



Collins Inmate Organization Sponsors Summer Concert Series for Charity September 11, 2014

Inmates housed on Side II at Collins Correctional Facility (Erie County) took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy some good music this summer while helping out a good cause. With the help of the Recreation Department, the Side II Euro-American Committee (EAC) Inmate Organization sponsored a Summer Concert Series by the Collins II band where the “admission” for each show was at least one non-perishable food item. The food collected during these three concerts was donated to the Gowanda Food Pantry.

The Collins Side II EAC is an Inmate Organization that was established to provide self-help opportunities for inmates incarcerated on Side II at Collins Correctional Facility. Among their goals and objectives, the EAC aims to instill a sense of civic consciousness among its members that will help them realize their individual contributions as citizens within a community. By offering a series of three concerts and charging this creative “admission,” it was the EAC’s intent to show the rest of the Side II inmate community how coming together to support a good cause can be a fun experience and feel rewarding at the same time.

The Collins II Band is comprised of 10 inmates who practice twice a week. They occasionally provide concerts for general population through the Recreation Department, but usually perform during such facility events as GED graduation ceremonies. They were eager to show off their more creative side through the EAC’s concert series, covering an array of classic rock standards including Bob Dylan’s “Knocking On Heaven’s Door”, as well as crowd favorites by such artists as the Allman Brothers Band and B.B. King.

There were between 35 and 40 inmates in attendance at each of the first two concerts in the series, but over 50 attended the third and final concert held on July 29th. This last concert created for a fond farewell experience for Collins Superintendent Graziano, who was appointed as the new Superintendent of Ulster Correctional Facility the next day. In all, 115 non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the Gowanda Food Pantry, which serves needy families living in the Collins and Gowanda area.



Pictured with members of the Collins II EAC, the Collins II Band and the food items collected from their Summer Concert Series are (at far left, L to R) Captain Huitfeldt, Lt. Schoenthaler (back row) and former Collins Superintendent Graziano.