



May 17, 2026

Family Day at CMCF brings joy, connection

PEARL – Families were reunited with laughter, hugs, and unforgettable memories during a special Family Day event recently held at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF). The event was designed to give incarcerated men quality time with their loved ones in a positive, encouraging environment.

From the moment the gates opened, emotion filled the air as children excitedly ran to meet their fathers. Smiles, embraces, and heartfelt conversations could be seen throughout the day as families enjoyed time together outside the normal visiting routine.

The celebration featured a wide variety of family-friendly activities, including live music, hot dogs and chips, cotton candy, popcorn, drinks, bouncy houses, cornhole, and games for children of all ages. Families also had the opportunity to take photographs together, capturing moments many will treasure for years to come.

One especially meaningful area of the event included tables where children could pick out clothes, toys, and other fun items to take home.

The event highlighted the importance of strengthening family bonds and encouraging rehabilitation through healthy relationships and community support.

Organizers emphasized that maintaining family connections can play a major role in fostering hope, facilitating restoration, and supporting successful reentry.

Special thanks are extended to Strive Initiative and their staff members, Courtney Rainey, Sharea Beal, and Vivian Randal, for their hard work and dedication in making the event possible.

Appreciation is also extended to CMCF leadership and staff, including Superintendent Matt Reynolds, Deputy Superintendent Denise Bone, Area III Warden Yolanda Riley, and the

Coordinator, Chaplain Director Sandra Perow, for their support and commitment to the families served by the event.

Additional thanks go to Pinelake Church, Dennis Meek, Mississippi Kairos, and Daniel Awabdy from the Care Center for their generous contributions and support.

Through compassion, partnership, and service, Family Day became more than just an event — it became a reminder that hope and healing are still possible through family and community connection.

