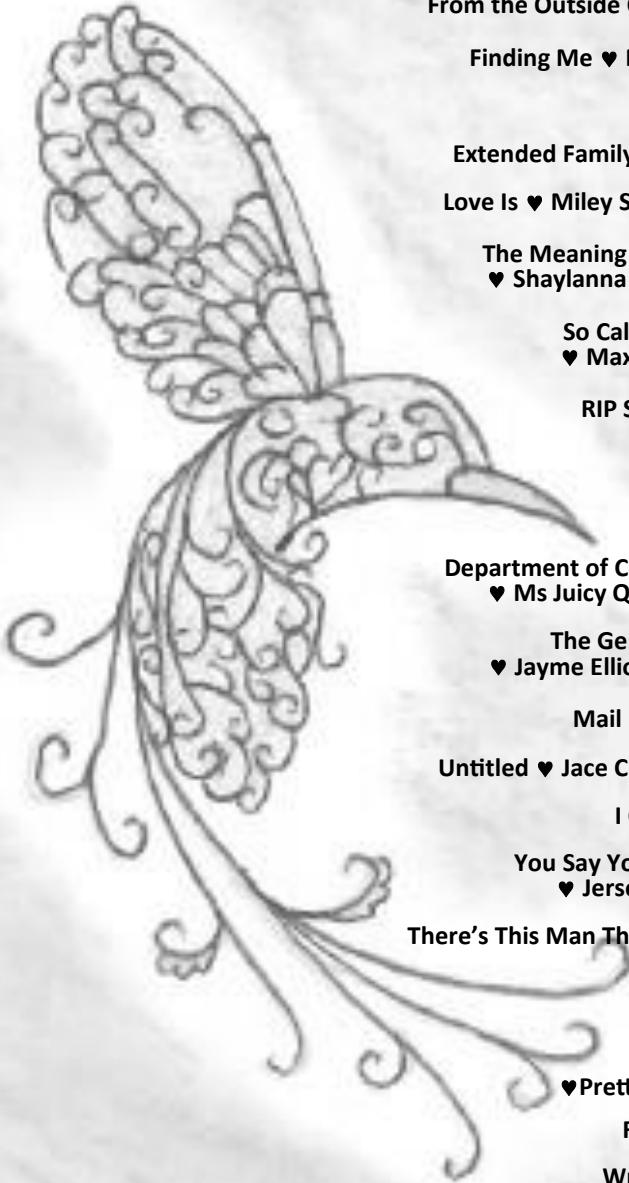


# Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 26 — Summer/Fall 2019



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

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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## LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

Dear Beloveds:

We have gone back to our previous (and preferred) zine format. The PA DOC reversed the policy on publications to prisons (after being threatened with First Amendment lawsuits). We are trying to get the newsletter into PA prisons using the new procedure for publications rather than the (dehumanizing, heartbreaking) system for letters. PA folks we look forward to hearing from you if this is successful!

On the outside we continue to struggle with critically low attendance in meetings. The work of reading, transcribing, and responding to dozens of letters every week, as well as maintaining and updating our database and editing and laying out the newsletter has fallen to just a handful of volunteers. Please be patient with us!

In loving solidarity,

~ The Outside Collective

### FINDING ME

Mercedes | SCI Coal

Lost in this chaotic world we live in,  
Not sure of who I am or who I'm meant to be,  
Hearing everyone say what  
and who I should be  
Only confuses me more.  
I'm scared & alone,  
yet no one seems to understand.  
The secret that beat  
in the heart of a body of a man.  
If only I knew too.  
The keys are missing and need to be found  
To unlock what I can only describe  
as finding me.

# FAMILY

In our last issue we asked you for articles addressing topics related to family.  
Thank you for all your thoughtful submissions!

## from Jasmine

I define family as people you are close to. It can be blood related or individuals outside of your community. Family is a bond. Security, love, sadness, pain, happiness, but it means a lot more going through all those emotions, trials and tribulations together. My family are my two little girls, the LBGQTQ community, my grandparents, and my husband. Some in my family were shocked, disappointed in my decision to transition from male to female. My family support it, but I still sense some tension. My kids love it. My role as a parent has changed for the better. I will be showing my kids that my journey through this transition is living proof that they can be whatever they want in life.

## from Anonymous

I lost contact with my daughter over being who I am. One day without me knowing her and my sweetheart was exchanging emails and my daughter found out my sweetheart was transgender. She won't answer the phone, no emails, So what is family who can't accept? Funny thing is I lost my sweetheart & my daughter but I'm glad those emails was exchanged because I found out who is my family.

## EXTENDED FAMILY

Niara

extended family i call youse lgbtq  
extended family is my husband to  
cherish love and be there  
even when felt due to distance i  
am not there  
extended family is how i show love  
and care  
when time get rough i am always  
here just grab a pen  
i will be your rock to bring stability  
and show you i love you  
even as years pass i will be here so  
never lose touch

## from Thomas Neeley

Most of mine has given up on me and I don't hear from them. The most important person in my life is my penpal. She is my family. When it comes to family I definitely live this quote now, "Blood makes you related, loyalty makes you family."

Continued on Next Page...

## FAMILY, CONTINUED

### from Octévien

Family is a strong and key word to our lives. Family is what makes us who we are. They help shape and mold us to be better. With the right family, that's what makes us who we are. It's not exactly easy to make up that true "Family Picture." My blood family is not exactly supportive of the LGBTQ style. I love them still as I always will, however in my case my true family is my friends. I keep my friend circle small, but family to me is the ones who support you and love you but always tell you the truth no matter how bad that truth will hurt. When you find that kind of fam... Keep it, because people that have loyalty and trust are hard to find now-a-days. Like any family you will have ups and downs, but anything can be worked and sorted out. Everyone has fam no matter how big or small it might be.

