



# News Release

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

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For information: Vicki Reynolds, 503-570-6405, Vicki.S.Reynolds@doc.state.or.us  
Betty Bernt, 503-945-9426, Betty.A.Bernt@doc.state.or.us

## **CCCF women learn to express themselves through song**

Learning to express themselves through song has become possible for women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF). The choral program is a partnership between CCCF and the Intergenerational Outreach Choirs Corporation (IOCC) based in Portland.

Every Sunday, 30 minimum-custody women leave their prison personas and enter a musical world to raise their voices to create harmony and peace in their lives. The women who are part of the choir say there are many benefits to being a part of this musical experience. In addition to learning how to read music, advantages include the therapeutic value, acceptance, teamwork, and the ability to belong to something.

Crystal Akins, choir director, says her vision is to create a choir that will help the women transition through integrating them into a supportive singing community once they release from prison. Right now, though, she and Amy Vanacove, the accompanist, are preparing the singers for their first concert.

IOCC is a nonprofit agency with service choirs in schools, churches, community centers, assisted living homes, and hospitals. Its vision is to establish choirs for all genders, ages, and life circumstances to create a family of outreach choirs that continue to connect generations through song.

CCCF is a multi-custody prison in Wilsonville accommodating all of Oregon's female inmates (approximately 1,260). The prison has cell and dormitory housing, inmate work programs, skills training, treatment programs, health services, religious services, physical plant, a central records unit, and administrative areas. CCCF participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises, including a contact center, auto CAD, and document scanning. In addition, CCCF houses the state's intake center, which provides intake and evaluation of all inmates committed to state custody by the courts. The intake center houses approximately 400 male inmates. CCCF's minimum facility opened in 2001, and the medium facility opened in 2002.

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