

December 15, 2017

## Central MN REC celebrates 25 years



### Volunteers gather to reminisce from the first CM REC weekends

Many gathered in Belle Prairie for the annual REC celebration and reminisced on the first Central MN REC weekends. Bishop Donald Kettler presided and an afternoon of fellowship commenced.

### Program Director update:

The REC program received a generous \$500 gift from the “Belles of St Mary” in Detroit Lakes. The funds will be set aside for the purchase of new audio/video equipment. The hope is to replace the overhead projector, CD player and speakers with an updated system that will be easier to use and transport. The challenge has been to find someone with technology experience who could recommend what to purchase and to help with setup and training. If that is something that interests you, please email [Diane@cm-rec.org](mailto:Diane@cm-rec.org)

Carol Tembruell stepped down as Program Director at the end of August. She has supported the program and the Facility Coordinators for many years. We extend our gratitude to her and all she has done to help grow the program.

### Volunteers:

During the last fiscal year (July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017), CM REC sponsored twelve weekend retreats: two in each of the jails in Fergus Falls, Alexandria, St. Cloud and Little Falls, one in the jail in Foley and two at the prison in St. Cloud. There was one, rather than two, KLAS retreat during the fiscal year that ended June 1, 2017, because we moved the summer retreat to August.

Of the 183 volunteers, 96 did one weekend, 46 did two, 19 did three, 13 did 4 and 9 did 5 or more. With 183 volunteers, if everyone did one each cluster, we’d always have enough volunteers.

If you can’t participate in the REC at your preferred facility, please consider signing up for a different facility where the date will work in your schedule. You’ll get to meet more of the REC family and it’s also good to experience the differences in REC at another facility.

In the last year, almost 30% of the volunteers experienced REC at more than one facility--that’s pretty high when you consider that 50% do just one weekend! Of those who did at least 2

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weekends, 29 went to one facility, 36 helped at two facilities, 9 volunteered at three and 11 went to four or more.

Thanks to all 183 volunteers who made the retreat experience available to 273 individuals!

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: The REC board appointed Diane Aschnewitz as interim Program Director as they updated the duties and responsibilities of the position. A job description has been created and will be shared with the Facility Coordinators in January after which time interested parties will be interviewed. If you are interested in becoming the Program Director, please send an email to [Diane@cm-rec.org](mailto:Diane@cm-rec.org)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Laura Koski volunteered to take on the task of creating a REC newsletter to keep volunteers updated on REC happenings. Please send her your REC stories, births, marriages or death notices of volunteers and family members to [parmenter275@hotmail.com](mailto:parmenter275@hotmail.com) As a REC family, your news is important to us!

WEB MANAGER: We are looking for a volunteer who would be willing to update the REC website i.e working with the Programmer to make the website friendly and up-to-date. If interested, please email [Diane@cm-rec.org](mailto:Diane@cm-rec.org) for the job description.

### FACILITY COORDINATORS and NEW VOLUNTEERS:

As we consider expanding to additional facilities, we would need additional Facility Coordinators to take on the Coordinator role as well as additional volunteers. Please extend an invite to fellow TEC, Koinonia and Cursillo family members to work a weekend. A personal invitation is the best. In order to expand, we would need additional volunteers to work the weekends.

The next cluster of REC weekends begins in January. Please refer to the REC website for the schedule. Sign up early and often!

### **REC Connect:**

Carol Keller, our long-time REC Connect manager, is again asking us to remind volunteers to include the facility and REC # in the return address. She does a lot to keep the mail flowing, so please do your part so her job isn't any harder than it needs to be.

Just a reminder: When you write to a RECite, send it directly to the jail. If s/he is in a prison, be sure to use the OID number or it gets returned to REC Connect and Carol has to look it up. If you don't know it, there is a link on the home page at [www.cm-rec.org](http://www.cm-rec.org) It's on the list in the center of the screen.

### **REC Family List:**

If you want to get the emails that are sent out to REC volunteers, the best way to be included is to get your name on the REC Family list--just "apply" for CM REC Family" from the homepage "apply online" link--or send a message to the postmaster by clicking on "contact us" from the left side of the home page ([www.cm-rec.org](http://www.cm-rec.org)) When it asks about a position, click on any position that you would like to be considered for on the weekends you serve. You can choose to receive all emails or select only the categories that you want to receive. Emails are usually about prayer requests, information about the status of teams for an upcoming weekend and news about team or family members. We don't do forwards!

This is the easiest list to use when people send out messages because it includes people who are no longer active REC volunteers, but who want to

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keep connected with other REC volunteers. If you don't have email, you might consider asking a REC friend to call you about the emails that she/he receives.

**Clown weekend:** There have been requests for another clown training retreat. A successful training weekend would have at least 10 participants. If you are interested, contact Diane at [Diane@cm-rec.org](mailto:Diane@cm-rec.org)

**FACILITY UPDATES:**

**St. Cloud Prison:** We were blessed with a few new team members each REC this year. Thank you to the new volunteers and also to those of you who branched out from the jail to the prison.

