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Contact: Michele Kane  
(916) 462-0731

## Incarcerated Individuals Give Back to Crime Victims' Groups Through CALPIA Programs

FOLSOM – Crime victims' support groups throughout the State received nearly \$38,000 from incarcerated individuals participating in the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) Joint Venture Programs (JVP).

"CALPIA's programs provide incarcerated individuals with life-changing career development opportunities so they may be successful when they return to their communities," said CALPIA's General Manager Bill Davidson. "Participants in these programs are giving back which is truly beneficial for crime victims and their communities."

The Joint Venture Programs that participated were from two California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) prisons. Incarcerated individuals are paid wages comparable to what they would earn if they were working in their respective fields out in the community.

"The JVP check presentation brings rehabilitation full circle," said CALPIA's Assistant General Manager over Workforce Development Rusty Bechtold. "This program allows incarcerated individuals to save money for release, pay off their debts, and provide restitution to crime victims."

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 the institutions where incarcerated individuals made donations in 2024:

- **Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla** - Participants in the Joint Venture Program, Allwire, Inc. donated a total of \$36,646 to Mollie's House, a non-profit organization that helps victims of sexual trafficking.
- **High Desert State Prison** – Incarcerated individuals working for Barnum Farming donated a total of \$1,143 to Lassen County Victim/Witness Assistance.

*CALPIA provides job skills to approximately 5,800 individuals in CDCR prisons. CALPIA reduces recidivism and increases public safety. The organization's goal is to ensure incarcerated individuals have career opportunities when they leave prison in hopes they never return. CALPIA graduates earn industry accredited certifications and time off their sentences. Each individual applies to be in the program and CALPIA has countless success stories. A recent University of California, Irvine recidivism study found that CALPIA participants have a 15% return to custody rate after three years, which means 85% of all CALPIA participants do not return to prison.*