



Faces of Corrections



Written by Nicole Allen -

Have you ever been asked
"What is your profession?"

"Oh, I work at WRDF;
it's a Correctional Institution."

To many, this is such a hideous world
Working with criminals who are callous and cold
And though this is true in many of ways;
The Faces of Corrections are not always gray.
We are people of strength, committed and true
Providing protection for the community,
our staff, even you.

What makes us work in a place
that's considered so dark?

This ominous cloud that's no walk in the park
Yet everyday we're here at eight on the dot;
To give of our best and take up our spot.
We're nurses, food service and janitors too
Correctional officers both the old and the new
The Chaplain extending God's grace to all
Counselors and managers, just enjoying our call.

Is this the path we wanted
when knee high were we?

Not really; I guess it just happened to be
But yet still we find a love for the profession;
While serving the community
and the next generation.

So this week we honor all correctional staff,
Who work countless hours regardless of tasks;
Hats off to us all, for not having misgivings
The world needs true heroes;
Thank you for enlisting.



New GEO Facility Going "GREEN"

Written by Tom Wierdsma - The Green Movement and related changes to the way we both operate our existing facilities and develop our new facilities is going to become very dynamic. The Regions have made great strides the past few years elevating awareness related to managing energy costs, reducing our water consumption and more closely watching our wastewater discharge from our facilities. We have seen innovative ideas for changes in the way we manage our thermostat settings, light our facilities, manage our shower use and related water consumption, and such basic things as eliminating garbage disposals in our kitchens to decrease our water use and lower our wastewater effluent concentrations.

The next wave is here, and it is a big one. We have implemented a wide range of energy savings features into many of our new facilities. All facilities under development have Trane Tracer Energy Management Systems to help manage and control energy consumption. Roofs have R 30 and walls have R 20 insulation. We are using heat reflective white roofing systems. Laundry water recycling systems have been installed which reduces our

laundry water consumption by 50%, and reused hot water which saves energy consumption. Low flow water fixtures are used throughout the facilities. Many facilities have shower solenoids to facilitate shower scheduling. Many of our new facilities are now utilizing more efficient chiller water air conditioning systems, including Florida Civil Commitment Center, South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center, and Graceville. Aurora has all these features, plus a 100 kilowatt solar voltaic panel system which will provide enough power to supply the GEO administrative office area.

The Blackwater Correctional Facility, as required by the state of Florida, will be GEO's first LEED Certified project. A silver rating. It has all the above plus a host of other features. For the first two years of operation, we are purchasing wind power through the grid to provide 70% of the electrical demand for the facility. A chilled water air conditioning system is being installed. Local materials were used to minimize shipping and the related carbon footprint. A green cleaning program will be implemented. Photocells will be installed in all dayrooms so lighting will be shut off when

the skylights provide sufficient lighting. The entire facility will have a waste recycling program. An extensive commissioning system for the electrical and heating and air conditioning systems will be undertaken to optimize operating efficiency.

We are now being confronted with communities that cannot produce enough water for our facilities. Their aquifers are drying up, and their surface water supplies are strained. We must cut our consumption for these new facilities for the communities to provide service. We will be incorporating into one of our proposed facilities in California a gray water recycling system. This system will take shower water, clean and chlorinate it and use it for toilet flushing. This will reduce our demand by 33,000 gallons per day in a 2200 bed facility. This is in addition to low flow plumbing fixtures, recycling of laundry water, xeriscape landscaping, and scheduling of shower use.

Our utility bills nationwide total approximately \$44,000,000 annually. If we can collectively save 15% on our utility consumption, we can add over \$6,000,000 to the bottom line. There is a tremendous opportunity here for cost savings. Hopefully we all can contribute to our continued effort to manage these costs and produce savings.

It's Been a Busy Spring



Written by Sheryl Augstums - It's been a busy spring at Central Arizona Correctional Facility (CACF). From employee opinion surveys to a week long celebration of Correctional Officers Week, the staff has kept busy with many activities:

- In May CACF achieved 100% participation in the Employee Satisfaction Survey. Sherri Haahr & Linda Asche in our Human Resources Department put in many long hours to see that each and every staff member was able to participate, no matter what shift they worked. As a result, 70 gift cards were awarded to lucky participants through a raffle.
- Charles Baxley received an award for 5 years of service to GEO. C/O Baxley started at Phoenix West in June 2004 transferred to CACF in February 2008.
- In May CACF went "Back to Basics." In a scene that could have been out of a 1960's movie, inmates from neighboring Florence West manually distributed tons of river rock to re-enforce the drainage areas.
- In addition, CACF has been upgrading the yard by installing new ramadas (a Southwestern term for a type of open shelter) with picnic tables,

spaced in each corner of the yard to provide a respite from the Arizona sun for inmates and staff members.

- CACF observed Correctional Officers Week (May 4-8, 2009) with a week long celebration:
 - Monday - Beginning at 4:00 a.m. Root Beer Floats were served throughout the day.
 - Tuesday - Warden Gay & his team of grill masters began cooking steaks in the morning & the aroma of mesquite permeated the air until Swings & Graveyard shift were served.
 - Wednesday - The team was back on post at the grill serving Day shift & Administrative staff. Even though the steaks were delicious, we have not encouraged the grill masters to give up their day jobs.
 - Thursday & Friday - Staff family member were offered tours to get a glimpse of what their loved ones do for a living. Participants were treated to cake from our facility kitchen while they listened to a brief overview. After cake, they were given a tour of the yard and the chow hall as well as programming and medical areas.