### LOVE IS

Miley S. Fletcher

Love is forgetting and forgiving  
Love is a delight the reason for living  
Love can exist in a smile or a sigh.  
Love is simple - you and I.

*I love you Skittle Kid*

### from Viktoria

I have two families, the one I was born into and the close-knit, loyal, loving, supportive group that over a dozen of us formed in school and have carried with us, unquestionable since. I don't toss words like "spouse" "family" "sister" around. It has to have deep meaning. Family is for life, forever. You can't un-family a person or group. You earn it for life. My best friend in here is the only person I call sister. I trust her

with my life and keep no secrets. She's pretty awesome for a Marine (go Navy).

Holidays: I look forward to the Holiday Commissary items, but Chanukah is a bit boring in prison.

### from Shaylanna B. Luvme AKA Queen DIVA Supreme

Being trans has shut me out of my biological family but my adopted family has stood by my side through good, bad, beauty, & ugliness. My family is my friends & my LGBTQIA community. Family does not walk behind you or in front of you but by your side with their heads held high with Pride. The main thing I look forward to during the holiday season is remembrance of those who I hold dear.

## FAMILY, CONTINUED

### from Jayme

I define “family” as the people here where I am. Here my family is the people in the LGBTQ community which is very small with 5 of us who are transgender. My family here is wonderful because I am not alone.

What I look forward to most about the holidays is that I get to spend it with members of the family here & with my man & the least is that I wish that I was on the street but that will be a long time.

My family on the outside have nothing to do with me since I came out as transgender.

### from Contessa

I would like to start by saying Trans Power! My transgender community is my only family, along with the larger LGBTQ community. We as a family need to start showing and giving our transgender sisters love, unity, and support. Being a transgender woman has made me very strong. I look forward to trans women uplifting each other and not throwing shade.

### from Juicy Queen Bee Scott:

A family is people that you care about and cherish with all your heart and soul. When I think about family I think about my mother who took care of me, birthed me while busting her behind at multiple jobs. Now when you have friends that you call family it means they going to ride with you and have your back. My family accepts and loves me, calls me what I want to be called.

### THE MEANING OF FAMILY

Shaylanna B. Luvme AKA  
Queen DIVA Supreme

- Friends are sometimes better family member than the people we share blood with.
- Anybody can be your family if their loyalty permits it and they're 100% true and real.
- My family members don't share the same blood as me and that's because their backs were never turned on me.
- Individuals all have a different meaning and understanding of the word "Family."
- Loyalty to me is the main ingredient when it comes to family.
- Your family is the people you know you can turn to with no judgment in their soul

Continued on Next Page...

## FAMILY, CONTINUED

### from Patrick Carpenter Jr.

Family to me are those around you that you can trust in, rely upon, dream with; those you will sacrifice for and vice versa. They don't have to be blood related. Family to me is those around you who stick around through good and bad times, who are there when you need them, who always has your back. Unfortunately the only family I ever had, my late Grandmother, just recently passed away. I am new to my facility and know maybe 1-2 people. And inmates come and go; when they go they forget about you. It's hard for me to get close to people. My blood family abandoned me years ago when I was little so yeah. I'm working on this family thing.

I'm not really looking forward to this holiday season. My upbringing was very violent. I've waited a long time to actually celebrate, with a family I've created, to have magickal holiday spirit. Until then, my holidays are spent alone and in a state of depression. Lame, I know, but this is the truth.

### from Korrapt

I don't have much Real family, Just my mom. My mom accepts me being trans but the rest disowned me. But I make Family wherever I go. My prison family is what keeps me going.

## SO CALLED BLOOD

Maxine Davis

Some families aren't shit  
And given the a chance, they would be the first in your face to spit  
With their talks of bonding,  
Just to find ways with each other to start conniving  
These so-called blood relatives be the first to turn their back  
As if they never knew you in fact  
Quickly putting you in their judgmental mirror  
Without a thought of taking a look a their personal interior  
Sometimes you get more loyalty from a stranger  
Which is weird 'cause we were taught when we around them we're in danger  
But the strangers earn more trust  
Than a bloodline that's supposed to be a part of us  
So in the end family doesn't mean blood  
Cause counting on these people you may drown in a flood

## FAMILY, CONTINUED

**from Sasha Rodriguez/SCI Albion/NA0940**

Family to me is a bond with someone or a group of people that can never be broken. You can overcome anything and everything and are there no matter what it is. LGBTQ we can make a “gay family” to help us and support us since we are alone to society who looks down. My role as a transgender female with my family both real and gay is accepted. My real family is always doing research to do their best to support me and learn on it. They are also protective over me. My gay family I am actually an influence on LOL. I get called a sister a lot. For holidays I spend time with both. The love from both is unreal.

**Ovis Anabel**

Ser una persona transgénera afortunadamente para mí esta noticia no fue tomada negativamente. Todos mis familiares a los que yo les revelado mi identidad y orientación sexual me dicen que me apoyan. Que sea lo que sea sólo quieren dejarme libre y contenta.

**from Niara AKA Ms. Peaches | SCI Muncy**

family is those of a group who express love & care unconditionally, who shed compassion while consoling, hold you accountable, lift you up. being trans changed my role in my family. i seen unequal things by my transition, i am held to stricter expectations.

## RIP MISS STEPHAINE



Hearts on a Wire is sad to report the death of one of our members, Miss Stephaine Coates.

Miss Stephaine died on August 3, 2019.

Miss Stephaine was a sister, mother, auntie and mentor to many and her absence is deeply felt.

## NAMES

For the Family Issue we asked you how you got  
your names.

We love these stories so much!

**Jayne Elliott Patton:** Most people outside the trans community do not have the opportunity to discover their own name. They are labeled at birth and go through life with the identity that they were given. As a young child my mother told me that if I'd been born a girl she would have named me Jaime. I put a y in my name to be a little different. Elliott is from one of my favorite television shows, Scrubs, Dr. Elliott Reed. She was strong, independent, smart and sexy. Patton was my grandfather's last name.

