



Summer - Fall 2006



## “Team Gorman” Walks for Dana Farber and Cancer Research

John Gorman is a RIDOC Correctional Officer who works at the Intake Service Center and has been battling brain cancer since May of 2004. John participated in a September 17<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Fund walk along with 20 colleagues and family members on “Team Gorman,” organized by fellow Correctional Officer Mike Porter and supported by RIBCO. The walk was held in conjunction with the Jimmy Fund and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and followed the same route as the Boston Marathon. To date, the team has raised over \$6,200 in pledges. Some members of the team also participated in an October 7<sup>th</sup> 3-mile walk in memory of 3-year-old Drew Drifmeyer, who lost his battle with brain cancer in 2001, and in a breast cancer walk in Providence on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Go, Team!

“Team Gorman” members, participating in the September 17<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Fund walk in Boston include: CO Miker Porter and son, Conner; CO John Gorman and wife, Jo-Ann; CO Olga Ortiz; Philip Delaney; CO Tara Barbosa; CO Matt Yeadon and his wife, Janet; CO Bill Wertz; RIDOC Teacher John Schieffelin; CO Ron Case; Capt. Bob Clancy; CO Paul Constant and his son, Mike; CO Mike Reilly and daughters Ashley and Brianna; CO Chris Cote; and CO Mike Hazard.

## Focus on Reentry: RIDOC’s Cutting Edge Reintegration Center



*This 3-D color image of the new Reintegration Center was provided by Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc.*

If you’re wondering what all the mess and noise is about over by the Bernadette Building, keep reading. “Reentry” is more than just the new buzzword in corrections, it’s something we at RIDOC as well as our partners in state and municipal government and community service agencies throughout the state are committed to making an integral part of our common mission. No longer are our institutions solely about our responsibility to our inmates while they are incarcerated, we are changing our philosophy at all levels in order to extend that responsibility to

beyond their release in order to break the cycle of recidivism.

As part of that effort, a new state-of-the-art Reintegration Center is slated to open about this time next year, accommodating 175 sentenced high risk male inmates who are within 12-18 months of their release but are not eligible for Minimum Security or Work Release due to the nature of the crime or their institutional records. This sub-segment of our inmate population would normally be released into the community without the level of stepdown preparedness available at Minimum and would pose a high recidivism risk. The benefits of this new secure facility include freeing up needed bed space in Maximum and Medium while our census remains unusually high as well as increasing public safety by preparing these men for more successful reentry into their communities. The facility will also present exciting new employment opportunities for qualified and interested DOC staff. We are in discussion with the union about the nature of the staffing complement.

The Reintegration Center will have a heavy case management emphasis and will provide a range of comprehensive rehabilitative services in a therapeutic community, with individual treatment plans tailored to each offender. These will include

- General vocational training
- Culinary arts training
- General education programs including resume and interview skills building
- Group activities in a supervised setting
- Physical Health
- Life skills
- Treatment for issues and behaviors that underlie their criminal behavior

Ninety percent of the funding for the construction has been provided by the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grant Program created under the Federal Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.



*The construction photo above was taken in early August.*

## Minimum Security Helps to “Clean the Bay”

A group of Minimum Security inmates and the officers supervising them are helping to remove unsightly debris along the shoreline of Narragansett Bay. So far RIDOC inmates, supervised by Lt. Michael Reis and COs Michael Palumbo and Billy Tucker, have helped clean up the Randall Street area of Warwick Neck and Goddard State Park in Warwick. The idea of a RIDOC contingent participating in the clean up came initially from Robert McCutcheon, Department Grievance Coordinator, who read an article about the non profit, *Clean the Bay*, and its clean up efforts in the *Providence Journal* and thought that this would be a great way for our inmates to give something back to the community. The wheels were set in motion and arrangements made through Warden Jim Vierra and his staff. Ed Hughes, one of the founders of *Clean the Bay*, was thrilled to get the call offering help and said, “This is exactly the kind of thing we were hoping for!” The crews will continue to help with the project as long as they are needed. For further information, visit Clean the Bay’s website at [www.cleanthebay.org](http://www.cleanthebay.org).

