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RABINER ROUND-UP — News and views from Rabiner Treatment Center, home of the Jerry Rabiner Memorial Boys Ranch

By Brad L. Klug MSW, CEO of RTC



Hello to all my brothers and sisters in law enforcement! I hope you and your families all are safe and healthy! Here are a few Rabiner Treatment Center (RTC) updates for you prior to the holidays:

Iowa State Police Association (ISPA) Conference in Ames:

October 12–14, 2015, ISPA Local #19 (Ames) hosted the annual ISPA Conference. A **big** thank you goes to Past President Ryan Goecke and his conference committee. This fantastic conference was extra special to RTC for a number of reasons.

First of all, we again brought some of our boys to the conference to share their stories of challenge and triumph. The boys did an excellent job and they received many positive compliments from ISPA and Iowa State Police Association Auxiliary (ISPAA) members.

Lastly, a huge highlight for RTC came at the Wednesday-night banquet, when individual members, as well as representatives of ISPA locals, again showed their caring generosity by donating more than \$27,000 to RTC! What an abundance of generosity! At the conference, I ended the evening with the following quote by John F. Kennedy: “We must find time to thank the people who make a difference in our lives!” On behalf of the boys and staff at RTC, I thank you all for your friendship, love and support and for making a true difference in our lives!

Trick or Treat at RTC: On October 30, 2015, a number of our middle school students (lead by our middle school teachers) went around to various locations/offices on campus and received a variety of treats from RTC staff members. The kids (and RTC teachers) had a “spooky-good” Halloween!

A Very Merry Christmas at the Boys Ranch! Each and every year, the RTC Christmas party provides a wonderful opportunity for our boys, their families, RTC staff and our guests to celebrate the holiday together! This year’s party was no exception. On Sunday, December 6, 2015, we filled the gym with our extended “RTC family,” sharing the spirit of Christmas with each other!

The gym “halls” were “decked” to the max! Those who attended really experienced the magic of the holidays! The gym was decorated with Christmas trees, ornaments and various other decorations.

The party was kicked off by ISPA President Zach Lewis (Sioux City) placing a special law enforcement ornament (provided by Pat Cooper-St. John, Davenport), on the tree to officially open the festivities. After hanging his special ornament, Zach received a handmade ISPA/RTC keepsake ornament.

Mr. Simon and Mr. Kelleher (RTC teachers) coordinated this year’s RTC choir. The choir did a great job of leading the audience in several Christmas carols. Ray Thompson, the hypnotist that entertained us at the Marshalltown ISPA conference, put on a “mesmerizing” show for everyone.

Following the entertainment, “a special guest from the North Pole” joined our party. Santa Claus came and helped distribute the boys’ gift bags, which were packed full of gifts and goodies. We really appreciate Santa traveling all that way from the North Pole!

The number of attendees continues to be a true reflection of the wide-spread support and commitment of ISPA, ISPAA, the Fort Dodge community and our staff. Members from the ISPA, ISPAA and RTC Boards were in attendance. Also present were past presidents of ISPA and ISPAA Boards. We also had quite a few of our boys’ families in attendance, making our party a real “family affair.”

Generosity was abundant again this year. The RTC Board of Directors and I donated funds to purchase new “smart” TVs and a Netflix subscription for the cottages (a VERY popular present!). ISPAA Past President Diane Reid and her daughter, Linda, attended the party and brought goodie bags for every boy, carrying on the tradition established by Diane and her late husband, ISPA Past President Ron Reid. ISPAA Past President Pat Cooper-St. John also continued to be a bright spot in our Christmas celebration. The boys were thrilled with their gift of a McDonald’s gift card that each received from Pat and her husband, Jim.

In closing, the smiles on the faces of all guests (especially our boys) are moments to be cherished. On behalf of the boys and staff, we thank everyone for their participation, help and support. We look forward to seeing you at next year’s party!

Take care and God bless you all.