

# On The **SCENE** Magazine



## What's Inside...

A Message from Secretary Erik A. Hooks pg. 2

One Last Glance at 2018 pg. 3

Milestone Marked for the 145th Airlift Wing pg. 12

Foothills Correctional Officer Receives Two Prestigious Awards pg. 14

State Capitol Police Welcomes New Chief pg. 15

State Highway Patrol Holds 2018 Awards Ceremony pg. 16

Community Corrections Staff Gives Back to Children pg. 20

The Real Meaning of Holiday Spirit pg. 22

DPS Gives Back pg. 23

# A Message from Secretary Erik A. Hooks

Happy New Year! On behalf of the DPS executive leadership team, I want to thank each and every member of the DPS family for continually striving to improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians by enhancing public safety.

Your initiative, thoughtfulness and compassion towards all people, as well as your passion for excellence, allows us to fulfill our greater mission of ensuring North Carolina is a safe place to live, work and visit.

The weather and criminal behavior seriously challenged us many times in 2018. But each time, our various teams across this agency rose to the occasion.

You excelled in every way during those extreme circumstances and I was and am, proud to serve as your Secretary. In 2018, we had many great accomplishments, some of which are outlined below. We also faced many other challenges and experienced profound pain and loss when our colleagues paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As we begin 2019, let us continue working diligently and professionally-- as one DPS team on the tasks and goals before us.

Again, thank you for all that you do for North Carolina, we truly appreciate your hard work. I look forward to working with our many dedicated employees towards a successful and productive 2019!



# One Last Glance at 2018

For many employees within DPS, 2018 was a year of excitement, grief, new beginnings and lessons learned. After this year exceeded hurricane damage records in North Carolina, it is not hard to imagine that most DPS employees were ready for 2018 to come to an end.

Our state endured many weather-related disasters this past year. But through each onslaught, all areas of DPS banded together to prevent, protect and prepare North Carolinians. We deployed resources outside of normal work zones and safely evacuated juveniles and offenders out of harm's way. Responding to the historic weather events of 2018, we came together from across different divisions and forces to ensure the public's safety.

Everyone within the department should proudly reflect not only on the many accomplishments carried out during North Carolina's natural disasters, but on all of the challenges we overcame throughout the year.

Here are just a few of the accomplishments completed by DPS employees in 2018:

## *NC State Highway Patrol*

- Responded across the state to 34 major incidents such as natural disasters, emergency situations and protests, where additional resources and manpower were needed.
- Helped plan and implement safety/security for the World Equestrian Games held in Mill Spring. Despite Hurricane Florence's landfall, visitors came from around the world to attend the event.
- Graduated three Basic Patrol Schools (144, 145 and 146th) in 2018. These schools put 65 new troopers on our roadways protecting the people of North Carolina.



## *Emergency Management*

### Greensboro/Rockingham County Tornado recovery

- Federally declared disaster with FEMA/State recovery centers opened in two counties.
- More than 1,400 people registered for FEMA assistance and nearly \$700,000 in state/federal assistance provided.

## Western NC Floods/ Tropical Storm Alberto

- SBA and USDA disaster recovery programs activated.
- Proceeding with state disaster declaration for eligible areas for this event.

## Hurricane Florence response and recovery

- Rescued more than 5,000 people during response – sheltered nearly 22,000 on busiest night.
- Total federal aid distributed has surpassed \$1 billion.
- Placed first temporary housing units within two weeks from end of rescue operations.
- Launched STEP program for partial housing repairs to return people to their homes.
- Expecting more than \$1 billion in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) block grants for disaster recovery.



## Continued Hurricane Matthew recovery

- Hazard mitigation grants awarded totaling nearly \$82 million to buyout, elevate or reconstruct more than 640 properties.
- \$7.5 million in HUD block grants for disaster recovery awarded to more than 200 residents.

## Reaccredited by Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) for another five years

- This is the second reaccreditation for North Carolina's emergency management program (first accredited in 2008, reaccredited in 2013).

