
President's Volunteer Service Award Conferred on Arizona State Prison Complex Eyman/Meadows Unit Inmates by SJM Family Foundation, Reports FromHereToTheStreets

Staff and volunteer inmates worked together to give back to the community

For Immediate Release

FLORENCE, Ariz./EWorldWire/May 29, 2009 --- The President's Volunteer Service Award has been awarded to the Arizona State Prison Complex Eyman/Meadows Unit Inmates by the SJM Family Foundation. As one of thousands of certifying organizations participating in the program, SJM Family Foundation confers the award to recognize the outstanding achievements of volunteers.

Established in 2003, the President's Volunteer Service Award is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering.

The President's Volunteer Service Award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created by President Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to the United States. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits and volunteer service organizations, and community volunteering.

This is the first time the award has been given to a group of prison inmates.

Of all the people - staff and inmates - who supported these activities, the first credit must go to Deputy Warden (DW) Curran. Nothing happens in a prison without the support of its warden. In this case, Deputy Curran has gone above and beyond with support of community betterment and volunteer activities.

Most notable was a food drive which generated nearly \$2000 dollars for hungry families. The activity was Curran's idea, and he allowed the inmate Peer Educators to facilitate it. All of the Meadows Unit inmates who volunteered in community betterment activities were motivated by a sincere desire to help people in need.

The Meadows staff members were instrumental in providing the opportunities for these inmates to participate. Without their help, none of the activities would ever take place.

Meadows Unit inmates owe their success to Deputy Warden Curran, COIV Cottrell, COIV Savinen, Lt. Ping, Sgt. Moreno, COIII Saucedo, COIII Kraicinski, Health Educator O'Donnell, and all of the other Meadows Unit COIIIs.

All of the Meadows Unit uniformed staff supported these activities and deserve praise as well. Staff and Inmates worked together to give back to the community; the cooperation is what made everything possible.

The inmate volunteers facilitating these community betterment activities are Peer Educators and Peer Mentors. Three-time NFL Pro Bowl Offensive Tackle Luis Sharpe is one of these volunteers. A few of the other volunteers include:

. Steve Warner. A Peer Educator and Mentor who is returning to the community after 25 years in prison. Warner is an inspiration for all who know him. He is one of the original volunteers and has participated and worked in hundreds of charitable fund raising events and activities. He is one of the original Peer Educators from the pilot program.

. Muktar Najee-Ullah. A Peer Educator and Mentor who has been participating in and facilitating programs for over 30 years. He is a volunteer who sets a positive example within the prison community and is always mentoring younger inmates around him.

. Troy Froehlich. A Peer Educator and Mentor who teaches and facilitates several different programs and classes. After turning his life around during his 18 years in prison, Froehlich encourages others to change their thinking, volunteer, and help others.

. Gary Shepherd. A "success story" who has literally gone from being one of the worst to one of the best. He continually encourages those around him to turn away from criminal thinking, and he uses his reputation and respect to help his fellow inmates change their lives.

. Chris Jenkins. Jenkins is currently working on a Ph.D. in Psychology and Christian Counseling. He works as a chaplain's assistant and is also one of the original Peer Educators from the pilot program.

. Joseph Chiappetta Jr. A Peer Educator and Mentor who is also a published author and an inmate facilitator for pre-release and transitional programs. With the help of his family, Chiappetta created a Web site, FromHereToTheStreets.com ('http://www.fromheretothestreets.com') that provides useful resources for inmates and their families.

HTML: <https://www.eworldwire.com/pressreleases/19582>

PDF: <https://www.eworldwire.com/pdf/19582.pdf>

ONLINE NEWSROOM: <https://www.eworldwire.com/newsroom/313956.htm>

LOGO: <https://www.eworldwire.com/newsroom/313956.htm>

CONTACT:

Joseph Chiappetta

FromHereToTheStreets

1111 Lake Terrace 205c

Boynton Beach, FL 33426

PHONE. 561-445-6333

EMAIL: joejr122@gmail.com

<http://www.fromheretothestreets.com>

KEYWORDS: Award, prisons, education, book, incarceration, prison time, reformed inmate, inmate reform, model citizen, law enforcement, prison activity, philanthropy, community assistance, community service, prison population, prison inmate activity, positive criminal reformation

SOURCE: From Here To The Streets