**Contessa:** The story behind my name is trust no outsider and know what you are worth. **Ovis Anabel:** Una amistad platónica cuando tenía 17 años fue la primera que uso el nombre Ovis para referirse a mi y ... muchos años después, cuando retomara y proclamara mi propia identidad de género, recordaría que este nombre transmitía desde aquellos días un matiz de feminidad a mi ser interno. Ovis tiene un lugar especial, pero Anabel lo complementa. Es como si yo yo tuviera una resonancia única y las sílabas que componen el nombre Anabel tuvieran la misma frecuencia que mi resonancia interna personal. No es algo físico sino algo solo se registra como si fuera, con el alma.

**Raven Iris-Luna:** I chose the name Raven for 2 reasons (1) I like the bird and (2) because one of my best friends who committed suicide was named Raven so it is in memory of him. And the reason I chose Iris and Luna as my middle names is because Iris is the Greek and Roman Goddess of the Rainbow and Luna is another name for the moon. **Jasmine:** When I think of Jasmine, I think of beauty, passion, a motivator, trend-setter, in all that she does in life. A warm caring individual to all, but also a bitch if you push her. Jasmine has been through hell, tornados and storms, but in the end she makes it through.

**Viktoria:** My mother would have named me Victoria or Elizabeth. Since my cat was named Elizabeth I went with Viktoria. I have a Hebrew name too. **Juicy Queen Bee:** Juicy stands for what I am Joyful, Unique, Intelligent, Compassionate and Youthful. Queen means Quality United Educated Entertaining Naughty. And I sting Like a bee.

**Sasha Nicole Rodriguez:** Sasha was given to me because it has a fierce but classy bite to it. It has confidence. A lot of people say like Beyoncé's Sasha Fierce or Sasha Banks; I honestly got it because of both. The Nicole came to me because I love Nicole Scherzinger – her fashion from Pussycat Doll days – I idolize a woman who can wear anything and make it work, and stand for something at the same time. Rodriguez is from my biological father who left my mom after a one night stand. I honor him because he made me and I'm here today cuz of him. Plus it fits. **Niara:** my name is nigerian money.

**Breeanne Jiselle Graham:** when I first went to county jail, some dude who wanted my attention yelled Sabrina and it stuck. When I went upstate I went by Bree for short, a cute nickname for Sabrina. The more I pondered it the more I didn't like it. I liked the Bree part, so I came up with Breeanne. My middle name is Jiselle, like Beyoncé's middle name but with a J to remind me of Joey – my childhood nickname. Graham is my grandmother's maiden name, as well as my favorite model Ashley Graham. I can't wait to get my name legally changed. **Queen**

**DIVA Supreme:** Queen is eminent in power of her society & within the LGBTQIA prison society I've nurtured individuals as a mother, sister, friend and confidante. DIVA stands for Discrimination Is Very Annoying & the Supreme is because I AM the high authority.



# DEPARTMENT OF CORRUPTION

Ms. Juicy Queen Bee

Greetings to all who are or currently in prison or have been in prison or fighting for justice. As a transgender person I have seen a lot of coming and going in prison that is cruel and unusual punishment. I seen discrimination against different groups of individuals. Homosexuals are disrespected and harassed day to day by staff. I seen individuals say they were suicidal and be ignored by staff so they hung it up and killed themselves. I seen staff spray different groups for no reason at all.

I believe that no matter what your sexuality or race you shouldn't be abused for it. I been through a lot, seen a lot, and it breaks my heart to see people just sitting back taking it 'cause the DOC got them scared. I encourage all my people out there to fight for your rights, know your rights, go to the law library, seek help, and get help.

The DOC will try to break you if you allow them. They would throw every trick in the book at you, like if you file a grievance they will file false misconducts to discourage you from going forward with your complaint. They will steal money, falsify documents, get inmates to lie and snitch for them, you name it. Like this so-called drug problem, if staff really got sick through the mail why didn't the postal workers get sick? That was a trick to check incoming mail.

You must not be afraid of these corrupt people that will do whatever to stop you from exposing the truth. Never give up fighting. You have rights!

## THE GENDER DIVE

Jayne Elliott Patton

The transcendental tidal wave  
Of self-deprecating solution  
Spilling over the mound  
Of your spirit identity  
Giving forth the unmistakable pain  
Of a love buried deep  
Beneath the dark abyss  
Of un-understanding  
  
As you dive forth into the sea  
And conjure up the light  
To shine forth upon the wreckage  
Of your inner psyche  
Begging to be brought beyond  
This terrifying torrent  
Of loathing meant to crush  
All the love in the world  
Before it can reach your precious heart  
You rip the treasure from depths  
And pull it to the surface  
Where you bask upon the sands  
Of the shores of self-satisfying discovery  
Within the seas of your self  
Your hermaphroditic soul  
shines forth as a beacon  
with perfect unity  
and a beauty blossoming brightly  
casts peace and harmony for all to see  
the blissful touch of self-acceptance  
and loving who you are

## EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

### Letters and Love XXXXO

To HOAW,

I would like to give a shout out to all my LGBTQI family, but most of all I want to give a shout out to my Husband and the Love of my life, Christopher M. I love you baby with all my heart and soul. You helped me out of a bad situation and became my knight in shining armor.

Xoxoxo I love you.

~ Raven Iris-Luna Moyer  
SCI Benner Township

Dear HOAW

BR what up playboy? Nasty yo SD you funny as Hell playboy LOL you my dog yo. The Houtzdale community is sad. We don't have any queens in this jail that will fight the DOC. We need sisters like Queen Bee Dominique Mariya Miss Jossy Ms. BW Cheetah Miss Outlaw that don't take any BS. I hope I meet y'all someday.