## *North Carolina Office of Recovery & Resiliency*

- Authorized by the legislature with a staff of 45 employees.
- Hired 16 employees and continuing to staff new positions.
- Managing \$403 million in HUD block grant funds for Hurricane Matthew recovery and an expected \$1 billion + for Hurricane Florence.
- Streamlining the process for Matthew survivors in need of help and working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in planning the HUD-funded relief program for Hurricane Florence survivors.



## *North Carolina National Guard*

- Mobilized approximately 1,150 Guard men and women for federal overseas deployments to locations like: Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Romania, Germany and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.
- More than 3,800 Guardsmen, the bulk of whom came from North Carolina (2,500), participated in the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team's eXportable Combat Training Capability (XCTC) program at Fort Bliss, Texas in August. This grueling 21-day combined arms training put the 30th and its Citizen-Soldiers to the test.

- With less than one week back home with their families, hundreds of Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who just finished XCTC in Texas, were called to state duty to support Hurricane Florence. There were 2,800 Guardsmen, on state duty, staged and ready to work side-by-side with local and state emergency teams. The number of NC guardsmen supporting hurricane response rose to 3,400 during peak rescue and recovery phases.

## *Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice*

### *Juvenile Justice*

- Juvenile Justice Education had a positive year with approximately 90 percent of students promoted to the next grade level. Students enrolled in traditional middle school or high school courses earned credit for 88 percent of the classes. Twenty students passed all five sections (Reading, Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies) of the HiSet assessment to obtain their high school equivalency diplomas while enrolled in a YDC school. A total of 167 HiSet section tests were taken and 81 percent of these tests were passed. Approximately 30 percent of test scores were at the College and Career Ready level.
- In the spring, JJ Community Programs facilitated six regional trainings on Raise the Age in partnership with the North Carolina Association of Community-Based Alternatives for Youth for JCPC members, JCPC-funded program providers and state contracted providers.
- Court Services successfully completed Raise the Age public forums, providing information for the statewide audience in preparation for the 16-17 offender population to come under the Juvenile Justice umbrella.



## Prisons

- Employees raised tens of thousands of dollars for a host of charities, including the Special Olympics of North Carolina. They also raised thousands of dollars for staff affected by Hurricane Florence.
- Established a security accountability unit to conduct unannounced security audits based on new standards. Completed 18 unannounced assessments in 2018.
- Began remissioning some prison facilities to balance the prison population with the design and capacity of various facilities and the changing needs of the statewide system. Southern CI and Eastern CI will be converted from female to male. Lanesboro CI will be converted to a female facility for medium and close custody inmates and will be renamed Anson Correctional Institution.
- Deployed upgrades to safety packages to include expandable batons, radios and higher concentration pepper spray to fully equip certified correctional officers and case managers.
- Distributed more than 10,000 stab resistant vests to certified staff. A more complete list of reform initiatives can be found at <https://www.ncdps.gov/prison-reform>.

## Community Corrections

- Increased force of certified Probation/Parole Officers in 2018 with a total of 213 new officers completing and graduating from basic PPO Training.
- Reentry Programs and Services acted as NC DPS Administrative support for the State Reentry Council Collaborative, a group formed by the legislature in 2017 to address challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals when they are transitioning from prison back into their communities. The office was instrumental in initiating the state's first Reentry Week collaborating with local reentry councils across the state.



## *Correction Enterprises*

- Up-fit state-of-the-art digital laser pattern cutting plant at Tabor City Correctional that will offer advanced technical training.
- Added second shift at the Nash Optical Plant to handle production of eyeglasses for adult NC Medicaid recipients.
- Added three new Prison Industry Enhancement Programs at Janitorial offering more training opportunities for offenders.
- Conducted Situational Awareness Training for all Correction Enterprises staff in order to improve safety and security within Correction Enterprises plants.

