United States Presidential acknowledgement

President Obama acknowledges our wild mustangs in his first official act.

The United States Border Patrol, Spokane Sector Mustang Mounted Unit, received an invitation to march in the January 20, 2009 Presidential Inaugural. Ten wild mustangs, all whom were trained then adopted from our Wild Horse Inmate Program (WHIP), were selected to put their best hooves forward.

Just a few short years ago, these horses were running wild on Bureau of Land Management’s herd areas. They were rescued and put through WHIP, and were then adopted by the U.S. Border Patrol. All of the Border Patrol mustangs have been adopted within the last two years. Our Mustangs have participated in events such as the 53rd Annual Chicago’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade as well as the 70th Annual Spokane Lilac Festival’s Armed Forces Torchlight Parade where they received the top award for “Best Specialty Mounted Unit.” The Noble Mustangs then traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming for Frontier Days, the world’s largest outdoor rodeo and western celebration, where they captured the “Best Mounted Unit” award. Their most highly visible event, the Presidential Inaugural in Washington D.C., was their crowning glory.

In addition to showcasing our beautiful, impeccably trained steeds in these events, their primary function is to patrol the borders between the United States and Canada. Our WHIP Program looks forward to continuing the adoptions to this agency and seeing where they’ll be clomping their hooves next!

For more information on the U.S. Border Patrol, Bureau of Land Management and WHIP search for “Project Noble Mustangs” on the internet.

President and Mrs. Obama wave as the U.S. Border Patrol, Spokane Sector Mustang Mounted Unit ride past their viewing window during the Presidential Inaugural in Washington D.C. January 20, 2009. Photos, above and below, courtesy of the U.S. Border Patrol

WHIP adopted Mustangs selected for Inaugural parade

CCI’s newsletter, “Industries Insight” is christened

Congratulations Connie Sloan (S. Canteen) for being named the winner of CCI’s Newsletter Naming Contest!!! As promised, Connie will be the proud recipient of a fishing rod from the ACC Fly Rod program. Runner up was George Langbein (Oakland Sales) with his slogan of “The Grapevine.” Both titles received several votes from CCI staff, but Connie’s slogan edged George’s out by a smidgen. Steve Smith felt very strongly about both of our title choices, so he’s decided that George will also be receiving a fishing rod—both were true winners! Congratulations as well, George!

We would also like to thank Frank Graber (Tag plant) and Ron Diller (Print shop) for their work on creating two very attractive pieces of artwork. We sure do have a talented bunch of employees in CCI!

Thank you to those who submitted entries, and voted for your favorite title. “Industries Insight” will continue to provide you with the current news and information we all can’t do without in our businesses!
Richard Mouriquand—facing challenges with unwavering courage

For the past 20 years, the Colorado Neurological Institute (CNI) has enjoyed the success of various advancements in patient care, research education and outreach, as well as the extraordinary and inspiring accomplishments of their patients. One of those patients is our very own Richard Mouriquand of the Oakland sales office.

As you may recall, Richard was featured in our October 2008 newsletter, explaining his condition of Arterial Venous Malformation (AVM), and how CCI has accommodated him to continue with his career in Corrections. CCI is not the only organization that has seen the drive, positive outlook, and perseverance that Richard exhibits every day he faces his challenges. CNI has also seen Richard’s courage, strength and hope, and it is for all these exceptional qualities that Richard was selected as one of five individuals to receive CNI’s 2008 Cindy Acree Hope Award, a truly honorable designation! Following is the biography that appeared in the 2008 CNI’s 2008 Cindy Acree Hope newsletter, explaining his condition.

Richard exhibits every day he faces his challenges. At age 20, Richard was diagnosed with a large Arterial Venous Malformation (AVM) in the right frontal lobe of his brain. With surgery too risky due to the size and location of the AVM and virtually no other options available at the time, Richard chose to continue living his life as normally as possible and to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a law enforcement officer. With the approval of his neurosurgeon and the constant support and encouragement of his parents, Richard graduated from the Colorado Police Academy in 2001 and became a deputy sheriff in Canon City, Colorado.

Richard was diagnosed with AVM on his optic nerve ultimately resulting in permanent vision loss for Richard. He is able to only see shadows and light.

Rather than accept defeat, Richard found the courage to move forward—again. In March 2008, he graduated from the Colorado Center for the Blind and has since begun working for (Colorado Correctional Industries,) a division of the Colorado Department of Corrections in Denver. “This whole experience has made me realize how lucky I am,” Richard says. “I feel stronger than ever. It’s also made me more aware of, and amazed by, other people who are living with different challenges and disabilities.”

