

## WE LOVE IT WHEN YOU WRITE US

If you contribute make sure you tell us...

1. Exactly how you want to be credited  
[anonymous? ID number? Chosen name?] \*  
\*\*\*\*\* **we will only use your government name if you explicitly say that it is okay** \*\*\*\*\*
2. Whether it's OK to say the facility you are/ were in
3. Please respect other people's privacy; only make disclosures about yourself.

You can send us...

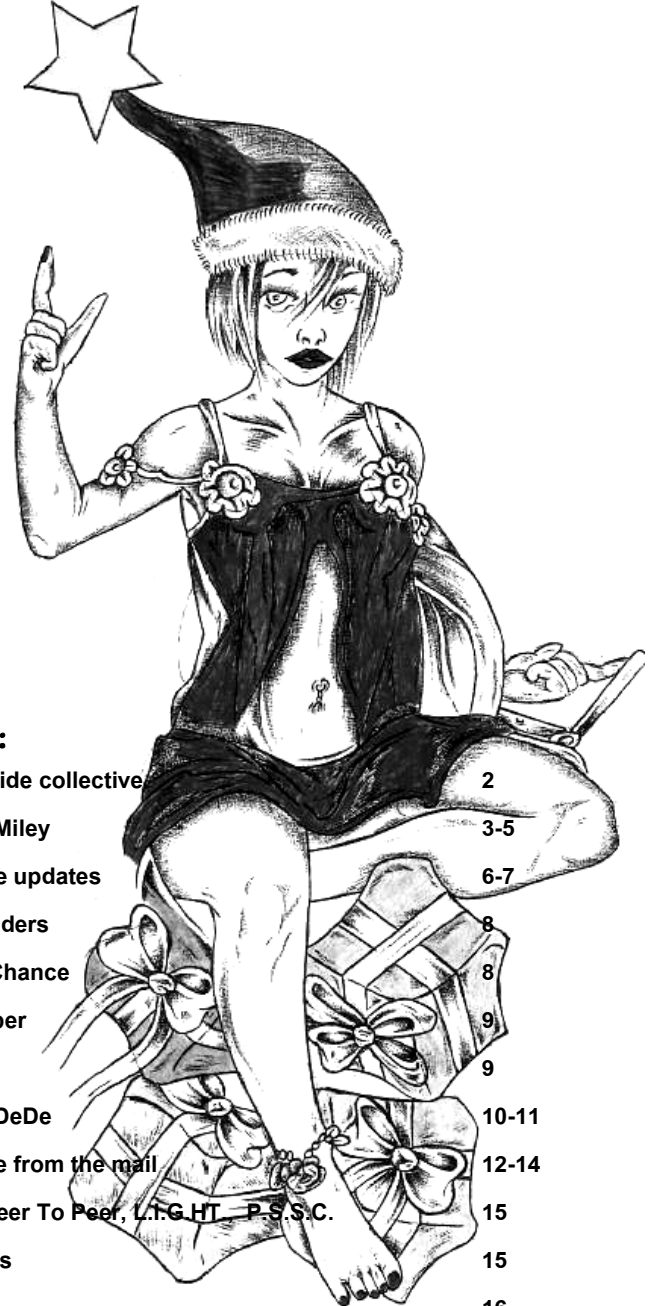
- ∴ Letters responding to this edition
- ∴ Artwork (black and white)
- ∴ Commissary recipes
- ∴ Articles
- ∴ Poetry
- ∴ Ideas



## HEARTS ON A WIRE

Issue 17

Winter 2016



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We are trans and gender variant people building a movement for gender self-determination, racial and economic justice, and an end to policing and imprisoning our communities.

We meet in Philly at William Way Center  
1315 Spruce Street

Tuesdays at 5:30pm

tokens provided  
heartsonawire@gmail.com

## THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS

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## LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

Dear Magnificent Queer Fam <3

So many holiday well wishes to send you way! New years of all kinds (Vietnamese, Chinese, American) have just passed, as well as a few high holidays (Hanukkah, Kwanza, Christmas), and of course Valentines day! Time for self Love and appreciation for our chosen families.

As these new years roll in and Love grows strong in us all, the outside collective has been taking another look at how we can support hoaw's family on the inside. We asked y'all what being a member meant to you, how you are involved in your communities, and how we can help. You lovelies are doing some amazing work!

