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Contact: Michele Kane
(916) 462-0731

Incarcerated Individuals Give Back More Than \$100,000 to Crime Victims' Groups Through CALPIA Programs

SACRAMENTO – Crime victims' support groups throughout the State received more than \$100,000 from incarcerated individuals participating in the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) Joint and Free Venture programs in Fiscal Year 2019-20. The Joint Venture Program is located in four adult California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) institutions and the Free Venture Program operates in one Division of Juvenile Justice facility.

"The Joint and Free Venture Programs are models of public-private partnerships which help prepare incarcerated individuals to be successful and find employment when returning to their communities," said Scott Walker, General Manager of CALPIA. "Besides providing participants real-world job opportunities, these CALPIA programs also give back to crime victims throughout California."

The Joint Venture Program is provided at adult institutions and the Free Venture Program provides work experience at juvenile facilities. Incarcerated individuals are paid wages comparable to what they would earn if they were working in the respective field outside of prison. Federal, state, and local taxes are withheld from an incarcerated individual's gross earnings, and 20 percent is deducted from the remainder of the incarcerated individual's wages for each of the following categories: room and board, inmate trust/canteen account, family support, mandatory savings, and victims' compensation.

Incarcerated individuals initially pay for all court-ordered compensation and the remaining collected restitution is placed in a "Generic Restitution Fund" for local crime victim organizations. Here are institutions where incarcerated individuals are making donations:

- **Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla** - Participants in the Joint Venture Program, Allwire, Inc. are donating a total of \$63,500 to Mollie's House, a non-profit organization that helps victims of sexual trafficking, and Marjaree Mason Center, a domestic violence shelter in Fresno County.
- **San Quentin State Prison** – Incarcerated individuals working for Big Dawg and The Last Mile Works are donating a total of \$8,539 to Seneca Family of Agencies, a non-profit mental health agency that helps provide unconditional care to help children and MISSSEY, a non-profit organization that helps children of human trafficking.
- **N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility in Stockton** - Through Merit Partners, participants are donating \$21,874 to the Women's Center- Youth & Family Services, a provider who helps the homeless, runaways, and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, and Haven Women's Center which serves all survivors of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking.
- **California State Prison, Solano** – Incarcerated individuals in the Joint Venture Program Customer Model Laundry are donating a total of \$4,385 to Empower Yolo, an organization that provides services for individuals and families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, and child abuse.
- **California Correctional Center in Susanville**- Participants in the Joint Venture Program are donating \$3,383 to Lassen County's Victim-Witness Assistance Program.