

Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 25 — Summer 2019

♥ support incarcerated and detained trans and gender variant people ♥
♥ build community through bars ♥
♥ organize for justice ♥



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

We meet in Philly at
William Way Center
1315 Spruce Street

Mondays at 5:30pm

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PRIDE!

In our last issue we asked you for articles from you addressing topics related to Pride to coincide with June publication for LGBT Pride month. You did not let us down! Thank you for all your thoughtful submissions!

from Karen:

To be 100%, I haven't seen much of any Gay, Trans, or Lesbian pride in prison! They pretty much repress it! The ones not already locked down & separated will catch a ticket if they wear or do anything out of the way! It's amazing all the people who want to get with us on the DL but want to hate & bash on us the rest of the time! A lot of projection going on, fear, lust, anger & denial! BS! I don't think pride movements really consider prison. I think they should. People need more awareness, less fear. And greater numbers working as one!

Pride is a celebration of who we are, a search for acceptance, resistance to haters/bashers! It's also about self-worth, fun, security & forward movement!

from Juicy Queen Bee:

Growing up Pride was not letting No one abuse me. Fighting, Demanding respect. Sometimes Pride is good, sometimes it gets you into trouble. We in the LGBTQ community look at pride different and we allow it to get out of hand when we take advantage of each other and try to step on others to get on top. Pride in Prison is a joke to some. You can start anything you put your mind to and you don't need to do it to feel important. When I fight the DOC on issues I do it for all. Just 'cause people judge me don't mean I have to stoop to their level. If we have unity we can change a lot.

from Jai | Craggy C.C. | Asheville, NC:

I unfortunately don't see pride happening in prison as much as it could/should. It is most expressed through transgenders and fems, but usually to much resistance from other (inmates and staff)

There seems to be specific facilities where pride is more acceptable. The girls are always requesting transfers to these prisons in order to be themselves freely and around like-minded individuals.

Pride to me means bine your true self in the face of acceptance

MY PRIDE

Juicy Queen Bee

My Pride
My Pride gives me strength
My pride motivates me
To go on day to day

My pride helps me stand
Against all odds
My pride allows me
To do what I love to you
Now matter what
People have to say

My pride is
What god gave me
No one can
Take it away
Not even you
If you tried

OR oppression. My greatest incentive to not give a damn was seeing those who so honestly put themselves out there, regardless of the consequences. It's inspiring to know/see another girl be so free (in and out). I wanted that freedom; I earned that freedom and I now inspire/encourage other to soar! (Pride Baby!)

from Breeanne:

PRIDE – What is it really? What pride means to me is the have an out & proud voice when it comes to what I stand for as an individual. Pride is being proud of what you're doing & who you are & where you are headed. Pride is that tingly feeling you get when you are happy with the results you got from your hard work, sweat & tears. Pride is waking up every day content with who you are inside. I don't see LGBTQ pride in prison. You don't see our LGBTQ family supporting each other when shit hits the fan. What do I see from our LGBTQ brothers &

sisters is one big-ass game of one-upmanship! Who's the prettiest queen? Who has the best-looking man? (Duh-mel) Who has slept with the most DL brothers? We don't come together like we should & support one another. We don't make sure our LGBTQ family is safe & content.

As far as pride movements, it's not ever played a role in my identity. I grew up in the middle of nowhere, where the LGBTQ idea was non-existent. I learned to hate who I was & deny my transsexuality. I have never seen or been to a pride rally or parade. I've become who I am by finally saying "enough with the shame & hidden lifestyles" & learning to love, value & accept myself for exactly who I am right this moment.

My prison does not have any kind of LGBTQ organizing. Out of 2000 offenders, maybe 6 of us are open & out, so they don't see a need for an LGBTQ group or committee. I am trying to start a PREA committee because we all know PREA ain't shit for the victim. I'll keep you all posted.

Being "out" to me is very important. It goes back to the pride I have for being a being a beautiful, smart, & talented transgender woman. I love who I am & what being "out & proud" has done for me and my fellow LGBTQ family. Leading by example, I

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PRIDE, CONTINUED

show others that it's OK to be different & proud of who you are. Overall. I'm just Bree, & every day I try to be the best Bree I can be by my thoughts, words, & actions.

from Indy | Antoine Walker | SCI Smithfield:

How many of us black people in Amerikkka have experienced discrimination? Prejudice? Injustice? Abuse? The list of disadvantages we've experienced is on-going. All because of the color of our skin instead of the contents of our character.

Then if you're of color and identify as part of the LGBT community, it feels as if the disadvantages we inherited from our skin color are amplified.

Sadly, a lot of those who mete out injustice are unaware of their own bias. As we've inherited our skin tones (beautiful, colorful tones I might add) they've inherited unconscious bias. I want all of my LGBT of color to pause and reflect. Look at our history, ancestry. My blood boils every time I think about what our people have been through and are still going through.

But I develop a bit of a PRIDEFUL attitude also. Why? Because throughout history, we haven't broken. We are resilient. We were kept captive and ignorant, deprived of family, love, freedom, justice, knowledge, etc. They deprived us of everything but the light of the sun. And without a doubt they'd have taken that if they could. But we've always overcome every obstacle.

Doesn't our LGBT history unsettlingly mirror our slave history That's why I say to you all LOVE EACHOTHER. UPLIFT EACHOTHER. BE PROUD OD EACHOTHER.