Love you all,

~ "R" | SCI Houtzdale

Hearts on a Wire,

Thank you for all the love and support on pride month! I'd like to give my love and support back to all my LGBTQ Brothers and Sisters. I'd like to give a shout out to the love of my life Allen S. We been through 7 years of struggle but at the end of the day we stayed strong! Zion what's up, SJ much love little sis don't let 2-Tone tell you what to do! Duke? I'm not sure I remember you... Give me some insight on how we know each other! Much love to Juicy, Maxine, Peaches, Ceci, Alicia, Bre, and all the other Queens I've met. I love all my Brothers and Sisters. Stay Strong, and Be Supportive! Love,

~ Mariah Lee Smith @ Forest

Dear HOAW,

Hello family, this is the one and only Queen of Coal, Mercedes. I just read the Pride Issue and I fell in love. One of the questions asked was "What does family mean to you?" Well, this is family right here. We are all family. Family is not about blood, it's about love and support for each other. The bond over anything. The community I've met here at SCI Coal Township are more my family than my biological. We fight, we laugh, and we love. My time is running short here due to my maxing out and I'm going to miss every last one of my lovelies. Shout outs: My big brothers Rico, Drew, Shadow. My sisters Dee Dee, Peaches, KeKe, Aaron, Heather, J. Lo. My sons Mars, Bradley, Beondrea, Rob, Indy. To my husband RYU I love you baby and can't wait 'til you come home.

~ Queen Mercedes | SCI Coal Township

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

First I would like to say thanks to HOAW for their unwavering commitment in advocacy and building bridges for us, for amplifying our voices, talents, and concerns, especially those who work to make the newsletter possible.

To my royal Queens & Kings, remember who you are – misunderstood, lied on and mistreated but “we are stronger than they think we are” especially when we stand united. The question is are we standing together? Are we exemplifying what being connected looks like? Brothers & Sisters a house divided will not stand. We can never expect them to respect us if we first don’t respect ourselves. It should be unthinkable to assist our oppressors.

I want to apologize to anyone I’ve ever offended during my stay, from my heart.

Shout out to all of you my list is quite lengthy but you know who you are. To my BFF Ms. New New, girl, we clicked like coffee & creamer. I love you, I’ll be waiting for you, girl you’re the best chick I know.

To the love of my life Dink, I adore you. We turned days, months into years laughing at haters and naysayers, proved that “out of sight out of mind” is a quote for the weak because we stood tall. I’ll be saying I do, but for the time being I’m going home to prepare our Empire!

Farewell my family. Rise up, be heard, we are here! Tiddy-o-darlings.

~ Mademoiselle Prissy Morgan

I am scheduled to max out November 2019. Unfortunately the DOC has denied me Gender Reassignment Surgery claiming that it was not medically necessary. However I was approved for female pat and strip searches. To all my brothers and sisters out there despite what you may go through in life never give up and keep standing up for what you believe in and never let anyone steal your pride and joy. Remember we are all strong, unique, and beautiful inside and out.

I would like to give a shout out to Mike Mike, Stiz, Trill, Blue, Lil Chris, Zain, Nyia, Mamas, Tyra, and Heather at SCI Benner. To Royal, Cash, Drake, Mino, Ace, Chris, Rosie, Pretty and Jada at SCI Retreat.

To my fiancé T.A. I want you to know that I am truly sorry and still love you. That will never change. Real love doesn’t just go away because you don’t see eye to eye. This amazing and perfect man is such a blessing to me! He sees me the way I want to be seen and treats me the way I deserve to be treated. Never in my mind did I ever see myself falling deeply in love in prison.

And to HOAW thank you for all the hard work. Love you guys.

Sincerely,

~ Christina Keiter | SCI Retreat

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

### Letters and Love XXXXO

Dear Divas and trades

Hey how is everyone? I'm chilling with my boo M. reading Issue #25 and it's so much love. I'm glad as a community we can unite and be strong for each other on a high level. I wanna say toodles to all my divas at SCI Forest. And I want to shout out my girls Juicy, Nyla, Chi-Chi, Diamond from PGH, Kayla, Coco, Keisha (RIP), my baby girl Sydney, Nir, Kay-Kay. And I wanna give a shout out to all the trans men out there. I love all of ya and I'm hoping everyone has a great day from ya Japanese African girl.

~ Maya Toyomi | SCI Forest

Dear HOAW:

A shout out to my fam! To the one who matters most in my world, my love Spade! We have a long happy life ahead of us, you can count on it. My Bro Chop you are never afraid of speaking up and telling me the truth. Maya you are my loving and feisty sis, you're amazing. Jessie – Keep that chin up bro things always get better. Blue – leave my bangs alone. JD – Rainbow check Haha! JR – Whoops!! And Tara – stay strong girl! Love you Fam!

Always, Octévien @ SCI Benner

Hello Community. I'm in the DTU at Camphill, getting transferred soon. Christina they took your legal work did you get it? I'll always love you. LGBTQ family keep showing love,

~ Duke | Camphill

Hey there:

I sit here in my cell on death row typing this on my 47th birthday. The Ohio prison system changed its policy about hormones for people with gender dysphoria. They are refusing to give me a diagnosis. I have exhausted my administrative remedies and an ACLU attorney has taken interest in my situation. To all my trans sisters and brothers, we must be supportive of each other, because when we stand together we are much stronger. Love and respect to all of you.

~ Taci Vixen      Tim Hoffner #A315-988  
PO Box 5500  
Chillicothe, OH 45601

## UNTITLED

Jace C. Bonham

She. Her.  
They look fitting,  
But they fall on deaf ears.  
Only known truly  
by those I love..  
Put away in a place  
no one dares to come.  
Forgotten nearly by all  
Yet forever hopeful.  
Loved by the most true.  
Nothing else matters.  
My heart is healing  
As my inner self grows.  
No longer scared or ashamed  
By who I really am.

