

# Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 27 — Winter 2020

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## LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

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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Dear Beloveds:

In issue 26 we went back to our preferred zine format because the PA DOC had reversed its policy on publications to prisons after being threatened with First Amendment lawsuits. We correctly used the new system set up for publications to reach people incarcerated in PA. However most of the newsletters destined for PA prisons never reached the members inside.

When we filed a complaint about this, we were told that the DOC didn't know what happened to the newsletters. We assume they were destroyed by someone working at the Security Processing Center. In response to our complaint we were given a work-around and the reissued Newsletter 26 finally made it in to PA prisons, several months late.

We appreciate everyone who alerted us to the issue and who spread the word in the Hearts community that we had not abandoned you and that we were trying to resolve the issue.

We have had some new outside collective members join in the last few months and as a result our capacity has increased. We are grateful—for both sharing the labor involved in maintaining our ever-expanding mailing list, reading and responding to mail, and for the boost of fresh energy that comes from adding new faces to the mix.

In loving solidarity,

~ The Outside Collective



## SELF-CARE

In our last issue we asked you for articles addressing topics related to self-care.

Thank you for all your thoughtful submissions!

**Contessa:** Being a transgender woman, it's so important to practice self-care. to live in an environment like prison with people who is not like us. it's good to self-educate ourselves by reading books like: the 48 Laws of Power, The Art of War, The Art of Seduction, The 33 Strategies of War... we transgender women are Divine / Strong individuals / we are vindicators / with awareness. I teach this to all my (M.P) sisters... I get pleasure by being around my sisters... I love to make cakes for myself and for my M.P sisters. We have a feast for all girls on Fridays...



I wake-up every morning and I say: “pussy free all my transgender-sister” because one day, all transgender women and LGBTQ people will be free from a homophobic world...

**Jessica Diana Garza:** Self-care is first to care of yourself and others. In caring what goes on in your life you reach a higher level of care, and love follows that. It's good to be loved and to love others. In this we have reached the importance of practicing self-care. Following this is to make a loving ritual out of cleanliness, waking up and cleaning up to go out into the world and express what it means to be LGBTQ. So that others can know by our clean example how lovely and beautiful it is to be a transgender woman.

### **Shaylanna's Candy Bar Red Velvet Fluff-a-Nutter No Bake Cake**

Smash 3 Packs of Mrs. Freshley's Red Velvet Cupcakes (2ct) until it looks like a pie crust. Line the bottom of a bowl and let the air hit it until it is crusty.

In a separate bowl, Stir together 1/2 of a 16 ounce jar of Fluff and 1/2 of a 16 ounce jar of Peanut Butter.

Crush 4-6 Candy Bars of your liking (I like 3 Snickers and 3 Butterfingers). Mix them into the bowl with the smashed cupcakes, Pour a carton of milk in the bowl and stir until milk is completely absorbed. Pour this mixture in with the Fluff and Peanut Butter and spread throughout the entire bowl

Let it sit without a lid for a minimum of 2 hours until it sets.

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## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

### Harley Quinn's Moisturizing Body Scrub

- 1 container Softee Hair Food
- 1 container Softee Coconut Oil
- 1 Bar Dove Soap
- 2 Cocoa Butter Sticks
- 6 Banana Peels
- Optional Pantene Conditioner
- 6 Bars Hershey's Special Dark

Heat hair food and coconut oil until liquified. Scrape Dove Soap and Cocoa Butter Sticks into the mix with the edge of plastic bottle lid or similar scraper. Melt chocolate into the mix. Scrape inside of banana peels into the mix. Allow mixture to cool before using. Makes several batches of rich, moisturizing lather for the skin, to use as a body wash. Optional conditioner will create an even richer compound.

Explanation: Softee hair food is loaded with natural plant extracts that are super good for the hair and skin. The dark chocolate and coconut oil are loaded with antioxidants that are super good for the body, and skin. The inside of banana peels are super healthy stuff, good for the teeth and skin. Tip: the more Pantene conditioner used, the richer the compound will be. Remember--hair is nothing else but dead skin cells, an extension of your skin.

**Ovis:** Yo me cuido a mi misma primero informándome constantemente acerca del cuidado del cuerpo humano y luego agregando actividades a mi rutina diaria de cuidado personal. Me gusta leer libros que hablen de la salud física y mental del ser humano y así aprendo muchas cosas que me ayudaron a mantener una vida saludable.

Tomo mucho placer en cuidar de mi misa, sabiendo que lo hago con una meta en la mente. Mi meta es estar complacida conmigo misma y saber que me cuido a mi misma esto es lo principal para mi. Hacerlo me brinda esa paz mental y ese equilibrio emocional necesario para ejecutar actividades en el resto del día.

Me despierto temprano por la mañana, antes de que se levanten muchos y se llene todo de gente. No pienso mucho en lo que voy a hacer. Es como hacer algo que ya tienes programado en tu cuerpo y no piensas en los detalles que se emplean. Sólo se que me siento contenta porque es otro día que me voy a arreglar para comenzar mi día.

La parte mas tediosa es depilarme las cejas. Pero es la que mas me recompensa también. Mi rostro es al que mas cuidado le doy por las mañanas. No me pongo maquillaje. No tengo. Y no creo que me quiera poner tampoco. Aunque si es posible porque en el estado de Washington, que es donde estoy, comprar maquillaje ya es posible para nosotras que estemos en prisión.

## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

**Hakim:** Self care is taking the responsibility of attending to one's essential needs versus wants. Self care is important because it determines one's survival whether inside or out of prison. The basic survival needs are: Food, Clothing & Shelter. Inside prison one is in a situation where one has to rely on those that are holding one hostage/captive when it comes to providing the basic needs of survival. With this being said the prisoner has to make the proper & correct decisions for "SELF." Such as what are the proper food needed to maintain a healthy diet to avoid high blood pressure and other ailments. Proper hygiene is a very important factor within the prison setting where one will be exposed to MRSA, TB, lice, etc.. The most important prevention is to wash your entire body each day and your hands after you come in contact with objects such as door handles, phones, computers, etc.. Exercising is a great tool that will help build one's immune system.

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The most important factor when it comes to SELF CARE is the maintaining of the innerself. The innerself maintenance is manifested through meditation, reading, education, communicating with loved ones & friends, religions, etc.. Taking care of your innerself is what actually determines your survival. Take the time to get to know yourself. Do the things that will bring you joy and uplift your spirits.

**Shaylanna "Queen DIVA Supreme" Luvme:** In the past I always put other people first. I felt that I could care for myself later. I've come to realize that placing my care before others has allowed me to lessen my stress level.

One of my morning routines is meditation for 20 minutes then yoga poses for 30 minutes before breakfast. After breakfast I set a goal to accomplish something.

I treat myself with love in an unloving environment by surrounding myself with positive people who love themselves. Birds of a feather flock together.

**Casper:** Self care is important. I go to rec almost every day just to soak up the sun and get fresh air. The sun keeps away the depression. It's also my chance to talk to friends and get the T. My other big thing is making cheesecakes. Whenever I feel down I like to eat something sweet.

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## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

### Casper's Orange Cheesecake

- Half bag vanilla wafers (crushed fine)
- 4 4oz bags powdered milk
- 2 cream cheese packets
- 4 orange powdered electrolytes mix
- 1 12 oz orange fanta softdrink
- 1 orange juice
- Crust

In large bowl, combine the crushed vanilla wafers with the orange juice (add a little at a time) until the wafers make an almost dry crust. Smooth the crust across the bottom of the bowl and up the sides about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way. Set aside. (Drink the rest if you want!)

Cheesecake filling: In another large bowl, dump the milks, the electrolyte mix, the cream cheese packets. Slowly add some of the orange fanta (about  $\frac{1}{4}$  can) and begin to whip the mixture until it's a smooth custard/yogurt-like consistency. Add more fanta a tiny bit at a time until you the right consistency is reached. Whip until all lumps are dissolved. Pour into the crust.

Allow cheesecake to sit overnight, covered, then enjoy!

