

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2007

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County joins nation in observing National Probation Week

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY – During the week of July 15th through the 21st, 2007, people across the United States and its territories will join together to recognize the work that probation, parole and community supervision professionals do to keep the public safe.

Since 1841, the practice of probation and parole has played a vital role in our justice system. These professionals are a critical part of the public safety system.

These professionals exhibit care and concern for victims of crime and our communities while at the same time holding offenders accountable. One day they may play the part of a counselor, the next they are enforcing the rules of an offender's supervision terms. They may help a single mother find daycare or a job in order to abide by the conditions of her supervision, the next day they may be arresting a sex offender or gang member. They are problem solvers, crime prevention specialists, motivators, educators, facilitators and often times they are the only support system an offender may have.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department operates three juvenile detention facilities. There are typically 400 to 450 minors detained in these Juvenile Detention and Assessment Centers. The Probation Corrections Officers that provide custodial care for these minors are often faced with challenging multi-dimensional issues with these minors, such as; mental health diagnosis, drug/alcohol abuse, learning disabilities, gang affiliation, and significant behavioral issues including violence. These facilities are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The San Bernardino County Probation Department operates an Adult and Juvenile Community Corrections Bureau. There are approximately 18,000 adult offenders on formal probation in San Bernardino County.

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Specialized units such as the Sex Offender unit, Gang Unit, Drunk Driving Unit, and the Domestic Violence Unit offer a higher level of service with officers trained for these specialized assignments. Additional programs such as Drug Court, Prop 36, Mental Health Unit and PRIDE, offer specific treatment services for drug offenders and probationers with Mental Illness.

There are approximately 3,500 juvenile offenders on formal probation in San Bernardino County. In addition, there are approximately 300 placed in state-licensed group home facilities. Probation-operated Day Reporting Centers in the various geographical locations throughout the County offer many programs for these youth and their families, such as; parenting classes, anger management, drug and alcohol counseling, value clarification, and life-skills training.

The work of the Probation staff includes prevention, intervention and suppression. It is critical to the community in that they provide services to facilitate offender rehabilitation and provide protection to the community.

The Probation Department staff are to be commended for their dedication, loyalty and hard work.

Members of our community are encouraged to join together during Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Week to honor those who work to make our communities a safer place to live.