

Media Release

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NDCS Partners with Foundation to Assist Correctional Professionals

By Heather Czaplewski

"Taking Care of Our Own."

That is the slogan for the Correctional Peace Officer Foundation (CPOF) which recently partnered with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS).

The collaboration aims to provide support to correctional staff by promoting a positive image of the profession and assisting the families of fallen correctional professionals, the main goals of CPOF.

The partnership between NDCS and CPOF marks progress toward achieving the agency's One-Team-One Vision leading goal as outlined in its Strategic Plan. Aside from the two basic goals of CPOF, they also want to encourage communication and connection among correctional professionals world-wide.

"This partnership helps lead our staff toward a greater sense of belonging to more than just their current professional community," Erinn Criner, Human Resource Administrator, said. "This will provide not only development opportunities, but also a chance to network with other professionals in the field. I believe it will also engage and encourage our staff to shape how the community views the critical work we do daily."

Membership is open to anyone with a desire to support correctional professionals. A \$5 per month minimum donation will provide donors a membership card, membership decal, an automatic subscription to the publication *CPO Family*, informational mailings and full-coverage under CPOF's death and catastrophic programs. CPOF is a completely voluntary foundation and enrollment can be accomplished by a number of different means. NDCS is making it easy for employees to join by authorizing a payroll deduction process. For more information about enrolling, visit the CPOF website at www.cpodf.org.



According to its website, CPOF was founded in 1984 due to recognition of a need for an organization that understands the unique needs of a correctional family. At the time, the main goal was to offer assistance to correctional officers' families who had fallen on hard times due to the officer's death in the line-of-duty. Over the years, CPOF has expanded their reach by not only helping families when a correctional officer dies in the line-of-duty, but by also providing assistance to officers and staff members at correctional facilities who suffer catastrophic events. Additionally, CPOF created a scholarship program for its members.

Currently, NDCS is coordinating with CPOF to help promote the foundation in Nebraska. As a first step, NDCS has scheduled its Honor Guard to attend CPOF's annual National Memorial Ceremony in June. The memorial service will honor fallen correctional officers and staff who died in the line-of-duty in 2015.