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I just finished reading my first issue (#25). I'm amazed at the love and respect in the writing. I feel blessed to be joining this community. My HRT has been going for 3 months. Arizona DOC permits HRT and commissary items, but not hair removal and SRS.

~ Jayme Elliott Patton

Joshua Redzinak #273314  
PO Box 4000  
Florence AZ 85132

Hello to my Family.

This hell-hole sent my babe to the hole again over lies. A sgt framed him. They shouldn't be allowed to mess up anyone's chance at Parole. Now I'm alone and doing my best to keep it together. Thank God I have Sparkles, I don't know where I'd be if I didn't have her. Aaron you're lucky. Love you Jeffrey. We'll get through it.

~ Jess

Hello Fam. I'm currently in seg. in Oregon Fed. Recent events have left me feeling hopeless, like being gay is really wrong in God's eyes. Then I remember that scripture was twisted. I'm tired of the hate. They hate us because they believe God hates us. You can't pray the gay away because that is how God made us. We are strong and cannot be defeated. I love you all.

~ Korrupt DA Guru

To tha HOAW Fam:

I want 2 give a major shoutout 2 HOAW 4 the dedication of let'n tha fam come 2gether n show our love 4 each other. Top major shoutout goes 2 Prissy. You iz a good individual with big dreamz n a good heart that deservez love n respect, it'z hard 2 know who'z real n who'z fake n you open'd my eye'z when you speak 2 tha fam n I highly do respect you 4 that. I don't know n-e-thing about family love but you iz part of my fam az well az tha whole HOAW n I love ya.

~ Pretty Boy Jay  
Jonathan Torres | LQ0162

To All My Family at HOAW know that I think of all of you. To Pretty Boy Jay I send so much love, keep your head up I know you got fam on AA unit there as well as myself. Shout out to Prince, welcome to our family feel free to @ me. J-Rock know your loved by all your HOAW community. Slez AKA E from the burgh you're in my prayers keep your head up & be strong. BR 2 Star thinking bout you still 2 this day I remember when we first met in yard do I miss those days, know you're in my heart BR 2 Star all the way. Ricko in SCI Coal Twp you're still my loving husband miss you so much to this day & you're always in my heart. Tell mom I love her I miss you both. Keep your head up Baby Love ya,

~ Aaron Love | SCI Somerset

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

### Letters and Love XXXXO

HOAW,

I want to send a shout out to you all from the abysmal labyrinth that is Segregation. I don't know any of you and yet I feel far from alone. I see so many thoughts and feelings I have had (and hidden) within your writings. That brings a sense of healing to the wounds caused by the insults and jeers of those believing me to be a freak. Thank you for all the love and support you show and share so openly. Love and Respect

~ Rachel

Sherman L. Kapp #398919  
PO Box 351  
Waupun, WI 53963-0351

Friends and Family at HOAW:

First I would like to thank all involved in creating the newsletter. It gives me a little more of a connection with people who understand my current situation. Being transgender and being in prison are hard. Being both is a little harder, especially when no one knows or understands. I am in a female prison that doesn't seem to train officers or staff about those of us who are trans. A couple medical staff understand but the majority do not. I put in to begin hormone treatments and so far received positive information. There are still a couple people I've yet to speak to on the outside due to my nerves. I'm afraid I'll lose what little family I've got left. Once I start treatments I will have to fully come out to them. I have a truly wonderful support system here as well as a chosen family group who all support me and wish me the best, using male pronouns and my preferred name. For someone who didn't have the best upbringing, having all of this is happily overwhelming at times. It gives a feeling of ... acceptance

~ Jace C. Bonham

Dear Hearts Fam:

What is good? I'll tell you it's Issue #24 & 25!! My Brothers & Sisters and the Rawness & vulnerability you feel. The Realness and the Fellowship you see happening right on these pages. Realness is more than just a word to me or just a phrase. No, it's a culmination of things. It's power, identity, encouragement for self and others, positive, enlightening compassion, Love, Family. It can make friends and also just as quickly make enemies. I'd really like to know what realness means to you all and how it has helped you. I want to shout out Indy. This shorty is definitely maintaining on this end & would love to get to know the man behind the mind. I hope all is well on your end.

Keep shining, shine bright y'all

~ DeDe of Forest

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire family:

Just got Issue #25 today. This is the last one I'll get while in prison. I max out on June 20th. I love you all, my family! Been getting HOAW for the last year & love all the letters, poems, articles & art you share. To Violet Swann: Your poem ABOVE is as beautiful as it is Brilliant. I love it so much! Keep writing.

To the HOAW Outside Collective: Thank you! You give so much to all LGBTQ inmates & our community. I plan to be in touch soon. I want to give of myself to help the cause.

Hey all my girls & guys and Somerset. By the time you read this I'll be gone, so know I miss you all. Aaron Love you are my sis for life. Stay sweet. Fresh, love ya like a lil' brother. Mike, keep you nut a\*\* out of the hole! See you soon. Shout outs to Hoag, Snake, Tilt, Cree, Chan, Jaina, Bed & Breakfast, S & Gigi. Much love to you all. To my Cuddle Bunny: I love & miss you.

Stay Proud & Strong

~ Mike  
(formerly) SCI Somerset

Hearts on a Wire

I want to give a shout out to all my LGBTQ family, I love you all. Prissy Morgan I truly feel you on the poem you spit tell me why you're mad, you go with your bad ass. Can't none of the haters tell us why they're mad about how we chose live our lives. I'm in a wack-ass prison around a lot of haters & our family don't stick together. But I do me & be real with myself, no shade towards anyone else. So much love to Juicy Queen Bee, Blue Diamond, Violet Swann, Dawn, & Bree. Shout outs to JC, Karen, Jersey Savage & all the rest. Stay strong.