For Richard’s parents, his courage is both a source of pride and inspiration. “As a parent, you always want your kids to look up to you,” Richard’s dad explains. “But we’re the ones who look up to him. He’s our hero.”

Richard, CCI is honored to have you as part of our winning team. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition!!

For more information or to donate to the Colorado Neurological Institute, log onto www.thecni.org

Richard Mouriquand—facing challenges with unwavering courage

While courage isn’t something Richard Mouriquand talks about, it is clearly a quality that comes to mind when learning about the many challenges he has faced and overcome during his young life.

At age 20, Richard was diagnosed with a large Arterial Venous Malformation (AVM) in the right frontal lobe of his brain. With surgery too risky due to the size and location of the AVM and virtually no other options available at the time, Richard chose to continue living his life as normally as possible and to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a law enforcement officer. With the approval of his neurosurgeon and the constant support and encouragement of his parents, Richard graduated from the Colorado Police Academy in 2001 and became a deputy sheriff in Canon City, Colorado.

“There definitely was a fear after the diagnosis,” Richard explains. “But I didn’t want it to hold me back from everyday life.” Beginning in 2003, Richard’s health challenges began to increase with the onset of mild seizures and increasing severe headaches (as well as) a grand mal seizure in December 2005. (At this point,) the doctors informed Richard he would be a good candidate for a newly developed interventional and neurosurgical treatment.

Over the course of two years, Richard underwent seven embolizations, a specialized process that involves injecting a glue-type substance into the AVM to shut down the blood flow and reduce its size. (Additionally, Richard endured) two craniotomies and finally, Gamma Knife Radiosurgery. Although the procedures were a resounding success, the prolonged pressure caused by the AVM on his optic nerve ultimately resulted in permanent vision loss for Richard. He is able to only see shadows and light.

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CCi saddles are a “creation of pride”

Many of you will recall my announcement, last month, about working with CCI Saddle Company (Colorado Correctional Industries Master Saddle Makers rehab program) to build all future Imus 4-Beat saddles. CCI saddle makers are now completely set up for top-notch production, and saddles are rolling in to National Bridle Shop. These saddles boast all the special quality features of my saddle, plus we have decided to use Wickett & Craig, vat-dyed leather.

There’s been a tremendous number of calls and e-mails from folks wanting to order the new CCI saddles – just wanted to let you know that NOW is the time to do so. Ordering, now will ensure that you have the saddle in plenty of time for those spring trail rides!

Gaits of Gold received the following e-mail from one of their customers:

Hi Brenda, CCI is the same group that makes all of Colorado Saddlery’s saddles. I have a roping saddle that was made there and it’s wonderful. I think the saddles coming out of that program are far and above the “production” saddles made by many other saddle makers. I believe that each saddle an inmate makes is a creation of pride, not just another day done on the job. Congrats on going that route. Based on the saddles I have seen come out of that program, I think the quality will very much please everyone.

René Ferdig
We can not direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails—CCI inmate success stories

Written by Chris Sanchez, CI Site Manager, AVCF

Jose Gonzales released from AVCF in July 2008, after working in the CCI CAD/WEB/DMV shop for eight years. Upon his release, he promised his case manager, Heikei Campbell, that he would go back to his country of El Salvador and become a productive citizen. Well, just one year later, Mr. Gonzales did just that. Ms. Campbell received a phone call from El Salvador last month, and Mr. Gonzales indicated he is now employed in a call center for 1-800-FLOWERS.

Mr. Gonzales stated that Sandra Gray, CCI CAD/WEB/DMV Supervisor at AVCF, made a big impact on him, and for that, he was very grateful. Ms. Gray recalls that when Mr. Gonzales was first hired as a porter in the CCI CAD shop in May 2000, he was on the "gang hall of fame" at the time. After just a short time employed, his entire demeanor began to change, and I could see that his outlook had the potential of being life changing. The porter position was a half day position, but Mr. Gonzales stayed in the shop in the afternoons so he could learn computers on his own time.

While he was employed as the porter, he enrolled in the Vocational Computers course and was promoted to CCI CAD clerk in 2004. He also managed to complete the ARP program and two computer apprenticeship programs while employed with CCI. Many times when Ms. Gray was short a porter, Mr. Gonzales volunteered to do the cleaning as well as his clerk duties. She recalls that he was always positive and never complained. When the CCI CAD/WEB/DMV shop moved to another location in the facility, Mr. Gonzales was right there, front and center, to help. He also took DMV manuals home and studied, again on his own time, so Ms. Gray had a Spanish interpreter for the Call Center.

