Riverside Regional Jail Authority

ANNUAL PROGRAMS REPORT

2020

www.rrjva.org

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The Riverside Regional Jail Authority's (RRJA) Programs and Community Corrections Annual Report shares accomplishments achieved during the year. Our aim is to highlight our successes.

In 2020 the RRJA experienced numerous challenges but persevered and met those challenges head on. RRJA encountered 2 Superintendent transitions, staffing shortages, and the coronavirus. Even with those obstacles, RRJA pressed toward the finish line.

Beginning July 2, 2020 Larry Leabough accepted the offer to lead Riverside Regional Jail Authority as Superintendent. Colonel Leabough brought fresh approaches to manage jail operations. Arriving during a COVID-19 pandemic and staffing challenges, he sought to afford the facility with continued preventative and social distancing practices; to improve external and internal relationships; to increase moral; to further develop safety procedures and to share new concepts that enhance the well being of staff and inmates. With his insight and years of Department of Corrections experiences, Colonel Larry Leabough has exemplified that "healthy things grow, growing things change, and change challenges us."

Some 2020 RRJA highlights include:

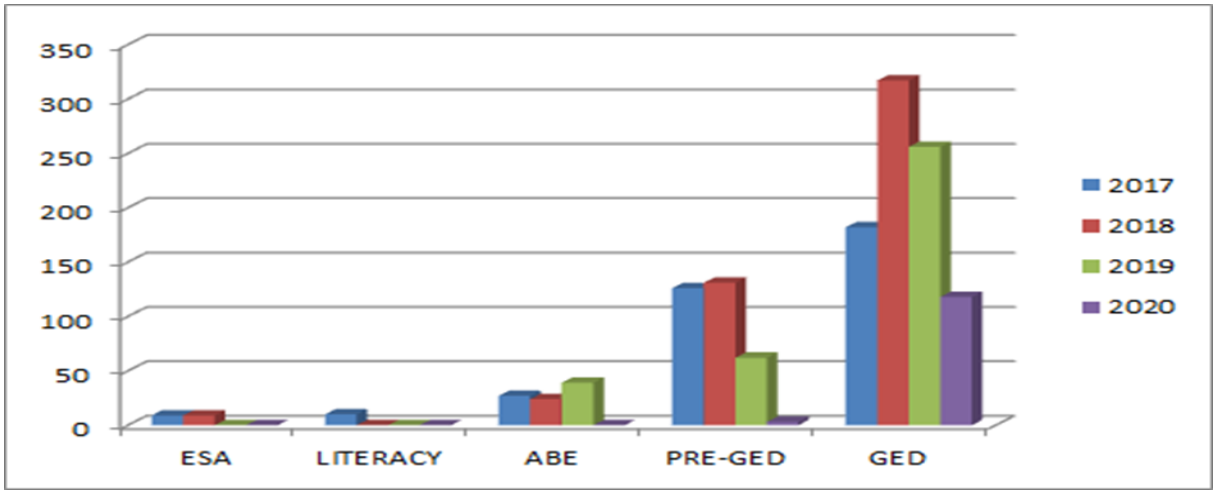
- Awarded a continuation for the Addiction Recovery Program Grant received from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. This program served female offenders struggling with addiction and preparing to release; of which 311 participants entered the program and 186 completed the program requirements.
- Afforded an Opioid Program for male offenders living with opiate addiction with 15 graduates prior to the contract ending.
- Served over 300 offenders through the Therapeutic Community program with 43 male and 19 female offenders graduating from the program.
- Continued to deliver a mature Medicaid Application program avoiding almost $4,418,773.66 in inmate medical expenses based on 189 applications submitted. Expanded the program to assist with re-entry efforts in 2020 providing 378 referrals and 348 interviews.
- Secular community members donated over 1,661 hours of service.
- Religious community members donated 1,097 hours of service.
- Implemented a GED Zoom class briefly during the onset of the coronavirus outbreak for 8 students, whom were already enrolled in educational classes prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Maintained inmate access to legal research conducted by staff whom produced 1,890 copies for 1,038 inmate requests.
- Provided 2,365 books and magazines for 2,355 inmate requests.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CHARITY

Riverside Regional Jail (RRJ) has provided financial support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month for a number of years. RRJ endeavors to find innovative ways to raise support and awareness of this dreadful disease. In 2020 staff displayed their talents via baking delicious eye-tantalizing sweet treats and making jewelry and basket. Moreover, breast cancer trinkets such as ink pens, lapel pins, sunshades, etc. were available for purchase. All efforts proved fruitful, as RRJ raised $1,223 from the bake sales and raffle tickets. All proceeds purchased items were donated to the Virginia Cancer Institute and Cancer Center at Southside Regional Medical Center.

OFFENDER EDUCATION

In 2020, the contract teachers from Southside Programs for Adult Continuing Education (SPACE), Prince George County and Riverside started with 121 students participating in educational instruction at the Regional Jail. The year began with great expectations, however due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) concerns the Governor of Virginia issued a 'Stay at Home' order for the state of Virginia taking effect March 13, 2020.



Prior to the 'Stay at Home' order our GED students studied diligently to attain the credentials that each must acquire to pass the four (4) core subject areas. Taking in consideration the quote, "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you," a video conferencing tool for virtual/digital learning (Zoom) was implemented. Eight students accepted that very challenge. Assignments were given based on the guidelines for College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education.

In 2020 teachers and students faced a few obstacles with electronic difficulties. However, "great achievement requires personal force, determined spirit and self-confidence." Weekly assignments were completed by students, reviewed and graded by teachers.

