

# INFLUENCING LIVES AND KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE



Fairfax County Sheriff's Office

# Influencing lives....

- **Influence**: the act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command; the power or capacity of causing an effect in indirect or intangible ways.



# ... and keeping our communities safe

- **Safety**: freedom from the occurrence or risk of injury, danger or loss.





# Who We Are

# Who We Are



- Since 1742, the Sheriff's Office has proudly served Fairfax County as the original law enforcement agency.

# Who We Are

- In 1940, the county formed a police department to take on patrol, crime fighting and transportation safety.

# Who We Are

- The Sheriff's Office retained responsibility for managing the Adult Detention Center,



# Who We Are

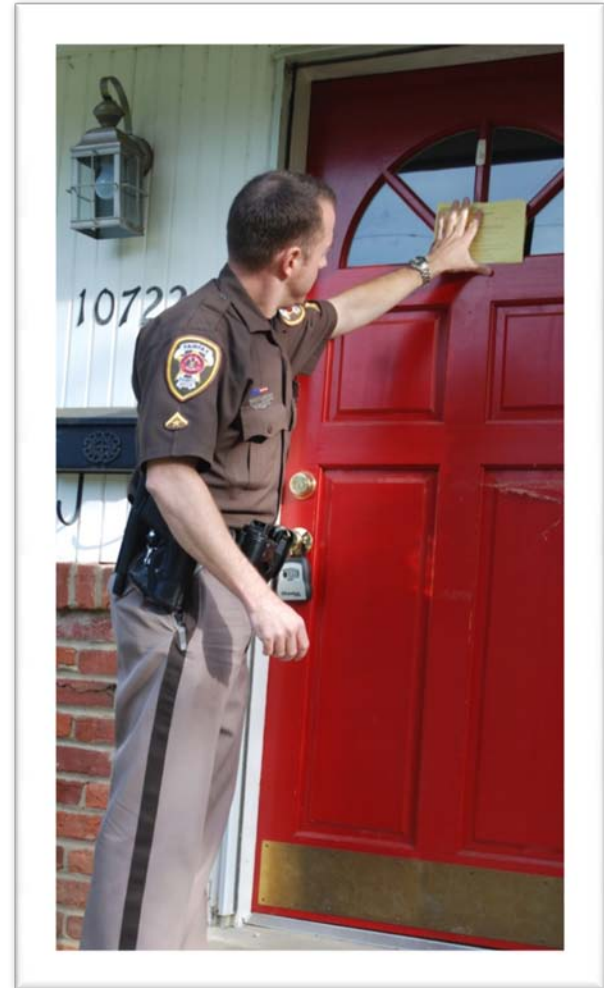
- The Sheriff's Office retained responsibility for managing the Adult Detention Center, providing security in the courthouses,





# Who We Are

- The Sheriff's Office retained responsibility for managing the Adult Detention Center, providing security in the courthouses, and **serving civil law process.**



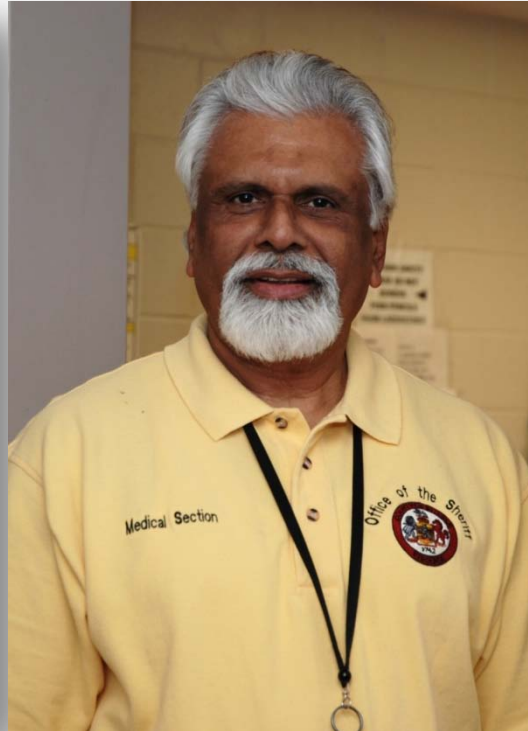
# Who We Are

- Today, the Sheriff's Office employs 509 sheriff's deputies and 90 civilians.



# Who We Are

- Civilian personnel includes correctional technicians, health care professionals and administrative staff.



