



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

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Jail Volunteer Important Part of Operation

It's not just about locking-up inmates at the Newport News City Jail. It's about preparing these men and women to integrate back into society when they get out.

We have a wide array of subjects and skills being taught behind bars. We offer GED classes and testing, and basic education. Inmates can learn to improve their parenting skills and how to control their anger. They can get spiritual guidance. There is substance abuse counseling. We have computer classes. This list goes on.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan understands that the biggest contributing factors to incarceration in our city is under-education and drugs. And he is doing everything in his power to make a difference in our community by offering opportunity to his jail population. In the long run, that will save tax payers money.

But Morgan and his deputies can't do it alone. They rely on the compassion and passion of others. Conducting the above mentioned classes? -- Volunteers. Over 200 of them. Without these dedicated individuals, the Newport News Sheriff's Office could not offer so many rehabilitative classes.

We currently have 220 inmates enrolled in classes. Seventy-five inmates successfully completed classes in the month of October. In the month of October, five inmates successfully passed their GED examination, bringing to 21 the total of GED graduates for year. And we aren't done. There will be two more exams before the end of 2006. In comparison, only seven inmates earned GEDs in all of 2005, the year prior to Sheriff Gabe Morgan taking office.

The devotion of our volunteers is invaluable.

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The media is invited to profile our volunteers and/or inmates enrolled in class. *Contact Kathleen Carey, Public Information Officer at 926-8747 or 813-6139.*