Black is power. Our LGBT+ rainbow is BEAUTY. We people of color are a BLACK BEAUTY. Stop with the shady, psychologically inherited self-hate. "She's too black" "He's too light" "She don't look like a woman" "He don't' act like a man" What is that? STOP IT. It's time we break the mental chains. We need to overcome the biggest obstacle. Ourselves. We want our oppressors to stop but then we do it for them. So, for Pride month, I want you to embrace yourself and your colorful family. Be Proud of EACHOTHER because BLACK LGBT PRIDE MATTERS. I love all of you.

from Octévien | SCI Benner:

We need to take pride in who we are and stand strong together. We have lost too many friends and family from lack of support and negativity. People look and talk about us like who we are is a mental illness.... Wrong! We are normal average people who have purpose in life just like anyone else. We are put on this earth and made the way we are for a reason. Keep your head high and let the haters hate. You are loved and will forever be loved. No

matter how hard life may seem, never give up, because you will always have someone. Even when it may seem like you don't. Remember someone like me thinks about you. So celebrat

from Jasmine Elkton | OH FBOP

When it comes to LGBTQ pride here at Elkton, OH, it is banned and prohibited. We do not have a staff liaison/ representative, but this institution has an LGBTQ population of 100+ including 25 transgender people. I know of no LGBTQ outside support that has affected anything here without us doing the work to get information and file grievances or take the issues to court.

Despite the FBOPs policies, the wardens are saying that due to "safety and security" they are not going to allow transgender approved commissary items from the standardized list. Can we get public help or more skilled minds to help us fight for our rights? I feel we are out of options. But the fight is far from over..

PRIDE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME (WE)

Indy | Antoine Walker KG7791 | SCI Smithfield

- Perseverance**, reminding persistent in the fight for equality and Justice despite obstacles.
- Resilience**, never losing your Identity of self, even when they try to suppress your beauty.
- Innovation**, settling trends & introducing new ways of being original in a world of fakes & imitators.
- Demonstration**, not just talking about it, but being about what you're about. A living illustration.
- Everything**. We are Almighty = All Mighty = everything great. Everything. Bold, Beautiful Enigmas. Embodiments of Power, Respect, Intelligence, Determination, Epiphanies.

WE ARE PRIDE. PRIDE IS US

Don't ever le anyone tell you that you can't.

Don't ever let anyone tell you that you aren't enough.

Because WE ARE PRIDE, in a million and one ways.

WE are those lions with satin jaws, ferocious and fierce.

WE are those hawks with silk claws, elegant but able to pierce.

WE are those storms with velvet rains. Soothing with a bang.

WE are those iron fist in a velvet glove. Sweet and tough, breaking chains.

So What is Pride and what it means to me?

PRIDE IS EVERYTHING, AS EVERYTHING ARE WE.

Continued on Next Page...

from Ms. B.W. “Cheetah” Quinby:

I am sort of a trans soldier, I’ve been so hated. I achieved this by requesting female clothing and openly wearing it. In the yard, to and from the phone. And grieving any and all staff misconducts in addressing me as he, him, mister. I put a lot of emphasis on visibility. One thing about pride in prison is we stick together! We are FAM, and from the start this is the love we transmit to the new guy/gal on the tier.

Out in the streets, in some areas (where I haven’t been) there are large communities that are primarily LGBTQ. In my area, Pride is not really pride, more like a secret taboo. The pride movements today have earned me the right to wear female clothes in here as an explorative thing. This alone has helped me love myself more and more all the time! This ride I’m taking is beautiful and empowering.

from Angel | Tx. Dept. of Criminal Justice

I’ve noticed the inmates who clique up based on gang affiliation, race, and hometowns. But these cliques are simple associations. Pride, to me, is an appreciation of that affiliation. I believe that GLBT Pride includes: knowing our history, appreciating all those who came before us and fought for what we now have, actively advocating for social reform pertaining to GLBT rights/issues, and fostering a loving/caring/supportive environment for our GLBT family. Prissy Morgan and Tamara Angelique hit the nail on the head in Issue 24 when they commented on the cut-throat competitive culture that divides us. We (GLBT family) are our own worst enemies. Could you imagine if our GLBT community used all the energy we use throwing shade and hurting one another and instead focused on solidarity? We could move mountains! GLBT Pride encompasses: unity, respect, encouragement, being supportive, etc. Be proud of who you are! Refuse to go back in the closet.

from Marktha

I remember going to Pride events in Louisville, KY when I was home from college. I was very apprehensive attending and felt much more of a watcher than a participant. For several years though, I marched. And then I was incarcerated. When I got out on parole I had to get approval for public events like the Pride March. So I was back to being a watcher from the sidelines because that was easier than the possible drama of trying to get approval. And there were the nagging doubt: does the LGBTQ community even want me there, given my offence (though it was 7 years earlier). Then I violated parole and I’m locked up again. It’s the Feds—I think I’m going to experience what I did in state prisons, a lot of “proud sissies” but no, that’s not the scene at all. And now I’m in Ad Seg for a year, with how many more to go?

It’s hard to maintain a sense of Trans/Genderfluid/Queer Pride when one’s attention is necessarily on one’s struggle to stay sane and healthy in an environment that works the opposite on a person. But I also remind myself that Pride can arise from that struggle, which ultimately may accomplish more than any march.