GED staff resumed face to face teaching in November 2020. Going forward, plans are to expand the educational workforce component to include employability; digital literacy; and other soft skills. GED staff looks forward to fulfilling our federal mandate for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Overall, 2020 has been a year of many changes and challenges. We anticipate an increased number of graduates in 2021. "The most powerful people are the ones who never stop learning."-Rejoice Denhere

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The special education department at Riverside Regional Jail consists of one certified teacher from Prince George County Public Schools who is licensed in special education with an endorsement in the area of Emotional Disabilities. The amount of students served through this department fluctuates on a day to day basis due to students being released from the facility and back into the community or they are moved to the Department of Corrections to continue to serve the remainder of their sentences. On average during the duration of a school year the special education teacher serves nine students at a time. In order for an inmate to qualify for special education services while they are incarcerated, they have to meet the following criteria:

- Must not have reached the age of 22 before September 30th of the school year
- Must have a current or expired IEP (Individualized Education Plan) from a public or private school; not to include students who were dismissed from receiving Special Education Services while they were enrolled in public or private school
- Must not have graduated high school, college, or already received a GED in another program

When new inmates enter the facility who fulfill the age requirement for this program, they are interviewed by the special education teacher in order to inquire about their education status: last school attended, last grade completed, whether or not they had an IEP. Once it is determined that they have not graduated from high school and they are a student with special needs, their former school is contacted and a signed request for records is sent to acquire the appropriate paperwork needed to construct their new IEP. All special education students who are incarcerated at Riverside Regional Jail and are receiving services have their IEPs from their former school districts transferred over to the Prince George County Public Schools record system.

During the school year of 2019-2020, COVID-19 put a halt to the special education program at Riverside Regional Jail on March 13, 2020. Under the advisement of Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and more specifically the command staff at RRJ, all contracted employees were no longer permitted to enter the facility until further notice. As programs have been opened back up at RRJ (October 2020), the teacher returned to serve the students at RRJ who qualify for special education services; however, instruction has been limited due to being involved in another employment contract within Prince George County Public Schools.

THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

“The Virginia Office of the Attorney General is dedicated to providing re-entry services that will lead to ensuring Virginians are safe, secure, and thriving.” Riverside Regional Jail Authority (RRJA) continued to be a part of the Movement through consistent collaboration with local and regional re-entry councils. Our collaboration offers offenders needed tools for successful reentry. RRJA continues to partner with the Petersburg/Dinwiddie Reentry Council, South-central Virginia Reentry and Community Collaboration Council, New Kent Council and Chesterfield Council. These Councils meet monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly to discuss discharge planning for inmates housed in the local jails and network to find solutions for hard-to-place cases.

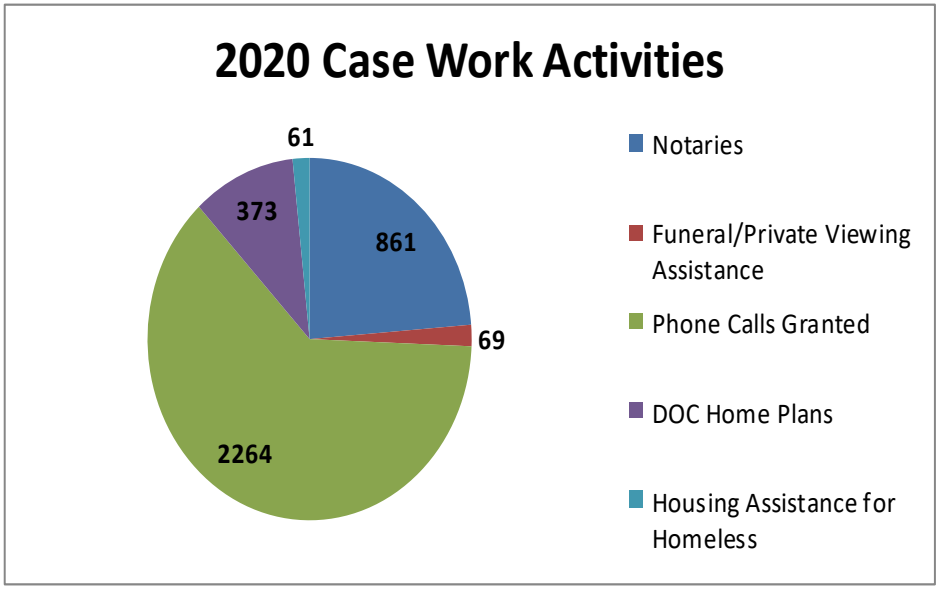
RRJA continued to serve its own Reentry Council, known as, Riverside Reentry Advisory Council (RRAC) . This council was created to fulfill the need to address reentry services for females returning to local communities with substance abuse concerns. This fulfillment was generated from a grant awarded in 2017 and continued an additional year after successful completion of the initial 9-month award Addiction Recovery Program Grant offered by the Virginia Department of Justice Services. RRAC consistently aims to be a full-bodied enriching service for all returning citizens.

CASE MANAGEMEMT

Riverside Regional Jail employs Case Workers are assigned to a Housing Unit for which they provide services for the inmates. The services provided include but are not limited to:

Needs Assessments	Individual & Group Counseling
Workshops & Seminars	After Care Plans

Case Workers may act as a liaison between the inmates and the courts, attorneys, probation officers, family members or other outside service providers on behalf of the inmate. Community resources, either through referrals for service or by contractual agreement are used to provide inmates with the service to meet their program needs.



