

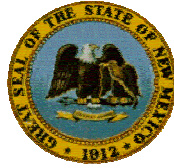
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Corrections Department

Bill Richardson, Governor

Joe R. Williams, Secretary of Corrections

George Tapia, Warden



**PENITENTIARY
OF NEW MEXICO**
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NEWS RELEASE

PENITENTIARY OF NEW MEXICO ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Santa Fe –The Penitentiary of New Mexico (PNM) is pleased to announce the selection of Jane Davis as the prison's Volunteer of the Year. Davis was chosen because she regularly serves the inmate population and encourages the inmates and community members to find a path to peace.

Davis began volunteering with the New Mexico Corrections Department in 1995 when she was living in Atlanta, Ga. She would spend three to six months each year in New Mexico to work with inmates at the penitentiary. After witnessing an electric chair execution in Jackson, Ga., she founded a volunteer organization called HOPE-HOWSE, based on service as a path to peace. Her work as a volunteer growing HOPE-HOWSE includes encouraging men and women, in prisons and on death row, to do community service from where they live. She has worked successfully with re-entry programs for adolescent and adult offenders. In April 2001, she was hired to work as a psychologist at the Penitentiary of New Mexico and was employed with the department working with both inmates and staff. In May 2008, she moved into public policy work with the Behavioral Health Services Division/Human Services Department, for which Jane is a representative on the Prison Reentry Steering Committee.

Over the years, Davis has led many community members to become volunteers and sponsors of inmate self help groups like the Grey Eagles, Black Awareness Group, and Haciendola. In June 2008, Davis began "HOPE-HOWSE Presents Concerts in the Yard & the Spoken Word," where musicians donate their time to bring music to the inmates. She has brought writers, artists, philosophers, businessmen, musicians and other community members into the self-help groups HH sponsors. This year HOPE-HOWSE will be given a table at Indian Market to highlight the artwork and creativity of Native American inmates.

PNM has approximately 864 inmates and 500 staff. The facility is a minimum-restrict and maximum-security prison, incarcerating inmates classified as Level II, V and VI.

The New Mexico Corrections Department will host its annual Volunteer Appreciation Conference on Saturday, April 25, 2009 to honor all prison Volunteers of the Year for 2008. The conference will be held at Grace Church located in Albuquerque. The Corrections Department has approximately 1000 volunteers and 6500 inmates incarcerated in 11 facilities statewide. If you are interested in becoming a prison volunteer, please contact Chaplain Andy Dimas for more information at 505-827-8332.

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