Since the last newsletter, the outside collective has finished and started a number of projects. We finished a collaborative zine with the Philly Survivor Support Collective that is all about how to stay safe while incarcerated (see page 15). A number of requests were completed and submitted to secure funding for future newsletters, home comings, and more. There is another strategic meeting happening soon where we begin creating a workshop on how to care for, respect, and better the lives of trans and gender variant folks who are incarcerated. At the meeting we will also discuss ways to make our organization more accessible. We are continuing to track how the DOC policy updates are being put in place, and with your guidance we are brainstorming new campaigns!

Love and Solidarity,  
your fellow queer and trans cuties (QTs)  
- the outside collective

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PSSC. Peer-TO-PEER, LIGHT.

Hearts on a Wire (in collaboration with)  
Philly Survivor Support Collective  
PSSC Issue #5 - January 2016

much Love to all of this zine's contributors

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We are L.I.G.H.T.  
(Learning Initiative for Gay Heterol & Trans)  
Our goal is to educate you on UAMS,  
DOC POLICIES, HEALTH & CURRENT NEWS  
Our contributors are Hearts On A Wire  
Friends and Families of Inmates  
& other important Role Models in the  
LGBTQI Community  
Enjoy!

Philly Survivor Support Collective is a group that helps survivors of sexual assault and their communities heal without involving the legal system. Hearts on a Wire collaborated with PSSC to create a zine! It is full of advice and stories from incarcerated folks about how to survive day-to-day. It's being mailed out soon!

"I want to propose something an advice column for people like us who are having problems and need some advice or just some positive encouragement. Someone who will keep it real

100% and not spin them and we can throw in a little segment in the column called **peer to peer.**" -DeDe

Ask DeDe for advice!

HOAW  
attn: Peer to Peer  
1315 Spruce St  
Phila, PA 19107

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

HAIR EXEMPTIONS, HORMONES, HOUSING, AND MORE

Hey y'all! We have received a couple asks about how to access some things! If you have been able to get any of the following (hair exemptions, hormones, housing re-assignment, something else not in this list) and want to write a "how-to" about it that would be lovely!

What worked? What didn't? What's the easiest method? The most successful?

**1. What does Black Lives Matter meant to me?** Black Lives Matter to me because I am Black and what happened to my Black people can happen to me. Plus we as Black people built this country our ancestor with their blood, sweat, tears so yes, Black Lives Matter.

**2. As an incarcerated person, how can I participate in these movements?** I can participate by staying true to myself and what I believe in as a black gay man. Continue to write and speak out and fight for my people and anyone for that matter.

**3. What I'm doing to make sure that Trans Lives Matter?** What I'm doing to make sure that Trans Lives Matter I am writing and speaking out for my sister and fighting by their side. Trans Lives Matter to me because they are still people at the end of the day and demand respect like the rest of the people in this world. God still loves them for them not what they in too at the end of the day. Trans Sisters keep your head and faith. Much love and respect.

**4. What I'm doing to make sure that Black Lives Matter?** What I'm doing to make sure that Black Lives Matter I am writing and speaking out for my people as well as my ancestor, believe me when I tell you I am on the front line.

**5. What does a future where Black and Trans life is valued by everyone look like?** I can speak for myself and I feel as if everyone in the movement keep fighting then the one who is truly revolutionary and know what it truly means and understand will come out and stand and we will stand as one and we will make change but until then it's going to be a long war. I believe change will come. But brothers and sisters, family just know to have a revolution we must not only speak out we have to at some point in time take blood and peace don't always work.

Reginald Hall

\*He\*

I was truly ready to give up on love, until the day that he walked into my life. He rescued me by breathing a new love into my heart and a new life into my soul! His love for me is exquisite, unique, and true! He adores me! He bewitched me! And he arrested my heart! His touch weakens me! His eyes penetrate me! And his love consumes me! He accepts me for me, flaws and all and he's finally showed me that true love is possible to find behind prison walls! He's everything I've ever wanted in a man and that's why I truly thank him for choosing me! He's more than just my husband, he's my bestfriend and my true soulmate! He is my all! He is my husband, Tyree!!

