

The JOURNEY

VICTIM ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Victim Advisory Council Goals

Expand victim outreach programs and services.

Assist judicial districts in providing victim services in community corrections agencies and other related community agencies.

Enhance public awareness concerning victim rights and services through public education programs.

Assist other agencies in the development of victim education efforts and assist in cross-training programs with allied criminal justice and victim service professionals.

Develop legislative and Department proposals to enhance victim rights, services, and programs.

About our name “The Journey”

Restoration, like healing, is a journey that we all must make together. We lean on, support, learn from, give ideas, encourage, and grow in the attempt to heal, make whole again, and restore that which was taken during the commission of a crime. As correctional professionals, advocates, victims, community members and offenders, we are on a journey that will change our lives forever, as well as those lives that we touch along the path of our journey.

***Cyndi Ruzicka, Correctional Counselor
Newsletter Editor
Iowa Correctional Institution For Women***

The Importance Of Information For Victims

By Diana

I would like to say a few words about how Department of Corrections' Victim Services helped me. I have struggled with an issue that happened during my childhood. When I was eleven, I was raped.

The rapist was never caught and, in my view, the police could have better dealt with the situation. Things were different then. I was extremely upset and they didn't know how to talk to a naïve child that didn't even understand the basics about sex, let alone a sex crime. They put me on a bench and asked if I wanted ice cream. Later with my father, they decided not to pursue an investigation, as that would be hard on me.

A while later I became aware that Pamela Powers, another beautiful Iowa child, was abducted and later murdered. I worried that the man who had raped me had also tortured and killed her. For many years, I worried that if the crime against me had been managed appropriately, Pamela might not have met with her fate.

My therapist suggested contact with Betty Brown of Corrections' Victim Services. Betty did wonderful work and even talked to the man who is serving a prison sentence for murdering Pamela Powers.

Through Betty's efforts, I was able to put to rest the notion that this was the same man. Knowing that has given me a great deal of comfort.

Iowa Department of Corrections' Victim Services helps many people. Some have had more recent victimizations and some of us wrestle with issues from many years ago. Thanks for these important services and for the work of Betty Brown.

Diana
Marshalltown, IA

The Batterer as a Restorative Justice Participant

By Kirsten Faisal, Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Car theft, burglary, and vandalism: all are recognized as serious crimes that must be addressed. There is still no public consensus that sexual and domestic violence are crimes worthy of public attention or are crimes in which the victim is not complicit. Diversion from formal court proceedings has a very long history in dealing with these cases, long before the concepts of restorative justice were ever proposed. Unwillingness to arrest, prosecute, convict, or sentence are ongoing barriers faced daily by battered women in our communities; communities that simultaneously hold battered women personally accountable for stopping the violence.

Much of the literature on domestic violence and restorative justice practice focuses on the issues faced by the victim: the long-term traumatic impacts of the abuse; ongoing coercion; power imbalances; etc. It is typical whenever the subject of domestic abuse is raised that attention focuses on the victim. I would like to shift gears though, and discuss batterers as participants in restorative justice processes: what issues the batterer must address in order to engage in any meaningful way in restorative justice programs.

The perpetrator's capacity to mediate is severely impacted by the same patterns of thinking, cognitive distortions, and feelings of entitlement that allow the violent behavior.

Batterers believe they have rights (physical and emotional care taking, decision-making, having their needs prioritized, etc.) that outweigh the rights of their partners and children. This sense of entitlement, and the subsequent outrage when those perceived rights and demands are not met is one of the key sources of the abusive behavior. Restorative justice requires that both parties recognize that they each have rights and separate needs. Before a batterer can participate in a meaningful way, he or she must confront and transform this core conviction of entitlement.

Untrusting of other people's motives, they view relationships as a competition in which there must be a winner and a loser. Much of their energy is spent on managing their public and private images to achieve their ends. Quintessential manipulators, they use either abuse or charm as needed. Batterers are poor candidates for acknowledging the harm they may have caused, negotiating in good faith, or for following through on agreements.

