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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden Launches Programs to Focus on Improving Positive Outcomes for Youth at Detention Center North

More steps toward increasing opportunities for youth to reduce recidivism, provide rehabilitation and encourage better choices

(CHARLOTTE, NC)- Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden announced new initiatives for youth residents at Detention Center North today. Dr. Keith Cradle, Youth Program Director, created several programs to address some critical needs for our youth.

Sheriff McFadden terminated Solitary Confinement of our youth in his first 100 days in office. The youth population has been denied the opportunity to enjoy physical activity outside the facility for nineteen years.

- Camp Cradle, an outdoor summer recreation program, was launched on June 11th. Youth will play football, badminton, cornhole and other sports as they take a break from educational and life skills programs. Dr. Cradle commented that **“the program is good because it reinforces the support we have for positive/comprehensive youth development. Outdoor activities stimulate brain and cognitive functions as well as build team work.”**
- Our youth population will receive new uniforms. MCSO has partnered with a local vendor to supply polo shirts and khaki pants for school and during program hours. Green jumpsuits will be worn for summer recreation. A local vendor will supply our youth with sneakers that will replace the previous footwear of flip flops. By employing a local vendor, Sheriff McFadden demonstrates his commitment to our local economy.

- The walls of Detention Center North are now covered with framed inspirational quotes to encourage our youth. The ***‘Youth Inspirational Quote Wall’*** will be used as a conversation starter and a teaching tool.
- The YMCA Y-Achievers program, the first inside of a detention facility, will teach life skills and youth development. The YMCA hired a facilitator for Detention Center North at no cost for the County. We are grateful for their commitment and for the YMCA partnership.

Dr. Cradle added that **“it means everything that Sheriff McFadden supports and endorses this program. It’s important that the Sheriff trusts us and believes in these kids.”**

Social Work Today has published numerous articles by experts who endorse a different, non-traditional approach to high risk youth as a more effective method in rehabilitating and assisting them in making better choices.