

Inmates Make Toys That Spread Christmas Cheer

Inmates at Lee Correctional Institution will make lots of children in Darlington and Lee counties very happy this Christmas because of the fruits of their labor. Warden Dennis Bush and his staff delivered wooden toys made and painted by inmates at Lee CI to officials at the Darlington County and Lee County offices of the Department of Social Services on December 19th and 20th. The toys, 100 of each which were donated to the two county offices, will be distributed to foster children and those in various DSS treatment programs in the Hartville and Bishopville area in time for Christmas.

The carefully crafted and unique cars, planes, animals, buses and boats were made by inmates learning the carpentry trade and painted by inmates participating in the Addiction Treatment Unit at Lee Correctional Institution. SCDC Deputy Director for Programs and Services Mike McCall said the wood and paint was donated by an interested private citizen, Mack Flake of Chapin, S.C. “Mr. Flake is a long time friend who has been instrumental in helping us with some of our rehabilitative programs for inmates and was gracious enough to supply the materials needed to make these toys. “

Warden Bush says the inmates at Lee CI wanted to do something to show their self worth and to give back to the community as a part of their rehabilitation. “It’s giving back. We’re not here to judge inmates. My job is to keep them confined and help them better themselves. These guys are taking the first steps to re-entry into society,” said Bush.

Darlington County DSS employee Kelly Gilbert best summed up the work of the inmates. “The toys move. They rock. They do all kinds of cool stuff. We appreciate the donation, and this is going to mean so much to all these kids!” No doubt it has to the inmates and staff at Lee CI as well.



(L-Rt.) Ron Krine, Darlington Co. DSS Director; Lee CI Warden Dennis Bush; SCDC Regional Dir. Jimmy Sligh; Lee Ass't Warden, Willie Davis; Associate warden James Dean; Assoc. Warden Steve Nolan;



Ass't Warden Davis; Assoc. Warden Dean; Aparna Desai, Lee CI Education Dept.; Warden Bush; Brian Turner, Lee Co. DSS Director