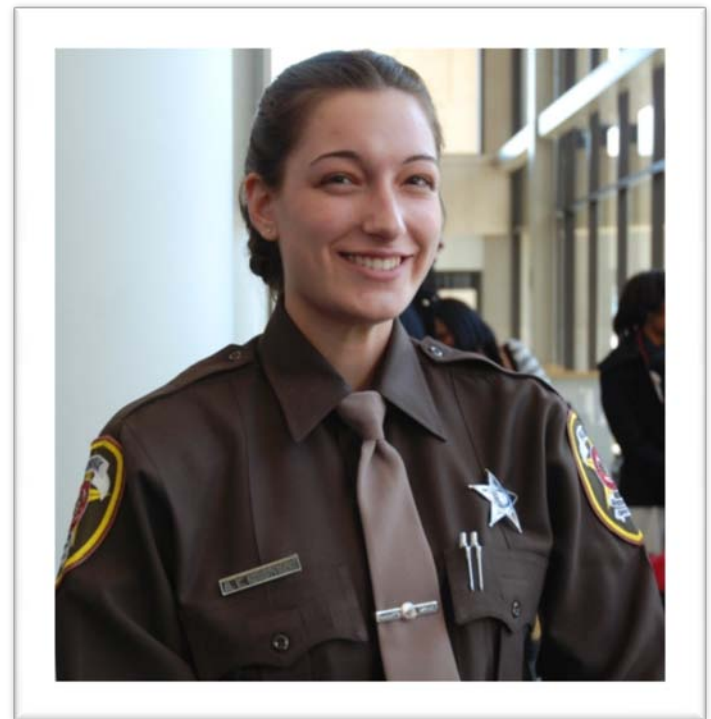
# Who We Are

- Focused recruiting over the last several years has led to more gender and racial diversity. Women now make up 28 percent of the staff; non-whites number 33 percent.



# Who We Are

- About 2,000 people apply every year to be a deputy sheriff.
- Our high standards and rigorous investigation methods result in the hiring of only 1-3% of applicants.



# Who We Are

- New deputy sheriff hires undergo six months of training at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy.
- Upon graduation, the new deputies must complete a 10-week field training program.





# Who We Are



- The Sheriff's Office is committed to the highest standards of excellence to protect the safety and well-being of its employees, inmates and all who live in, do business with, or visit Fairfax County.

# Who We Are

- Professional accreditations include:
  - ▣ Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission
  - ▣ National Commission on Correctional Health Care
  - ▣ American Correctional Association







# Adult Detention Center

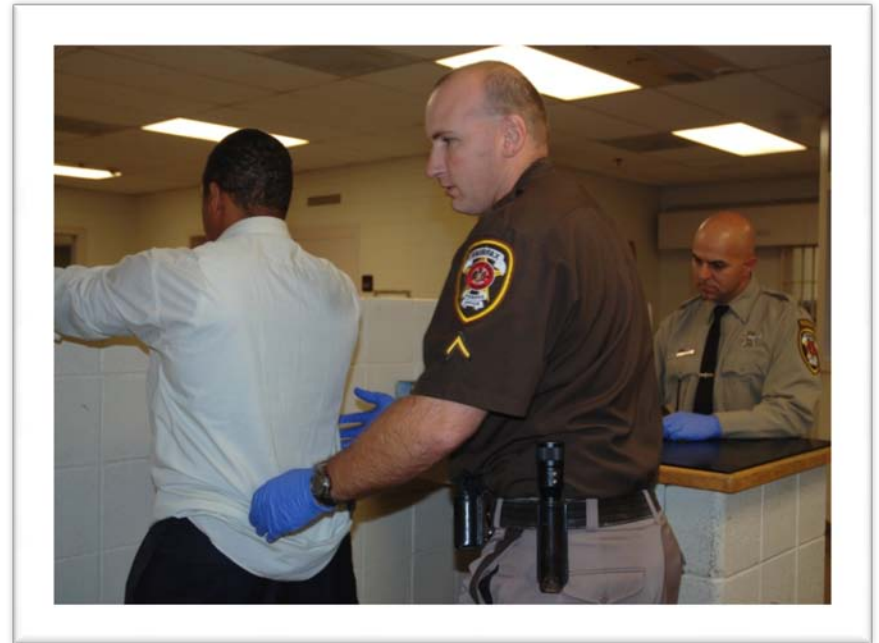
# Adult Detention Center

- When individuals are arrested and sent to jail, they are classified according to the level of danger they pose to themselves, other inmates, correctional staff and the community.



# Adult Detention Center

- Annually, we commit almost 30,000 inmates. That's 40-70 new inmates every 24 hours.
- Average stay: 23-24 days.
- Average daily population: 1,309.