**Lisa Autumn:** I feel self-care is very important and should be practiced everywhere you go. Not only does self-care allow you to be who you are and express it, but it also feels good to care about yourself. It feels good to do the little things that express who you really are, especially in dark places where others don't want people to be different, like in prison. As for myself, I wake up everyday and fix myself in the mirror. I shave my face, including touching up my eyebrows to make them more feminine, and combing my hair just right. That starts my day off showing myself and others that I am proud to be trans. I take time each day to shape and shine my nails too. And, I only surround myself with others in the LGBTQ community and/or others who are about love, peace and acceptance. I don't waste time on haters and ugly-minded people.

William Lewis  
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**Niara:** Self care, is an essential element, as to self care it starts with contentment and self love, and to provide for your welfare and ensure all aspects are attentive, i pamper myself daily, i eat fried rice with chicken breast cheese block sausage pickles onions green peppers kippersteak, wraps with bacon ranch cheese sausage chicken with cheese fries, i tell myself you are worthy of all you need.

**Viktoria:** I try to keep busy, to keep my mind off of being in here (at least till the end of 2024). A lot of self care is mental. Not zoning out, but keeping a healthy mind working on things. I'll get a

## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

few new songs on my MP3 player and walk to clear my mind. Read books about people who have done great things, or about people who are trans, and how they deal with what life throws at them (GiGi Gorgeous' book is a hoot). My friend Lily is a super yoga chick, so each morning I pray, and stretch, and fumble around with some yoga. And I spend at least 30 minutes each day working out. Mostly things I seen in Shape magazine, trying to stay fit and healthy. Sometimes I sunbathe too. And lastly, I nerd out, watch movies/TV shows, play Magic the Gathering or read comic books. What I avoid, which is self care, is getting upset that I don't look like the people in Vanity Fair or Nylon. I avoid the gossip, the people looking to make me a fetish or a quicky.

Food. Well... I make lunch almost every sunday for myself and my friend, and we read tabloids and fashion magazines. At least once a year, I'll make something "Cajun" (Hot summer sausage, chopped jalapenos, green peppers, chopped onions, brown rice, beef cubes, chili powder, soy sauce). We can buy cream cheese squeeze packs, so I get dates and stuff them with cheese.

I made a dessert, I took graham crackers and honey, crushed the crackers, and with the honey made a crust. Whipped vanilla pudding and nutella together, dropped cut banana slices and vanilla wafers into it, topped with crushed butterfinger.

When I make a pizza, I either wait till they sell salsa on commissary or have tacos in the chow hall. I use the tortillas on commissary as a crust, and cover it with the fake butter and garlic powder, sauce, I'll heat up pepperoni (not for mine), summer sausage, and ground beef if I can get it, chopped onion and peppers, and shred two types of cheese (not for mine).

I enjoy cooking for people, each Sunday morning my cell is a kitchen. I find with a little work, you can make magic. I stock up at Passover on items to cook with all year, or to make Thanksgiving dinner with for people in my unit. Bowls, food, trash bags over everything, jugs of water, music up and me making way more food than needed. This week, cheese ravioli, in meat sauce. I lucked out on a "kosher" shelf stable meal they stopped selling years ago.

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## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

### **Miley's Sweet & Salty Snack**

Take 2 honeybuns, 1 whole summer sausage, sharp squeeze cheese.

Put the whole summer sausage on one honey bun, squeeze the sharp squeeze cheese along the length of the sausage. Roll the sausage over and lay down more cheese.

Take a pouch of green olives and cut them in half. Spread them on the sausage. Place the second honey bun on top.

Use string to tie the whole thing in the middle and at each end. It should be wrapped around the sausage like a corndog.

Put it in an empty chip bag and place it on the stinger for half hour to 45 minutes.

Take it out and unwrap the ties, it should hold together because of the melted cheese around it.

Then eat it.

**Jayme Elliott Patton:** It took some effort, but I was able to reach a point of understanding myself through a vested interest in mindfulness and self-care.

*Mindfulness* is an awareness of the things around and within us. A feeling of knowing your place in the world and being at peace with it regardless of our circumstances. To achieve mindfulness, we must learn to care and love ourselves. Not just mentally, but physically as well.

Physical exercise is an important part of self-care. We must keep our bodies strong and healthy.

Next, we must care for our minds. Negative thoughts and emotions can be just as harmful as bullets and knives. We need to find ways to channel those negatives into something positive. For me, I write poetry, stories, letters. Putting those feelings on paper releases them from me. Some people make art, others find a trusted friend with whom to talk. Meditation or prayer to your diety. Playing, composing, or listening to music all can help us.

It is also helpful to ground ourselves in the present moment. Take a deep breath. See, hear, touch, smell, and taste where we are at this moment. Acknowledge it. Accept it. Be in the present and enjoy it.

**Miley:** Self-Care is a way of treating yourself with respect. I wake up, personal hygiene, done. Put my make up on, do my hair, drink a glass of breakfast orange drink. Eat breakfast, go to yard and speed-walk 2 miles. Come into my cell, maybe write a letter or draw or color. Maybe watch a moving or WWE wrestling.



## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

**CR AKA Corey | SCI Forest:** Self-Care is important to me 'cause no one is going to care for you like you care for yourself. You shouldn't practice self-care, you should BE self-care. There's a lot of unsafe things in this world. Like using protection when having sex, that's self-care. Also hygiene is self-care. In this unloving environment I understand I have to walk on my own two feet.

**Sasha Nicole Taylor:** Some of my rituals are yoga/meditation to clear the mind and relax the body. I maintain a healthy diet in prison and on the streets. I limit sweets, workout at times and try to keep myself at a certain weight. I also have a habit of brushing my teeth 6 times a day after I wake up, eat meals, before bed, and as soon as I finish coffee or tea. On the streets I love to take long baths. I try to sleep the hours I should.

Self care also is self conduct. I try to be confident no matter where I am. I do it in my walk, talk and interactions. I treat myself with love in this unfriendly environment by realizing that I been through the storm, overcame alot. At the end I have myself and know the love I can give and show myself cuz I deserve it.

### MORNING COMBO

#### Jail House Wife AKA Twinky Bear

Best part of waking up is -  
Instant Coffee grounds at the bottom of my cup -  
Rolling up some mentholated "Kite" stick -  
Busbar and Welly mix to sniff -  
Like a cocaine QueenPen in the Pen -  
Everybody got they cup, but they ain't pitched in -  
A little "Leagle" pick me up, when this Jail House life gets dim -  
Guess what... Tomorrow I'ma do it again -  
As for me... content with doctor's ampup prescription -  
He want some, can't have none,  
Unless willing to ice my honey buns-  
It would be, way more convenient, in an all in one fill -  
Caffein  
Nicoteen  
Meds and Vasaleen  
It's Real boys and it feels so ill -  
Not new to this  
She true to this  
Now he stuck like glue to this -  
So addictive once they choose this  
Now they homies trying to Cruze this -  
Morning combo meal  
helps me deal with mahandoe (?) -  
Young bull, my suggestion is you take a number and get in line doe  
Morning combo meal is how I chill...

Continued on Next Page...

## SELF CARE, CONTINUED

### **Pryme Star's Jailhouse French Vanilla Strawberry Cheesecake**

#### Crust

- 3 Raw Eggs
- 1/2 Bottle Honey
- 1 Pack Chocolate Chip Cookies
- 1/2 Boc Graham Crackers
- 25 Butter Packs
- 1/2 Jar Peanut Butter
- 1/2 Carton Milk
- 1 oz Brown Sugar
- 4 Dark Chocolate Hershey Bars Shaved down. Put on Top of Crust

#### Filling

- 1 Bag French Vanilla Creamer
- 1 Bag Regular Creamer
- 1 Bag Cappichino
- 1 1/2 Bottle Honey
- 3 Raw eggs
- 1 1/2 carton milk
- 1 oz Brown sugar 2 Tubs (8 oz) Cream Cheese
- 1 1/2 Jar of Strawberry Preserves
- 6 (4oz) Habonaro Cheese Bars Shredded
- 1 Box Swiss Rolls

Once put together cook for approximately 2 1/2 hours then if you can put the sealed cheesecake in either ice, snow or really cold water for about an Hour.

**Dominic:** It's been rough, but exercise has been my saving grace. Mentally I would have given in through these last 7 years, if I hadn't found how to balance out my body & mind.

**Juicy:** In order to Have self-care you must Read, educate yourself, finish school, keep your mind fresh. Watch what you put in your Body Along with what you put out, set Goals and work on the Hardest First. Self-Care means Having Healthy safe Sex or Safe Relationships. I love myself No matter what people say about me cause if I don't How can I love someone else.