Chauntey Mo'Nique  
SCI Albion

**1.** Black Lives Matters means to me that our lives shouldn't be looked at differently just because we are black we should not be treated differently we are the same then to be bisexual or a trade we still should be treated the same period.

**2.** By paper work and speaking out. Writing you writing people who can support us. Because if only one voice can be heard from prison it can start the ripple effect.

**3.** I show trans and trades that they should not hide who they are we were created with free will. See when a trans person or trade first sees me they perceive I will talk down so I make the first move to introduce myself to start to build with them so that they see that they can be themselves around me and that I'll love them.

**4.** I speak out for our black community I live my life by the ways of the first original rules of the panther party when they went around to schools and spoke nonviolence and how to live through the struggle.

**5.** If the killings are stopped and the way the laws are starting to change for us all, I feel it's looking good so far.

Nathaniel Griffin

If I could envision a new world in the future that made room for all of our complex identities, what would it be like?

The world I envision would be peace, we could all live the way we want men with men woman with woman woman with man and no one would judge you for what you do. The world would accept being themselves where they could not or would have to hide who they are. That would be my world.

Nathaniel Griffin

## INTERVIEW WITH MILEY

QUESTIONS BY MAL AND ADRIAN

I do appreciate that I was nominated to be interviewed and I thank all of you for submitting my name for it. It is an honor. I hope that the questions asked of me by all of you will be a complete answer to the questions provided by all of you.

### 1.) How did you come to be named Miley?

In 2008, I was jogging the track. A gay man seen me. Every time I passed him, he'd yell out "Run Miley Run." At the time my hair was in the middle of my back. But I stopped and asked him who you calling Miley? He replied you. I did not even know who Miley was. I ignored it. But 2 months later, I heard her song "The Climb"! So I always sang it. The guys would say "There's Miley. Hey Miley, sing it." The name stuck and I never questioned it after that. I love the movie "Last Song" that she (Miley Cyrus) plays in.

### 2.) What is your story? What was your life like before you got locked up?

I was a lead singer in a heavy metal hairspray band in the 80's. The name of the band was Dirty Looks. If you look on your tablets and bring up the band. There are 5 or 6 songs on there. That's my voice singing.

### 3.) If you could go back in time and say 3 words to a younger version of yourself, what would they be?

That question kinda makes me laugh because I would say "Become a transwoman NOW!" Ok, it's four words but what can I say? LOL

### 4.) Who was your first love? Have you ever had your heart broken? Have you broken any hearts? What is the most special way someone has shown how much they love you?

First question - a truly lovely person. I would say actually a man named Lil' Rob. Second question - yes, by Lil' Rob. He cheated on me January 19th, 2011, a Wednesday night. Third question - Yes, I have not intentionally and I'm sure they get this newsletter. So, they know who they are. It's just that's the way it rolls; you know what you did. Like trick or treat. Fourth question - only one person can answer that. He is the real man, that real man knows who he is. He gave me his special love by loving me in that special way. Girls, he's a real man. Trust me, Lil' Rob never loved me like this man has. Just remember girls, it's not about money or gifts but what love comes from inside. His love is a wonderful feeling. I can not describe it in words and if I do, I'd say butterflies in my tummy. All he's got to do is hug me. That's special love.

### 5.) If you were going to write an autobiography, what would you title it?

"Code of Silence"

**6.) Tell us about your experience as a trans woman? When did you realize you were a woman? What was your coming out process like?**

First question - I love it. I truly am very happy. The experience is wonderful. And it's going to get even better. Second question - I was 14 years old. Third question - The coming out process actually took me years and years to come out with it. One day I realized I don't love myself. The saying goes if you can't love yourself, how can you love someone else? So the day came I got tired of the rumors and whispering behind my back that I was gay or a girl and whatever else. So when I kissed that first man in my life, I thought to myself I loved that. Why hide anymore? I went into my cell, took the colored pencils, and went to town putting it on my face. Still today guys I knew say OMG no way! I smile and reply "oooooh yeah, accept it or don't..." But my coming out process, I loved it. I loved myself finally and I continue to do that. I don't care what no one says. K.L.R. Kitty Kat.

**7.) If they were going to make a movie about your life, who would you want to play you?**

In the beginning of the movie, I would say Mark Wahlberg because he did such a great job in the movie Rock Star. Then becoming a transwoman Gena Davis.

