



Podcast: Christmas Caroling

Created by Alexandra Barton, DOC Communications

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Total Run Time: 1:27

Podcast Transcript: Text Version

Narrator: It's an hour before Washington Corrections Center for Women closes for the night. The courtyard is quiet compared to the hustle and bustle during the day. Volunteers from the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church walk through the cold winter air to the dining hall to meet the hundreds of incarcerated women arriving for their evening meal.

Amid the noise of dinner and stacking trays, a joyous sound begins.

Carolers singing: Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Narrator: Anne DeLaney... a prison ministry volunteer... gathers a group to sing Christmas carols to the inmates every December. She's done it for the past six years.

Anne DeLaney: *This is one of the most special things they do at Christmas. Anything we can do to make their lives happier is a good thing.*

Narrator: The singers aren't professionals...but DeLaney says that doesn't matter.

Anne DeLaney: *Not all of us sing very well, but our hearts and spirits are in it even if our voices are a little lacking.*

Carolers Singing: Here comes Santa Claus, Here comes Santa Claus, right down Santa Claus lane!

Narrator: The incarcerated women say they look forward to the event each year and often join in the singing.

Caroler: *(Bells Ring) We're so glad to have a chance to be here with you tonight and we want to wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas!*

(Cheers and applause)

Narrator: Volunteers say events that involve community members like this one can help the public see and understand firsthand how the DOC improves public safety and prepares inmates for their return to society. All while spreading a little holiday cheer along the way.

Anne DeLaney: *It's just hoping we bring smiles to the women's faces, that's all we want to do.*

Carolers Singing: Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa, la, la, la, la, la, la la.

Narrator: Ally Barton

Carolers Singing: Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose.

Narrator: DOC Communications.