

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens, and offenders.

Governor Nominates Quiros to be next Commissioner

Governor Ned Lamont officially selected Angel Quiros as his nominee to be the next Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction. The Governor's announcement was made at a press conference held inside the State Capitol on September 2, 2020.



Governor Ned Lamont (C) with Criminal Justice Undersecretary Marc Pelka (L), announcing the nomination of Angel Quiros (R) to be the next DOC Commissioner.

If he is confirmed by the State Legislature, Quiros will be the state's first Latino commissioner of the Department.

Deputy Commissioner Quiros took over the helm of the Agency as the interim commissioner following the departure of Rollin Cook, who resigned in June and returned to his family in Utah.

"We looked all over the country and found the best candidate right here," said Governor Ned Lamont during the press conference.

Commissioner Designee Quiros brings a wealth of experience to the job, having started his career with the Department as a Correction Officer back in 1989.

"Experience is imperative when it comes to the operations of our correctional facilities, and it can't be denied that Angel is intimately familiar with Connecticut's correctional and criminal justice systems," Governor Lamont said.

"I am extremely grateful to Governor Lamont for selecting me as his choice to guide the Department of Correction into the future," Interim Commissioner Quiros said. "I promise to work tirelessly to earn the trust the governor has placed in me."

March 18, 2020
through
September 11, 2020

Distributed bimonthly
to 5,500 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation
by the
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Governor

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Essential Support from the Community

During the early and frenetic days of the Covid-19 pandemic, when healthcare and facility staff were stretched to their limits, and there were protestors outside of the facilities, it was reassuring to know that although it may have not seemed like it at times, there were plenty of people in the communities we serve that supported us.

The support took many forms, from donations of Personal Protective Equipment, to food, to even a drive-by parade. For those organizations and individuals who took the time, made the effort, and gave of themselves, your actions meant more than you can know, and will not soon be forgotten. The acts of generosity and words of encouragement helped to fuel our staff both physically and emotionally – giving them the strength to carry on. A heartfelt thank you does not seem like enough to express the heartfelt gratitude of those who were on the receiving end of your kindness. Hopefully, someday, somehow we can return the favor. Below is a listing of organizations and their donations to the Department at a time when it was most needed. There is an inherent risk when thanking people publicly, someone is inadvertently omitted from the list. If this does regrettably turn out to be the case, know that this is by no means intentional, and your contribution no less appreciated.

Asnuntuck Community College staff collected and donated PPEs; Bake Craft & Create in East Windsor donated cookies; at the Bridgeport Correctional Center staff received Italian ices from Micalizzi's, food from Pinstripes and two religious volunteers Chip Skowron and Matthew Chamberlain dropped off bagels every Thursday; The Cheshire Police Department in association with Hometown Foundation (a charitable organization affiliated with Bozzuto's) and Rossini's Pizza formed a traveling parade of vehicles



Cheshire CI staff unload some of the food donated by St. Martha's church in Enfield



Connecticut State Police Troop A donated five-gallons of hand sanitizer to Garner CI.

to deliver 100 pizzas to MYI's and Cheshire CI's staff; also, with the help of Cheshire CI's Catholic Chaplain, Saint Martha Catholic Church in Enfield donated sandwiches, salads, cookies and ice cream for all three shifts; Chesprocott Health District donated masks and hand sanitizer to Cheshire CI; CrossFit Blue Diamond in East Longmeadow, MA donated energy drinks; Dickinson Brands of East Hampton donated hand sanitizer to the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution Doughlicious in New Haven donated boxes of edible cookie dough for the staff at the CERT house; Elite Nutrition Smoothie and Juice Bar of East Longmeadow, MA donated beverages to the staff at Northern CI; Home Depot of Lisbon and Montville, Lowes of Waterford, Walmarts of Groton, Lisbon, Norwich and Waterford all donated Lysol disinfectant spray, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, Additionally NY Pizza in Danielson, and Long Shots Sports Cafe in Uncasville donated pizza and wings to CRCC staff.

see Welcomed Donations/page 6

Fire Rescue

Department of Correction staff help colleagues to recover from devastating fires

It is said that lightning does not strike twice, but apparently the same cannot be said for fire. Not once, or twice, but on three occasions, Department of Correction staff member's homes were recently devastated by fire.