LIBRARY

The Programs Department Library continued to offer both legal research and leisure reading materials. Offenders were afforded law library visitation in order to conduct independent research on their criminal cases and gain a working knowledge of the Judicial System; prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Library also stores spiritual literature, references and studies for various faith groups. All religious and secular materials are donated by the community organizations and publishers.

Multifaceted Doctrinal References:

Christian

Catholic

Jehovah Witnesses

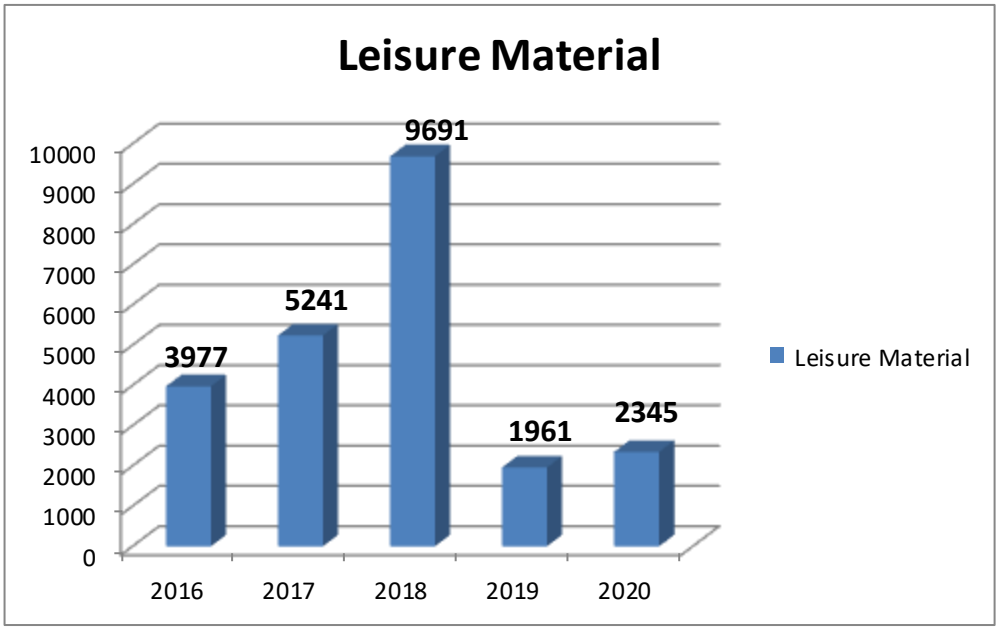
Muslim

Religious Leisure Reading

Leisure Reading

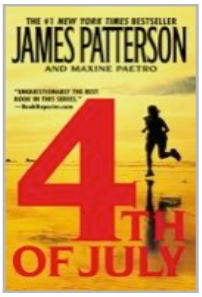
LIBRARY BOOK CART

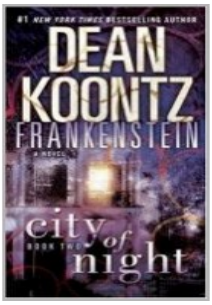
In 2020 inmates requested 2,345 leisure reading materials, which is an inexpensive escape from incarceration. Inmates had the ability to request books and magazines for checkout weekly. All requests were processed via the kiosk and checkout items through Companion Corp's Alexandria Library Database software.

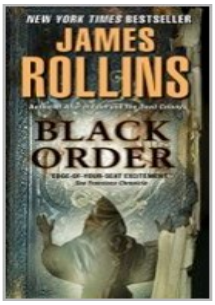


Riverside Regional Jail subscribes to various magazines through EBSCO as part of our leisure reading inventory. This subscription allows us to meet American Correction Association accreditation standards and Department of Corrections Compliance Standards for Jails. Our magazine subscription includes titles such as Car & Driver, Field & Stream, National Geographic, Time, Esquire, People en Espanol, etc.

Donated books are also part of RRJ's leisure reading inventory. There are over 4,000 books available for checkout. In 2020, our most popular book titles were 4th of July by James Patterson, City of Night by Dean Koontz, and Black Order by James Rollins. The most popular magazines were Elle, Popular Mechanic and National Geographic.



