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# what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Dear Colleagues:

Many thanks to those of you who sent me well-wishes on my injury. I'm feeling better every day and people are helping me out with those little tasks that it's hard to do one-handed. Now – I've just got seven more weeks to go with my arm in a sling!

Thanks also to the Central Office Morale Committee - Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Katherine Abrams, Marvel Adams, Clarett Blount, Anne Carter, Suzie Durrett, Nykisha Franklin, Shirley Jackson, Kimberly Jones, Katie Kirkpatrick, Phyllis Martello, Gail Miller, Glenda Ratcliff, Terri Scott and Shaeki Shanklin, who hosted a very nice Superbowl party for Central Office staff today. They treated us to breakfast and lots of goodies, snacks and finger foods, at lunchtime. A special thanks to Yolanda Ellis, who surprised us with pancakes made right here, and James Bueche's wife, whose company, Sweet Wishes, sent delicious cupcakes. Here at CO we really appreciated their hard work and the event really made us feel special. If you don't already have a Morale Committee in your workplace, think about creating one...our group really works hard to help keep our spirits high here at CO.

Superbowl Sunday is upon us and if you're like me, it's the only time of year that I look forward to seeing tv commercials. The Superbowl commercials are really good most years, although you probably remember a few years ago when the dot-com commercials were a bust. Let's see what's in store for us this year!

I want to remind everyone that our mission is very important. By now I'm sure that most of you know the mission statement and how you fit into the mission. Our mission statement needs to guide our activities. If we find that we are doing things that are not within our mission, we need to bring that to the attention of our supervisors. We need to ensure that we are spending our resources wisely. Activity just for the sake of activity is just a waste. Everything we do should be purposeful and directed toward meeting our mission.

I want to be able to brag, in the very near future, that every OJJ employee knows our mission statement and how each of us fits into the mission. I know for sure that will make us unique – we will be the only agency within state government where this will be true. I urge you all to help me get those braggin' rights.

I read in *Built to Last*, by Jim Collins, that the most successful organizations are mission-focused. Every day when another employee knows the mission, and how they contribute to the mission, then we are closer to becoming a mission-driven agency. I know that if ever there was a staff that works daily toward a common goal – doing the right things for our kids - it's OJJ.

Thanks for everything you do every day to meet the mission. And have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

“Doc”

*Dr. Mary Livers*

**The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.**

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

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