

Correctional Facilities Across New York State Celebrate the Holiday Season

Groveland Correctional Facility's Chaplain's office held their annual Christmas caroling event, braving the cold to spread holiday cheer. Chaplains Paul and Barbara Clement, joined by nine inmates, traveled throughout the facility singing Christmas carols to the joy of staff and inmates alike.



Groveland Correctional Facility carried out another holiday tradition—preparing gifts to be distributed for children visiting on Christmas day. Teacher Melissa Alber organized the team of inmates who put together gift bags for children of various age groups. This gesture is enjoyed each year by both the inmates and their children who come to visit them on this special day.



Staff and inmates at Auburn Correctional Facility worked together to give back to the community this holiday season. The inmate veteran organization spent countless hours fundraising and crocheting hats, gloves, and scarves to donate to local food pantries. In all, five food pantries received donations of over 180 crocheted items, in addition to a \$150 donation. With the abundance of items crocheted, staff were also able to deliver a donation of hats and scarves to the Auburn Community Hospital. The group is now busy crocheting red baby hats for The American Heart Association's Little Hats, Big Hearts February promotion.

Staff at Five Points Correctional Facility gave back to the local community with their own annual tradition. Staff completed an Angel Tree project, a tree with tags representing a child in need and his or her holiday wishes. With all of the tags selected by staff across the facility, thirty children in local Seneca County schools received gifts and warm gloves for the holidays.