

RIDOC Happenings

Volume III, Issue 4

Upcoming & Recent Events & News of Interest to the RIDOC Community

February 13, 2009



NEADS Launches New First of Its Kind Program

On Tuesday, February 10th, the Veteran's Home in Bristol and NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans held a press event to celebrate the arrival of the first two pups in the Veteran Pup Partnership -- the first program of its kind in the U.S. During the year of planning leading up to their arrival, staff and residents from the Veterans Home visited the Medium Moran facility to see how our Prison Pup Partnership Program is run. In her remarks on Tuesday, Sheila O'Brien, executive director of NEADS, noted that there are now 38,000 wounded veterans as a result of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many are young and athletic and have the motto "Canines, not Canes," so the demand for NEADS Canines for Combat Veterans Program has gone up. "Liberty" and "Joe" two adorable Labs, will be trained by residents of the home with the hope that more pups will follow. Deputy Warden Nelson Lefebvre and Chief of Information and P.R. Tracey Zeckhausen attended on behalf of the RIDOC.

Hero in our Midst

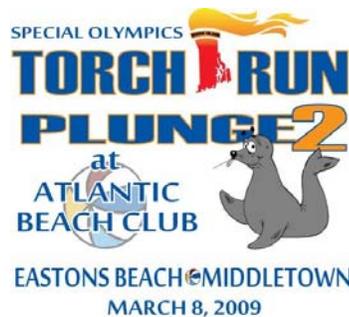
An anonymous caller recently contacted the H.R. Department to express his gratitude to the Department after an officer assisted his young daughter when he noticed her car pulled over near the Division Street exit off Rte. 4. No further information is available. If you are that officer or know who he is, please contact the Director's Office.

RIDOC Employees to be Honored on February 19th

An invitation recently went out to all RIDOC email users for the annual departmental awards ceremony on **Thursday, February 19th, at 9 a.m.** at the Arnold Conference Center. Please come to recognize the 26 employees and four "Friends of the Department" who will be honored.

ASCA Scholarship for Children of Corrections Employees

The children of RIDOC staff have benefited from the Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship in the past. This year's scholarship application can be submitted online. A link to the application is available on the main page of the ASCA website at www.asca.net. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for undergraduate studies and \$1,500 for graduate studies. Students must be the son or daughter of a corrections employee, must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college, and must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.



Torch Run Plunge

The RIDOC's **Heidi DuPerry, Probation and Parole Officer**, would like to put together a team to participate in the 2nd Annual Torch Run Plunge to benefit Special Olympics RI. The event will be held on **Sunday, March 8th**, at Easton's Beach in Middletown. If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile and fun fund raiser, please contact Heidi at **ext. 21632**. You can either join the team or make a donation. Each plunger is expected to raise a minimum of \$50.

RISE and John Hope Settlement House Breakfast Invitation

Rhode Islanders Sponsoring Education (RISE) and John Hope Settlement House will hold an informational and inspirational community breakfast where guests can learn more about mentoring and support programs for children of incarcerated parents on **Tuesday, February 17th**. The Rev. Dr. Wilson Good Sr., former mayor of Philadelphia and founder of the Amachi Model, a mentoring program design that links communities of faith with non-profit organizations that provide services to children of incarcerated parents, will speak. There is no fee to attend.

The Blessing Way to Honor Volunteers

The Blessing Way, a non-profit founded by Episcopal chaplain the Rev. Joyce Penfield to help serve the needs of the formerly incarcerated, will honor volunteers past and present on **Saturday, February 21st, from 1 - 3:30 p.m.** Teresa Foley, Probation and Parole Officer and former Transitional Services Coordinator, will speak. RSVP to (401) 429-6112.

PHOTO GALLERY

EMPLOYEE HEALTH FAIR



Staff from throughout the Pastore Complex attended a health fair at the Arnold Conference Center last week.

NEADS LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM



One of the two handlers and his pup, "Joe," weekend puppy raisers, NEADS trainer, and NEADS' Executive Director Sheila O'Brien were on hand at the Veterans' Home in Bristol on Tuesday to celebrate the launch of a new partnership modeled after the Prison Pup Partnership Program in our two medium facilities.



One of two inmate handlers at the Veterans' Home in Bristol bonds with his new pup, "Liberty."



"Joe" and "Liberty"

"Only I
can change
my life.
No one can
do it
for me."

Carol Burnett

US actress & comedienne
(1936 -)

Listings or photos for the e-calendar *RIDOC Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter *RIDOC Review*, or changes or updates to the Department's Intranet site or external website (www.doc.ri.gov) should be submitted to Tracey E. Zeckhausen, Chief of Information & Public Relations
Tel: 401 462 2609
Fax: 401 462 2630
traceyzeckhausen@doc.ri.gov