

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

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NEWS RELEASE  
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## NMCD ANNOUNCES VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR FOR 2010

**Santa Fe-** Every year, the Corrections Department acknowledges and appreciates over 1,000 of volunteers from around the state. This year, NMCD will be awarding nine **Volunteers of the Year** and will be recognizing 1,090 volunteers from various state and private prisons in New Mexico at the Volunteer Appreciation Conference this Saturday. The theme of this year's conference is "Rejoice in the Fruit of Your Labor".

The **Volunteers of the Year** were chosen because they regularly serve and encourage the inmates and offer hope.

Recipients for this year's **Volunteer of the Year** award are:

**Gary Benson**, Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility, Las Cruces

**Robert Webb**, Lea County Correctional Facility, Hobbs

**Margaret Willen**, New Mexico Women's Correctional Facility, Grants

**Ezequiel Garcia**, Roswell Correctional Center, Roswell

**Robert E. Whitis**, Central New Mexico Correctional Facility, Los Lunas

**Iola Parks, James and Jan Crowley**, Western New Mexico Correctional Facility, Grants

**Chano Robinson**, Guadalupe County Correctional Facility, Santa Rosa

The New Mexico Corrections Department will host its annual Volunteer Appreciation Conference on Saturday, May 7, 2011. The conference will be held at Legacy Church located in Albuquerque at 7201 Central Avenue NW. The guest speaker for the event is Lupe Martinez, Secretary of Corrections. The Corrections Department has approximately 1100 volunteers and 6500 inmates incarcerated in 10 facilities statewide.

Media, if you are interested in attending the event, or would like a picture of the awardee(s), please notify Rosie Sais at 505-629-9493.

If you are interested in becoming a prison volunteer, please contact Homer Gonzales for more information at 505-841-4268 or via e-mail at [homer.gonzales@state.nm.us](mailto:homer.gonzales@state.nm.us).

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