

# Hearts on a Wire

Issue 11

Winter 2013

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\* support incarcerated and detained trans and gender variant people \*

\* build community through bars \*

\* organize for justice \*

## Hearts On A Wire

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

## Letter from the Outside Collective

Dear Inside Collective,

Currently, the Outside Collective has been working to get more support for the Commissary Campaign. As a reminder - The Commissary Campaign is asking the DOC to allow people necessary items in prison regardless of their sex or gender. We are doing what we can to gather support on the outside. The Commissary Campaign Petition also needs support from the inside collective to hopefully get the DOC to change policy 815 on Personal Property, State Issued Items, and Commissary/Outside Purchases. Please contact us if you are interested in helping with this campaign, it is you who can help make the difference.

We have also applied for some funding for a reentry project we're hoping to initiate, as well as for general Hearts on a Wire operating expenses such as printing and postage.

Hearts on a Wire was in attendance at the Transgender Day of Remembrance in November. The event focused on local Philadelphia trans and gender variant individuals that have passed away such as Diamond Williams, Stacy Blahnik, Kelly Harper, Renee Karan and others as well as T/GV people all over the world. It was a nice event with a poem reading and performance of Patti LaBelle "You are My Friend." There were refreshments served and candles were lit for those who passed followed by a moment of silence. May They Rest In Peace.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is January 20th, 2014 and members of the community have volunteered to help Hearts on a Wire with mailing Issue #11 to the Inside Collective.

In other news, there has been a censorship issue of Issue#10 at SCI Fayette. The reason for the censorship is because of the article "Recipe for Lip Gloss" by Nipha AKA Snow Bunny @Fayette. SCI Fayette put newsletter Issue#10 on the banned list due to "instructions for making a weapon." Attempts to appeal this decision were unsuccessful. Thanks to those members at Fayette who kept us informed of this situation as it unfolded. We are hopeful that Issue#11 will not be censored.

In loving solidarity,

*Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective*



### THIS EDITION'S CONTRIBUTORS:

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# To my Young Brother or Sister

by Juicy (someone who knows first hand what you're going through)

Get and have the power to go above and beyond.

Reaching and achieving all your Goals and finding your true Destiny.

Only you can make you and break you.

What you went through as a child or may be going through is the past. Today is the beginning of your True Calling, letting go of all the Things holding you down. Say goodbye to tackiness, abuse, corruption, discrimination, and Hurt. Forgive for you won't be happy until you forgive and find forgiveness and love in your hurt. I'm a living witness I been through more than enough, been abused sexually, physically and mentally as a child and adult, not able to protect myself. But I learned the only person can break me is me. Heading down the path you're heading won't get you nothing but more hurt. trust me you got the choice to decide How you want to live Happy or Hurt.

Please believe me I wish I had someone to share what I'm sharing with you. Know I believe and know you can make it. I'm here with you if you need a helping hand.

## Home

*Miss Brakie*

My thoughts of home never has wavered, I

keep in touch, and abreast of my be love family, friends, and all those including you all I hold dear within my heart.

Things of the past are the things to be as

I prepare to return back into society

Home is where my heart is though

I'm only playing not doing time, looking forward to all the smiles of home where my heart is...

Be Well

La Vie Est Belle



artwork by Rosie

# Forgiveness

## *Bird*

Forgiveness is letting go of the Pain and accepting what has happened because it will not change ...

Forgiveness is dismissing the blame, choices that were made that caused hurt, we each could have chosen differently, but we didn't ...

Forgiveness is looking at the pain, learning the lesson of it and Understanding what we learned ...

Forgiveness allows us to move toward a better understanding of universal love and our true Purpose ...

Forgiveness is knowing that love is the answer to all questions and that we are all in some way connected ...

Forgiveness is starting over with the Knowledge that we have gained what is it saying ...

I forgive you and I forgive myself ...

I hope you can do the same as well ...

# History of DC-ADM 803 Inmate Mail and Incoming Publications

by Anonymous

Get this: since October 2012, we are no longer permitted to receive catalogs of any type. Religious materials, Legal Materials, photo, book, calendar, arts & crafts, musical instruments, etc. Per DOC central Office in Camp Hill saying catalogs no longer meet the definition of publication due to advertizing purposes, since there are no articles. Seems like the mailrooms got their complaints heard to reduce the amount of mail.

Here is a list of all the changes I've seen in the past 15 years:

1. No mail on Saturdays, M-F only
2. No "bulk rate" or junk mail like to Mr. Adrian or current occupant
3. No adult magazines depicting penetration
4. No adult magazines depicting nudity. Or photos
5. Providing we pay extra postage for 1st class mail, catalogs are OK
6. No more catalogs regardless of the rate of postage
7. Friends and family can no longer send money directly here, rather to a company in Florida
8. 10 free envelopes reduced to 8

## trans/gender variant imprisonment in PA

Many of us participated in Hearts on a Wire's survey a few years ago. The report of the results is available!

