

INSIDE OUT

NOVEMBER 2017



SUCCESS WITH NEW APPROACH

In March of this year, Detention made a move to dedicate portions of recreation time into daily programming for the youth. A “program” is defined as a structured pro-social and educational activity that is engaging for both the youth and detention officers.

This is not necessarily new as Detention has a long history of offering creative and impactful learning opportunities to the youth, but historically they have been taught by the individual officer and within their own timeline.

With the new scheduled structure, all detention officers are expected to organize and host a program of their own on a regular basis. There are minimal guidelines for the content of programming, which means officers can teach a topic that is of interest to them. Giving officers the flexibility to teach what they are passionate about has brought about a real sense of ownership. Topics range from fishing to finance, morals to motivation and everything in between. Youth engaged in the activities get the chance to watch videos, participate in guided discussion and play learning games. All of these activities foster positive group dynamics. One officer brought in his whitewater kayaking gear and showed some videos of the sport. He explained the components of the gear and the youth got to sit in the kayak. This activity gave participants a concrete example of a positive hobby.

Currently, the program schedule runs twice a day between Monday and Friday from 2-3pm & 7-8pm. If you’re counting that’s 20 programs a week or over 1,000 in a year! As with all operations in the facility, being flexible is sometimes necessary.



PUMPKIN PAINTING FOR VAN VISTA

This dedicated time to programming has created an opportunity for guests to come in and present as well. So far guest speakers have included Detention’s nurse, a court intern, Diver’s Institute and iQ Credit Union.

It is safe to say we all agree, the more knowledge and opportunity for learning we provide our youth, the better.



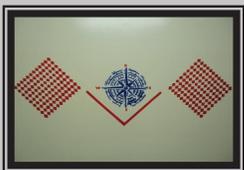
ICE CREAM FROM A BAG

Below DO Uyema tells of a program he taught about delayed gratification:

I set up the classroom so that there were 2 little pieces of Reese’s peanut butter minis on a napkin on each youth’s table and took the clock down so the youth couldn’t check on the time. There were a few rules for the group: No talking. No sleeping. Youth were allowed to ask one question. If they touched the piece of chocolate, they had to eat it. I then let the youth know that they were allowed to eat the pieces of chocolate at anytime, but that if they waited to the end, they would possibly get something better.

Just before the end of the program, I showed a YouTube clip about a study done with children and their ability to delay gratification and how it helped them become more successful later in life. I facilitated a discussion on patience and delayed gratification.

Each youth who held out to the end received a full size Reese’s peanut butter cup package.



BRIGHTENING THE WALLS OF DETENTION

Lengthy time in Detention, two parts paint and three parts “Smile, Hope, and Change” and you get cells decorated with uplifting pictures and words. This is how one youth celebrated her one year mark in Detention. “Jeana” has been painting inspirational words and pictures for her peers. Since she has been in Detention over a year, she has seen a lot of youth during difficult times. This has given her a true opportunity to be helpful. She has earned management’s trust by not having a single infraction during her stay. “I wanted to help maybe brighten someone’s day...or help while they are here,” she stated.



“JEANA” & DO PARRY

The cell painting project has been used to improve the walls of Detention with art and quotes. Over ten cells in A-pod have been completed. Officer Tasha Parry volunteered to assist with the project. They both can agree this process has been a lot of fun and equally valuable.

Some of the cells have encouraging words like “HOPE, SMILE, DREAM” and the phrase “Make a Choice, Take a Chance, . . . Change” surrounded by flowers. When asked if she realizes her decorations could be around for a very long time “Jeana” stated she is glad it might help someone.

Congratulations are in order to Justin Rielly who completed the Washington State Juvenile Corrections Academy. Justin reports he enjoyed representing Clark County Juvenile Court.

About a year ago, Justin heard from longtime family friend and mentor, Scott Moore, that Detention was hiring and he would be a good fit. Justin said, “It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of someone like Scott and I look forward to being the next generation of detention professionals for Clark County.”

A recent Facebook post by Justin read: **“Truly blessed to be able to say that I absolutely love what I do for a living! Being able to talk with and connect with some of the most overlooked youth in our community is becoming more than a job for me and is turning into a real passion. Some days are harder than others, but in the last 8 months I’ve never once thought I have to go to work, but instead I think I GET to go to work” and that is a great feeling.**

So if you see Justin around, make sure to give him an attaboy and a hearty handshake.



DM MEMSIC, DO RIELLY, DS MACDONALD

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

You may have noticed you have received this from a stand alone email address. We have created it just for the Inside-Out team. From time to time you’ll receive updates, celebration announcements and of course the seasonal newsletter. Beyond that please feel free to use it to send us your thoughts, feedback and Detention photos. Perhaps you have a good story we can share or a photo that will end up at a retirement party someday.

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