## *Governor's Crime Commission*

- Hosted free grant writing and award workshops in Raleigh and Hickory with more than 500 attendees. The workshops provided nonprofit and governmental agencies with information on the various types of grant funding available. Commission staff reviewed funding priorities, eligibility requirements, required supporting documentation as well as how to apply in the Grant Enterprise Management System (GEMS).
- At the request of Public Safety Secretary Erik A. Hooks, a Special Committee on School Shootings was created on April 19. Made up of representatives from law enforcement, juvenile justice, courts, schools, state agencies and other stakeholders, the Committee's goals include identifying resources and developing recommendations to strengthen school safety. The Special Committee hosted well attended public forums in Greenville and Greensboro. These public forums were designed to ensure that community voices and ideas were heard and incorporated into the Special Committee's report, which was provided to the full Commission in December.
- Revamped the Statistical Analysis Center. The Center will perform a variety of activities to include collecting, analyzing and distributing data related to criminal justice and victimization, conducting policy-relevant research, and designing and implementing automated information systems. Their research will provide data that policymakers will use as a guide in their decision-making process.



## *Samarcan Training Academy*

- Hosted more than 141 training events attended by 2,380 participants, including DPS personnel; and other local, county, state and federal agencies.
- The Firearms Training Center hosted 2,493 shooters, for 1,375 hours, who have discharged 365,487 rounds of ammunition.
- Received a Certification of Occupancy for the Carroll Building, a 15,000 square feet renovation over the last 10 months by the Inmate Construction Program (ICP).

## *State Capitol Police*

- Ordered new duty weapons and leather gear for all staff; replaced six vehicles and upgraded other vehicles in fleet with new equipment.
- Offered SCP's explosives-trained K-9 team to all 100 Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police throughout the state (has been utilized several times already).
- All staff trained in "active shooter training" and Incident Command System (ICS).



## *Victim Services*

- NC SAVAN (North Carolina Statewide Automated Victim Assistance and Notification), a Statewide automated Victim Assistance and Notification service supported by the Office of Victim Services launched a series of locally produced television public service announcement commercials aimed at educating the public about their rights and options to access resources available to victims of crime across the state.

## *Law Enforcement Support Services*

- Staff completed the federal annual audit 90 days earlier than required. N.C. Law Enforcement Support Services rated number five in the country overall and number one in larger programs in United States.
- Received a 100 percent on Federal Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)/Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) inventory with no discrepancies. The LESO Team Lead noted it was the best audit he had completed to date. LESS staff drove more than 1200 miles and completed audits of 38 N.C. Law Enforcement agencies with the LESO team, in one week.
- Staff completed the mandated 100 percent agency program compliancy review within 18 months, visiting and auditing all participating agencies in N.C.—more than 225 agencies.

## Private Protective Services

- Transitioned to online licensing and registration application system.
- Dramaticly reduced the number of applications in backlog.

## Purchasing & Logistics

- Participated in the Minority Economic Development conference put on by the State's HUB Office.
- Participated on the Department of Administration's committee to develop a Disaster Recovery Procurement Process.
- Were embedded with Emergency Management during Hurricane Florence which helped expedite disaster purchasing.

## Communications

- Received 332 public records requests from citizens, reporters and businesses – 134 more than 2017! Requests vary in the length of time it takes to complete, depending on the nature and complexity of the inquiry.
- Increased department's presence on digital media platforms by amplifying numbers and types of social media posts and campaigns and creating new prominent sections on [ncdps.gov](http://ncdps.gov) website to support agency initiatives such as Prison Reform and Hurricane Florence response. Saw substantial growth on all social media platforms (growth ranged from 25 to 100 percent across DPS, NCEM and SHP accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).
- Provided critical life-saving and property-protection information to residents, visitors, local and national media through press releases, media briefings and social media during multiple storms including: winter storms in January and December, Guilford and Rockingham county tornadoes, Tropical Storm Alberto and severe spring flooding and Hurricanes Florence and Michael.