# Adult Detention Center

- The Fairfax County jail houses male and female inmates. Our facility is unique in the nation because it provides four different forms of jail housing.



# Adult Detention Center

- **Single cell** supervision is the most restrictive and intensive type of inmate supervision. It provides maximum safety and security for both inmates and staff by housing the inmates individually in cells.



# Adult Detention Center

- **Linear** supervision consists of deputies monitoring their floor by "patrolling" down a corridor. Each floor has numerous cell blocks which can house up to 10 inmates each.



# Adult Detention Center

- With **podular** supervision, inmates' cells are arranged around a common area, usually called a dayroom. The deputy is separated from the inmates in a secure control booth.



# Adult Detention Center

- In **direct** supervision, deputies work inside the cell block with the inmates 24 hours a day, without any separation from them. This allows active and continuous supervision to better manage less serious offenders.

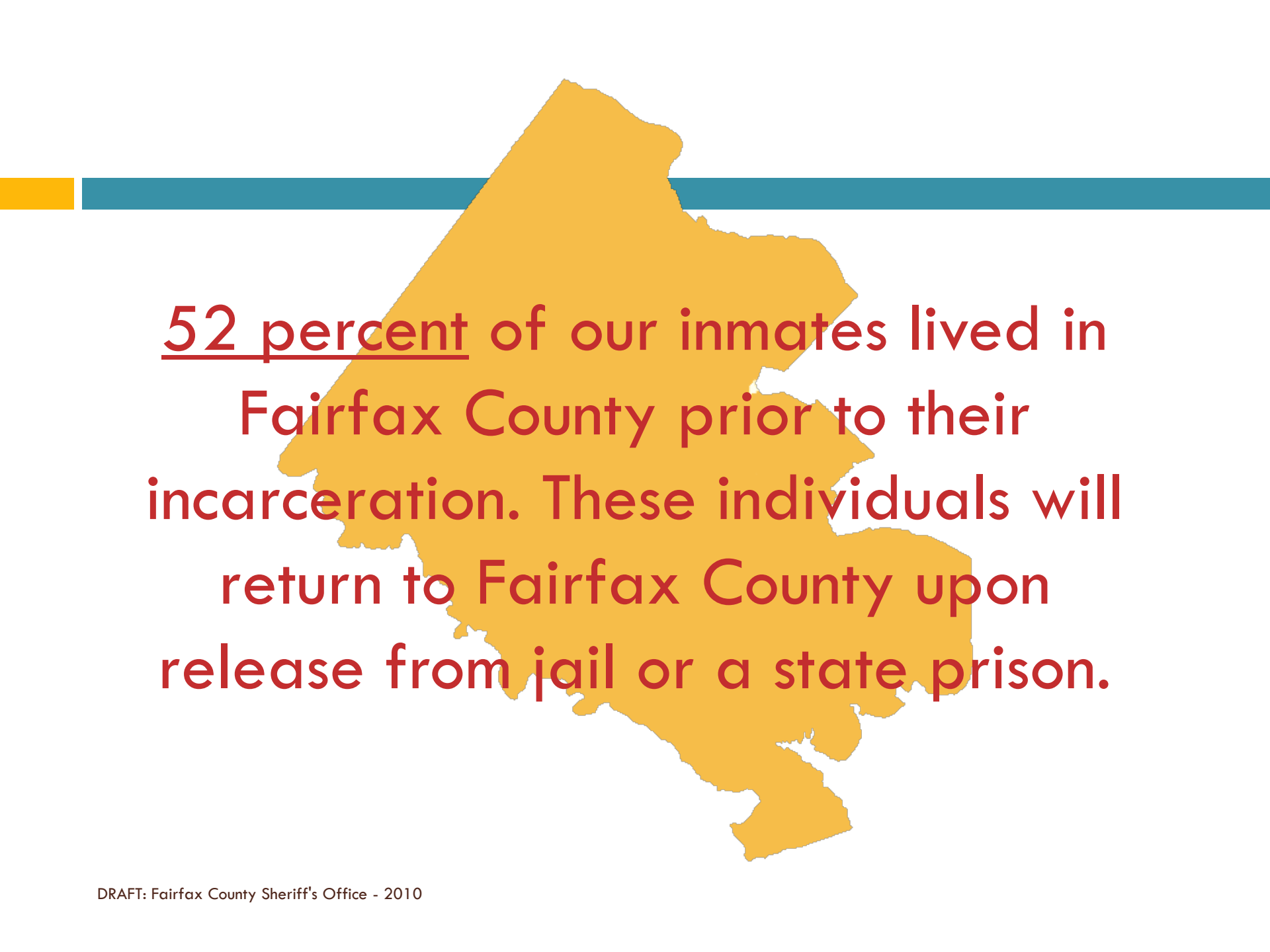





# Adult Detention Center

## □ Who is in our jail?

- ▣ 29,604 Persons booked
- ▣ 84% Inmates who are male
- ▣ 63% Inmates who are unmarried
- ▣ 32.1 Average age
- ▣ **10.81 Average education level**
- ▣ **52% Live in Fairfax County**