**Pryme Star:** Self care is an important aspect in my Life. It deals with everything you do on a daily basis physically, mentally & emotionally. Its more than eating right, working out, and depending on others to help you mentally & emotionally. You can do that yourself by meditating, doing yoga, writing in a Journal all your thoughts. Write poems, songs or whatever it is that makes you feel good writing about. Read, but Read more then Just Novels, things like self help books. Draw pictures or if you're able to paint. Cook which is one of my passions. I Love to make sweets.

Just do whatever makes you feel good and Try to make others feel good at the Same Time. When it comes to Love in Here it's hard to find Genuine or sincere Love from someone whether it's a friendship or a Relationship with a significant other so once you find it cherish it and Hold it sacred. Self care is A sacred Temple so cherish and Love it with your all. STAR POWER!!

# DENIAL - NOT JUST AN INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM

Juicy Queen Bee

Content Warning! You might want to count to ten, take a deep breath, 'cause this article talks about physical and sexual abuse of children.

Did you know that the first child abuse reporting law wasn't written until 1964? Before that time certain behaviors weren't legally labeled "abuse" and weren't against the law. Definitions of child abuse have expanded over the years. "Child abuse" is a term that lots of people use these days.

We now know that all forms of abuse are serious and have serious long term effects on children who survive abuse. If you were abused as a child, some of you may wonder why no one did anything about it. But when you were growing up, child abuse was probably not openly discussed. It isn't that it didn't happen then, it is just that the definitions had not yet been developed clearly. Professionals and the public were largely unaware of abuse, and no one knew exactly how to deal with the problem when it was identified.

Denial isn't a defense used only by abused children. Society at large had a hard time believing that children are abused by parents, family friends, and strangers, and that they needed protection. Your parents, teachers, doctors and others may have had the desire to hide and avoid the truth.



## IF I WERE PLATINUM

De De

If I were platinum

Would I be treated precious and rare?  
Instead of just being a burden to bear?  
Would I have someone that care?

Maybe my life would have more worth and merit  
If my body and soul were converted to carats

The police would never attack me  
Instead of give up and discard me

But it seems that the world care less as we perish  
While platinum and diamonds are adored and cherish'd

How is it that a mere stone glistening and gleaming  
Holds more value and admiration than us as human beings?

It's sad that the highest value can be  
placed on an object so small  
While life is treated as if it holds  
Absolutely no value at all

## EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

### XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

Hello everyone out there! This is my first time writing and I want to send my love and respect first and foremost. I am a trans woman incarcerated in Arizona. There are only a few of us. I want to let all the other girls out there know that your voices are being heard. Keep your heads up and don't let no one bring you down. Stay safe sisters. \*Hugs\*

Much love and Respect,

~ Ravyn

Dear HOAW & Family

Shout out to my husband Dominique and to my Sisters & Brothers. I want to thank All of you for your love & support over the past 2 1/2 Years. I Love hearing from y'all, every time I get my Newsletters I learn something New. It's been 6 months and two weeks since I've been on my hormones.

Love your little sister,

~ Heavenly Peoples

Dear Hearts Fam,

I love you all and hate the DOC. Don't just take what they give you. Fight always. With pen and paper or elbows and knees. Don't lay down and take it. If I hadn't pushed the issue every way I'd probably be dead. They want to break me because I keep winning. If I'm breathing, I'm fighting. 2 years and counting in the hole. I will leave mentally and physically whole.

Things have been **hard** these last 6 months. Worst was my birth mom passed away August 2019. **Rest in Peace Kristi Luvenia Walker**. Sunrise, September 15, 1972, Sunset August 5, 2019. Which brings me to my first shoutout: **Mercedes @ Coal**, I miss you too mom. Your "Atlas" is maintaining. Email me when you get home. I want you to know, I'm sorry I didn't take up for you more with the drama. Not easy when people you love are at odds. Love u Ma. **DeDe @ Forest**, Continue to maintain shorty. I'd love to get to know you 2. If it's meant to be, we'll find a way to link up. S.T.2.U. **Bree @ Michigan City**: Continue to fight. You know the midwest is young and restless... Damn sure lot of corn too. LOL! I wouldn't have enough room to explain how I got stuck in PA. But I want to travel too when I get home. Not NY though. I'm thinking southwest. My family was in M.C. 20 years, skeet. Wish we could build more. **Aaron Love** - What you wrote is similar to a poem in my mom's obit. **MissOutLaw** - I'm happy to see you are doing good. I miss you little buddy. Be safe in that "Psychotown" LOL! **Ski** - Glad to see you stepping out Bro. Stay true to you. Shadow, Kiki, Dennis, Rico, Erin, Heather, and Drew. I love y'all. Miss y'all. Love y'all. Bi-Pride & I never think twice, LGBT 4 life!

~ Indy | Antoine Walker KG7791 | SCI Greene

## FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX



By Miley Selena Fletcher

### REMEMBER ME

Lisa Strawn

REMEMBER ME, the one who made you smile.  
REMEMBER ME, I had the greatest laugh.  
REMEMBER ME, the one who found your heart, broke it into 2 pieces, and put it back together again.  
Remember me, the way I looked at you, like no other could see.  
Remember me, I am still the greatest love of all.  
Even if at times I didn't call.  
Remember me, you gave me the spark I needed, when times were tough.  
Remember the day when you said "you loved me so much."  
Remember me, that I said "it was worth it," even when times were tough.  
Remember me, in spite of my faults.  
Remember me, when you think it's not enough.  
Remember me, when times don't go so well.  
Remember me, because I knew your love was felt.  
Remember me, though I am not here today.  
Remember me, because I wanted to stay.  
Remember me, because my fate was at the hands of time.  
Remember me, for I could never be on time.  
Remember me, for I will always be a part of you.  
Remember me, because I am the son or daughter that you thought you knew, and didn't know how to say I will miss you.  
If you do nothing else today, please remember me, Because I will never forget you.

Reading Issue #26 On Family, brings understanding of why Hearts on a Wire is so helpful in our community. It was very important for me to hear from others that are experiencing the same family issues that I am, it helped me to realize that I'm not alone. It can get really lonely when we feel we're by ourselves. Sharing information is so important to our community, and the one on Family touched me really hard in a very good way, sharing helps the readers to be, and get stronger in their unfortunate experiences, and I say that because that's what it's done for me...

~ Ms. Ceci

#### **Note from the outside collective:**

A few people wrote submissions expressing suicidal thoughts.

We want to reassure our community that we take the expression of suicidal feelings seriously and we reached out individually to those writers to check in.

Hello family I would like to wish everyone a blessed new year. Every day that passes by is new meaning don't dwell on the past for yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come and you just lost out on today.

~ Juicy Queen Bee

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### XOXOX Letters and Love

#### To All My Family At HOAW

Sometimes in the search for love, we will find it. More often than not looking for love becomes a treasure hunt with false leads and ultimately ends with finding some “One.” In most cases we’re not real with ourselves, even when we know they’re not “The One.” Most don’t like to admit it, even to themselves, but the truth is, they have been searching for love high and low. But what is love? Is love someone or something? The true nature lies, not in the actual emotion itself, but in the choice to share it. This may be one of the most overlooked and misunderstood mysteries of love. Is it an emotion? A feeling? Yes. More importantly though, It is the decision. It’s the decision to give all you got and step into the unknown.

~ Dwayne AKA Black | SCI Somerset

Hi! I just started ‘moning a month ago and couldn’t be happier. I’ve also met a guy who is just the shit, KB. He’s in a tough spot right now and I would like to send him love and support.

~ Brenna



By Miley Selena Fletcher

#### DEFINED BY LOVE

Niara | SCI Muncy

defined by love when void distance erupted, when the day they tooken you from me they took my light i was a beacon in darkness, now it’s dimmed defined by love i express the depth of my soul and care and promised to always be there for you the man defined by love he is you who stole my heart the special day of my life 2-28-17 was pure magic and once in life defined by love.

Dear HOAW family

Peace, love and solidarity.

i would like to give some shout outs to some of my folks around the globe that i got love and respect for! shout out to my young-boy trill aka prince skillz, slim, marv, ms. prissy, nikki t., miley, and innocent.

