



State of Utah

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Religious Institutions Donate Funds to Utah's New Correctional Facility

More than half a million dollars has been donated by several religious institutions to the Utah Department of Corrections for the construction of the new correctional facility being built in the western region of Salt Lake City.

“We are so grateful to those who provide opportunities for our offenders to work toward successful reentry, which includes providing offenders with the resources they need to practice their religious beliefs,” said Mike Haddon, executive director for the Utah Department of Corrections.

Donations were received from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Episcopal Church, the Calvary Baptist Church, the Wasatch Presbyterian Church, the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

Not only have these religious institutions donated funds, but members of their congregations’ donate time in volunteering to facilitate religious services for offenders at the Utah State Prison in Draper and the Central Utah Correctional Facility.

"Our religious volunteers have always been an integral part of this institution," said Lieutenant Tolai Pei, the programming/volunteer services lieutenant at Utah State Prison. "We have nearly 2,000 committed volunteers providing religious, educational and inspirational programs for our inmate population. It was the religious groups that initiated voluntary services in our prisons, so our relationship with our interfaith communities is long-standing. Their donation demonstrates their continual commitment and service in support of our institutional programs."

The funds donated will be utilized to enhance the construction and resources within the chapel areas at the new facility.

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