Batterers are unwilling to give up their control and be held accountable for their abusive behavior. Their sense of justification and their ability to minimize and deny their abuse is so great that their own victims begin to doubt the reality of what happened. It is not surprising that people outside the relationship who have not witnessed the terrorism are so often unable and unwilling to recognize it or believe its extremity. A batterer's ability to justify abusive actions provides a smokescreen in which the attention of system agents is focused on secondary issues – often the victim's behavior – rather than the primary problem.

Finally, we are still learning about domestic abuse, still trying to develop tools to determine which batterers are more likely to be lethal. While some broad generalizations can be made, the fact is that any domestic abuse case has the potential for severe harm to any or all of the parties. Violence may also spread to friends, bystanders, and system agents. The perpetrator may simply be too volatile or dangerous. Safety must be the primary consideration for all parties.

The Next
Restorative Justice Task Force
Meeting Is

February 27th
at the Urbandale Library

9:30 to 2:30....

See you there!!!

A Sentence Of Their Own

By Cyndi Ruzicka

as told by Dianne Buss

Several months ago at a community luncheon in Ottumwa, Iowa, a program was birthed in the hearts of those concerned for the well being of children whose parents are incarcerated in Iowa prisons. Peg Campbell, wife of District Director, Curt Campbell, Diane Buss, Probation/Parole Officer, community members, department of corrections employees and school officials were brainstorming ideas on how to help troubled kids in schools. Through that brainstorm session was created a program where school officials and the community based corrections officials will provide services to children whose parents are incarcerated. The program will eventually involve children in grades K through 12. Eighth District has acquired a copy of the video **"A Sentence Of Their Own"**, which depicts the struggles that families often encounter while their loved one(s) are incarcerated. Initially, the tape will be shown in small sections to grades 7-8, and discussion groups will be facilitated by teachers and counselors. In the upcoming months they will begin to deliver similar services to younger students.

Eighth District will pursue a grant for this cause in order to develop programming and services in local schools. In the past, Dianne Buss has worked with area schools to develop grants to provide a Dating Violence curriculum to junior and senior high schools in 17 counties. This past year, they estimate their dating violence curriculum was encountered by nearly 6,000, 7th thru 12th grade students. Diane developed a Bullying Curriculum for K - 6th graders for a Decat project in Van Buren and Lee Counties. The grants have since run out, but they continue to be consultants to the area schools.

At this point, they are at a new juncture, working with ambitious school counselors in Ottumwa in the development of new programs for the children of Iowa. **GREAT WORK!!!!**

**"A word of encouragement
can make the difference between
giving up and going on."**

Use of Restorative Justice with Employees

By Dennis Baugh

I recently read an article from **Corrections Connections** (www.corrections.com) dated June 10, 2002 written by Keith L. Martin, Assistant Editor, entitled, *Investigating Culture in the Correctional Environment*. I received permission from Keith to use this material to write an article for our newsletter. However, as I read the article over and over, I decided I could not do it justice by rewriting it. Therefore, I am sharing with you a portion of this article verbatim. I think it is something we all can learn from.

It is often said that prisons are miniature societies, with their own set of rules, regulations and ways of life. Much like the world outside the barbed wire borders, individual attitudes and actions dominate how its inhabitants live amongst each other on a daily basis. With this in mind, many correctional agencies are taking a look into the environments of their facilities to ensure that a healthy culture exists, for the benefit of both inmates and staff.

*"I think that it starts with values and [asking] 'what do we value,' says **Vicki Sanderford-O'Connor**, a correctional consultant and author. "Culture is the way we interact based on those values. It's not necessarily what is in the mission statement - it emerges out of our inner actions and what happens in institutions."*

Sanderford-O'Connor spent 16 years with the California Department of Corrections, rising through the ranks and eventually overseeing a \$14 million dollar budget in the Parole and Community Services Division. Her celebrated career ended after suffering a stress-induced heart attack, so she is fully aware of how the prison environment can affect those living in it.

