

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH CELEBRATION: Walker State Prison will celebrate National Recovery Month on **Friday, Sept. 7th, from 9 to 11 AM** in the prison gym. All volunteers (mentors) are invited. If you wish to attend, please **notify Doug Craven before Thursday, Aug. 30th**. He can be reached by phone or text at cell # (423) 902-2004 or e-mail to dccraven@comcast.net.



FAMILY DAY 2018: Set for **Friday, October 5th, 2018**, Family Day at Walker State Prison (WSP) is an unbelievable event where the offenders can invite their family, including children, to spend the day with them. This “picnic-like” event is held outside (weather permitting) and usually has over 1,000 men, women, and children registered to attend. There will be music, games, inflatable amusements for the children, and many other activities that will turn the WSP ball field into a virtual “county fair.” The prison administration allows mentors and their wives to serve as “*family*” for those mentoring partners (mentees) that do not have family planning to attend; otherwise the offender would not get to participate in this event. Mentors and their wives whose mentoring partners have invited family may still attend and serve as “*volunteers*” to perform certain tasks needed to support this great event. These “*volunteer*” mentors then have a chance to meet their mentees’ families. Please discuss this with your mentoring partner and **register as either a “volunteer” or “family” by Tuesday, Sept. 4th**.

Your mentoring partner can provide you with the needed registration form **OR** the registration form & GCIC form can be found on our website (look under **KEY INFORMATION** for the title **FAMILY DAY 2018** at the very bottom-right of the page). Wives wishing to attend **MUST** have an approved GCIC form on file at the prison that is less than 12 months old **OR** may complete and submit a new GCIC form. For those attending as volunteers, a Volunteer Instructional meeting will occur at the prison on **Friday, Sept. 28th, at 6 PM**. As of Wednesday, August 22nd, the prison has the following mentors registered to attend;

- 1. John “Jack” Muller (Family)**
- 2. Ron Capetz (Family)**
- 3. Craig & Leigh Hollowell (Family)**
- 4. Ivan & Amy Widen (Family)**
- 5. James & Debra Badgero (Family)**
- 6. Robert & Joy Fletcher (Family)**
- 7. Harry & Dena Abell (Family)**
- 8. John & Sarah DeMoss (Family)**
- 9. Tom Hays (Volunteer)**
- 10. Kevin & Lauren Ellis (Volunteers)**

If you believed you have registered but do not see your name on the list above, please contact **Rich Denking**. Also, please let Rich know when you register as either “*family*” or “*volunteer*” so that he can ensure your paperwork makes it through the process.

You can contact **Rich Denking** via cell # 423 **605-9676** or e-mail fpeinc@comcast.net and if you have any questions concerning this event.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS CONTINUE: As you all know, we have gone through a transition in our leadership and responsibilities. In the past couple of months, Alan Bonderud's duties (other than group leader) have been graciously taken on by Doug Craven. Scott Dale's administrative duties had been taken on by a former mentee, Bradley Stephens. Due to some issues, Bradley is no longer able to continue in this role.

We know we are behind on matches, roster updates, etc. Mark Casson has a young man (Steven Howell) who was his intern last fall from Covenant College. Mark has offered him this job handling the administrative duties and he has gladly accepted. Mark has picked up all the books/materials from Bradley this past weekend, and Doug spent the day with Steven on Tuesday of this week to familiarize him with our methods. We hope that they will be able to make all the matches. You may contact Steven at the following:

Steven Howell

E-mail address – metanoiaintern@outlook.com

Cellphone – (314) 800-4191

For those mentors that currently need a mentoring partner assigned, please know that we are working to get on top of it and hope to have all matches completed by the end of this coming week.

CHANGES TO JPay E-MAIL POLICY: Many of you have received notification from the JPay administrators concerning the following Georgia Dept. of Corrections (GDC) rule change:

Incarcerated individuals will only be allowed to email friends and family who are on their Approved Visitation List. This list is currently limited to a maximum of 12 approved people.

As mentors, we are not currently allowed to be placed on the Approved Visitation List for our mentoring partners, therefore **DO NOT** complete or submit any paperwork requesting that you be added to your mentoring partner's Approved Visitation List.

The staff of Walker State Prison has already requested an exception to this policy for mentors. Currently, they are waiting to hear back from the decision makers. The prison staff was previously able to get an exception for mentors to write their mentees in the facility when our mentoring program first started.

If the prison does not get approval and direction on how to keep the mentors on their mentee's JPay list by **October**, the ability to e-mail will be terminated for everyone not on the offender's visitation list. As soon as we know something more, we will let you know. Until then, you may continue to utilize JPay as before.

NEW WSP MAIL POLICY: The prison has informed us of the following requirements involving offender mail sent by the United States Postal Service (USPS):

1. All incoming **must** have a complete name and address of the sender on the envelope. A return address **must** be present on incoming mail so that undeliverable mail may be returned to the sender.
2. A complete address for incoming mail will include the inmate's full name, GDC ID number, unabbreviated facility name, post office box, city/state, and zip code. For Walker State Prison, an example of the proper mailing address is:

**John Doe GDC# 123456789
Walker State Prison
P.O. Box 98
Rock Spring, GA 30739**

3. Cards and letters should be in black or blue ink, ball-point pen. **No** markers, gel pens, or colored inks. **No** stickers, glued, or taped items.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Psalm 34:3)

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