Hearts on a Wire has **free** paper copies of the report available for people who are currently locked up in Pennsylvania.

Fair warning: we have had some trouble with censorship in some institutions. However two people we are aware of filed grievances and were eventually successful at obtaining the report. Please let us know if you want us to try to get you a copy!!!

The report is also available online, along with back issues of all our newsletters, at:  
[www.scribd.com/heartsonawire](http://www.scribd.com/heartsonawire)

# Circles & Figure Eights

Jeffrey Abbey @ SCI Forest

I know it sounds crazy but I know I've found the person I plan on spending the rest of my life wit, until Death do us part! Me and my Wife have been through the ringer but we are still going strong. A word of advice to anyone wise enough to realize it's not worth rushing into a relationship, take time to build a foundation before you tell someone you love them. It's like two people building different houses, person one rushes through the foundation leaving cracks, while person two takes her/his sweet time making sure to ensure that there's no imperfections at all in their foundation. Somewhere down the line person one's foundation is going to fail while person two's foundation is strong enough to survive almost N-E-thing life throws at it. Stay true to who you are. I love you Carley like a circle because you know a circle never Ends.

## A True Friend You Were

*Miss Juicy*

A true friend you were helping me on my feet when I felled

A true friend you were you never turn your back on me like everyone else

You were there for me when times got rough you were there when I needed a helping hand

A true friend you were never lie to me or cross me

A true friend you were

## (Like my CareBear)

Tyree V. Sanders

She soft and cute, Like my Carebear; So fun and joyful, Like my Carebear; Her belly has a heart imprint, Like my Carebear; She the one I can trust in, Like my Carebear; She stand beside me always, Like my Carebear; Like a bullet proof vest, she protects me, Like my Carebear; Her words are unspoken, Like my Carebear; She smooth with a lot of class, Like my Carebear; Smile like the sun, Eyes like the stars, Brown complexion with rhythm to her hair, and speaks Spanish in her native tongue, Like my Carebear. She a plus girl from head to toe, Like my Carebear; Give me hope to believe in, Like my Carebear; True Believer (in god), Like my Carebear; Have me feeling (Jesus) save me twice, Like my Carebear; She the best in every way, Like my Carebear; The only thing left to say is (I Love You) Cause (Mrs. Rosie V. Sanders) you're forever my Carebear.



# My Mother My Angel

*By Russel Woods AKA  
Rasul AKA Polo  
@ Pittsburgh*

Once upon a time an angel held  
my hand  
She wiped away my tears and  
helped me understand  
Our time on earth is brief.  
there's lessons to be learned  
Each precious day God gives us  
another page is turned  
Every Chapter full of memories,  
times of joy and tears  
Triumphs and defeats through  
every passing year  
She loved us unconditionally,  
always by our side  
When no one else would listen,  
in her we could confide  
With gentle words of wisdom  
she led us on our way  
Down the paths of  
Righteousness if ever we did  
stray  
She saw the light in everyone  
and gave with no regrets  
Always from her heart lets us  
not forget  
Angels come in many forms, for  
me it is my mother  
With love I cannot say in words,  
for me there'll never be another  
Every day I turn the page in my  
heart will ever Remain  
Everything she taught me as I  
stroll down memory lane  
Thank you God for giving me the  
most priceless of all treasures  
Help my lord to keep alive her  
memory here forever  
I pray that I can some day be  
everything she hoped I would  
That's she smiling down from  
Heaven knowing she did good  
As we gather here today there's  
no ending to her Story  
Another chapter has begun full  
of grace and glory  
God called her to His heavenly  
home, part of His great plan  
Although it may be hard we all  
must understand  
Faith is what is hoped for, things  
we cannot see  
Heaven is promised to all  
of us if only we believe.

# Heroes & Mentors

by Lady Mariah @ SCI Forest

My Husband A.S., when I thought my life was over and I was ready to give up on myself, I met HIM! He gave me the love I always searched for!

My Grandmother Linda she never gave up, she is paying my cable and my lawyer, she has been guiding me in the right direction all my life and I always let her down by doing all the wrong shit! When I got locked up I tried to overdose on my psych meds by saving them and then take them all at the same time but my grandmother and brother had me really stop all that by showing me that I'm well loved and cared about and they will support me to the fullest!

Everytime my spirits are down I run across this sister of mine Angel and she brightens my day with nothing but Joy tender love and care! I will miss her so much when she leaves SCI-Forest!!

# My Mentors

by Tyree Sanders (excerpt)

My mentors in my life are my mother, and my wife. Why you may wonder cause they give me all of them and not half; They taught me many things about life, one being If you let the past become you today then there's no meaning in your life tomorrow, For all meaning is found in the things that change us. They show me what real strength is, and how to fight for the things I want and how to obtain them. I see selfless in them and what Love truly is.