"I'm really appreciative of the fact that we're not just up against the system and inmates, but also up against the atmosphere," she says. "This atmosphere is created because of tensions and all the difficult things we work around. If you ignore it, you are being naïve."

Beginning the process of changing the correctional environment, she says, falls under the responsibility of each employee. They must ask themselves, "What am I contributing to this atmosphere?" and once this is understood, they can begin to influence the system in a positive way.

"The culture of an institution boils down to your individual contributions," says Sanderford-O'Connor. "It is each individual's responsibility to [maintain a healthy culture]. If one falls down, it impacts the whole."

She adds that a number of problems that correctional systems experience can be managed by looking at culture and the values behind it. In fact, she applauds the reality that more and more correctional agencies are looking at the culture that exists behind prison walls.

"People [in corrections] have been given permission to really step out and work towards a better culture," she says. "They are all interested in creating a safer, saner place to work."

Using Restorative Principles With Staff

One tool Sanderford-O'Connor says can aid agency culture is the use of restorative/reparative processes with employees. While proving widely successful with inmates across this country and abroad, the principles of restorative justice can also improve the well being of correctional staff, she says.

"In any culture, it is important to start giving more space to work through difficult situations for positive results," she says. "We need to reshape culture so cooperation is encouraged versus focusing on problems and being punitive."

One area where Sanderford-O'Connor sees the benefits of restorative principles is staff disciplinary/dispute systems. This concept allows employees to take responsibility for mistakes, gives them the opportunity to repair any harm caused and creates a more cohesive work team.

Furthermore, with a more united correctional team, administrators can benefit from cost savings that come in improved labor relations, decreased litigation from officer misconduct and decreased staff turnover. Sanderford-O'Connor adds that what they use in an institution can even impact their personal lives.

"Once [staff] experience restorative dialogues for themselves, they see the benefits in other arenas - they can use it in their work life and personal life," she says. "It's almost like a lifestyle choice."

If you are interested in reading the entire article, visit Corrections Connection at www.corrections.com. You can also learn more about Vicki Sanderford-O'Connor, corrections consultant and author, by contacting her at (916) 439-6818, www.clariquest.com or you can order her book, *The Power in Compassion: Transforming the Correctional Culture*, by going to www.amazon.com.

Remember, we, as employees in corrections and other helping agencies, are in control of our destiny within our working environment. Use your talents wisely and make the most of shaping **your** community.

More DUI Stats – From MADD on-line Submitted by Mary Roche

In 1998, 1.4 million people were arrested in the U.S. for driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI)---more than all other reported criminal offenses except larceny and theft.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (July 1999) Traffic Safety Facts.

Related Facts

For one of every 140 miles driven in the United States in 1998, a legally intoxicated person sat behind the wheel.

Source: Jenson, A., et al. (1999) Impaired Driving in the United States, State Facts Sheets. Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation: Landover, MD.

Crash costs average \$5.80 per mile driven drunk. By comparison, driving a mile sober imposes only \$.10 in crash costs.

Source: Jenson, A., et al. (1999) Impaired Driving in the United States, State Facts Sheets. Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation: Landover, MD.

In 1999, one out of nine intoxicated drivers in fatal crashes has had a prior DWI conviction within the past three years.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, & National Center for Statistics & Analysis. (1999).

In 1998, the United States drivers with BACs between .08-.09 were involved in an estimated 17,200 crashes that killed 993 and injured 32,000.

Source: Jenson, A., et al. (1999) Impaired Driving in the United States, State Facts Sheets. Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation: Landover, MD.

About three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives (that's about 30% or 1/3).

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Traffic Safety Facts 1997

DUI Death Rates Creep Up, Vary by State

A 20-year decline in alcohol-related traffic deaths has ground to a halt, and certain states are struggling with high rates of DUI deaths, the [Associated Press](#) reported Dec. 18.

A study compiled by the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) shows that the alcohol-related death rate rose for the first time in 1999, ending years of steady decline.