~ King chaos

## FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well. I must say I love UNITY amongst the LGBTQ family. I leave the PA DOC in the wind Dec 5th. So anyone who wants to get at me do so. Jasmine B. this is mainly for you, because we share jersey blood. BR2star, stay up.

Much love,

~ Brody

### BLESSINGS

GuNeataH

Many, many... many Distractions—  
Its like Attack, Attack, Attacks keep Happening--  
One After the Next.....  
All I see is Black—  
Attack, Attack, Attack—  
My Attitude I must keep in Check—  
Throw out the Notion of Respect—  
Just looking for freedom AND A check—  
But Not Really though, I want God to Bless....  
Me with Real freedom—  
Why.....Because my family Need's em—  
GuNeataH, Hold it together—  
Up in the Sky, Like Stars far Away (Don't you see Em)  
Enemy's Been trying Hard (HARD) to Bleem Em—  
Pray, Pray, Pray... Ask, Believe, and Receive Em—  
Breath Em...  
Blessings!

Dear Hearts On A Wire Family,

Today I received my second copy of HOAW and it made me realize I am not alone. It's easy to lose sight of that behind these walls, I have before. But just like all of you are here for me, I am here for you! To all of my trans and gender nonconformers, you are beautiful in your uniqueness! Share the love. And to my wife Desarae Jade, I'm proud of your bravery!

They were training new officers in my unit today. I was spotted and overheard, "I didn't know they had women here too." He was entirely serious. Two others agreed before regular staff dispelled it. I've been on HRT a year and a half and today I gain my recognition. Believe in yourself, all of you! If you're reading this, you are not alone. The letters in these pages are proof that you are understood. You are loved. You are accepted. Do not lose hope. Lava Latte!

~ JaLynn Michelle

Jonathan L. Grenzichi #867147  
Bellamy Crech Correctional Facility  
1727 West Bluewater Highway  
Ionia, Michigan 48846

I want to give a shout out to all my M.P sisters. I love y'all and stay Diva strong. and a shout out to our new M.P sister Lindsey...

Love,

~ Contessa

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

### XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire Family:

You are always loved. Don't let anyone tell you Different. God loves you because he knows you for who you are. God made us different ways in his image . He knew it before we were born so don't let anyone tell you you're a mistake to God, that God disowns you because you a part of the LGBTQ family. Stand tall, tell them "How do you know God don't love me, were you there when god made me?" God is not what you read in the bible, he is what you believe in your heart.

~ Rebecca AKA Ms. Outlaw

Hearts on a wire:

Shout out to the LGBTQ community. I would like to say that it's crazy how people put our lifestyle down but then turn around and say they're coming out as gay or bi or trans. (SMH). I think it's time to delete hate and discrimination together. Delete old laws and start fresh. It's 2019 with laws from the 1400s. To remove prisons we must close past situations with eachother, uplift eachother and respect eachother's way of life, with love, peace, generosity and compassion. Let's really wake up world and fix eachother so we can fix the world.

From your girl,

~ Jasmine B (GA)

Saludos con mucho cariño a todas y a todas. I'd like to send a greeting to my boyfriend Nut, who doesn't know how to speak Spanish. I will show him this publication one day, so that he will see how much I love and miss him.

Sinceramente,

~ Ovis

Hi HOW Family,

I'd like to give a shout out to all me peops at SCI Dallas. I've never wrote in before but by the time this is printed I will be sitting at home. I'm getting done with a 10-20 sentence, I done all 20 years. Now I'm free. To my boo Haff, I love U, and I can't wait until you come home. Write when you can. To Miami and Gemini keep ya heads up. To HOW thanks for starting the zine and keeping it coming. Thanks for all the sistaz writing in over the years, you've been doing such a good job at your facilities and guidin' the younger ones through their bids and I picked up a lot from you all too. Thanks.

~ Shawnique | Shawn Hawk | formerly of SCI Dallas



## FROM THE MAIL

### Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I want to give a big shout out to the LGBTQ and the HOAW volunteers. I'm currently in segregation, or as Rachel calls it 'the abysmal labyrinth'. After I read my first issue, I sat for awhile on my bunk and cried because it's beautiful how HOAW is committed to get the LGBTQ family voice heard and respected. I want to express my feelings concerning the poems I've read. Mercedes, Maxine Davis, Bre and Bree. Those poems written by y'all touched my heart, mind, and soul. I don't know any of you, but after reading each one of y'all poems, I feel we are connected spiritually. I love y'all and keep doing what you are doing, because poems change lives.

Well I'm thankful we are coming together like this. Take care, be safe and love one another.

Down in the Dirty South  
of Georgia,

~ Sky Love :)

Special shout out to our beloved MB lowe, SCI dallas kings, my husband daddy i love you, to my sis rosie i miss you, ms. penny xo Br2star hello bighead. to the rest of the children much love

~ Niara | ms peaches | Muncy

I'd like to send my best wishes to Miss Stephaine's familia. To Jayme E. Patton: It is a struggle to get the things we want & need. I've been trying to use UNITY, have all the sisters (& the brothers who want us to look our best) write it up & request hair removal & SRS! It's been an up & down road. The only friends & allies you're going to make are other like-minded individuals. Buy Stay with it you will get somewhere. Love you girl, I'll keep you updated on NYS' progress.

Everybody Stay Strong,

~ Shaylanna Luvme

# 07B2775  
Marcy Corr. Fac | BLDG #30  
PO Box 3600  
Marcy, NY 13403-3600

## GOD'S ANGELS

Patrick Carpenter "2007"

The hardest thing for this poor angel  
was the day they took his wings  
the loved one he had held him close  
and cried for this poor thing  
He no longer knew what to do  
except lay in her arms and cry  
for the injustice of his punishment  
made him want to die  
but because his loved one loved him so  
She gave up her own wings  
So they sat alone and cried together  
as she whispered "for you I'd do anything"  
And when God looked down and saw his angels  
do such an incredible loving act  
he shed a tear because of the love  
and gave their wings right back

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Hello HOAW, Malaysia Monroe

Sending love All The way From Traisdale Turner Correctional Complex

I WANT TO THANK All The People who Take Time To do These issues,  
#THANKYOUALL

I'd Also Love To give A Shoutout To Bree. You give me soooo much "Life."  
Your poems + Realness is so Legit.

I Have a 71 year Sentence, All I Truly Wanna say Is to All my —Trans girls—  
men— ETC ETC, NEVER give up, Stay up 10, And know GOD will Never put  
more on us Than we Can Bear #Period.

To my BAE, my Ace, my Hubby Buckwild, we've been Through Some Shit, we've  
got a lot more TO go through Baby boy. This is more Than a Prison Relationship.  
I see my life As your wife with your Sexy White Ass.

Much love To All of You.

~ Malaysia Monroe

Dallas Sarden #592206

T.T.C.C.

140 Macon Way

Hartsville, TN, 37074

## I AM

### Juicy Queen Bee

I am who I am

You made me

As I am

No one can take away

The love you given me

You were my friend

You gave me strength

The love you shown me

Made me love you more

I am who

I am

Because of you

I'm stronger

Can climb mountains

Fly like an eagle

Stand tall like a statue

Reaching out to say hi and tell all of you to be  
strong and don't ever stop fighting for what  
you want. Love ya,

~ Ms. Brittany

### Hearts on a Wire

I am scheduled to max out soon. It feels good  
to be getting out of here but I still did not tell  
my mother about me being both ways, I don't  
want her to turn her back on me. Shoutout to  
Aaron Love, hope to see you soon on the  
street. Korrupt DA Guru keep your head up  
and keep fighting for what you believe in.

Love y'all

~ Dwayne Street AKA BLACK | Somerset

## FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

I need to apologize to our community. Zoey, Ms. Prissy, Unique, Aaron Love, Snake, Twin, Keisha, Fatz, and any others. I've been immature. So many ppl tried to help me, but I pushed them away, afraid of being hurt. Lately suicide has been running through my mind. I've lost everyone and I'm feeling like there is not anything to live for anymore. I'm sorry Fresh. Bro, I was going through so much in my life. I took it out on you. Thank you for all you ever did. Kylie, I miss you. GO-STAR AKA Remy, I miss you bro!!! Pryme star, step it up bro. Fatal star get at me, Twin get at me star! Swag Star, you too bro! Knowledge star, I ain't forget you, just lost ya info. Dawn Guthrie, what happened star? And Hershey Kiss star. Stay strong y'all. GO STAR, we run it all! Hope to see you soon. One last shout out to Juicy that was in Somerset with me! Write me sis! I miss you so much. I met so many ppl and I miss so many of you all. If you want, please contact me. If you don't know me, still, connecting is positive. I max out next year and plan to do things for our community.