52 percent of our inmates lived in Fairfax County prior to their incarceration. These individuals will return to Fairfax County upon release from jail or a state prison.

- 
- The inmates were a part of our community before, and they will be a part of it again.
  - A county jail is part of the community, just like schools and libraries, churches and temples, hospitals and dental clinics.
  - If we bring critical parts of our community into the jail, we can better prepare the inmates for a successful return.

- The Virginia Department of Corrections tracks reincarceration, including those stemming from parole violations, for three years after release from an adult correctional facility. According to the latest data available, about **29 percent of inmates are reincarcerated** within 36 months of being released from prison.



# Recidivism is a Problem

# Recidivism

- Recidivism is defined as a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior; *especially* : relapse into criminal behavior (*m-w.com*)
- Criminal recidivism is a serious social problem.

# Recidivism

- Countless tax dollars sustain the many activities of the criminal justice system as it polices, prosecutes, and punishes repeat offenders.
- Just as significant as the economic burden of recidivism is the trauma of crime victims.

# Recidivism

- Criminals who persist in a life of crime often hold a distinct set of beliefs -- referred to as **criminogenic** -- that serves to rationalize and perpetuate criminal activity.



# Recidivism

## □ **Criminogenic**

- ▣ Producing, or tending to produce, crime or criminality

## □ **Criminogenic beliefs**

- ▣ Externalization of blame
- ▣ Negative attitudes toward authority
- ▣ Sense of entitlement
- ▣ Immediate gratification
- ▣ Failure to appreciate impact of crime



# Scholarly Study of Recidivism

# GMU Inmate Study

- George Mason University Professor June Tangney, Ph.D., has studied **inmate recidivism** at the Adult Detention Center for the past 10 years.
- Dr. Tangney has conducted extensive research and studies on criminogenic beliefs and the **moral emotions** of shame and guilt.

# GMU Inmate Study

- Tangney states that **shame** motivates an avoidance response, a desire to duck the heat.
- Feelings of shame involve a painful focus on the self -- the humiliating sense that “I am a bad person.”

# GMU Inmate Study

- Because shame is so intolerable, people experiencing shame often resort to defensive tactics. They may:
  - ▣ try to hide or escape the shameful feeling, denying responsibility;
  - ▣ shift the blame, holding others responsible for their dilemma;
  - ▣ become irrationally angry with others, sometimes resorting to overtly aggressive and destructive actions.

# GMU Inmate Study



- Shame escalates the very destructive patterns of behavior we aim to curb.

# GMU Inmate Study

- Dr. Tangney looks at guilt differently. Guilt can be a beneficial emotion:
  - ▣ Focuses on a specific behavior;
  - ▣ Makes us feel bad about something we've done;
  - ▣ Doesn't radically change our self-perception;
  - ▣ Motivates confession and repair, a desire to face the music.

# GMU Inmate Study



“Reduce shame, induce guilt.”

~June Tangney, Ph.D.



# GMU Inmate Study

- Dr. Tangney's research indicates that:
  - ▣ Moral emotions and criminogenic beliefs can help **predict** criminal recidivism, AND
  - ▣ Jail programs and services may **reduce** criminogenic beliefs and enhance feelings of guilt, thereby reducing recidivism.

# GMU Inmate Study

- Ultimately, Tangney's study seeks to understand how to intervene more effectively with incarcerated adults to foster post-release desistance from crime and other risky behaviors.



# What Should We Do?

# What Should We Do?

- We know that certain types of programming that have been used in jails do not work:
- Boot camps
- Punishment-oriented programs
- Control-oriented programs
- Non-directive psychological interventions

# What Should We Do?

- We should emphasize community, personal responsibility and reparation.
- Encourages offenders to:
  - ▣ Take responsibility for their behavior
  - ▣ Acknowledge negative consequences
  - ▣ Empathize with the victim
  - ▣ Feel guilt for having done wrong
  - ▣ Act to make amends

# What Should We Do?

- Run a strict but fair facility.
- Treat inmates with respect but don't tolerate disrespect.
- Provide programs and services that reduce criminogenic beliefs and increase the odds that inmates will become productive members of the communities to which they will return.