## Government Affairs

- Worked to get legislative increases and five bonus days for all DPS employees.
- Enhanced Prison Security Legislation was passed to protect Correction Officers from the malicious conduct of prisoners as it pertains to projectiles, contraband and tools that effect escape.

## Information & Technology

- Embarked on a multi-year modernization effort to reduce overall costs and increase application functionality and efficiencies for DPS, like data reporting. The team has been hard at work in 2018 with the Governor's Crime Commission, GEMS and the North Carolina Juvenile Online Information Network (NC-JOIN).
- In the process of creating iNet, a future statewide network. iNet will be controlled and monitored, and completely separate from the DPS network. It will allow DPS entities like Correction Enterprises to store business applications and data that inmates can use while they work. This tool will also be used for training and educating inmates and has future plans to include table computer-based initiatives that provide learning and entertaining resources while in DPS facilities.



## General Counsel's Office

- Began staff expansions to better serve the needs of the department. This includes hiring four new attorneys who will focus on issues related to disaster recovery and resiliency and one new attorney who will be addressing the numerous challenges associated with the Raise the Age legislation. A new paralegal will be assisting the General Counsel's staff in the development of a new case management tracking system.

## Office of Policy/Strategic Planning

- Worked with DPS' divisions to review and update the Department's 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan. The updated strategic plan organizes more than 275 agency specific initiatives into three overarching goals and 15 objectives that are focused on key performance areas such as improving the well-being, recruitment and retention of DPS employees, ensuring DPS maintains a constant state of readiness and enhancing department facilities and infrastructure.

- Collaborated with DPS Prisons to develop and implement work groups to address prison safety and security reform. The five work groups, focused on hiring/recruitment/retention, training, communications, contraband and security policies/practices, have developed numerous recommendations that are actively being implemented by multiple DPS divisions and sections.
- Continued collaboration with a variety of state agency partners on multiple school safety initiatives such as updates to state school safety statutes, anonymous reporting application development, addressing the need for local school district threat assessment teams, and review of school safety equipment grant applications.

## *Human Resources*

- Attended 283 recruitment-related events. These include engagements with the public at NC Works, libraries, state and county fairs. Among those events, 80 were specific career and job fairs, where other employers attended. Some were held at military bases or were military-specific job fairs.
- Hosted 16 interns outside of the statewide internship program.

# *Milestone Marked for the 145th Airlift Wing*

*by Tech. Sgt. Nathan Clark, NCNG*



Every major milestone begins with a first step, and for the 145th Airlift Wing, 2018 and the arrival of the C-17 aircraft has prompted quite a number of them. The most recent step includes the units' participation in this year's Joint Forcible Entry (JFE) Exercise held on Dec. 8 at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

The JFE Exercise is an annual large-scale airdrop and land mobility mission that simulates a contested battlefield scenario as a way of training units for the dangerous airdrop situations that can occur while deployed. The massive aerial formation consists of more than 99 aircraft, including C-130 Hercules, C-130Js and C-17 Globemasters, from all over the country. The planes meet up in the air at different points, dropping scores of paratroopers and military combat equipment over a drop zone near Nellis.

"The Joint Forcible Entry is one of the most important capabilities the United States has within its armed forces," said Lt. Col. Jeremy Reich, the director of operations for the 156th Airlift Squadron of the 145th Airlift Wing. "It's also one of the most difficult and complicated, [as it] consists of large multi-element formations and airdrop operations, command and control integration, blue force integration, complex threat mitigation and semi-prepared dirt runway operations."

Participating in the JFE Exercise is particularly special for the 145th Airlift Wing, not just because it was the first time they participated in an airdrop formation flight, but specifically because their North Carolina based C-17 Globemaster III was the only Air National Guard tail in the formation.

"The Charlotte airdrop aircraft was number 13 out of 16 and was the second aircraft in the formation to simulate static line personnel, simulating the airdrop of 100 paratroopers," Reich said.