**8.) How did you become a person**

**who stands against injustice? Were there experiences, individuals, events, or organizations that influenced your understanding of justice and drew you to make a change?**

First question - when I was younger, I lived on the Indian reservation in New York state. Then moving to PA growing up in an all black neighborhood. I'd seen a lot of discrimination and injustice being done. Then coming to prison to notice the same B.S. went on. So it's not like I was looking to stand against injustice. I just begun to say "Hey, I'm going to help. This isn't right!" The second question - the experiences, individuals, and events in the prisons. I really got fed up when I was in the R.H.U. at one PA institution back in 2009. A trans woman was denied a razor every time the guard came around to give them out. I ended up getting the same treatment for writing a grievance on the guard, but I didn't care. There are a lot of experiences I still today see and experience myself. I believe we all do. A lot of organizations I do not trust. The 2 that I've found outstanding are Hearts on a Wire and Black and Pink. Both organizations have helped out a lot. Because a lot of organizations take your complaint or letter, put it in a file, and that's it. Not even a response. Once I experience that, I dismiss their address and them altogether.

**9.) Do you have any tattoos? What is the story behind them?**

I have my family at Hearts on a Wire and all my sisters and brothers out there.

We all have battles we are going through. And I pray for each and everyone out there. When times are tough... keep moving. Keep your head up. And know, you are not alone...

Mr. Butter...

Happy Anniversary! It's been a year since you and I moved in together. We had our ups and downs, like everybody does... But I can honestly say I love you and I can't imagine my life without you. You are my rock, my best friend, my lover. I can't imagine when we are torn apart because I have to go to the feds. I can't even think about it without crying. Let's make the next 2 years we have together special. I want to treasure every moment I have with you. I love you... I adore you and my love for you will last a lifetime.

Love, xo Precious xo"

I'm maxing out on 12/24/2016, one day before Christmas day. I came here on 12/11/2012 at SCI Houtzdale. I love your organization and the men and women that feature themselves in all your issues. I also love the artwork that the men and women do. It is so beautiful to see what gay men and women are doing for our organization and the community that we as Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Trans-Q represent. We are who we are and we love ourselves. How can I be a strong support to the LGBTQ organization and community. I want to leave here and go out to the community and talk to young black, white, and Latino men and women boys and girls about living with themselves and other household members, about becoming Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Trans-Q. This is something I want to do once I leave SCI Houtzdale so please help me become a member in the fight for our rights.

LGBTQ 4-Life, Happy Holidays, Ms. Erica Kaine

Dear Hearts on a Wire, You may not have heard from me in a while but know I'm good and proud. Shout out to Queen Penny and Princess Turtle Dove, you know stay strong you no where I'm at. Love yall. Bring the New Year in wit a bang everyone of Hearts on a Wire...I looked up when I was better and smiled at GOD because I could have been dead. But I'm alive. GOD is here for us all. When times are hard and you feel you gonna end it or wanna go crazy think about it. I'm alive and well, healthy and strong. Never let no one break you. Only you can break yourself. Love yourself and be proud of yourself. This is to all the Queens of this world and Family, I love you all.

Love always, the one and only Bookie

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

When I get your newsletter, it brings me joy to read what's going on with my family. When I read Hearts on a Wire and hear about the love that my Brothers and Sisters have with their mates or friends it makes me want to be a part of that. And I say to all that have found your other half, hold onto it like its the air you breathe. One day my heart will be one with someone that gives me all of them the way I do them, but until that day comes I have my family, friends that love me and are there in my times of need. Plus all the new people that have come into my life: Dez, Erica, Eric, Chris, S.J. Lady Mariah, Fat Cat, Dink, Bambi and D., and everyone from the Hearts on a Wire family, and I want you all to know that I love you and at the end of the day you will always be a part of my life and heart.

Love Always,  
Bre'Air

" have met on of the sweetest girls that will remain in my heart forever. I want to call her my daughter but that will be exposing my age a little, so I'll say my sister, Mariah. Mariah, I love you girl! You're beautiful and real, and I'll always be there for you. It was a pleasure meeting and knowing you... Dear Keisha L.L.L. I miss you Big girl, stay you. You have a good heart and You're very sexy. Hoping to see you out there, your friend Ceci, L.L.L. Our time was short but cute.