Correction Officers Ashley Badera and Dave Breau in front of their new donated dining room table.

As soon as the news of the fires spread, the Department's Employee Assistance Unit – true to its name – wasted little time in organizing an agency wide donation drive. Additionally, a statewide Pay-to-Park was held. The response from the Department's staff was impressive, resulting in a wide range of items being donated - from baby formula, to furniture and pretty much everything in between.

One of the families affected was that of Correction Officers Ashley Badera and Dave Breau, whose home was ravaged by fire on June 11. The husband and wife, who have nine children in addition to horses and other farm animals, found their house, essentially all their belongings, and even their minivan burnt beyond the point of saving.

Another Correction Officer, Shernette Graham, of the York Correctional Institution, received a call while at work that there was a fire in her apartment building. Living with two of her young children, she too lost the majority of her possessions.

To complicate matters, all the fire victims had to deal with the devastating news while coping with the stressors of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite their losses, fortunately no one was injured in any of the fires. Although the need was great, not surprisingly the response from our staff members was equally as great. The members of the Employee

Assistance Unit (EAU) consolidated all the donated items at the Webster Correctional Institution, where they spent two weeks, including weekends sorting through and organizing the wide variety of items. They went as far as to place similar sized clothing items in individual boxes, clearly labeled to make it easier for the recipients to locate the items they needed.

“It was truly mind-blowing to see the amount of clothing, furniture, toys, diapers, baby formula, animal supplies and other items the Department of Correction Employees were able to donate,” said EAU Director Dianne Moynihan. “We definitely come together in times of need as a department to take care of our own.”



A portion of the donated furniture on display at Webster CI.

A Hero's Send-off

Correction Officer Justin Hjulstrom was honored by the staff of the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution with a special roll call during Correctional Employee week.

With his wife, children, and parents in attendance, as well as numerous Carl Robinson staff members, Warden Caron presented Officer Hjulstrom with a plaque commemorating his service to the Department. Officer Hjulstrom, who was diagnosed with Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS), recently retired from the Department of Correction following ten years of dedicated state service. He also served proudly in the US Army to include Iraq from 2009-2010. Additionally, he served as a member of the



Retired Correction Officer Justin Hjulstrom

Connecticut Army National Guard for eight years.

He and his family plan to relocate from Connecticut to Arizona in the upcoming months.



The Commemorative Plaque given to Officer Hjulstrom.

Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS) is characterized by stiffness, weakness and muscle spasms in your legs, often starting in one leg, and progressing to the other. Symptoms of PLS include tripping, difficulty with balance and clumsiness as the leg muscles weaken. Weakness and stiffness progressing to your trunk, then your arms, hands, tongue and jaw. PLS is often mistaken for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS - also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) or multiple sclerosis as the symptoms are similar. Please join Warden Caron in wishing Officer Hjulstrom all the best in his retirement.

Around the Cell Block



NEW YORK - More than 1,000 of New York City's Department of Correction uniformed and civilian staff members, including 150 members of the elite Emergency Service Unit (ESU), took part in the six-month recovery effort at Ground Zero following the 911 terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The ESU is credited for saving the lives of at least 13 people who they helped pull from the rubble.

INDIANA - The Indiana Department of Correction is holding virtual hiring events. Each virtual event will be hosted on Microsoft Teams with an IDOC Recruiter and a representative from the Human Resources Department available to answer questions and schedule interviews.

TENNESSEE - The Tennessee Department of Correction reported 80% of all inmates tested are negative for COVID-19.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
September 11, 2020
14,137
On September 11, 2019
the population was
17,683**

Socially Distant Graduation

Pre-Service Class 276 Graduates during a Pandemic

When the members of Pre-Service Class 276 reported for training back in February of this year, initially the plan was to have the traditional graduation ceremony in the auditorium of the training academy in May upon completion of their training. Unfortunately, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic, and like so many others who graduated this year, they were not able to celebrate as a large group in front of family and friends.