At the moment, the 145th Airlift Wing is working towards becoming the first airdrop-capable C-17 Globemaster III unit within the entire Air National Guard. This process requires a myriad of analysis and testing to become reality, making this proof of concept with JFE Exercises invaluable to leaders of the 145th Airlift Wing.

For Reich, the historical significance pales in comparison to the value of cultivating the skills for himself and his team.

"As a crew we had the opportunity to train with more than 100 aircraft and 100,000 dollars worth of actual and simulated threats. We seldom get the chance to participate in exercises with this many aircraft, so to get that exposure is quite valuable for our aircrew," said Reich.

The 145th Airlift Wing began building its eight-tail C-17 fleet nine months ago, currently hosting four while the remainder are on loan awaiting the expansion of the flightline over the coming years. So while conversion is naturally a long and slow process, it hasn't stopped the unit from working towards its vision of being a world class organization preeminent in all it does.



# Foothills Correctional Officer Receives Two Prestigious Awards

*by Claire Rice, Editor and  
Allie Harris-Beeks, Communications Specialist*

Last year on Aug. 14, Correctional Officer Benjamin Coffey was presented with two prestigious awards at the 2018 Gangs Across the Carolinas Conference in Winston-Salem.

For his exceptional work at Foothills Correctional Institution, Coffey was awarded Corrections Officer of the Year, recognizing his outstanding individual accomplishments throughout the year. Coffey was also presented with the Jeremiah Goodson Award, which is given to an individual who has made significant achievements and contributions with the dedication and determination to preventing gang violence and keeping communities safe in North Carolina. He received the award thanks to his rapid and decisive response to what could have been a lethal attack on a fellow correctional officer.

"His quick actions cannot be expressed in words regarding this incident. Officer Coffey displays the traits of a seasoned officer approaching situations with a level head and policy-based decision making," said Robert White, Security Threat Group Management Unit (STGMU) manager.

Officer Coffey began his work at Foothills CI in May of 2015. In 2016, he was transferred to the STGMU, which houses offenders who are recognized as being affiliated with a gang. Because of his professionalism, dependability and hard work, Officer Coffey was selected to become a member of the Prison Emergency Response Team (PERT) and a Field Training Officer (FTO) in early 2018.

"Correctional Officer Benjamin Coffey exemplifies what a professional correctional officer truly is. He is trustworthy and a leader by example. He displays calm under pressure and is always ready to tackle challenges presented to him. He is truly an asset to DPS."



# State Capitol Police Welcomes New Chief

*by Clyde Roper, Communications Officer*

A new chief of police for State Capitol Police was sworn in on Dec. 18 in a formal ceremony at the Justice Building in Raleigh.

Chief Roger "Chip" Hawley was welcomed to his new role by Public Safety Secretary Erik A. Hooks, who provided opening remarks. Hawley will supervise all officers and non-sworn personnel of State Capitol Police.

"Chip Hawley has been an outstanding addition to the department following his distinguished service at the Wake County Sheriff's Office," Secretary Hooks said. "I have come to know the caliber of the man and he is the kind of compassionate and capable leader we need in law enforcement today and going forward. I look forward to working with Chief Hawley as we strive to keep the public safe."

State Capitol Police, whose primary mission is to provide a safe and secure environment within the North Carolina State Government Complex, also investigates crimes within its jurisdiction. In addition, the agency monitors emergency alarms at state-owned facilities 24/7 across North Carolina, directing emergency responders as needed. Hawley replaces the retiring Glen Allen.

The oath of office was administered by North Carolina Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Martin. Shortly after the ceremony, Chief Justice Martin and Secretary Hooks met with Chief Hawley and his family and friends to congratulate them.

Hawley, a veteran law enforcement professional with more than 36 years of experience, had been serving as deputy chief of the agency since March. Before joining SCP's ranks, Hawley retired from the Wake County Sheriff's Office, where he served for 32 years and attained the rank of major.