## Two Promoted to Shift Commander

Congratulations to Casey Barney and Paul Bartholomy who were promoted from Lieutenant to Captain on August 18 by Director A.T. Wall. Capt. Barney serves as Shift Commander at the Intake Service Center, and Capt. Bartholomy serves as Shift Commander at Medium II.

## Honoring our RIDOC Staff on Military Leave

At press time, the following RIDOC employees were on military leave. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families as they serve our country and our department proudly. Over 60 employees have taken military leaves since 2001.

Anthony Atella, CO Lt., ISC  
Lynda Aul, CO, ISC  
Daniel Carnevale, CO, Max  
Shayne Chapman, CO Lt., Wom.  
Glenn Cunningham, CO, Med.  
Robert Morse, CO Steward, Med.  
Louis Rosario, CO, Med.  
Robert Sayles, CO, Lt., ISC  
James Stringfellow, CO, Med.



## RIDOC Staff Attend RENEW Kickoff



RIDOC staff in attendance at the RENEW Kickoff and billboard unveiling include: From left: Judy Fox, Bob the summer intern, Adrian McGowan, A.T. Wall, Lorraine Ruiz, Tracey Poole, and Teresa Foley. Probation Officers McGowan and Ruiz have worked with women in the neighborhood.

The Barton Street Neighborhood Revitalization Project, *R.E.N.E.W.: Revitalizing & Engaging Neighborhoods by Empowering Women*, held its kickoff and billboard unveiling on June 29. Dedicated to curbing prostitution in the Pawtucket neighborhood where it has had a stronghold for decades, the program seeks to convince commercial sex workers caught up in the grip of addiction to take the first steps to restoration. Through a collaboration of community agencies including RIDOC, residential treatment referral, detox referral, DCYF/court assistance, and help to restore dignity are all provided. One-time ACI inmate Felicia Delgado, a former addict and prostitute who has turned her life around and wants to help other women do the same, has been hired as RENEW’s Sex-Worker Outreach Specialist. At the program’s kickoff, Delgado had already helped four women get themselves off the street and into programs.

In his remarks to the group of 30 or so individuals from community agencies, law enforcement, politics, and corrections who have all been instrumental in bringing the vision of RENEW to fruition, Director A.T. Wall noted, “Something remarkable is happening here and Corrections is proud to be a part of it,” stating that unless the community is engaged, all efforts will be lost. “Through your work,” he said “lives will be transformed and the community will be transformed too. What a thrill to be a part of that great work.”

The Pawtucket Citizens Development Corporation (PCDC), along with the Pawtucket and Central Falls Police, recently received a Metlife Community-Police Partnership Award, celebrating the Barton Street Neighborhood Revitalization Project’s work, including the innovative project “RENEW.” PCDC has received a \$25,000 award to help sustain this important initiative.

## Women's Mentoring Program BBQ Brings Together Friends Old and New



Jennifer H., about to be released on parole at the time of the cookout, is pictured with her mentor, Lisa Goodwin of Providence.

On a Wednesday evening in July, about 50 women involved with the Women's Prison Mentoring Program run by Judy Fox gathered for an annual cookout on RIDOC grounds. Bringing together mentors and mentees for social gatherings once a month has been a hallmark of Fox's program since its inception 15 years ago. The enthusiasm shared by those in attendance was palpable.

### The Mentees

One after another, they stood up to introduce themselves and share a bit of their story. "I'm Lawanda. I've been out seven years, and I'm never coming back!" "My name is Donna. I've been out eight years, and I'm never coming back!" "I'm Debbie. I've been out four months and three days. I'm working in a deli, and I'm never coming back!" "I'm Heather. I've been out since January. I was pregnant while I was here and had the baby through the Starbirth program. I now have my baby full time – something I never would have thought was possible - and I'm never coming back." "I'm Susan, and I've had 10 years of sobriety thanks to this facility and these people."

One woman, Angela, drove over two hours from New Hampshire, returning for the first time in 12 years to touch base with women whose struggles are all too familiar. Once trapped in a cycle of drug addiction and poor choices, Angela is now making good money in sales and enjoying life with her daughter and significant other. According to her step-mom, who made the trip with her, "She needed to come back here to see that

she's not that person anymore. She's doing wonderfully!"

