



Gowanda Correctional Facility Donates Pumpkins to Local School September 12, 2014

Gowanda Correctional Facility (Erie County) helped students and teachers at nearby Gowanda Elementary School begin the year with a unique Horticulture program donation that would help them kick off the Halloween season. On September 9, 2014, Gowanda staff visited the school with a truckload of 215 pumpkins, at a combined weight of just over 4,000 lbs. There were so many pumpkins that every student in Pre-K through second grade could receive one, and enough left over to be incorporated into classroom activities or as art projects.

Under the direction of Vocational Instructor Scott Wagner, inmates in the Horticulture classes at Gowanda are taught about the importance of giving back to the community. Mr. Wagner regularly provides such opportunities for the inmates to do so. The most notable charitable project that his students work on every year is the Facility Gleaning Project, where his classes grow and harvest fresh produce that is donated to food pantries throughout Erie and Cattaraugus counties. Last year, Gowanda's Horticulture program donated over 43,000 lbs. of fresh produce as one of the facility's Make-A-Difference Day projects. And with this donation of 4,000 pounds of pumpkins, the group of inmates are well on their way to top that total this year.



From l. to r.: First Grade Teacher Elizabeth Fish and one of her students, Molly Kennedy, Supervisor of CF Volunteer Services/Make-A-Difference Day Committee Member, Carrie Dzierba, Gowanda Elementary School Principal, James Klubek, Gowanda Central School District Superintendent and Scott Wagner, Vocational Horticulture Instructor.