Our Mission:
Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs; supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

Our Principals:
- We believe change is possible, and it begins interpersonally.
- We believe all people are equal and deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that empowers individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

Geiger Offenders, Rail Museum Laying New Tracks
One of the more challenging projects Geiger Community Corrections Work Crews have embarked on is assisting with the on-going relocation of the Inland Northwest Rail Museum from the Interstate Fairground complex to a 30-acre site 2 miles west of Reardan.

Geiger Corrections Work Crew Supervisor, Sgt. Jason Robison, likened moving a railroad museum to moving a mountain that comes apart in 100-ton chunks. “Certainly moving a train museum is more involved than moving just anything else.”

To make the job possible, the INRM constructed a rail route to the historical museum from existing spur tracks, and has secured the entire project behind fencing. The INRM expects to complete the move of their railroad collection to the Reardan site by year’s end and open the INRM expects to complete the move of their railroad collection to the Reardan site by year’s end and open the Inland Northwest Rail Museum near Reardan.

Summer 2014
Spokane County Detention Services
Community Corrections Newsletter
Director John McGrath
Lt. Joanne Lake

Geiger Work Crew Inmates under the supervision of Corrections Officer Todd Rosengrant position and spike a section of track at the Inland Northwest Rail Museum near Reardan.

Former Geiger Offender Seizes Re-Entry Help, College Dream
Tim Northington, looking to rebuild his life with his 4-year-old daughter, during his last stay at Geiger immersed himself in pre-release education classes tailored to facilitate a successful transition back into the community.

Veteran’s Court Forum Mentoring, Support Showing Great Results
Oftentimes, there’s one aspect or element of substance addiction treatment that proves the biggest challenge to abstinence. Some struggle with a lack of confidence or self-esteem. Treatment counselors attribute failed efforts of others to unmanaged stress or anger. Still others find that particular people or occasions trigger the relapse impulse.

Veterans’ Court programs in Washington have been founded on the notion that treating mental or physical symptoms, such as PTSD, alone does not address why an individual began taking drugs or alcohol in the first place. The formula focuses on change that incorporates mentoring, counseling, peer support and progress review. Results have been stellar.

Veterans Forum Coordinator and Geiger Instructor Kathy Haugland.

Spokane Municipal, plus courts in Stevens and Pend Oreille counties. We gather the third Thursday of each month.”

For Brian D. of Spokane, the Veteran’s Forum has been integral in reshaping his life. He was then the guest speaker at the July 3 Geiger Community Corrections 29th Breaking Barriers Graduation ceremony. His challenge was simply realized when he was asked to speak. “I thought it was fine, but I was in denial. Once I took a look at myself and what I was doing to those around me, I saw a big problem.”
Geiger Responsible Renters Program Focusing On Root Of Homelessness

This summer Geiger Education Director Becca Butterfield has reintroduced the “Responsible Renters” class at Geiger. Participants of this classroom curriculum learn the basic rights and responsibilities of renting a home, with special emphasis on how to obtain/keep housing rights in shared living arrangements. Geiger Responsible Renters class at Geiger is supported through partnerships (“Transitions,” a Spokane non-profit working to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane. Transitions is supported by several Catholic-based women’s communities. Completion of the Responsible Renters class affords Geiger inmates access to public and non-profit housing resources.

Sheriff’s Grad Speech Touts Candidates Supporting Community Corrections

Geiger Corrections Center held its 30th Breaking Barriers graduation ceremony on Aug. 14 with all at the ceremony at the Geiger Visitor’s Center. Spokane County Sheriff Knezovich was in attendance to congratulate the grads, explaining it’s imperative they utilize post-release assistance and mentoring services available through Geiger’s non-profit and faith-based partners. “I know it’s a bit unusual for a cop to come here and celebrate the work you’ve done,” he told the grads. “For me the objective isn’t punishment, it’s to end victimization and inspire you to make changes benefiting yourselves and your kids. This is what motivates me; it’s why I’m a cop. Often we have granddad, dad and son in jail at all the same time. Here is our chance to break this generational cycle.”