And yes, it is inherently difficult for a sex offender to recover their sense of pride. Many in the LGBTQ community have been offended against in various ways. Of course they are going to have strong feelings about offenders. It is appropriate to be very wary about re-including a sex offender in the LGBTQ community, especially when the community has barely shaken off old misconceptions.

So sometimes one has to find one’s Pride without the Community, and thus find it within oneself. Yes, it would be nice if the more “mainstream” elements of the LGBTQ community paid attention to the incarcerated as some of its more radical voices do. But “you can bring a horse to water...” as the cliché goes. However you can also bring water to the horse. By telling our stories, being honest with what about us needs to change and what is perfectly fine and even fabulous, we channel our streams into and amongst the Community inside. Sometimes, it even trickles outside. And as creeks become rivers and rivers become oceans, so do we flow with the greater tide. And in this tide, we recover our Pride...

from Ms. Heather | SCI Benner

I am proud to announce that the Rainbow Pride at Benner Twp will be celebrating Pride during our monthly support group. We had a successful Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20th including having the chaplain offer a prayer. We look forward to strengthening our community through Support and Education. We have over 40 members and are growing. We are providing a positive and safe space for each other to grow and be respected.



EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love XXXO

Dear HOAW

This is my first time writing. I am currently fighting the DOC with their own policies. I have sat in the RHU on lies from 4 inmates at Albion. I have a very good case I've been fighting and I am currently in a phase where offers are being made. The jail even used my hormone treatment as punishment. I want to give a shout out to institutional law project in Philadelphia for sending me DOC policies and jailhouse lawyer manual. And my Dad B'more @ SCI Pheonix for helping me a teaching me legal stuff. There's a court hearing soon. To all my queens, my brothers in the community fight and stand up for yourself. I want to give shout outs to my queen I deal with at Albion. I love you Ms. Juicy baby. Also want to give a shout out to Dink, no ill feelings but it's time to change. Remember community we are 1 and we are minorities in this system don't let people walk over you or take advantage of their power and job use resources and policy and stand up and fight.

With love to everyone,

~ Ms. Sasha Rodriguez

What's up my HOAW family?

All is well I hope with my crazy, sexy, cool family. I'm maintaining, fighting to get out of the hole. Max: I did get your letter but I got a Return to sender. Let me know how to get in touch. I look forward to getting to know you. Gypsy, you are always in my heart. Stand strong. You too Quinby in California. I'm a little protective of my family. If I was there no one would harm y'all. And even so, we'd take the bruises together. I feel y'all pain. Stay strong. Bree, gotta show some love to my Indiana native. I'm reppin' Indy all the way in PA. I got your back here. Congrats on your HRT. Dede, you maintaining shorty? Mariah, Miley, Juicy, & Prissy. Love, Peace and Respect to you lovely, funny, powerful ladies. Hope to make y'all acquaintances someday. Which brings me to my final shout out Matt-Matt, I see you bro. Love always. I hope you got to see the last HOAW before you rolled out. Get in touch. You know how we be. I'm out light-bright!

~ Indy

Hello Hearts on a Wire family

Shoutouts to all my LGBTQ sisters and brothers at SCI Benner and beyond. Bre ♥ I've been where you are at and felt what you're feeling, no matter how many time you have to remind yourself it's not your fault do it to become strong and try talking about it. It's hard at first because to one wants to relive that traumatic moment. Juicy Queen Bee said it best "those people are sick and need help." Tell yourself it's going to be OK and that you'll get through this and in due time the pieces will be put back together in your life. I talked about my abuse with psychologist and counselors and learned how to forgive those that offended me sexually, not for them but for myself so I can start my healing profess. I know we don't know each other Bre, however you are not alone when it comes to being sexually abused just keep your head high and keep fighting the good fight.

~ James Alston | MP7734 | AKA Jigga | SCI Benner

TMB

G – SCI Benner

Charismatic, Unique, Pretty as can be
O how my heart bleeds for she
Here and now, no in between
For life that's what it is to be, For we.
Please forgive me, It's by your side I wanna be
That's what she says to me
Severed all ties, can't nobody have me.
Promised it's you and I. At least that's
What was told to me
A queen, the world I'll give her
Cause that's what she means to me
My rock, my crutch, my lover, my friend
Everything she is Me.
Two Seven, Nineteen was my date with destiny
Who's to say it wasn't meant to be?

hello lgbtq family.

first i would like to say mr. lowe we love you and your advocacy. i've recently been moved to muncy [a designated female prison]. the doc has made progressive change with respect to transgender women, at least on a "case by case" basis. i would like to give a special shout out to my husband br. i love you bae. and my sis rosie love you boo xo, and momma penny miss you lady and thank you for the tricks of the trade... to the haters shouting my name miss it and my husband is my life and the only man i see.

love niara sci muncy

Dear HOAW

Fam, how's everybody? When everybody else forgot about me I know I could count on you to show love & support, and for that you all have my loyalty to the end of days & all the love I can give. I want to shout out my homie Slim, nasty Six, Chris, Nick, Champ, peaches, Kei, Dawn, Twin, Unique, Chrissy & all the Kings & Queens. Hold your heads high people. A special shout out to the girls that held me down #1Alexis I love you boo you're everything & more to me, My friend Q love you girl. Stay strong. Peace & love

~ B.R. 2STAR

I would like to send a shout out to everyone in the LGBTQ community. Thanks Gumbo @ SCI Benner for looking out for me. I told my husband Hockey Puck about you. Let's all stick together and help one another instead of fighting each other. Also I love you Hockey Puck!

