



THE VIEW

from THE

C.H.U.

BY THE RESIDENTS, FOR THE WORLD



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Resident Fathers Given Chance to Bond with Their Children

*A tender moment*

On December 14 ACI held a first-of-its-kind fatherhood celebration. This program was created by Inmate Representative Committee (IRC) Chairman Willie C. and supported by IRC funds to encourage the rebuilding of damaged relationships between incarcerated fathers and their children.

Visitors arrived early, anticipating the arrival of the residents they were there to see. Devin, daughter to Jamey, was there to display the impending birth of Jamey's first grandchild. She spoke about the struggle that a family endures

during a resident's incarceration, "It was hard at first but it's easier now that he's doing so well." She displayed an impish grin as she admitted, "I'm a daddy's girl."

Three-year-old Rhaylin awaited the arrival of her father Darin with controlled but obvious excitement. She shared her favorite Christmas songs and was quick to explain just how much her daddy loved her. She showed that she was obviously a regular visitor as she pointed to the chair reserved for residents and said, "This is my daddy's chair."

As residents arrived it was evident that this event was the highlight of the holiday season for both visitors and residents. Life and laughter began to fill the room, and for a time it was no longer a setting focused upon correction, but in-

stead, the rehabilitation of the soul.

The event was finally kicked off by Willie C. as he came to the podium with a Christmas tree adorning his head. He welcomed the guests and turned the microphone over to Ken N., who shared his moving poem titled, "Fatherly Reflections." The mood became contemplative as the audience related to his words from their individual perspectives. Lieutenant Washington reminded us of the bond that a daughter should have

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Warden McKendley Newton and visiting family

Resident Fathers Cont'd

with her father, "The first man you're supposed to be in love with is your father."

Chaplain Porter took us to church as he related to fatherhood from a biblical perspective. He spoke of Esau and Jacob and how forgiveness releases us from spiritual bondage. He then shared the travails that had occurred between him and his son. "My son had gone off the rails; there was a point where our relationship appeared permanently damaged." However, the story didn't end with his son in the county jail. He told of how his son redeemed his life by becoming Regional Manager and the ensuing strong bond which they share today.

Warden McKendley Newton reinforced the Chaplain's message by reminding us that "as a clock's hands move forward—so must we." Life's lessons are learned as we look back to see where we went wrong and where we went right. However, we cannot remain there stuck in time, holding on tightly to past hurts.

Associate Warden Wilkins-Smith informed us that this was the first event of its kind, but she assured us that it would not be the last. She expressed her positive memories from childhood and the ways her father had shown uncondi-

tional love, "My father was the greatest father a girl could have. When he should have said *no*—he said *yes*."

Willie C. then returned to the podium and announced the words that so many were waiting to hear, "It's time for our families to share a meal that has been provided by the men here." It was obviously gratifying to the men to ask nothing of their families on this day, to sit with them and eat the hearty and delicious food provided by Food Lion.

As Darin stood in line with his daughter Rhaylin, it was evident how special this moment was for him. He shared, "This means the world to me. There are really no words that can express this feeling." After the meal Herman Jr., the only African-American collegiate golf coach in the state of South Carolina, expressed his joy at the opportunity to spend quality time with his father. He explained how much deeper the relationship with his father had become while he's been incarcerated, "I can now say that I have my dad." His father Herman Sr. explained what it meant to see him, "It's a Christmas present from him to me. We are closer than we've ever been."

After returning to the dorm, Willie C. spoke of his initial motivation for the creation of the event, and



Family Matters

how his work in the visitation room displayed the need to bridge the gap in estranged relationships between fathers and their children. He hoped that the positive feedback would spread from the fathers and children who had attended, saying, "We hope the visitation room will be full next year."

This event gave residents the opportunity to treat their families to a special day of reconciliation and holiday cheer. Both residents and visitors overwhelmingly shared their opinion that there has never been a more vivid display of concern and care by the administration than their allowance for such a time of healing. A special thanks goes out for the supportive roles Mrs. Crystal English, Ms. Verlease Black, Mr. John Pate, and Warden McKendley Newton played in transforming this vision into reality.

~ Nathan R.