### The Mentors

Cherie Davis-Keeter, a life coach and doctoral candidate in psychology, chose to become a mentor because of her desire to make a difference and her belief in the importance of a strong support system. Her mentee was due to be released the following day to the Providence Center, and the two were looking forward getting to know each other better in the coming weeks. Judy Izzzi-Budal, a communications coordinator with a Providence non profit, has served as mentor for four or five women since completing the training several years ago. She and her mentee, Lisa V., have already developed a close connection. Lisa Goodwin, a child support worker from Providence, heard about the program through a co-worker and thought it would be a great way to offer guidance, feedback, and hope to women trying to turn their lives around. She was meeting her mentee, Lisa H., for the first time that evening.

Additional mentors are always needed. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact Judy Fox at 462-3161. Judy also has flyers available for posting in public facilities in your community.



Lisa V., seen here with her mentor, Judy Izzzi-Budal, says "I'm going to get my life back."

## Two COs Recognized for Heroic Actions

Director A.T. Wall, II, recognized two Correctional Officers at the Intake Service Center for their heroic off duty actions on August 24, 2006. In two separate incidents, Ralph Tundis of Cranston, a Correctional Officer since 1990, and James Leduc of Chepachet, a Correctional Officer since 1991, demonstrated character, professionalism, and a commitment to public safety by responding to civilians in need.

Officer Leduc was traveling north on Rte. 295 when he observed a crushed vehicle in the median. Arriving prior to any emergency vehicles, he removed the female passenger from the smoking car. At the passenger's urging, he then located her mother about 30 yards from the car. Realizing she had been severely injured, he began to treat her for shock and comfort her, covering her with his Department jacket. He and another civilian stayed with the victims until rescue personnel came on the scene, assisting with first aid prior to transport.

Officer Tundis was traveling on the New London Turnpike when he observed an individual in a truck having a seizure. He took the man's keys, called 911, and waited with him and another civilian until the rescue arrived.

"Were it not for the off duty actions of these two officers, the outcome for three civilians in crisis might have been very different," notes Director Wall. "They have both demonstrated their commitment to the high standards of conduct we count on from our staff."

It is an interesting coincidence that both officers work on the 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. shift at the Intake Service Center and both responded to emergency situations on the same day while off duty.

# DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFS



## From the Director:

This is an exciting and busy time here at RIDOC. I am pleased to have our newsletter back up and running thanks to the hiring of our new Chief of Information and Public Relations, Tracey Poole. We hope to make the newsletter a consistent communications tool within the department and welcome your feedback as we feel our way through the first few issues. We are also working on updating the Internet and Intranet versions of our website, increasing our proactive outreach with the media, and upgrading and coordinating departmental publications. All of this, of course, takes time, but we are on our way.

Back in May of 1993, the Department participated in a Communications audit funded by the National Institute of Corrections. I was recently reviewing the document and this sentence struck me, "Communicating to all employees that they are part of one organization with a specific and inclusive mission whose success depends upon the individual efforts and accomplishment of all staff is a critical communication need for the Department." Here we are 13 years later, and that statement seems more true than ever.

Clearly with 1,500 employees, eight institutions, and full offices for probation and parole across the state, it is impossible to cover everything that goes on in an eight-page newsletter. In this issue, I am particularly pleased to update you on our Reintegration Center. I urge you to watch the progress of this exciting new facility which has been several years in the making.

In reading through these pages, I am reminded of the many reasons I have to be thankful for all that you do and why I am so proud to serve as your Director.

## EOAC Hard at Work

The Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee, initially convened in September 2005, has been hard at work. Comprised of 23 members representing a cross-section of RIDOC staff, the committee works to increase understanding of EEO laws, to review departmental policies, to participate in discussion of relative issues, and to develop recommendations regarding changes and/or improvements to the RIDOC Affirmative Action Plan.

Under the dedicated leadership of EEO Coordinator Linda Milner, the group has accomplished a great deal in recent months, most recently gathering for a presentation by Carole Bernardo of LifeWatch – Employee Assistance Program on *Cultural Diversity and Sensitivity*.

The EOAC meets for two hours once a month. Anyone interested in joining the committee is encouraged to contact Linda Milner at 462-5112 or [Linda.milner@doc.ri.gov](mailto:Linda.milner@doc.ri.gov). Individuals serve a two-year term and must complete an application. Linda is also the person to contact if you have an EEO complaint and do not feel comfortable going through your immediate supervisor first.