In his last year in the program, Mr. Gonzales developed a budgeting computer program for CCI to track the shop budgets of the entire division! He worked tirelessly with Mike Jordan, Chief Financial Officer for CCI, to complete the program. He received a letter of commendation from Mr. Jordan for his work.

Success stories, such as this, really bring home what CCI is all about. We take pride in the fact that Mr. Gonzales has developed life skills having worked for CCI, and we wish nothing but success and ownership in his life ahead.

Self-reported success story—K-9 companion program

Dear Ms. Stevens,

Hi, how are things going? I hope all is well on your end. I am doing very well; pushing you some business :o)

I work for Petsmart...No, no, no, not training. I am grooming dogs. They are going to send me to grooming academy in about four months. I make decent money and I must say that your vote of confidence is one of the things that made a real difference.

Every chance I get, which is a lot, I recommend the program to my customers. It’s sort of funny because they ask why I recommend your program? I say, “Because it works!” Their training methods are (very different from CCI’s) and they charge (much higher fees) for (less training than CCI provides). Poor dogs.

Thank you very much for everything. I miss talking with you. You gave me the tools to make this work, and I just wanted to tell you how very much I appreciate you. I work hard but it's very rewarding.

I got in a Newfoundland dog the other day, and he was filthy and matted. Poor guy. He was hangin’ his big ol’ head and just looked shabby. It took me several hours but by the time I was done, he was kissin’ me, and waggin’ his big tail. The people that I work with think I’m crazy because I talk to the dogs and tell them how pretty or handsome they are. It’s something I never thought I’d enjoy, but I sure do.

By the time it’s all said and done, my first pay check was nearly $800, and that’s just for a week! :o) I was hired at a higher wage because of my experience with dogs, so again, thank you!!!

I am going to be all right. I’ll keep pushing the program and stay in touch. You really mean the world to me, and I am thankful every day of my life that God put you in my life. Tell everyone “Hi” for me and that I am doing well.

Thank you so much.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Ryan
#104273

Benefit Changes

If you were recently married, divorced, have a new child, have a child nearing adulthood, etc., you may need to change your benefit selections. State Personnel Rule 11-13 states that any qualifying change must be made with supporting documentation within 31 days of the event causing the change. All changes must be made in the Online Enrollment System AND the documentation forwarded to the Payroll Office (faxes accepted) by close of business on the 31st day or the change will be denied. NO EXCEPTIONS. For assistance with this process, please contact the Payroll Office at 719-269-4043.
Hi Debi,

I just wanted to let you know that Bourbon is settling into our home wonderfully. She is AMAZING! I can't believe how beautiful and well-behaved she is. We have had ZERO issues with her! She listens wonderfully, she's sweet and affectionate, she doesn't chase my cat, and she gets along very well with our other dog. And her obedience is so impressive!

I took her to the Ontario Provincial Police K9 standards Search and Rescue training last week. She is made for this work! She is extremely agile and loves to learn new things...all the other handlers were very impressed by her. We hope she'll be certified by next spring! That will allow Bourbon to become one of the very few officially certified civilian S&R dogs in the province! I sound like a proud Mom!

I have included a picture of her with the other dogs from the Search and Rescue team - they are all Dutch Shepherds too! Bourbon is the one lying down in the middle. This is at the end of their training day, so they are all tired (as you can see from their long tongues).

She is a fantastic dog who loves walking in the woods and playing fetch at the beach...doing anything outdoors. I can't believe how obedient she is. She is getting better with her commands each and every day. I don't know if it's possible for you to share these pictures with her inmate handler, but if you can that would be great. I'd love for him to know how well she is doing and how much we appreciate all his love and hard work. We owe him a heartfelt thank you for his work and dedication. You have an amazing program!

Sincerely,
Michelle (and Darren) Latimer

---

K-9 companion family pet trains for search and rescue

People and Families Get Convenience, Confidence and Love – People and families get a healthy, well mannered, trained and affectionate comrade. Those who adopt also get training in how to relate with, care for and be with their pet so that they have greater ease and enjoyment.

In the CCI program we participated in, we received 2 hours of training, a training DVD and an invitation to return with the dog for refresher classes whenever we like. I can’t speak for other people, but for my wife and me, this extraordinary level of service brought confidence and security, not to mention convenience, and enabled us to properly care for and completely enjoy our new family member. We are very grateful to CCI and to the inmate who trained our dog.

Inmates Get A Life Change and Love – The impact of the K9 program on inmates is profound. Many inmate participants had never before developed personal responsibility. They had little experience of their own value and had limited ability to choose purposeful behavior. And many had limited experience in giving and receiving love. Through caring for a dog, and being cared for in return, inmates experience the transformative power of love and of giving and receiving.