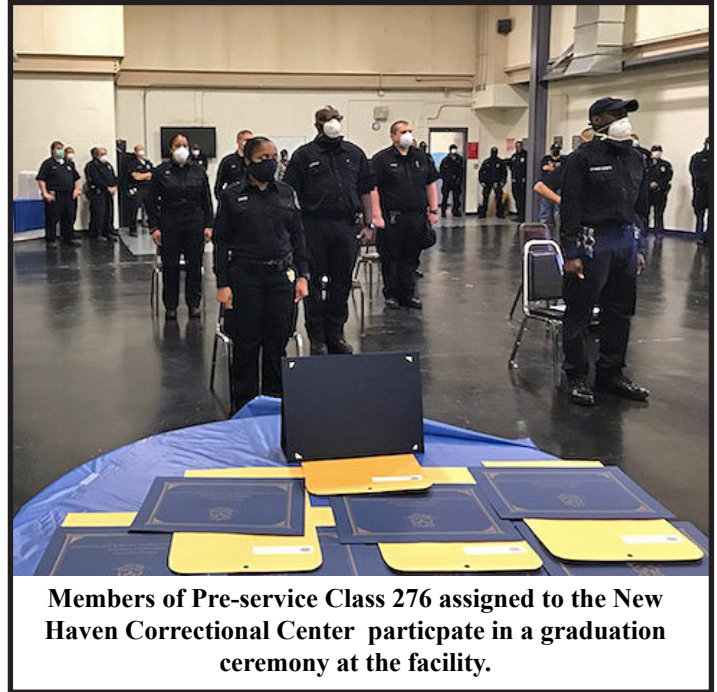
Instead of the traditional pomp and circumstance within the crowded confines of the Training Academy's auditorium, the members of Class 276 participated in small individual graduation ceremonies held at the respective facilities they were assigned to. Each facility-based ceremony was devised to adhere to the required social distancing guidelines.

Despite the lack of the usual large group graduation, the members of Class 276 were able to take part in some of the traditional graduation related traditions such as the selecting of class superlatives.

In order to acknowledge the value of exceptional trainees, and officially recognize and commend them for service above and beyond the normal scope of their duties, staff at The Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development present individuals of each graduating pre-service class with the PRIDE award. The PRIDE award is presented to a trainee from each group who best represents the Department of

Correction motto of PRIDE by demonstrating the values of: professionalism, respect, integrity, dignity, and excellence.

Trainees receiving the award were chosen by their Class Management Teams and the Pre-service Captain.



Members of Pre-service Class 276 assigned to the New Haven Correctional Center participate in a graduation ceremony at the facility.

The recipients of the PRIDE award for Pre-service Class 276:

- Alpha Group:** Correction Officer Jennifer Alvarez
- Bravo Group:** Correction Officer, Tyrell Hicks
- Charlie Group:** Correction Officer Ryan McNair
- Delta Group:** Correction Officer Kristopher Porter
- Echo Group:** Correction Officer Charles Rogers
- Foxtrot Group:** Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee, Monika Steczkowski

In addition to the PRIDE award, one other award is presented as part of each graduation to a staff member who was part of the pre-service training program. The recipient of the Victor E. Harris Jr. Outstanding Instructor Award is selected by the members of each pre-service class.

The winner of the Victor E. Harris Award for Class 276 is Lieutenant Paul Frenis.

Welcomed Donations from page 2

Additional donations included former gubernatorial candidates Bob Stefanowski and Tom Foley, as well as the NP-4 Union donated PPEs; Garner Correctional Institution received a five gallon drum of hand sanitizer

from Connecticut State Police Troop A; the Garner facility was the recipient of 35 gallons of hand sanitizer from Bedoukian Research in Danbury, and 30 bottles of hand sanitizer from Litchfield Distillery; The Killingly-Brooklyn Rotary donated gift certificates to local pizza restaurants and The Ice Box in Brooklyn, CT provided ice cream sundaes with all the fixings to the staff at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution; Life Bowls Smoothie and Juice Bar donated nutritious smoothies to the staff at New Haven CC; Luann's Bakery in Ellington donated baked goods on more than one occasion; working side by side with Nutrition