In 2001, 17,448 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes, accounting for 41 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths. That's down from a high of 60 percent in 1981, but up from 40 percent in 1999.

According to the report, the state with the highest number of alcohol-related deaths is South Carolina, followed by Montana, Louisiana, and the District of Columbia. Puerto Rico has a higher alcohol-related death rate than any state, with 1.38 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled during 2001.

States with the lowest drunk-driving death rates are Utah, Vermont, New York, Minnesota, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maine, Virginia, Indiana, and California.

Most states said they are participating in sobriety checkpoints and increased patrols from Dec. 20 through Jan. 5 to kick off a yearlong effort to reduce DUI, called "You Drink and Drive, You Lose."

Wendy Hamilton, president of Mothers Against Drunken Driving (MADD), said states need more federal funds for highway patrols to catch impaired drivers.

This article is published by Join Together (<http://www.jointogether.org>). A national resource for communities working to reduce substance abuse and gun violence based at the Boston University School of Public Health.

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(<http://www.jointogether.org/about/jtodirect/plugins/jtodp.html>).

or, get the same content via email (<http://www.jointogether.org/about/jtodirect/email/frameset.html>).

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Victims Rights Week 2003

By Linda Sorensen

Victims Rights Week for 2003 is April 6 through the 12th. The Theme is "Victim Rights, Fulfill the Promise"

The colors are red, white and blue.

During our victim fundraiser we included all three components for Restorative Justice. Venders were community members who donated a percentage of their sales to the victim fund. We held the fundraiser in the community corrections large training room. The first year we had about a half a dozen venders, like Pampered Chef, Home Interiors, Avon etc. This last year the numbers grew significantly and we actually had venders calling us asking if they could set up tables.

We made signs and put an ad in the paper. Offenders help set up and take down tables for this. They also helped the venders carry their stuff into and out of the building. The large center table was set up for donated items that victims and offenders made and donated to the victim fundraiser. Included in that were hand made crafts, Christmas ornaments and a couple paintings donated by an Inmate from Anamosa. He also donated a 1926 handmade wooden truck. The pictures were drawn of a deer with colored pencil and a turkey with a pen. They were awesome and brought in fifty dollars. Other Inmates made leather coin purses and a little girls pink purse. Female offenders crocheted potholders, dishtowels, hat and mittens.

Our fundraiser was open to everyone from victim to offenders to community. Our profits doubled from the previous year. People worked together and talked together. What a wonderful experience. The fundraiser is held every October during daytime hours. Victim funds help support victims who travel to sit on victim impact panels for our district, pays for child care where needed and also is used for gifts for victim panelists. Funds help victims attend trainings if needed, books, and some is donated for other good causes relating to victim needs.

“Insanity is doing the same things over and over and expecting different results”- Albert Einstein

By Valerie Kemp

Crime statistics in the past several years have indicated that crime rates are decreasing, however the number of people incarcerated in Iowa continues to rise. If current patterns continue, it is estimated that by the year 2011, Iowa will need to build 5 new prisons. The estimated cost to build each prison is \$45 million, with the operating budget of \$28 million per year. Of those incarcerated, 95% return to the community. Is this how we want to spend our dwindling state resources?

In Johnson County a restorative justice task force was formed to look at ways locally to get “smart on crime”. Restorative justice is a philosophy mandating that victims should be at the core of the justice process. The questions asked are “Who was harmed, what was the harm, and how can the harm be repaired?” It acknowledges that communities are also harmed by crime and have a responsibility to provide support to crime victims as well as to assist in the rehabilitation of offenders so they will be less likely to create new victims.

One way of addressing the needs of all three stakeholders, victims, offenders and the community is called circles of support and accountability. A circle is a meeting held for an offender to discuss his or her crimes directly with their victim if he or she chooses to participate, friends, family, community members and resource people. The focus is on accountability to those harmed, repairing the harm and providing support to assist the offender in becoming a productive member of the community. It acknowledges that offenders need to make amends and abide by the law, but also need support and assistance to make and sustain those changes. The circles have initially focused on those offenders, both juvenile and adult who are returning to the community following incarceration or out of home placement. The goal is to reintegrate offenders positively back into the community. Juvenile and Adult Probation officers recognize that they cannot

do this work alone. The community needs to step forward. The participation of community members reinforces the behavioral expectations and norms that are expected of the offender. The idea of accountability of offenders to the victims and community is represented in the circle in a way that the correctional system alone can't provide.