Hawley attended Campbell University and has received a variety of specialized law enforcement certifications including Law Enforcement Motorcycle Operator and Instructor. He is a graduate of the Administrative Officers Management Program, sponsored by North Carolina State University.

He holds a law enforcement General Instructor Certification and received the Wake County Sheriff's Officer of the Year award in 2001. Hawley is a native of Coats, North Carolina.



# State Highway Patrol Holds 2018 Awards Ceremony

*by Sgt. Chris Knox, SHP Public Information Officer*

In what has proven to be a challenging year for the State Highway Patrol after the loss of three members, Nov. 27 was a much-needed time to stop and celebrate. In an awards ceremony held at the SBI Auditorium, honorees, family, friends and distinguished guests gathered to recognize the outstanding acts by sworn and civilian members of the Patrol and members of the public in support of the Patrol's mission.

Secretary Erik A. Hooks and Col. Glenn McNeill provided words of thanks to the group for their actions and contributions to our great state. "Your efforts make you all heroes. You define what it means to be a true role model not by words spoken, but by your actions" Col. McNeill said.

"I applaud each and every one of you on behalf of the State Highway Patrol and the great State of North Carolina."

Col. McNeill went on to thank the honorees' families as well. "Thank all of you for supporting these honorees, thank you for standing by their side and aiding them to help others."

Awards given this year were for astonishing acts of bravery, heroism and public service across North Carolina. These recipients are a true representation of what it means to be exceptional!



**Captain T. L. Cheek**

**Collision Reduction Award:**

The district that has the overall largest percent decrease in reportable collisions over the previous year.

*Troop C, District 8*

**Taylor / Cogdill Award:**

Awarded to the troop that has the overall largest-percent decrease in reportable commercial motor vehicle collisions over the previous year.

*Troop A*

**Purple Heart Award:**

Recipient who has been injured or wounded by an act of aggression or assault upon him/her while performing their assigned duties.

*Retired First Sergeant  
Johnny H. Flynn*

**Humanitarian Service  
Group Award:**

Employee recognition for outstanding volunteer public service that significantly contributes to individuals, groups, organizations or communities in North Carolina. Volunteer humanitarian actions or public service works should have occurred off-duty and with no compensation.

- Trooper John N. Chapman*
- Trooper Isaac D. Hammer*
- Trooper Anthony R. McLain*
- Trooper Travis C. Meadows*
- Trooper Marla M. Powell*
- PTC Rebecca T. Crossan*
- PTC Kimberly A. Herrera*
- PTC Dawn Netko-Riley*
- PTC Lori A. Taylor*
- PTC Scott Weaver*



## Meritorious Service

### Group Award:

Recognition for outstanding service or accomplishment, clearly placing the employee or group above their peers in one or more categories: devotion to duty, innovations, public service, human relations or cost saving initiatives.

*Joseph R. Allison*  
*Christopher S. Autrey*  
*Marty D. Bumgarner*  
*David S. Davies*  
*Christopher C. Harris*  
*Henry S. Kastelberg*  
*Jacob E. Lawson*  
*Adam C. Lentz*  
*Eugene J. Moses*  
*David T. Sizemore*  
*Joshua A. Utt*  
*Sergeant Gregory D. Steffens*  
*Trooper Jeffrey A. Woolard*  
*Trooper Marcus J. Ward*  
*Trooper Clifford J. White*  
*Trooper Andrew G. Knight*  
*Trooper Ashley B. Duff*  
*Assistant Special Agent in Charge Charlie Morris*  
*Special Agent Ronald Crawley*  
*Special Agent Madison Gambino*  
*Special Agent Justin Heinrich*  
*Special Agent Jason Nagy*

### Colonel's Appreciation Award:

Recognition of a citizen or group who has significantly contributed to the success and mission of the Highway Patrol. Partnerships and contributions that enhance the quality and morale of the agency or create a better public image of the State Highway Patrol.

