

Public Employee Recognition Week Awards Program (2008)

The week of May 5-9, 2008 was Public Employee Recognition Week (PERW) across the United States. Many GDC locations sponsored events that showed staff appreciation for hard work and dedication. Events included a GDC Talent contest, picnics, blood drives, scavenger hunts and many other contests. This was also a time for the managers and supervisors to show their appreciation to their employees.

Governor Sonny Perdue presented awards to Statewide PERW Award Winners at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Awards were presented to individuals and teams in the categories of Community Service; Customer Service; Heroism, Humanitarian; Innovations/Suggestions; Leadership and Safety.

The Georgia Department of Corrections is honored to have 7 GDC State Level nominees, in various categories that competed at the state level.

Warden Edd Sanders from **West Central PDC** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Community Service**. Warden Sanders chairs the Prevent Child Abuse Pike Committee that promotes abuse prevention education, parenting resources and provides care providers mandated training seminars at no cost. In 2007, there were fewer confirmed abuse cases in Pike County than the year before despite a population increase.

He is a member of the advisory board of the Promise Place, a family domestic violence and support agency.

Through his efforts, fire victims in the county were assisted with clothing and replacement Christmas toys for those with children. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Family Crisis Interventions. In working with these organizations, one new shelter in the area has been opened. In 2007, it was learned that three Pike High seniors would not graduate because they lacked credits and the cost of the after school programs were too prohibitive for their families. Through his efforts, \$1700 was raised by the community to pay for these costs. In May 2007, all three students graduated with their class.

He is chairman of the Keep Pike Beautiful Authority. He oversees roadside trash pickups and the annual Flint River clean up.

He is a founding member of the Boy's and Girl's Club of Pike County which was organized in 2007.

These accomplishments during 2007 not only benefited the citizens, especially the children, of Pike County, but also nurtured a mutual supportive relationship with the community, both public and private sectors.



Gerald Grimes

Gerald Grimes from **Scott State Prison** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Customer Service - Individual**. Mr. Grimes not only teaches the Graphics Arts Program at Scott State Prison, but also provides books, pamphlets, and programs to all State, private and county prisons in Georgia. In 2007, he completed 435 projects saving the Georgia taxpayers \$73,164.00. He also completed the project of printing the Re-entry Skills Building Handbook for the Correctional Education Conference. Mr. Grimes usually has a deadline of "yesterday", though you will never hear him complain. He values being helpful, courteous, and accessible to all people.

Mr. Grimes follows a vision of providing community supervision of offenders and assisting by creating the opportunities for restoration of offenders and offering them the ability to learn a trade to utilize upon release. He feels that it is his obligation to assist in the recidivism rate among our inmate population.

The **Clayton Transitional Center Family Contact Team** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Customer Service - Team**. This team consisted of **Sharon Campbell, Valerie Williamson and Michael Kyles**. Starting in mid-July 2007 the Clayton Family Contact Team took on the task of having a conference with family members of every offender as they became eligible for work release and were to begin their job search. Ms. Campbell and her team theorized that job performance and behavior on passes home would be better as a result of she and her staff having come to know the family.

Over the last half of 2007, 143 families were seen for an average of an hour. The conferences were mostly on the weekend and after business hours to prevent interfering with the family member's work schedules.

Ms. Campbell reports a "big change" in resident's behavior. Before the project 70% of incoming calls from family were negative, "antagonistic and adversarial", with the other 30% being neutral. Since the project start-up, calls from the families are nearly 100% positive.



Darrell Daniels

Darrell Daniels from **Valdosta State Prison** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Heroism - Individual**. On August 12, 2007 officer Darrell Daniel's while working inside the Valdosta State Prison dining hall, heard his supervisor, Sgt. Bond call for assistance. He immediately responded to the scene and observed Sgt. Bond being assaulted and stabbed by seven inmates. Officer Daniel, with total disregard for his own safety immediately went to the aid of his supervisor.

Officer Daniels was attacked with a broom handle, receiving trauma to the head and body. Several inmates also attempted to stab Officer Daniels but were unsuccessful.

Without Officer Daniel's quick response and his professionalism, this incident could have had a tragic ending.

Sgt. Bond received major trauma to his face and was stabbed seven times in his left eye. Sgt. Bonds lost his vision in his left eye and will not be returning to work.



