Guided by the philosophy of treating all people with respect and compassion, Jonathon Philipp believes, “My students haven’t always been good citizens, but they still have the potential to impact their communities in a positive way, and education can be a gateway to that potential. Not only do incarcerated individuals need opportunities to prove themselves to their communities, but they often need to prove something to themselves first. Education allows them to improve and grow, whether they are trying to learn to read or preparing to enter college.”

In recognition of his enthusiasm, dedication and tireless work to provide his students with opportunities to transform their lives, the CEA-Wisconsin Executive Board is proud to name Jonathon Philipp as the 2017 Wisconsin Correctional Teacher of the Year.

Jon has spent his entire six year teaching career as an employee of Criminal Justice Treatment Services at the Outagamie County Justice Center. He is a graduate of UW-Oshkosh with a Bachelor of Arts in Radio-TV-Film with a minor in Creative Writing. He obtained his Post Baccalaureate Teacher Certification from UW-Milwaukee and holds a DPI License in Early Adolescence through Adolescence English Education.

Jonathon Philipp believes that when working in a county jail setting, it is essential that a teacher is flexible with his time and can adapt to each student. He does his best to make sure nobody is excluded from opportunities to learn while incarcerated in Outagamie County. Jon asserts, “It is very difficult for someone who has a desire to learn to

(continued on page 2)
make it through Outagamie County Justice Center without getting into class.” In 2016 there was an average of about 47 students in GED/HSED classes each month, with about half of them working towards a GED/HSED and the other half refreshing basic skills. In addition, he averaged about 10 females and 7 males a month in the two Creative Writing classes he offered.

Criminal Justice Treatment Services Director Bernie Vetrone is proud of the Outagamie County Justice Center's education program and credits Jon as being instrumental to its success. “Jon's commitment and passion for giving inmates the tools they need to break the cycle of criminality is one of the reasons Outagamie County is a national leader in criminal justice alternative interventions. I’m very pleased Jon is receiving the recognition he greatly deserves.”

One of the ways Jon gets so many people involved in education is to offer flexible scheduling that follows the individual through his/her time in jail. Jon teaches a Monday-Friday class in GED/HSED Preparation for students in Lock-up. On Monday and Wednesday, he has class for students refreshing basic skills, working on employability skills or improving their typing skills. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, Jon has class for students refreshing basic skills, working on employability skills, improving their typing skills and also provides extra time for students of the Fox Valley Technical College teacher who has classes on Monday and Wednesday. Jon also teaches Creative Writing for males and females and an ESL class as needed.

### 45th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet

The 45th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet was held at Stone Cellar at Riverview Gardens on Thursday, May 18, 2017. Thank you to Tim Carpenter and Derreka Walton for opening the banquet with their gracious hospitality before dinner.

County Executive Tom Nelson spoke about the greatness of having volunteers and what they mean to our programs. His speech led to the dinner that was served for our volunteer guests. After dinner Bernie Vetrone, Criminal Justice Treatment Services Director, and Lance Willson, Outagamie County Jail Staff Sergeant, presented awards to the volunteers that attended the banquet.

Outagamie County Criminal Justice Treatment Services thank our volunteers another year for their time and service to the community.

Do you have a suggestion or volunteer story that you’d like to share? Send it to Heather via postal mail or email it to: Heather.Swedberg@outagamie.org
Meet the New CJTS Staff Member

Chelsea Niemuth
PRETRIAL CASE MANAGER

Chelsea Niemuth joined Outagamie County Criminal Justice Treatment Services as a Pretrial Case Manager in May. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from UW-Milwaukee. For the past ten years, she has been employed as a Probation and Parole Agent with the State of Wisconsin. She has worked in Milwaukee, Oneida and Appleton as an agent. During her time as a Probation and Parole Agent, she has had the opportunity to work as an Oneida Nation Tribal Liaison Agent. For the past four years, she was a member of the Outagamie County Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court Team. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, and doing projects around her home.

Safe Exchange Program New Hours

MONDAYS: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
FRIDAYS: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
SUNDAYS: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Recipe Corner

Strawberry Fluff

2 cups strawberries, diced
1-8oz container Cool Whip
1-3.4 oz box strawberry crème pudding mix, instant
3 cups angel food cake cubes
1 cup milk
1 ½ cups marshmallows, mini

1. Whisk together the pudding mix and milk until dissolved and thick. Gently stir in Cool Whip until mixed well.
2. Add the marshmallows, cake cubes, and diced strawberries and stir gently. Refrigerate until time to serve.
Forgiveness
By CB

It all started one day with just a little thinking on my behalf. Mix a little relationship trouble without a mind of reason and this is what you have....

