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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Missouri Department of Corrections donates tons of fresh produce to Missourians in need

Jefferson City, Mo. — The Missouri Department of Corrections announced today that its Restorative Justice Garden Program donated nearly 137 tons of fresh produce in 2016 to local food pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and other organizations throughout the state.

“I applaud the hard work of our staff and volunteer offenders, who continue to come together to help needy families in Missouri communities,” said George A. Lombardi, director of the Missouri Department of Corrections. “It is truly amazing that so many food pantries and individuals all across the state have come to depend on the produce that comes from these gardens. Restorative Justice programs like this one provide offenders the means to help repay their debt to society, while teaching them the value of compassion, a quality many of them lack in their lives.”

For many of the local food pantries, shelters and other organizations that receive the produce, the offender-grown produce is the only fresh produce that is available. Nursing homes and after school programs also take donations from the institutions to incorporate the fresh fruit and vegetables into the meals for its residents and students.

The Boonville Correctional Center was the department’s top producer again this year with more than 34 tons of produce donated, while the Farmington Correctional Center came in second again donating nearly 32 tons. The Northeast Correctional Center rounded out the department’s top three with more than 17 tons of produce donated.

Restorative Justice Garden coordinators continue to receive many letters of thanks from the beneficiaries of the donations, expressing their gratitude for the fresh produce that they can use to feed those in need.

“Thank you so much for your thoughtful contribution of your organization’s food harvest to Scott County residents,” said Brenda Robinson-Echols of the Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Afterschool Program in Sikeston, Missouri after receiving a donation of produce from the Southeast Correctional Center. “You have joined our efforts to provide families with resources to combat hunger and promote healthy eating habits. Your program helps to meet the needs of many residents who are on a limited budget or fixed income.”

The department’s Restorative Justice Garden Program operates without the assistance of taxpayer money and grows a variety of produce every year at all 21 adult institutions.

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. 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.

In addition to donating produce, several institutions donated whole plants to various outreach organizations in Missouri. The Missouri Eastern Correctional Center donated 990 tomato plants to a local food pantry for distribution. The Farmington Correctional Center donated more than 5,000 various plants to local food pantries, a local shelter and community outreach organizations. Chillicothe Correctional Center donated 864 plants to Grand River Technical School, while Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center donated 100 tomato plants to Elvin’s Food Pantry. Finally, Moberly Correctional Center donated 5,040 tomato plants to local churches, senior centers and food pantries.

Here are the totals for the Restorative Justice Gardens in 2016 and the organizations that received donations:

Restorative Justice Garden Produce Donations

(as of Dec. 16, 2016)

| Institution | Number of Pounds Donated | Donated to - |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algoa Correctional Center | - | No garden due to capital improvement |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boonville Correctional Center | 69,177 lbs | Columbia Food Bank, New Franklin Sr. Housing, Boonville Sr. Center, Neighbors Helping Neighbors (Boonville Food pantry), Howard County Food Pantry, Chariton County Sr. Housing, Harvest House, CCBC (Concerned Citizen for the Black |

| | | Community) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Chillicothe Correctional Center | 17,727.5 lbs | Grundy County Food Pantry, Grand River Area YMCA Community Resource Center, Livingston Co. Food Pantry, Trinity Food Pantry, Baptist Home, Chula Co-Op |
| • Crossroads Correctional Center | 3,020 lbs | Green Hills Women Shelter, Stewartsville Food Pantry |
| • Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center | 7,454 lbs | Bonne Terre Nutrition Center, Madison County Food Pantry and Madison County Senior Center, SEMO Family Violence Council |
| • Farmington Correctional Center | 63,641 lbs | Shared Blessing Transitional Housing, Faith Cowboy Church Food Pantry, Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, Farmington Oaks Senior Center, Park Hills Senior Center, Bismarck Senior Center, Bismarck Church of God Food Pantry, Centenary Methodist Church Cornerstone, St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Farmington Memorial Methodist Church Mum's Café (Free weekly meal), Fredericktown Senior Center |
| • Fulton Reception & Diagnostic Center | 1,218 lbs | SERVE Food Pantry |
| • Jefferson City Correctional Center | 15,059 lbs | Samaritan Center, Salvation Army, Clarke Senior Center, 2 nd Christian Church Outreach, Rape & Abuse Crisis Center |
| • Kansas City Reentry Center | 10 lbs | City Union Mission |
| • Maryville Treatment Center | | No Garden at this time |
| • Missouri Eastern Correctional Center | 6,127 lbs | Feed my People |
| • Moberly Correctional Center | 2,770 lbs | Timber Lake Christian Church, Higbee Senior Center, Timberlake Church, Moberly Christos Center Food Bank |
| • Northeast Correctional Center | 35,363 lbs | Bowling Green Hope Center, Bowling Green Food Pantry, New London Food, Salvation Army |
| • Ozark Correctional Center | 7,247 lbs | Options Pregnancy Ava Mo., Mansfield Food Pantry, Webster County Food pantry, Kings Food Pantry Seymour |
| • Potosi Correctional Center | 1,267 lbs | Madison County Food Pantry and Sayers Senior Center |
| • South Central Correctional Center | 2,700 lbs | Texas County Food Pantry and Licking Food Pantry |
| • Southeast Correctional Center | 15,222 lbs | Charleston Nutrition Center, Lincoln University Cooperative, Center for Young Children, East Prairie Nutrition Center, Shining |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | Light, Bethel Baptist Church, Sikeston Nutrition Center, Safe House for Women. |
| • Tipton Correctional Center | 1,646 lbs | Moniteau County Nutrition Center |
| • Western Missouri Correctional Center | 20,775 lbs | Maysville Food Pantry, Hamilton Food Pantry, Cameron Food Pantry, Stewartville Pantry, |
| • Western Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center | 1,670 lbs | Second Harvest Food Bank |
| • Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center | 1,064 lbs | Vandalia Senior Center, Laddonia Food Pantry, The Help Center |
| TOTAL | 273,157.5 lbs (136.57875 tons) | |

- Garden finished for year.

Plants donated:

MECC donated 990 tomato plants to the local food pantry for distribution.

FCC donated the following plants:

Donated over 5000 plants a mixture of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, watermelon, cucumbers, zucchini and cantaloupe to the following:

PCC

ERDCC

SLCRC

District 12 CSC

Iron County Community Garden

St. Francois County Board for the Developmentally Disabled Boy Scout Troop

Shared Blessing Transitional Housing

Faith Cowboy Church Food Pantry

Bismarck Church of God Food Pantry

CCC donated 96 cauliflower plants; 36 broccoli plants; 32 cabbage plants; 384 pepper plants; and 480 tomato plants to Grand River area and Voc-Tech School

ERDCC donated 100 tomato plants to Elvin's Food Pantry

MCC donated 5,040 tomato plants to Timber Lake Church, Macon Food Pantry, Moberly Cherith Brook Food Pantry, Christos Center, Higbee Senior Center, Kirksville Preferred Family Health Care, Columbia Central Food Pantry, and produced 9,996 Flowers for MCC.

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