Margie Spear

Margie Spear from **Men's State Prison** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Humanitarian - Individual**. Ms. Spears is the President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit in Milledgeville.

In February 2007, the members of the auxiliary unit under Ms. Spear's leadership chose to give Valentine's cards to all veterans living at the Georgia War Veterans Home. Also, those veterans that were classified as indigent were given gift bags of hygiene items, writing tablets, toothbrushes, etc.

In December 2007, the ladies provided gifts for the Veteran's Store. The ladies worked a total of 240 preparing and working with the veterans on this project and donated \$350 in gifts.



Eugenia Washington

Eugenia Washington from **Phillips State Prison** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Leadership - Individual**. Ms. Washington has faced insurmountable challenges caused by the shortage of competent food service staff in this Atlanta suburb where prison food service is far from the first choice of local job seekers. Ms. Washington works constantly to overcome these challenges by diligently training and advising her few employees, supervising their work and their interactions with inmate and closely monitoring each key element necessary to a successful food service operation.

What sets Ms. Washington apart is the fact that she is on the job almost every day and during some or all of every shift. Her dedication to her responsibility is such that she fills in herself for each shift when there is no Food Service Manager or Supervisor to do the work. This has amounted to 12-hour days, six or seven days a week in the dining facility.

She is a leading member of the American Correctional Food Service Association.

She was selected as a member of the committee that is setting standards for the privatization of departmental dining facilities in a major effort to save money and provide more efficient delivery of inmate meals.

The **Rivers State Prison Business Office** was a GDC **State Level Nominee** in the category of **Leadership - Individual**. This team consisted of **Amanda Thigpen, Nicole Farmer, Lee Anne Allen, Velicia Smith and LuWonder Ingram**. A comprehensive audit was conducted at Rivers State Prison that included the Business Office Processes encompassing the year 2007. They received 100% accuracy during this audit. The cross training in each area was evident, as they were all able to answer questions relating to the audit topics in the 14 different areas reviewed.

A commendation was noted for the status of the budget, as it was just below the mark that it should be for this time of year. This is a result of exceptional budget oversight and management of resources.

Employee functions are driven by this group.

They network with others within the Business Operations outside of our prison to gain insight and to share their own experiences.

The Rivers State Prison Business Office has been very instrumental in the Baldwin County Relay for Life Event each year and for the year 2007 assisted in raising over \$8,000 on behalf of the Georgia Department of Corrections.

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category of **Community Service - Individual**:

Don Bainbridge, Alfred L. Cain, John Eldridge, Harry Leverett, Edd Sanders, Dennis Stroup and Bobby J. Vaughn

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category of **Customer Service - Individual**:

Carolyn Aikens, Matilda Brown, Kathy Cline, Tonya Ellenburg, Dorethea Ellison, Emma Gleckler, Staci Greene, Gerald Grimes, Mary L. Hamilton, Sara Hilliard, Jeffery L. Horton, Jana Human, Darice King, Kathy P. Lowery, Pat Manigo, Glenda McGuinness, Debbie H. McMullen, Daniel Mullis, Cynthia Pearson, Lisa B. Safrit, Dennis Simmons, Etta Smart, Reba Smith, Catrina Spahr, Amanda Thigpen, Sharon Thomas, Dianne Threat, Savedra Ware, Kathy Wilkins and Suzanne B. York

The following GDC teams were nominated in the category of **Customer Service -Team**:
Central State Prison Food Service, Clayton Transitional Center Family Contact Team, Macon State Prison Personnel Department, Metro State Prison Front Entry, Ombudsman Unit, Smith State Prison Personnel Department and Ware State Prison Canine Unit.

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category **Heroism - Individual**:
Darrell Daniels, Howard Maddox and Angela Pittman.

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category **Humanitarian - Individual**:
Lerrod Freeman, Dennis Gallman, Ray Lancia, Mitzi Richards, Margie Spear and Kathy Windle.

The following GDC employees were nominated in the category of **Leadership - Individual**:
Tommy Bowen, Thomas Butts, Alexis Chase, Richard Cobb, Robert Hudson, LaSandra Lofton, Gregory McLaughlin and Eugenia Washington.

The following GDC teams were nominated in the category of **Leadership - Team**:
Rivers State Prison Business Office.

Congratulations go out to all the Winners and Nominees!