Victims often have unanswered questions about the crime such as "Why did you pick me, how did you get into my house...the list goes on and on. The answers to these questions often help victims regain control of their lives and address important questions of safety and security. The offender must develop a plan to specifically repair the harm in a way that is meaningful to the victim.

The circles put offenders in the same room with people who want to help them acknowledge their wrongs and learn to live as positive members of the community. The focus is on the personal harm of the choices they have made. Implementing principles of restorative justice recognizes that there are offenders who want to change and lack the support system needed to keep up their resolve. Returning to "old playgrounds and old playmates" because that is what is familiar is often a prescription for re-offending. The circle can address this issue directly, helping find pro-social community members who will support rehabilitation efforts and hold offenders accountable if they begin to fall into old patterns or unhealthy relationships. The circle can address some of the other major risk factors, such as anti-social attitudes or personality patterns that perpetuate crime. The members of the circle ideally are people the offender respects and have frequent contact with, such as employers, teachers and neighbors. These people not only help keep tabs on the offender's behavior, but also can intervene early if they see a return to old patterns of behavior.

Circles continue until the members agree the harm has been repaired and the core member is demonstrating the ability to be a positive member of the community. When these goals are met, the circle will end but the long-term support system will have been developed to support offenders after their discharge from the criminal justice system. In that

way, we all have our own circle of people who support us during difficult times and hold us accountable when we make mistakes.

Circle members recognize that the criminal justice system can not build it's way out of prison overcrowding without using extensive resources that drain the programs what we value in our community; schools, parks, protecting our children. The donation of their time and wisdom reflects those values and the commitment to a community where there are no more victims.

Update From The Eighth District

Submitted by Chris Baker

The Iowa Eighth Judicial District Department of Correctional Services recently hired Chris Baker as its victim-offender services coordinator. The position, funded by an Edward R. Byrne grant, is the first step in developing, enhancing and implementing restorative justice programming in the district with an emphasis on meeting the needs of crime victims.

Since August, the district has formed an in-house restorative justice committee, which is being expanded to include community members and professionals, victims and rehabilitated offenders. The district is offering an introductory restorative justice training Jan. 28-30 in partnership with the staff of the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility. The training is based on the curriculum developed by the National Institute of Corrections. Participants will subsequently engage in a strategic planning process focusing on identifying potential restorative justice practices in the district.

Baker and colleague Julie Trinkle, the district's BEP coordinator, have also been working together to develop a pool of victims/survivors interested in speaking on victim impact panels. The panels will be part of a future victim impact class for offenders. Anyone interested in participating on victim impact panels should contact Baker at 641-472-4242 Ext. 109, or by e-mail at chris.baker@doc.state.ia.us.

DOC's Victim Impact Training

Victim Impact Training, cosponsored by ICA, was held Nov. 4 – 8, 2002 at the Iowa Corrections Training Center. 30 staff completed this training, which was designed for individuals desiring to facilitate Victim Impact Classes/Panels for offenders. This was a very intense week of training, but beneficial from the comments written on their evaluations. Some of the evaluation comments are: "Thank you for this life changing experience"; "Not only is this pertinent in the working profession but to be a better individual sensitive to others"; "Thank you for giving me tools to find a part of my job to enjoy again", "One of the finest trainings I have ever attended".

Victim Impact Classes/Panels

The Victim Impact curriculum was developed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the California Youth Authority (CYA). This national program stresses personal responsibility, accountability, and consequences for criminal behavior, while emphasizing the victim perspective. Victim Impact Classes/Panels engage the assistance of victims/survivors from the community who agree to share their personal stories of victimization with offenders. This enables the academic portion of the curriculum to come to life and helps offenders understand crimes are committed against people and a victim's life is forever changed.