~ AJ @ SCI Forest

TEMPTATION

Jersey Savage

Temptation,
 temptation
 is it sacred of forbidden?
 Blocked from seeing Love
 because this lust for me stricken.
 Temptation, temptation.
 I'm lost, deep in my desires
 Sad to say
 My heart been on a wire
 Temptation, temptation
 i want to love but i can't,
 because I'm blocked from Love
 By temptation in my pants!!!

Hearts on a Wire Community:

Issue 24 was my first experience
 with this community. I would be
 lying if I said I didn't need this
 contact, unity & interaction. I'm in
 solitary here, isolated with no
 support. Oh Bree, holla – really
 would love IN news! You know
 Leslie Smith? Y'all hang on & be
 strong!

~ Karen

Keith Goodman #91B094
 GMCF Box 51
 Comstock, NY 12821

Good news: I am perhaps the first transgender female in the PADOE to
 go to have Gender Reassignment Surgery. To all my brothers and sisters
 out there despite what we may go through in life never give up. I would
 like to give a special shout out to Duke. I want you to know that I still love
 you, that will never change. Real love doesn't just go away because you
 don't see eye to eye. I read in this book that when you love something you
 have to let it go. Bumping into you that hot summer day in September was
 the best thing that could've happened to me. I hope you're doing well out
 there. Special thanks to HOAW for all your hard work. I love you guys.

Sincerely,

~ Christina Keiter
 MB9259 | SCI Retreat

I'd like to shout out SJ. I miss talking to you, love you. And to Mariah I
 miss you also peace. And DeDe I like what you said in Issue 24, right back
 at you, Love you. Kelli Reilly up there at Muncy how's it going I'd like to
 hear what's new with you. Hello Sparkles Wilson up here at Frackville I
 hope to see you at the next trans meeting on TV. Peace.

Love Bam Bam | Zion Price Jr. CN0960 | SCI Frackville

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS FROM THE MAIL

OXXOX Letters and Love

I want to give a shout out to the
 whole HOAW community, and I
 wanna say 2 that beautiful sister
 who passed Dec 8, 2018 (Miss
 Kema Kirkland) I love you sis n I
 will def miss you, you will never
 be forgotten. Well I'm at SCI
 Greene DTU waiting to go to
 population. Never been to this jail
 by fam, I'm here. 2 all my Trans
 sis mucho love to ya, stay strong.
 I keep my head up n have PRIDE
 on my back/face 2 let people
 know I'm in the mix.

~ Pretty Boy Jay

Jonathan Torres
 LQ01622
 SCI Greene

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I'd like to write and openly
 express my infinite love and
 gratitude to Tara, the most
 amazing woman who forever
 stole my heart. I love you more
 than you'll ever know and this
 here is for you

~ G

Dear Hearts on a Wire...

It's a honor 2 be able 2 show love 2 the whole
 LGBTQ community around the world b/c we ain't
 related by blood but LGBTQ makes us family. 2 the
 LGBTQ community at Benner everything is gunna be
 alright just keep your head up and keep standing for
 what you believe in and never let anyone steal your
 pride and joy of who you are. I want to give a special
 shout out to my baby Na'na you're a very unique
 person and you've made me realize it's more to life 2
 life than this place that's why I will always support you
 with any goal you have you're my sunflower and the
 reason I smile night and day. 2 my homies Spade,
 Bigchop, Gee, Moon, Aubo, Bones, Tara, Zack, Kid,
 Mamas and Trill y'all know I fuck with ya'll the
 longway. Y'all really are some good and loyal people I
 call family. And 2 hearts on a wire I'm loving what
 y'all doing for the LGBTQ community and I am
 blessed 2 be a part. And to Miss Kema's family I'm
 sorry for your loss but RIP Miss Kema you're with the
 angels now lil sister.

~ Superfly Blue Magic @ SCI Benner

HOAW,

1st I like to send my love 2 miss Kema you will be
 missed, forever in my heart as well as others you
 touched. Much love BR2STAR I miss you so much.
 Shout out to my family in Somerset Mike, best sister
 anyone can have in their corner. To the love of my
 life Rico @ Coal Twp. When I met you in 2009 in yard
 never thought I'd love you the way I did still got your
 pictures hanging in my cell. Know you're still in my
 heart. Keep your head á much love to you boo! Family
 know that life is a hard road for us in prison & we're
 all we have in here so much love from me

~ Aaron Love | SCI Somerset

HOAW Family

Wassup? I want to say to everybody keep smiling
 remember we are beautiful strong & unique. Sending
 love from the heart. I want y'all to listen to these 3
 songs and tell me what you think. On the Run –
 Beyonce; Woman's Worth – Maxwell; Kissing on my
 Tattoos – August Alsina.

Peace & Love

~ Jersey Savage
 Dimitric Ceasar MY4640
 SCI Forest

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

Letters and Love XXXO

Hello Hearts on a Wire

I want to clear up a mistake in issue #24 It was supposed to say to my Lil Sister Nyia and it said to my DL Sister. I don't want the community to think DL was the word I used. Or my Lil Sis!! Shout out to all the sisters in this struggle. Mariah if you remember me, what's up? Sunny told me she be seeing you at the meetings. Peace to you all.

