



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Reuben F. Young, Secretary

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Contact: George Dudley

(919) 733-5027

Avery County couple named 2012 top prison volunteers

RALEIGH — Terry and Debra Edwards of Crossnore were honored Wednesday, April 18, for their volunteer service at Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution in Spruce Pine.

The N.C. Department of Public Safety's Adult Correction Division named the Edwardses Volunteers of the Year from among thousands who serve in the 66 prisons statewide. The Edwardses have been community volunteers for more than 30 years, and have served Avery-Mitchell Correctional since it opened in 2000. They also served the now-closed Avery Correctional Center.

Debra Edwards leads Sunday worship services twice a month, promotes ministry and raises funds that support prison programs. She is a Yokefellows volunteer, and was recently featured in a syndicated Christian news publication for her work at Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution.

Terry Edwards is one of the founding members of High Country Prison Ministry, which supports a community-funded chaplain for the prison. He helps raise contributions for the chaplaincy to provide money for holiday dinners for prisoners and funds for indigent inmates being released.

Nineteen other volunteers from across the state were nominated for the award and were presented certificates at the event.

Keynote speaker for the volunteer awards event was Reuben Young, secretary of the N.C. Department of Public Safety.

Avery-Mitchell Correctional Institution houses about 850 medium custody male inmates.

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Communications Office
4202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4202
Fax: (919) 715-8477



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