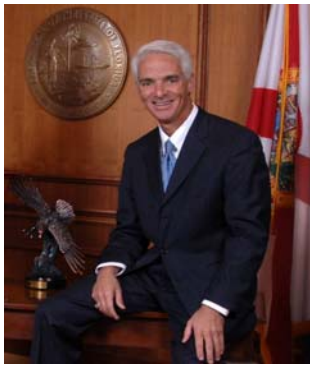




Florida Department of Corrections
Strengthening communities
through public service

Helping Hands





We all have a stake in Florida's future

Once again Florida was safe from serious criminal activity in 2005. In fact, the state was safer than it has been in more than 35 years. Crime dropped 3.7 percent in 2005 compared with 2004. Violent crime – including murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft - decreased for the 14th straight year. The actual number of crimes reported, fell 1.5 percent to Florida's lowest total in 20 years.

Low crime rates reflect a determination to protect our families and our communities. Through the dedication of law enforcement, prosecutors and tougher laws against crime, Florida will continue to be safer for its citizens and visitors. The continuing decrease in violent crime is good news for our citizens. Florida has made real progress in our fight against crime, but there is always room for improvement.

From the initial support of the Stop Turning Out Prisoners (STOP) bill, which required that inmates serve at least 85 percent of their sentences to the ambitious 10-20-LIFE bill which mandated stiffer sentences for gun crimes, the Florida Department of Corrections has continued to support the Legislative and the administrative priorities for tougher crime laws to promote safer communities in Florida.

Through the dedicated leadership of Corrections Secretary James R. McDonough, his very capable staff and administrators have worked long and hard to promote a more secure Florida. As always, their commitment to public safety is exemplary.

Sincerely,
Charlie Crist
Governor

The actual number of crimes reported fell to Florida's lowest total in 20 years.



We contribute to Florida's quality of life

On any given day, the Florida Department of Corrections safely houses more than 90,000 inmates and supervises more than 150,000 offenders. And on many days, thousands of those very same inmates and offenders work in a variety of outreach and community programs - from the Florida Panhandle to the Florida Keys - designed to strengthen families and improve the quality of many lives.

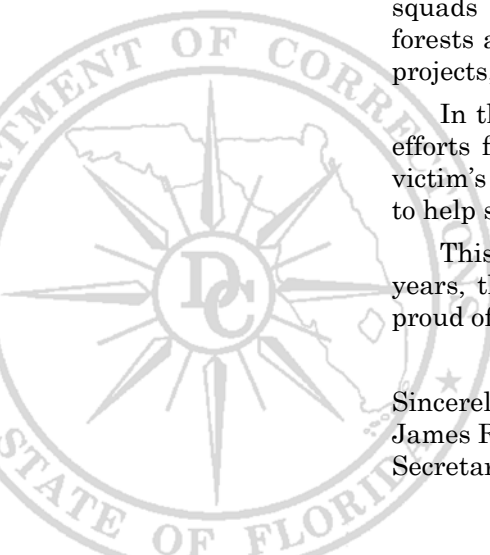
Last year alone, the inmates and offenders, working in the Department's Community Work Squad Programs performed close to 6.5 million hours of work valued at more than \$79 million, and after costs, provided the citizens of Florida with a net cost savings/value added of approximately \$44.5 million.

From the IMPACT program that allows inmates to train guide dogs for people with sight impairments to the equine training that rehabilitates retired thoroughbred racehorses for use by the Department of Corrections and other Florida law enforcement agencies, the inmate labor provides critical savings for cash strapped budgets. In addition, the work squads clear debris after hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters, clean state forests and parks, maintain roadways, recycle, remove litter, and take part in construction projects, school landscaping and cleaning and other duties.

In this *Helping Hands* booklet, we have attempted to capture the best collection of our efforts for the past year. Please read about our volunteers, the inmate work squads, our victim's advocates, the service men and women and those others on the front lines working to help shape Florida's future.