~ Duke @ Camp Hill

This would be a good time to remind everyone that in order to turn the pile of letters we get from you into a newsletter, volunteers in the outside collective carefully type what was written. Typos are bound to happen, but also you can help us avoid making mistakes by using your **tidiest** handwriting.

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

How is everyone out there doing? I read the articles in the winter issue and some got to me. Andy I want you to know that I haven't forgot about you. BR what's up? Along with you Matt Matt. Keep y'all bond strong and never abandon each other. I want to give a shout out to my big brother Rico, my right hand brother Shadow who I'll give my life for. We all at Coal need to stick together. Shouts outs to my sisters Erin, Heather, Sam, Sammy, Dee Dee, Shea, Mercedes, Shannon and to the rest of my brothers Ryan, Juan, Mars, YG, Hellboy, JJ, my son Dave, Hinkle, Cecil, and John. I am trying to mind my heart and it is hard 'cuz I had it shattered so much. Mama Penny I still care about you. Nate you need to be good and stay the heck out of trouble. Frenchy I hope and pray little sister that you do not come back to jail. I'll always love you. Keke stay out of trouble. I keep all of you in other jails in my prayers and consider you my sisters and brothers. So I hope we all keep fighting and do what we need to stand up to the DOC. We are strong and we need to stay united as a family 'cause otherwise these jails will tear us down. I love you all. Stay safe and keep faith.

Always with love

~ Drew

Dear HOAW,

I finally met the man of my life, he is my Dream Come True. The man and I love and I are a match by the experiences we ha in the past and the likes and dislikes. I'll always ride with him no matter what he does, how long he does an who he is. I accept him for him, unconditionally. But today it's unbearable emotion, I can't seem to find peace. I'm immature and act like a child. The man I love sees that and backs away. I have been put on a new medication that can help me and I'm adjusting to it fine. I've changed a lot but there is still work to be done and I let it overpower me. I really think I lost him for good. Love, if you're reading this I want to say I apologize for my actions an I'm working on changing. I do love you. Please give me a chance. As for other in the HOAW family I enjoy reading the letters and advice, knowledge and love along with the wisdom helps not only the individual you direct it to but it helps me and I'd like to say thank you.

~ Zoey Carrasquillo

LOST HOPE

Karen

Lend me your hope for awhile,
I seem to have mislaid mine.
Lost and hopeless feelings accompany me daily,
Pain and confusion are my constant companion.
I know not where to turn;
Looking to the future, doesn't renew my hopes,
I see troubled times, pain-filled days, and tragedy.

Lend me your hope for awhile,
For I lost mine along the way.
Comfort and reassure me;
Listen to my ramblings – recovery seems far away.
The road to healing seems so long and lonely.

Lend me your hope for awhile,
Stand by me, offer me your companionship
Heart and compassion.
Acknowledge my pain, so real and ever present.
I'm overwhelmed by sad, conflated thoughts.

Lend me your hope for awhile.
A time will come when I heal.
Sharing my own hope, renewal, love with others.

Hello HOAW Family,

I'm a new member to this community. I love & respect all of you because I love & respect myself. Since I been here at SCI Benner, I've seen some Beautiful people make changes to the way we're being treated as a whole. I support the movement & stand up for those outnumbered & afraid to stand up for themselves. Love yourself, Respect yourself, Be Real with yourself & Do You.

~ Prince.



Dear HOAW

So thanks to my cellie, I read issue 24 of HOAW. The love is real with y'all. You don't see this kind of love every day. Shout out to my Love and life Spade. You right we got this 100%! Together we are strong! Also Love to my sis Anu°Mee, don't know what I'd do without you. I know if it wasn't for my significant other and my sis, this prison life would not be easy.

Much Love,

~ Octévien @ SCI Benner

EVEN MORE FROM THE MAIL

OXXOX Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I just received the Winter 2019 issue and I just want to say wow/holy crap. I am touched by all the love everyone was giving each other. It made me cry my eyes out. I am a proud LGBTQ community member here at Big Muddy River prison in Illinois. I know we're all fighting to become who we are. I've been fighting to get started on my hormones. I know it takes time but I am not going to give up. I just couldn't believe I was reading hearing about other LGBTQ brothers and sisters locked up and the stuff we go through. I am going through it here. I feel the pain. It made me sick to my stomach hearing what these inmates and Cos been doing to us. You guys are not alone, we can't let these people win. Let's beat them by writing grievances and filing lawsuits. I love y'all and can't wait to get to know y'all.

Your sister

~ Ariana Freeland

Dear HOW

I adore all of my LGBQT brothers and sisters! Shout out to Bumblebee. You are my best friend and I'm riding for you. We are going to fight this fight for freedom together. To all my LBGQT's fighting for freedom – It's coming baby! Love,

~ Sunflower

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I just finished reading Issue 24 and I was touched by all the love everyone was giving each other. I want to give a shout out to Chop, Spade, Rampage, Jessie, Fletcher, and to everyone that is part of the LGBTQ community. Thanks Gummy for looking out for the love of my life when he came down for court. We have to stick together. Last, shout out to my significant other AJ I love you and we will get through this together.

