

## **THE THREE R'S (READING REDUCES RECIDIVISM) PROJECT**

**- A ONE-YEAR REPORT to ILYM - [3rsproject.org](http://3rsproject.org)**

**This project has the goal of reaching into the state's penal institutions to infuse new materials into the unfunded penal libraries and to make fruitful contact with legislators around the state on behalf of prisoners.**

**Our first chapter was formed August 31, 2010 in Oak Park/River Forest. They have made five deliveries of a van full of books to Dwight Women's prison. Other chapters that have delivered books are Charleston(EIU) to Robinson C.C. , Carbondale (SIU) to Vienna, C. C. Springfield to Decatur C.C. and Urbana (Friends) to Danville C.C. Books have been collected also in Effingham, Evanston, Crystal Lake and Bloomington. Prison librarians awaiting books are Pontiac, Lawrence, Taylorville, and Shawnee.**

**Efforts from the interfaith group in Oak Park/River Forest have resulted in an invitation to come in to the Illinois Youth Detention Center in Chicago with volunteer-led reading groups, art, music, career counseling and sports programs. Efforts in Carbondale resulted in a book drive for Marion Federal Prison and another for the Tri-County Detention Center for immigrant detainees.**

**Finally, there is an initiative to write legislation to require that state-purchased books (in public colleges and universities and city libraries) be offered to the nearest penal institutions when the collections are being weeded. Also we are working to close the solitary confinement prison at Tamms, Illinois, on the grounds that prolonged solitary confinement is defined as torture by the Geneva conventions. These issues require work with our state legislators, all around the state.**

***Submitted by Barbara Kessel, Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting***