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Community Corrections hits milestone

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Allen County Community Corrections will be honored today by an official with the Indiana Department of Correction as it celebrates 30 years of helping to improve public safety.

Deborah Braun, director of the state's Community Corrections, will speak at an open house, which will take place from noon to 2 p.m. at the corrections building, 201 W. Superior St.

Braun is scheduled to speak about 12:30 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Kim Churchward, executive director for the Allen County program, said improving public safety and reducing costs to taxpayers are priorities.

Churchward also said it's an exciting time for the agency, even as it works to meet new challenges based on revisions in Indiana's criminal code.

"We stand prepared to meet these needs by effectively deploying the field's best practices, proven programming, and a variety of rehabilitative strategies to hold offenders strictly accountable while also promoting their success," Churchward said in a statement Thursday.

In 1985, when Allen County Community Corrections started, officials anticipated serving up to 120 offenders in the new intensive supervision and community service programs.

In contrast, Community Corrections last year served almost 2,000 offenders, including community service, community transitions, day reporting, electronic monitoring, pre-trial supervision and a certified outpatient treatment program.

Statistics from the Indiana Department of Correction estimate that the state's taxpayers spent \$52.10 per day to house each adult inmate in 2014-15.

In that same period, according to the local news release, Community Corrections returned \$2,742,063, or savings of 35 percent, to Indiana taxpayers by supervising and rehabilitating offenders in the community.

Additionally, in 2014-15, offenders sentenced to the local community service program completed 21,434 hours of work, amounting to an estimated value of \$478,835 in saved wages.

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