This booklet tells the hidden stories of the Florida Department of Corrections. For years, these have been among the best kept secrets in Florida state government. We are proud of our service to the people of Florida to improve the quality of life in our great state.

Sincerely,
James R. McDonough
Secretary



Corrections employees not only protect society by watching over 90,000 inmates and 150,000 probationers and parolees, but we donate and volunteer in our communities to make them better safer places to live and work.

Community programs

Victims Assistance Office

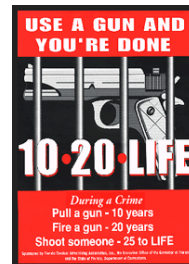
- The Victim Assistance Office assures the Department of Corrections (DC) is in compliance with Florida Statutes Sec. 944.605 (1), the notification of victims of crime and criminal justice officials (Law-Enforcement Agencies, Judges, and State Attorneys) prior to an inmates' release.
- The office notifies over 36,000 victims of crime each year of offender transfers and releases from prison.
- The office also distributes court-ordered obligations incurred by DC inmates. Inmates working at paid employment, such as Community Work Release and prison industries such as Prison Rehabilitative Industries and Diversified Enterprises (PRIDE), pay their obligations through the department's Court Ordered Payments database.

Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) Services

- The department offers a toll-free automated inmate information and notification service called VINE, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Victims can call 1-877-VINE-4-FL (1-877-846-3435), to receive an inmate's current location and tentative release date or visit the website at www.vinelink.com.
- Victims may also register to receive an automated notification when an inmate is released, transferred, escapes, is placed in a work release facility, transfers to another jurisdiction, returns to the department's custody, or dies while in custody. The VINE Service is anonymous and confidential.

10-20-LIFE Public Information Campaign

- DC, in conjunction with the Governor and the Legislature, continues to inform the public of its 10-20-LIFE law. The 1999 law mandates 10 years in prison for possession of a gun, 20 years for discharging the weapon and 25 years to life for shooting/killing someone with the gun.
- Department staff routinely delivers community presentations on gun violence and distributes materials such as bumper stickers, vinyl window clings, posters and brochures in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, to schools and businesses.



Citizen's Complaint Services

- Florida citizens may obtain information or express concerns on issues relative to the department by submitting a letter or by e-mail via the Customer Complaint Form. Residents can also call our toll-free telephone number 1-888-558-6488 to access information about the offenders in our custody.

Front Porch Florida Community Initiative

- DC develops partnerships to further accomplish our mission through the Front Porch Community Initiative. This initiative helps communities improve their neighborhoods through assistance from public and private entities.
- Through our efforts, neighborhoods

Find an inmate's current location and release date by visiting vinelink.com or calling 877-846-3435.



The Reichert House, built with inmate labor, deters at-risk youth from the criminal justice system and encourages academic achievement.



DC employees volunteer at the St. Petersburg Front Porch Community "Clean Up Day." The Front Porch Initiative helps communities improve their neighborhoods through assistance from public and private entities.

Corrections employees donated over \$384,309 to charitable organizations across Florida and volunteered over 15,549 hours to community organizations and schools.



Corrections employees donate supplies for deserving children at their local schools.



A DC employee reads to children as part of Leon County's Family Fun Day.

have been cleaned, community awareness events were sponsored, special projects conducted.

- Front Porch Florida was founded in 1999 to address the challenges facing Florida's urban communities.
- So far, 20 communities have been designated as Front Porch sites. They are Bartow, Bradenton, Daytona Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Walton Beach, Gainesville, Immokalee, Jacksonville, Miami, Ocala, Opa-Locka, Orlando, Pensacola, Sanford, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, Tallahassee, Tampa, Vero Beach and West Palm Beach.
- As part of the initiative, the department:
 - ⇒ partnered with the Northeast Gainesville/Duval Area Neighborhood Front Porch Florida Community, under the auspices of the City of Gainesville and the Black on Black Crime Task Force, to provide inmate labor to develop and construct phase II to include a modular building of the Reichert House, site of a Gainesville youth program that tries to steer children toward education and away from criminal activity.
 - ⇒ partnered with Bartow Front Porch Florida Community to restore 11 homes that were battered by hurricanes and tropical storms. With the use of inmate labor, the homes were repaired and restored to allow for residents to return after the storms.
 - ⇒ partnered with the Sarasota Front Porch Community to build kitchen cabinets for 10 homes in the community.
 - ⇒ partnered with local, state, school, community, law enforcement and federal officials to promote *Life Inside*, a crime prevention videotape and curriculum booklet

aimed at keeping young people in school and out of trouble.

Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign

- DC made contributions of over \$384,309 to this worthwhile organization to provide valuable assistance to deserving children and families during the annual campaign.

Just Read Florida

- To support the "Just Read Florida" initiative, the department implemented a statewide plan to collect new and used books to distribute to deserving children in Florida communities. Last year, the department collected close to 89,000 books that were distributed to children throughout the state.

Mentoring Initiative

- To promote and support the Mentoring Initiative, the department recruited mentors and mentoring coordinators from each facility throughout the state.
- 1,759 DC employees donated 15,549 hours to assist Florida youth in the mentoring program. These numbers represent a significant increase from the previous fiscal year when 1,071 DC employees participated, while donating 6,913 hours
- For more information about the department's Mentoring initiative, you may go our website at www.dc.state.fl.us/oth/mentoring/.

Inmate Programs

Inmate Release Assistance

- The department is working with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide information to offenders about assistance available to them upon release. The department also works to re-establish benefits offenders were receiving prior to their



incarceration.

- The department has begun working more with Florida communities and businesses (i.e. construction, fish harvesting and transportation) to establish programs that make it easier for offenders to re-enter society.

Community Work Squads

- Inmate labor is used on department
- Additionally DC provides inmate

farms and gardens. Inmates also construct new correctional facilities and perform repairs and renovations to all other department facilities. Inmates prepare and serve all meals, maintain prison grounds, participate in sanitation and recycling process, and work in PRIDE or Prison Industry Enhancement work programs.

Public Works, Interagency Community Service, and Contracted Work Squads Fiscal Year 2005-2006

County	Inmate Work Hours	Estimated Value of Savings	County	Inmate Work Hours	Estimated Value of Savings
Alachua	140,034	\$ 1,980,081	Lafayette	75,716	\$ 1,070,624
Baker	62,548	\$ 884,429	Lake	2,255	\$ 31,886
Bay	44,367	\$ 627,349	Lee	18,656	\$ 263,796
Bradford	103,534	\$ 1,463,971	Leon	42,828	\$ 605,588
Brevard	100,992	\$ 1,428,027	Levy	173,242	\$ 2,449,642
Calhoun	107,069	\$ 1,513,956	Liberty	135,485	\$ 1,915,758
Charlotte	16,832	\$ 238,004	Madison	97,489	\$ 1,378,494
Citrus	288	\$ 4,072	Manatee	10,133	\$ 143,281
Clay	69,465	\$ 982,235	Marion	50,990	\$ 720,999
Collier	22,880	\$ 323,523	Martin	42,107	\$ 595,393
Columbia	84,681	\$ 1,197,389	Monroe	17,966	\$ 254,039
Dade	120,725	\$ 1,707,052	Okaloosa	74,615	\$ 1,055,056
Desoto	69,571	\$ 983,734	Okeechobee	12,415	\$ 175,548
Dixie	110,143	\$ 1,557,422	Orange	27,854	\$ 393,856
Escambia	23,956	\$ 338,738	Osceola	544	\$ 7,692
Flagler	51,086	\$ 722,356	Palm Beach	78,280	\$ 1,106,879
Franklin	151,414	\$ 2,140,994	Pinellas	33,181	\$ 469,179
Gadsden	294,541	\$ 4,164,810	Polk	50,509	\$ 714,197
Gilchrist	71,365	\$ 1,009,101	Putnam	66,264	\$ 936,973
Gulf	180,708	\$ 2,555,211	Santa Rosa	213,899	\$ 3,024,532
Hamilton	117,235	\$ 1,657,703	Seminole	3,641	\$ 51,484
Hardee	30,915	\$ 437,138	St. Lucie	27,741	\$ 392,258
Hendry	9,553	\$ 135,079	Sumter	152,054	\$ 2,150,044
Hernando	123,060	\$ 1,740,068	Suwannee	44,217	\$ 625,228
Highlands	27,680	\$ 391,395	Taylor	58,324	\$ 824,701
Hillsborough	31,408	\$ 444,109	Union	103,251	\$ 1,459,969
Holmes	67,572	\$ 955,468	Volusia	81,419	\$ 1,151,265
Indian River	7,791	\$ 110,165	Wakulla	24,320	\$ 343,885
Jackson	202,401	\$ 2,861,950	Walton	95,125	\$ 1,345,068
Jefferson	20,121	\$ 284,511	Washington	145,012	\$ 2,050,470
			Total	4,423,467	\$ 62,547,823



