

## Friends of Long Creek Abbreviated List of Activities: July, 2016 – June, 2017

This has been a turbulent year at Long Creek Youth Development Center, which has made our efforts to support these troubled kids even more important than usual. The Friends have remained focused on our mission to support programs directed toward returning youth in the Maine criminal justice system to their communities as productive citizens. We hope that this short summation of our activities will make our members and donors proud of our efforts and of their support.

The Friends of Long Creek:

- Completely funded our flagship program – Creek to College, with professors' costs, textbooks, etc. for over a dozen students taking and successfully passing college-credit courses in English composition, Introduction to Literature, Math, Psychology, Sociology, Cultural Anthropology, Oral Communication and others over three semesters.
- Provided major equipment, materials and training for the start-up of the new Small Engine Repair vocational education program.
- Funded the Ready for Life three-day seminar and extensive follow-up counseling recommended by the Long Creek administration and offered by the Transformation Project. The purpose was to help prepare our departing youngsters for life outside Long Creek.
- Provided partial funding, with help from Portland Rotary, for furnishings for a café /work training and residential transition house to be established by the Transformation Project in Westbrook. This project has been endorsed by Long Creek administration.
- Gave on-going financial support for the Bob Murray's Music Lessons program. This included stipends for teachers and purchase and repair of used instruments.
- Upon Bob Murray's retirement, helped make arrangements to contract with the Maine Academy of Modern Music to take over the Music Lessons Program, and the Friends provided a start-up grant to MAMM for this purpose.
- Supported the "Seal" Program, a model 3-week effort for 20 residents, to teach them leadership, physical fitness and ethics. The program is used by Seals for their own training.
- Helped the Athletics Department with soccer cleats and shirts, lacrosse supplies, sports banquets, pep rallies, on-the-road meals for "away" games, and adventure camping and fishing experiences.
- Provided a stipend for a visiting poet who worked with kids on site at Long Creek.
- Funded tattoo removal services for departing residents who want them, as part of our support for transition into the workplace and better employment opportunities.
- Provided major funding for Maine Inside Out's therapeutic theater program, through which Long Creek residents and former residents write and perform original plays depicting their life experiences. Topics included incarceration, addiction, discrimination, abuse, violence and teen parenting.
- Helped departing residents to transition into their new lives with clothing, work uniforms and shoes, household goods, personal care products, rent deposits and first month's rent.
- Provided a grant to the Juvenile Community Corrections Officers (JCCO's) for "incentives" – gift certificates to restaurants and theaters – for good conduct awards to minor offenders outside of Long Creek, to help keep them on track and out of trouble.

With sincere and deep gratitude to you and to all of our donors, volunteers, Board members, past and present – and to the dedicated administration and staff at Long Creek, with whom we are privileged to work, for the benefit of "our kids."

Respectfully submitted,

James Willey, Jr., President  
Friends of Long Creek Youth Development Center