

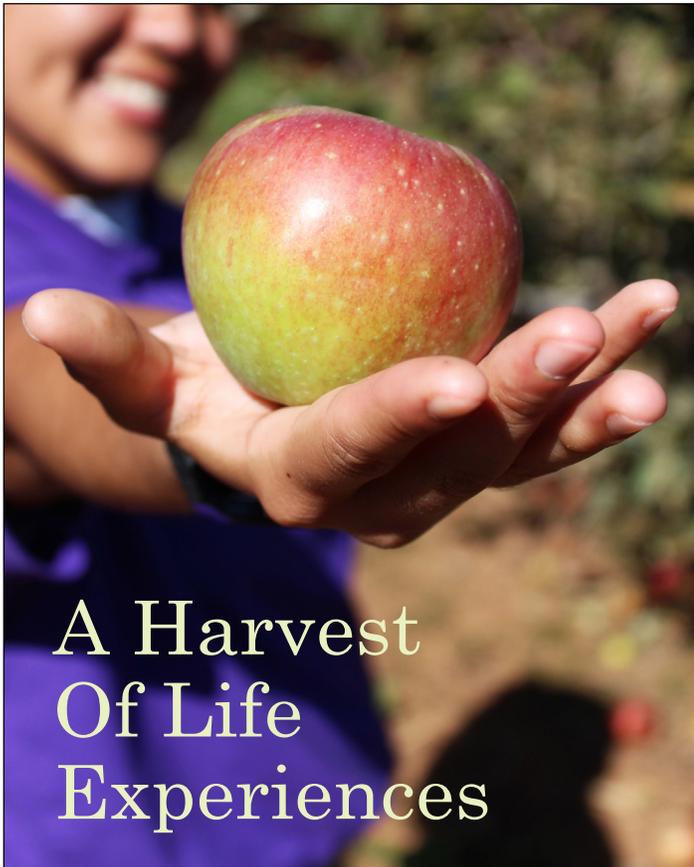


WHAT'S WORKING

A Message from
DJJ Director Andy Block

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Nov. 7, 2017



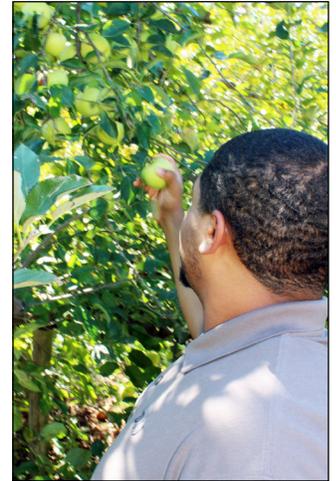
A Harvest Of Life Experiences

“Farm To School” Project Gives Residents Multi-Level Learning Opportunities

The Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (JCC) resident had just picked a bag full of apples under a cloudless sky at Carter Mountain Orchard near Charlottesville before strolling over to a ridge to take in the view.

“I have never seen something this beautiful,” the young man said. “Thanks for letting us come up here.” It was a rare sentiment from a person Bon Air staff had previously described as generally inward and self-centered.

“I didn’t know there were so many kinds of apples and so much you could do with them,” observed another. “If I have a family, I sure am going to bring them up here and let them see all this.”



Above: Instructor Christina Neiswander instructs Bon Air residents about apple varieties. Below: DJJ staff members who helped make the event a success, from left: Resident Specialist Aquanetta Carlos, RS Edward Gregory, RS Kira Patterson, Christina Neiswander, RS Melvin Fludd, RS Reina Donado.





Culinary instructor Stacy Brown taught residents to create apple tarts from scratch.

A couple of days later, a team of culinary students were working together to create apple tarts from scratch, while down the hall in the graphics design classroom, students were designing a special photo exhibit that would welcome fellow students to the “Farm To Table Bakery.”

When the Virginia Department of Education declared October as “Farm to School” month, DJJ’s post-secondary education team developed the cross-curricular project to create a multi-faceted learning experience for its residents:

- Culinary arts students were transported to Carter Mountain Orchard to pick apples from trees, and then created mini apple tarts from scratch for their fellow students to sample.
- Graphic design students produced specially framed photos of the farm-to-school process to be used in a “photo gallery walk.”

- Art students created a bakery shop “window” and a specially designed door frame that welcomed those receiving their tarts from the “bakery.”

Dr. Lisa Floyd, Deputy Director of Education, and Joyce Holmon, Deputy Director of Residential Services, agreed that this project was educational as well as meeting goals of the Community Treatment Model now in place at Bon Air JCC. Rhonda Jackson-Smith, Director of Post-Secondary Education, and instructor Christina Neiswander worked with Cynthia Chiles of Carter Mountain Orchard to organize the event. DJJ culinary instructor Stacy Brown taught students how to make apple tarts from scratch; graphic design instructor Jonathan Davis showed his students how to prepare a photo exhibit, and art instructor Suzanne Lloyd oversaw the creation of the awning and door decorations.



Graphic design instructor Jonathan Davis, above, taught his students how to create an attractive photo gallery. Art instructor Suzanne Lloyd encouraged student creativity in designing a door awning.