Inmate work squads mow grass and perform other community services as part of rehabilitation.



Inmates work in the Ford automotive repair program to develop marketable skills to help them find gainful employment upon their release, helping reduce recidivism.

DC Community Work Squads performed 4.4 million hours of work valued at \$62.5 million.

The value of work is determined by multiplying the hourly wage value of \$14.14 times the hours worked. The hourly wage value of \$14.14 is a benefited hourly wage value. The base hourly wage value is determined from the Florida Occupational Wages 2006 Edition prepared by the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation. Added to this base hourly wage value are benefits for social security, retirement, health, and basic life insurance.

The Department of Corrections promotes the 10-20-Life Program, which has helped reduce crime to its lowest point in 20 years.



Dogs like these are trained by inmates for use by law enforcement and to aid people with disabilities.



Inmates work in mason program in various institutions throughout the state.

Community Work Squad labor to work for other governmental agencies such as the departments of Transportation, Juvenile Justice and Agricultural and Consumer Services.

IMPACT (Inmates Providing Animal Care and Training)

- Gainesville Work Camp in partnership with Southeastern Guide Dog Inc., provides training for puppies to assist people with sight impairments. The IMPACT Program entails conditioning guide dog puppies (Labrador, Retrievers, Austrian Sheppards and Collies). The inmates under the guidance of a volunteer representative from Southeastern raise and train the puppies from age 9 weeks until they are 17 months of age.
- At the end of the training the inmates earn a Veterinary Assistant Certificate with course work designed at the University of Florida. With the knowledge that the inmates acquire they are afforded an opportunity to re-enter society with an employable skill that they can use to become productive citizens.
- In addition to the IMPACT Training, bloodhounds are trained at various institutions to assist law enforcement agencies with search and recovery missions. Last year, DC received 260 requests for such assistance.

Equine training program

- Inmates in this program are taught to train horses through various verbal and non-verbal methods. The training stresses method of working with horses that are non-violent. The department's equine training program is currently operated at Lowell and Marion Correctional institutions. This

program is the result of a partnership with the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. Our inmates learn to care for retired thoroughbreds that have sustained an injury or are not able to perform at their peak.

- The program trains inmates to rehabilitate retired thoroughbred racehorses for use by the department and other law enforcement agencies or to be adopted by the public. Some horses will remain in retirement at the farm. Inmates trained in the equine program will be employable as stable attendants, groomers, or exercisers once they are released from prison.

Masonry Programs

- The Department and the Florida Masonry Apprentice and Educational Foundation are work together in a referral pre-apprenticeship masonry program for offenders who have masonry job skills.
- In this partnership, DC provides masonry training for inmates enrolled in the masonry vocational training programs at Baker CI, Brevard CI, Columbia CI, DeSoto CI, Hamilton CI, Indian River CI, Sumter CI, and Taylor CI. Our vocational staff members promote working relationships between institutional masonry programs and masonry organizations in Florida.
- The partnership includes job placement assistance for released offenders who have been referred by the department through registration in the apprenticeship program. Working relationships developed between our agencies assist in the placement of affordable skilled and efficient craftsmen in this highly competitive industry.

