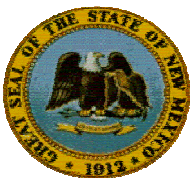


NEW MEXICO

Corrections Department

BILL RICHARDSON, Governor

Joe R. Williams,
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NEWS RELEASE
April 22, 2010

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CENTRAL NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2009

Los Lunas- The Central New Mexico Correctional Facility (CNMCF) is pleased to announce the selection of Deacon Lorenzo Castillo as our facility's "Volunteer of the Year." Deacon Lorenzo was chosen because he has offered hope to the inmates at CNMCF for over 24 years, providing instruction, encouragement, acceptance and love to the inmates, staff, and other volunteers he serves.

Deacon Lorenzo has been actively involved, working with inmates since 1986, as a representative for Santuario de San Martin. For many years, he has been the leader of the Encounter with Christ, also known as "Encuentro." This program offers male inmates an opportunity to spend 72 intense hours at a Tome church with a team of 12 volunteers, examining the inmates' personal spiritual lives to help them become productive citizens in our community. Over the years, the 59 Encuentros have changed countless lives of inmates and volunteers for the better. Deacon Lorenzo has become the leader of our entire Catholic volunteer community and coordinates visits for the archbishop every Christmas. He also oversees the distribution of ashes each year during Lent, and ensures provision of a myriad of other Catholic volunteer services at all three facilities at CNMCF.

CNMCF consists of three separate prison facilities: the main facility includes the Geriatric Unit, Reception and Diagnostic Center, the Mental Health Treatment Center, the Long Term Care Unit, and the Alternate Placement Area. The Level II houses minimum-restrict inmates, and the Level I houses minimum-security inmates. CNMCF has a total population of over 1,300 inmates and about 345 dedicated volunteers who conduct approximately 200 religious and other services each month.

The New Mexico Corrections Department hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Conference on Saturday, April 17, 2010 to honor all Volunteers of the Year for 2009 at all of its prisons. The conference was held at Grace Church, located in Albuquerque. The guest speaker for the event was Tom Lagana co-author of "Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul." The Corrections Department has approximately 1,000 volunteers and 6,500 inmates incarcerated in 10 facilities statewide. If you are interested in becoming a prison volunteer, please contact Homer Gonzales for more information at 505-841-4268 or via e-mail at homer.gonzales@state.nm.us.

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