I need prayers. My brother, David Irby (Hollywood) died on January 30th! I'm lost, hurt and confused. He was here with me and hung himself. But I believe it was more to it!! I can barely breathe. I don't know how to live anymore. I've lost myself. I need you all to pray for me and if possible write me. I need the support. Life is short for real. This feels like a nightmare! I'm begging everyone, please stop being mad at each other! Love one another.

Sincerely,

~ L.I. AKA Joey AKA BIG STAR AKA STARWARS

Joseph Breeland | HZ7900 | SCI Fayette

RIP Stephaine Coates

Hello to All my community! It's a new year — A time to rediscover all we've lost so let's not Forget where we came From. Queen Mercedes says it best in #26 what does Family mean to you? "WE ARE ALL FAMILY." Mercedes Good luck to you on the outside. Rico keep your head ↑ and be strong. Pretty Boy Jay, I feel your words, Know I'm here For you. Keep Focus. Slez whatz good keep your head ↑. BR 2 Star- what's good sexy. J-Rock Never give ↑ your dreams.

~ A.L. @ Somerset

Dear Family,

T-Male here, trying hard to be Transferred to a Male Facility; suffering! Shoutout to Ohio, Miss it every single day. To my sisters & brothers of the LGBTQ community, we're the lucky ones, we were created special.

~ Dominic

A. Barber OU8963  
SCI Cambridge Springs

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

### XOXXO Letters and Love

Shout outs: Queen Mercedes: I don't know if this will reach you before your release but Keep your head up! Don't lose vision of your path along your way into freedom. Jess: Keep your head up please. Do not quake, waver, or worry about what you cannot control. You got this. Korrupt: Stay strong my friend. They don't hate you because you're gay. They hate us because we are different. Mankind hates, ridicules, and tears apart what they do not understand, or for what goes against the grain. I'm not Christian, but I'm fluent in the bible, and the greatest commandment, the greatest gift from God (in all religions) is LOVE. Bree: you're dope, keep your head up. DeDe, I agree, there's a ton of love here! I'm so grateful Ovis shared this with me (much love!) Jaina: \*heavy sigh\* I hear you. You are beautiful and loved. I'm here for you. To the rest, Love and light to you all.

Patrick Carpenter 832016  
Airway Heights Correction Center  
RA-30  
PO Box 2049  
Airway Heights, WA 99001

### T.L.A.C

Anonymous

Poems are a way to express a TRU feeling.  
Like when I say I love you even though you are healing.  
I know that the last man you had tried to hurt you, but  
baby I'm different, I'll never desert you.  
I'll love you through all of the bad and the good.  
So let you walls down cause you know that you should.  
It's scary to jump and to try Something new,  
but (T.L.A.C.) don't worry cause I'm jumping too.  
Can't you see that I mean every word that I write?  
If not, then you will 'cause for our Love I'll fight.  
No one has Loved you the way that I do.  
Because if they did, they'd still have you.  
It's so soon to say that things that I've said.  
I cant help it! Some reason you're stuck in my head.  
In my heart, in my mind, from morning till dark, writing  
this poem is only the start.  
Poems are a way that I express feeling.  
If you let me I'll Love you and help with the healing.

### Hey Hearts on a Wire

I'm writing to inform my LGBTQ family that their sister is still above water.

Shout out to Coal Township crew, Momma Penny, Shadow Snuggles, RYU Pookie Bear, Drew, Nick, Nate, Peaches, Dee-Dee, Cecil, John, Lou-Lou, Rico, Brian and the rest of the amazing family that showed nothing but love. A special shout out to my fiancé Shawn Grizzly Bear who has magically stolen my heart. I love and miss you like crazy.

I ♥ y'all guys. Peace & Blessings

~ Ms. Kalieshia Chesney

## FROM THE MAIL

### OXXOX Letters and Love

Dear HOAW Family,

I just wanted to say hello to the brothers and sisters locked down in PA. A special shout to my BFF Kimberly, I love your sweet little...LOL. I also have some news and updated info to share. 1st I am now Ms. Linda May Lee, happily married to a wonderful man. Unfortunately SCI-Greene does not share my joy. Oh well. To Miley, I got your letter. Thank you for your personal support, please send me an address so I can write you. To all my transgender sisters in PA. I have been on HRT now for 18 months now. Where myself and my sis Kimberly have problems stem from the transphobic staff denying our gender expression. As a result I have begun what I hope to become impact litigation to change policy to support gender expression. As transgender female prisoners we would order our gender affirming property direct from a vendor, bras, panties, bodysuits, pantyhose, all forms of make-up to include eyeshadow and foundation, and an equal selection of female sneakers. We are making a stand @ Greene for our right to be the females we truly are. If you are interested in joining our fight or would like to show support we would love to hear from all. Take care to all.

~ Linda May Lee | S. Hayes MQ5447 | SCI Greene

Hello! I am a 26-year-old incarcerated Apache/Cherokee, Two-Spirit Native American. I write today 'cause I got Hearts on a Wire Issue #26. The charisma of this community is clear it's a beautiful outreach and I would like to take part. For the LGBTQ2S community we're missing a chapter. A lot of Americans have ancestors who are Native Americans. As a Native that's incarcerated, I've written to many foundations and got no answer from my letters. I've written to many Tribes but am immediately dismissed. I can't accelerate in my culture. It breaks my heart to be turned away. But I still keep seeking answers. So my LGBTQ2S (2 Spirit) family as a realization our community is strong even if the Native community is ashamed to motivate me in orchestrating who I want to become. I found solace in Hearts on a Wire. I perceived answers in a place longing for answers. So I reach out today to the HOAW community. Let's have the satisfaction of gratifying love for who we are. Thank you HOAW. Your experience has helped me.

With Love,

~ EJ Oney

Edward Oney 282802  
E.K.C.C.  
200 Road to Justice  
West Liberty, KY 41472

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I hope this finds all my trans sisters and brothers in the very best health, mentally and physically. I'm not really that well because I'm having a hard time getting proper hormones. I have never seen such discrimination as here at Florida State Prison.

The lack of knowledge within the LGBTQ community in the free world concerning LGBTQ people in prison hurts and is discouraging. I feel like my sisters and brothers out there in the free world could not care less about us, and we have become the forgotten ones. I reached out to LGBTQ organizations supposedly supporting LGBTQ prisoners and providing pen pan matching. I have written but have received no mail. I wish I could get other transgender people to write to. Why play games with us transgender women who are incarcerated and alone. It hurts!

I did not know Miss Stephaine but I can see she's a sister who will be missed. Thank you for touching so many lives! I would like to give a shout out to my Diva MP sisters. I love y'all. Contessa you have touched me within. Keep your head up, voice loud, beliefs strong.

~ De De

To the Family,

Six months of HRT and the doctor bumped me up to 2mg Estradiol and 50mg Spironolactone twice a day! I've already begun to see physical changes and am so excited for more! ☺ Rachel in WI: I am always here if you need a friend. You're you and that's a pretty awesome thing to be IMO. Jace L. Bonham: Stay strong. Staff can be absolutely horrendous at times. But as long as we take the high road and love ourselves, they can never keep us down! And, I love your poem in issue #26. Super powerful. Maya Toyomi: Rep that Japanese chocolate girl! Own it! ♥ Jersey Savage: OMG! I love Pose! I want to be strong like Blanca! Bre: Never stop loving hard. I cried reading your poem "I cry." I know that pain all too well. Always here, girl. Jaina: I've been there. On July 26th, 2015, I tried to take my own life and it ended up landing me here. You can endure this pain. You are fierce and a proud woman, show the DOC how truly strong our community can be! If you need help continue to reach out. I'm here, Zoey Carrasquillo is here, we're all here to help. ♥ Sasha Rodriguez: Preach it girl! I wish the girls in AZ could read your words. We need more love not hate. Bre: I am glad you preaching love. We all can do without more shittiness. Soon I'll be in that emotional rollercoaster with you. Any tips? And, cool poem! ♥

My love to all the LGBTQ fam + Friends. I want to send a special note to all the furries out there! Let your tails wag! (wolf here). And, to my Silver, you hung the stars in my sky. I love you so much

~Jayme Elliott Patton

## FROM THE MAIL

### Letters and Love OXXOX

Family:

I've been at Huntingdon for 5 years and met my love here. EKJ I love you hubby. A few months ago I got a misconduct with my hubby (not even a sexual misconduct) and now the Unit Manager won't let me live on the same quad as him. I hate that officers lie on us and get away with it.

