

ECO CENTER FOR WOMEN

July 2004 – June 2005 Report

RESIDENT MOVEMENT

During the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, ECO Center for Women housed 33 women. With a maximum capacity of 20 residents, the center experienced fluctuations in numbers for various reasons such as transfers, paroles, post release supervisions and releases based upon sentence completion. Three residents received a disciplinary transfer, three residents were paroled, three residents were released on post release supervision, and five residents were released upon sentence completion, and at the end of the 2004-2005 fiscal year nineteen residents were currently housed at the facility.

RESIDENTS' EMPLOYMENT

A main tenet held by ECO is that the residents gain employment under the Work Release Program, and establish a solid work history, which is vital to the success of the residents when they reenter society. Every work release employer is aware of the resident's current incarceration. Therefore, when an offer of employment is extended, the employer and the resident sign an agreement, which establishes ECO's commitment to the employer and the resident. The residents have a case manager who monitors their progress and success.

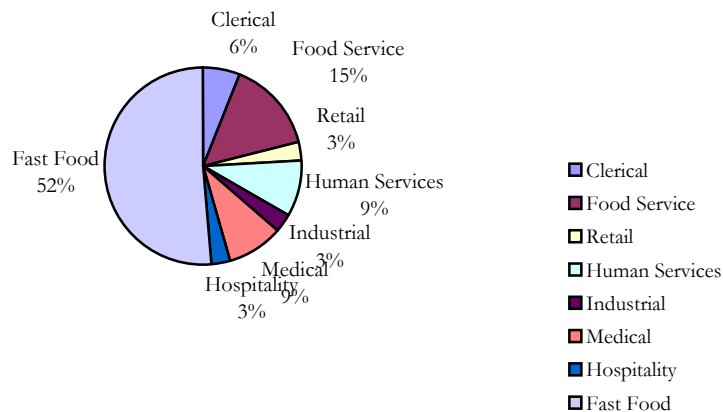
During the 2004-2005 fiscal year, 22 companies employed ECO residents. The residents' hourly wages ranged from \$5.15 to \$14.86, with the average hourly wage being \$7.89. In comparison to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina's wage report, our residents' wages fall within the state averages of wage earnings within each respective industry. Also during this timeframe, over 5% of our residents received promotions, which increases their marketability and future earning potential.

Another fundamental aspect of the work release program is that it enables residents to take on responsibilities in increments, which will allow them to become fully financially responsible upon release. All of the residents are required to pay a small portion of their incarceration expenses. North Carolina inmates are required to pay \$16.00 for every eight hours worked, not to exceed \$80.00 per week, which is a nominal portion of their total

expenses. Residents are also responsible for paying for their personal expenses, taxes, fines, court ordered restitution and child support. Some of the residents take on the extra responsibility of paying voluntary child support. In 2004-2005, the ECO residents paid \$25,713.90 in restitution, \$5,297.07 in fines, \$13,836.08 in voluntary child support and \$3,516.91 in court ordered child support. The remaining amount of their income remains in a work release account so that every resident will have funds available when they are released.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

INDUSTRY CATEGORIES



POSITIONS HELD IN EACH INDUSTRY

Clerical	Administrative Assistant, Customer Service, Switchboard Operator
Fast Food	Cashiers, Cooks, Management
Food Service	Waitress, Hostess
Hospitality	Housekeeping
Human Services	Customer Service Representative
Industrial	Dry Cleaning, Laundry
Medical	Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Transcriber, Dental Lab Assistant
Retail	Department Manager, Salesperson