*Corporal Lee Hamilton Alsbrooks*  
*Mr. Hilton B. Cox*  
*Mr. Loren Halsey*  
*Ms. Madge Mitchell*  
*Sergeant Gregory D. Steffens*  
*Trooper Jeffrey A. Woolard*  
*Trooper Marcus J. Ward*  
*Trooper Clifford J. White*  
*Trooper Andrew G. Knight*  
*Trooper Ashley B. Duff*  
*Assistant Special Agent in Charge Charlie Morris*  
*Special Agent Ronald Crawley*  
*Special Agent Madison Gambino*  
*Special Agent Justin Heinrich*  
*Special Agent Jason Nagy*  
*Trooper Dwight L. Braswell*  
*Mr. Scott Asbill*  
*Trooper Curtis L. Tripp*  
*Mr. Jairus Tripp*  
*Mr. Johnny Tripp*

### **Samaritan Service Award:**

Recognition of an employee who participated in or assisted in any event of an exceptional nature to save the life of another person or to prevent injury without risk of personal life.

*Trooper Donald W. Weaver*  
*Trooper David D. Peterson*  
*Trooper Shannon L. Williamson*  
*Trooper Jamie D. Duff*  
*Trooper Kyle D. Mathews*  
*Trooper Steven K. Naylor*  
*Trooper James C. Bunce*  
*Trooper Richard B. Kirk*  
*Trooper Erica N. Bass*

#### *Group Award*

*Sergeant Timothy R. Askew*  
*Trooper Dustin P. Efrid*  
*Trooper Joshua L. Brown*  
*Trooper Dana L. Turner*  
*Trooper Dustin C. Wuebbles*

### **Award of Valor:**

Agency's highest award for heroism. Recipient must have demonstrated outstanding judgment, courage, personal bravery and a selfless act of heroism involving risk of life to prevent injury, loss of life or prevent damage to or loss of property.

*Trooper Trevor H. Sawyer*  
*Trooper Matthew T. Bunn*  
*Trooper Cory D. Lowry*  
*Trooper Christopher W. Godwin*  
*Trooper Jonathon T. Gibbs*  
*Trooper Dwight L. Braswell*  
*Mr. Scott Asbill*  
*Trooper Curtis L. Tripp*  
*Mr. Jairus Tripp*  
*Mr. Johnny Tripp*

# Community Corrections Staffers Give Back to Children in Need of School Supplies

*by Sonja Bennett-Bellamy, Communications Officer*

The Season of Giving began well before the holidays for members of the Community Corrections staff in the Mecklenburg County Probation Office this year. The office's Employee Engagement Committee was determined to take on a public service project that would help people. As members pondered who they could help, they started with the children of many of the justice-involved people they currently supervise. They knew many people under post-release supervision needed help supporting their children, especially when it was time to go to school with the supplies they needed.

"We know these parents can't afford the school supplies their students need," said Terrence Atkinson, field training specialist in the Charlotte probation office. "Knowing how expensive school supplies can be, we thought this would actually be a good way to give back."

Probation/Parole officers and other staff teamed up with Charlotte-based Classroom Central, a nonprofit organization that collects and distributes free school supplies for teachers in some 200 underserved, high-poverty schools in North Carolina and South Carolina. Classroom Central helps more than 127,000 students annually.

With a made-up mind, the Community Corrections staff set out to collect 25 copy paper boxes full of school supplies. More than 140 officers throughout the Greater Charlotte area participated in the initiative that lasted for one month. When all was said and done, more than 5,400 items were collected, exceeding the 25-box goal by 50 boxes full of supplies.

"We assembled 25 teams and each team was responsible for filling a box," said Charlotte Chief Probation Officer Dorothy Delaine. "It didn't take much to get the teams excited about being a part of this project. So many of them could relate to what we were trying to do because they themselves had school age children and they knew how expensive it could be. Even staff members with no children took part and had a great time shopping for supplies."