What are Victim Impact Classes/Panels?

In keeping with the concept of personal "responsibility," it was realized that strictly punishing the offender was not enough if he or she returned to the community without respect for other people's bodies or property. The Victim Impact Classes/Panels Program is designed so both the juvenile and adult offender through class assignments and victim speakers will:

- Accept responsibility for past criminal actions,
- Understand the impact of crimes on victims and the long-term impact of victimization,
- Develop personal safety skills with a focus on crime prevention,
- Learn about Restorative Justice,
- Contribute to their communities in a way that will prevent further victimization

If the attitude of even one perpetrator can be altered, if they can be made to know and understand and feel the sorrow, the pain, the longing for the victim that results from this action, perhaps the life of a potential 'victim' can be saved." - Victim

Todd Roberts & Laura Scheffert James co-facilitated the training. Todd Roberts is a Probation/Parole Officer in the Fifth District, Laura Scheffert James, is the Assistant Deputy Director for the Iowa DOC Eastern Operations. The Victim Impact Training Committee would like to thank ICA for their support of this training.

A note from the trainers...

This training would not have been possible if it were not for the work of those involved on the Training Committee. Those serving on the committee were: LuAnn Smith and Jennifer Guild, 5th Judicial District; Jill Bushaw and Linda Sorenson, 6th Judicial District; Mary Roche, 1st Judicial District. This group was very successful at putting together a well-organized training that was enjoyable for participants. They had a very limited budget to work with and their efforts were in addition to their already stressed workloads. Great Job Folks!

We would like to give a special thanks to:

The 5th Judicial District for hosting this training;

Luann Smith and Jennifer Guild who spent much time organizing and planning for the event, organized to have offenders make gifts for the victims/survivors throughout the week, received donations from local vendors for the week, and were present at the training center the entire week, ensuring all went smoothly;

Mary Roche for making all the gifts for the training participants; Jill Bushaw for preparing door prizes for participants throughout the week; and lastly, thanks to the training participants. It was a great week with a great group of people! Thanks to everyone for your part in making the training a success.

- Laura and Todd

Some Things IMPACT a Lifetime

Leader Dog Program

Reprinted From Lions Club Newsletter

“You are hereby sentenced to the North Central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City, Iowa for a period of one year. During this time you will learn to sit, stay, “park” in the appropriate location, walk up all types of stairways, and most important, learn great behavior. You will be assigned to a fellow inmate who has the responsibility of teaching you these skills. If you meet all of these requirements, at the age of one-year, you will be released from prison.”

You have to be wondering what our criminal justice system has gone to where we are sentencing seven-week olds to prison for one-year. These “inmates” are actually seven-week old puppies who did not commit a crime, but are part of the Leader Dog program operating at the prison.

Leader Dog Inc., located in Rochester, Michigan received a telephone call from Ray Halterman, a Plant Operations Manager at the prison. He visited with the managers at this facility asking if the prison could be considered for raising puppies that would eventually have the opportunity to be a guide dog for sightless individuals.

Bev Blanchard, Leader Dog representative, was driving from Nebraska to Michigan with a puppy and decided to stop in at the prison for a tour. She did not let the prison know that she had a puppy with her in the van; her intent was to do a courtesy tour and then say, “Thanks, but no thanks.” What Bev did not expect was that this prison presented every opportunity for their puppies to succeed. After her visit concluded in which she visited with staff, talked to some of the inmates, and also viewed the prison, she walked to the back of the van and introduced Maggie, a blonde Labrador retriever, the first prisoner puppy to NCCF.

The prison is a minimum-secured facility that has a population of over 500 offenders. These offenders range from doing time for murder to drug offenses. Their sentences vary from life to a two-year sentence. Due to the security-level of the prison, the inmates are allowed out into a rather large

exercise yard, they eat in a dining hall three times per day, have visits, and live in rooms that look more like dorm rooms than prison cells. This set-up allows for the puppies in the program to obtain a diverse training regiment.