Peace and Respect

~ Rallo

Hello Hearts on a Wire, I wanted to let you know how much you mean to me and say hi to all my family out there and that I love all of you & I'm always here for you. I'm still here for you Gypsy if you need anything. I love reading the newsletter. I'm in the Hole and you all know how that goes...

With love, respect & gratitude,

~ Thomas Neeley #0569738  
Harnett CI | PO Box 1569  
Lillington, NC 27546

Dear Hearts on a Wire

Genuine love to everyone. Remember to keep a smile on your face, don't let the negative get to you. Shout out to my people who watch the TV show Pose. Shout out to all the LGBTQ.

Peace & Love

~ Jersey Savage

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

Hearts on a Wire family:

I want to thank everybody that had so much nice things to say to me. It's nice to know I'm not the only lost soul out there. I am finding myself every day and keeping good people around me that are not fake. I love hard and the people that I trust I will always love. And I will give my life for my Daddy at any time. I'm looking forward to our 4 year anniversary. For the ones that crossed me I have to be better for myself and I forgive you with all my heart. Since I've been down I came to have respect for these people: BR, Dre, my Daddy, SJ, Mariah, Dink, and I may not know you but I like what you have to say Jigga, Nick, Priss, and Daniel Carpenter. Light, Best friend Kourtney good luck with your one year anniversary with your husband AW. I'm happy for you. Last but not least Ms. Charlie. I love you all.

~ Bre <3

Dear HOAW family –

Ovis, thank you for your kind soul. You are a beautiful woman and I hope we become great friends. Christina Keiter, congrats! I wish you a speedy recovery and much love and happiness. I will send prayers of healing to you. Drew: I feel you on the shattered heart. I love completely and with my all... But we are not broken. We don't need to be fixed, just handled with care and lovingly mended. Zoey what you wrote was powerful and touched my heart. It took such courage, strength and maturity to not only acknowledge your wrongs and apologize. I admire what you did, and I hope he can recognize the growth you showed.

Thanks for being here for us HOAW. Please y'all, be safe, be smart, and at some point in time today, smile.

With love and light, Blessed Be.

~ Patrick A. Carpenter Jr.

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

How's everyone doing? I hope and pray all is well. We come from different places have different faces but go through the same problems so I guess we're related, because we relate some way or another. It's always somebody trying to bring you down. Like when I first met my Queen she changed my entire perspective on life and the way I was living. Kisses to my queen and two fingers to my haters. LGBTQ they know the rainbow is so cute and the people is so beautiful.

Love Peace Respect

~ BR2Star

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I legally changed my name but the DOC refuses to accept and respect my name change. I am struggling to get hormones and gender appropriate commissary.

In love and solidarity,

~ Anonymous



## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Dear Hearts on a Wire Family. Hi it's Jaina sending love affection kindness etc. I have been truly depressed lately. I hate the way I was born. I feel boxed in and trapped by my body. I am torn between waiting for the fucking doc to give me my surgeries and ending my life. I just wanted to get that off my breast. I honestly love you all and I can't thank you enough for everything you have done for your sis. You all are my one true family.

~ Jaina

Dear HOAW

Hello family. The Summer 2019 newsletter inspired me a lot. I know things can be hard especially in this type of environment. There's only one thing to do that's Stick Together and Be Strong. I'm with a man who I truly love. I want to give a shout out to the family and especially my best friend who has stood by my side and been there when I needed a shoulder.

~ Kasper

Hello to all: I recently came out as bisexual; a big step. I was aryan brotherhood and I dropped my set. Christina I have a lot of love for you and I would do it again any day, please write. Stay fly.

~ Remy

Ryan Miller | MC0268 | SCI Fayette

## I CRY

Bre

Where did we go wrong.  
The love we shared was deep.  
But now your words hurt so bad.  
I cry.

I gave you my heart  
I gave you my soul  
But now I can't see clear  
I cry.

My life is not the same  
I don't know who I am no more  
I put you before me.  
I cry.

I can never trust you again.  
Your words cut so deep  
Now my heart aches with pain  
I cry

This is true and I cry.

Hello Family,

I've been thinking about the victims of shootings. If you have any depressing feelings please reach out for some help, talk to someone, don't hold feelings in. We're all in this together.

~ Zoey Carrasquillo | SCI Fayette

Dear HOAW and Family,

I'd like to say to Breanne & Violet Swann, I loved y'all poems in the Summer issue. They really spoke to me. Y'all have some real talent, keep up the writing. To all the beautiful ladies out there, keep your heads held high, have pride in who you are & never give up the.

Take care, God bless.

~ Heather Olivia Turner

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

Dear HOAW

We are a minority group to society and in prison it's worse for us with inmates and staff. It's really sad that there is so much hate to one another instead of love and support. There is a lot of shade and competing to be better than the next for no reason. It's also sad how people use stuff meant to protect us like PREA, courts, etc. as a weapon. All that competing shows insecurity. Truthfully if you that bad bitch, you're confident. Let people hate and don't engage. I used to live like that and have changed so much, and I'm continuously changing. It's time for a change and we have to do it together. Society will see that, and prisons will see that we stand together and change together. I say all this and hope to see it.

With love to all of you,  
~ Sasha Rodriguez

To my Baby Ms. Prissy who I love, cherish, and can't wait to marry. You are truly a blessing. I love you.

~ Dink

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to write about a situation I see around me. Why do we oppress each other? We are already hated by so many. The people who look at us from the outside will never respect us as a community. Please let's stop worrying about the wrong things, blaming each other for the issues we have.