My mind is racing, thoughts are irrational and I fell into the trap. Why was it I had some tools to help me out, yet I kept on looking past.

The passive-aggressive part of me took over and right then and there, the ship had sailed. Look at you and swear everything alright and that is where I failed.

The thoughts kept coming and self-destruction was getting greater and greater. Every time a sound clear mind would ask me anything. I’d just would say I’ll talk to you later.

So here I sit incarcerated again and at first I was so bitter. Now that I’m learning these things about myself I realize how much colder it could have been this winter.

You never know what can happen when anger takes control. I might not have ever made it back. Leaving all my loved ones behind, wondering what if they would have done this or that.

I really would like to tell my family and my friends that I’m sorry, but here is the truth. Everyone is sick of hearing those words, so it is time to show them the proof.

I’m learning to be more assertive, have good eye contact, and feel competent and in control. I have a good sense of where I went wrong, where I have the dedication, desire, and determination to change and set some boundaries and goals.

I refuse to allow the mistakes I made to dictate or define me anymore. Learning the basic styles of communication and understanding all four.

I’ve learned that freedom is a state of mind and that self-forgiveness is the key. If I can’t learn to forgive others, then who am I to expect others to forgive me.

Forgiveness means taking action and changing my pattern each and every day. Right down to filtering my mouth and everything that I say.

If I lose control, things always get worse and never better...So I practice on my triggers and self-talk to myself, back up out of the stormy weather.

I know better and if I allow anger to take over, there is no looking back....Just like my girlfriend, my parents, and my PO told me I couldn’t of been thinking, cause if I was thinking I wouldn’t have thought of that.

I am learning a lot about myself and truly, I am feeling blessed...Knowing next time I feel anger coming on, that I will not have to second guess.
The Veterans Mentor Group recently donated $1,500 to the Outagamie County Veterans Court. The donation will be used to purchase small incentives for Veterans Court participants as a reward for positive behavior. Medals and certificate of completion will also be purchased for participants who successfully complete certain phases of the programs and for those who successfully graduate. The Veterans’ Mentor Group has been a valuable partner to Veterans Court, providing mentoring and support to the participants of Veterans Court. For more information about the Veterans Mentor Group, visit their website at: http://www.veteransmentorgroup.org/home.html

Veterans Mentor Group Mission

Veterans’ Mentor Group is a group of Veteran Mentors, Veterans, and partners from within our communities who share and understand the unique experience of military service, military life, and the distinctive needs that may arise from that experience. We are brought together with the singular purpose to support the Outagamie County Veteran’s Treatment Court and to fill the gap in resources to make certain that our Veterans gain the assistance they need and have earned. We are a State of WI Charitable Organization and have received our Tax Exempt status from the IRS as a 501(c)3. All donations are Tax Deductible.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy Training

In July, Case Managers Tim Carpenter and Chelsea Niemuth, as well as Resource Specialist Amy Wondra, had the opportunity to attend a four day training on Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). Programming is designed for clients to reevaluate their decisions, in order to have enhanced moral reasoning, better decision making, and overall more appropriate behavior. This cognitive-behavioral approach to programming was initially developed in 1985 for the offender prison population. Since that time there have been numerous published studies, which show that programming leads to lower recidivism and personality improvements in participants. Due to proven effectiveness, MRT has expanded into virtually all areas of corrections and has also developed curriculum for specific treatment areas, which include Anger, Domestic Violence, and Relapse Prevention. Over the next few months our goal is to implement this programming with our Young Adult Offender (YAO) population. We are optimistic that this will have a positive impact on this group of individuals.
Recently Outagamie County celebrated its employees by hosting an employee appreciation cookout. 433 employees as well as several outlying departments were served. As I served brats on the line, many staff articulated their appreciation for this event. As a former state worker of 20 plus years, this event symbolized why I made the move to Outagamie County. Although for the most part I enjoyed my years working for the State of Wisconsin, I felt my employer could have done a much better job in regard to employee appreciation. The five employees in CJTS who are former State of Wisconsin employees share my sentiment.

The most valuable resource an organization has is its employees. Those organizations who fail to recognize this are rarely successful. A meta-analysis conducted by the Gallup Organization found that organizations who show appreciation towards their employees benefit from increased individual productivity, lower employee turnover, fewer accidents on the job, higher satisfaction scores from customers and lower absenteeism and stress.

As the job market becomes increasingly competitive, career seekers are not only looking at pay and benefits, but that of the culture of the organization, and especially how it shows appreciation towards its employees. I believe Outagamie County recognizes this and is taking great steps that demonstrates it understands its greatest resource is its employees.