Programs Join Forces to Provide Thanksgiving Feast



On November 14, 2018 a handful of volunteers from Animal Advocates gave the Pet Dads of Meow/Mutt Mates, Jumpstart Leadership, CRI/ACWC Committee, Jeremiah 18 Pottery, and Art4Hope a Thanksgiving Feast to be remembered. Ms. Vikki Scott, President of Animal Advocates, beamed as she welcomed the guests, introducing the volunteers from the Friends for Life Center and other guests who made this day possible. We all enjoyed a warm and heartfelt prayer and blessing by resident Reginald W. and then Ms. Shannon Hardee, volunteer for Animal Advocates and Jumpstart.

The volunteers joyously served the residents in attendance. The food was delicious, not to mention plentiful, as many had seconds and thirds of various offerings, including ham, turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, and salad. For dessert there was a choice of

pumpkin or apple pie-or both, if you were amongst the lucky chosen tables.

Following the festivities, TJ H., pet dad of seven months, explained what

serving as a Pet Dad means to him: "I am now putting something else first, other than myself." Lekan F., Pet Dad of almost three years, explained, "It means that I am responsible for the love and care of the animals." James W. shared with a smile how being a Pet Dad has affected him: "It has humbled me and helped me to accept responsibility for something besides myself."

Tara Farmer, the volunteer responsible for certifying the resident dog groomers said, "This is very rewarding. I consider myself a caregiver...You feel good when you help animals and look back and see progress." Ms. Elizabeth Ringus, a member of the Animal Advocates Board of Directors, and benefactor Jeanette Weissmann said, "The euthanasia rate for Barnwell County was at an astonishing 98% before the Meow/Mutt Mates program began." You could

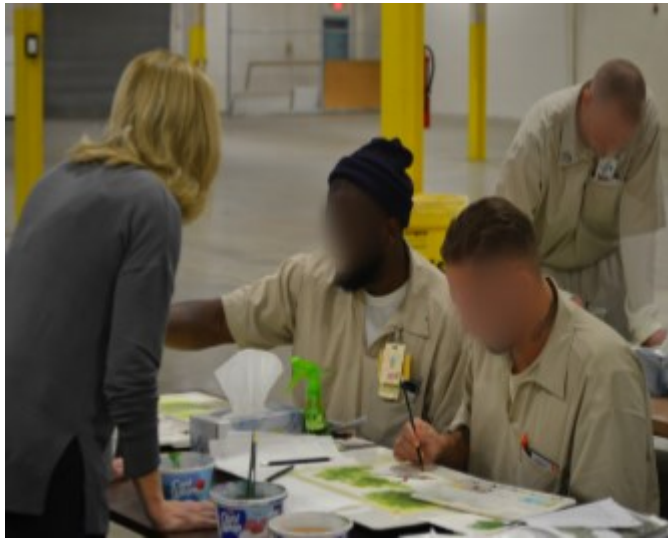
see the emotion in the eyes of April, a worker at the Friends for Life Center for more than two years now, when she said that they only have 26-30 kennels for animals at their shelter and, "If it wasn't for y'all taking in all these cats and dogs we would not be able to save all these animals." Following the meal Ms. Shannon Hardee said in all seriousness, "I've always known I was supposed to do prison ministry. Animal Advocates and Vikki opened up doors for me..." While laughing she concluded, "Jesus rode in on the back of a donkey... I rode in on the back of a dog."

It is undeniable that this program makes a difference in saving the lives of cats, dogs, and men. Meow/Mutt Mates has helped residents in many ways, and that in and of itself is something for which we give a heartfelt thanks.

~ Justin L.



Prison Artists Featured in Hilton Head Gallery



Terry B., Resident Program Leader, shared what art has meant to him: "For the past twenty years I have lived in a world devoid of color, emotion, and hope. Yet, no matter how dark this place gets, I



have found a way

this showing will be featured in an upcoming *View from the CHU Art Edition*.

~ Nathan R.

On July 28, 2019, the Art League of Hilton Head will feature seven Advanced Artists of ACI in a gallery showing entitled, "Transcendence." This is a unique chance for these men to display creativity which hasn't been stifled by external circumstances.