Part of the Cheshire "Thank You Tour" Rolling Parade photo courtesy of Tracey Harrington/Cheshire Herald

Shack of Suffield retired Warden Julie Mudano provided beverages to 82 first shift staff members at Northern CI; healthcare staff at the Manson Youth Institution received thermometers from Correction Officer Edmund Saunders and The Brass City Cares Foundation; Retired DOC staff members John Lahda and John Patz purchased and placed thank you signs outside of each facility as well as parole offices; the Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Rotary Club donated pizza and beverage, while the Hood Ice Cream donated ice cream novelties for all three shifts at the Hartford Correctional Center.

Thank you again to all those who supported the Department of Correction employees when they needed it most.



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Rising from the Ashes from page 3

In August, Officers Badera and Breaux, as well as Officer Graham traveled to Webster CI to select items they needed from the assorted donations.

The area looked more like a furniture store showroom than the inside of a former correctional facility.



Correction Officer Shernetta Graham selects clothing from a wall of boxes full of donations.

“It was overwhelming,” Ashley Badera said when asked what her response was when she first saw all the items that had been donated. “It definitely brought tears to my eyes.”

The couple, and their nine children have been living in a series of hotels while looking for, and having difficulty finding a space large enough to rent. In addition to having difficulty finding a more appropriate space to live, due to supply chain interruptions caused by the pandemic they are not even sure if they will be able to rebuild their dream home. On top of everything else they are going through, Ashley, who is assigned to the MacDougall Walker facility, is expecting their tenth child later this year.

Even though they clearly need to replace the items that were lost in the fire, more meaningful to Dave Breaux’s, who works at the Hartford Correctional Center, is the generosity of his fellow correctional “brothers and sisters” most of whom he or his wife have never even met.

Members of the EAU unit reached out directly to Officer Breaux to offer him support and help him cope with his unfathomable loss.

Officer Graham has found another apartment, but admits that her living conditions still are pretty much “bare bones” with a mattress on the floor serving as her bed.

“I just feel blessed to have this support,” said Graham. “I am not picky; I’m just thankful.”

Employee Assistance Unit Toll-Free Number

Employee Assistance Unit (EAU) has added an important new feature to help those needing assistance, an official toll-free dedicated EAU phone number.

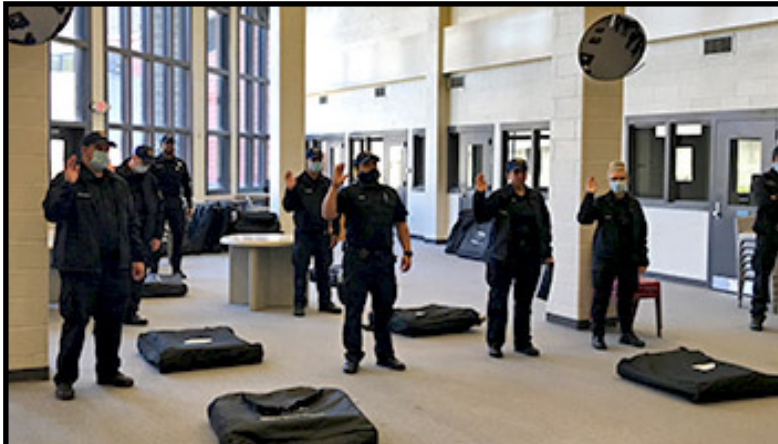
EAU toll-free phone number:

844 - 997- 4EAU (4328)

The number is intended to be an immediate telephonic portal for all DOC staff, retirees, and family/loved ones seeking assistance, support, resources/referrals, and guidance for personal and/or job-related problems affecting one’s overall well-being and quality of life.