~ Hockey Puck
@SCI Forest

to my king, my friend & love dink, i love you, you're me baldhead. to sj & br, i want to say i handled that. y'all stay strong. my girls & guys, gary, juicy, twanna, special my boo, bre, kev, skillz, i'm holding y'all bol down like 4 flats, pretty boy jay, indy lol join us boo we need voices, nascar & lastly rip to gunna and i pray you're in a better place. bre you be strong, trials don't last always boo start loving you, fall in love with bre then you can share that love with others. and you're beautiful girl, i got faith that you're going to be just fine.

~ priss

LGBT Family:

Reaching out from the Hole to say I love you family. I love to read about our communities in a newsletter. I am happy with who I am and who I love. Please keep y'all heads up.

~ Kato

Keith Brown BD0455
RJD 480 Alta Road | SDCA 92179

TIME

Tim A. Copenhagen MB2696
SCI Houtzdale

The system is dumb
The system is blind
After they locked me up
The system will find
I had Time to think
And Time to explore
Plans to prosper
With so much more
I have changed
I am not the same
The way I was
Before I came
Now I am ready
To change the World
To make a big difference
When I am finally free
I will prove the system wrong
I will be strong
Live a new life
I found the way
To change the World
Someday!!



By Miss Out Law

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

Letters and Love XXXO

Dear HOAW

To my brothers & sisters, kings & queens. I would just like to remind you how special you really are. We are something the world cannot yet grasp. Like space travel in 1800, like interracial marriage in 1930, we are today's taboo. We will be the ones to struggle so that the young & new will walk down the streets with pride, without worry, tomorrow.

Every HOAW I receive, I take a moment to read each submission, to send love & hope your way. Keep strong on your frailest day. Never let words bring you to your knees. If you have come this far, there is no big enough reason you can't see another day through.

~ Dominic

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I just wanted to show my love. This is my first time writing. This newsletter has pulled me from the shadows. I used to be a terrible person, very judgmental & close-minded. Maybe I was holding in my own thoughts, or maybe I was masking my understanding. But the second I met me significant other everything came into focus. So I want to say something to Tara (PYT): Thank you for my new understanding. So HOAW family, I know this prison stuff gets overwhelming sometimes with the way it shuns our expressions or tries to make it hard for us to know when something's real. But you've got to see through the fog & defy the odds. Don't look at your feet when you walk, but keep your head up always. Look them in the eyes b/c you know you're amazing & others will feed your courage. Shout out to Chop, Trav, & Spade. Y'all always stayed thorough & kept it real. Everyone else at SCI Benner "Santosa" be content & accept. Be proud of yourselves. The fact that you are who you are is reason enough.

~ J AKA Nilz @ SCI Benner

Hearts on a Wire family,

I want to say "hi" from the dusty Texas panhandle. Quinby it really worries me that you are considering suicide/self-surgery. Your situation may be bad but it's always darkest before dawn. Keep your head up. Pray if that's something you do. Bre, I'm sorry that you are feeling down. Bring born GLBT is not something to regret. We are unique – embrace it! Have self-respect. We are not "punks," "faggots," or "freaks." Respect yourself and do not allow others to belittle or ridicule you. I'm sure people don't really hate you. They just may not understand you. And if they do hate you, of well, screw 'em. They aren't doing their time for you, they aren't putting money on your books, who cares what they think? On a serious note, rape is not OK. It is not your fault! Use PREA, not just for you but for the next victim. Jess, I'm sorry baby got locked up. I've been there and I know how it feels. Don't do anything stupid. Keep your head up. To the rest of the HOAW family: keep it class

~ Angel | Tx. Dept. of Criminal Justice

ABOVE

Violet Swann

I watch us in a pair of doves
Winging and whirling above
They dive and race
They strut and chase
So beautifully agile
Yet tragically fragile
This we know is how it starts:
Two pairs of wings,
one pair of hearts

Happy Birthday Nikki T. I won't mention your age but you're moving on up there. Love you baby girl. Skittle Kid Happy Birthday to you, I love you! The answer to your question is right here. YES I WILL MARRY YOU!! Have a GR8 birthday Baby boo-boo. To my lil bro Spade, thanks for the shout out. You know Spade I wish the best for you and your other half. Yeah, we're like family you're right (smile). Hi Tonia Miss You. Email me. I got you. King Chaos! What DA? Keep your spirits up. Jalynn at Houtzdale I miss you too Baby. To the HOAW fam Love Happiness to all of you. Hey Trans men! We all love you too. It's so GR8 to hear from you's. Love you!! To the Outside Collective you's all make the newsletter so loving and enjoyable, Thank you

♥ Miley S. Fletcher

A COOL WORLD

Tim A. Copenhaver MB2696
SCI Houtzdale

There is a Place
Where We can Go
That is so Cool
You will Know
You will never be Bored
There will always be something New
With a lot of Fun
And plenty to Do
Come with Me
I hold the Key
And We will See
Eternity

Dear Family

Every time I read an article it shows me we have love for each other and need each other. Shot out to all queens Divas and Kings and Maxine Mariah Pearl Peaches and Twanna shouts outs to Miley and Maya Rosie I love y'all and thinking about y'all. To all those at Huntingdon, Smithfield, Rockview and Somerset shout outs and to you baby you know who you are at Albion Bread Roller be real AKA Brian Love you will all my heart and will forever be there we stand tall together.