Ms. Ceci

# LOVE AND SHOUT OUTS!!!

## BITS AND PIECES OF LOVE AND STRENGTH FROM THE MAIL

I'm outta here and I'm takin' the times I've shared with the love of my life with me. I love you daddy #Bonnie&Clyde. It took a good man to show me my worth. I never trusted nobody. I was a player. My name rings bells in Philadelphia... Anyways thanks hearts on a wire. I love y'all. Daddy "Dee" I'll be here 4ever. You got me boo. I love you. With that I always say don't come for me unless I send for you

#Queen B.  
Much love,  
Aliyah Maserati

Rosie, It's been a while but I must do what a real man do apologize for hurting you; I should told you everything of my past no matter what, and trust in you as you did me. I know another man has won your heart, but I was the fool who tore it apart; I guess now I know the fear of the past can destroy the present of your futures, Cause although I loved you right in every way, That past take you away. I hope you happy and your being love as you should, But please always know (R.N.V) I'll always have love for you. "Let the pain in your heart forgive me one day." By: Oct 8, 2012 Out Day!!!!

Tyree Sanders

Dear Kings and Queens, I just received my first "Hearts on a Wire" issue #16. Already I'm in love seriously. But please allow me to introduce myself to the family my name is Charles "Smook" Brown at SCI Greene....Congratulations to all kings and queens on achieving the goal of change within the DOC....who contributed to this issue, thank you for making me smile....all my ladies stay beautiful, stay strong, to my brothers "training leads to transformation" stay focused. I love you all who love me back.

In loving solidarity,  
Charles "Smook" Brown SCI  
Greene

### UNITY!

"THE WORLD ALREADY LOOKS DOWN ON US AS IF WE'RE NOTHING, BEATS US AND EVEN KILL US. SO IT SHOULD BE UNTHINKABLE TO HELP THEM."

I grieve immediately whenever I see division within the LGBTQ community. Because Sistah's & Brotha's, we already live in an ice cold world....So let's celebrate each other's diversities oppose to an individual's indifference. And this can be accomplished by someone just like you. Yes, "YOU!" Because we must come together so we can unify our love by caring for one another.

I challenge you to find someone who's in our community and give them: a compliment, a smile, a hand to hold but most of all love. Forget about the dark unpleasant clouds (shade) of yesterday by celebrating days of eternal sunshine. Now I'm no fool, I know there's judy girls/guys in the life who are hard to get along with at times but let's love them too. Start with planting positive seeds cause chile', they do grow....So once again I dare you, "Yes You" to stop helping those in the world who dislike us by assisting our community by standing together!

I love all my people and look forward to help making a difference.

Ms. Priss

I received Newsletter 16 and I'm very pleased almost in tears. This one touched me deeply. I'm glad we're making progress but sad to hear of the lives lost. I'm also pleased a t he love most of us are finding. I, Maxine, refuse to open my legs until I'm sure they are worthy cuz none of that gets me paroled. I love you all, stay strong.

Thanks Family,  
XOXOXO  
Maxine MG0572 @ SCI Graterford

Just want you guys to know how much you all has been a blessing to me in my life. Prison is a very lonely place but when I connect with y'all it's like connecting with my Real family.  
Love,  
the Lady Ms. Champagne

I do have tattoos. One is a cross on my upper left arm. I was 15 when I did that. My Dad is a baptist minister, that's why I put one there. I have a woman's name, Diane, on my left shoulder. A childish thing I did growing up. My first name on my back with a lightening bolt (my birth name). I did that because my step brother had the same name as me. We were tight friends. I have on my right upper arm the name KIM. Some groupie I favored back in my band days. She was from Los Angeles, CA. I have one last one I just put on my ankle. I'll leave it at that. Don't want to reveal that right now. LOL. The significance of it is true love, a real man.

### 10.) What songs do you get stuck in your head most often? Do you sing when you are alone? What kind of music? Are you any good?