The featured artists, Terry B., Kenneth N., Ronald W., Gary H., Matthew W., Bryan B., and James W. will display art created through the mediums of pastel, acrylic, oil, watercolor and ceramic. These artists, whether picking up a brush or sitting at a potter's wheel have freed themselves from the monotony of the typical prison experience. Through the efforts of a few visionary inmates and the support of a progressive administration, these newly discovered artists now have the chance to join the ranks of the professional art community.

to transcend its limitations—through art." Terry B., Kenneth N., and volunteer Delane Marynowski have collaborated to organize this first-of-its-kind gallery showing. Mrs. Marynowski encourages the Advanced Artists of Allendale to "dream big" and never place limitations upon themselves. Mrs. Marynowski and her husband, after hearing about the ACI program were led by their faith to adopt artists of ACI for Christmas. What began as something small has transformed into something larger than any of them could have ever imagined. The artists involved in



Terry B creates a masterpiece

Books read by Allendale Correctional Institute Book Club

The Shack, by William Paul Young, *fiction*, #1 New York Times Best-seller 2008-2010, #69 on the list of "Top 100 Best Books" according to volume of sales

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, by C.S. Lewis, *fantasy*, designated a "classic", according to Wikipedia this book is #9 on the list of "Top 50 bestselling books of all time"

Courageous, by Randy Alcorn, *novelization*, film by the same name

Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyan, *fictional Christian allegory*, Christian classic

Same Kind of Different as Me, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, *non-fiction*, #9 New York Times Best Seller list 2009

The Cross and the Switchblade, by David Wilkerson, *non-fiction, biographical*, over 15 million copies sold

The Screwtape Letters, by C.S. Lewis, *fiction*, #1 best-selling

Christian classic (Amazon)

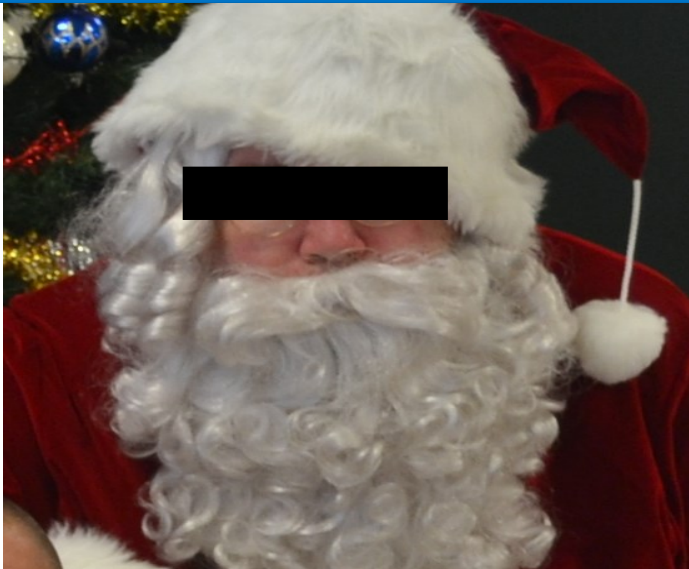
7 Men and the Secret of Their Greatness, by Eric Metaxas, *biography*

7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness, by Eric Metaxas, *biography*

Total Pardon, by Jodie Randisi, *biographical*

The Hiding Place, by Corrie Ten Boom, *biography*, 3 million copies sold

A Chat With Kris Kringle



Kris Kringle after a long night of gift giving

The night was cold and wet, with an unnatural darkness that seemed to absorb any attempt to illuminate it. I stood at the agreed-upon spot, a secret location which even now I am unable to

disclose. Just when I was about to give up hope and call it a night, a voice came from behind me, "Good evening Mr. Wright". I was unnerved by his stealth, not hearing him come up from behind me. I turned to face him, while gathering my wits, but nothing could prepare me to come face to face with this legendary immortal being. He was dressed in a mint green well-fitting traditionally-styled Santa Suit, minus the hat and the bag of

gifts.

"Good evening, Mr. Claus", I stammered out as best I could while gathering my composure.

"Please, call me Nick. And by all means relax, I am just another guy with a job."

So we went into a small out-of-the-way all-night diner, ordered two hot chocolates, and began our interview.

Theo: Nick. Just how many elves do you employ to make all the toys?

Nick: None. I do not employ any elves. Elves are evil creatures from Norse mythology similar to a demon.

Continued on page 6

Kris Kringle Cont'd



Theo: So how do you make all those toys?

