

# THE VOLUNTEER EDGE

JOCO DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS VOLUNTEER E-NEWS

## AUGUST AWESOMENESS

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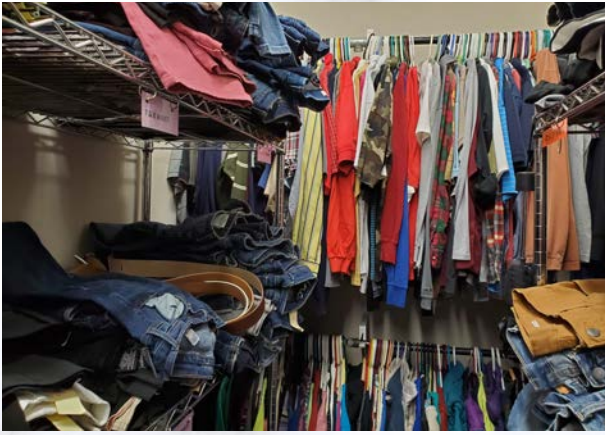
MEET JESSICA

## Back to School! Backpack Drive Success!!



What school will look like this year may be in question; however the generosity of our community is not! A huge thanks to Heartland Church in Olathe for once again thinking of Corrections during their annual Backpack Drive. These backpacks (full of supplies!) are given to families Corrections works with to help alleviate some of the financial stress that comes with going back to school.





## CLOTHING CLOSET & PROPERTY PROTOCOL

The **property system** at the Adult Residential Center is a well oiled machine. How could it not be with so many clients coming & going and the need to ensure they are dressed for success?

The trick is the three **dedicated Property Officers (POs)** who work the Property Office seven days a week, constantly checking in and out property to clients and helping ensure they follow property guidelines. Each client has their own property database that the POs maintain, which lists all of the property they have at the ARC.



Did you know that the clients at ARC are able to have a **cell phone**? While at the facility the phone is locked in the clients individual cell phone locker, for them to take out when they leave for work or pass, to help them maintain contact with the community. The POs work with the clients to ensure they have a locker for their phone and they follow cell phone usage guidelines.

When a client leaves the ARC unsuccessfully and leaves a phone, it is donated to a local women's shelter. The rest of their property is picked up by their family or donated as well.

Any client who has no local family support, is unemployed or **needs short-term assistance with clothing or hygiene** items can contact the Property Office. The Property Office maintains clothing, shoes, hygiene products, etc., to assist the special needs of these clients.

Through generous donations by individuals as well as The Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, the ARC Clothing Closet is an asset to the POs when helping clients in need.

If you would like to donate to the closet, please contact Erin Moeder.





# JDC Happenings

## Photo Fabulous!

**"Will you take a picture of me and send it to my family?"**

That was the question that broke my heart and sparked an idea. I was in the **Juvenile Detention Center** doing a program with the youth and had a camera to take pictures of the activity they were doing. When he asked me this, I explained to him that I wasn't allowed to take his picture because of confidentiality. Due to Covid he hadn't seen his family in several weeks; all he wanted was for them to see his face.

Even though I couldn't take it that day, the staff and I immediately requested permission for a photoshoot and were approved. **Lee Jost, Executive Director of NCircle**, is a talented photographer and agreed to lug his equipment into the facility and make this idea a reality. We crossed our fingers and hoped that the youth would actually like the idea.

**Their reactions were amazing!** The day of the "shoot" the staff said they were all up, showered, fixing their hair, and talking about how **excited they were to have their pictures taken**. They each got to choose a polo shirt to wear to get them out of their regular maroon t-shirts and the smiles Lee captured were heartwarming. Many asked if they could keep the polo shirts, which is not something we had even considered to be "perk" for them. As one kid stated, he hadn't been in anything other than a t-shirt in over 12 months. **Now, each of them have a recent picture to send home to their loved ones in order to continue strengthening the family bond many of them desperately miss.**

## The Gift of Technology!

The **Juvenile Detention Center** will soon be able to host digital classes and resources to the youth in the facility!

Thanks to **NCircle**, a local nonprofit that partners with Corrections, 11 Chromebooks and a charging station were rolled in to the JDC for the youth to get to work on projects that will improve their digital skills and provide opportunities for online learning, including STEM exercises, digital literacy classes, and career exploration.

It is our hope that having these opportunities available will allow the youth to start envisioning a different future for themselves.

Thank you to **Synetic**, a local company that refurbishes and resells quality digital equipment for making this opportunity possible.

If you would like to learn more about NCircle, visit them at [www.ncircle.org](http://www.ncircle.org) and like them on Facebook at NCircle Together.



# COMMUNITY BOARD

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER



*Corrections has finally joined the digital age w/ a volunteer website! And online training! And a Facebook page!*

Our website is <https://connect.jocogov.org/county-corrections-volunteer-program> and will be hosting all online trainings. It will be uploaded soon and an email will be sent with information on everything you need to know to complete training.

*Like us on Facebook at Johnson County Corrections Volunteer Community.*



IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN OTHER  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
WHILE YOU WAIT FOR  
CORRECTIONS TO OPEN BACK  
UP, CONSIDER BEING A MEALS  
ON WHEELS DRIVER!

## Library Lets Loose Virtual Edition

Join the Johnson County Library for a virtual party on September 12th!

<https://www.jocolibrary.org/our-stories/virtual-library-lets-loose>



# MOEDER'S MOMENT

I'm going to let you in on a personal tidbit about myself. **I love to read.** I know, I know, that isn't too crazy personal, but I think my love of reading is a part of my identity and I'm sure some of you can relate. So I thought I would share some of the books that I've read that have helped me understand the clients we work with in this field a little better. Of course you have the many memoirs of people who have been through the world our clients experience and have successfully come out the other side. One of my favorites is "**Beautiful Boy: A Father's Journey Through His Son's Addiction**," by David Sheff. As told from a parent, it is impactful and heartbreaking. His son has also written books about his addiction, including "**Tweak**" and others, which are gritty and honest. Aside from memoirs, another book that has helped me put things into perspective is "**A Framework for Understanding Poverty**." It allows those of us that have never lived in poverty a glimpse into why it can be so difficult to escape. It leaves you sympathetic and understanding of some of the invisible challenges that arise in poverty. While I could recommend many others, I will leave you with those for now. **Happy Reading!**

