



Groveland's Third Annual Season for Nonviolence

*\$2,000 to Chances & Changes Inc.
Domestic/Family Abuse Organization
April 22, 2015*

Groveland Correctional Facility opened their third annual "Season for Nonviolence" with an assembly featuring Arun Gandhi. Mr. Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, made a passionate plea to the attending inmates to seek a peaceful path to help resolve conflict. Gandhi's message of peace kick started the next 64 days that encompass the Season for Nonviolence, culminating with the Closing Ceremony.

As has become part of this inmate-driven program, money was raised for a worthy community cause and it must operate under some premise of nonviolence. Each of Groveland's inmate organizations participated in fundraising efforts, hoping to raise the most amount of money possible, during the two-month campaign. In addition, many inmates donated money after signing a Peace Pledge. The Peace Pledge signing included having the inmate's name printed to a paper leaf that was affixed to a living Peace Tree displayed at the closing ceremony. The Peace Tree will be planted in a planned Peace Tree Park later this spring.

In the previous two years, the Rochester Police Department's Gun Buy Back Program was the recipient of inmates' fund raising efforts.



The 2015 Season for Nonviolence efforts were dedicated to raising money for Chances & Changes, Inc., (a Livingston County non-profit organization assisting persons who are physically, emotionally, verbally, sexually and/or financially abused by their intimate partners). Ms. Keller and Ms. Howe of Chances & Changes attended the Closing Ceremony and graciously accepted the \$2,000.00 check presented to them by the Inmate Organization Presidents along with the Inmate Liaison Committee Chairman.