Nick: Gnomes. Gnomes love to make things. They are highly intelligent and keep up with technology. That and our use of a quantum computer system and advanced 3-D printing technology. We are easily capable of keeping up with demand.

Theo: Ok, you do not use elves. Well, what about reindeer. Is this also a myth?

Nick: (smirking) No young man. It is not a myth. Moreover, we have a lot more than eight. We have several hundred herds, and they are in no way tiny.

Theo: Cool, but can they fly?

Nick: Of course they can fly. Not only do they fly (leaning in closely and looking around in a conspiratorial way before whispering), they also have the uncanny ability to control time.

Theo: (in a tone of astonishment.) Control time?

Nick: That's right. On Christmas Eve they stop time and I travel the world delivering presents.

Theo: Wow! How long have you been doing this?

Nick: Oh, I don't know, I would guess around fifteen hundred years give or take a hundred years.

Theo: There are a lot of people who say that you don't exist. How do you react to those who don't believe in you?

Nick: It doesn't bother me. I look at it as a whole lot less work.

Theo: What's the deal with the naughty and nice list? Is there any truth to its existence?

Nick: Good character goes a long way in life and it goes a long way with me. We have transferred the "list" to our quantum computer and is now checked a lot more than twice and is updated by the

second.

Theo: What's with all the other Santas? They're everywhere, malls, street corners, even prisons.

Nick: (With a dead pan look) Clones... No, just kidding (he laughs). Like Elvis, Prince, Michael Jackson and Tu Pac, I have my impersonators, and be they naughty or nice they are my public face. Sadly, I have no say in who dons my suit and beard; I only pray that they wear it in the spirit of what I represent.

Theo: Well, I believe that about does it for this interview. Before we go, any last words?

Nick: Love everyone even if you don't like their ways. Respect all as you wish to be respected. And give with all that you can. Not stuff, but of yourself. Things are temporary. When you give of yourself, it can last a lifetime, sometimes even longer.

And with that he boarded his sleigh with his ten mighty reindeer and flew into the night with a hearty *ho, ho, ho!*

~ Theo W.



New Years in the Days of Old



The holidays bring about visions of presents, the savory aroma of feasts and hot cocoa, and gatherings with friends and family. Many think about Yule, Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and of course New Years. Would you believe that is wasn't always that way?

Aside from the other holidays, which is a topic too broad to cover in one article, New Years Day is a staple of the holidays. Parties, celebrations, religious gatherings, and all the bells and whistles become more and more prevalent for this day. While yes it is a joyful occasion, New Years in days past was taken very seriously.

The ancient Romans celebrated New Years by giving each other gifts of branches taken from sacred trees, a custom later adopted by the Celts whose sacred branches were Mistletoe. It was a time of peace and giving, feelings most often associated with the Christmas season, except New Years was celebrated on March 1st in those days.

In later years, New Years was moved to January 1st by the Romans, in honor of Janus, the roman god of doors, gates, and beginnings. They gave gifts of gold covered nuts and coins depicting Janus and his two faces, looking away from each other, one representing the past, the other looking to the future. This custom is most likely where the concept of the New Year's Resolution comes from. It's about analyzing your life over the past year and resolving to change what you do not like over the next 12 months.

This custom can also be traced back to the Celts, who, in ancient times used one fire year round. This fire, called a Hearth Fire, was extinguished and rekindled in a home's hearth every New Years. It was a time for losing the old and finding the new. A time for change—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. The Celtic New Year is at harvest time, a festival still celebrated by many pagans as Samhain (pronounced Sow-when), known to most others as Halloween.

The Celts are not the only ones to celebrate the New Year on a different date. The Jewish New Year celebration, known as Rosh Hashana, falls in late September or early October. Muslims cele-

brate New Years on different days because many of their calendars have only 354 days. Even Hindus in parts of India have different days for New Years each year. During the middle ages, it was celebrated on March 25th, or the Catholic holiday of Annunciation Day. It wasn't until 1752 C.E. that the date was again moved to January 1st on the Gregorian calendar, where it remains today.

So as many people around the world make their New Years resolutions for 2019 remember that only you can change those things about yourself that you don't like. It's not supernatural. There is no "New Year's Magic." Resolutions made in August are just as attainable and important as those made on January 1st. Happy New Year!