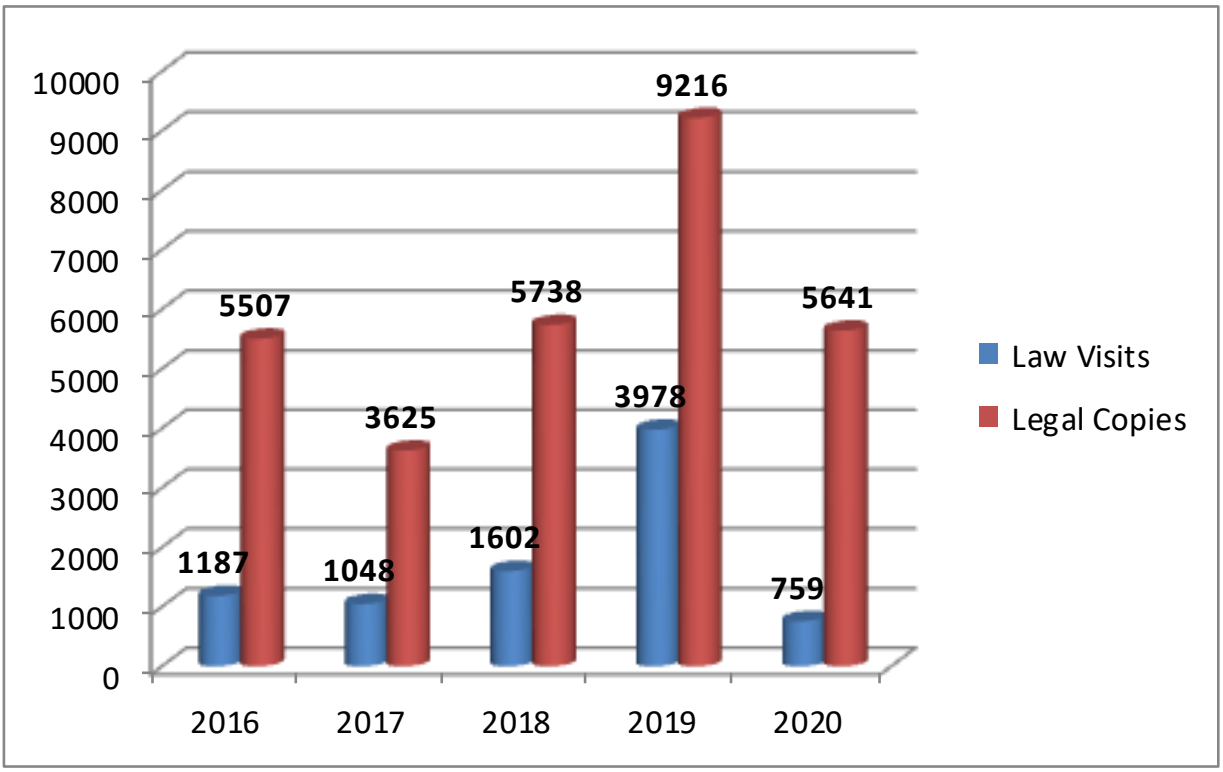




LAW LIBRARY

In early 2020 the Library continued utilizing online access to legal references; permitting more updated laws to be available sooner. Lexis Nexis provides the updated Virginia State and Federal statutes, forms and cases. There were 759 offender visits to the law library, with an additional 8 special visit requests. During these visits, over 3751 copies were requested.

In June, RRJ suspended all law visitation to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Staff stepped up to research and provide requested forms, case law, house bills, and statutes. During the last 7 months of 2020, Programs Staff provided 1,890 legal research copies, to include various House Bills and laws.



Popular form requests were for Sentence Modification, Writ of Mandamus, and Habeas Corpus.

	Sentence Modification

	Writ of Mandamus

	Habeas Corpus

VOLUNTEERS

"*China is made from kaolin, a fine white clay that is made from decomposing granite. And it was in China that the procedures for mixing, molding and firing such items was developed.*" *Our* Volunteers are like Fine China, delicate yet brilliantly beautiful. They provided programs and services for not only the inmates but staff often times. Their talent afforded that brilliant shine through *"mixing, molding and firing"*-turning up the heat with truth and revelation which aids in and aims toward healthy change.

$27.20/ hour **X** **1,662 hours donated** **=** **$45,206 saved**

In 2020 prior to COVID-19 Pandemic "Stay at Home Order", Secular Volunteer services and programs were Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Sisters Education Awareness Motivational Seminar, James House (one on one counseling for PREA clients), Minority Health Consortium (HIV & HEP C Testing), Serenity HIV Prevention Awareness groups, College Bound Program via Trio, Alamo Addiction Recovery Center, Peer Support Counselors, Central Virginia Health Services, Inc., Anger Management Support group, Parenting Class, Regenesis Housing, and Veteran Justice Outreach for our incarcerated veterans. Our 30 Secular Volunteers continue each year to provide quality services to assist and meet the needs of each individual that is housed in Riverside Regional Jail donating 1,662 hours for the year.

MINISTRY

April 10, 2018 Riverside Regional Jail's Ministry launched American Bible Society's Trauma Healing Institute's, *Healing the Wounded Heart* Bible study.

The *Trauma Healing Institute* was formed as result of requests from pastors in some Middle Eastern and African nations which were being decimated by civil war, diseases and genocide to provide healing to the traumatized people of those regions as they experience the life-changing message of the Bible. It has come to the United States in a partnership with Good News Jail & Prison Ministry in the jails & prisons in facilities served by them. Although the jail's contract with Good News Jail & Prison Ministry ended June 30, 2019, the Trauma Healing Program continues to run. 93 inmates completed the program in 2018 at Riverside.

Riverside began September 2018 participating in a research project with the developer of the Healing the Wounded Heart study, American Bible Society, conducted by Baylor University, to document the effectiveness of the Healing the Wounded Heart Bible Study. The project plans are to survey 400 inmates in this study tracking their progress in their healing. Forty-three (43) were able to participate in the study in the final quarter of 2018.

In 2019, 573 inmates participated in Trauma Healing Program (THP). Those participating in the group are issued 4 surveys at four different times. Of those participating, 176 inmates completed all four surveys.

In 2020 Baylor University sent 2 Criminologists to complete the research study. The Criminologists collected data on inmates who had not participated in the Trauma Healing Groups (control groups). RRJ was the only jail or prison to participate in this study. The findings were resoundingly positive, as "*the Trauma Healing Program had a significant impact on participating inmates, reducing PTSD, grief, negative emotions, suicidal ideation, & the likelihood of aggression. Changes in the THP outcomes over time were significantly related to the changes in the negative consequences of trauma.*"

Our 94 Religious Volunteers gave of their time and talents through March 13, 2020 when Governor Ralph Northam took advice from the Chief Medical Advisor to the President, Dr. Fauci. That directive was to 'stay home." In order to reduce the potential spread of the coronavirus, all Volunteers were asked to suspend all religious activities and services.

