



# PRESS RELEASE

MISS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS \*723 N. PRESIDENT ST. \*JACKSON, MS 39202 \*(601) 359-5600 \*(FAX: 5738)

Date: April 10, 2001  
Contact: Claire Papizan  
Phone: (601) 359-5689  
Fax: (601) 359-5738

## **State Receives \$10.9 Million in Free Inmate Labor** Region III (Madison, Rankin & Simpson Counties)

---

**Jackson** — Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) community work center inmates completed a total of 2,132,702 hours of labor during fiscal year 2000, which is an estimated value of \$10.9 million. MDOC has 17 community work centers throughout the state. Types of labor community center inmates perform vary from janitorial and mechanic work to turf management of baseball fields and beautification of roadsides.

Last year, inmates at community work centers in Madison, Rankin and Simpson counties performed 371,829 hours of labor, valued at \$1,914,919. Examples of labor provided in these counties include janitorial work, picking up trash, preparing meals for the elderly, cleaning animal cages, feeding animals, grass management, general office duties, banquet set-ups, planting trees, mechanic work, water meter reading, garbage pick-up, etc.

The MDOC community work center program provides inmates the opportunity to learn valuable work skills they can use once released. In addition, inmates in community work centers perform services to cities, counties and state agencies that are valuable sources of free labor.

MDOC defines a community work center as “a community-based minimum security facility designed to provide a gradual, systematic reintroduction of an offender into community life and to provide an alternative source of labor for other state agencies and local governments.” In order for an inmate to serve time at a community work center, several criteria must be met.

First, inmates have to be within seven years of their earliest release date in order to be considered for a community work center. However, inmates serving sentences for sale of controlled substances may be considered for a community work center within two years of their earliest release date. Inmates must pass a drug and alcohol test and be able to physically perform required work.

Disqualifications include inmates who have an escape attempt in the last five years, convictions of sex crimes, child abuse or crime convictions involving a minor or handicapped person. Inmates convicted of arson, carrying a concealed weapon, or inmates charged with violent or sexual offenses which received a plea bargain to a non-violent crime cannot be assigned to a community work center.

**MORE**

**Community Work Center Inmates Performed Work at the  
Following Locations in Region III:**

**Madison County CWC:**

Miss. Ag Museum  
ABC Warehouse  
Canton Christian Center  
Canton Public Schools  
Canton Tourism  
Cheers  
Madison County Library  
Madison General Hospital  
Madison Sanitation Dept.  
Meals on Wheels  
Miss. Highway Patrol  
Miss. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks  
City of Ridgeland  
Miss. Dept. of Transportation  
City of Canton  
Parks & Recreation Dept.  
City Hall  
Canton Fire Dept.  
Canton Police Dept.  
Miss. National Guard Armory  
Ridgeland Police Dept.

**Simpson County CWC:**

City of Collins  
City of Mendenhall  
Town of D'Lo  
Bus Barn  
Magee Sanitation  
Simpson Co. Road Crews  
County Barn  
Public Works  
Magee Streets  
Magee Police Dept.  
Simpson General Hospital  
Mt. Olive Police Dept.  
Town of Raleigh  
Magee Middle School  
Magee Park  
Town of Braxton

**Rankin County CWC:**

Miss. Ag Museum  
Animal Control  
Rankin County Human Resource Agency  
Brandon Road Crew  
Flowood Road Crew  
Flowood Parks  
Miss. Food Network  
Miss. Highway Patrol Training Academy  
Finance & Administration/Treasury Dept.  
Miss. Prison Industries  
Pearl Road Crew  
Richland Road Crew