services. This year, the youth of the Metro RYDC's Girl Scout Troop #965 joined the campaign by developing and sending their own letters of appreciation for the hard work and sacrifices of our military.

With the help of Girl Scout Troop #965, more than 189,000 letters were collected and sent to service members around the globe. That's enough to deliver a letter to every single person in our military stationed overseas for the holidays!



Music and Hope at the Dalton RYDC

For Dalton area storyteller and musician, Andy Irwin, where words leave off, music begins. During a recent visit to the Dalton RYDC, Mr. Irwin used both words and music to bring hope and inspiration to local youth.

During the visit, Andy Irwin taught the youth a song called "Petroleum Jelly" that stressed the singer/songwriter's focus on the environment. The instrumental guitar music was catchy as well: some youth were still singing the song long after Mr. Irwin had finished his performance.

Special thanks goes out to Volunteer Coordinator Richard Nelson for his support and help in bringing Mr. Irwin to the Dalton RYDC.



Mr. Irwin on the left and our very own Local Volunteer Coordinator, Richard Nelson, on the right playing the harmonica.



Muscogee YDC at the USDA Detector Dog Training Center



Did you know that bringing just one piece of fruit from another country into the United States can potentially destroy crops and endanger the health and wellbeing of citizens in America? Learning this fact and many more, youth from the Muscogee YDC were given a tour of the United States Department of Agriculture Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia. The participants, all members of the Rescue 2 Restore dog training program, were also given the opportunity to meet Detector Dogs, see demonstrations of the work these dogs do, and discuss training methods, animal care, and potential careers in the field with the trainers and staff at the center.

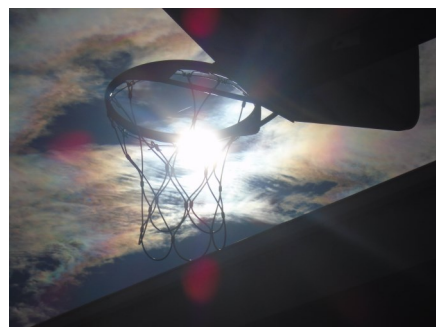
The youth, who were accompanied by DJJ SMRT team members and Rescue 2 Restore staff, were respectful and engaged during the tour and quite impressed by the Detector Dogs who displayed amazing abilities in sniffing out fruit, meat, and plant materials hidden in suitcases, cars, boxes stacked on pallets, and even those boxes on moving conveyor belts designed by the training center staff to resemble the ones found in UPS, FedEx and United States Postal locations here in the United States.



This successful field trip is just one of the many components of the Rescue 2 Restore program, designed to offer youth the benefits of animal companionship while educating and encouraging exploration of future employment opportunities using the knowledge and skills learned through the program.

Through My Eyes Photography Program

Through My Eyes is a photography program run by professional photographer Michael Spell and Regional Victim Coordinator Kelly Spell. Held in November, Through My Eyes taught Muscogee YDC youth some photography basics and allowed them to photograph things at the facility that they found interesting and noteworthy. Using the photos they personally had taken, the youth were asked to then create a poem, essay, or song describing the importance of the particular photo to them.



Red Ribbon Week at the Rockdale RYDC

In October, the Rockdale RYDC celebrated Red Ribbon Week via educational programming. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug and violence

prevention awareness



campaign held throughout the United States.

For the Rockdale RYDC, the official Red Ribbon Week ceremony was facilitated by James Brown and Theartist Demps. James Brown is a well-known

motivational speaker who shares his story of the pain and healing he experienced after becoming a quadriplegic during a drug deal gone horribly wrong. Both the Rockdale RYDC youth and staff were captivated by his story of redemption.

“I was once a dead man walking, but now I am alive!” –James Brown



Important Calendar Events

