



Familiar Faces

Hello,

Welcome to the Olympia City Jail. If you are reading this, then you have found yourself in a pretty bad situation. Having been in your shoes too many times to count I can remember saying to myself, "how is this happening?!" I would think to myself that I knew better than to make that stupid decision, but I made it anyway... and there I would sit in that jail cell with my head spinning. I was the last person that was able to see what the real problem was. It was me. I was unwilling to take on the difficult task of self-reflection and accept that, as an adult, the responsibility for where I sat in my life was mine. No one forced me to drink and use drugs, fight with my partner, or commit crime. It was my responsibility to process the trauma of my childhood (it may be something different for you but, trust, it's something). It was my duty to do the work. I could no longer blame my parents, teachers, or society. During my last trip through jail and then eventually prison, I had an epiphany! The direction that my life would take from this point forward was my responsibility. I could keep doing the same things that led me there (time and again) or I could take direction from someone that I truly believed had my best interests at heart. I found that person and got to work. Shoot, I still stumbled a couple of times after this, but I was on my way!

This may be that moment for you. We are starting a pilot program within the City of Olympia Municipal Jail that reaches out to everyone that comes through the doors. This program's intention is to provide support, opportunity, and connection to resources in our community. This program is entirely voluntary and is aside from any legal matters that you are facing at this moment. The program makes no promises except to say that if you do the work, you will see the results and your quality of life will improve. We will not be able to get you released early or slide you directly into housing upon release. What this program will do is help you establish realistic options moving forward. We will help you figure out what the obstacles you are facing are and how we can help you overcome them no matter how challenging they may be. Be aware that this can be a painfully difficult task! Sometimes the hardest thing we can ever do is look at ourselves, our flaws and personality defects, and then commit ourselves to doing whatever it takes to change. It is a journey, and it does not happen overnight. Yet, you are the captain of the ship and the writer of your own story. The cliché statement "you get out what you put in" definitely holds true in this case.

If this program doesn't sound like something you'd be interested in and you feel like we are way off base, you have no obligation to respond, and we truly wish you the best in all your endeavors! But if the things you are reading spark something in you and you believe that you are ready to make some life changing decisions then I think we can help. Attached you will find personal statement paperwork. In this personal statement we would like for you to outline your past, present, and where you would like to be in the future. You can talk about how you grew up, your philosophy on life, your goals, dreams and aspirations, your children, why you want to change, your dream job, education, or whatever you think is important for us to know about you. This is your opportunity let us get to know you (write your heart out). We ask that this personal statement be no less than 500 words with no maximum. This can be submitted to jail staff upon completion. We look forward to hearing from you and once we receive your

response, we will be in to see you as soon as possible to do an intake and answer any questions you may have.

Since the possibility that this letter is reaching you without the proper amount of time to sit, process, and put thought into a 500-word personal statement is pretty great, below is a contact number and an address that you can mail the documents in to if you are released prior to first contact. While we would prefer to meet with you while you are still inside, we recognize that may not be possible, but we would still like to be a part of the next steps of your life.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Keith Whiteman

Outreach Specialist

Olympia Police Department-Familiar Faces Program

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