I watched my mom see me enter here as a kid (pre-teen) and now a man; all along fighting for her own life, Just to see me come home. She have always been there through thick & thin, stood by me even cried for me when I could not myself. She taught me to be better in all I do; To honor friendship; Stay true to my word; and know people may fail me but (God) will not. Life would be empty without her.

continued on next page . . .

I once said no one can love me more than my mother, But (God) told me no one more than Him; and then Bless me to met Rosie. What can I say Rosie my joy and what makes me fear nothing. For awhile I looked at queens as no good for my heart was broken by a few. But Rosie was truly a friend and I come to see many things differently. I use to judge people on their past, and trust was something I vow never to place in any one again; But through her actions I learned that people do change, and words are shown in actions. I watched her transform in every way, determined to prove everyone was wrong about her. Rosie is special to me and air I breathe, I don't hate queens that damage my heart no more I thank them for what I found. Through her I learn friend are there no matter what, and Love will face and stand against any situation there is; when it's real and not make believe. She taught me that people use you if you allow them to, and all the time I blame people for my hurt & pain; I was to blame all the time because I allow it. I believe in Rosie and know I never got to question her loyalty, she a great Best Friend & Wife; and even though we at different places at this time I allow my Faith in her love & Her guide me.

I'm only as good as the people who help me; And I'm thankful for them both. And (Hearts on a Wire) yall my mentors as well, cause yall impact my life more & more every day; Everything yall send me and I read know it helps me in every way. So I thank yall and all the people who share of themselves, keep being a [strange?] mentor.

## From the Mail:

### Disclaimer:

We get a lot of mail, and cannot publish every letter we get. If you write to us responding to something you read, please let us know (1) if we can print an excerpt from your letter, and (2) how you would like to be credited.

### From the Mail (Issue 9)

Shaylanna, that was a sexy-ass drawing you did.

Peaches, that CO like many other ones always want to pick on the inmates, just keep working and staying out of the Hole. Take the Native American service and ask them how do you get a hair exemption.

-True Love @Fayette

### Thoughts on Pride (Issue 9)

To any and every one, don't try to put people on blast and put them out there as being gay, instead help them if you can and I don't mean try to turn them out, I'm saying talk to them about who they are, do they care if people know and if they do, then why? but don't hurt and disrespect them.

-True Love @Fayette

### Love is Still Free (Issue 10)

I smiled ear to ear hearing what Lil Rob wrote. "love poems, this was a poem that was great!" But Love hurts, I know. I believe we all experience that pain. You know that song *Wrecking Ball* by Miley Cyrus, maybe that's is how it goes.

-Miley

### **Unequal Treatment (Issue 10)**

I appreciated the legal cites and information by Miley Selena Grow. I feel everyone both inside and out should be aware of such legal concerns and rights.

- Fly from SQ

### **Where My Girls At? (Issue 10)**

This article had a lot of truth, not only that but do you really know how powerful we all could be is we unified and became one with eachother? Thank you for the advice Twanna!

-Miley

### **RIP Miss Diamond (Issue 10)**

The story on Diamond touched my heart. I don't know how people can be so cruel and have so much hate. I pray whoever done that to such a lovely woman pays for that... Nobody deserves what happened to her for whatever reason.

-Bird

I just received issue 10 and it really touched me when I read about one of my sisters being killed! It felt like yesterday when Miss Diamond came to me and told me if I ever need her to come talk to her! Everytime I turn around one of our people's are getting hurt or killed!! RIP Miss Diamond. Gone but never forgotten!

Please sisters stay strong out there in the world and don't come back to Jail!! Keep your PRIDE strong and your Head high!

I love all my sisters!!

love,

-Lady Mariah @Forest

## **We want to hear from you!**

### **We welcome your:**

- \* Responses to this edition
- \* Artwork (black and white)
- \* Commissary recipes
- \* Contribuciones en español son muy muy bienvenidos!
- \* We are looking for additional help translating articles into Spanish. If you are bilingual and would like to help, please write to us!
- \* Please respect other people's privacy; only make disclosures about yourself.
- \* Poetry
- \* Ideas
- \* Articles

### **Next Issue:**

Our next issue we hope to think through perspectives on the medicalization of transgender identities. Here are some questions to get you started thinking about this: What do you think about Gender Identity Disorder (GID) as a diagnosis? What are the ways that that diagnosis can be useful? What are the ways that it can be hurtful?

If you contribute something, make sure you tell us:

1. **Exactly** how you want to be credited [anonymous, legal name & ID number, the name you use, a nickname, etc.]
2. Whether it's OK to say the facility you are/were in

## **subscribe**

If you would like Hearts On a Wire mailed to you, write to us and let us know. Subscriptions are FREE for incarcerated and detained people in any PA facility. If you are getting out soon and want to stay on our mailing list, please keep your address up to date with us.