

Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, Ypsilanti, Michigan

RSAT and Shakespeare

The Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, serves as the only prison in Michigan for females. It includes fourteen housing units for general population prisoners and the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT). In addition to substance abuse treatment, it offers Adult Basic Education and General Education Development preparation classes, as well as special education services and pre-release classes. Vocational training is offered in Auto Mechanics, Building Trades, Business Education **Technology**, Horticulture, and Custodial Maintenance. Prisoners have access to religious services, faith-based programs, mental health services, family preservation programming, twelve step support meetings, and general library and law library services. Prisoners are provided on-site routine medical and dental care. Pregnant prisoners receive counseling, parenting classes, and child care options.

And now the prison offers Shakespeare!

The Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company of Detroit is seeking volunteers for its Shakespeare in Prison program, which will be conducted at the Correctional Facility beginning in September 2013 and running for nine months. The program, which is in its third session, is modeled on other successful programs of its kind to empower inmates through theatre exercises and Shakespearean text. Inmates who volunteer for the Shakespeare in Prison program will work with Shakespearean monologues and scenes, experiencing the empowerment and satisfaction derived from working with this material.

The Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company is a nonprofit organization that acts to eliminate apathy, violence, prejudice and barriers to education through theatre productions, projects and programs; and further acts to reestablish and expand Detroit's theatre district.

For more information about Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, visit www.magentagiraffe.org. For more information about Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility, visit www.michigan.gov/corrections.