



October 6, 2009

Drew Alexander, Sheriff

Summit County Sheriff's Office

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***In accordance with Section 341 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Summit County Sheriff is empowered as the keeper of the County Jail. As the Sheriff, my staff is responsible for keeping in safe and secure custody, all criminal suspects and persons convicted of crimes in Summit County who receive jail sentences.***

***The Summit County Jail is classified by the State of Ohio as a "full service" maximum security detention center. That means it is operated twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year. It is, therefore, required that the facility be properly staffed for the safety and protection of the inmates and staff twenty-four hours a day.***

***It is also my duty to see to it that jail minimum standards are maintained. This involves many aspects, including safety and sanitation but also includes areas such as inmate mental health, medical treatment and even an inmate's right to practice the religion of their choice. One of the essential elements of volunteers coming into a secure facility is making sure that all safety and security standards are maintained. It's an accomplishment when Sheriffs are able to see any civilian coming into their jail as an asset instead of a liability, and Broken Chains Ministry has shown themselves to be a vital asset to our jail.***

***One of the ways we are able to accomplish maintaining jail minimum standards is through the use of faithful volunteers. It has been my experience that any organization is only as good as its volunteer base and Broken Chains Ministry has proven itself to be one of those faithful volunteers. Since February of 2004, Broken Chains Ministry has been ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of both sworn and civilian staff, as well as the inmates incarcerated in our facility.***

***Broken Chains Ministry faithfully conducts Chapel services, Bible studies and one on one visitation with our inmates on the housing units, as well as supervising a group of volunteers who provide a mentoring ministry on a weekly basis.***

***As Sheriff of Summit County Ohio, I wholeheartedly endorse the Broken Chains Ministry and provide my full support to the work being done inside of the Summit County Jail.***

  
Sheriff Drew Alexander  
County of Summit