~ Juicy Queen Bee

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

Letters and Love XXXO

It's been a while since I last written but I kind of fell back a lot. This prison gay shit cost me alot of stressful nights; lose homies; hurt people in form or another, As well as break hearts. When I speak it's for all of us with me point my finger at myself first.; WE tend to blame everyone but ourselves, Enough is Enough. If we want better let's do better (simple).

I woke up and asked myself did prison create who I am today or was it already in me Cause I'm a man just label[ed] as gay. I fight to find sanity in myself and now I use my head. My time is coming to go home, I don't have the energy to fight for those who refuse to change or fight for themselves.....

Thank you all who know me that kept me in their prayers, Cause like I said I'm going home soon and no longer a lifer; Thank all you....

~ Tyree | SCI. Albion | DB1841

I just want to say Hello to all my Brothers & Sisters. I'm new to this newsletter. Shout out to JC I feel how you feel looking for love, and people to communicate

~ J-Rock | SCI Rockview

My girl Prissy Morgan – you are so right about “the competition.” We girls don't need one another throwing shade & being devious. To Pumpkin – girls if he can't see what an independent, strong, and beautiful woman he has, tell his ass “to the left, to the left.” Lastly, Quinby, please know I have so much love for you! Stay on that ass about your trans classification. I have also been the victim of a rape & torture ordeal. You WILL make it and you will SURVIVE, and you will OVERCOME. Keep your head up! Don't let those negative thoughts control you - acknowledge them and move on. I know it's easier said than done. Self-surgery will only make the healthcare department put your mental health in balance & let HRT fall behind. Stay strong and keep pushing the paperwork.

I love all you bitches.

~ Breeanne

By Daniel Carpenter



Dear Hearts

I am a prisoner in Washington State, writing from the Hole. I've been in segregation 45 days because I didn't get permission from the WA DOC to get married to my guy. When it was discovered that I had gotten hitched I was put on Ad-Seg. This shit doesn't seem legal. It is a legal marriage to a person in the community and filed with the county.

I felt compelled to reach out to you Bre. Your letter affected me in a Big Way. I've been through the sort of stuff you're going through. I still feel like a lost soul sometimes, wandering around the world aimlessly. I feel like I'm not good enough and I should consider myself lucky to be with this person who treats me like shit.

In fact I've experienced everything your mentioned. I had a difficult time believing I was worthy of love & respect. I had a hard time believing it because I had been through some traumatic abuse that was messing my head up. But I've learned I am worthy.

Bre you are also worthy of being treated with love and respect and dignity. I would like to become friends and support each other.

Daniel Carpenter 738490
PO Box 777
Monroe, WA 98272

GUIDE ME

Juicy Queen Bee

Guide me through the rain
Take away my pain
Don't want to hurt no more

Open your eyes
To see that
The love I have
For you is real

I wish you would see
I don't chase
After no man

Who can't keep it real
With themselves

I wish you would
Accept me son
Who I am
And stop running game

I wish you would see
I'm real

I wish you would see
I'm here ride or die

I wish you would see
Me as I am

DEEP DOWN INSIDE

JC

Deep down inside
I want to scream, I want to cry
Because I'm scared to fall in love
And I don't Know why

Deep down inside
I want you to be
My one and only
But I'm scared to fall in love
Because I don't want to be lonely

Deep down inside
There's so much pain
It hurts being apart
How much longer
Do I have to wait
For you to come fix
Every piece of my heart

Deep down inside
I know Love is real
But I can't wait for you
To come in my Life
So I can experience
How true love feels

EVEN MORE FROM THE MAIL

OXXOX Letters and Love

Querida familia de Hearts on a Wire,

Me da mucho gusto leer la relación que mi gente hermosa LGBT mantiene por medio de esta publicación. Me alienta para seguir luchando.

“Transgénero” es lo mas cercano a mi experiencia que describe lo que soy. Pero siento que el termino "mujer transgénero" describe a personas que han asimilado casi totalmente un genero binario que prevalece en la sociedad. Pero no pasan de ser dos géneros. Yo siento que yo no soy ninguno de esos dos. No soy ni hombre ni mujer. Yo no soy como tu que eres “hombre” ni como tu que eres “mujer.” Yo soy un ser distinto.

Y bueno querida familia HOAW, así es como pienso yo acerca de mi misma. He notado que muchas personas no reflejan sobre temas así, pero es muy probable que yo sea como muchas de mis hermanas.

Prissy Morgan, tienes muchísima razón. Es necesario ser conscientes de nuestra condición actual y ahí donde comenzara la lucha. El cambio que necesitamos haber, que Prissy exhorta, es el cambio del enfoque del ego.

¿Queremos libertad y vivir nuestras vidas libremente sin opresión? ¿Que es lo esencial y básico de la vida? Salud, bienestar social, libertad. Cuando tu seas consciente de todas la trabas puestas en la sociedad para que nuestra vidas sean reducidas a la miseria, entonces tu ego adquirirá la información necesaria para cambiar de enfoque. Y desde este punto en adelante familia HOAW comenzamos a retornar las riendas abandonadas de nuestras vidas. De ahí nos movemos hacia donde se hacen decisiones para decidir por nuestras propios futuros.

Bueno, saludos a todas mis hermanas hermosas y bellas por dentro y por fuera. ¡Saludos a todos! Y también quisiera corresponderme con otra mujer transgénero como yo.

I love you all.