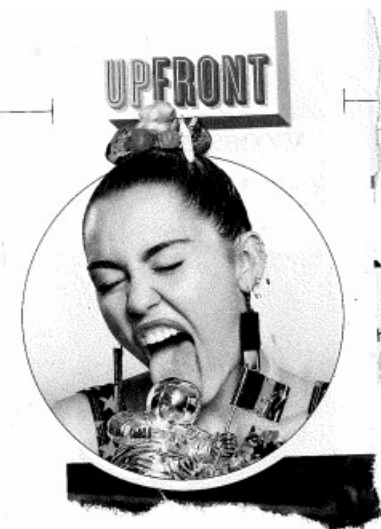
First question - "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus. Second question - Yes, I do sing alone and sometimes walking around. Usually "Steel Heart." Third question - a variety of music I listen to: jazz, R&B, rap, heavy metal, pop. You name it, I'm here to listen to it, even country music. Am I any good? Well I'll let you all decide. Go to your tablets and punch in the band I was with "Dirty Looks." See what you think.

### 11.) Is there anything else you would like the Hearts on a Wire Community to know?

Yes, I love all of you. No matter who you are or what you want to be. I'll always be

a friend to anyone. Always remember we will prevail, we will win. Keep fighting, hold your head up high. Never let go of your dreams or goals. Take care, keep sweet, wink wink.

Love and Light,  
Miley Selena Grow



# POLICY AND RESOURCE UPDATES

## COMMISSARY, SUPPORT GROUPS, HORMONES, HOUSING

### Commissary

SCI Forest on 10/17/15:  
We (my sisters and me) are now able to buy make-up and undergarments.  
- DeDe

### Hormones

SCI Rockview on 11/12/15:  
I just got put on hormones it's the patch it seems to be working good.  
I like how they let transgender and intersex people shower privately. Also giving us female commissary,  
-Nessa

### Commissary

SCI Forest on 2/11/16:  
They started selling make up on commissary a couple months ago here at Forest but the staff here are writing misconducts to us inmates who wear it outside of our cell... Staff here are claiming that it states in policy that we are not allowed to wear the make up!! ....I am also trying to figure out why us inmates who have a long sentence to serve can not receive hormones if we want the m.  
- Lady Mariah

### Commissary

SCI Rockview on 11/12/15:  
Thank you and congratulations on getting the commissary updated that has been one of the things I've been working on....since there are now items available for both male and females to conform to their gender identity and the fact that most of the exclusion on both lists are considered unisex items like safety cut scissors and yarn and knitting material (only on the female list) it make no sense to have on both lists.....So this is my/ our fight now. To change the 2 lists into one  
- Mrs. GeGe

### Support Group

L.I.G.H.T. was founded by Mrs. Ge Ge. I was trying to establish an Official Inmate Organization within the DOC but, we were rejected. So I thought to myself "how can I communicate with out members?", and thus On The Inside Out was born. Also at the same time I was trying to get the DOC to start a support group for LGBTQIA inmates. That still hasn't been approved, but the DOC claims it is being considered.  
- Mrs. GeGe @ SCI Rockview

### Commissary

SCI Graterford in October 2015:  
I was called down to the Unit Manager's office today. And some people came down to see me, and gave me a commissary list filled with all the items I have been deprived of for years since my confinement. I am so happy I can barely write.  
- Miss Ceci

### Support Group

Right now I'm currently in the process of getting an LGBTQ support group up and running within my facility (SCI Forest). It all started with me just having that heart and wanting to help people and give people hope. Letting people know that you're not alone and that it's ok to be who you are and to stand for what you believe in.  
- Ms. DeDe

still hearing about our trans sister's being beaten, left for dead and even murdered in cases. Some are even taking their own lives because of the torment and not being able to fully be who they want to be. So to me true victory and justice would be the end of all types of violence and oppression against all the people of the LGBTQ community.

To the readers I want y'all to know that the war is not over yet and we have quite a ways to go but if we keep our heads held high, stick together and keep shining light on these very important issues we can and will overcome any and everything they throw at us. God gave us a voice and it's up to us how we use them. Don't go away quietly, Go away loud and with love. Knowing that I love you and someone else does too. Because love conquers all.  
Always love,  
DeDe

