



First Quarter Newsletter

The New Library in the Waycross RYDC

Sometimes, special opportunity comes from a combination of luck and hard work. For the Waycross Regional Youth Detention Center's Griner Library, multiple fortuitous events came together at once to allow for the Department of Juvenile Justice's newest facility library to become a reality.

In many respects, the Waycross RYDC's Griner Library was an unexpected blessing. With the closing of the Dragon Fly Books in Dublin, the owners of the bookstore were left with two choices of what to do with their book inventory after closure: throw away the books or find an appropriate place to donate the remaining books. As chance would have it, the mother of the Waycross RYDC Director Sheila Phillips, Ms. Lagail Avery, happened to be in Dragon Fly Books store owners directly. She called Joel and Audrey Griner and made arrangements for all those books to be donated to the Waycross RYDC. The first major step toward the creation of the Waycross Griner Library was now in place.

However, libraries are not made with books alone. Much additional work would be needed if the Waycross RYDC

Griner Library was to spring from the pages of this idea. Now came the logistics: "How would the Waycross RYDC deliver more than 15,000 used paperback and donated hardcover books to the Waycross facility?" .. "Who would help catalog the books?".. and "Where would the RYDC house all those books?"

Fortunately, when there are problems, the DJJ family comes together to find solutions. With a truck and trailer borrowed from our partners at the Department of Corrections, the Waycross staff, volunteers, and a young intern all pitched in to make several book delivery trips to the facility during the first week of October.

The books were inventoried and duplicate editions were earmarked for the Department

of Corrections or to the Waycross RYDC Advisory Council book sale to raise money to support the youth of the facility.

On October 15th, the RYDC Education Department hosted a ceremony, dedicating the new Waycross library in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Griner. A special plaque was presented, thanking them for their generous book donations. The RYDC Griner Library was dedicated as Waycross RYDC staff presented Mrs. Griner's mother with flowers and gave a handmade card to Ms. Phillip's mother. Special guests were invited to the library Open House and participated in this special event.

Waycross RYDC Director Phillips encourages all youth in her facility to read and the new library is helping to make reading fun and exciting to all students. After reading just one book, students are now asking for new and different books all the time.

Through smiles, hard work and determination, what was once a dream of a library is now a reality. Special thanks go out to all the volunteers and staff at the Waycross RYDC who helped create the new Griner Library.



Mr. Joel Griner, Director Sheila Phillips, Mrs. Audrey Griner, Mrs. Justine Ansell, Mrs. LaGail Avery

Inside this issue:

A Concert for the Youth at Waycross RYDC	2
CASA GALA	2
The University of North Georgia Fair 2014	2
The Humane Society of NW Georgia at Elbert Shaw RYDC in Dalton	3
Girl Scouts Showing Holiday Spirit at the Metro RYDC	3
We have New Faces!!!	3
The Word... & What's coming up?	4



Was a HUGE success!!!

We collected over 100 toys for children this year!

A Concert for the Youth at Waycross RYDC

In August, the Georgia Baptist Convention Music & Worship Ministries presented a mini concert for the youth at the Waycross Regional Youth Detention Center (Waycross RYDC). They played classical music.

Minister of Music Paul Aday conducted the Jubal Brass and its twenty-two member instrument band. AOC II Beverly Harrell worked with Eddy Oliver of the Georgia Baptist Convention to help “orchestrate” the musical performance.

DJJ’s S.M.R.T. (Special Management Response Team) group also helped to assist with security and make sure that the Jubal Brass members were able to pass through security with instruments in place.

Because of the hard work of everyone involved, the youth at the Waycross RYDC were able to enjoy an afternoon of fantastic music. Thank you, Jubal Brass!



CASA GALA

Southwest Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Spell and her family proudly helped out recently with the 10th Annual Gala for the Tri-County CASA. CASA (or Court Appointed Special Advocates) develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based affiliate programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court dependency proceedings.

The Tri-County CASA Gala was a family affair for the Spells. Kelly and her husband Michael served as photographers for the event as they have for the past eight years. Kelly’s son, Matthew, helped as a waiter for the fifth year in a row. The work of the Spell Family helped make the CASA Gala a success; more than \$10,000 was raised to benefit children served by CASA in Appling, Jeff Davis, and Wayne Counties.



