



**Strafford County Department of Corrections**

# **Family Newsletter**

**August 2010**

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## **Fair Sentencing Act Signed**

On Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup> the Fair Sentencing Act was signed by President Obama. The Act's goal was to improve the disparity between sentencing for crack cocaine versus white powder cocaine.

Under the former law anyone possessing 5 grams of crack cocaine received a mandatory sentence of 5 years; whereas someone possessing white powder cocaine could possess the equivalent of 100 times that amount before serving a mandatory 5 year sentence. The new law narrows the difference to 1-18 in the amount that either could possess. The new law was passed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers.

The Sentencing Project has been a leader concerning the passage of such a law. The passage of this law provides fairer penalties with justice for all.

## **Summer Events A Big Success**

As you can see from the photos I think everyone enjoyed the Barbecues for both the Families & the inmates and staff. The family barbecue went through more than 6 pounds of hot dogs and the balloon lady made lots of animal balloons at the children's request .



The inmate & staff barbecue was also enjoyed based on the many thanks and smiles we received. My thanks goes to all those who helped to make this barbecue a success as well. Many inmates and staff assisted with serving, cooking, and clean up.

## **Mentoring Through Big Brothers Big Sisters**

The Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program builds mentoring relationships between children of incarcerated parents with a trained and screened mentor. These mentors are dedicated volunteers who commit at least one year to the mentoring relationship. Often, however, relationships last many years longer (on average 2.6 years), providing greater strength, support, and friendship to a child in need of a positive role model and a friend for their future success.

Your child will be matched with a volunteer based on their individual needs, personalities, and preferences and then will be assigned a case worker who will help the match build and sustain a relationship. Once a match between a “big” and a “little” is made, matches can participate in a variety of activities such as attending baseball games, visiting libraries and museums, engaging in recreational activities, participating in community service projects, in short, spending quality time together in the community.

Mentoring is not about replacing a parent; it is about providing one more adult in your child’s life to help your child cope with the stressors that they experience as a result of their parent’s incarceration. Having a “big” is fun and it is an easy way to help your child make their way through this difficult world we live in. For more information or to enroll your child, please call Lauren Bradshaw at 603-430-1140, ext. 302.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the greater Seacoast’s mission is to provide successful mentoring relationships for all children who need them, promoting a brighter future, better schools and stronger communities.

The Strafford County Family Reception Center is planning to work together to bring about a more intentional effort to offer this mentoring opportunity to more families that both of our agencies come in contact with should families think that they might like to hear more about the opportunity Big Brothers Big Sisters offers their child. Watch for more information to follow in the fall.

Marilyn Allen  
Family Reception Founder & Coordinator

## **To Dance (by M.G.)**

The music moves within me compels me to dance  
Draws me to the dance floor, I’m embraced and entranced

My body thrumming and flowing perfectly to the beat  
Adrenaline floods my system. I begin to feel the heat

Cannot stop the movements my body makes  
It goes by itself pumping music is all it takes

All my excess energy from being so very stressed  
With my dancing it flows from my body purely expressed

Oh music move me as urgently needed across the dance floor  
Take the pain and stress from me until they are kicking me out the door

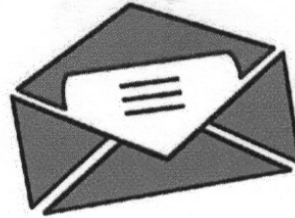
Come oh lovely music put my body to the test  
Bring those awesome feelings on until I don’t think about the rest

Take me high to the sky and clouds where I forget the world  
All safe and wonderful as a lovers arms around me curled

Music compels the dancing natural chemicals rushing through our brains  
Never stop living in the dance and forever let the music reign.

## Offender Connect E-mail

The new offender Connect Email program has now been in effect for about a month. Hopefully it is assisting families that especially don't get to visit and want to get a special message to their incarcerated loved one. The cost is about the same as a stamp and envelope and can be delivered faster than a standard letter.



### OffenderConnect Email

OffenderConnect has a *new* service available to you!

**Visit OffenderConnect today to send your loved one an email message!**

- Compose emails online through OffenderConnect.com for immediate delivery \*
- Avoid purchasing stamps and envelopes
- Review the status of your sent email
- Obtain statements to see account activity
- Receive notification of email sent through your account

OffenderConnect Email – Easy, Fast, Always Available!

Why spend time searching for a stamp and envelope when you can email a message to your loved one?

**Visit [OffenderConnect.com](http://OffenderConnect.com) now to learn more.**

\*All email is subject to review and approval by the participating facility staff. Any inappropriate content, determined by the facility, may cause the email to be rejected.

