



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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CRCI hosts “FREE” event

Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI) held its third annual Family Relationship Enhancement Event (FREE) on August 8, with 95 inmates and 205 visitors participating. Approximately 25 Portland-area Rotary Club members and 30 inmates volunteered to help with the event, which this year focused on “Back to School.”

Throughout the year, inmates raised close to \$5,000 to fund FREE. Along with help from local Rotary Clubs, they were able to provide everyone with a shared meal, and they gave backpacks and school supplies to all school-aged children at the event. Inmates and visitors enjoyed entertainment by the Arts in Prison program, who performed several songs written by those in custody.

Events of this nature are part of an overall effort to increase visiting and family engagement at all 14 Oregon Department of Corrections prisons. Research shows that those who stay connected and receive visits while incarcerated are more likely to be successful when they release.

CRCI is a minimum-security facility that houses approximately 595 male inmates who are within four years of release. Located in the largest metropolitan area of the state, this facility is focused on cognitive programming, work programs, and preparing inmates for return to the community. CRCI is home to a 50-bed cognitive restructuring Alternative Incarceration Program (AIP). Individuals who successfully complete this 180-day in-prison program are released to the community for a 90-day transitional leave period. Individuals who successfully complete the transitional leave period are granted a reduction in their sentence and move to post-prison supervision. CRCI is located on a 26-acre site in northeast Portland and officially in opened in September 1990.



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