

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

2010

The wonders and joy of the Christmas season are upon us once again. In spite of the cold weather, our families and friends are eagerly preparing to celebrate the season and to remember those who mean so much to us. With that thought in mind, I wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you again for your past support.

It is difficult to believe that we are at the end of our second year in office. We have tried to keep you up to date on the achievements of the Sheriff's Office without sending too many email messages. We have received a lot of positive feedback so I thought you might like to know what we have accomplished this past year.

This has been a difficult year with the budget constraints and furlough days for our hard working staff. But these difficulties have not prevented us from continuing to make progress while saving taxpayer money. Those accomplishments were detailed in my mid-year message so I won't throw more statistics at you.

In fact we are preparing for 2011 to be another challenging year. This includes an anticipated 13,000 arrests into the jail. We are working on solutions for dealing with all the issues surrounding the safe and secure operation of a growing jail population and increased legal processes. One interesting note is that we are currently seeing a decrease in male inmates and an increase in female inmates.

During the season for caring and goodwill I would like to share with you some of the good works we are doing in addition to the established programs we have provided over the years in the schools and during the holidays. Our legacy programs include our Junior Deputy and McGruff in-school programs. Additionally we provide our seasonal "Youth Fishing Tournaments" and the "Shop With A Deputy" programs to help children in need. They are made possible by the generous support of our community and the hard work of our volunteers.

During 2010 we implemented two new youth programs also supported by contributions from the community and our staff; the "Sheriff's Summer Camp" and "On Track For Success" both are educating children through exposure to new activities outside a classroom. We are also finding ways to help inmates improve themselves and their stature within their community. After all, not everyone in our jail is a hardened criminal.

In addition to the number of faith based programs provided for inmates, we worked with Dr. Carlo Musso, MD, CorrectHealth Community Development Center, to implement a new program unique to our Jail. "Parents Inside and Out" is conducted by medical professionals and trained counselors to assist both male and female inmates who are parents to learn about parenting skills and substance abuse in the family. This program is privately funded and does not depend on local, state, or federal tax money.

The latest faith based program is provided through Community Bible Church called Celebrate Recovery. It addresses the "Hurts, Habits and Hang ups" of the inmate participants. The heart of Celebrate Recovery program is a ten week series of message that is unlike any other recovery program we have seen in a jail environment.

We are also evaluating a new program for inmates in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Labor to better prepare inmates for how to get and keep jobs.

Another significant step forward is in our communications with Henry County residents and our associates in the legal system through the implementation of our new website; [www.HenryCountySheriff.net](http://www.HenryCountySheriff.net). There are too many features and capabilities to detail here but I do encourage you to look around the website and click our "Press Release" button on the home page from time to time for newsworthy events.

My closing comments for 2010 are similar to last year, with a pledge to continue to be pro active as it relates to crime and to do all we can do to keep the citizens of Henry County safe while being mindful of tax dollars. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything we can do for you. I thank you for your continued support.

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It is my sincere Christmas wish that you and your families have a merry Christmas followed by a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Yours in Peace,

**Keith McBrayer, Sheriff**