

## **Valdosta-Lowndes County, GA / CCA Partnership**

### **Talking Points**

- I. Who is CCA?
  - a. CCA's Purpose
    - i. America's leader in partnership corrections
    - ii. Provides partnership corrections services as the owner and operator of correctional facilities, in collaboration with federal, state and local government agencies.
    - iii. Designs, builds, operates and manages prisons, jails and detention facilities in partnership with government, ensuring public safety and providing effective rehabilitation programs for inmates, all while saving the taxpayers millions of dollars.
  - b. Partnership Corrections Concept
    - i. CCA provides the standard of safety taxpayers demand while achieving cost savings for critical priorities like schools, hospitals and parks.
    - ii. Partnerships are an innovative, common-sense approach: business and government working together to ensure taxpayers get the most out of every tax dollar, while providing fair, humane treatment for America's prison population.
  - c. CCA's Government Partners
    - i. CCA operates 65 facilities totaling more than 80,000 prison beds making us the 5<sup>th</sup> largest correctional system in the United States.
    - ii. CCA conducts business with all of the federal corrections agencies (Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Marshals Service, and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement), nearly half of all states and numerous county governments.
    - iii. CCA has a national footprint operating facilities in 20 states and Washington D.C. – California to Florida, Montana to Texas
  - d. Safe and Secure Correctional Facilities
    - i. Nothing is more important than the safety and security of America's families and communities – that's why security is the core of CCA's mission.
    - ii. CCA believes in crisis prevention, not just crisis reaction, which is why we invest heavily in hiring and retaining quality staff, equip facilities with state-of-the-art technology, manage with the staff-intensive, "direct supervision" approach, and design and build facilities using high quality building materials.
      - 1. Example: CCA's escape rate for the past three years is 10 times lower than recent surveys of government-run prisons.
  - e. Meeting High Standards
    - i. CCA follows stringent rules established by the government to assure the rights of inmates are protected at all times.
    - ii. CCA adds our own rules and oversight provisions to add another layer of protection

- iii. CCA is held to a higher standard to ensure public safety and welcome accountability, responsibility and oversight.
  - 1. Example: CCA operates facilities in accordance with standards defined by the American Correctional Association – the oldest and largest correctional association in the world.
  - 2. CCA's facilities average higher than a 99% accreditation score.
- iv. CCA's National Distinctions
  - 1. Forbes Magazine:
    - a. Among "America's Best Big Companies"
    - b. Ranked "Best of the Best" in the area of "Business Services and Supplies"
  - 2. Corporate Responsibility Officer magazine: Among "100 Best Corporate Citizens"
  - 3. G.I. Jobs magazine: "Top 50 Military-Friendly Employer"

## II. Why Valdosta-Lowndes?

- a. Development Strategy
  - i. In order for CCA to be the nation's leader in partnership corrections, we must effectively anticipate the needs of our government partners and be ready to react to their growing systems
  - ii. Therefore, CCA must enter into partnerships with viable host communities with the attributes critical to the success of a correctional facility – some of these are:
    - 1. Availability of quality and diverse staff (security, healthcare, education, administration, etc.)
    - 2. Proximity to necessary infrastructure (water, sewer, road access, etc.)
    - 3. Proximity to necessary services (hospital, emergency response, commercial airport, etc.)
    - 4. Accessibility
    - 5. Quality leadership among elected officials, business, school systems, civic organizations, etc.
  - iii. Valdosta-Lowndes exhibits all of these attributes and many more!
- b. Site Selection Process
  - i. Inmate Population Trends
    - 1. CCA continually evaluates trends in inmate population at the national, regional, and state level
    - 2. Due to general population growth and other factors, the Southeast Region is an area of focus
  - ii. Multi-State Competition
    - 1. CCA reached out to multiple Department of Economic Develop at the state level and Georgia made the short list for focus states
    - 2. South Georgia particularly stood out as an area that meets federal and state requirements

iii. Multi-County Competition

1. With the assistance of the GDEcD, CCA evaluated more than 30 sites in 10 counties
2. CCA narrowed the field to about a dozen sites in seven counties followed by an Engineering and Feasibility Study of three sites
3. The Valdosta/Lowndes site became the primary due to the local and regional workforce, collaboration of local leadership, site characteristics, proximity to necessary services and infrastructure, accessibility, etc.

iv. Partnership Agreement

1. The agreement formalized by the Industrial Authority on 8/17 allows CCA and the Valdosta/Lowndes community to work in partnership to develop a facility in response to state and/or federal demand
2. It is premature to speculate on timing or specific partnering agency, but Valdosta/Lowndes has made it possible for CCA to respond to the growing demands in the market

III. What could this partnership mean for CCA and Valdosta/Lowndes?

a. Jobs

- i. If we are successful in securing a contract to build and manage a facility, it could result in the creation of more than 400 jobs
- ii. Job types prove the diversity of employment opportunities at CCA which include:
  1. Security
  2. Healthcare (doctors, nurses, technicians, psychologists, dentists, etc.)
  3. Education
  4. Vocational Instructors
  5. Facility Maintenance
  6. Business Administration

iii. Corrections jobs are recognized as being "recession resistant" positions

iv. Corrections jobs cannot be outsourced to other states, countries, etc.

v. These jobs would add to CCA's 17,000+ employees nationwide and would have comprehensive benefits packages including:

1. Medical, Dental, and Vision Insurance
2. Life and AD&D Insurance
3. Disability Income Insurance
4. Employee Assistance Program
5. 401K Savings and Retirement Plan (with company match)
6. 529 College Bound Fund
7. Paid Time Off

b. Tax Revenue

- i. Unlike government operated facilities, CCA pays property and other local taxes
- ii. On a potential \$120 million investment, that is significant annual contribution to the local economy

- c. Community Safety
    - i. Many employees in a correctional setting are professionally trained in emergency preparedness and response increasing the level of safety and security for all citizens
  - d. Purchasing of Local Goods and Services
- IV. CCA in Georgia
  - a. CCA enjoys an excellent partnership with the State of Georgia and the 5 communities who host our facilities, these are:
    - i. Coffee County Correctional Facility (Nichols, GA – GA DOC)
    - ii. McRae Correctional Facility (Telfair County, GA – BOP)
    - iii. North Georgia Detention Center (Gainesville, Hall County, GA – ICE)
    - iv. Stewart County Detention Center (Lumpkin, GA – ICE)
    - v. Wheeler County Correctional Facility (Alamo, GA – GA DOC)
  - b. These facilities employ approximately 1,500 individuals statewide – a number that is continuing to grow as we ramp up the populations at the recent expansions of Coffee and Wheeler
  - c. CCA is proud of excellent track record of these facilities, and are extremely proud of the recent recognition of Warden Ralph Kemp at Wheeler as the "2009-10 Warden of Year" by the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents (NAAWS)