To discuss the goals and activities of the committee, feel free to contact any of the following members:

Sheila Amaral, Executive Assistant  
Linda Coletta, Fiscal Clerk  
Janice Connelly, Probation and Parole Officer, *Vice Chair*  
Charles Dawson, Clinical Psychologist  
Thomas Doyle, Correctional Officer Lieutenant  
David Florio, Probation and Parole Supervisor, *Chair*  
Robert Gaudreau, Correctional Officer  
Evelyn Henley, Probation and Parole Officer  
Geraldine Iadevaia, State EEO Officer – Dept. of Administration  
Richard Iadevaia, Public Health Education Specialist  
Rachel Kowalski, Correctional Officer  
Karen Zambarano, Principal Management & Methods Analyst  
Linda Milner, Human Resources Analyst II  
Jacqueline Ming, Senior Word Processing Typist  
Michael Moore, Correctional Officer Captain  
Ernest Myers, Work Rehabilitation Program Supervisor  
Maria Palomares, Correctional Officer/Training Instructor  
Laura Queenan, Probation and Parole Aide, *Secretary*  
Jane Ryan, Human Resources Technician  
Anthony Smith, Correctional Officer  
Eva Soares, Senior Word Processing Typist  
Scott Tirocchi, Clinical Social Worker

A copy of the EOAC's semi-annual report, detailing their many activities to date, is available through Linda Milner in Human Resources, 462-5112.

## CO Recruitment Update

The interview process has now been completed for the next class of Correctional Officers. Those selected to move on to the Training Academy began their training on October 23 and will graduate on December 22. Of the 2,109 who applied, 971 showed up for the two-part exam, and 482 passed. The top 200 were interviewed. After conditional offers were extended, psychological interviews and medical screenings were conducted. Approximately 75 entered the Training Academy, where they will have CPR certification, weapons qualification, classroom time for topics such as the law as it relates to Correctional Officers and communication skills, and weekly exams. The Sunday following graduation, 75 new CO's will shadow officers on line for a two-week period before beginning their six month probation period.

# DEPARTMENT NEWS BRIEFS

## Promotions, Retirements, and Appointments

Congratulations to the following RIDOC employees who received **promotions** between April and September:

**Justin Amaral**, *CO Lieutenant*  
**Casey Barney**, *CO Captain*  
**Paul Bartholomy**, *CO Captain*  
**Stephen Boyd**, *Dpty. Assistant Director, Adult Services Warden*  
**Shayne Chapman**, *CO Lieutenant*  
**Joe Coelho**, *CO Lieutenant*  
**Anthony Forlini**, *Bldg. & Maint. Supervisor*  
**Russell Freeman**, *Correctional Investigator*  
**Vicki Gillerin**, *Probation & Parole Officer I*  
**James Hollis**, *Correctional Officer Lieutenant*  
**Celeste O'Connell**, *Implementation Aide*  
**Dana Lassey**, *Security Specialist (Corrections)*  
**Patricia Threats**, *Principal Public Health Promotion Specialist*  
**Jamie Tuthill**, *Probation & Parole Aide*

Welcome to these individuals who joined RIDOC's staff between April and September:

**Nancy Bailey**, *Dpty. Assist. Dir., Adult Services Warden*  
**Bryan Barros**, *Probation & Parole Officer I*  
**Tina Benros**, *Executive Assistant*  
**Jodana Brown**, *Probation & Parole Officer I*  
**Madeline Colon**, *Reconciliation Clerk*  
**Thomas Fagan**, *Senior Maintenance Technician (Corrections)*  
**Mary Louise Joseph**, *Senior Word Processing Typist*  
**Debra Ouimette**, *Correctional Officer Hospital II*  
**Sharon Pine**, *Probation & Parole Officer*  
**Tracey Z. Poole**, *Chief of Information and Public Relations*  
**John Sepulveda**, *CO Hospital*  
**Lisa Testa**, *Senior Word Processing Typist*  
**Effuah Wariebi-Harris**, *Probation & Parole Officer I*  
**Susan Vani**, *Senior Accountant*

## In Memoriam

The Department suffered a great loss when Linda Couto, Senior Word Typist, passed away in her sleep on August 24. Linda, age 57, had been with the Department since 1997, working at both Medium facilities as well as in Admin. B. Most recently, she had been working with Deputy Warden David Caruso at the Donald Price Facility. "Linda was an awesome lady who cared about everybody," says Deputy Warden Caruso. She leaves a son, Benjamin, her mother, and two brothers.