Looking ahead, we have February 24-25, 2018 as our next REC in the St. Cloud Prison with the TEAM meeting on Friday night Feb.23,, 2018.

There will NOT be a refresher on TEAM night, that is only done at our FALL REC so please note that anyone is welcome to come renew your refresher at this time, just give me a heads up that you are coming so I can have Chaplin bring in extra materials for this. For those of you who will need to have your DOC training renewed prior to our Spring REC; the dates are Jan. 9, 2018 and Feb.6, 2018. This training is good for all the MN State Prisons

or you may renew it at the April 17, 2018 volunteer appreciation dinner that the Prison puts on to all those that volunteer there.

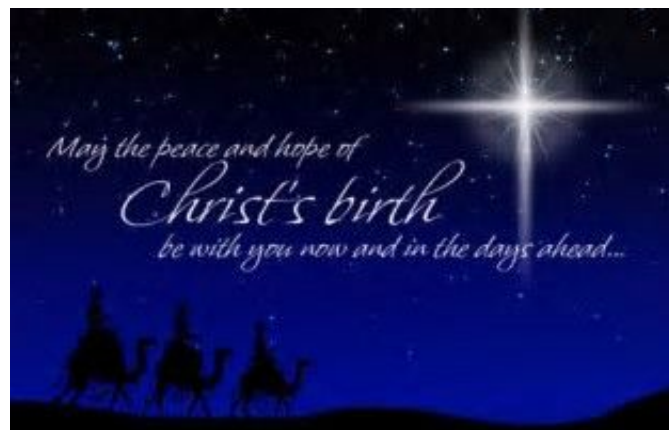
If you are not sure of your training expiration date, you can email me, call me or text me and I can look into that for you or you can call Bonnie Berscheid at the prison at 240-7070. We need to make sure training is up to date prior to the weekend.

They are cracking down on things and are very diligent on the dress code; nothing tight fitting, no capri's, no hoodies, no gang related sayings on clothing as well as anything with town names. They asked for no steel-tips in shoes last spring but this fall they were more relaxed, one never knows so we just say wear tennis shoes to be safe.

An update on one of the guys who made the REC last October, 2016; he was one of Chaplin's helpers: Greg was released in February and went to live with his Grandma in Paynesville. He is doing great! Lynn ran into him at the grocery store and he said he has a great job, got a house in Richmond and is connected to a local Assembly of God church. God is So Good!!

We are very excited for our to see the Holy Spirit moving and touching and changing lives at our spring REC!

Blessings to you all,  
Lynn and Kevin Dockendorf  
Coordinators: MCF-SCL St. Cloud



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**Morrison County Jail:** Morrison County Jail (MCJ) summer REC's will now be in July due to facility preference. At the retreat last summer, we had 21 RECites complete the weekend with three new team members. We are looking forward to MCJ #44 scheduled for January 2018 and are fortunate to have a wonderful team ready to serve.

Morrison County has hired a new Jail Program Director this past year who is very supportive of the REC program. We are blessed to have the Sheriff and Jail Administrator supportive of our program as well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sgt. Linda LeBlanc, who recently retired after 25½ years at the Sheriff's department, for her years of supportive service to the REC program. She volunteered a few years ago to be the liaison with REC after the Programmer retired. Linda has been involved helping behind the scenes since the first REC at Morrison County Jail in 1996. When asked for her reflections of the REC weekends, she said, "it was good to see how the weekend made a difference in the lives of some of the residents – you're not going to help everyone but a handful from each weekend took God with them." She also said it made a difference in her life, "because I benefited as much as everyone else on the weekends by learning something new about myself and about others." Linda also enjoys the bond that has developed between her and many of the REC volunteers she encounters in the community.

We agree with Linda and think one of the greatest benefits of volunteering for this program is the community formed as we become part of this large REC family.

Submitted by Darrell & Bev Welle  
Facility Coordinators, Morrison County Jail

**Otter Tail County update:** A total of 47 RECites completed REC 31 & 32 in Otter Tail County. Several changes have taken place at the facility with the recent remodeling, the most significant is a slight shrinking of the conference room, but with a little creativity and changing the "front" of the room it felt bigger.

At the end of 2017, Chaplin Chuck will retire after 15 years of bringing the inmates of the jail to know Christ. He will be missed, and we are anticipating meeting the new Chaplin, who began his position on December 1. Thank you, Chuck for supporting the REC program for so many years!

REC #33 is scheduled for April 14-15, 2018, which is later than normal but it is the date that worked best at the facility. Sign up early!

Jeff & Diane send a huge THANK YOU to all who graciously volunteered this past year and we look forward to working with you again in 2018 and beyond! Merry Christmas!

**KLAS Update:**

KLAS #7 is now history! There were 3 KLASmates, and 13 team who did a wonderful job! We also combined the team and directors table which made it easier to be ready for the next activity since we were always talking to each other.

If you'd like to experience a KLAS retreat, please sign up online for KLAS #8 which will be January 20-21, 2018. It's NEVER too early to sign up and get it on your calendar!