Knezovich shared some observations about the future of Geiger programs and offender rehabilitation in Spokane County. “I just came from a criminal justice meeting with elected officials. We can’t solve the problem if offenders don’t have a way to make positive change. We can lock them up, but they get out. I’ve been advocating this since 2007 when we first began planning offender programs at Geiger. With a lot of work from people like Judith Gilmore at Fulcrum, Lt. Lake here at Geiger, Pastor Danny Green, and the Lands Council’s Green Streets Project, we’re making progress. We have a great start, but it can’t happen without broad-based community support and commitment from our elected officials.”

Becca Butterfield, Geiger Ed Director, awarded certificates of completion to 16 inmates completing the Breaking Barriers curriculum (Gordon Graham’s behavioral/cognitive change model, creative conflict resolution, personal finance). Geiger’s Celeb Family (Faith Christian Church) keynoted the graduation for the second time this summer. Fulcrum Institute pre-release education instructor Bob Wise honored 5 offenders and New Horizon Treatment Counselor Eileen Jacobson awarded certificates to 5 inmates completing Intensive Outpatient Therapy.

New GED Testing, Computer Lab Upgrades Advance Geiger Ed Opportunities

Computers have seeped into just about every facet of life, particularly education. To that end, Geiger Community Corrections continues to expand its computer training capabilities, turning hard-hand-down, obsolete desktops into learning labs and testing networks.

GED (General Education Development) preparation and testing have been offered at Geiger since 2006. Since the GED program’s inception, a test section passing rate of over 90 percent has been attained by Geiger offenders, more than 2100 individual tests passed and 325 GED certificates earned. However, since Jan. 1, Geiger’s GED program has been on hold. That’s about ready to change.

A complete overhaul of the U.S. GED testing system took effect on Jan. 1. All GED testing in Washington State is now directed on-line by Pearson-Vue, a private educational and professional certification testing service. In addition to a computerized testing network (no more pen and paper testing; on-line only), the new GED exam sets a higher degree of proficiency for reading, cognition and “common core” skills.

Geiger Maintenance Specialist Tim Houtz and Programs Sergeant Jon Simbler, with assistance from inmate workers, constructed a dedicated 7-station GED testing room in the Geiger education building.

This summer Geiger Education Director Becca Butterfield obtained her Person-Vue proctoring credentials and the required certification to establish a Geiger GED testing center. Becca will start GED test preparation instruction for inmates mid-September.

Improvements have also been made to Geiger’s Job Skills computer lab. Five donated stand-alone PCs running freeware have been updated to become a Windows network. Now Geiger computer lab teachers can provide instruction in software applications universally used in today’s business world.

College Dreams

Cont. from page 1—Tim obtained his GED at age 21 before he’d even had the opportunity to begin college. The counselors at Fulcrum have been phenomenally supportive in his positive approach and encouragement. They helped me apply for financial assistance through the Basic Food Entitlement Program (DFW), the Student Health Improvement Program (DSHS) and assisted with my SCC enrollment.

Law & Justice Council Tackles Blueprint Report

Spokane Regional Criminal Justice’s “Blueprint For Reform” report, released Nov. 2013, led County Commissioners this spring to create the Law & Justice Council charged with bringing forth best practices in law enforcement, detention, criminal adjudication and corrections. The new Council brings together elected officials and public agency leaders to collaboratively assess immediate and future needs. This new model is one alternative to incarceration that are consistent with current laws, provide for public safety, hold offenders accountable, reduce victimization and address recidivism.

The Council (http://www.spokanecounty.org/sjcjl) has contracted WSU criminology professor Dr. Jacqueline Van Wormer, as its project manager and facilitator. Meeting times and places will be posted on the Council website. Public input is not taken at meetings, but can be submitted through the Council web site.