

Give

From A1

"We've never had a program like this in Martin County," she added.

"We work with the offender population to help them make better choices in life and work on their social behaviors and beliefs. We focus on moving a person from a low level of moral reasoning to a high level of moral reasoning," she said.

Ages of those involved in the RRS program range from 22 to around 40, she said.

"This [past] year at Christmas, they had the idea that they wanted to give back to the community," she said.

Her probationers organized a toy and canned food drive as a way to give instead of take.

"They came to me and said

'we want the community to know we have changed the way we were thinking,'" she added.

Enough was collected to give 42 Martin County children food and toys.

"It was a real success for us," she said. "We were able to give each child three to four toys."

The RRS program includes classes on health and nutrition, job skills, overcoming substance abuse and parenting skills.

RRS provides transportation to and from classes as well as transportation to Martin Community College to obtain a GED.

The only course available to those not on probation are the Narcotics Anony-

mous (NA) meetings, which take place from 12 to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays in her office at 115 East Main St., Room 19.

As a retired probation officer, Turner knows this population well. She started her career as an auxiliary police officer in Elizabeth City, and then worked as a correction officer at the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women in Raleigh.

In 1994 she first served Martin County as probation officer, then Bertie County, from which she retired in 2011.

After 20 years as a probation officer, she feels she has seen it all.

"They know I love them," she says. "I care about them and I decided to just hang in

there with them. If I can just help one through this process, then I am satisfied. I've got to keep trying."

She thanked all the sponsors that helped make their first toy drive a success.

Donations were received from Holly Springs United Methodist Church, First United Methodist, Vernon United Methodist, Bertie County RRS, the Martin County Clerk of Court's office, Farmer's Furniture, Just Lovin' Kids Daycare, Shoe Show and other citizens in Martin County.

Because the 2016 Toy Drive was such a success, she is planning future projects involving her probationers, allowing them the chance to give back.

Cartwright

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"I love helping people," she said. "And I've always wanted to work with law enforcement."

According to Telecommunications Manager Jason Steward, "The award for Dispatcher of the Year was chosen by the responder community. We had over 100 people vote. All of our dispatchers got votes, but LaShonda received the most."

Dispatcher of the Year was the second honor Cartwright received in 2016.

Last July, the National 911 Board in Raleigh presented

her with an award for helping save the life of a 15-year-old boy. He was reportedly suicidal, holding a knife to his throat, when he called 911.

Cartwright was able to keep the teen on the phone and safe until help arrived.

Cartwright, 33, has been with Martin County Communications for two years. When she first took the job, she said it was hard leaving her three children - now ages 14, 12 and 7 - at night.

"It is a tough job," she said. "This was my first job working nights."

One advantage the 12-hour

shifts provide is she usually works 14 to 16 days a month.

"Now, my family is glad I took this job. My kids like to brag to their friends about what I do," she said.

All three of her children have expressed interest in one day having jobs in law enforcement or fire and rescue.

Many of Cartwright's past jobs prepared her for the interacting with the public, as she does now.

She worked at the pharmaceutical and insurance help desk at Convergys in Greenville, at the Bertie Chamber

of Commerce and the United States Census Bureau.

Cartwright currently is also a substitute teacher in Bertie County, where she lives.

She has a degree in computer networking and electronics and is currently working on a degree in criminal justice. Her plans are to be a magistrate one day.

"Working with people is just what I love to do," she said. "I look at it like - everybody is human. You never know what someone is going through. You have to sometimes take yourself out of your bubble and put your-

self in their bubble and see things from their perspective."

The 911 calls received at the center vary from suicide to medical; and from vehicle wrecks to house fires.

"There is never a dull moment," she said.

For her, the hardest thing about the job is the "not knowing," she said - after she hangs up. She does not always get to know how the situation turned out.

"I just pray, before I start everyday that God will lead me, and that I will have the right words to say," she added.

Nabs

From A1

communities a safer place to live.

"With the rise of violent crime in the past year, I commend the sheriffs and chief of police for taking a stand

against this violence by working together," she added.

The three men arrested thus far in Bertie County include:

■ Donnell Lee Jr., 39, of Oak Drive in Lewis-

ton Woodville, who was arrested on Dec. 14 after the execution of a search warrant at his residence.

He was charged with trafficking heroin, trafficking cocaine and

possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana. He was placed under a \$500,000 secured bond, and confined to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail.

■ George Stanley Bell, 61, of Woodard Road in Windsor was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver heroin after a search warrant was executed at his residence.

■ Alvin McKinley Boone Jr., 24, of N.C. 11 in Lewiston Woodville was arrested and charged with trafficking heroin, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and various traffic-related charges. He was placed under a \$150,000 secured bond.

In addition to those arrested in Bertie County, the Down East Drug Task Force has charged seven in Hertford County and one in Northampton County.

Those arrested in Hertford County include:

■ Patrick Dion Norman, 41, of Hill Street in Ahoskie, who was charged with posses-

sion with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, possession of a firearm by a felon, maintaining a dwelling to keep/store a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was charged after a search warrant was executed at his residence, and confined under a \$25,000 secured bond.

■ Logan Ryan Demkow, 21, of Covington Street in Ahoskie was charged with possession of marijuana.

■ Nickolas Harris, 21, of Barfield Road in in Eure was arrested for possession with intent to sell or deliver heroin, maintaining a vehicle to keep/store a controlled substance and possession of marijuana. He was placed under a \$40,000 secured bond.

■ Ikeshawn Tyrell Bynum, 27, of Roger Street in Ahoskie was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license revoked. He was placed under a \$5,000 secured bond.

■ Marquis Devonne Bell, 22, of Hill Street in

Ahoskie was charged with possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was placed under a \$5,000 secured bond.

■ Stephanie Dawn Ayers, 37, of N.C. 561 in Cofield was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver heroin, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana and maintaining a vehicle to keep/store a controlled substance. She was placed under a \$50,000 secured bond.

■ Gregory Jaquawn Bardlavens, 26, of Richard Street in Winton was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver heroin, maintaining a vehicle to keep/store a controlled substance and possession of cocaine. He was placed under a \$50,000 secured bond.

In Northampton County, arrested was:

■ Kevin Earl Elrod, 33, of Faison Road in Garysburg was charged with possession with marijuana and placed under a \$500 secured bond.

The Down East Drug Task Force was created to take a proactive approach to combating offenses related to the escalating violence associated with drugs, guns and gang violence.

Ongoing investigations have shown the violent crimes in the three counties are related, and those people who commit crimes often cross county lines, according to the task force.

The arrests were made by the task force. They received assistance from the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation and the N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency.

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK
GRANT FUNDING (CSBG)
FY 2017 - 2018**

Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA) announces its intent to apply for funding through the Community Service Block Grant Anti-Poverty Plan for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018 which has a current allocation of \$397,785. CADA's application and proposed work plan for this program encompasses services to low-income residents of Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Martin and Northampton Counties. The program focuses on a self-sufficiency component which assists low-income residents with obtaining assistance with education, employment and supportive services to rise above federal poverty guidelines, housing services, and emergency assistance programs. The proposal may be reviewed on the CADA website (www.nccada.org).

The Board of Directors of CADA will review and approve for submission a completed application for CSBG funding at a called Board Meeting on Friday, February 10, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the CADA Administrative Offices at 120 Sessoms Drive, Rich Square, North Carolina 27869. The public is invited to attend and comment. For further information, contact Christopher S. Moody, Manager of Community Services at 252.539.4155 ext. 323 or cmoody@nc-cada.org.