

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MDOC employees and offenders extend spirit of giving this holiday season**

JACKSON –The employees of the Mississippi Department of Corrections and offenders they supervise have extended the spirit of giving to dozens of children, families, and the elderly this holiday season.

“The Mississippi Department of Corrections is fortunate to have the opportunity to share the holiday season with others,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “I am proud of the efforts of our employees and offenders who have participated in the spirit of giving. We are reminded that we must not forget the many lives that are touched by our work each day.”

Staff from Region II Area III delivered 16 new bikes today to the Berean Children’s Home in Lincoln County. Every child at the home received a bike for Christmas.

“The excitement of the children is difficult to describe as many of them have never had a new bike,” said Region II Community Corrections Director Todd King.

On the Coast, for the second consecutive year, the honorary elves of the Gulfport Field Office assisted Santa in collecting toys for children at the Women’s Shelter for Domestic Violence. Agents Kirby Shavers and Antoine Taylor delivered the car full of gifts and food today.

Agents and offenders supervised on house arrest or electronic monitoring from the Harrison County office donated gift cards to a shelter served by Youth Court. Agents Maria Lopez and Randall Lundy presented \$350 worth of gift cards to the Youth Court on Tuesday.

Members of the Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections' Region IV delivered socks, throws, gloves, lotion, puzzles/coloring books, crayons/coloring pencils and food items to the Willow Creek Retirement Center in Byram Thursday afternoon.

Also, Monroe County agents gave out toys to 150 to 200 children of offenders and other community residents this week and last week from a drive that Agent Alicia M. Perkins and stepfather Randy Perkins, a retired MDOC employee, started in December 2006. "Every year, it gets bigger and better with the help of business owner Steve Colburn and the employees of S& J Auto," said Agent Perkins of the drive.