



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **October 21, 2008**

Volunteers Work with an Undesirable Population

They have a desire to work with an undesirable population. Maybe it is a calling. Maybe it is giving back because someone helped them in a similar situation. Whatever the reason, over 140 volunteers choose to give of their time helping inmates at the Newport News City Jail. Countless hours are spent counseling, mentoring, and educating convicted criminals or those accused of a crime.

Inmate programs include brick masonry, GED, basic education, various substance abuse diversion classes, HIV awareness, parenting, English as a second language and faith-based guidance. So far this year, nearly 1500 inmates have completed classes. Some have passed more than one course. All pass with a promise to try and turn their lives around when they get out from behind bars.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office cannot afford to pay the volunteers for their good work. However, we can say thank you.

The Sheriff's Office will hold its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Diner, Thursday, October 23rd at the Omni Hotel.

WHO: Newport News Sheriff's Office thanks its 140 Volunteers
WHAT: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
WHEN: Thursday, October 23, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
WHERE: Omni Hotel; 1000 Omni Blvd.; Newport News, VA

Special guests include State Senator John Miller and Newport News Vice Mayor Joe Whitaker.

Volunteers will be recognized individually. A special award will be given to the Volunteer of the Year. This year, we have two recipients. They are known as the "Dynamic Duo." Vera Ross and Glenda MacDonald have volunteered at the Newport News City Jail for a combined 39-years. That is a phenomenal commitment to a population that often goes unnoticed. Both teach Basic Adult, providing remedial education for those inmates not yet ready for GED classes.

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