# What Should We Do?

- Programs with evidence of success include:
  - ▣ Psychoeducational classes, such as impact of crime, anger management, and conflict management
  - ▣ Alcohol and drug treatment/prevention
  - ▣ Faith-based services/programs
  - ▣ Job training/placement



# How Do WE Do It?



# How Do We Do It?

- ❑ Mental health services
- ❑ Alcohol and drug services
- ❑ Education programs
- ❑ Health education/services
- ❑ Job skills training
- ❑ Religious services and programs
- ❑ Library services

# Mental Health/Substance Abuse

- National studies and surveys indicate that approximately 16 percent of persons who are incarcerated in jails and prisons suffer from some type of serious mental illness.
- 70 percent of inmates report a history of substance abuse.

# Mental Health/Substance Abuse

- Mental health and substance abuse services are provided by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.



# Mental Health/Substance Abuse

- More than 50 sheriff's deputies have received mental health training from the Community Services Board.
- Staff from both agencies work together to provide the safest, most humane and effective environment.

# Mental Health/Substance Abuse

- Services include:
  - ▣ Risk assessments
  - ▣ Suicide prevention
  - ▣ Psychiatric medication
  - ▣ Substance abuse and mental health education groups
  - ▣ Release planning
  - ▣ Referrals for community services and continuing care after release.

# Education

- Inmates can earn their high school diploma or GED certificate while serving time in jail.



# Job Training & Employment

- ❑ Selected inmates participate in ServSafe, an intense food safety training class.
- ❑ Instruction takes place in the jail kitchen and adjacent training room.



# Job Training & Employment

- ❑ ServSafe covers the flow of food from time of purchase until meals reach the customers' tables.
- ❑ Class culminates with the issuance of the National Restaurant Association's ServSafe Certification exam.





# Job Training & Employment

- The Pre-Release Employment Center, operated in partnership with the SkillSource group, provides inmates with training and employment services.



# Job Training & Employment

- The employment center gives Work Release inmates the opportunity to connect with local employers who will meet, interview and hire job seekers prior to their release into the community.

# Religious Programs

- Good News Jail & Prison Ministry provides comprehensive services at no cost to Sheriff's Office.
- Serves all faiths and gives inmates access to their specific religious community in accordance with federal law.
- More than 150 volunteers serve the jail on a weekly basis in support of the chaplaincy program.

# Libraries – Leisure and Law

- The jail maintains a comprehensive collection of books and periodicals for general reading and reference.
- The material is circulated on carts to cell blocks each week.



# Libraries – Leisure and Law

- Inmates may schedule visits to the law library for research purposes.





# Does What We Do Work?

# Does What We Do Work?

Recent studies say “yes.”

# Does What We Do Work?

- The Fairfax County **Virginia Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative** (VASAVOR) was created in 2003 with initial funding from the U.S. Dept. of Justice.
- Partners:
  - ▣ Virginia Department of Corrections
  - ▣ Fairfax County Sheriff's Office
  - ▣ Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board
  - ▣ Opportunities, Alternatives and Resources of Fairfax County
  - ▣ SkillSource Group, on behalf of the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board
  - ▣ Fairfax Community Criminal Justice Board



# Does What We Do Work?

- Participants in VASAVOR transfer from Virginia state prisons back to the local jail shortly before release.
  - ▣ They can participate in jail programs and services not offered in state prisons.
  - ▣ They will be closer to the community and its aftercare services upon release.

# Does What We Do Work?

- The VASAVOR program provides a continuum of care for eligible high-risk offenders.
  - ▣ Creates a directed, planned, controlled transition through incarceration, community supervision and aftercare to help the offender transform into a productive citizen.
  - ▣ Enhances public safety by ensuring that there are no more victims.

# Does What We Do Work?

- The VASAVOR program has been successful in placing enrolled offenders in jobs that will enable them to achieve self-sufficiency.
- The program is associated with a **13.3 percent reduction in recidivism rates** from what otherwise could be expected based on historical data.

# Does What We Do Work?

- The Pre-Release Employment Center has also been successful in placing enrolled offenders in jobs.
- The center is associated with a 17.1 percent reduction in recidivism rates.

# Does What We Do Work?

- “If we give an inmate marketable job skills and real job opportunities, the chances that he or she will offend again are drastically reduced.”

~ *Sheriff Stan Barry*