I love all of you. Now matter what happens or how bad the situation, we are all loved

~ Cork | SCI Green

To all my HOAW brothers and sisters

When it comes to your individual identity you deserve to be you and you have the right to feel comfortable and safe being your true self. I'm fully aware it's easier said than done. I believe in you because I believe in me. Shout out to Twin, Frenchy I miss you, see y'all soon. To the LGBT community at Greene let's figure this out together. To Redz and Dot I miss you a lot.

~ J-Rock | SCI Greene

I want to give a shout out to all my Queens and Kings in PA. I'm born and raised in Jersey, down here stuck in Georgia's prison system. I want to say to all, keep your head up, let the haters talk cause we are all doing things they wish they could. And please let's stick together behind the wall, Cause the odds are against us. Much love, holla at your girl.

~ Jasmine B.

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

Letters and Love XOXOX

Dear Friends:

I would like to say one thing to the guys and gals of our community. Don't live in the past or the future will pass you over. Since coming to prison I have lost all family and community ties. It is hard sometimes knowing you are pretty much alone, but each issue of HOAW uplifts my spirit and reminds me that there are people who actually care. Take care and many blessings to each of you.

Peace & Love

~ Cricket

Charles Killingsworth #1946656

Bill Clements Unit

9601 Spur 591

Amarillo, TX 79107

Dear HOAW & LGBT Family,

I want to thank all of you for your love & support over the past few years. My time has come to start to live my life beyond these fences. I'm going to build a new life and to it right this time. I want to send my love to Moon, you were my rock when I needed to be grounded and your love kept me going. Your time to leave will be here soon enough; you are my other half, my all. I want to say thanks to JD, Angel, Alex, Chris, Blue Magic, Travis, Jesse #1, Jesse #2, Gumby, Miller, Abu, Spade, CoCo, Lomax, T, Jazz & Maxine. You all have been apart of my life while I've been here. You've taught me something about myself and I want to thank all of you for that, RIP Derrick.

~ T. Reese | SCI Bennington

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

This is my first time writing. Indy put me on to the family. What's good Indy? Stay strong keep fighting. Maxine much love to you. Prince i don't know you but i feel like i do. Wood i love you bro. i was a DL guy for a long time not anymore i love myself as a bisexual man. we as LGBTQ are not accepted today, but we are on the way because there is strength in numbers, and we deep as shit. Love to all that is part of the movement, Stay strong family,

Love always,

~ Ski

PS. RIP Kia

### TO SAY YOU IN LOVE Jersey Savage

To say you in love  
But don't know what it mean  
Now you're lost  
So confused  
Giving away your body  
Which is cruel  
What's next after sex  
With no love  
To say you in love  
But don't know what it mean  
It's not love

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Dear Family @ HOW:

To respond to the wonderful friends that sent me a shoutout – thank you so much! Your words of encouragement remind me that I am not alone. Karen – I hope all is well in New York! I want to travel to NY and see all the major places and landmarks. It's so boring here. I am beyond tired of looking at corn & soybeans. Indy – thanks for reppin' Indiana with me – What are you doing all the way in PA? I got your back too. HRT is a massive emotional bitch for those of us going through it. Half the time I feel like I am about to fall apart. Joel – all the words in the dictionary could not even begin to describe the way I feel about you. You seen something in me that I couldn't see for myself. I wake up smiling and happy because of you.

As always, we should love, encourage and support one another. There's already enough shittiness in the world – we shouldn't add to it.

I love all you bitches.

~ Your Girl Bree ♥

Hearts on a Wire,

Reading the letters in issue #25, I see that things are a bit better where I'm at. We have a trans support group. A reading/writing workshop with a prof of gender studies and trans guest speakers. Pride day once a year. We have supportive staff members as well (from Re-entry and medical). Of course we have closed-minded staff, and ones that try to be funny and rude, but we have plenty of staff who follow the rules about gender (treatment and commissary) whether they agree with them or not.

~ Viktoria in Petersburg

Dear HOAW Family

Hi family. I've noticed that two special sisters Maxine Davis-Purvis and Prissy Morgan talk about the biggest problems with our community; we fight with each other when we should be united. I'm gay and very proud of it. I want to be in a happy family. I'm lucky I have a blood sister. She's been with me my whole time I've been locked down. Sharing, caring, loving and listening. Telling me her thoughts regardless of whether I want to hear it. I want us to be like my sister and I. I don't know all of you, but I love you and want to keep you and all of us safe. Family is not to judge, we are to support one another.

~ Shaggy

Terry L. Shay | DW5134 | Smithfield

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

Hello LGBTQ Family

First I want 2 say that I hope all is well with everybody inside and out and that I hope that everybody is staying strong and keeping y'all head up and standing on what y'all believe in. I want to give a special shout 2 all my brothers from another mother at SCI Benner. Jess, Moon, Spade, Chop, Nice, 6, Abu, Nilz. Christina Keiter, Ariana Freeland, Miley S. Fletcher I hope y'all being the intelligent women that I know y'all can be and staying focused on going home.

Love always,

~ Blue Magic @SCI Benner

I would like to say hello to all my trans sisters and brothers who will get to know me. I would like to say hello again to Indy. Thank you for the law book it helped a lot. To Daniel Carpenter I feel your pain. Bre I care about you and I'm praying for you too. And thanks to the ladies through Transcentral PA.

I met a really nice guy who I've fallen in love with. We've been dating for around 6 months now and we're getting married this year.

Love you,

~ Miss Outlaw

I want to give a shout out to all my MP sisters. I love y'all, and stay 1000.

Love,

~ Contessa

## THERE'S THIS MAN THAT I KNOW... Bree

Let me tell you about this man I know.  
When he stares at you it's fucking delectable.  
But don't be fooled, those eyes aren't for you.  
See they belong to this special lady –  
his thugstress, his boo.  
She is his queen and he is her King.  
That one fateful day he gave her a ring.  
Oh shit, scratch that, you can't just say "bling."

It has many names:

Commitment, honor, and suffering.

What's that you say?