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From June 2010

# **Strafford County Bounty**

Another year has ended and a new one begins, we are all looking forward to another season of contest, games and good fellowship. I want to thank C.M. fingers in G, J.F in h ALSO thanks to C.R. formerly of H who we all miss. Unit C thanks E.T. and E.R. these guys help me out a lot with organizing the games. Some of the highlights from last year were, 4 FOR THE MONEY, ALL FOR THE CHEESE. If you weren't here it was a big favorite the winners from spades,ping-pong,handball,poker,chess and rummy all played a game of holdem. The winner of the holdem in G and the winner in H cut cards high card take all 50.00 worth of take out food. On one win from unit H, C.R. ordered 60.00 of Chinese food. I don't know if anyone saved him any. McDonalds,Mcdoubles AND Burger King double cheese saw a lot of action the giants were stunned everytime I went in and ordered 30 or 40 of their finest burgers. Not to mention roadies chicken and sals pizza. Anyway I am getting hungry; if you have any new games that everyone can play let me know. Also any basketball games OTHER THAN contact basketball will be considered as last year we don't allow contact basketball this is a long standing order. The reason once again is do to the tremendous cost of the hospital with stitches, broken fingers sprains. NO not even if you are careful. We even had a dislocated shoulder from ping pong so watch out.

Peace through play

Play on

Sergeant McGowen

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From August 2010

## **Good Sports**

I usually write an article about the tournaments we had over the last few months, it always says what we had and who the big winners were and some talk about new games and old ones. I am not going over any of that this quarter as there has been no Drop ball,Spades,Poker,spelling bee,Rummy or anything else. I am repeatedly asked about games and my answer has been the same. Even though we are in some tough economic times the Superintendent nor the Major has not stopped the games, they has been allowed to continue. The problem falls on the housing units themselves as well as myself, a lot of the prizes I have to go get before work to order and pick up, I also deal with some other issues connected with the games. This however has not stopped me in the past as you guys have earned some extra effort so being a good sport I do what I have to and pick up the food and take some negative remarks. This has not been the case the last couple months the problem has been that the housing units ( you) have not been Good sports, the cells have writing and markings on the walls, many have excess trash, photos and other stuff taped to the walls the vents blocked and lights covered as well as being argumentative with staff destruction of clothing. The simplest thing we ask seems too much lately to ask, like no shorts or sweats in the day room till after 21:00, 9:00 pm. We allow this as a courtesy but everyday we have to tell inmates to get dressed, the Lt. and I are looking at just ending the dress down as its more of a pain, misuse of the multi purpose room it's not a work out area, sitting on the tables and trash cans NO, I can go on but i don't have to. If you cannot make an effort with these simple things then you can expect the same in return. I cannot in all honesty reward poor behavior, I would also think that you would want to take some pride in your cell YOU live there it reflects who you are. Lets both get back with the program and be Good Sports and live and work together in mutual dignity and respect. Peace thru play Sergeant McGowen

To All Inmates

From Marilyn Allen

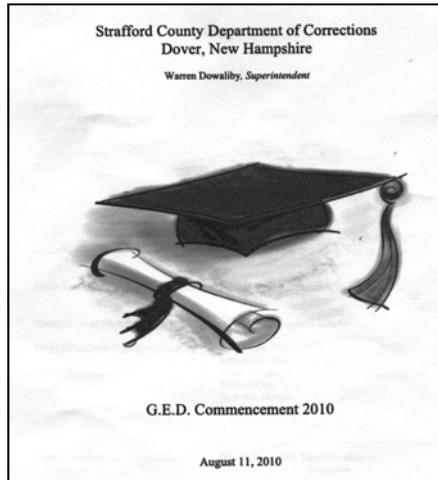
Subject: Photos

I have decided to make a plea for orders for photos again. Our orders are dropping off.. The pictures supports the Family Reception Center that funds the snacks and special events that take place for inmates and families her at the facility. I started the program 8 years ago and there are no tax dollars as mentioned before. We fund our efforts for the center by picture taking of inmates and for 6 out of the 8 years funding through the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund. I am not asking you to take a picture if your family cannot afford it but if they would like to see a picture of you and you can squeak it out of your commissary money that would be great. Please ask your officer on your post if you wish to have a picture request form.



## GED Graduation

Another GED graduation ceremony took place this week. Thanks to the assistance of a teacher from Dover Adult Learning Center and the many volunteers and staff that work with the GED candidates, Strafford County hosts another graduation! I am told by the Program Department that we may again this year graduate the most students from the GED program in the state. Congratulations to all those students that have worked so hard to make this happen.



**These words came from one of this week's graduates.  
Thanks so much for sharing your feelings with us all LF.**

Education will always be of important meaning to me. No one including myself is incapable of receiving the gift to learn. I feel accomplished and eager to continue down the path to greater things. I am now hopeful and inspired to better my life. I want to thank the Dover Adult Learning Center for helping me along the way and giving me the opportunity to succeed.

## Strafford County Jail Industries Passes 2<sup>nd</sup> Year ISO 9001: 2008 Audit

Strafford County Jail Industries is proud to be ISO certified for its second year. This international quality system certification is recognized by all manufacturing companies and clarifies for private sector partners that your operations are adhering to clear and concise guidelines for a superior quality built product. This certification has allowed us to continue to grow our business and employ more inmate workers.