Condolences go out to CO Iris Rodriguez-Jones, Medium Security (Moran), whose fourteen-month-old daughter, Hannah Rodriguez-Jones, passed away on September 28. In lieu of flowers, donations were requested to Boston Children's Hospital's Renal Unit.



Lieutenant Thomas Doyle was among many employees recognized for their years of service during the September 12 Career Awards Ceremony. He was honored for 25 years of service.

## Deputy Warden Reassignments

Jake Gadsden, Assistant Director, Institutions and Operations, recently announced the following personnel reassignments. Deputy **Silma del Langley**, formerly with the Women's Division, has been transferred to the Intake Service Center. Deputy **Al Leach**, formerly at Intake, is the new Deputy Warden at Maximum Security. Captain **Michelle Auger** has been named Acting Deputy Warden at the Women's Division.

## Annual Rhode Island Community Food Bank Food Drive

Thanks to your generous donations, RIDOC collected 847 pounds of food for hungry families across the state in its food drive held from July 10 – August 18. As was true last year, we were ranked fourth throughout the state for the total amount of food contributed.



Nancy Bailey has emerged from retirement from the Federal Bureau of Prisons to join RIDOC as Warden in the central office of Institutions and Operations.



Stephen Boyd's 24-year career at RIDOC continues with a promotion to Warden of Medium Security Facilities in August.



Tracey Z. Poole is the Department's new Chief of Information and Public Relations. She replaces Joy Fox who left in 2005 to serve as Rep. Jim Lingen's Press Secretary.

## A FOND FAREWELL

# George Truman



George and Antoinette Truman

RIDOC bid farewell to a familiar face around the department for the past 15 years when George Truman, Associate Director, Human Resources, retired. George joined RIDOC in 1991 as associate director of food services, having previously served as assistant hospital administrator and senior food services administrator with MHRH. A Lt. Colonel with the Rhode Island Air National Guard, 143<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Squadron, George played a

major role in shaping many of our policies and workplace issues. Among the accomplishments noted in his personnel file, George was instrumental in the RIBCO contract settlement, and helped keep calm during the disturbance at Maximum in 1991. George and his wife, Antoinette, were honored at a reception for RIDOC employees on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Paul Mancini, RIDOC's Senior Legal Counsel since 1999, will serve as Acting Human Resources Administrator until a permanent replacement is hired.

In addition to George, the following people **retired** between April and September 2006: Bruce Bishop, Linda Bostwick, Edmund Borges, Deborah Bowley, John Caldamone, Judith Caldamone, Daniel Ekelund; Carol Goulet, Joseph Knight, Robert Lamoureux; Lois Lorello, Robert Mark, Ralph Millsbaugh, Daniel Mulligan, David Nerney, Gerard Quinlan, Frank Tameo, Maureen Villeneuve, and Diane Wright.



Correctional Officer Leonard Coleman, who officially retired in March 2006, was recognized for his years of service during the September 12 Career Awards Ceremony.

## LEADERSHIP RHODE ISLAND MAKES ANNUAL VISIT TO RIDOC

Each year, a group of more than 50 participants in the Core Program of *Leadership Rhode Island* visit the Department of Corrections as part of *Criminal Justice Day*. This year's visit took place on June 28 and featured a tour of our Women's and Maximum facilities in the morning, followed by a presentation at CCRI's Warwick campus on *The Criminal Justice Spectrum* in the afternoon. Presenters included Director A.T. Wall on *Prisoner Re-entry Efforts*, Superior Court Associate Justice Edward Clifton on *Alternative Sentencing*, and Laura Pisaturo, Director of Advocacy & Legal Services for Day One on *Victim Assistance*. Participants also heard from an ex prisoner, a homicide survivor, and Jane Jellison, Director of Training with the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in a panel discussion titled *On the Frontline*.

