



March - April 2023

Welcome to the 25th Edition of *Some Assembly Required!*



Camp Ashland Project

Above: Pictures of the two items being made for Camp Ashland. Bunk beds are being made in Shop 39 (Wood Shop @ RTC) They are utilizing the CNC to its fullest to help speed up the process. Shop 20 (Wood Shop @ NSP) is making the storage cabinets. These pictures are from the first initial meeting with the Nebraska National Guard. This project will be a big one for both Shop 39 and Shop 20 over the next few months. Stay tuned for pictures in their final location.



Above: Pictures of a desk built in Shop 61 (Wood Shop @ TSCI)



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3 Questions With a CSI Employee - Ed Poppert, Manufacturing Manager

1. What do you find to be the most challenging about your position as Manufacturing Manager? The diversity of the personalities, products, and services we support is a significant challenge. When working in manufacturing developing and nurturing consistent processes is one of the most significant management objectives. The challenges we face with diversification is the number of variables that need control and attention grows exponentially. Raw material complications grow because different industries/supply chains have different challenges. The skills needed in the shops vary dramatically based on the product and processes used within the shops. Make-to-stock items need different sets of metrics than make-to-order. CSI management is focusing on back to the basics and will begin an effort to work with the internal process experts to revitalize work instructions so we get back to consistent processes and expectations.
2. What have you learned that surprised you since becoming the Manufacturing Manager? The PRIDE that our incarcerated stakeholders have in the products and services they provide never ceases to amaze me. When you take a moment and talk to our workers the pride they have in their workmanship is invigorating. It doesn't matter if it is the pair of boxer shorts that few people ever see or the most complex wood products, chemicals license plates, picnic tables, posters, signs, and laundry services they contribute to, they all love to highlight how they are a part of a bigger society.
3. What has been one of your favorite projects to be a part of? My passion was manufacturing because it transforms materials by taking a raw material and combining that with talent produces to produce amazing results. Transforming lives IS the greatest part of this job. Transforming the customer's lives by giving them great products and services they need to make their lives better is nice but to me, the real joy comes from the people within the system, our internal customers. I remember working back in IC and talking with one of our workers during food day. I will never forget how his simple comment about a Domino's pizza made me feel. He commented he had been down for 23 years and that was the BEST pizza he had since he could remember. Michael was so appreciative of the opportunities and support CSI gave him. His heart felt appreciation for the time he spent in the shops, the dignity we allowed him to regain and the ability to support his transfer back into society was a game changer for me.



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Congratulations on the New Position!

Alan Wessel - Shop 20 Shop Operator

Congratulations on Years of Service!

Nancy Chanh dara, Sales Representative - 5 Years

Ed Poppert, Manufacturing Manager, 5 Years

Todd Pallas, Laundry Shop Supervisor @ NSP - 15 Years

CSI Participates in the State Campaign Against Hunger Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who donated to the State Campaign Against Hunger fundraiser. It was another successful year! We raise **\$1,500** for the Food Bank of Lincoln and Food Bank of the Heartland. Throughout the campaign, we had two theme days: 80's Day and Hawaiian Day. During 80's day we had trivia and games. On Hawaiian day we had our Luau Luncheon. The facility that raised the most money was RTC!

Again, a huge thank you to everyone who donated to the campaign and made the fundraising campaign fun! Check out some pictures from the campaign below.

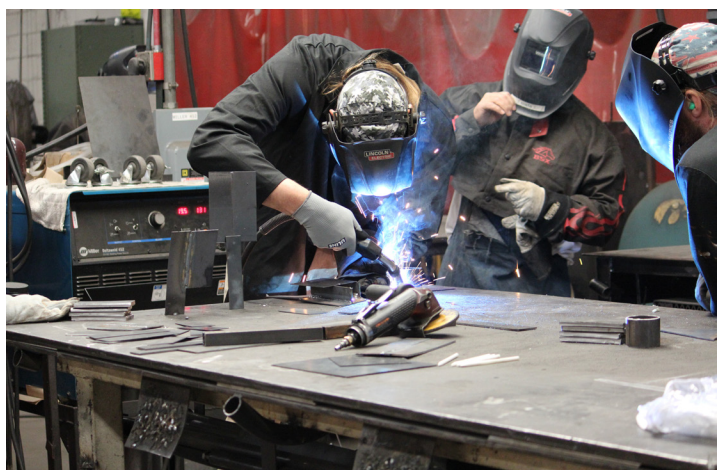




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Shop 19 Workers Participate in a Welding Certification Course

With April being National Welding Month - On April 25th workers from Shop 19 (Metal Shop at NSP) participated in a Welding Certification course. This course is five weeks long for a total of 20 hours. Mike Sullivan is the instructor. This welding certification will help build their skills and resume. Below are pictures from the class.





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TSCI Helps Build Little Free Library for Tecumseh Area

Take a guess what these men at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI) are building...

A Little Free Library!

In collaboration with Cornhusker State Industries and the Home Builders Institute (HBI), teammates and the population are working together to give back to the community through books. Teammates submitted designs, and men who are part of the HBI classes honed their carpentry skills through this project. HBI vocational programming is funded by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Labor.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that promotes neighborhood book exchanges, usually in the form of a public bookcase. More than 150,000 public book exchanges are registered with the organization and branded as Little Free Libraries. Once installed, this display will offer books to the Tecumseh community. The teamwork involved in this project has been outstanding - thank you to all involved!
#BuildYourFuture

This story was originally shared by the NDCS website on March 1st, 2023.

