



3rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER: All mentors, their families, and supporters of the Faith & Character-based Program are invited to attend this event on **Friday, December 14, 2018, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM** (please arrive by 5 PM). There will be door prizes (paintings, clocks, etc.) and a dessert buffet, music, and comedy! You can also participate in a Silent Auction. This event will provide entertainment & fun while raising funds for the HOME Project and overall program at Walker State Prison. A **\$10.00 donation per person is expected**, paid by cash or check at the door upon arrival.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by December 1st. Seating is limited! Reserve your seats now directly through **Chaplain Stroop** at jeremy.stroop@gdc.ga.gov. If you have questions, call him at **(706) 764-3610**. To bring a spouse / guest, and they haven't had a background check in the last 12 months, complete a GCIC form and submit with your reservation to Chaplain Stroop.

Donated Items Needed: Please consider bringing dessert foods to feed the expected large crowd such as cakes, pies, ice cream, fruit, popcorn, coffee, flavored creamers, sugar & sweetener, regular & diet sodas, large round table cloths, miscellaneous paper and plastic plates, cups, napkins, etc. You may also contribute to cover costs.
To Donate Goods &/or Funds: Contact **Ryan Clark** at ryan.clark@gdc.ga.gov or by phone at **(706) 764-3629**.



CHRISTMAS BAGS FOR INDIGENT OFFENDERS: For the last few years, our mentors at Walker State F&CB have provided Christmas bags for the indigent offenders housed there. We are doing this once again this year. It costs about \$10 per bag, with each bag including soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, mouthwash, Ramen noodles, candy, chips and crackers. Recipients are men who have not had any money on their Inmate Trust Accounts for at least two months. Many of them have been indigent for years. This is an indication that they may have no family or friends that have maintained contact during their incarceration.

If you or your church would like to contribute financially to this wonderful cause, send a check to **First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga**, 554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402. The church has agreed again this year to manage these funds. Designate: **Walker State F&CB Indigent Bags** on the memo line. This year we are putting together 150 bags, so we expect costs to be right around \$1500. If we collect more than what is needed to cover the cost of the bags, the balance in the form of a cash donation will be made to the indigent fund at Walker.

If you are a badged mentor, and would like to assist in handing out the bags, please contact **Mr. Tom Hays**. His phone number is: **(423) 645-3244**. The packages will be handed out in early December.

JPay E-MAIL POLICY: We have been informed by the prison administration that the deadline for changes to the JPay e-mail policy has been **extended until the first of the year (2019)**. We, as mentors, can therefore continue to utilize JPay until then, as we await the final decision on the proposal to allow mentors to continue to utilize JPay beyond this new deadline. This applies to both mentees located at Walker State Prison and former mentees that have been transferred to another Georgia Dept of Corrections (GDC) facility.



VOLUNTEER BADGE RENEWAL POLICY: We are working to notify you about 2 months before your GDC Volunteer Photo-ID badge expires so that you can complete and submit the necessary renewal paperwork. Once this paperwork is submitted and your background recheck is successfully completed, your new badge will be mailed to your home address. Please let your group leader know if your badge is approaching the expiration date.

THINGS TO WATCHOUT FOR:

1. **Smart Watches** – Entry with “smart watches” is **not** allowed. Such devices are web enabled, cell phone capable, and may include cameras. Even if the watch you wear only looks the part, such as a digital watch, you may be asked to return it to your locked vehicle.
2. **Non-Mentee Relationships** – It is very easy to develop relationships with other offenders who are not our assigned mentoring partners (mentees). Please understand that such relationships **cannot** involve the provision of study materials; assistance with job searches, housing needs, etc.; or correspondence via JPay. As a mentor, you should focus on your assigned mentee’s needs and not volunteer to help with other offender's needs without permission. If non-mentoring offenders were permitted to approach any/all mentors for help we could have a huge problem on our hands.
3. **Speeding to/from the Prison** – Please be aware that some mentors have been stopped for speeding while traveling to &/or from the prison. We ask that all mentors drive safely and responsibly to avoid accidents and/or altercations with law enforcement officials.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Sometimes it is easy to miss the impact that our ministry is having on individuals at the prison. Consider these quotes from offenders as they describe their relationship with their assigned mentor:

- *“My mentor has provided me with encouragement. I am very grateful that he comes to see me on Tuesday evenings. I thank God for allowing this to happen.”*
- *“Two positive choices I’ve made have been getting myself to Walker and signing up for a mentor.”*
- *“My mentor is one of the best things that has happened to me. Every time we meet I see the love, compassion, and caring that a friend would give.”*
- *“He has become more than a mentor to me, he has become a friend, confidant, and voice of wisdom.”*
- *“I am truly thankful that God chose him to be, not only my mentor, but a friend I never knew. It is truly a blessing to meet with him twice a month and learn about God’s Word together.”*
- *“I am forever grateful for the mentor program at Walker. It is a life-changing, God sent blessing for all the men at our Faith and Character-based prison.”*
- *“I always leave our meetings feeling refreshed and knowing a real friend has visited me. He gives so much more than I could ever repay.”*

To read more about the impact that our ministry is having, please visit the link below to “Meet My Mentor,” a regular portion of the monthly Walker State Prison newsletter entitled *“The Walker Talker.”*

<https://wspmentoringministryevents.shutterfly.com/pictures/593>

RULES FOR MENTORING PARTNERS WHO HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED:

In our relationships with offenders that have been part of our mentoring ministry (mentees) but now have been transferred to another GDC facility we are to abide by the following rules:

1. Mentors may, at their discretion, provide their transferred partner with their personal home address and phone number(s).
2. Mentors may **NOT** have direct contact with their transferred partner’s family.
3. Mentors may **NOT** donate money to their transferred partner’s account.
4. Mentors may be added to their transferred partner’s visitation list at the other GDC facility.

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

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