



AWARD OF
DISTINCTION

Heroism

2023

Ed Randolph, Wyatt Thompson, and Hunter Wissbaum

Maintenance Workers, Department of Transportation

Ed and two others were working on a mobile patching operation on Route 5. From behind an adjacent house, approximately 50 yards away, they heard distinct cries for help and found a dog attacking a grandmother and her grandchild. The three team members were able to subdue the dog with physical restraint and contact emergency services. The three gentlemen stayed with the family, helped direct emergency personnel onto the property, ensured the emergency helicopter had a place to land, and comforted the family throughout the process.



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Human Relations

2023

Mark Krause

Stationary Engineer, Department of Corrections

Mark Krause has walked into tense situations over and over and still managed to make sure every staff member felt safe and, if needed, had someone to talk to. Mark has responded to several medical emergencies when staff needed assistance and has covered posts to ensure staff members could respond. Mark was there to support new team members who, having witnessed an overdose for the first time, froze in the line of duty. He pulled that team member aside, coached them through what happened, and followed up with them regularly to ensure they were okay. On another occasion, Mark was able to de-escalate a situation with an offender who was being uncooperative about going into a cell. Mark successfully calmed the offender down and encouraged them to go into the cell without force. Mark has been a part of de-escalating several intense situations, which in turn has helped keep staff and offenders safe.



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Innovation

2023

Jody Enderle, Robert Dunn, Matthew Raymond, and Mitchelle Treadwell

Department of Corrections

This team went above and beyond their regular work duties in their efforts to develop, install, and implement a proximity scanning system that tracks offender movements and ensures accountability of offender's activity. The system uses the offender's current department-issued ID utilizing a bar code scanning tool. This innovative system has improved the overall safety and security of the facility by providing staff members with an accurate real-time tool to monitor offender movements and activities. Their efforts to ensure that the system was implemented correctly have helped to streamline the facility operations and enhance overall efficiency, as well as the safety and security of staff and offenders.



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Leadership

2023

Christopher Kimsey

Regional Director, Department of Social Services

Chris has created a space for leadership development in a time when it would be easy, or even expected, to be shut down. After a few months in this position, after learning about needs from his staff, leaders, and own experiences, he created the “L.I.T. Program.” This is designed as a six-month leadership learning program. L.I.T. (Learn, Invest, & Teach) helps develop self and others. Chris designed this as a way to create space for growth, and he invited managers and leaders in the region to participate in leadership training. He has provided leadership materials to discuss regularly to promote leadership ideas, discussion, reflection, and growth. After the first cohort is completed, Chris will expand these opportunities to other regional middle-level leaders to promote a culture that focuses on development, even during the hardest of times. The bleed out of focusing on developing research skills, good communication, reflection, introspection, and doing the ‘right’ thing will in no question make its way through the leaders in this program, through the staff they lead, and through the families, the staff leads and help every day.



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Public Service

2023

Amber Byrd

Probation and Parole Officer II, Department of Corrections

Amber Byrd was on her way to Tuscumbia when she approached the bridge on Highway 52 and noticed a man standing on the edge of the bridge who appeared to be distraught. Amber stopped her vehicle and approached the man on the bridge, who was crying and advised that he was considering jumping off the bridge to end his life. Amber used her motivational interviewing skills and training to speak to him and convince him to step away from the edge of the bridge. Amber encouraged him, provided him with local resources, and continued to talk to him until help arrived. Later in the day, the gentleman contacted the district office and stated that he would not be here today if it were not for Amber. The gentleman expressed his gratitude for the training the agency provides officers and that Amber would go above and beyond what many would do to help out a stranger. Amber acted selflessly by taking the time to stop and assist a stranger from potentially ending his life.



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Safety

2023

MoDOT Safety Response Team

Department of Transportation

MoDOT created the Safety Response Team (SRT) to focus on lowering risks and improving safety for our roadway workforce. In the first six months, SRT has evaluated 41 areas to improve operational safety procedures. Several of these have been implemented, including purchasing two automated pothole patchers, which will lead to fewer staff members on the roadway during one of the most common tasks. MoDOT has also added cameras to protective TMA trucks to photograph the cases of vehicles striking MoDOT work vehicles and to capture vehicle information to aid in the investigation of hit-and-run crashes. While it is impossible to calculate the lives saved by crashes that have been prevented, the MoDOT Safety Response Team has impacted the safety of our workforce in the short time it has been implemented.