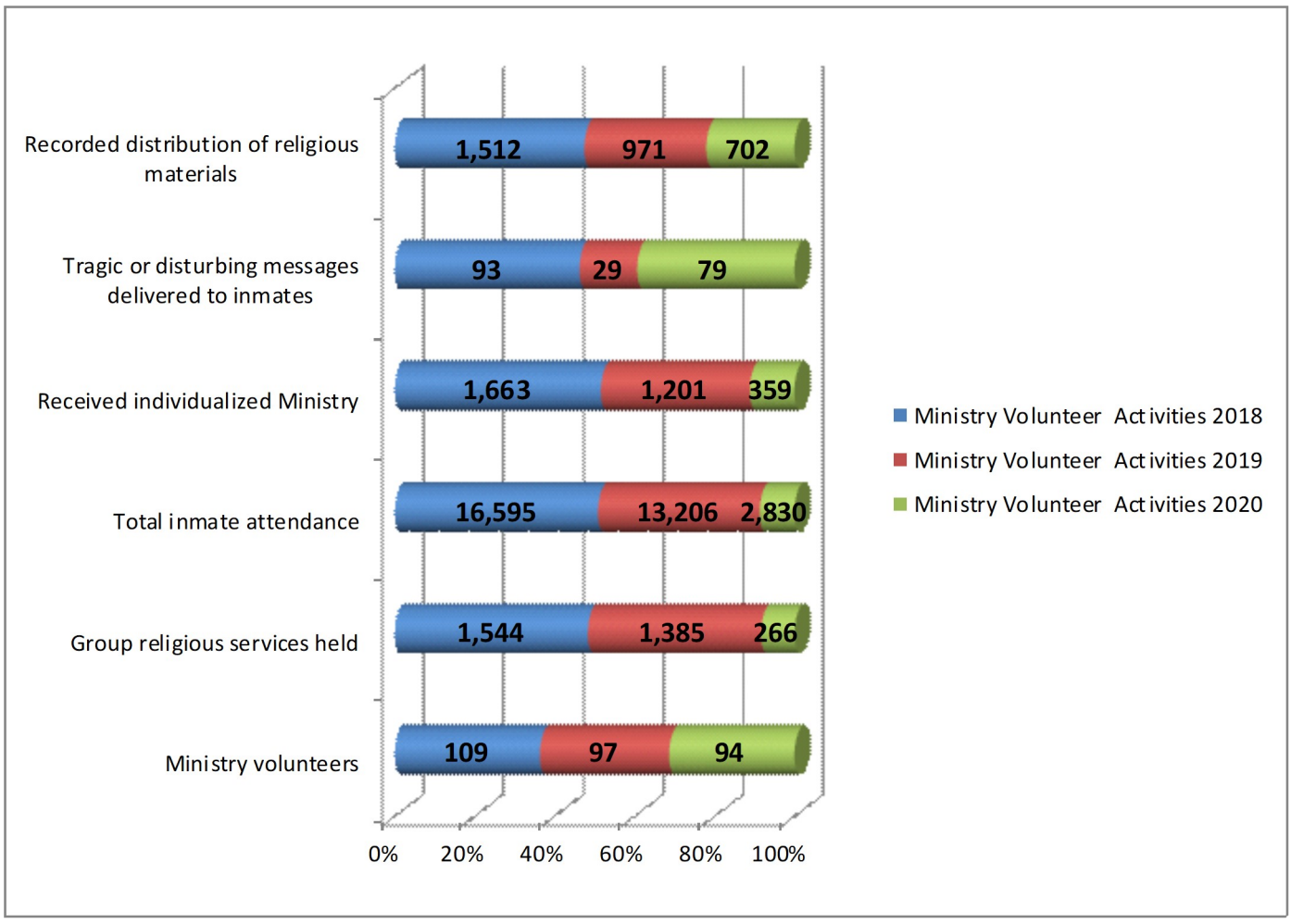
During the 2 1/2 months our spiritual volunteers afforded: religious studies and worship services; performed religious administrative tasks; and provided individual and group spiritual counseling for staff and inmates. All this was done under the leadership of our part-time Chaplain, Edward Blackwell.

Ministry Talent Donated

Donated hours 1,097

$ per hour x 27.20

Savings $29,838.40



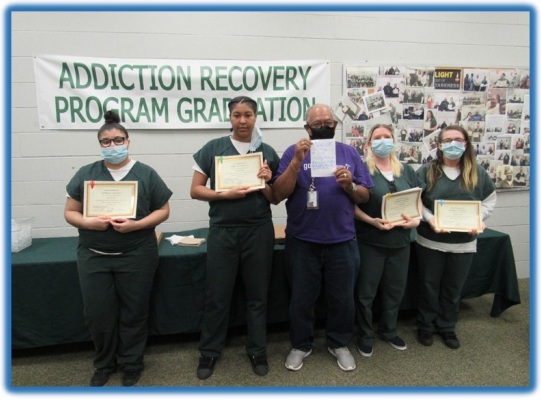
ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAM

In 2017 the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) solicited grant recipients to fulfill a need for Peer Recovery Services for offenders preparing to return to local communities. Riverside Regional Jail's grant proposal was submitted on August 21, 2017 as an enhancement to the Female Therapeutic Community that included general population females with substance abuse concerns. DCJS honored our proposal for $48,000 and a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist was hired.

