



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

September 21, 2016

For information: Tonya Gushard, 503-378-2678, Tonya.M.Gushard@doc.state.or.us
Betty Bernt, 503-945-9426, Betty.A.Bernt@doc.state.or.us

Mill Creek Correctional Facility donates nearly 500 pounds of fresh produce to the Union Gospel Mission

On September 1, 2016, Mill Creek Correctional Facility (MCCF) donated 484 pounds of fresh produce to the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) in Salem. MCCF provided UGM with a variety of fresh tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, yellow squash, corn, and peppers to help supplement meals served.

The UGM helps the neediest men, women, and children in the community break the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and incarceration by partnering with churches, individuals, and organizations. The UGM serves over 200,000 meals every year to over 2,000 individuals.

The MCCF garden is grown and harvested by adults in custody, who were pleased to be able to give back to the local community. The MCCF inmate population also benefits from the crops, as the fresh vegetables are utilized inside the facility to supplement meals.

Twice a week the MCCF garden also bags produce for Marion-Polk Food Share (MPFS); in 2015, the garden was able to donate well over 20,000 pounds of produce to MPFS, which is a regional food bank leading the fight to end hunger in Marion and Polk counties. More than 40,000 people, including 14,000 children, receive emergency food each month through the Food Share partner network.

MCCF is an unfenced, minimum-security prison in Salem that houses approximately 290 male inmates who are within four years of release. The facility concentrates on work opportunities, most of which are in the form of work crews contracting with state agencies, local organizations, and private industries within a 60-mile radius of Salem. MCCF opened in 1929 as the Farm Annex of the Oregon State Penitentiary, housing 50 adult male offenders. The Farm Annex provided all of the milk, eggs, meat, fruit, and vegetables for the Oregon State Penitentiary and the State Hospital. The main building (as well as many of the out buildings that made up the farm) still stands today and, at 81 years old, it makes for the second oldest prison in the state.

####

