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**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 13, 2013

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## Restorative Justice Garden Program donates record amount of produce

### Nearly 163 tons of fresh fruit and vegetables given to help those in need

**Jefferson City, Mo.** — The Missouri Department of Corrections announced today that its Restorative Justice Garden Program has donated nearly 163 tons of fresh produce this year to local food pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and school districts throughout the state, shattering last year’s record of more than 117 tons.

For many of the local food pantries, shelters and churches, the offender-grown produce is the only fresh produce that is available for those Missourians in need. Nursing homes and school districts also take donations from the institutions to incorporate the fresh fruit and vegetables into the meals for its residents and students.

“This year’s record harvest is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and offenders who are helping the less fortunate throughout Missouri,” said George A. Lombardi, director of the Missouri Department of Corrections. “Our Restorative Justice programs provide offenders the means to help repay their debt to society, and it teaches them the value of compassion, which is a quality many of them lack in their lives.”

Northeast Missouri Correctional Center in Bowling Green was the department’s top producer this year with more than 62,000 pounds of produce donated. Boonville Correctional Center donated the second-largest amount of produce this year with more than 49,100 pounds, while the Jefferson City Correctional Center

donated more than 47,400 pounds. Moberly Correctional Center also donated 5,000 plants to local food pantries, as well as to the Boonville Correctional Center’s Restorative Justice Garden.

The department’s Restorative Justice Garden Program operates without the assistance of tax-payer money and grows a variety of produce every year at 20 of the 21 adult institutions and three of the community supervision centers of the Division of Probation and Parole in Missouri. Some examples of produce grown throughout the year at the institutions include tomatoes, bell peppers, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, butternut squash, cucumbers, carrots, green beans, cantaloupe, watermelon, okra, onions, jalapeno peppers, potatoes and pumpkins.

Offenders typically start cultivating the garden plots in April, while the harvesting usually begins in July and ends in late fall. All of the seeds and plants for the gardens are donated to the institutions, and in return, all the produce grown is then donated to local food pantries, shelters, churches and school districts.

Restorative Justice is an ancient belief that addresses criminal behavior with the fundamental philosophy that when a crime is committed, a debt is incurred. Restorative Justice holds offenders accountable, while providing a means for them to repay their debt to the victim as well as to the community. It gives offenders the opportunity to transition from an institutional setting with an improved attitude, which helps strengthen the social bonds that serve as the foundation of our communities.

### **Restorative Justice Garden Produce Donations**

(as of Nov. 22, 2013)

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Number of Pounds Donated</b>	<b>Donated to</b>
* Algoa Correctional Center	6095 lbs	Good Shepherd Food Pantry
* Boonville Correctional Center	49,143 lbs	New Franklin Sr. Center; Chariton Co. Senior Housing; Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Bank; Katy Manor Nursing Home; Slater Food Pantry; Cole Camp Food Pantry; Salisbury Senior Housing; Columbia Food Bank; C-2000
* Chillicothe Correctional Center	845 lbs	Chillicothe Baptist Home; Indian Hills Nursing Home; Community Options; Baptist Home; St. John’s Lutheran Church; Safe Haven; Peterson’s Transitional House; House of Prayer; Morningside Center
* Cremer Therapeutic Community Center	4 lbs	SERVE, Inc.
* Crossroads Correctional Center	6606 lbs	Cameron Women’s Shelter; Community Cupboard, Hamilton; Cameron Women Shelter; Christ Cupboard in Polo; Stewartville Food Pantry; Daviess Co. Senior Ctr; Green Hills Women Shelter; Maysville Food Pantry

* Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center	1896 lbs	SEMO FVC; CareforKids; Elvins Food Pantry; North County Early Edu. Center
* Farmington Correctional Center	31,523 lbs	Elvins Food Pantry; Farmington Ministerial Alliance
* Fulton Reception & Diagnostic Center	729 lbs	SERVE
* Jefferson City Correctional Center	47,417 lbs	Samaritan Center; Salvation Army; Central MO Food Bank
* Maryville Treatment Center	3100 lbs	Nursing homes, foodbank & senior centers
* Missouri Eastern Correctional Center	4562 lbs	Agape House
* Moberly Correctional Center	7859 lbs	Christos House in Moberly; LaPlata Food Pantry; Familylife Fellowship; Columbia Food Pantry
* Northeast Correctional Center	62,062 lbs	Heart-to-Heart; Salvation Army; New London Food Pantry; All you need is Love; Troy Food Pantry; Hope Center; Lynn's Heritage House; Moore-Pike Nursing Home; Head Start; Bowling Green High Rise; Pike County Meals on Wheels
* Ozark Correctional Center	4676 lbs	Marshfield and Seymour food pantries
* Potosi Correctional Center	15,668 lbs	Sayers Senior Center; Arcadia Valley Food Pantry; Madison County Food Bank; Rural Parish Workers of Christ the King; Potosi United Methodist Church Food Pantry; Signer Senior Cntr.; Madison Co. Senior Center; Caledonia Food Pantry
* South Central Correctional Center	5200 lbs	Texas County Food Pantry; Licking Food Pantry
* Southeast Correctional Center	22,234 lbs	East Prairie Nutrition Center; Charleston Nutrition Center; Sikeston Nutrition Center; Bethel Baptist; Green Mission in Sikeston; Charleston Food Bank; Shining Light Food Bank; Green Memorial Church Food Bank
* Tipton Correctional Center	3609 lbs	Moniteau County Nutrition Center
Western Missouri Correctional Center	42,308 lbs	Hamilton Food Bank; Cameron MO Women's Shelter; Cameron Food Bank
* Western Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center	2071 lbs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Bank
* Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center	3833 lbs	Vandalia Senior Center & Countryside Nursing Home; Sante-Fe Christian church Food Bank; Monroe City Nursing Home; The Help Center
* St. Joseph Community Supervision Center	364 lbs	Second Harvest Food Bank
* Farmington Community	2009 lbs	Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry;

Supervision Center		Elvis Food Pantry; Oaks Senior Center; St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry; Farmington Children's Hospital; Farmington Oaks Senior Center; St. Francois County Board for the Developmentally Disabled
* Kennett Community Supervision Center	1886 lbs	The Helping Hand Food Pantry
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>325,699 pounds nearly 163 tons</b>	

\* Garden finished for year.

Moberly Correctional Center also donated the following plants:

- Shelby County Food Bank – 800 plants
- Salisbury Food Bank – 120 plants
- Safe Passage – 18 plants
- LaPlata Food Bank – 1400 plants
- Paris Food Bank – 200 plants
- Christos Center – 400 plants
- Boonville Correctional Center – 350 plants
- Family Life Fellowship – 1712 plants

Western Missouri Correctional Center also donated 74 plants to Cameron MO Women's shelter.

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