"Who wants to live that way?"

Well damn – do you expect joy without pain?

That'd be too easy, not worth fighting for.

Life would be basic – you'd be depressingly bored!

The gift that we share goes deeper than that!

It's the present that keeps on giving back.

Day after day and night after night,

We've gone too far to give up this fight.

Sure we fight, argue, bitch, and complain.

And FUCK NO! This love is HELL to maintain.

Through all of the pain, sweat heartache, and tears;

There's one thing that we no longer fear.

That's this journey on Earth with no one to hold,

No one to share life with – to bend, shape, and mold.

This man that I know told me it was my time.

He had the right qualities – wanted to be "that guy."

The guy who will love me from this moment on

I know with his guidance I'll never go wrong.

We love one another with all of our hearts.

One thing we won't do is split or break apart.

So let me tell you about this man that I know:

His name's Joel, and mine's Breeanne.

And I'm proud to say "Yes! That's my man!"

# MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS FROM THE MAIL

## OXXOX Letters and Love

In loving memory of our Dear Sister Miss Kema: when it rains we look for rainbows thinking of you with love today. But that is nothing new even though some never met you we thought about you yesterday. Your memory will be our keepsake & what you've done for us which we'll never forget. God has you in his keeping & we have you in our Hearts. Sadly missed by Aaron L as well as your LGBTQ family.

~ Aaron Love (7-11-19)

### SOMEONE

Pretty Boy Jay | SCI Greene

Sometimes you meet someone and their aura changes you for all eternity. Sometimes you know that this someone bestowed on you, with all intents and purposes is sent to confuse you, yet is yours forever.

Sometimes you wonder if this someone recognized the magic moment. That quick blink of an eye when an insignificant minute's moment becomes significant. What happens then? Do souls unite or hearts intertwine, melding as one?

Do we someones live, breathe together, draw our strength and life substances from the very thought?

To holding our hearts hostage,  
destined together.

Listen everybody: NEVER COME TO SCI CHESTER.

~ Miley S. Fletcher

XXXOOOXXX

Hola familia y amigas de hearts on a wire. Muchos saludos y estoy súper emocionada de poder leer una vez más un ejemplo de esta publicación. Bueno, pues saludos a todas ya a todos. Fui transferida a otra prision donde pronto si todo sigue igual sere a provada para HRT! Me gustaria conocer y entablar amistad sincera y de porvida con mujeres trans. Los amo a todas.

~ Ovis A.

Ovidio Perez, #319237, H-A 23  
Coyote Ridge CC  
PO Box 769  
Connell, WA 99326

I would like to give a BIG shout out to Rome on A-Block up at Rockview. I love and miss you very much! Stay out of trouble and the nonsense so you can get out to your family. Hopefully we will run into each other down the way in Philly September 2020.

Love Always,

~ Mike Armstead | NV0277 | SCI Phoenix

## RESOURCES

We received frequent requests from inside members of the Hearts on a Wire community regarding books and pen pal resources.

**Books Through Bars** provides small packages of free books to individuals incarcerated in the Mid-Atlantic region: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Maryland, and Virginia. **Book 'Em** sends free educational books and quality reading material to prisoners and prison libraries in Pennsylvania. **Books For Prisoners at UCSD** sends socially conscious reading materials for prisoners nationwide.

Send a letter that includes your name, prisoner ID number, full address, any restrictions on incoming books, and types of books wanted. Make your request by subject rather than specific title or author, and provide several areas of interest if possible. For example, African-American history, basic math, carpentry, how to draw. Please be patient. These programs get many, many requests so it may take a while to receive the books.

**Books Through Bars**  
4722 Baltimore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19143

**Book'Em – Pittsburgh**  
PO Box 71357  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Books For Prisoners at UCSD**  
w/Groundwork Bookstore  
0323 Student Center  
La Jolla, CA 92037

**Black and Pink**

6223 Maple St #4600  
Omaha, NE 68104

**Prisoner Correspondence Project**

QPIRG Concordia  
c/o Concordia University  
1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest  
Montreal QC H3G 1M8  
CANADA

**Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project**

c/o Boneshaker Books  
2002 23rd Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

**Sylvia Rivera Law Project**

147 W. 24th St., 5th floor  
New York, NY 10001

**Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project**

1230 Market St #705  
SF CA 94102

**Black & Pink** and the **Montreal Prisoner Correspondence Project** are two pen pal organizations that match incarcerated members of the LGBT community anywhere in the country. Another nationwide organization that matches incarcerated transgender people to pen pals is the **Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project**. Additionally, there are several state organizations. The **Sylvia Rivera Law Project** supports transgender people incarcerated in New York State, and the **Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project** supports trans and intersex people incarcerated in California.

Hearts on a Wire appears on several resource lists as a pen pal organization. While we are aware how valuable it can be to have contact with people, this has never been a service we have provided, nor is it something we have the capacity to take on. We have worked to correct these wishful-thinking resource lists as we become aware of them, but we continue to get frequent requests for pen pal matching.

# WRITE TO US! SUBMISSIONS

## Rules & Guidelines

### You can send us...

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

### NEXT ISSUE:

We are looking for articles from you addressing topics related to **SELF-CARE**. Here are some questions to get you started thinking about this: How do you feel about the importance of practicing self-care? What routines, rituals, activities and hobbies add pleasure and/or ease to your days? What foods do you love to make for yourself (Please feel free to share recipes)? How do you treat yourself with love in an unloving environment?

heartsonawire@gmail.com

**Hearts on a Wire**  
**1315 Spruce St**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19107**

1. If you contribute make sure you tell us 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.
4. Your original work only. Do not send us work that has previously been published elsewhere.

We get more submissions than we can possibly print. We reserve the right to publish excerpts as well as make light edits.

**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.

Out policy is not to add people who haven't reached out to us directly

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

### Donations accepted

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