EMPLOYERS WITHIN EACH INDUSTRY

Clerical

Diversified Com
World Wide Medical

Brewery

Fast Food

Burger King
David's Snack Shop
Chicken Coop
Firehouse Subs
Substation II

Subway

Food Service

Coffee Cup
Fuel Pizza
K&W Cafeteria
O'Charley's
Southend

Waffle House

Hospitality

Doubletree Suites

Human Services

Socialserve.com

Industrial

National Linen

Medical

The Place at Southpark
SIM
Benchmark Dental

Retail

Dillard's
Manhattans Clothing

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Residents' Net Earnings Total (07/01/04 – 06/30/05)	\$234,229.27
Resident's Facility Payments Total (07/01/04 – 06/30/05)	\$ 83,200.00*

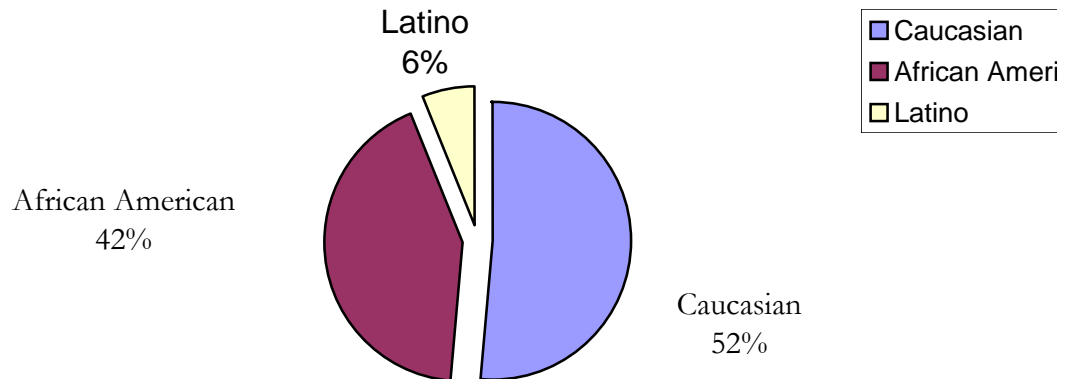
Annual Net Average Income Per Resident	\$11,677.95
Annual Facility Payment Average Per Resident	\$ 4,160.00

*This figure does not accurately represent a true average due to the variation in the length of time between a new resident arriving at the facility and her first day of employment.