According to Lisa Pelosi, Leadership Rhode Island's Director of Programs, *Criminal Justice Day* is an annual favorite with Core Program participants, many of whom would not otherwise have the opportunity to go into the state's prisons. Some Core participants have been so moved by the experience they have signed on as mentors in our Women's Mentoring Program. Lisa has worked closely with Roberta Richman, herself a Core Program alumna, and Director Wall to coordinate and improve the program over the years.

## RIDOC Receives SECA Award

On June 26, 2006, RIDOC was awarded an Outstanding Campaign Special Recognition award for departments with 500 or more employees by the State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA). In determining the recipients for this category, SECA looked at total dollars raised, average gift per donor, per capita gift per department, and percent of participation by that department. Pauline Marcussen, Chief of Program Development, Health Services, accepted the award on behalf of the department. Congratulations and many thanks to all employees who helped us earn this impressive distinction. Last year we had 700 contributors and we collected \$71,389. The kick-off for this year's SECA campaign was held on September 7. The goal, according to 2006 Rhode Island SECA Campaign David Gifford, is to raise employee participation statewide from 21% to 42%.



RIDOC's Pauline Marcussen accepted the SECA Award on behalf of the staff. She is seen here with Jean Severance, Deputy Director of the Department of Labor and Training.

# RIDOC In The News

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Often times the task of media relations within corrections is reactionary, responding to calls about high profile inmates or incidents. In fact, an average of six media inquiries come into the Public Information Office each week, with that number increasing to as many as 15-20 when there is a high profile case attracting widespread attention. In order to change misperceptions and let the public know about some of the more positive things going on within the Department, it's our goal to be proactive and seek out positive coverage whenever possible. Here are a few recent examples:

The obstacles facing former inmates looking for work was the focus of an article in the *Providence Journal's* Jobs Section. A few of our inmates, former inmates, and staff were interviewed for the piece which appeared on July 9.

The state of Rhode Island's efforts in the area of prisoner re-entry was the focus of a front page *New York Times* article on Saturday, August 12. The article was referenced in the Re-Entry Policy Council's August 15 E-Newsletter and in the July/August issue of *Corrections Directions*.

Joe Marocco, associate director of healthcare services, was profiled on the National Commission on Correctional Health Care website in February. Joe serves on the board of trustees of NCCHC.

Correctional nursing was the focus of a story in the *Providence Journal's* Sunday Jobs section on August 6. Director of Nursing Colleen Capezza and several of our dedicated nurses were featured in the piece.

*The Providence Journal's* special August 8 section on Continuing Education mentioned Rosemary Wentworth, a graduate of Salve Regina's program in Expressive Arts, and her volunteer work teaching art classes to ACI inmates.

The hiring of Tracey Poole as Chief of Information and Public Relations, Nancy Bailey as Warden, and the promotion of Steve Boyd to Warden of Medium Security facilities was covered by *Providence Business News*. Poole's hiring was also covered in *The Valley Breeze*.

*Corrections.com*, an ezine (on-line magazine), covered Steve Boyd's promotion on August 9, (also covered in the West Bay section of the *Providence Journal* on August 15). The hiring of Tracey Poole's and Nancy Bailey, was covered in the August 24 ezine. Also included in that edition were profiles of Correctional Officers Paul Sivo of Medium Moran and Chico Sykes of Minimum in a series on "Off the Clock: What Practitioners Do in their Leisure Time." Officers Tundis and Leduc and their heroic off duty actions were featured in the October 2 ezine.

*The Providence American*, a weekly newspaper serving communities of color in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, is doing a series on the ACI and its efforts toward improving inmates' health and welfare. So far, A.T. Wall, Jim Vierra, Jake Gadsden, Roberta Richman, Ellen Evans Alexander, Teresa Foley, Maggie Picot, Cheryl Lopes and Deborah Davis, Bob McCutcheon, and Silma del Langley have been interviewed for the series.

A.T. Wall and the Rev. Janice Thompson were interviewed by *WRNI 1290 AM* (Rhode Island Public Radio) for a program on spiritual services for inmates and recidivism which aired on October 11.

Correctional Officer John Gorman and his wife, Jo-Ann, were featured on Channel 6, ABC News on Sunday, September 10, in a story about "Team Gorman" walking for cancer research in Boston on September 17. "Team Gorman" was also covered in *The Valley Breeze's* September 14 edition.