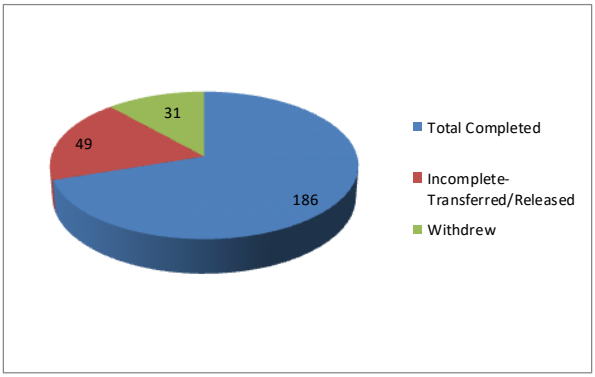
The Addiction Recovery Grant Program began classes on January 29, 2018. Twenty-one of the 6-week sessions have been completed and session twenty-two has started. Enrollment for Cohort Groups 1 thru 21 total 311 participants of which 186 participants completed the sessions, 49 participants attended but did not complete the required sessions due to release or transfer to another facility and 31 participants were dropped from the program due to non-attendance or disciplinary reasons.

Classes included: Anger Management; Wellness Recovery; Substance Matrix; Communication Skills; Trauma; Relationship Building; family Matters /Parenting; Job Readiness; Money Management and Decision Points. Due to COVID-19 safety precautions, volunteers programs and RRAC (Riverside Reentry Advisory Council) meetings were suspended from the facility. Post Release follow-up via telephone calls continued weekly as an attempt to offer additional support to the returning citizens and families.

The Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) coordinated schedules and facilitated various reentry groups as prescribed for the program. The PRS also provided one on-one peer Sessions and linked program participants with other jail staff as needed and with community resources. At the completion of each cohort group a completion ceremony is held that includes staff attendance, and refreshments for the graduates. All the graduates receive a certificate of completion.



Left to right: Ceria Pollard, Cayla Holland, Chaplain Blackwell, Tara Jernigan, and Jennifer Veltre



COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

The Riverside Regional Jail Authority continues to operate one of the largest jail populations in the Commonwealth of Virginia through Community Corrections Programs. However, calendar year 2020 showed a stark difference in participation compared to years past due to the rise of the COVID-19. The Weekender Non-Consecutive Sentencing program was suspended in March 2020, in response to the pandemic. Although less impactful, the Work Release Program and Home Electronic Monitoring Program also underwent modifications to its operations for safety of staff, inmates as well as the public.

Over 300 offenders participated in the agency's Community Corrections Program which includes Work, Education and Rehabilitative Release, Non-Consecutive Sentencing and Home Electronic Monitoring. It is well known that one of the single greatest impediments to a successful reentry into society is the ability to achieve gainful employment. RRJ continues to maintain valuable partnerships with over 15 employers including Tindall Construction and Food Lion Distribution. These partnerships allow us to offer a variety of employment opportunities to participants that offer livable wages. We have consistently maintained an employment rate of 95% and above.

Attaining marketable skills and trades are valuable assets for individuals seeking a successful transition. RRJA is continuing in its efforts to provide much needed services for individuals returning to the community. In calendar year 2021, RRJA seeks to add a number of additional programs and services to its roster to include ServSafe Certifications and numerous vocational and technical training opportunities.

RRJA continues to partner with the Petersburg Area Transit (PAT) to provide public transportation availability to work release offenders as well as the public. This service not only provide reliable transportation for offenders, but also provides as source of transportation for citizens to visit their loved one's currently incarcerated. In December 2020 Community Corrections and Administrative staff participated in Stakeholder Feedback Meetings to discuss how better PAT could service the community. Through surveys and meaningful dialogue, we provided information that will hopefully broaden the scope of services in a way that is more impactful for the inmate population and the community as a whole.

2020 WORK RELEASE SENTENCING

COMPLETED	YEARLY TOTAL	REMOVED	YEARLY TOTAL
Charlies City	1	Charlies City	0
Chesterfield	21	Chesterfield	1
Colonial Heights	11	Colonial Heights	0
Hopewell	4	Hopewell	2
Petersburg	15	Petersburg	0
Prince George	7	Prince George	0
Surry	1	Surry	0
Other (Outside)	0	Other	0
JCB/DOC	84	JCB/DOC	4
TOTAL	**144**	**TOTAL**	**7**
PERCENTAGE	**97.30%**	**Percentage**	**4.73%**