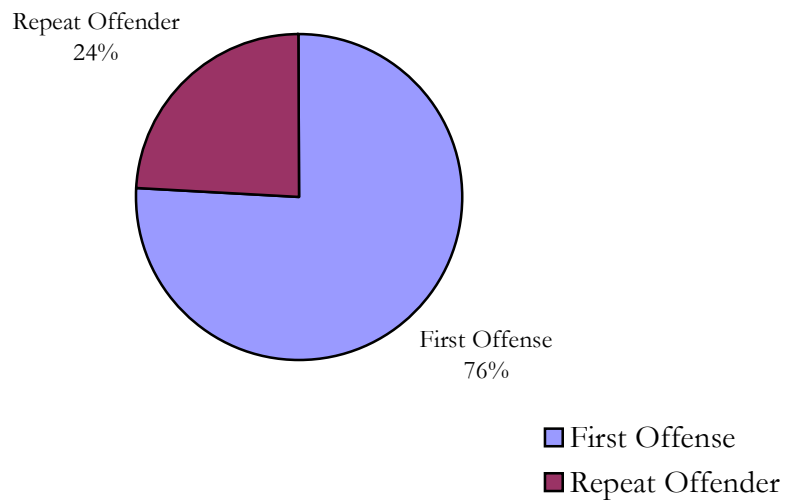
OFFENDER INFORMATION

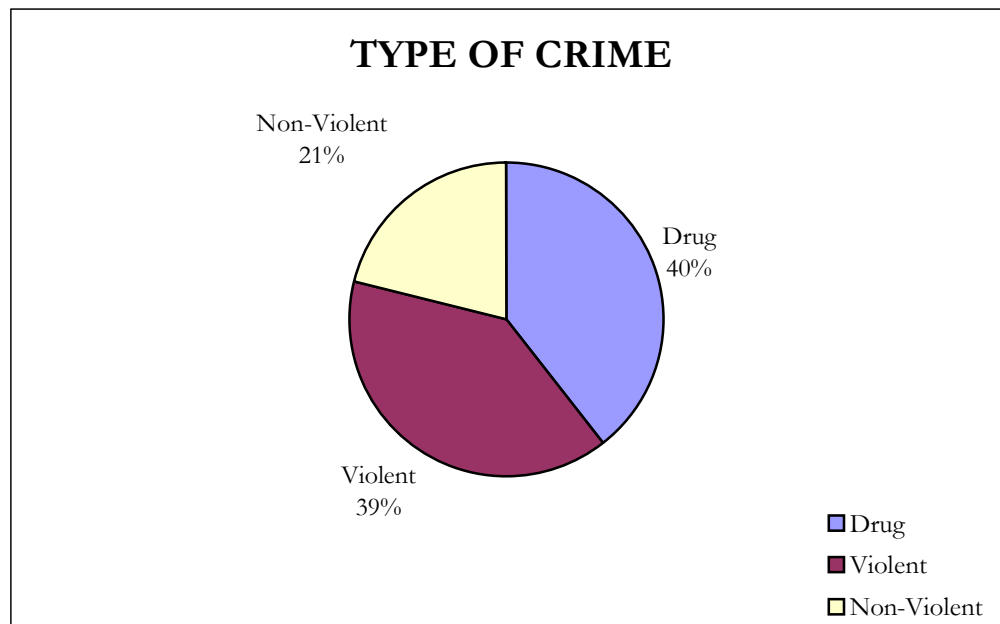
In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, ECO's residents were between the ages of 22 and 66, with the average resident's age being 43.