#### 4. What is your vision for the future of Hearts on a Wire? What would you like us to work on moving forward?

As far as you guys have come I think with the progress you've already made and the accomplishments you've gained. I would say that everything in life is a potential blessing and you guys have definitely been a blessing as I'm sure others do as well!!! I would like to see more light and attention put on the trans issue as far as what's going on with them, what's gotten better and what's

gotten worse. How can we make them feel heard other than when one of them dies?? That goes for both prison and the outside. As for on the inside. I know a lot of us have issues that we want to talk about, no matter how big or small we want to feel and I know how it feels to not be able to get that stuff off your chest. A lot of them want an ear lent to them and I'm not perfect. I've got issues too but it's the kind of support you have that gets you through it, that helps you succeed in life. So I want to propose something an advice column for people like us who are having problems and need some advice or just some positive encouragement. Someone who will keep it real 100% and not spin them and we can throw in a little segment in the column called peer to peer where it gives the readers a chance to give some advice and make someone feel good but show some of their leadership skills as well. I would be more than happy to be the columnist besides nothing bring me more joy than being a blessing to someone and making their day. It could be called "De's Family" or whatever sounds cool to you. You could read through the letters whichever one's are good to you, you forward to me and I'll respond with advice. Just a suggestion. I believe it's worth a try.



# INTERVIEW WITH MISS DEDE

QUESTIONS BY CAITLIN

## 1. You have shared with us that you are trying to support other trans and LGB people in prison by creating community. Can you tell us more about that? How did you get started? How did prison staff respond?

Right now I'm currently in the process of getting an LGBTQ support group up and running within my facility (SCI Forest). It all started with me just having that heart and wanting to help people and give people hope. Letting people know that you're not alone and that it's ok to be who you are and to stand for what you believe in. That's where I got the idea of a support group and I went and talked to my CCPM and she loved the idea and told me to write down a proposal and I did and she talked to the other higher-ups and they loved it as well. Next thing you know she comes to me not long after and wants me to work on another project with her. She's also told me how much of a leader I am and how inspiring my words and passion are. The prison staff as of late seem to be responding well. I figure to start small and dream big. That's one thing that we all need is that support that we can turn to, that back bone.

## 2. Have you had mentors in your life who influenced you? Can you tell us about them?

Yeah I've had some pretty amazing

influential people I've met and have the pleasure and honor of meeting and having in my life. But there is 3 main people: my mom, my grandma and my boyfriend. My mom had this humanity about her and was definitely about speaking her mind and never bit her tongue. My grandma she is so kind and full of love and very devout. My boyfriend is wise because he share his wisdom to those he believes in and is worthy and he is a firm believer in what's right is right and what's wrong is wrong. He's also the one that told me "if you don't stand for something you'll fall for anything." Also my siblings because we learn from each other.

## 3. In one of your recent letters, you said "what we are fighting for is true victory and justice." What would that look like for you?

I know that some of us think that the buck stops at gay marriage or with our men and women in the military. It doesn't. Just because gay marriage is now legal or we can now get make-up and other accessories on commissary does not mean the the world is now all rainbows and butterflies. Sure it's more tolerated now than it was years and years ago and that's a positive. But if you really look beyond some of the progress you'll see that we are still somewhat looked down upon, we are

### Support Group

I am from Philly and I am a young queen and I am trying to come up with a support team in this jail....We are waiting for the approval from Central Office. I am looking forward to showing guidance to queens in my jail with not as much experience as myself. I am 28 years old and I been a queen for 13 years. I love myself and my husband.

Love,  
Mariah Smith

### Support Group

To all my LGBTQI members on the inside, I know for some of you the holidays are a bit lonely but just know that we are all family and HOAW is there for us now and has been since the very beginning and I know John Bell would be proud to see the passionate and loving support HOAW has for us. Many blessings in the upcoming year. I have started a support group for members of the LGBTQI community here at Smithfield and our first meeting is Jan. 28, 2016! I love you all, Winter Lyniece

Anyone can now get married, regardless of your partner's gender!

To get married while you are still locked up, you will need the DOC's approval.