-James W.



Delane Marynowski Shines Spotlight on ACI Artists



Her eyes blaze with passion as she speaks of a medium that allows Allendale's Advanced Artists the chance to reach their highest potential, not the medium of canvas and brush, but instead, of the inspiration which encourages the expression of their souls.

Delane Marynowski, representing Art League of Hilton Head, shares her infectious energy each time she visits the Advanced Artists of Allendale. The motivation she provides grows within the men as they learn of an opportunity beyond their wildest dreams.

It's hardly conceivable that a gallery showing featuring prison artists will be held at Art League of Hilton Head from July 28 to August 24 of 2019. This monumental event will reward the men involved for their constant pursuit of growth. Mrs. Marynowski, up-

on seeing the art produced by these men, felt they deserved to have their work hanging in a gallery. She then pursued that goal with single-minded determination.

She sees the artists involved in the same way in which she viewed victims she represented in the Victim Witness Program. In a way we are all battered souls, and she is the salve to scarred hearts. Enthusiasm pours from her as she shares her holiday announcement—five professional artists will conduct workshops with the group of Advanced Artists in the next two months. The artists gathered are struck with varying expressions of awe and delight. Resident Leader Terry B. even pinches his arm a bit, as if to wake himself from a dream.

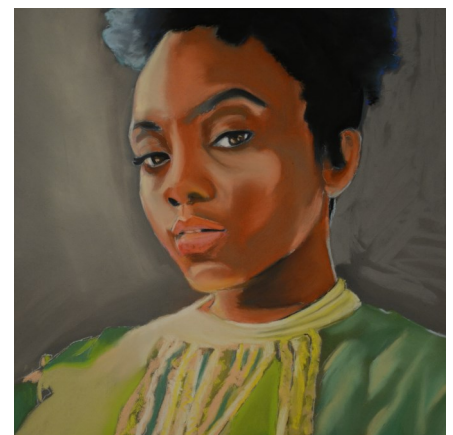
She crows, "This thing has blown

up!"

She smiles a smile that promises, "No matter what happened before this moment, no matter how many disappointments were tossed your way, I've got you now." Then she somehow puts a cherry on top of this already magnificent sundae, as she adds, "I got two donations last night that will enable us to buy teaching kits for all incoming artists of this program."

What a Christmas gift! So much more than brushes or paints, canvases or linen. Much deeper and more meaningful than any material possession. These men have someone who cares enough to give what some of them have never had. She has given her joy. She has given an energy that is changing men, as they sacrifice who they were on the altar of who they wish to become.

~ Nathan R.



Pastel by Ken N.

'Twas the Night before Christmas at A.C.I.



Mural painted by Hampton resident Bryan B.

Santa, what would you like to say?

"ZZZ."

Santa? SANTA! Umm, dear reader, he fell asleep! You know he's turning 1715 years old this Christmas, so what do you expect? Hey Santa, are you good?

(Unintelligible murmur)

Welcome, one and all to Rob's Christmas News Article 2018. My, look who's here! It's Santa Claus, Rudolph, and one of Santa's elves...Dilbert. Hey dudes, how are you doing? Welcome to Allendale C.I., and Hampton dorm.

"HO! HO! HO!"

Now Santa, calm down, you'll get your time and space in this article soon enough! Will someone PLEASE get that elf out of my locker! Hey Dilbert, put down those COOKIES! Santa, please control your staff!

Now where was I? Oh yes, Christmas stuff. Well, as usual, I have decorated my cell to a state of ornamentation of extraordinary proportions. Heck, I even convinced my new roommate, David, to partake in the design. RUDOLPH! Quit drinking out of the toilet, it's not a punch bowl! Santa, control your reindeer! (See...no dog this year! I'm in Hampton! Oh well!)

Yeah? I understand. No, I really do—I turned 60 this year myself. We'll get back to Santa in a bit. Now where was I—Christmas? Yeah, a Christmas Tradition—the magic of mistletoe!

Mistletoe is found all over the world, it's a parasitic plant don't you know? It lives off other trees, and remains evergreen, even in the midst of the dead of winter. Kissing under mistletoe may have begun with the Greeks' Kronia Festival. Plini the Elder noticed that, to the Druids of Gaul, mistletoe possessed magical powers, and they included it in medicinal potions. They were even certain that it cured ailments such as infertility. Go figure!

