



NEWS RELEASE

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Lucasville COs life-saving skills make community stronger

Westerville – Corrections Officers (COs) in Ohio’s state-operated prisons work around the clock to keep their communities safe from the many dangerous and unpredictable criminals who call Ohio’s prisons home.

“But these COs are more than just guards, they do more than just patrol the grounds of the prisons—they are members of their communities and give back in so many ways all across this state,” said Christopher Mabe, president of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, the state’s largest public employee union representing the men and women who work in state DR&C institutions.

Recently, Corrections Officers at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility (SOCF) in Lucasville went above and beyond off the job when a serious automobile accident took place just as the prison’s second shift was letting out. A group of COs on their way home from work went into action to help the crash victims that included co-worker CO Jason Hamilton, and another driver involved in the accident.

COs Mike Frankel, John Little, Les Buckner, Gary Hunley and others assisted at the scene until EMT could arrive. Officer Frankel kept open Hamilton’s airway and applied pressure to his injuries; Officers Little and Buckner assisted the other driver, who had suffered severe, life threatening injuries; Officer Hunley ripped up his CO shirt to help apply pressure to injuries and control Hamilton’s bleeding; and many other SOCF officers made phone calls and helped maintain order at the scene, including directing traffic until emergency crews could respond.

Because of their quick action and use of life-saving skills required as professional prison employees, the COs were able to save the life of their co-worker, CO Hamilton. Unfortunately, despite their efforts, the other driver did not survive the injuries sustained in the crash.

CO Hamilton, who has only been employed with DR&C since December, remains in critical condition, but his co-workers are glad they were able to be there to help him and will support him through the healing process. SOCF Chapter President Randy Hiles says their heroic actions come as “no surprise to him.”

“This is just the culture of our work in corrections. We’ve got each other’s back no matter the circumstance, on-the-job or off. I commend these union brothers for their heroism,” said OCSEA Corrections Assembly President Jimmy Adkins.

“The level of professionalism and commitment demonstrated by these everyday heroes in the face of this crisis is truly unmatched,” said OCSEA President Christopher Mabe. “Their actions more than proved that point.”

OCSEA represents approximately 30,000 public employees who work in a wide range of security, regulatory, administrative, direct care, maintenance, customer service and other positions, including 8,000 in the Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction. For more information, contact Sally Meckling, 614-865-2602 or 614-404-3881 (cell).