Many of the inmates who participate in the program return to society and claim jobs as dog trainers. While some will never get a direct thank you, many do receive letters of gratitude which become their references for a job.

Prisons Get Performance and Satisfaction – What’s the real reason you go to work and do your job? Some say it is just for money but thousands of interviews have established that job satisfaction is what is at the top of everyone’s list. Prison personnel can take pride in the wonderful results their K9 program is producing; Inmates are becoming productive members of society and experience self-improvement; the dogs benefit; the families benefit; and lastly, the community benefits.

Communities Get Tax-Free Social Benefits For All – The CCI program is funded entirely by contributions from those who adopt their dogs and through grants - no taxpayer money is used. How amazing and wonderful to have a program that is self-funded and provides so many social benefits:

- Much needed animal rescue, care and control; healthier, more productive and responsible citizens; prisoners that rehabilitate successfully; a healthier, safer animal population;
- Public training in animal care; a reduction in the public cost of animal rescue and control; and...love all around.

Let’s Win Some More – I am totally inspired by the “everyone wins” CCI K9 program and it has caused me to review my own business and life choices to ensure that I am creating opportunity for win-win. I am also inspired by the proof that goodness resides in us all, human and animal alike, and when we expect the best and organize for the best, the best can and will happen.

To the person or persons who thought outside the box and came up with this idea of K9 training in prisons, I salute you and am very grateful. For the rest of us, what other ways can we create “everyone wins” programs at all levels of our work and life?

To see Joseph Liberti's complete article, log onto: http://josephliberti.com/2009/05/everyone-wins-what-a-concept/
We all know that offender rehabilitation and skills-training are principal recidivism-reducing tactics for any Department of Corrections agency—and Colorado Correctional Industries (CCI) is a major player in that equation—for our state and every other state in our Nation! Our programs provide the means to achieve success, which can be immediately used when an offender releases and is expected to turn over a new leaf on the streets within our communities.

CCI has been in the successful, yet malodorous, business of raising koi fish for some time; however, it became evident that raising a popular food product would be more lucrative. After some preliminary market research, it became apparent that tilapia was fast becoming the most highly consumed fish in America. In 1999, CCI solicited a meeting with Til-Tech Aquafarm, a Louisiana based corporation, and by 2001, a formal partnership was launched. This joint venture was mutually beneficial, both financially and was one that addressed CCI’s re-entry mission.

Til-Tech is the only certified non-hormone producer of tilapia in the U.S., has a solid customer base (they are the exclusive supplier of tilapia to a nationally known retailer), and has the farm raising knowledge. CCI has the space availability, a flexible labor force, and provides the supervision/offender training required to run the business. Within five years of operation, an aquaculture apprenticeship program was developed for offenders, as well as training in how to run and be a part of a seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) program. This is the start of a great fish story!

When CCI’s production started in 2001, we had just 12,000 sq. ft. of production space. After just eight short years in business, CCI’s current production space measures in at 92,000 sq. ft. with a 12,000 sq. ft. processing facility. Tilapia production is weighing in at 300 pounds of processed fish per week, with 124 offenders assigned. Our expansion plans, over the next three to four years, are underway to increase our production and processing areas to an additional 420,000 sq. ft. This will enable CCI to produce 32,000 pounds of processed tilapia per week and potentially tripling our offender work force, with a 24-hour operation! That’s a lot of fish and a lot of offenders gaining employable work experience!

Offenders who release after working in our aquaculture program could possibly go on to work for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, as well as with our partner, Til-Tech, once they are discharged and can reside out of state. Because this particular market is somewhat specialized, other employable markets offenders are able to tap into include aquacultural enterprises, building site preparation, greenhouse building construction, electrical systems (greenhouse and fresh water tank systems), plumbing (fresh water tank, sewage, and drainage systems), heating and cooling systems (air and water), hauling, fish processing, packaging, and food safety (following the guidelines set forth by HACCP).

Til-Tech and CCI are providing more than just fish on your tables; we are providing enterprise, employable job skills, work ethic, and therapeutic rehabilitation to reduce prison recidivism, improve family lives, and better our communities. Now that’s a doozy of a fish story worth telling!
The men wearing green uniforms and tall rubber boots spread out across the complex, herding goats into pens, pouring grain into feeding troughs and serving as nursemaids to those giving birth.

Many of these guys, all prisoners at the Skyline Correctional Center in Cañon City, had never touched a goat or heard one bleat before becoming involved with Colorado Correctional Industries, a division of the state Department of Corrections. It’s likely, too, that few of the prisoners had ever tasted goat cheese.