SW VC Kelly Spell enjoying being waited on by son, Matthew.

The University of North Georgia Fair 2014

In September, the Department of Juvenile Justice participated in the University of North Georgia (Gainesville Campus) Volunteer Fair. Central Office staff members Sara Gardner, LuTrenze Butcher-Mitchell, and Carrie T. Hamilton joined Gainesville RYDC’s Wayne DaShield in speaking about the work of DJJ in general and the programs of the Office of Volunteer Services specifically. Speaking to approximately sixty

students and staff including many Criminal Justice majors, the DJJ staff were given an opportunity to discuss juvenile justice responsibilities, the impact of volunteers on the juvenile justice system, and a description of facility life for juveniles at DJJ. A slide presentation was given by the Volunteer Services staff in addition to other shared materials.



Left to right: Sara Gardner, LuTrenze Butcher-Mitchell, Carrie T. Hamilton-Shavers, and Wayne DaShield

Chrissy's Corner

The Humane Society of NW Georgia at Elbert Shaw RYDC in Dalton

Chrissy's Corner is the monthly column by Rescue 2 Restore Project Director Chrissy Kaczynski. This month's column focuses on the Canine Good Citizen graduation at the Dalton RYDC. For more information on Rescue 2 Restore, visit www.djjnewsandviews.org/rescue2restore.

It was touching to see the amount of community support at the Dalton dogs' Canine Good Citizen graduation ceremony. Pictured is the Mayor of Dalton, who was also the key note speaker. Several of the facility's advisory council members and board members from the Humane Society of Northwest Georgia were present to show their support.

Pictured is the Mayor of Dalton with Dakota Harris and adoptable Canine Good Citizens graduate Bella. Dakota was the youth handler that took the dogs through the Canine Good Citizens

test. He spoke at the ceremony as well. Dakota told everyone how the dogs have helped him learn patience. He feels the skills he learned working with them will help him have better relationships and make better choices after his release. Dakota also looks forward to volunteering at the humane society and helping more animals find homes.



Dakota, the youth handler, the Mayor of Dalton, and adoptable Canine Good Citizens graduate Bella.

Girl Scouts Showing Holiday Spirit at the Metro RYDC



Ornaments made during a Girl Scouts Session.

For the month of December, Sara Gardner, Loranda Giddens, Monique Brandenburg and Deidra Blalock visited Metro RYDC and spoke to the Girl Scouts about different cultures and holidays celebrated

round the end of the year such as Hanukah and Kwanza. During the session, the Girl Scouts were able to make Christmas ornaments for friends and loved ones.



We Have New Faces in the Office of Volunteer Services !

Monique Grier joined DJJ on December 1, 2014 with Chaplain Danny Horne in Chaplaincy Services as the Program Coordinator. Prior to her arrival she managed Community Reentry for the Georgia Department of Corrections. Ms. Grier is a lifelong resident of Georgia. She graduated from Georgia State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Currently, she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration at Columbus State University and will graduate in December. She is eager to learn more about DJJ and looks forward to developing relationships with peers.



Monique T. Grier

Kelly Lewis has been involved in the Georgia rescue and animal advocacy community for well over twenty-five years, but if you ask her when she rescued her first dog she will tell you a story about rescuing a dog when she was just nine years old. Kelly has joined forces with Rescue 2 Restore with Christine Kaczynski and believes having the opportunity to educate, and to plant the seeds of empathy and responsibility towards animals in our youth is of extreme importance to the future of animal advocacy, and to the communities that the youth eventually return to live in. The absolute best way to educate and empower a community is to educate and empower the children.



Kelly Lewis



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This Month's word from Chaplain Danny Horne...

The Weed

Our work meets those who find themselves in the weeds of life! We must remember, however, there have been many cures for human ailments that have come from plants regarded as weeds because of a lack of knowledge. We have no idea what great things the divine path has for us. Let's remember commitment to sow vigorously in the lives of one another and especially in the gardens of those with whom we are called to work.



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What's coming up?

February is
**NATIONAL TEEN DATING
VIOLENCE PREVENTION
AND AWARENESS
MONTH**

teendvmonth.org

March 23-27 is

**YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION WEEK**

nationalsave.org/event/national-youth-violence-prevention-week/