



NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Terra Taylor

Presented by Jason Miller, Office of the Commissioner, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

245 McKee Road | Dover, DE 19904 | Office: 302.857.5232 | Jason.Miller@delaware.gov

Department of Correction collaborates with partners to deepen family connections, facilitate community outreach to incarcerated individuals this holiday season

Dover, DE -- Individuals who are incarcerated in Delaware's correctional facilities are receiving some extra holiday support this week thanks to strong partnerships that the DOC has embraced to overcome physical barriers and celebrate the season in state prison and community corrections facilities.

“The holidays are a time to visit with family, connect with friends, and share in the gift-giving tradition and the Department of Correction is making efforts to create those experiences for incarcerated individuals inside our facilities,” **Commissioner Terra Taylor said.** “Free video visits and phone calls with loved ones, delivering holiday greeting cards and snack packages from community-serving partners, preparing a special holiday meal, and offering voluntary faith-based programs to the individuals in our custody bring people together in the spirit of the season during a time when we know the impact of family separation is especially felt by many.”

Systemwide holiday supports:

The Salvation Army produced more than 5,000 holiday bags featuring an assortment of snack that are being delivered to every incarcerated person across all prison and community corrections facilities. The Salvation Army has provided this support each year for more than a decade.

- **The Department of Correction** has arranged for every incarcerated individual to receive a free video visit with family over the holidays. This free video visit comes on top of weekly free call time that is already provided to incarcerated individuals in prison and community corrections facilities. This marks the fifth year that the DOC has arranged this holiday-related family support through its telecommunications provider, ViaPath Technologies.

Facility-specific partnerships:

Emmanuel House of Praise church in Seaford prepared personalized greeting cards and snacks for all Sussex Correctional Institution and Baylor Womens Correctional Institution inmates (more than 1,400

individuals). This represents the fifth consecutive year of the congregation's holiday outreach to incarcerated individuals.

- **Just Detention International** produced individualized hand-decorated Words of Hope holiday greetings cards for all Howard R. Young Correctional Institution and Community Corrections Treatment Center inmates (more than 1,450 individuals). This is the second year of the organization's initiative with the DOC.
- The [Prison Fellowship Angel Tree® program](#) purchased and delivered gifts to 100 children of inmates across multiple facilities on behalf of their incarcerated parent. This represents a decade plus-long partnership between Prison Fellowship and DOC's Chaplaincy program.

“Our holiday-related initiatives and partnerships are made possible thanks to strong support from facility leadership, chaplains, treatment staff, and our Correctional Officers who go above and beyond to deliver the holiday spirit to individuals inside our facilities,” **Deputy Commissioner Shane Troxler added.** “We want to recognize and thank our committed and dedicated employees who spend long hours on the job, including missing their own family celebrations while working holiday shifts.”

The attached images feature a sample of DOC's holiday-related initiatives for incarcerated individuals.



FREE VIDEO VISIT

DOC has arranged for every inmate to receive one free
10-minute video call to connect
with family and loved ones during the holiday season.

The free video call will appear as a
credit on your ViaPath account starting
Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

This free video call is in addition to the free weekly
five minute phone call that appears as a credit on your
ViaPath account.

**THIS 10-MINUTE VIDEO CALL CREDIT WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR ONE WEEK UNTIL DECEMBER 26.**

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Happy Holidays

Wishing you *strength*
and *peace* of mind.

You are *valued*,
and you are in my thoughts.

Warm wishes from a supporter of Just Detention International



Usted se merece amor,
paz y felicidad. Sepa que
NO está sola. No dejaremos
de luchar por usted.

¡Felices fiestas!

Warm wishes from a supporter of Just Detention International



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