~ Anthony Montgomery | LQ7617 | SCI Huntingdon

Greetings to all in our community. Got a letter from W. Lewis in Newark. Thank for dropping a line. Unfortunately, I can't write other prisons.

What's going on in your world? Things are pretty much the same in Texas and guard harassment is at an all time high. If this happens to you or one of our people don't stay silent, file a "PREA" complaint to state and federal authorities. If it's not on paper, it didn't happen. Don't forget to be completely honest, because one misleading statement will close the case and hurt others looking for justice. Well, from the Texas Department of Criminal Injustice, goodnight, goodbye, and sweet dreams. Go ahead and support our community by giving a hug to someone who needs it.

Peace and love,

~ Cricket

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

This is for the whole LGBTQ family around the world, my grandmother told me the other day...

There comes a Time when you  
Have to stop Crossing Oceans for  
People who wouldn't Jump  
puddles for you...

I'm sitting Here looking out the window with thoughts of this Goddess and a bond that's Beyond unable 2 Be Broken. Her personality completes me in multiple ways. She is everything that I could ever want or dream of in a woman. She is what I've Been Asking God 2 Bless me with b/c you can only find This Type of woman once in a life time. She Brings the Best out in me and I love it. She Gives me all of Her and I Give Her all of me in Return b/c She is my day and night dreams. The feelings that I Got for Her are undeniable and unchangeable.

~ Bluemagic | Jaquan Richardson MB3776 | SCI Benner

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Dear ♥on a Wire, with absolutely all my love I can't begin to tell you all in anticipation of the magnificence of our LGBTQ struggles and mighty challenges that lie ahead. No doubt. Thanks for the smart & hard work to each & every one of us devastatingly hurting and badly "being dehumanized as a dedicated" folk. I think of this globally oppressionable failure to LGBTQ people and I understand this window of opportunity narrows more definitively by the second so please know, to each girl who's grown older and stronger and wiser, suffering "and" anger it's all just states of a rising fear of some person "who longs" to break those chains that's so significantly halted progress. With frequent meditation practice and mindfulness and deep concentration not only can we politically gain intellectual competency but loving support in areas... We have this unborn "awareness to a powerfully rising tide, our time to shine is right now." While you read, my love to every single person who recognizes those who've done ill will corruptively to us--know we're gaining smarts and deeper insight.

Look like a girl, act like a lady, think like a man, work like a dog: it's only gonna get tougher. "w/e" we gain strength to face unexpected giants. We shall defeat them.

All love

~ Ms. Rica AKA Fatcat

Dear HOAW

Sending a shoutout & my thoughts & Love to & for all my sisters & brothers reading this. Keep Your Head & heart up & strong, stay focused & be united! Also – Special shout out, thoughts, love to my husband Collis. Please do whatever & ever it takes to get us on the same unit & block. Please don't get discouraged, do not give up, Keep fighting & Succeed!

♥ Your Wifey She-Wolf Anistasia

Hey y'all!

I wanna give a shout out to some of my sisters. Nikki-Can-Do in Jackson, Skittles, Peaches, Anna Lee, Juicy P, Diamond, Starburst, Cashay, Gia, Laskya, Big mama Brown, and anyone I may have forgotten... Big shout out to the big guys too, y'all know who you are... I'm always looking for advice and ideas on how to change things.

All my love,

~ Giggles

Shawn Murphy #401293  
PO BOX 351  
Waupun,  
WI, 53963

Congratulations to Rica for successfully winning her fight with the SCI Mahanoy administration to cover her head while praying, meditating and practicing yoga! We're inspired by you, Rica.



## FROM THE MAIL

### Letters and Love OXXOX

Hey y'all, writing from the DTU at SCI Rockview. I hope this finds you all fabulous. I filed a 1983 civil lawsuit that just passed the screening process and all defendants have been served with my complaint and summons. If I am successful, it will open up the floodgates for transgender women held captive in SCIs to receive permanent hair removal (electrolysis laser hair removal) as part of treatment for gender dysphoria, at the expense of the DOC or insurance. Keep on the look out for updates. The caption for my case is *Thomas Flick v. Timony Miller, et al*; Case No. 1-19-cv-01811.

To all my sisters (and brothers) at SCI Rockview--I'm out and waiting for transfer. I will miss y'all, but it's high time for a fresh start, new faces and a break from the BS. To Indy--wherever you may be, I think of you often. You are a gem of a friend and a big brother, and I'm looking forward to crossing paths with you again. Luv you! To Jaina at Somerset--miss you sis, and a reunion may be upcoming. Miss your smile, laugh and your kindness. Jaime misses you too. Luv you sis!

To all the haters and oppressors of the world--your hate only fuels my will to survive. No matter what you do or say, I am a WOMAN, hear me roar! I am beautiful. I am worthy of dignity and respect.

Together, we will rise above it all, family. Never forget that I love y'all. Unity and family is everything.

~ Harley Quinn AKA Tamara Angelique Allenbaugh

Fellow Hearts,

Though I did not know Miss Stephaine personally, I would like to pay my humble and sincere respects to her friends and family in mourning.

Buddha says 3 things are inevitable: Old age, Sickness and Death. That doesn't make experiencing the loss of a loved one any easier... only more certain... My condolences to all.

~ Rachel | Sherman L. Kapp

Dear HOAW:

I want to send a shout out to all my Sisters and Brothers. Thanks for the inspiration to start my Journey and the motivation to Continue it. I read everyone's submissions in every issue and I feel like I know each of you personally. Never give up, never give in. BB I love you.

Peace!

California's Bad Bitch,

~ Ms. Evelyn

Evelyn Brake BF 2104  
PO Box 409060  
Ione, CA 95640

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Happy New Year's to the LGBTQ community everywhere. We are all staying strong, but we need to show more unity and love for each other! I will do anything for my family here at SCI Coal and I hope they all know that. Much love and peace to all of you! To the LGBTQ community everywhere. Love and prayers to all.

Your Brother,

~ Drew

### DEATH'S DOORWAY

Victoria Rayne

Mayhaps your life will be  
kinder to you  
than mine to me.  
The stage is set  
The noose is made,  
This life is over  
My dues are paid.  
My spirit flies free  
No longer in chains,  
The only thing left  
My dead body remains.  
No family or friends  
To mourn my leaving  
There's no one who cares  
So there will be no grieving  
LET ME GO  
SET ME FREE  
IN MY GODESSES ARMS  
IS WHERE I'LL BE

Well this shoutout to my girly at SCI Houtzdale, you're never alone "R" but you got to have faith in yourself. It's funny what you said because I'm the only transgender here in Smithfield and it been that way two years now. I hear all the other ladies all the time saying we need to come together, work as one but see you all come together to form an army but if you stay faithful you will learn. God fights an army of millions but he a one man army, just as you can be a one woman army. To be truthful the only help I get is when some of the LGBQ come through like Indy who I miss the most, my ex Brandon BYS Miss you boo!! :P

So "R" don't give up. They hate me here because I play by the books, I play it safe. You can go off on a rampage plowing through every CO who step in your way or has something smart to say. Turn your cheek and walk away, ya sound good so run with it stay on point. They want you to say something back. You know it funny to me some of us hid who we are because we're scared what others will say to us. Who cares what others think of me. I get called a faggot, homo...go take my hormones...I wear my makeup but when other inmates say these things along with the C.O's here I laugh at them, why, because they're trying to upset me but they don't because I look at it this way. Everything they say to me is facts and true...Jail make me a better woman, for come the time I get out of jail to back to living my life on the streets, so you got to learn to brush it off because in the long run how will you react to that on the streets you can't file a PREA on someone because they call you a whore, slut, faggot. But this can go for all my sisters out there too.

Love, respect,

~ Your sister Miss Out-Law

## FROM THE MAIL

### Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear HOAW Family,

Hey all! Recently, I received issue 26 due to the PADOX reissue, and I gotta say that I'm very impressed and awestruck by the amount of love and solidarity within those pages.

