



Make a Difference Day at DOCCS December 13, 2013

The NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision once again have participated in the USA Weekend and the Hands on Network's "Make a Difference Day." Different events were held across the state at various correctional facilities and within the community.

As a whole, 3,423 staff contributed 4,245 hours, donated \$175,462, 112,556 pounds of food, 2,256 pints of blood and served 15,335 meals. The outpouring of giving from our staff and inmates exemplifies our deep commitment to our communities all across New York State. The department continues to show its continued support to the communities, schools, local and national organizations throughout the year, not just on "Make a Difference Day."

Staff members at Adirondack Correctional Facility (Essex County) volunteered their time to prepare meals for the seniors who reside at the Dechantal Apartment complex in Saranac Lake. Seventy home-cooked meals were either served to residents in the community room or delivered to their apartments.



Superintendent Jeffrey Tedford, from Adirondack Correctional Facility is seen serving meals to residents at the Dechantal Apartment Complex.

The [Blessings in a Backpack Program](#) received 477 pounds of food and a \$200 donation from Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities in Westchester County. The Blessings in a Backpack program is a national program that won Charity of the Year in 2012 by People Magazine. Their mission is providing healthy, nutritious meals for impoverished elementary school aged children on the weekends during the entire school year.

Attica Correctional Facility (Wyoming County) staff helped the Crossroads House/Hospice Services by organizing storage areas, cleaning windows and prepared homes for the fast approaching winter season. The inmates at Washington Correctional Facility (Washington County) split and loaded firewood into two trucks to be delivered to local families. During the winter months, these families rely on wood to heat their homes.



I. to r. Lewis Goidel, Supervisor Volunteer Tutors from Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and Mike Lynch, Recreation Program Leader I from Taconic Correctional Facility collecting donations outside a local supermarket.

Organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Toys for Tots, a pediatric unit, and a food pantry received donations from Watertown Correctional Facility (Jefferson County) staff throughout the year. The total amount donated was \$7,350. Cape Vincent Correctional Facility (Jefferson County) donated over \$1,300 dollars to five local schools. Lastly, security and civilian employees participated in a benefit for the family of a fellow Corrections Officer who was killed. A total of \$35,000 dollars was raised.