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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: December 22, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

I would like to share a wonderful story of giving that I came upon last week while attending graduation at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). Christmas morning will be a little brighter for many children because of our KJCC residents' contributions to the Toys for Tots program. The program is administered by the Marine Toys for Tots, and the organization sent a group of Marines to accept the donation. Residents donated close to \$3,000 to the holiday giving program at KJCC.

At first the money was going to be used to adopt more families this holiday season, but since that program wasn't able to accommodate the requests, staff at KJCC identified Toys for Tots as the beneficiary. While at KJCC to pick up the toys, games and sporting equipment, the Marines spent some time with the young residents talking about their futures and where the toys would be going. Giving our residents the opportunity to give back is an important part of learning to make better choices in life. An unexpected and equally impactful bonus was the chance to have such outstanding role models visit with the residents and thank them for their generosity.

Congratulations to the residents at KJCC who obtained their high school diploma last week, and to the residents at Norton Correctional Facility who were recently recognized for completing GED programs. There were also a number of NCF residents who earned technical certificates in Sustainable/Renewal Energy through Colby Community College. I would also like to commend residents throughout KDOC who have completed programs this fall and early winter. All of these endeavors represent an investment in yourself and your future. Congratulations!

My wish for you is that during this special season you will find the joy and peace that surrounds us all, no matter the circumstances.