I've got news of my own. I did identify as transgender, but I had re-identified as cisgender. Yet there's another twist! I did some digging into my medical history and discovered I have a pre-genetic condition called Klinefelter's syndrome. That means instead of having normal male chromosomes, I have both male & female chromosomes. It was kept from me for 33 years. Wow.

Anyway, in response to Jaina, it's not worth ending your life. Just try to be patient and live the way you feel you are meant to as much as possible. Everyone who's met you has been touched by your presence. It would be truly tragic to take your light from the world. Just keep your head held high and remember we love you. Love ya always, little sister! ;)

Stay awesome family. You are all very beautiful and strong individuals and deserve the respect as queens & kings.

In love and solidarity,

~ Raven

To my beautiful Kings and Queens, we are implicitly royal and should never conduct ourselves as anything less, we have a responsibility to be as decent and as the pioneers who came before us. Loyalty Honor and Integrity should be all of our priorities because we have to be the change we want to see in order to get this world on board.

~ Carl Kittrell AKA S010

KQ2956  
SCI Laurel Highlands

## SPIRITS AND WINE

### S010

Ayo I po up and drink spirits and wine \ cuz the gravity of oppression breakin me down \ I want a Transgender president from the ghetto that's hella thick \ can't nobody leave this room until we address the elephant \ Us minorities are relevant and were fed up with the negligence \ we just want our fair share of the pie, the equal estimate \

Ayo I po up and drink spirits and wine \ cuz the gravity of oppression is aching my spine \ No more ignorance due to stigmas or funny business \ I mind my business but I won't be undermined for my riches \ Equality is the mission for my Gay and bi niggas \ Lesbians, Queens, and those in transition \

Ayo I po up and drink spirits and wine \ for my Brothers and sisters paying their retribution with time \ You could lock my body but my mind is mine \ My soul is Merlot its more fine with time \ my divine design will not be in vain despite the pain \ Fuck fame and icy chains I do this shit to ignite the flame

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I love that this publication exists and it's a safe place to communicate with the trans/LGBTQ prison community. I am housed at SCI-Frackville and the girls here are silenced, but as a proud "Ish-Boog-Ah-Da" it's cool...

~ Jail House Wife AKA  
Twinky Bear

P.S. Stay Prayed up, I love you all. We are overcomers it in our DNA!!!!

Hearts on a wire:

Hi and much love to all my sisters behind the walls. Ke Ke I love you tons, and wish we were still friends. Stay strong girls Ke Ke, Donna, Nikki, Joni Braxton, Mrs. Rass, an old queen as am I. Love y'all -N-peace

~ Natiley AKA Strawberry.

Nathan 'Natiley' Brown #0506155  
633 Old Landfill Road  
Taylorsville, NC, 28681

Hey HOAW, thank you for being so productive and understanding, you all are really great. Shout out to my mother Miley, my twin sister Diamond, Ms DeDe, Malaysia, Nuyla, Juicy, Chi-Chi, Maserati, Dawn and Ty. A special shout out to my little angels KK and Sydney. Mother loves you,

~ Maya Toyami | SCI Forest

Dear HOAW:

Hello! I got my first issue #26 and had a blast reading it. I totally understand where people are coming from about others looking down on us LGBTQ. I come from a \*Big\* family and I only see and hear from my mom and dad. Most of my family disowned me because I'm transgender. I'm serving LWOP. I want to tell my LGBTQ family to not get down because of people hating us. We're all human and deserve respect. I refuse to let my head hang low. I'm happy and proud that I am who I am.

Your sister/friend

~ Cree

## DA BOY NOTES

Jail House Wife AKA Twinky Bear

Desperate Boys they wanna play  
But they don't want nobody to think they gay  
All the while, sending "Jail House Wife" messages in note form  
Telling tales about how bad they want lips on...  
They forever hard throbbing cock  
But I can't do nothing, because of my marital status  
and how small of a block  
It's the same with each inmate's note I collect  
Only thing Butch Queen can do,  
is watch them jerk off, which I feel is neglect  
So another horny day goes by  
Just another horny day to reflect...

## FROM THE MAIL

### Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear HOAW,

This is my first time writing. I'm a transgender woman in a "man's" jail. Just at my year mark of my HRT. Me and my boyfriend have been together for over a month now. I haven't felt this kind of connection since sophomore year in high school.

R-Houtzdale, I too wanna do something about what the DOC does to inmates that are in the LGBTQ community. I don't know who you are but I'm a transgender woman, calling me a queen is not what I thought that word is meant to be used as being a Queen of Royalty not as a LGBTQ type of thing. I'm tired of people not seeing me as the person I am born to be. Transgender women should get respected as a woman. We don't get that, the DOC just sees us as another man. I'm sick of it. That is disrespectful. If you agree let me know.

So long and take care.

~ Caitlin Mae Santos | SCI Houtzdale.

Dear HOAW

I would like to give a shout out to Sasha.

Love JC

My wife Anistasia is the love of my life. We are happily married and I want to give a shout out to her, Mariah, SJ, Ty, SAVAGE, JB, Dee-Dee, Smith, Bay, Irah, Ms. Tah, Will, Knowledge!

Hugs & Kisses W.B.S!!

Yours Truly,

~ Collis Henderson

A.K.A. Big Foot  
SCI Forest

P.S. Thanks for the support to help the LGBTQ Community up here at SCI Forest!

HOAW Family, Love you Outside Collective! Nikki T my bitch of all bitches! Mariah Lee Smith you keep sweet, I met you once wish you were still here. S.J., Maya zzzuppp royal girls. LOL. Shaylanna, You go Diva Supreme! Glad to hear from you in HOAW #26. To the Lovely Jasmine from Maryland Love you too girl. (smile). Katrina you the GirlLLLL! Zoey keep your head up, I know it's hard but Stay Gold Babygirl! Ms. DeDe, it's so GR8 to talk to you. You're an inspiration. Love you too! Ms Slim you be cool out there. Don't look back. Sydney my happy lil sis can't forget you. LOL. Gloria, don't do it! Anastasia, what a long road. But you are who you are. Welcome to being a trans woman. Ms Juicy Woods, cat got your tongue? LOL. Heather, Tara, Nyia, Stephanie and Sammi Love you all. Mrs GeGe what's up? Love you! HAPPY NEW YEAR GIRLS...

♥ Miley S Fletcher @ SCI Forest

## MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

### Letters and Love XOXOX

This is going out to my **very special friend!** Rome you taught me so much and I'll be ever **grateful** to you for that. I wish you the best. I want you to know that **somebody loves you baby**, and that **somebody is me!** Love Always,

~ M. Armstead | SCI Phoenix

P.S. RIP Miss Alicia Simmons



Hey Hoaw

I Just Wanted To Write And Thank You For All Of The Support. It's Not Easy Being Out But It Was Worth It. I met A wonderful Person who Loves me for me Just As much As I Love Her...Shout Out To my Baby. I've Been Afraid To Fully Love You Because Of My Past But Being With You Makes Me Forget About All of My Pain, I Love You Maddie And I know You Feel The same. Happy Two Year Anniversary And Many More, You're The Ice To My Fire, Ya Poo Bear

~ Chuck | Houtzdale

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

Bre keep your head up. If dudes are doing you wrong they don't deserve you. To Dink: My fault Homie! To my Boo Mrs J: I Love you very much and I miss you because we are both in the Hole. I'm here for you always. Shout out to Special, Pearl, Grif, Jessica and my homie Bo.

~ Slez

Eric Rudolph | CK0358 | Fayette

Dear HOAW family,

Hope all is well with everyone. I just read the last issue and am happy to see the community and support people gave. It gives me hope that one day we'll become one fully. Being inspirational isn't easy and every time I read HOAW I see it done amongst prisons with each other. Please continue the stand. Hate never won anything nor has shade. Become one.

Shoutout to those whom give the insight and write in every issue. I also want to give a shoutout to my baby R., Mrs. Taylor till the end 8-3-1.

Thank you HOAW for giving us a place to speak freely and vent but also become one. With love,

~ Mrs. Sasha Nicole Taylor | NA0940

## FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

DEAR Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to say to Patrick A Carpenter Jr, Thank you for the admiration for me Accepting Responsibility for what I did. It Hurts alot to know that the things I thought and did was protecting the man I loved, but really it caused damage. I reflected on the circumstances and I realize I was wrong and now know I can prevent it from occurring again. I lost the man I loved and still do love.

