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## **DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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### **South Carolina is Gifted the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center**

On September 4, 2008, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) began a four-day celebration to observe the opening of the new Bill Rogers Community Connections Center (CCC) on DJJ's Broad River Road Complex. The Friends of Juvenile Justice (FJJ) gifted the building to the state of South Carolina during a special ceremony on Saturday, September 6. Longtime DJJ employee Jenny Mangum accepted the ceremonial key to the facility on behalf of DJJ.

The four-day observance celebrated FJJ/DJJ major donors, DJJ staff, community partners, volunteers, and involved juveniles and their families in activities that ranged from a reception, private showing, Gospel Fest, to the ceremonial transfer of property.

"This is a building of love," said FJJ Chairman Louise Slater, as she presided over the ceremonial transfer. DJJ Director Bill Byars serves as co-chairman for FJJ. The 10,000 square foot building was built by the FJJ, which collaborates with individuals and agencies within the public, private and independent sectors to provide resources and attention to at-risk youth. No state dollars were used to build or furnish the Center, which is named for DJJ supporter, local businessman and philanthropist Bill Rogers. The Center will have a variety of uses ranging from meetings, family visitation, staff and student consultations to meetings for staff, volunteer tutors and mentors.