

Incarcerated men in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections are giving back from behind bars. In a remarkable display of compassion and community spirit, inmates at Joseph Harp Correctional Center and Lexington Reception and Assessment Center are launching a "food and funds drive" this holiday season to support struggling families during difficult times.

"Seeing the government shutdown and the holidays upon us, we know there are a lot of people in need," an inmate said.

The ongoing food drive will run through Christmas,

"These guys are great and a lot of people don't get to see that," said JHCC secretary Jami Tijerina. "Being a part of this food drive lets people see not everyone in prison is a bad guy."

“We motivated guys, can you give a quarter, can you give ten cents? Those cents will add up to dollars.” Inmate Jason Cline shared. “The scripture tells us about the woman who gave two pennies. She gave what she didn’t have. We used that to inspire others to give what they can, even if it’s only a few cents.”

"All the guys will say it's very heartwarming to know on Thanksgiving there are going to be children who wake up and get to have a meal," Cline added. There are families who were worried about putting food on the table."

Both initiatives emphasize a powerful message of redemption and community spirit. Even in tough circumstances, the desire to help others stays strong, even behind prison walls and fences.

(Published in the Grove Sun  
November 21, 2025)  
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