HAPPY NEW YEARS Everybody. Please stay safe and warm and please stay out of trouble. Welcome to those who have just started getting the newsletters. And like I say to my Brother Max. Take a Stand, DON'T BACK DOWN!

~Zoey Carrasquillo | SCI Fayette

Hearts on a Wire,

I max-out in a year & I'm stressin' a lil bit. I got mad problems goin on at home, I just need some words of wizdom to motivate. I got this lawsuit on mahanoy & I wanna give a shout out to Taz for putting in the paperwork for me! I was in the hole there for a 110 days. It sucked. Then they sent me back to coal. Shout out to everyone from chester. Hold y'all heads up we ain't here for ever. Love everyone & Hearts on a Wire as Well.

~ J.Bunny

Joshua Myers  
NE4403  
SCI Coal Twp

## RIP ALICIA SIMMONS



Hearts on a Wire is heartbroken to once again share news of the untimely death of a community member.

Alicia Simmons died at home in Philadelphia on November 3, 2019. She was 37. There was no indication of foul play.

*May her memory be a blessing.*

# PHILLY TRANS MARCH

Outside Collective

On October 12, 2019, more than 700 trans folks and allies gathered at Malcolm X Park in West Philadelphia to march for justice and equality for the trans community, while remembering the trans Philadelphians we have lost to violence, suicide, and other untimely deaths. The neighborhood setting was chosen to drive home the point that many trans women are unsafe in their neighborhoods.

Rally speakers appealed to the community to defend Black trans women. Alonda Talley spoke about her friend Shantee Tucker who was murdered in 2018, and urged people to forget what makes them different and unite. Madelyn Morrison spoke vehemently about her anger at continuously defending her right to exist, “as if you need to have a neon sign saying, ‘Please don’t kill me.’” The final speaker before the march kicked off was Pennsylvania political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal in a recorded message linking violence against Black trans women to white supremacy and the emergence of American fascism. Abu-Jamal ended: “We need to build a radical movement that protects all of us, for all of us.”

The march kicked off with chants of “We’re here, we’re queer, we’re fabulous, don’t fuck with us” and “Black Trans Lives Matter.”



Philly Trans March 2019 — Photo credit Nigel Thompson, AL DIA News



## UNITY

De De

The world already looks down on us as if we were nothing, beats us and even kills us. So it should be unthinkable to help them. I grieve whenever I see division within the LGBTQ community. We live in an ice cold world, yet at times we belittle, criticize, express jealousy and hatred towards each other. We should assist those who disagree with our lifestyle be harming one another. We must come together so we can unify by caring for one another. In a movie I saw a grandmother told her grandson “a hand isn’t powerful until it folds into a fist, ‘cause a fist can strike a mighty blow.” We LGBTQ community have to be that fist by standing united to make a difference. I challenge all of us to find someone who is in our community and give them a compliment, a smile, and a hand to hold, and love. I’m not fool, I know there’s judy girls/ boys in the life who are hard to get along with but let’s love them too. When we stand unified, we can deliver a powerful change.

## SHU TIME REVELATION

Trista Lynn A Hines

I’m sorry for being such a buffoon,  
Let me be its balloon,  
and float us back up to the moon.  
I’m serious when I say it’s not too soon.  
I would die for you,  
Them 2 Roses, They really are Blue,  
You even know that you need me too.  
Being here in the Shu, its nothing but time for me to  
think and get a clue,  
That I Truly Love you!  
To the end babe, on 11-7-19 will you please  
take my hand?  
We will be like superglue (inseparable)  
and make one last stand.  
It’s do or die and i do not want to die,  
and i will no longer lie  
Baby as time flies by and by,  
The only beautiful deep brown eyed nigga  
i can think about is you! I love you!  
So Baby lets pull the trigga,  
Let us have a toast.  
I lay here in the shu  
and Try to think of other things but....  
it keeps going back to the fact (my mind)  
That I need ya the most!



By Miley Selena Fletcher

## LEGAL UPDATE: NAME CHANGE STATUTE

### Hearts on a Wire—Outside Collective

We wanted to update folks in PA about a legal challenge to a provision of the state's name change statute (54 Pa. C.S.A. § 701 et seq.)

As it currently stands if you have been convicted of a felony involving harm to another person, (murder, voluntary manslaughter, sexual assault, armed robbery, aggravated assault, arson, kidnapping, etc), you are completely barred from getting a legal name change in PA.

For other felonies, you can get a legal name change two years after the completion of sentence and once you are not subject to probation or parole supervision).

In May 2019, Chaunty Mo'Nique Porter, Alonda Talley, and Priscylla Renee Von Noaker filed a lawsuit challenging the felony bar as violating the state constitution. The women are represented by the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (see page 27) and the law firm Reed Smith.

Oral arguments are set for February 2020. We are watching this case with interest and will keep you updated.

## IS THERE ANYONE WHO CARES?

### Jessica Diana Garza

Prisons are usually built in desolate places. I woke up and sighed into the silence to another day with the sky dull and the land grey. I walked to my cell window, I scanned the horizon and saw no one. I was alone. Without realizing it, I was holding my breath. I was sick with depression, but there was none to comfort me.

I stood in that stillness, my heart pounding in my ears. And I drew a breath to pass my thoughts soundlessly. It grew hot and still. After years of this I could barely remember my old life. Looking into the distance, the sun was above the ground, radiating, fuming rivulets of heat. This prison was built like a rock. It's unpainted tall concrete walls, slabs of cement lined side by side like dominos. The sun was shining on the razor-wire coiled like silver snakes above the edges of every inch of electrified double chain-link fence. Being the introvert that I am, standing like this in this prison cell made me think. What does it mean to be a transgender woman in a male prison? How do I cope? How do I live? Is there anyone who cares?

Jessica Diana Garza  
T-32625 /c8-125  
P.O. Box 5103  
Delano, CA 93216

## LEGAL RESOURCES

### Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective

Several inside members requested that we print a list of LGBTQ legal help resources

#### **PA Institutional Law Project**

The Cast Iron Building  
718 Arch St., Suite 304 South  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

**Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project** provides assistance to incarcerated or institutionalized people whose constitutional rights have been violated within the institution.

#### **Mazzoni Center Legal Services**

1348 Bainbridge Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

**Mazzoni Center** has legal services for LGBT people in Pennsylvania, including discrimination cases.

#### **ACLU Pittsburgh Office**

313 Atwood St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

#### **ACLU Philadelphia**

PO Box 40008  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The **ACLU** sometimes takes prison conditions cases, but they are selective in which cases they take because they do “impact litigation.”

*Impact litigation is strategic legal cases that have the potential to change the situation for other people in similar situations to the plaintiff.*

#### **Transgender Law Center**

PO Box 70976  
Oakland, CA 94612-0976

**Transgender Law Center** is a national organization that takes on impact litigation related to trans rights.

#### **Lambda Legal**

120 Wall Street, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10005-3904

**Lambda Legal** is a national organization that takes on impact litigation related to LGBT/HIV rights.

#### **NCLR National Office**

870 Market Street Suite 370  
San Francisco CA 94102

The **National Center for Lesbian Rights** is another national impact litigation firm that takes on impact litigation related to LGBT.

#### **GLAD**

18 Tremont, Suite 950  
Boston, MA 02108

**GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)** is a national organization that takes on impact litigation related to LGBT/HIV rights.

#### **TLDEF**

520 8th Avenue, Suite 2204  
New York, New York 10018

**Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF)** is a national impact litigation firm that takes cases related to trans discrimination.

# 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
- Recipes
- Original Poetry
- Ideas
- Contribuciones en español son muy bienvenidos!

### NEXT ISSUE:

Recently, several members wrote to us seeking advice on coming out. We're asking you all for your help to answer them! For our next newsletter we are seeking submissions sharing encouragement, advice, or personal experience - on coming out to yourself, on coming out in prison, on dealing with safety and fear concerns, on coming out to loved ones outside. Write to us about gender, sexuality, or anything that feels important to you

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.  
**\*\*\* we will not publish 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.

Our 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](http://heartsonawire.org)

### Donations accepted

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