Fast forward to the time of the Enlightenment in Britain. Mistletoe displays continued to be a Yuletide custom, its popularity attested to by the number of 18th century prints showing high jinx in servant halls at Christmas time. Acceptance of mistletoe in the Americas was driven by literature. Washington Irving's highly influen-

tial 1820 tome "The Sketch Book" described a "traditional" English Christmas, with mistletoe, servant girls, and kissing included. Meanwhile, back in England, Charles Dickens brought mistletoe from below the stairs to the parlor in both "The Pickwick Papers" and "A Christmas Carol." Its rehabilitation was complete. Every Victorian household displayed a sprig of mistletoe at Christmas time.

Here, in the 21st century, hanging Mistletoe has become a standard tradition rather than a signal to cross over to the wild side.

Santa what do you think? Did I cover all things Mistletoe? Santa?!? Oh goodness gracious! He's done it again, he fell asleep! Umm Santa...did you hear what I was talking about?

(Sleepy grunting)

Ok, I understand. You've been up very late these past weeks getting the naughty and nice list updated and accurate. I understand. That makes perfect sense. Oh dear me! Should I let him sleep? Oh No! He's got to deliver the presents to all the good girls and boys across the world! Oh my, what time is it? There's still time! Thank goodness! Santa! Please wake up!!!

"HO! HO! HO!!!"

I'm sorry Santa, it's time to do your "dash-away, dash-away, dash-away all" thing and deliver the Christmas presents to all the good

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'Twas the Night Cont'd

girls and boys.

"HO! HO! HO! On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer, on Vixen! On Comet, on Cupid, on Donder (Not Donner!) and Steve..."

Who is Steve?

"Happy Christmas to all, I'm getting too old for this stuff, and to all a good night!"

Well dear reader, Santa's finally left the building, just before count time. Remember to say a prayer for Old St. Nick.

~Robert B. C.



Scrabble Club Holiday Celebration



Resident Leader David L. Y. and Volunteer Holly Bounds Jackson

ACI's newest program, the recently sanctioned Scrabble Club, had much to celebrate this holiday season, and did so in grand style. The celebration included the lovingly titled "Scrabble Queen," Holly Bounds Jackson, and the club's "founding fathers," a label bestowed by Character Restoration Initiative (CRI) Board Member Camille Nairn, who met over a delicious lunch. Following a lively White Elephant gift exchange, the group was treated to a performance by resident tenor Robert Cameron as he sang a selection of

"Scrabble Queen" herself and her "Prime Minister," yours truly. After a hard-fought battle her majesty took her first victory in what many expect to be known as one of history's great rivalries.

The Holiday Celebration capstones a whirlwind month that saw the Scrabble Club go from conception, starting as an idea put forth by Holly Bounds Jackson, to approval by Columbia in time for the holiday celebration. A timely arrival of Scrabble game boards, generously donated by Hasbro Games, the makers of Scrabble, is greatly ap-

preciated and is sure to be put to good use. Along with the donated game boards, the group has also been able to purchase some Spanish language versions of the game to further pursue the club's goal of promoting diversity and inclusion for all who care to join its ranks. As of this writing the Scrabble club plans to hold monthly events to take place on the second Friday of each month. Those residents with no Scrabble playing experience and an interest in joining are encouraged to sign-up, as teaching and player mentoring are to be part of the club's function.

~ David L. Y.



Resident Entrepreneurs Graduate Clemson Program



The business world has a few more entrepreneurs amongst its ranks now, thanks to the work of Steve Richards and Stanley Green of Clemson Extension. A commencement was held in the ACI visitation room Friday, November 16, which recognized the successful completion of the Agri-Business entrepreneurial course by ten inmates, the first class of its kind to do so.

Friday's program was attended by a variety of guests, which included members of the Farm City Organization, volunteers, administration, and inmates. Following a warm introduction by Associate Warden Yvonne Wilkins-Smith, Ms. Camille Nairn of the Character Restoration Initiative (CRI) Board presented some coveted ACI Bee Club honey to the Clemson facilitators, which was heartily received.