This program is much, more than just raising puppies. This program is about teaching many valuable skills to the inmates, it is about unconditional love, and it is about feeling the loss of a loved one. When this program began, the management of the prison sought out inmates via an application process to see who would be willing to raise a puppy, twenty-four hours per day for three hundred and sixty five days. Hoping to receive about ten to twenty applications, the inmates responded with over two hundred and fifty applications.

The first inmate selected was Denny. Denny is in prison for life and has been in the Iowa Correctional System for over twenty-eight years. Denny was selected for his behavior, his willingness to accept responsibility, and by many of the other programs he has worked in and displayed these talents. Denny and Maggie were introduced to each other in the Warden’s office and it was as they say, love at first sight, for both of them.

Since the arrival of Maggie, the prison has received nine other puppies. Six Golden Retrievers, Kobe, Shaq, Mickey, Abby, Jake, and Rocky were the next in line to be sentenced to a year at the prison. Recently, three Labrador puppies, Bo, Boz, and Boomer were sentenced. Each puppy has been assigned an inmate raiser and everyone is doing great.

These puppies live with the inmates day and night. They share the same room, they go to meals together, they visit together, and they also have to go to the inmate’s job together. All the while, the inmate and the puppy are working together to learn the skills to be a successful leader dog. That is not to say that the inmate does not have some additional help. With only nine puppies and five hundred inmates, there are plenty of willing and able puppy-sitters to give the inmates a break.

The puppies have had an immediate impact in the prison. You can sense the tension has been reduced, there is a great deal of laughter as the inmates watch puppies being puppies, and what can be better for an inmate having a bad day than for a puppy to walk up and give you a kiss on the cheek?

Every day the inmates work with their puppies on appropriate behavior. Once every other week, Carol Kirkbride drives one and one-half hours to the prison to assist Ray in training the puppies in a more formal training approach. These puppies have excelled at the prison, but not as much as the inmates have excelled from the program.

These inmates are learning to give back to society. They know that they are working with these puppies for one year only to let them go. They know that these puppies are going to help someone else's life be a little easier. That is a tremendous reward to these men. They take a great deal of pride in their puppies and they truly give the puppies an enormous amount of attention and love.

Recently, the first prison puppy, Maggie was given her, "parole." It was a sad, but great day for all. All of the puppy raisers, all the puppies, and many of the staff and inmates attended the ceremony. Bev arrived at the prison and Denny sadly, but proudly, handed over Maggie's leash. As Maggie walked out of the prison, Denny walked slowly back to his room inside the prison. Maggie was going to new adventures, new learning opportunities, and a chance to assist another person. Denny was walking back to his room where he will once again work in the garden at the prison, have an occasional visit, and just try to find a way to spend many hours of idle time without his new found love. While a dog or puppy will never equal a human being, Denny, who took a life, has an idea of what it is like to lose a life. As Maggie walked out the gate, a cute little puppy that had grown to be a beautiful dog, which had showered Denny with kisses, hugs and unconditional love left Denny with only memories.

The Leader Dog program teaches inmates' responsibility, to show love, and to sacrifice for others. As sad as it was for Maggie and soon, all of

these puppies to leave, the rewards and memories will be forever.

Special note: The Leader Dog program is fully self-sufficient on the wonderful donations from many donors, but most of all, due to all of the wonderful Lion's clubs around the State of Iowa. We are truly grateful to the Lion's Club for helping us make this the special program that it has become.



Comments from Warden, James McKinney

Approximately eight months ago we began working with a corporation out of Rochester, Michigan called **Leader Dog**. This is a company that breeds certain dogs to be leader dogs for individuals who are sightless. What they do is to give the puppies at six to eight weeks of age to an individual who is willing to raise the puppies to the standards set forth by the company. Many prisons had contacted them and they have always said that they did not feel any of them would work. We gave them a call, and the supervisors of the company came to our facility and

were so impressed she gave us a puppy that she was transporting to another location. Thus, we became the first and so far, only prison to raise leader dogs for the blind.