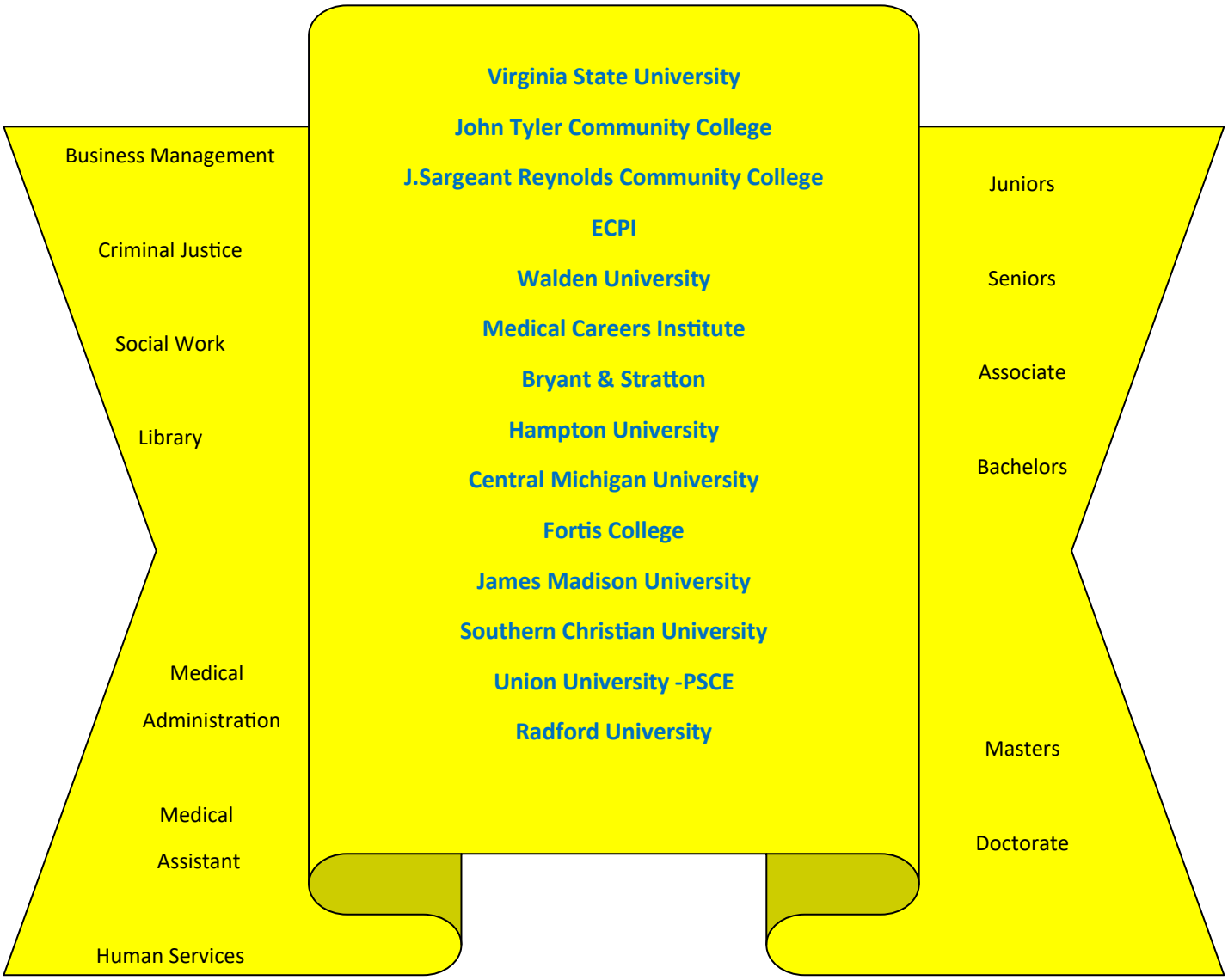
2020 Non Consecutive Day Reporting

	1-10		11-20		21-30		31-60		61-90		90+		
	Success	Failure	Success	Failure	Success	Failure	Success	Failure	Success	Failure	Success	Failure	Totals
Charles City	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Chesterfield	48	7	13	2	6	0	7	3	0	0	0	0	86
Colonial Heights	22	6	3	2	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	39
Hopewell	7	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	11
Petersburg	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Prince George	14	2	4	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	26
Surry	6	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Totals	101	16	23	7	12	2	12	5	1	0	1	0	180
Percentage	86%	14%	77%	23%	86%	14%	71%	29%	100%	0%	100%	0%	

INTERNS

Riverside Regional Jail's Programs Department trained its first Interns in February 1988. Three Virginia State University's Criminal Justice students accepted the invitation, working alongside the Volunteer Programs Coordinator/Jail Officer. Their tutelage encompassed: learning how to assist inmates with researching legal statutes and obtaining appropriate legal forms; issuing and collecting library books for the inmate population; coordinating volunteer services and programs; assisting with the Officer Physical Agility Test; and furthering the development of programs. Upon completion of their training, all three candidates were offered Jail Officer positions.

Each year thereafter, the Internship Program grew, increasing the number of students and schools of higher learning as well as increasing the various disciplines. In 2020, two Interns gained hands-on training during the COVID-19 Pandemic.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHARITY

"The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is a campaign to benefit the Special Olympics. It began in 1981 in Wichita, Kansas, and is the largest grass-roots fundraising movement for the Special Olympics. LETR is run by police officers, sheriff's deputies, correction officers, support staff, police volunteers and other law enforcement professionals from around the world. Close to 97,000 police professionals in over 45 countries participate in this worldwide effort to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics. Participants in the LETR help spread the word about the benefits of Special Olympics and how the program helps define the brave participants of these programs as athletes, and not define them by their disabilities. Since its inception in 1981, LETR has raised $619,187,626."