The Corrections Foundation has provided over \$1.7 million in relief to employees of the Department of Corrections when tragedy strikes, like death, critical illness, and other times of crisis.

Corrections Foundation—supporting the Department of Corrections and its employees

The Corrections Foundation supports the Department of Corrections through programs that support officers and staff in times of need and that help reduce crime by helping support programs that provide offenders with life and job skills that better enable them to re-enter society.

Employee Assistance Program

- Supported by 14,000 corrections employees and corporate sponsors, the Corrections Foundation provides direct cash assistance to corrections officers, probation officers, and support staff during life's most serious emergencies, including death, critical illness, accidents, house fires and other tragedies.
- In 2006, the Foundation gave \$319,000 to 237 DC employees during such critical times. Since 1999, the Corrections Foundation has provided over \$1.8 million to 1,300 employees.
- Employees qualify for maximum financial assistance by contributing as little as \$1 per pay period.

Recognizing Corrections as Noble Calling—a Specialty Tag to Support DC Employees

- For a quarter of a century, Louie Wainwright led the Florida Department of Corrections as Secretary, modernizing Corrections, turning it from the perception that it is simply a job into a noble profession playing an

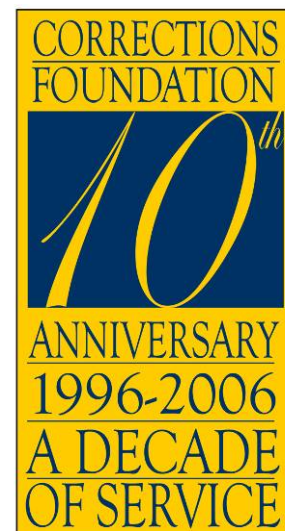
integral and important role protecting public safety, equal to a police officer, firefighter, or military service member.



- To continue promoting and supporting corrections, Mr. Wainwright, now serving as President of the Corrections Foundation, has proposed a specialty license plate to recognize corrections professionals.
- At \$25 each, proceeds from the sale of the specialty plate will benefit corrections employees through the Foundation's Employee Assistance Program and through future endeavors.

Adult Automotive Training Center Program

- Ford Motor Company provides funds to build and maintain an automotive repair training center at Homestead Correction Institution, a female facility in Miami-Dade County.
- In addition to automotive education, the program emphasizes like skills these inmates will need to live successfully and productively after release.
- Upon completion of the program, inmates receive a certificate of completion from Ford, are bonded



**Support the corrections professionals who protect public safety.
Go to www.correctionsfoundation.org**



to protect prospective employers, are ready for entry-level position in dealer or after-market auto-repair facilities. The Department assists the inmates in finding positions.

Operation Enduring Freedom — Troop Assistance Project Flags for Freedom

- Beginning in April 2003 the Foundation began the “Flags for Freedom” fundraiser to recognize and benefit DC employees who were serving in the armed forces.
- We raised \$66,723 that has been and will continue to be used to recognize and support the families of our 550 deployed employees/troops.
- In 2004 and 2005, the Foundation provided phone cards for the families of DC troops. In 2006, the Foundation provided VISA gift cards to those families.



Wall of Honor

- A bronze “Wall of Honor” recognizing the 310 DC staff who served in the War on Terror from September 2001 to May 2003, was placed at Wakulla CI’s Training Building, home of the Department’s Fallen Officer Memorial and museum.
- For more information on the Corrections Foundation, please call 850-410-4305 or visit www.correctionsfoundation.org.

This publication was paid for by the Corrections Foundation, the non-profit direct support organization of the Florida Department of Corrections to promote a better understanding of the positive benefits Corrections has in the communities in which we serve.

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us>
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Strengthening Communities through Public Service