According to Atkinson, the teams set a record for Classroom Central collection drives, out-performing large corporations that have partnered with the organization. The team that collected the most supplies were treated to lunch at their favorite restaurant.

More than 140 staff members took part in gathering the school supplies. When it was time to transport the supplies and other



non-perishable snacks to the Classroom Central, a team of more than 30 people helped organize and package the supplies to be taken to Classroom Central's distribution center.

Both Atkinson and Delaine agree that the momentum and excitement created around the project was partly because the staff had the blessings of Community Corrections leadership, who encouraged them to do the project and re-emphasized the importance of building relationships and doing positive work within the communities they serve.

"Why not?," said Christopher Oxendine, deputy director of Community Corrections. "Of course we encouraged them. Our officers understand that oftentimes their success in the field depends on their ability to build a level of trust with the people they supervise. That begins with showing those we supervise that we really care about them and their families."

"We feel great about the contributions we were able to make this year, but we also know that the items we collected and donated were just a drop in the bucket compared to the numbers of supplies needed to serve Classroom Central's entire coverage area," Atkinson said. "We look forward to doing this initiative again next year, and we will do it bigger and better!"



## Have You Been Working On Your Interim Review?



### Key Steps for the Interim Review Task

# 1

#### Employees complete Interim Task

**Due Date - Feb 21**

- » **Attention:** NCVIP Records will advance regularly based on completion status.

# 2

#### Supervisors/Managers complete

**Due Date - Feb. 20**

- » Supervisor/Manager can start step two on Jan. 31.
- » All completed tasks will move to step 3 on Feb. 21.
- » Records will not advance without completion by supervisor/manager.

# 3

#### Employee reviews and signs

**Due Date - March 7**

- » Untimely completion rates at step two will shorten the timeframe that employees have to review and sign the Interim Review at step three.

**Need Help- [Click here for more information](#)**

# *The Real Meaning of Holiday Spirit*

*by Matt Jenkins, Communications Officer*

“These young people are shining examples of what comes from the lifelong lessons they learn during their time spent in a transitional home,” declared Andrea Moore, a contract administrator for the NCDPS Division of Adult Corrections and Juvenile Justice. As part of the Juvenile Community Programs team she works directly with the contract facilities used to house some adjudicated juveniles in our system. These multipurpose homes are often used in place of a more restrictive form of confined living. Moore’s praise came after spending time with the group after one of their regular weekly visits to the Golden Living rest home in Lumberton.

On Dec. 5, 2018, the youth and staff from the Methodist Home for Children (MHC) brought candy and other goodies to share with the elderly residents. They talked with the residents, passed out the treats and also spent a good portion of the afternoon singing Christmas carols together.

Afterward, they made another special stop on the way back to the Methodist Home.

The youth traveled to the home (and makeshift memorial) of the recently-slain Hania Aguilar, the young victim of a tragic murder in Lumberton.. They expressed condolences to the family, prayed together and passed out holiday treats and candies to the younger sisters. In return, Hania’s mother gave the group of students from MHC a special purple Christmas ornament. One of the young ladies in the MHC group was able to translate the heartfelt message, “take this ornament as a way to help you remember how very precious and fragile life is.”

The hustle and bustle of the holidays often cloud the true spirit of this season, but no doubt the day had an effect on them. The group from the MHC found a way to touch many people’s lives in real, meaningful ways – by sharing time and remembering loved ones. They also bridged generational gaps with their efforts. It was a meaningful example of ways to share the holiday spirit. We certainly could use that positivity no matter what time of year it is.





# DPS Gives Back



*Central Prison*



*Secretary's Office*



*Highway Patrol, Troop E*



*Communications Office*



*Community Corrections, District 14*



**Highway Patrol,  
Johnston County**



**Community Corrections, District 24**



**Office of Staff  
Development & Training**



**Swannanoa Correctional Center  
for Women**



**NC National Guard,  
Military Funeral Honors Team**



**Marion Correctional  
Institution**