



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: October 8, 2002
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State Receives \$12.6 Million in Free Labor from MDOC Community Work Center Inmates

Region 3 (Forrest, George, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Pike and Wilkinson Counties)

Jackson — Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) community work center inmates completed a total of 2,447,847 hours of labor during fiscal year 2002, which is an estimated value of \$12.6 million. MDOC has 17 community work centers throughout the state. Types of labor community center inmates perform vary from janitorial and mechanic work to turf management of baseball fields and beautification of roadsides.

Last year, inmates at community work centers in Forrest, George, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Pike and Wilkinson counties performed 978,353 hours of labor, valued at \$5,038,517. Examples of labor provided in these counties include county road repair, painting, railroad repairs, cleaning parks, gardening, planting, harvesting vegetables, lawn maintenance, janitorial work, picking up trash, water leak repairs, maintenance work on school buses, etc.

The MDOC community work center program provides inmates the opportunity to learn valuable work skills they can use once released. In addition, inmates in community work centers perform services to cities, counties and state agencies that are valuable sources of free labor.

MDOC defines a community work center as “a community-based minimum security facility designed to provide a gradual, systematic reintroduction of an offender into community life and to provide an alternative source of labor for other state agencies and local governments.” In order for an inmate to serve time at a community work center, several criteria must be met.

First, inmates have to be within seven years of their earliest release date in order to be considered for a community work center. However, inmates serving sentences for sale of controlled substances may be considered for a community work center within two years of their earliest release date. Inmates must pass a drug and alcohol test and be able to physically perform required work.

Disqualifications include inmates who have an escape attempt in the last five years, convictions of sex crimes, child abuse or crime convictions involving a minor or handicapped person. Inmates convicted of arson, carrying a concealed weapon, or inmates charged with violent or sexual offenses which received a plea bargain to a non-violent crime cannot be assigned to a community work center.

(more)

**Community Work Center Inmates Performed Work at the
Following Locations in Region 3:**

Forrest County CWC

City of Hattiesburg
City of Petal
Camp Shelby
Paul B. Johnson State Park
Dept. of Human Services
The Salvation Army
Miss. Dept. of Transportation

George County CWC

City of Lucedale
George/Jackson County Library
Lucedale Police Dept.
George County Beats 1 – 5
George County Occupational Center
Lucedale City Hall
George County Dept. of Human Services
George County Hospital
Mental Health Services
George County Courthouse
George County Senior Citizens Center
Agricola Elementary
Lucedale County Schools

Harrison County CWC

City of D'Iberville
Sand Beach
Miss. Coast Coliseum
Pass Christian Police Dept.
Miss. Highway Dept.
Gulfport Police Dept.
Public Works Administration
West Harrison County Occupational Center
Harrison County Courthouse
Gulfport Police Dept. Garage
Long Beach Police Dept.

Jackson County CWC

West Jackson County Roads Dept.
Jackson County Maintenance Dept.
City of Ocean Springs
Jackson County Parks & Recreation
Jackson County Youth Court
Jackson County Soup Kitchen
Central Jackson County Roads Dept.
City of Gautier
Jackson County Courthouse
City of Pascagoula
Jackson County Waste Management
Jackson County Sheriff's Dept.
Jackson County Property Office

Jefferson County CWC

Miss. State Dept. of Health
Jefferson County Middle School Bus Barn
Medger Evers Home Health Agency
Southwest Mental Health
Claiborne County Parks & Recreation
Claiborne County District Barn
Alcorn State University
Jefferson County High School
Fayette Helping Hands
Claiborne County Civil Defense
Jefferson County Comprehensive Health Center
Jefferson County Courthouse
Jefferson County Hospital
Jefferson county District Barn
Southwest Miss. Senior Citizens Center
Franklin County District Barn
Miss. Dept. of Human Services
Claiborne County Courthouse
Jefferson County Vo-Tech Center
City of Fayette
Jefferson County Dist. #3 Clean Up Crew

Pike County CWC

City of Magnolia
City of McComb
City of Summit
Highway Barn
Magnolia Police Dept.
Miss. Dept. of Transportation
McComb Schools
Miss. Highway Patrol
Summit Police Dept.
Southwest Miss. College
Walthall Highway

Wilkinson County CWC

Wilkinson County Sheriff's Dept.
Woodville Police Dept.
Wilkinson County Districts 1 – 5
Miss. Dept. of Transportation
Wilkinson County Head Start
Natchez Public Works
Wilkinson County Museum
Woodville Fire Dept.
Miss. Forestry Commission
Miss. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
Town of Gloster
Town of Centreville
Town of Crosby
Town of Woodville