RACE

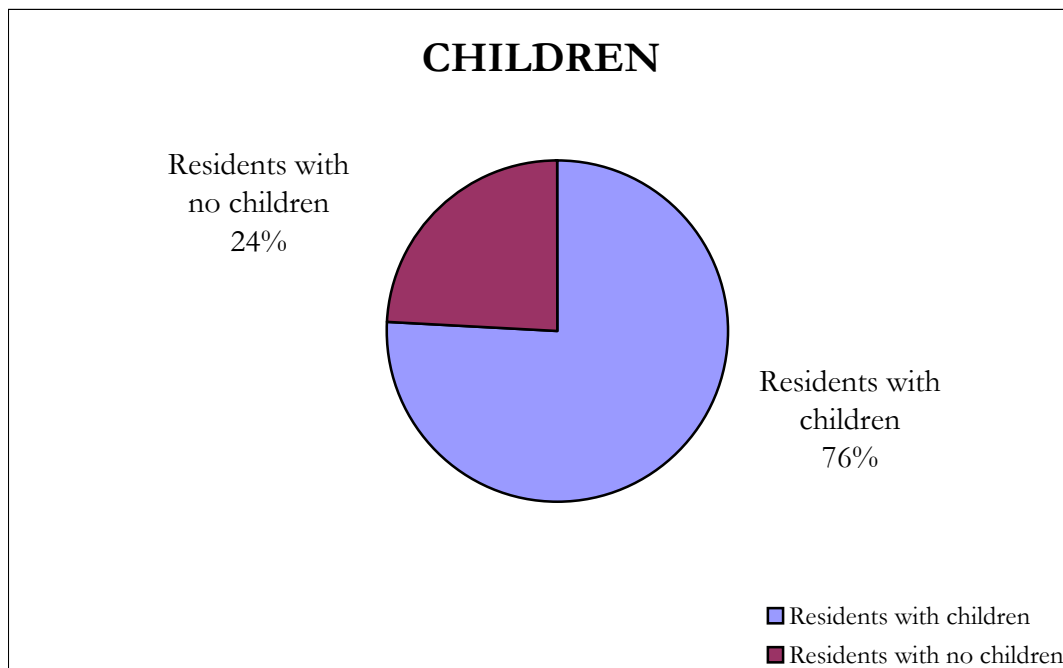


CONVICTION HISTORY

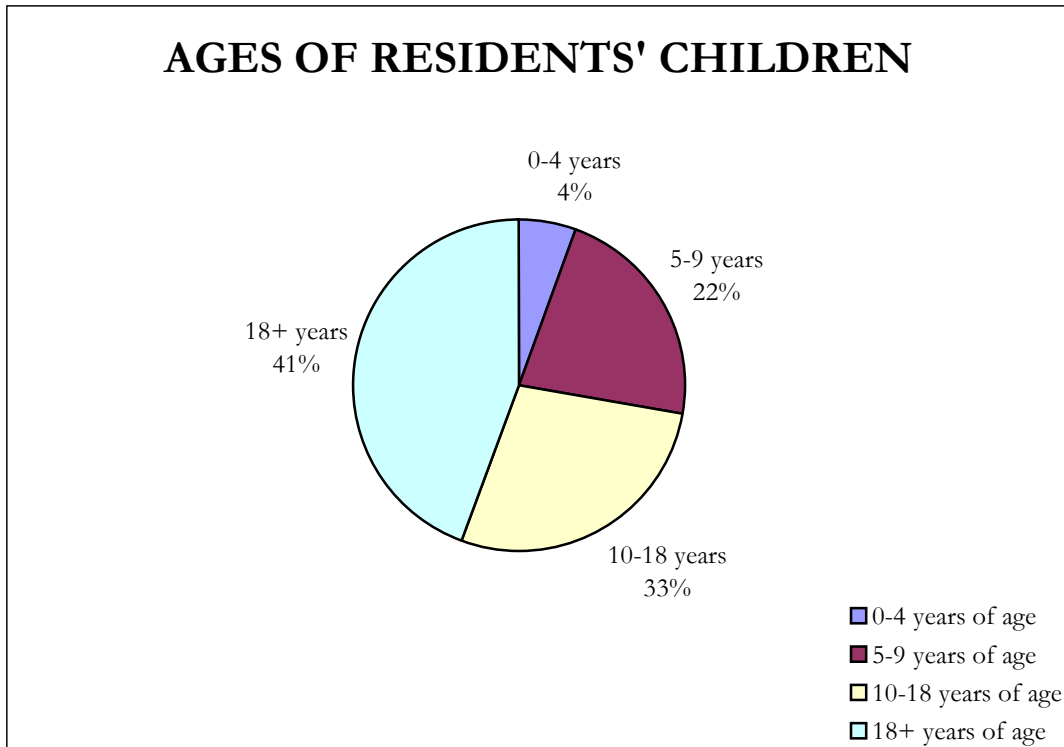




The 2004-2005 residents are mothers to 54 children.



In 2004-2005, 59% of our resident's children are 18 years of age and younger.



PROGRAMS

HOME LEAVES

The purpose of the home leave program is to prepare the residents for a successful reentry back into the community. During their stay at ECO, residents are allowed to take supervised home leaves with their family members after a series of inquiries dictated by the state and carried out by the staff at the facility. 30 of the 33 residents were eligible to participate in the home leave program. These residents took more than 300 passes throughout the year.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

The community volunteer program provides residents the opportunity to take supervised outings in the community with a private citizen. Community Volunteers are required to complete six hours of training and are allowed to take residents on planned outings.

Activities include shopping, recreation, religious, substance abuse programs, counseling, and special events. This is a wonderful opportunity for the women to begin acclimating to the area and becoming integral members in the community. All of the residents participated in the Community Leave program. The residents enjoyed a total of 281 passes, totaling 1,482.25 hours.