~ Ovis

Ovidio Perez # 319237
Clallam Bay Corrections Center
1830 Eagle Crest Way
Clallam Bay, WA 98326

Dear HOAW

I need to vent about the administration and transgender support. All I get is lip service. I cannot start my hormones until I do some therapy, which I'm OK with, yet they have no trained therapist and still have done nothing for months. My gender-affirming property was approved through medical but security has done nothing for months. our laundry does not offer [appropriate underwear] I know with certainty that other PA facilities do not have these sorts of delays. I would love to compare notes.

~ Linda

Steven Hayes MQ5447 | SCI Green

Hi People

To my people in Muncy with me everyone stay strong.

I need all of you to stand up the all the abuse we face in this place. We are all doing time together and that's how we should act .

Help each other!!!

~ Yasmenda ∞

UNTITLED

Breeanne

Once Grey skies.

Cloudy.

Ominous.

Made my days as dark as nights.

And my feelings black as shadows.

I his my face in misery's toil.

Depression was my daily yield.

What has life prepared for me?

A seat at death's table?

Shall I sup with travail endless?

The light of life did flicker when I

Looked upon your face.

As the sun burst forth, bringing radiance

And nourishment for the soul.

You are the curator of my newfound joy!

The heat that melts the icy confines of loneliness.

I welcome you to my world, as dusk welcomes dawn in all it's glory.

You alone know the secrets of my heart,
my most sacred place.

This amazing and perfect man is such a blessing to me! He looks and sees me exactly the way I want to be seen and treats me the way I deserve to be treated. Never in my mind did I see myself falling deeply in love in prison. Here's to the rest of our lives.

So many words that cannot complete a True Friend, so many numbers that cannot complete the times, that a True Friend help us in a time of need, someone who never asked for anything, not even a acknowledgment, but who truly deserves recognition for the outstanding qualities they have, they give encouragement, compliments, motivation, and all that's required for the growth and love for our community, You are it, Mr. Adrian, we love you, though not everyone knows they do. You are forever in my heart, that's where you live, a true friend.

~ Ceci

Dear Hearts,

I would like to thank y'all for allowing us to speak our minds and give shoutouts. Right now I'm in the Hole, but it's all good. Shout out to Sepcial and all the other sisters at Fayette for making sure my Boo Mrs. J. stayed safe. Love you Boo.

~ Slez AKA E. from Pittsburgh

SUBMISSIONS

Rules & Guidelines

You can send us...

- Letters
- Original Artwork (black and white)
- Interviews
- Articles responding to current events, prison policies, and this newsletter
- How-to articles
- Original Poetry
- Ideas
- Contribuciones en español son muy bienvenidos!

NEXT ISSUE: We are looking for articles from you addressing topics related to FAMILY. Here are some questions to get you started thinking about this:

How do you define 'family'? Who is your family? How has being trans and/or LGBTQ changed your role in your family? What do you look forward to most – and least – during the holiday season? What is the story behind your name?

If you contribute make sure you tell us...

1. Exactly how you want to be credited [Anonymous? ID number? Chosen name? Facility?] *****we will only use your government name if you explicitly tell us to do so *****
2. Please respect other people's privacy; only make disclosures about yourself.
3. No shade.

We get lots submissions and cannot possibly print everything we receive. We reserve the right to publish excerpts, as well as to make light edits.

Hearts on a Wire
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Philadelphia, PA 19107



heartsonawire@gmail.com

Subscribe: If you want our newsletters, then ask to be on our mailing list!

Subscriptions are **FREE** for Trans people and allies who are locked up.

POETIC THOUGHTS

Maxine Davis-Purvis

We tend to fight our fellow sister and brother,
Instead of organizing and fighting for rights that's been taken
Like the fact that they can copy our original mail
But yet we argue amongst each other and quick amongst ourselves we nail
and we get now photocopies of our pictures of the ones we love
while originals are destroyed
yet we fight without boxing gloves claiming to be so united
It's so sad 'cause with many of use we are divided
And those who are so kind to visit us now
during these times have nothing to eat or snack
But instead we laugh, joke and stab each other right in the back
With every chance
As our privileges are snatched without a second glance
When are we truly going to be united
And put out the raging fire amongst ourselves that has ignited?

TELL ME WHY YOU'RE MAD

Prissy Morgan

You're mad because I won't subscribe to who you feel I should be.
You don't have to 'cause I accept me
Mad at the tone of my talk.
The sassiness of my walk.
The occasional way I hold my hand.
The confidence in my stand.
Of the fact I don't bow down to your command.
Mad cause Prissy won't fit your mold
Don't have cause I'm a story untold
Paving my own way, I'm not following the yellow brick road
I care less about your criticism I'm mentally rich
Man or woman I'm that "King Bitch"
Strong representing the LGBTQ
a set of people who stood through all odds.
Not to mention you mad that my face beat for the Gods.
Mad I won't walk in yours, child
I got my own shadow to cast.
I'm not typical coach I'm first class
OR the fact I'm strong with or without a man at my side.
I'm already solidified.
Have the audacity wanting the LGBTQ to stay in our place.
Mad because we rising and it stings like mace.
All your hating is very sad,
But one thing's for sure I know why you're mad.

Dedicated to those who hate us for being who we are

Donations accepted
Make checks out to Heart on a Wire, or email us for info on donating through our fiscal sponsor.

Back issues of the newsletter are available to download at **heartsonawire.org**