Episcopal Chaplain the Rev. Joyce Penfield was the focus of articles on the Providence Plan's June-July E-newsletter and in the Summer 2006 issue of *RISEN, Rhode Island's News Source for Episcopal News*. The Providence Plan article discussed Rev. Penfield's non-profit, The Blessing Way, and its selection as one of 21 recipients of a New Roots Providence Capacity Building Grant. The Blessing Way is housed at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Mount Pleasant area of Providence and serves men and women who are transitioning from prison or a drug rehabilitation program back to the community. The *RISEN* article addressed Rev. Penfield's chaplaincy work in Women's and Minimum where she offers programs such as "Houses of Healing," "Boundaries for Healthy Relationships," and "Circles of Hope."

An article by Judy Fox, Program Manager/Coordinator for the Women's Mentoring Program, titled "Volunteer Community Mentors: A Critical Component of a Gender Responsive Reentry Model for Female Offenders" will be published in "Women, Girls & Criminal Justice."

HR's own Jackie Bennett has a unique hobby. Her craft – making handcrafted wood pens – was the subject of a feature article in the September 8 edition of *The Coventry Courier*.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of any of the above (print) stories, contact Tracey Poole.

## RIDOC Receives Donation of AA "Big Books"

A recent donation from Roger Williams Medical Center of 4,000 *Big Books* from Alcoholics Anonymous will enable us to donate copies of the book to our inmates, probationers and parolees through probation and parole officers and Spectrum counselors. Since between 70 and 80% of our inmates are involved with alcohol, drugs, or both, we feel strongly that the books will prove a valuable resource in our efforts to reduce recidivism and continue our support of offenders once they leave our custody.



RIDOC Substance Abuse Coordinator Larry McDonald holds one of the recently donated AA "Big Books."

## RIDOC Receives Grant for Sex Offender Management

RIDOC will receive \$177,197 through the Department of Justice's Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management Grant Program to help enhance its existing community collaborations and information sharing. The funding will also permit RIDOC to strengthen its professional ties among all involved in case management, supervision, and relapse prevention services for adults and juvenile sex offenders throughout the state.

"This grant will allow the Department of Corrections and the Rhode Island Sex Offender Management Task Force to build on its accomplishments," notes Director A.T. Wall. "With coordination assistance from Day One, our plan is to focus on developing and implementing a comprehensive

## Check us us Out on the Web!

We are in the process of redesigning and updating our Internet and Intranet pages. Some changes to content have been made and more are in the works. Your comments and thoughts are welcome as we seek to make our site more user friendly and current. A representative from each of our various divisions is working with Tracey Poole on the web project and can be contacted with suggestions. They are: **Jack Vicino**, *Institutions and Operations*; **Bree Derrick**, *Administration*; **Teresa Foley**, *Rehabilitative Services*.

### Important Dates

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23**  
CO Training Academy begins

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2 P.M.**  
Hostage Survival Training for Managers

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 8 - 11 A.M.**  
&

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 12:30-3 P.M.**  
2006 Flu Shot Clinic  
RIDOC TRAINING ACADEMY

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 9 A.M.**  
Departmental Awards Ceremony  
RAGAN BUILDING

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2 P.M.**  
CO Graduation Ceremony, RIC

### From the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *RIDOC Review*. I appreciate the warm welcome I have had from so many of you as I have spent time in all of the facilities and in some of your offices, beginning the long process of learning what makes this place tick. It's definitely a fascinating "beat," and I'm honored to have been selected as the person to communicate about our programs, people, and mission both internally and to the public.

Some of the content in this first issue may seem like "old news," which is due in part to the fact that it's been a while since the Department has had a PIO or a newsletter. Due to space constraints, it was impossible to include news of everything that has taken place since then, so unfortunately some hires, promotions, and retirements may not have been covered in an employee newsletter. The goal is for this newsletter to be a more regular communications tool and a way to share news you might otherwise only know of by chance, since there is no water cooler around which we all gather!

I am very interested in your thoughts about what you'd like to see included in future issues. I'd love to hear from you with story ideas or comments on format and delivery. Whenever someone here at RIDOC does something either on the job or off duty which you think might be worthy of note, please let me know. I'd love to include a brief section announcing weddings, births, and other significant events in the lives of employees. Additionally, if you have ideas about improving communications within the Department, please pass those along as well.

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