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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
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## **Incarcerated Veterans Donate Funds to Local Veteran-focused Agencies** *Inaugural donation ceremony provides money to three community programs*

A compassionate and dedicated group of veterans currently incarcerated at the Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) in Georgetown has been actively fundraising over the past year so they could offer financial support to agencies and organizations that provide services to veterans living in the local community.

The Incarcerated Veterans Group (IVG) donated \$1,000 to People's Place Veterans Outreach Program and \$700 each to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Ladies Auxiliary and the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans during an April 12 ceremony held at the prison. It is hoped that such donations, which were funded through inmate fundraisers such as sales of spices and food seasonings purchased from local retailers and sub sandwiches made by the Ellendale VFW Ladies Auxiliary, can become an annual event.

Established in 2010 and open to any inmate with a verified Department of Defense Form DD-214 record of military service, IVG has a membership that fluctuates between 40-60 inmates.

Monthly meetings are held to not only plan the group's quarterly fundraisers, but to familiarize members with federal, state and privately-funded programs available to assist them during their period of incarceration as well as when they are released from prison.

"The idea for this group was to bring veterans together to provide comradeship and support and to make them aware of programs and opportunities available to them as they transition back into the community," said SCI counselor James Deel, who, along with staff liaison officer Lieutenant Dan Devern, supervise the IVG program. "Through this concerted effort, the program has been able to secure housing, stable employment and enrollment into treatment programs for many veterans being released from SCI."

SCI Warden G.R. Johnson fully supports IVG and is proud that staff members have looked for ways to assist the facility's veteran inmate population. "It is our goal to see this program grow and flourish so it can continue providing opportunities to veterans and the community-based programs that support them."

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Joseph Cipolla (left), Treasurer of Sussex Correctional Institution's Incarcerated Veterans Group, presents a donation of \$1,000 to Michael Rowe of People's Place.



Bruce White (left), Vice President of Sussex Correctional Institution's Incarcerated Veterans Group, presents a donation of \$700 to Judith Lawson of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2931.

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Kevin Spivey (left), President of Sussex Correctional Institution's Incarcerated Veterans Group, presents a donation of \$700 to Dave Mosley of the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans.

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