



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

Incarcerated Veterans Make Donations to Local Veterans Groups *Money presented to community programs during special ceremony*

The Incarcerated Veterans Group (IVG) at Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI) in Georgetown recently presented donations totaling \$4,500 to four agencies and organizations that provide services to veterans living in the local community.

Generated by fundraising events held throughout the year, the money was presented to representatives from People's Place Veterans Outreach Program, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Ladies Auxiliary Post 2931, the Delaware Center for Homeless Veterans, and AMEN House of Oak Orchard during a special June 13 ceremony. The ceremony also included guest speakers Master Sergeant Georgia Powell from the 193rd Special Operations Wing - Pennsylvania Air National Guard, John Knox, Executive Director for the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs, and Christopher Klein, Deputy Chief of the Department of Correction's Bureau of Prisons.

"The compassionate and dedicated veterans in the IVG program want to offer assistance to those helping veterans in the local area," said SCI counselor James Deel, the group's supervisor. "This ceremony offers a special opportunity for IVG to connect with and show their support for those agencies and organizations."

This is the second year IVG has been able to offer financial assistance to local veteran-focused organizations. Last year's donations totaled \$2,400.

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 behind IVG is to bring veterans together for comradeship and support, but it is also used as an avenue to make them aware of programs and opportunities available to them as they transition back into the community," said Deel. "With that focus, the program has been able to secure housing, stable employment and enrollment into treatment programs for many veterans being released from SCI."

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William Barrall (left) and Aaron Jefferson of the Incarcerated Veterans Group at Sussex Correctional Institution in Georgetown present a donation to Sheila Morgan of VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 2931.

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