



Strafford County Department of Corrections

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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The "Balloon Lady" delights the children

Family BBQ Big Success

The family barbecue took place on Saturday July 29 at the visitor's entrance to the jail, next to the Family Reception Center. It was a bright, sunny, warm day. It was so exciting to see so many families enjoying the food and festivities. The children were given teddy bears donated by Hugs Across America. This was Hugs Across America's first gift of teddy bears for the Family Reception Center which arrived just before the barbecue.

In addition, the "Balloon Lady" arrived dressed up in a colorful clown type costume and children were allowed to request balloons created in the image of their favorite animal. The barbecue consisted of hot dogs, chips, juice, soda and cookies. The excitement and smiles of the children were wonderful!

Foster's Daily Democrat arrived to cover the event about the same time as the "Balloon Lady". To read coverage of the event you may go to www.Fosters.com and check the article dated August 3, 2006. The article is entitled, "Family Members of Strafford County Jail Inmates Treated to BBQ".



Children are invited to take home "a friend"



The "Balloon Lady" works on a creation.

Realizing Change *by J.C.*

Does anyone else but me know what it's like
to dream about being home, but wake up in jail?

Does anyone else feel the pain
of knowing what it is like to utterly fail?

I've committed a crime, now I'm doing the time.
It's like walking a tightrope or a thin line.

I figured out that Satan tempted me
but now Jesus Christ is saving thee!

Being in jail is the only true way to repent
I feel thankful for this punishment that God sent.

When I am down, depressed and low
I pray to God and Jesus for my cup to overflow.

There is a train ride to heaven, so climb aboard.
You don't need a ticket, just believe in the Lord.

I'm getting what I deserve, reaping what I sow,
being forgiven for my sins, this I do know.

Now my blessings surely will show!

Families & Children Resource

I want to tell you about a series I have found through Family & Corrections Network. It is called the Children of Prisoner's Library. This material can be found at WWW.fcnetwork.org/cp1. The series selection is CPL201-204. The titles are: *Caring for Children of Prisoners*, *Questions from Caregivers*, and *What Do Children of Prisoners and Their Caregivers Need? Tips for Caregivers-from Caregivers*.

This series will also be available at the Family Reception Center for reading onsite or through our lending library if you not have access to a computer and internet. A workshop could also be offered on either a Saturday or Sunday in the fall should families express an interest. This would be an informal setting with a light lunch. Children would be invited to attend if parents feel the child is old enough to participate. It would be a time to listen, support, and share with one another. You may e-mail me, call or write expressing an interest in such a gathering at the Center.

Marilyn Allen
Family Reception Center Founder & Coordinator
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Dreaming and Where Do We Go? by T.L.

Where do we go when we dream?
to wondrous places
with many different faces all sparkly
and gleam.

To a nightmare of visions
where nothing is flowers and green,
but to a place where it is
horribly scary., “so vicious, so mean”.

We sometimes go with family
at different times
as we’re all telling our children
some nursery rhymes.

Most of the time they are good,
that is true
a lot of the times
there is da sha uu.

So close your eyes and
have sweet dreams
and I hope you go to a place where
nothing is what it seems
just beautiful faces,
with candy shoe laces,
and nothing is mean.

Legal Column Coming!

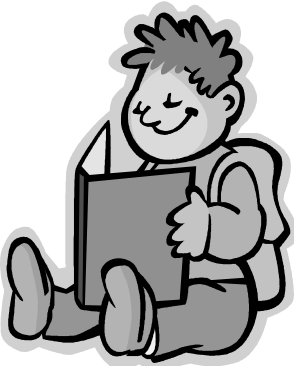


I am excited to announce that a new legal column will be established and hope that families will utilize the service. My thanks go to the attorney and his office for being willing to provide this service. They will not be able to answer specific questions about a case but rather questions that pertain to legal rights and procedures that assist any defendant.. You may ask your question and if it is too specific to just a specific case the attorney will let you know. So go ahead and the question will be answered if possible. You may e-mail your question to my office to be forwarded to the attorney or write to me at the address below:

mallen@co.strafford.nh.us

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Donation of Children’s Books to Family Reception Center



The Rochester Methodist Church has chosen Strafford County Family Reception Center as its’ mission project for the month of September. Parishioners will donate books to inmate’s children to encourage reading to and by the children as well as a vehicle to express closeness between the family members.

The incarcerated inmate will be allowed to select a book and write a note in the cover of the book to be given to their child during an upcoming visit. As a family member, if you would like your loved one to participate please encourage him/her to contact Marilyn Allen to express their interest in sharing a book with their child or children.

Program News

Crochet Program



The female Therapeutic Community has been enjoying the crochet program. Our facility has received donations of yarn from St. John's church in Dover, NH as well as from local residents. The females crochet blankets and donate them to homeless shelters, children's hospitals, rest homes, orphanages, and to the elderly. Some donations have been given to the SPCA for pets as well.

The Department of Corrections is always grateful for any donations of yarn and plastic crochet hooks. Please contact Vicki Heyl, Programs Director at 603-742-3310, Ext. 1538.

Book Donations

Recently the facility library received a donation of over 1,000 paperback books. The inmates were pleased to see such a wonderful selection, especially mystery books. Anyone wishing to donate any paperbacks, games, puzzles, or DVD's please contact Vicki Heyl at the same number as above.



“Joy is not a matter of what’s happening around you, but inside you.”

*~ Steve Miller
from his book, “One Minute Promises”*