Riverside Regional Jail has participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run since 2000. In 2020, RRJ raised $1,200 for LETR even during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hopewell's Law Enforcement Community Day

Left to right: Captain Donald Langley, RRJ & Officer Benkendorf, Colonial Heights PD

REENTRY COUNCIL COLLABORATION

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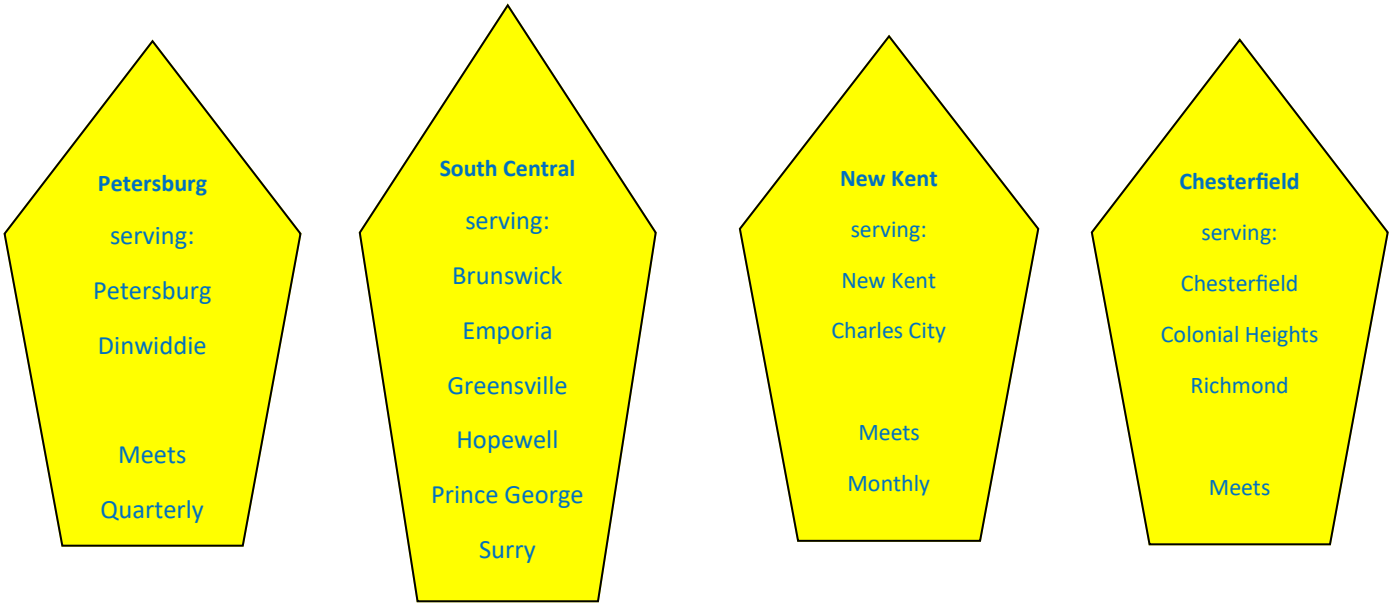

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REENTRY SERVICES

Key to success of any reentry program is Community Collaboration. Community Stakeholders provide vital programs, resources and services that aid in successful reentry. Through our partnerships with these stakeholders many worthwhile linkages are afforded. RRJA maintained many Community Stakeholders over the course of 5-years:

- ⇒ **Behavioral Awareness Center**
- ⇒ **The Virginia Bonding Program**
- ⇒ **Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities**
- ⇒ **Virginia DOC-Community Release**
- ⇒ **211**
- ⇒ **Goodwill-Petersburg**
- ⇒ **Jordan's Quest**
- ⇒ **Yeshua's House**
- ⇒ **Now Faith That Works Church**
- ⇒ **Another Level Barber & Cosmetology School**
- ⇒ **John Tyler Community College CCWA**
- ⇒ **Williamsburg Probation**
- ⇒ **Newport News Sheriff's Office**
- ⇒ **Regenesis**
- ⇒ **City of Refuge**
- ⇒ **Child Support Services**
- ⇒ **Virginia State University Adjunct Professors**
- ⇒ **Veteran Justice Outreach Specialists**
- ⇒ **TRIO**
- ⇒ **U.S. Probation**
- ⇒ **United Counseling Services**
- ⇒ **Southside Programs for Adult Continuing Education**
- ⇒ **River City Comprehensive Services**
- ⇒ **The Lee Group**
- ⇒ **Regenesis**
- ⇒ **New Kent Victim Witness Advocacy**
- ⇒ **District 19**
- ⇒ **Gateway Homes**
- ⇒ **Central Virginia Health Services**
- ⇒ **Peer Support Counseling**
- ⇒ **Commonwealth Catholic Charities**
- ⇒ **Caritas Works**
- ⇒ **Virginia Center for Addiction Medical**
- ⇒ **Veteran Support Counseling**
- ⇒ **Focused Outreach Richmond**
- ⇒ **Petersburg/Dinwiddie Reentry Council**
- ⇒ **New Kent/Charles City Reentry Council**
- ⇒ **Southcentral Community Collaboration Council**

IN CLOSING

The Community Corrections and Programs Departments provide institutional and community-based program opportunities for offenders, including educational programs, library (leisure and law) services, substance abuse treatment and employment services. Other services include chaplaincy services, trauma informed groups and mental health services. Additionally, the division contracts with private and non-profit providers to provide community-based treatment programs for offenders. Public safety is enhanced through the development, coordination, administration and delivery of these institutional and community-based programs and services. Through the successful implementation of a wide array of programs and initiatives, we continued to make significant strides throughout the 2020 calendar year.

In 2021, Riverside Regional Jail Authority will continue striving to promote and implement programs that support a continuum of services for offenders, resulting in a successful transition into the community. RRJA will also continue to provide a continuum of services to meet the needs of those entrusted to our care, creating a safe and professional environment with the outcome of reduced victimization, safer communities and an emphasis on the premium of life.

"Through Programs, A Positive Change Will Come!"

RIVERSIDE REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY

CONTACT US

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