Graduation(s) in the Time of Covid from page 5

The following is a list of the members of Pre-service Class 276 (unless otherwise noted the individual is working as a Correction Officer): Ebony Aiken, Jennifer Alvarez, Carlos Avila, Vocational Instructor Sean Barnes, Adrian Budas, Marcus Caccio, Ashley-Marie Calderon, Michael Caldwell, Tomas Camara, Kevando Chambers, Anthony Cicco, Joel Cintron, Jason Cote, Zachary Couillard, Recreation Supervisor Scott Curtin, Anthony



The Garner Correctional Institution's Pre-service Class 276 contingent graduates at the facility.

DeCampos, Spencer DeJesus, Chaplain Theresa Delahanty, Gen. Maintenance Officer Sergio DiMauro, Gen. Maintenance Officer Derek Dubois, Mohammed Elmorsli, Food Service Supervisor Dexter Ettienne-Modeste, Tyler Favreau, Liliana Figueroa, Richard Flores, Anthony Foy, Plant Facilities Engineer Gary Gerstenlauer, Joshua Grandy, Patrick Griffin, Marquia Grundy-Cardona, Substance Abuse Counselor Emily Henderson, Tyrell Hicks, Mackenzie Hotchkiss, Nadine Huntley, Michael Iosa, Israel Irizarry, Damon Jacobson, Morgan James, Jared Jenkins, Christopher Johnson, Dwayne Jones Jr, Gen Maintenance

Officer Matthew Kelley, David Konopelski, Gen Maintenance Officer George Kozikowski, Norberto Laguna, Seth LaPlace, Dion Little, Krystine Lopez, Linzie Lopez, Vanessa Lopez, Jasmine Loyd, Maciej Marut, Justin McCollum, Stores Supervisor Jerry McLain, Ryan McNair, Omar Mejias, Gen Maintenance Officer Gary Michaels, Adam Michaud, Katherine Mills, Leonard Mohammed, Marc Mongillo, Curtis Moore, Christopher Moran, Garfield Mortley, Rakesh Naipaul, Raxine Noyan, Chaplain Richard Okiria, Alice Olszewski, Sean O'Neil, Christian Ortiz, Josue Ortiz, Nathan Ortiz, Food Service Supervisor Wilmaries Ortiz, Franklyn Ovalles, Ricardo Oyola, Gabriel Pabon, Kyle Palladino, Victor Paynter, Louis Perillo, Jilliane Peters, Nino Pettinato, Andrew Phillips, Ryan Philoche, Adrian Philomene, Martin Pierce, Terrence Pierce Jr, Lindsey Pina, Industries Supervisor Gordon Ploof, Kristopher Porter, Nicholas Poulin, Substance Abuse Counselor Christina Pouncy, Willeen Pun, Javaris Raper, Eric Richardson, Food Service Supervisor Monique Richardson, Joshua Rivera, Jeremy Rodriguez, Kayla Rodriguez, Charles Rogers, Jose Rojas, Daniel Rosado, Trevor Roy, Dylan Ruane, Akiem Ruffin SR, Kevin Russell, Angel Saunders, Darrell Saunders, Andrew Savenelli, Eugene Scott, Rakeem Semoy, Victor Serna, Sean Shanley, Matthew Shaw, Nathan Shideler, Joshua Shirshac, Michael Siena, Phillip Silva, James Simmons, Plumber/Steamfitter Kevin Simonides, Damien Skinner, Christiane Smith, Kelly Smith, Joshua Spring, Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee Monika Steczkowski, James Strange, Maurice Sutton, Aziz Takir, Justin Talbot, Brandon Thomas, Diamond Thomas, Telly Thompson, Hector Torres, Morgan Vasile, Bobby Velez, Travis Vereen, Matthew Weeman, Sierra Weum, Stores Supervisor Mathew Whalen, Kenneth White, Paul Whitman, Aaron Williams, Donovan Williams, Emily Zurmuhlen.



Please Join Commissioner Angel Quiros and the Executive Team along with Training Academy Director Kim Jones in wishing the graduates of Pre-service Class 276 much success in their correctional careers.

**To the Dedicated Men and Women of the
Connecticut Department of Correction**

**For your selfless service during these
unprecedented times**

**THANK
YOU**



**YOU ARE HEROES
STAY SAFE**

