STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

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Contact: John R. Painter
john.painter@state.de.us
302.857.5232

Probation & Parole collects more than 400 winter clothing items

Annual collection drive supports agencies & charities across the state

The annual Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) Probation & Parole winter clothing drive, Operation ZiPP Up, recently concluded with nearly 300 coats and more than 100 additional cold-weather clothing items, such as hats, gloves, scarves and boots, being collected for disbursement to shelters, churches and charities throughout the state.

"I am incredibly proud of the generosity shown by DOC employees and members of the community who supported this collection effort," said Senior Probation Officer Dennis Desilet, who coordinated Operation ZiPP Up with assistance from fellow officers Belinda Vann, Kate Giannone, Melissa Harris, Michele Graybeal-Hunt and staff members Stacey Mulholland and Mary Boston-Harvey. "In these difficult times a warm coat may not be a luxury some can afford, but these donations will ensure people in need have proper clothing this winter."

The collection effort was driven by Probation & Parole officers in Dover, Georgetown, Seaford, New Castle, and Wilmington, but Desilet also acknowledged the strong support of the Middletown and Dover police departments, as well as 'Knitting to Nurture' from Wyoming United Methodist Church and The Good Samaritan Outreach Worker in Laurel.

"A large part of the success of this year's campaign is directly attributed to the additional community commitment we received," said DOC Commissioner Carl Danberg. "Corrections employees have always been very supportive of the communities where they live and work, but that added element of support made a tremendous impact this year."

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From left – Probation Officers Lauren Press, Shaun Hearn and Michele Graybeal-Hunt deliver coats and hats collected during Delaware Probation and Parole's annual 'Operation ZiPP Up' winter clothing drive to Dan Gonzalez and fellow staff members at Emmanuel Dining Room in Wilmington.

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