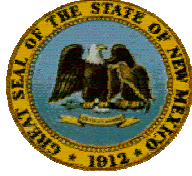


STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Corrections Department

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NEWS RELEASE
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Penitentiary of New Mexico Announces Volunteer of the Year for 2009

Santa Fe- The Penitentiary of New Mexico (PNM) is pleased to announce the selection of Malcolm and Mary Starr Charlton for our facility "Volunteer of the Year." The Charlton's were chosen because of their dedication and outstanding service through the years, encouraging inmates with religious instruction, worship services and hope.

Malcolm started volunteering at the "old main" penitentiary in 1985, as part of a group from Capital Christian Church. The "old main" penitentiary was the site of one of the worst riots in U.S. history, in 1980, where 33 inmates lost their lives. A few years later, Mary Starr, who plays the piano, joined Malcolm and they have ministered as a team ever since. The two have served in all three PNM facilities, conducting various programs ranging from visiting inmates who have to remain in their cells to group bible sharing programs. Currently, both conduct a bi-monthly program at the Level II minimum-security unit, which houses 300 inmates.

The Penitentiary of New Mexico houses approximately 900 inmates in three facilities, the Level II, a minimum-security unit and Levels V and VI, maximum-security units. The penitentiary has an active religious and non-religious volunteer program of about 125 volunteers.

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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