STUDY RELEASE

Along with activities involving family and community, we encourage the residents to participate in furthering their education. The study release program allows the residents to participate in academic or vocational training. By furthering their education, every resident increases their chance of gaining better employment and expanding their scope of knowledge. One resident was enrolled in Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) in preparation of obtaining a high school diploma. Three residents furthered their education by attending classes at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC), one resident received her Pharmacy Technician Certificate from CPCC, one resident received her SafeServe Food Protection Manager Certification from the National Restaurant Association, and one resident was enrolled in the Carolina Beauty School and had completed most of the hours required for obtaining her Cosmetology License. Many of the residents were approved to receive federal grants, which assisted with the cost of tuition, and other tuition costs were waived. However, the residents were responsible for paying for their books and other coursework materials.

EXERCISE AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

The exercise program was established by ECO to encourage the residents to engage in physical activity. In partnership with the local YMCA and after 90 days of participating in the work release program, every resident is granted full access to the local YMCA. The YMCA waives the monthly membership fees for the residents. Most of the residents take advantage of their memberships.

COUNSELING

In order to address some of the issues that may have played a role in their incarceration, ECO supports the effort of individuals who participate in counseling programs. The type of programs varies from mental health therapy, anger management counseling, and various types of 12-step programs. A total of five residents participated in the various types of counseling programs. Residents who received counseling at the Behavioral Health Center had their fees waived or set on a sliding scale. Sandra Willoughby, the Family Care Coordinator conducted parenting classes monthly, with the residents to assist them with issues concerning parenting from a distance.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the year our residents donate clothing to Crisis Assistance Ministry, these were clothes that were either donated to the residents or clothes that they no longer wanted. Two residents volunteered their time at the Crisis Assistance Ministry to sort clothes. Several residents participated in “Think Smart” sessions, in which they spoke to troubled teens about their life experiences. The Hope Youth Services Inc. presents these sessions. ECO sponsored a Quaker Party and Open House to show their appreciation for the community volunteers. The residents also volunteered at the ECO gift-wrap booth at the Carolina Place Mall during the holiday season, a total of \$7,000 was made from this fundraiser.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Throughout the year several home improvements were made to the facility. One of the resident bathrooms was renovated and repairs were done. Duke Energy donated a new commercial stove, 3 ceiling fans and completed various beautification and enhancement projects. Other volunteers spent many hours at the Women’s Center painting the penthouse. The residents and staff also have a spring and fall cleaning day.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monthly activities include shopping, renting movies, and various recreational activities. There are also several religious based activities that the residents participate in on a monthly basis. Indian Trail

Baptist Church provides dinner for the residents on the 1st Tuesday of the month. After dinner the residents participate in a Bible Study. Mt. Carmel Baptist Church also provides monthly activities for the residents on the 3rd Thursday of the month. They recently completed the group study “Purpose Driven Life,” based on the book written by Rick Warren. The “Craft Ladies” from University Hills Baptist Church provide a variety of arts and craft activities on the 4th Monday of the month. The residents enjoy participating in these activities. The highlights of the year included a Pre-Thanksgiving dinner, going to the Greek festival, going to a Gospel sing, going to a Charlotte Sting basketball game, and to Speed Street.

STAFF TRAINING

- OPUS training at Rowan Correction Center
- UR training in Salisbury
- CPR and First Aid Training at Red Cross
- Disciplinary Training at Charlotte Correctional Center
- First Time Supervisor Training presented by Fred Pryor Seminars/Career Track
- Second Harvest Food Bank Orientation

COMMUNITY AGENCIES THAT ASSISTED RESIDENTS

Charlotte Friends	Mecklenburg County Health Dept.
CharlotteSaves	Mecklenburg County Mental Health
Christ Covenant Church	Mecklenburg Parks & Recreation
Community Health Services	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
CPCC	Narcotics Anonymous
Crisis Assistance Ministry	NCDMV
Duke Power Energy	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Employment Security Commission	Second Harvest Food Bank
First Baptist Church	Social Security Administration
IBM	With Love from Jesus
Job Link	United Way
YMCA	