

25 inmates graduate rehabilitative program at Salinas Valley

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Salinas Valley State Prison graduated 25 inmates from the GOGI program. Staff, from left, are Capt. R. Mojica, sponsors K. McCormack and M. Ayon. GOGI volunteers, from left, are Zoe Lewin and Dr. Mara L. Taylor.

**By Lt. Eduardo Mazariegos, AA/Public Information Officer
Salinas Valley State Prison**

Salinas Valley State Prison held its first graduation of 25 inmates who completed the Getting Out By Going In (GOGI) program on Facility C. For a Facility known for violent incidents and entrenched gang activity, this was a milestone for the participating inmates as well as staff.

GOGI was founded with the idea of inmates helping inmates create a positive prison culture for other prisoners. The founder, Dr. Mara L. Taylor, was on hand to present the graduates with a certificate and the knowledge on how to live a positive decision making life.

According to their website, GOGI's mission is, "The successful return of incarcerated men, women and children back into society. But, even further than that, our mission is to empower these individuals to exemplify what it is like to live a life of service to community, living every life through tools of positive decision making."

"Teaching the skills to succeed in society is the foundation for successful rehabilitation," said Facility C Capt. R. Mojica. "If people are not taught alternatives to what they already know, how can anyone be expected to change?"

SVSP Facility C is a Level IV 180 general population yard.