And

Here is part of message from Warden McKinney to an inmate whose puppy graduated and was preparing to leave prison.

The dogs are incredible animals and they teach us much more than we teach them.

I also realize that losing that dog is one of the toughest struggles we will be faced with. Animals do not rise over human beings, but they are incredibly close. That empty feeling of coming into a room or your home and not having that dog jump up to meet you, that sadness you feel when you need to pet them much more than they need petted, and that companion that says so much yet, does not have the ability to talk. That is a true loss and a true pain we must go through.

It is that loss that I think will mean so much to each of the raisers. They will identify with their victims, with their friends, and with their families. The loss, whether it be a life, property, or where fear becomes an overriding concern. What I want from this program is for each of you (inmate/raisers) to give it your all. You have done that with Maggie. Each of the men that I have watched has done the same.

This program was always meant to be more than just a puppy you trained for someone else. It was also to teach us all about respect and the loss of a loved one."

*You are invited to attend a
Victim Impact Panel,
sponsored by the
DOC Victim Advisory Council
in honor of Crime Victims Rights Week
on April 10, 2003 at 11:00am at the
Commission For The Blind.
Bring a friend, or co-worker
and join us in
giving honor to victims.*

A Death Worthy Of Note **Submitted by Dean Lindenman**

The Passing Of Common Sense

Today we mourn the passing of an old friend, by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense lived a long life but died recently in the United States. No one really knows how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He selflessly devoted his life to serve in schools, hospitals, homes, factories helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness. For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, and that life isn't always fair.

Common sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn), reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids), and it's okay to come in second. A veteran of the Industrial Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including body piercing, whole language, and "new math." But his health declined when he became infected with the "If-it-only-helps-one-person-it's-worth-it" virus.

In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of well intentioned but overbearing regulations. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-seeking lawyers. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies.

Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition. It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but could not inform the parent when a female student was pregnant or wanted an abortion.

Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from the Boy Scouts to professional sports.

Finally, when people, too stupid to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, were awarded a huge settlement, Common Sense threw in the towel.

As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments regarding questionable regulations such as those for low flow toilets, rocking chairs, and stepladders.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers: My Rights, and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Iowa Attorney General's
Crime Victim Rights Conference Pearls of
Wisdom:
Celebrating 30 Years of
Victim Services in Iowa
May 13th & 14th, 2003**



**Drake University
Olmsted Center
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311**



Who Should Attend:

Victims, Survivors, Victim Advocates, Law Enforcement, County Attorneys, Victim Witness Coordinators, Judges, Correctional Officers, Civil Attorneys, Medical Providers, Mental Health Professionals, Concerned Citizens



**For More Information Please Contact:
Alison Walding, Training Coordinator
Crime Victim Assistance Division
Alison.Walding@ag.state.ia.us**

Note From the Editor.....

Thanks for those who take time not only to read our newsletter, but to those of you who are willing to submit articles for publication. The newsletter wouldn't be what it is without each of you!!

WANTED

Assistant Editor For

”The Journey”

Contact

Cyndi Ruzicka

515-967-4136 Ext. 225

cyndi.ruzicka@doc.state.ia.us

Values of Restorative Justice

Crime injures people and communities and justice should focus on healing and the restoration of harm; including economic, emotional, physical, psychological, spiritual and social injuries.

All human beings are of value and have the potential for healing, growth and change.

Crime creates responsibilities: individual & community.

The direct participation of those most affected by crime is essential to its resolution.

Crime victims' perspective is crucial to defining the harm and how the harm caused by crime might be restored.

Meaningful and real accountability, not just punishment.

Competency development for those who offend.

Re-integration of both victim and those who offend.

**Iowa Department of Corrections
Victim and Restorative Justice Programs
420 Watson Powell Way
Des Moines, Iowa 50309**

**April 6th – 12th Is National Crime Victims' Rights Week
"Fulfill The Promise"**