- To begin the process, you have to submit a request for marriage to your counselor.
- Then the DOC gets to decide whether to grant your request under policy DC-ADM 821.
  - Basically the policy is the DOC won't allow a marriage if they think it presents a risk of escape, or if there is some reason to doubt the sincerity of the relationship.
  - The DOC hasn't updated this policy to comply with state and federal rules allowing marriage regardless of gender, but we've heard from a few people who have gotten permission from the DOC for marriages the DOC views as same-sex marriage.
  - If your fiancé(e) is also locked up, that would probably present a dilemma for the DOC that we're not sure how they would handle – all their policies assume one partner is outside the prison. We think ultimately you would win, but expect it will take a fight.
  - In that case your partner would also need to make a request
- Then you will need to get a license from the county clerk where the prison is.
- Paying for the marriage license is up to you and your fiancé(e) (how much depends on the county)
- Each facility has its own rules for how marriages actually get conducted for people within the facility.
- The chaplain can officiate, but doesn't have to. If the chaplain won't do it, you would have to get a visit from someone who can perform weddings.

To get married on the outside, you and your fiancé(e) go in person with ID to the county clerk where you live. There is a fee (how much depends on the county). If you or your fiancé(e) were married before, you will need to bring proof of getting divorced or widowed. The marriage license will issue 3 days after application, and is valid for 60 days.

## LET ME

BOODERS/SINCERE (SCI ALBION YOUR HUSBAND)  
TYREE SANDERS

Let me comfort your  
heart and easy all  
your pain, and bring  
back that smile of

yesterday. Let me hold your hand and look into your eyes, Tell you how beautiful you are; and how important you are in my life. Let me be your bestfriend, The one you can count and believe in.

Grow to become your heart,  
The protection of your universe;

and manifest unto your  
Husband, Completion of  
you. Let me always take the  
time to acknowledge the  
goodness of your; show my  
proudness in being In love with  
you; and honor and praises  
(God) for the creation of  
you. Let me express to you I  
am who I am because of you,  
For what makes me stronger is  
the love you give to me; and I  
strive to be the best, for you I  
Love You, and my Heart is at  
Peace, Joy rains down on me;  
and you Chauntey have  
brought my dreams to  
reality. Baby you are my  
Beginning and End for I will  
never let go, and as long as I  
breath in air, I will forever love  
you boo.

(I love you Chauntey with all  
life of me)

## SORRY OR NOT

Bre'aire Chance

Is it too late to say sorry.  
How can I make it up to you.  
My heart is not my own.  
That is some of the things I might think.  
But you hurt me in so many ways  
That I can't trust you.  
Or open up my heart to anybody  
Maybe it was not only you  
Maybe it was just me  
But who can it be if its not you or me  
Am I sorry?  
Are you sorry?  
Who are we if we both are not sorry.  
But the love we shared was true.  
So how could you leave me.  
Like I was not anything  
I would of gave my life for you.  
And walk to the end of the earth just to be with you  
but look at me now  
I am as lost without you  
I even gave myself to people.  
That didn't love me like you.  
But used my body and put me through pain.  
So I can say that I am sorry because you was  
and always been my other half.  
I drove you always fat cat because it was always  
me that was the sorry one.  
  
p.s. you are my only true love and I know that now.

## WHEN HE CAME: LOVE IS ALL I KNEW

MRS. GOOBER

He catered to my every desire;  
He lifted me higher. He raised my spirits;  
I never knew truly what love was; I even feared it.  
But when he came he showed me what love was.  
He tamed my heart; he played his cards smart.  
He showed me what feelings felt like. My broken  
Heart, it was finally healing. When he came  
My heart melted like butter and he was  
The knife that spread it all over. He is, and  
Always will be my man; he holds my heart  
In the palm of his hand, and wears my love  
On his chest. He has never been like the  
Rest; its always been me & him against the  
World. He is my knight and I, his sword.  
He's everything to me, and I to him.  
It was always meant to be.  
I love him with all that I am.  
When he came: LOVE IS ALL I KNEW!

For my boo Boo Mr. Goober (LOL)  
I love you baby!

From: Mrs. Goober  
#Heeeeey + SNAP

## I SING SOFTLY TO MY SOUL WINTER

I sing softly to my tattered soul  
Into the chasm known as the past happiness.  
I want out of this nightmare known as reality, where fear seeps  
Through the cracks of solitude like rainwater, and dreams are discarded  
Like old love letters, but never forgotten.  
I sing softly to my soul and whisper me free!  
Free of the heart-tearing, mind wearing compromises, back, to  
Peaceful, glad to be alive mornings  
With sweet wisps of coffee smells, and warm double bed spaces  
I sing softly to my soul,  
Tumble me home.

ARTWORK BY WINTER