But that’s what happens to nearly every drop of milk the prisoners draw from the animals, most of which goes to Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy in Longmont. Cheesemakers there transform thousands of gallons of milk from the Cañon City goats into chevre logs, cubes of feta, pungent rounds of raw milk cheese and more.

And then a shopper at a Costco in Littleton, or a cheese connoisseur at a gourmet boutique in Philadelphia, or a diner at a fancy restaurant in San Diego will buy the cheese. The diner will chew the slice of Red Cloud and marvel over its evocative flavor.

How does milk from a prison complex in remote Colorado end up on the fork of a debutante?

It begins in the pen. Tall, muscular, tattooed and in prison for cocaine distribution, Thomas R. Major III seems an unlikely nurturer of goats.

But a year into his seven-days-a-week apprenticeship, he’s one of the leaders of the goat-milk operation.

“Goats are milked twice a day at the Cañon City goat farm.”

Inmate Francisco Gonzalez prepares the artichoke tortelloni.

At the East Canon Correctional Complex in Cañon City inmates from the Skyline facility tend to the dairy goats. Inmate Francisco Franco (top right) watches the goats come into the milking room.

Raw milk cheese maker Wendy Freund lines up stacks of curds as the goat cheese is made at the Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy in Longmont.

Goat cheese dishes at Rioja in LoDo. Chef Dana Rodriguez prepares the artichoke tortelloni with slices of Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy cheese.

Goat cheese dishes at Rioja in LoDo. Chef Dana Rodriguez prepares the artichoke tortelloni with slices of Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy cheese.

From the pen to the plate

Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy in Longmont.

Haystack employee Bill Napier puts up in his truck, pumps 9,000 pounds of milk into a refrigerated steel tank, and drives back to Haystack Mountain Goat Dairy in Longmont.

Haystack buys milk from the prison because it is the only nearby farm large enough to accommodate the dairy’s needs, said Haystack’s Chuck Hellen.

In June, Haystack took about 110,000 pounds of Cañon City milk.

A syringe-wielding Wendy Freund injected rennet, a substance used to coagulate milk (many rennets come from the lining of calf stomachs, but Haystack uses vegetarian, microbial rennet), into a vat holding 1,800 pounds of unpasteurized — or raw — goat milk, a day after Napier delivered the milk to Haystack. Five minutes later, she pressed a finger on the milk; it had developed a skin.

She dipped a steel device called a harp into the vat and began pulling the milk toward her, breaking the minutes-old curds into smaller pieces. She raked through 180 pounds of curds and 10 times that amount of milk for half an hour. She is slight, with strong arms. “Cheese is a living creature,” she said. “It’s like a big science project every day.”

After raking the curds, Freund hauls scoops of them from the tank and packs them into cheesecloth-lined wheels. The rounds of wet curds drain for a day, and by the time they are placed into a walk-in refrigerator they have gelled and hardened. In cheesemaking parlance, the curds have “knit.”

Haystack turns the goat milk harvested by prisoners into a variety of cheeses, from their best-selling chevre logs, which feature the kind of simple, pasteurized goat cheese that you can spread like thick hummus, to Sunlight, a raw-milk cheese that you slice.

Soon, they may be adding a camembert to the list, a project the head cheesemaker, Jackie Chang, has been working on since January. “I wanted a mushy, lemony taste,” said Chang, in red rubber boots and red shorts one afternoon as a fresh load of milk from the prison arrived. “That’s the part about my job I love, experimenting every day. It’s like raising kids. Lots of caring, lots of love.”

“I go into the cheese aging room and I can feel if the cheeses are happy or not,” she said. “The smell. It’s like you can talk to them.”

The product of at least some of Chang’s — and the prisoners’ — toil ends up every week at the Denver restaurant Rioja, where Haystack cheese makes appearances in a wide variety of dishes. Chef and owner Jennifer Jasinski buys so much goat cheese from Haystack that the company ships it to the restaurant, instead of going through a distributor.

Why Haystack? “The quality is the first answer. I think it’s an excellent product. And I like that it’s 40 minutes away. If it were close and not good, though, I wouldn’t buy it.” She added: “It has a great tanginess to it. It adds an in-depth flavor to things.”

Elsewhere in the kitchen a cook placed dollops of a Haystack goat-cheese and artichoke mousse onto squares of fresh pasta, which he then folded into tortelloni, which are large versions of tortellini.

As people talked and ate in the dining room, waiters carried four different plates containing Haystack-embellished dishes through the room. And then came the signature dish, the artichoke tortelloni.

