

# N.C.J VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Northampton County Jail

## Welcome...

Welcome volunteers. 2017 has been filled with many changes and new challenges. I feel this year has been a banner year thanks to your passion for volunteering. You are to be commended. The Jails success has one constant denominator and that has been you the volunteer. Without your dedication and willingness to help others the Jail would definitely not be the same. This year's volunteer appreciation dinner will be taking place in November. Invitations will be forthcoming. I look forward to seeing you all

and saying thanks. If you are a current volunteer and active and do not receive an invite please contact me for confirmation of seating. Thanks for all that you do. Have a wonderful fall season.

Best wishes,

*David B. Lothian*

Volunteer Coordinator



Fall 2017

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## Friendly Reminder...

The correctional setting is a difficult one as many of you know. Schedules are the lifeblood of correctional environment. Without schedules the Jail can become unsafe and

dangerous for those who work and volunteer. Please be sure to adhere to your schedule group times as well as your group location. This enables the jail to run smoothly and safely.

Our goal is to create a safe and secure environment for those facilitators and educators. So, please try to adhere by your particular group time.

## By The Numbers...

The Jail is blessed to work with so many great volunteers and organizations that provide services to assistance those incarcerated. While numbers don't always show a complete picture they can shed light on the great efforts being made. Year to date **1,092** offenders have participated in programs. **38%** have been faith based. **23%** have been treatment based and **21%** re-entry services. Year to date there have been **138** new volunteers approved to volunteer here at the Jail. The Jail averages nearly 4,000 commitments a year. **80%** of these are male

offenders. Female offenders are the Jails fastest growing population.

The largest age group offenders are typically males **18 to 29** year olds. The average stay for a sentenced individual is **103.8** days.

The Jails recidivism rate is around **48%**. Thanks to programs and services provided by you the volunteer and county programs we continue to work on decreasing this number.



### A Brief History Lesson

The first building that would be built with county money was to be a jail and it was to be located on the southeast corner of the "Easton Square". The total cost of this first jail as \$1,066.87, a lot of money in those days. In 1868, approval was given to start construction of a new jail adjacent to the courthouse. This jail was completed in 1871. The next major addition did not occur until 1993 when the county

invested \$7.5 million to have 225 beds added to the facility. In 2006 a \$22.8 million expansion to the prison was completed adding 243 Beds.

**First Execution took place in 1884**



1871 - 2006

## P.E.A.K. Unit News...

The Men's & Women's P.E.A.K. Units continue to grow in a positive way. They continue to offer a healthy learning experience for those seeking change within the walls. This past month the Men's Unit had its 18<sup>th</sup> graduating class and its 81<sup>st</sup> individual completion while the Women's unit continues to grow. The original concept of this unit was to offer self-

enrichment through exploration of one's self.

Many of our wonderful volunteers provide a great many programs and information to these units.

**"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you. "**

**~ Ralph Waldo Emerson**



**Female Graduates**



**Graduates: Sept. 2017**

## Odds & Ends...

- This year's Volunteer appreciation dinner will take place on **November 9, 2017** at **Our lady of Lebanon Church**. Invitations have been sent out as of this newsletter. This is always a wonderful event. Hope to see everyone there.
- Gift donations for children of incarcerated parents program is a wonderful way to help those children. If you

would like to donate to this great cause please contact the Jail's Chaplain Chris Santos for details.

- Feeling alone? Spread the word on volunteering here at the Jail. New volunteers are always welcome. Have them contact the Office of



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## A Word of Thanks...

Thanks to these wonderful organizations for a great 2017

- Career Link
- Lehigh University
- Cornerstone Church
- Recovery Revolutions
- Bright Hope
- Shanti Project
- Yoke Fellowship Ministries
- AA & NA Of the Lehigh Valley
- Born Again Ministries
- Greater Shiloh Church
- Pine brook Family Answers
- Reconstructing Lives
- Fullilove Ministries
- KTH Ministries.
- Allentown Diocese
- All those wonderful dedicated groups not listed

**"All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination."  
~ Earl Nightingale**

## Dear God...

"I realize that this conversation is extremely overdue. See, over time I've lost my way and don't know what to do. I've ignored all of your guidance, every sign and clue. I thought you were true. But, now I'm trapped in such a place. I need something new. So, here it is my Lord. I relinquish all to you. I am tired of this guilt and shame. It's eating me alive. I'm begging for

forgiveness, because I think my soul has died. I hope it's not too late for me, there's still good in my heart. I need a brand new start. So, what do you say God? Can I get another shot? I give all of this to you for you are all I've got. No matter what may happen, I'll remember you're always around. Good or bad, pass or fail its all part of your plan. So, I trust in you my

Lord and now I offer you my hand." Thanks to all the volunteers that have enlightened my heart.

~ Former Inmate

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*"Together we can make a difference"*

We're on the Web!

[www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org)

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[www.northamptoncounty.org](http://www.northamptoncounty.org)

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER**

Training is an essential part of volunteering here at the Jail. All new a current volunteers are required to attend our orientation training before clearance is given. Thanks for your cooperation. See below for upcoming training dates.

Northampton County Department of Corrections is dedicated to the citizens housed in Northampton county Jail. With assistance of the volunteer and outside organizations, the department prepares individuals with the tools to re-enter society and become productive citizens once again. Together we can make Northampton County a better place for all of us. Thanks for your dedication to the development of those incarcerated and to opening the doors of opportunity, one door at a time.

**❖ Remainder 2017 Training Dates:**

- Monday November 13, 2017
- Monday December 11, 2017
- Contact Nate Stahlnecker for info: #610-923-4111
- Class times : at 8am – 4pm

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## Believe In Yourself...

There may be days when you get up in the morning and things aren't the way you had hoped they would be.

That's when you have to tell yourself that things will get better. There are times when people disappoint you and let you down.

But those are the times when you must remind yourself to trust your own judgments and opinions, to keep your life focused on believing in yourself.

There will be challenges to face and changes to make in your life, and it is up to you to accept them.

Constantly keep yourself headed in the right direction for you. It may not be easy at times, but in those times of struggle you will find a stronger sense of who you are.

So when the days come that are filled with frustration and unexpected responsibilities, remember to believe in yourself and all you want your life to be.

Because the challenges and changes will only help you to find the goals that you know are meant to come true for you.

**KEEP BELIEVING IN YOURSELF!**

