

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Office of Communications
Phone: (601) 359-5289, 359-5608, 359-5689
E-mail: MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us

Bike donations planned in time for Christmas at state prisons

JACKSON – If a bicycle is all that some children, including those of incarcerated men and women and correctional officers, want for Christmas, they are getting their wish thanks to donations at the state prisons.

More than 100 bikes, new and refurbished, are being donated at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County. Many will be presented Saturday afternoon during the “Mom and Me” special visitation day.

Officers’ children will receive their bikes later, Superintendent Ron King said.

“The overall project for CMCF will exceed 125 bikes, based on the current donations and commitments,” King said. “There are going to be some real happy kids.”

Another give-away is planned at the Mississippi State Penitentiary for children in the community next week.

“I feel that the spirit of Christmas is joined with giving,” said MSP Superintendent Marshal Turner, who suggested the bike donation there. “When I discussed the idea with my staff, it took off. All our bikes are brand new. The employees are happily giving.”

The goal was 50 bikes. The current number is 64. “We are anticipating finishing with approximately 72,” Turner said.

Turner has contacted local principals and the superintendent of the Sunflower County school district in preparation for delivering the bikes Thursday.