Mr. Stanley Green then took to the podium to hand out certificates for those inmates who completed the ten week "Ice House" course. The Ice House course, based upon the novel, "Who

Owns the Ice House," by Clifton Taulbert helped the participants realize the entrepreneurial traits they already possessed and encouraged them to transform their ideas into action. Mr. Green showed a real camaraderie with the recipients, sharing laughs and slaps on the back, as he described the men as intelligent, motivated, and passionate.

The guests were then treated to a glimpse at the hard-work that had been accomplished by the inmates who partook in the Agri-business course. Mr. Steve Richards introduced the five presenting participants, emphasizing that the work they accomplished was over and above what many participants on the outside are able to achieve. The presenters were Terry B., with Party Prima Express, an art party business; Mark S., with Healthy Life Market, an aquaponic fish and vegetable farm model; Nathan R. with Sweet Freedom Breweries, an Apiary/Meadery; Kenneth N., with Mobi-Wash, a mobile car wash and detailing business; and Daniel K. concluded with an honest portrayal of his Blue Sea Shrimp Oasis, a farm raised shrimp business, explaining that the course taught him the impracticality of this business model. He followed with an explanation of the meaningful steps he

has taken in venturing into a new market. Following these presentations, Mr. Steve Richards again took to the podium to present the certificates, bearing the orange paw print of Clemson University, to the grads.

Mr. Stanley Green then captivated the guests with an emotional story about how his own brother's prison experience personalized this program for him. He shared how he hoped the work being done here at ACI would open opportunities to dream, that were out of reach to prisoners like his brother, who tragically passed away a few years ago. Hope and reinvention were a theme that carried through to the next story, told as a closing to the event. Mr. McKendley Newton, after telling of a childhood of mischief, explained how he changed his ways, transforming from miscreant to soldier—to a career with SCDC, that on this day culminated in his promotion to Warden of ACI. This story and pronouncement was met with enthusiastic applause, and capped off the kind of positive and hope filled event that could only take place in the unique confines of this institution.

~ David L. Y.

Dorm Workers Clean Their Plates



The unit counselors and managers of Hampton and Bamberg units decided to join forces this year to pay homage to the little-heralded residents who daily scrub, scour, and sweep the surfaces and showers of their dorms. The concrete and steel of the Allendale Correctional Institution Program Center was transformed into a convivial atmosphere complete with clothed tables and the alluring aroma of oak wood smoke emanating from the grill, manned by Lieutenant Hughes. "I enjoy cooking. I enjoy putting smiles on people's faces," Lieutenant Hughes said of his efforts.

When asked what motivated them to roll out the red carpet for their dorm workers the respective managers and counselors struck a unified tone, "It's all about giving and showing cheer for the less

fortunate who don't get to spend the holidays with family," expressed Captain Jenkins. Lieutenant Drayton spoke of showing appreciation for the hard work of those that "help us do our job." Lieutenant James shared this sentiment, noting she hoped to "motivate the workers that clean up." Captain Harley shared that she

wanted to "thank workers for the great job they have done all year."

During the morning leading up to the festivities, it was a busy scene as preparations were made by both officers and designated residents. The air, scented with smoke, was also filled with joy and laughter as the officers and residents worked congenially side-by-side to set the buffet and light the chaffing dishes. Lieutenant James worked diligently to carve the turkey and ham as they came off the smoker. At the appointed hour, with everybody and everything set in its place, the residents arrived and with singleness of purpose queued up to receive their plates. The officers did not skimp on the portions as smoked turkey, ham, and chicken were piled high beside rice, mac and cheese, greens, and black eyed peas. If that were-

n't enough, the residents then funneled toward the table in the back where resident Tunzy S. heaped onto the already crowded plates red velvet cake, peach cobbler, or banana pudding.

As residents filled the tables and began to devour their meals, they returned the appreciation so generously shown to them. Donald S. said, "It's a nice thing they are doing for us, a real blessing this time of year." David S. agreed, "It's a heartfelt gesture." When asked about what motivated them to clean inside the dorms, Charles "Wes" L. voiced, "Everyone needs to pitch in." "Everyone needs a clean place to wash themselves," conveyed John L.. Overwhelmingly, the residents invited to share this holiday meal wanted it to be known how much they appreciated the gesture.

~ David L. Y.