Rachel Ladefoged sat at a window seat with a colleague. She sipped her glass of Rioja, pressed the edge of a fork into the artichoke and goat cheese tortelloni, and brought the wedge of cheese and pasta to her mouth.

“Mmm,” she said. “It’s good.”

Carson City cons turn goat herders as they produce milk for Haystack cheese dairy. It takes a toll on inmates: it’s softening ‘em up.


Major III seems an muscular, tattooed and It begins in the pen. Tall, a debutante?

Colorado end up on the prison complex in remote Marvel over its evocative slice of Red Cloud and buy the cheese. The diner will chew the met boutique in Philadelphia, or a diner more.

City goats into chevre logs, cubes of feta, pouring grain into feeding troughs and serving as nursemaids to those giving birth.

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“Goats are milked twice a day at the Cañon City goat farm.”

Inmate Thomas Major III attaches the milking devices to the goats as they are milked.

Major and the other 29 men who tend the animals give them vaccinations, trim their hooves, move around hay, build barns, clean the milking machines and do everything else it takes to run a goat farm. By the end of the summer, the prisoners at the Castle Rock Complex will manage about 2,000 goats, including Alpines, Nubians and Toggenburgs, said Mary Provost, who oversees the operation.

Most of the minimum-security prisoners shurg when asked whether they will pursue careers in livestock when they emerge from prison.

Not Vincent Gonzalez, 26, who is in for kidnapping, “I like milking,” said Gonzalez as he cleaned equipment in a small, humid room full of stainless steel tanks. “When I get out, hopefully, my parents have land near Calhan. They want me to learn as much as possible so I can open a goat business.”

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“Mmm,” she said. “It’s good.”
Bruce Bradley has just wrapped up his Retailing Management class at the Denver Canteen shop. The seven eager “graduates” anxiously await receiving their certificates of completion and their unofficial transcripts showing the grade they received, from DOC’s Education department. This is a big day for these seven inmates. Most of Bruce’s students have had a rough time on the outside, so taking these classes really help with their self-esteem, feeling of self-worth, keeping themselves out of prison later, and continuing their education.

Bruce found out, a long time ago, that a lot of the inmates who get into his classes, do very well without a lot of coaxing; this is because no one is telling them they can’t do it. It’s that simple. “The female inmates really work hard toward completion of their course work because these classes make them feel good about themselves, and they are completing the courses independently.” Simple.

Taking courses, such as the one’s Bruce and his crew are providing, provides everyone with hope that the inmates won’t return to prison. “Part of our job is to keep the inmates out of prison, so if we have a way of slowing the recidivism rate down just a little bit, that is a big accomplishment.”

Bruce has conducted his own, unofficial survey of inmates who have paroled or discharged, who have taken some of his courses. Of the approximate 100 inmates surveyed who have released over the last five years, only 10% have re-offended and returned to prison. That is an outstanding accomplishment, and one that Bruce takes personally. “If I save just one person from coming back to prison, that is a pretty big deal. It’s a very rewarding feeling.”

In addition to furthering inmates’ education, working in Canteen provides work ethic and longevity, and produces employable inmates upon release. Sandy Knudsen offers a training course in forklift operation and provides a certificate to those who pass the course. Canteen is a very demanding business; daily goals must be met and work has to get done so that there are no unhappy “customers” at any of our facilities. These are all strong jobs skills which can be immediately put to use when working on the outside.


Bruce has a teaching certificate through the state of Colorado and has been teaching for eight years. When you speak to Bruce, you will feel his passion for education which is genuine and positive. The ladies who work in Canteen should feel lucky to have such great instructors and even luckier to gain the education and experience from working for such positive role models.
961...962...963...AND THE CROWD GOES W-I-L-D!!

CSPII steel cell project is checked off the to-do list!!

Written by Cheryl Ahumada, CCI Sales/Marketing Coordinator. Contributed by Andy Klinkerman, CCI Manufacturing Division Manager.

The CSPII steel cell design and budgetary process started over four years ago, in 2005. There was a significant cost savings keeping this project in-house, utilizing CCI and our joint venture partner MSSI, in addition to building a rapport. Over time, this team of professionals saw the quality of product CCI produced, and became very supportive of our role in this project.

The original cell prototypes went through extensive review and changes to arrive at the final product. CSPII steel cells are a tribute to the diligence and can-do attitude, of both CCI and FMS. Kudos are in order to everyone in the metal and heavy equipment shops—but one staffer, in particular, that worked in the metal shop until we were done building cells, and then transferred to heavy equipment to fulfill the remaining scope of project, was Pat Gallegos. Pat was there, from the very beginning until the very end, and his dedication toward this project is noteworthy. CCI Transportation department should also not go unnoticed, as each cell was delivered on a will-call basis, having to be delivered on a moment’s notice to CSPII.

