



Published on Partnership for Safety and Justice (<http://safetyandjustice.org>)

OR: On-site Canteens Fade into the Past

By Caylor

Created Apr 26 2006 - 9:06am

For most people in prison in Oregon, the prison canteen is now an order form and a paper bag. Only two of Oregon's thirteen state prisons have actual storefronts within them. Most incarcerated people make requests through order forms, and their orders are delivered weekly in paper sacks. Incarcerated people earn "points" for their prison labor which are translated into the ability to purchase goods. Family members can also put money into inmate accounts.

Orders placed by people in prison are filled at the Corrections Department Distribution Center, a warehouse owned by the Department of Corrections and operated by prisoners. Before leaving the warehouse, the items are scanned, and the prices are deducted from a person's account. The bags are loaded into trucks and shipped to prisons around the state.

The Oregon Department of Corrections took in \$9.56 million in canteen orders in 2005. Most of the money covers the operation of the canteen system, but 10% goes into inmate activities and drug and alcohol treatment. The three most popular items are envelopes (\$136,997 in 2005), televisions (\$126,195), and coffee (\$162,124).

This news brief is based on an article in the Salem Statesman Journal, Prison Canteen System Nears End of its Time. For the complete article, check their newspaper archive.

Source URL:

<http://safetyandjustice.org/info/or/story/862>