When the last cell was lifted through the air, delivered and welded into place on July 9, 2009, it was almost like seeing your child graduate college—there was a feeling of personal pride and accomplishment. There were lots of jubilation and cheering from the crowds, and a construction site celebration ensued! CCI is hopeful that the experience of building steel cells will provide a stepping stone to building additional cells for other projects within Colorado, and for other states as well.

Acknowledgements

Metal shop: Dave Pagnotta, Les Hilburn, Rob Anderson, Joe Carochi, Dan Henderson, and Pat Gallegos.

Heavy Equipment: Dave Sloan, Glen McKinney, Dennis Delong, Dan Miell, Danny Padilla, Brandon Wolfe, Robert Wright, and contract employees Rainy Brooks, Josh Hughes, and Matt Waggener.

Transportation: Alan Werner, Stoney Adams, Orville Blosser, and everyone in the metal shop.

“Congratulations CCI! Setting the final cell in place is a very significant milestone in the CSPII project. All involved with producing and placing the cells should be very proud of the accomplishment. Thank you.”

Mark Crisman
Program Manager, Jacobs

“Congratulations to all of those involved in the design, production, and placement of the CSPII Steel Cells!!! Everyone should be very proud of an extremely high quality job, well done!!! FMS and the entire CSPII team have been very fortunate to have you all on the job.

“Thank you again for all you’ve done to make this project come in on time and within budget.”

Richard Weems
Director, CDOC Facility Management Services
For they are jolly good fellows...which nobody can deny!

Dick Romine, CIPS
Dick Romine retired from CCI after 12 years of service to the State of Colorado. Dick started in 1997 at CMC as an electronics sergeant, transferred two years later to FCF in telecommunications, went on to the Field Office in 2001, and in 2002 was picked up by CIPS. Dick was responsible for the offender satellite television program for all state facilities.

Pablo Encinias
Panel shop, AVCF

Pablo's career was undoubtedly one of the longest in CCI history. Pablo started in state government in 1976, working for the State hospital. In 1988, he transferred to the furniture refurbishing shop at AVCF, and when that shop eventually moved to SCF in 1995, Pablo chose to transfer to the Panel shop to stay close to home; this is where he has finished out his career for the past 14 years—a total of 33 years to the State of Colorado!

In just 14 short years at the panel shop, Pablo has seen a large increase in panel systems from just two, to over five different systems, and he sees that that will continue to increase. He feels that this is a testament to our skill set.

Although hard, Pablo finally decided to retire while he is healthy and able to travel, fish, and visit his nine grandchildren spreading throughout Colorado and Arizona. During his retirement party, Pablo indicated he was going to miss the people the most, the facility, plus the daily challenges of working inmates. “Through all the years I’ve worked, I’ve met a lot of people and have respected them. It was a pleasure getting to know every one of you, and hopefully you’ll get to a point where you can retire also.”

Just Because God Said It's Okay

By Katie Encinias

A young boy and girl walked along life’s pathway to wed, to grow, to become as one—then to be blessed with one daughter and two sons.

We’ve laughed and played, we’ve made the grade, we’ve traveled and planted our tree. The road was tough, we’ve done our stuff, to make a great family.

God blessed us dearly with nine precious seeds of love. Our grandchildren he gave us as his gifts from above.

I love you babe, you’ve made us proud, you deserve this special day. It all began 44 years ago when God said, “It’s okay.”

Karen Harding, Fiscal Office
Karen Harding started her career in State government in 1986, 23 years ago, working as a cashier in the business office of Centennial and in the snack bar of CTCF. In 1990, Karen transferred to Accounts Payable where she worked for 12 years before she came over to CI in 2002 for her remaining 7 years of employment.

Karen has seen lots of transition, and indicated she really enjoyed working for CI the best! “It was very challenging working with 40-50 different shops because each one worked as a separate business.”

This left Karen with very little time, but was exactly what she enjoyed the most. Karen and her husband are looking forward to taking several small trips throughout the U.S., catching up on house work, gardening, and playing with their four grandchildren. She’s anxious to enjoy life from a whole new viewpoint! Karen indicated, “I will really miss the women in the shop because they were wonderful to work with. CI staff are certain kinds of people you just don’t find in most businesses, and I wish you all well, and will miss everyone.”

Thanks for all of your years of service, Karen, your absence will leave us all “empty handed!”

Ray Deluca
Oakland Sales Office

Ray Deluca has been working in the Denver sales office for 19 years, and one would think that a “salesman” would be full of stories and recounts for that many years, but not Ray! Ray really has this retirement thing down pat, already...all he wanted to say was that he’s looking forward to relaxation and the easy life! He plans to do a little traveling within the U.S., seeing his kids and two grandchildren, and getting married at the end of the summer. This sounds like he really planned his retirement around one big wedding party! Smart man, Ray...happy wife, happy life!!

In the end, Ray stated, “I’ll miss all the people I worked with, and I wish everyone well.” Happy trails to you, Ray.

Mike Kelly
Garment Factory, LCF

Mike Kelly started working for CCI at the Limon Correctional Facility in 1995, and he has never left! In his 14 year career with CCI he has seen many changes within the facility as well as their product line. Back in 1995, the only manufactured product was inmate clothing. Since then products such as embroidery, flags, and silk screening have been added. Special projects are not uncommon, which present the challenges of meeting those deadlines, all the while maintaining their current fast-paced work load.

Mike voluntarily commuted to work 140 miles each day, and now looks forward to traveling on different roads other than Hwy 24! He has three children and five grand children who will be getting to know grandpa a little bit better. He’ll also be visiting family in Iowa, golfing, gardening, and sleeping in.

Mike wanted to pass on this message to the rest of our staff; “To all CI employees I’ve had a chance to work with, either in person or over the phone. It’s been great working with you, and I wish you the best. Be patient, everyone’s time comes sooner or later, and we’ll all go through this (retirement). I appreciate the support from upper management throughout the years. Farewell, and I’ll see you on down the road!”

[Image of Mike Kelly]
The corner office

Written by Cheryl Ahumada, CCI Sales/Marketing Coordinator

Warden Travis Trani has been a long time supporter of CCI. Since his reassignment to the Limon Correctional Facility as Associate Warden in 2006 and then later as Warden in 2008, he has seen multiple examples of camaraderie between DOC and CCI Garment shop staff. This was highly visible when I accompanied him through the facility, and I got to see, first hand, the warmth and companionship all staff shared with one another. Warden Trani pointed out that since Limon is so volatile and isolated from other prisons, DOC and CCI staff continually rely upon and support each other, and there are no divisions between the two organizations.

Warden Trani went on to indicate that CCI helps to meet the overall mission of the facility by providing effective supervision and incentive based goals. Inmates model and maintain appropriate behavior while at work and this, in turn, helps stave off security issues from the inmate population when they are “off the clock.” “CCI provides positive work experience and work ethic that can transfer to work environments outside and this holistic approach generates lower rates of recidivism for the State of Colorado.” In addition to providing benefits for the inmates, Warden Trani also sees the financial windfall for tax payers; CCI is self funded, thereby saving general fund allocations from the State of Colorado. “This is a win-win situation for inmates and citizens alike in our community.”

I asked whether the CCI garment shop has been involved in community activities in Limon. Warden Trani indicated that each year, starting Memorial Day weekend, the Limon Chamber of Commerce proudly displays our flags throughout their downtown streets, and they fly high and strong through the end of summer.

Warden Trani would like to see the CCI programs expand in the coming years in the areas of Tilapia and Canine companion program. “With the addition of new personal alarm systems for staff, this will allow more inmates to become employed by CCI, which would offer a huge benefit to our offenders and staff, alike. I look forward to future partnering to expand and improve programs to help us meet our mission and help us better manage our facility.” It should be noted that in 2002, Warden Trani, while a Custody Director, and commitment to CCI, our canine companion program has succeeded and expanded to a total of eight DOC facilities.

Thank you, Warden Trani, for your support and vision for the future of your inmates, and further growth for CCI.

The last word from our Director

Turn a negative into a positive.

We’ve all heard this saying before, but now during these economic challenges, it is especially important that we all keep an open mind concerning our business and reach that light at the end of the tunnel. We have some tough decisions to make in the future—each of us will contribute in some way toward the end result of securing our jobs, staying profitable, and keeping an eye toward our future.

Some of us may be assigned duties you were not initially hired to do; some of us may temporarily work in locations out of our residing cities; and some of us may have to cut our operating lines in order to achieve the same ultimate goal—protecting our organization. In doing so, think of all the positives we will be achieving. We will learn to run our businesses more efficiently. We will learn varied business practices from one another. We will meet and work with new staff. There are always bright spots, if you choose to see them.

I’d like to thank staff who have made personal sacrifices and shown the true spirit of cooperation during these difficult times. It is my goal to protect jobs and secure the livelihoods for all of our employees, and it is the dedication of our CCI employees that allow us to ride out the storm together.