

Phone Justice

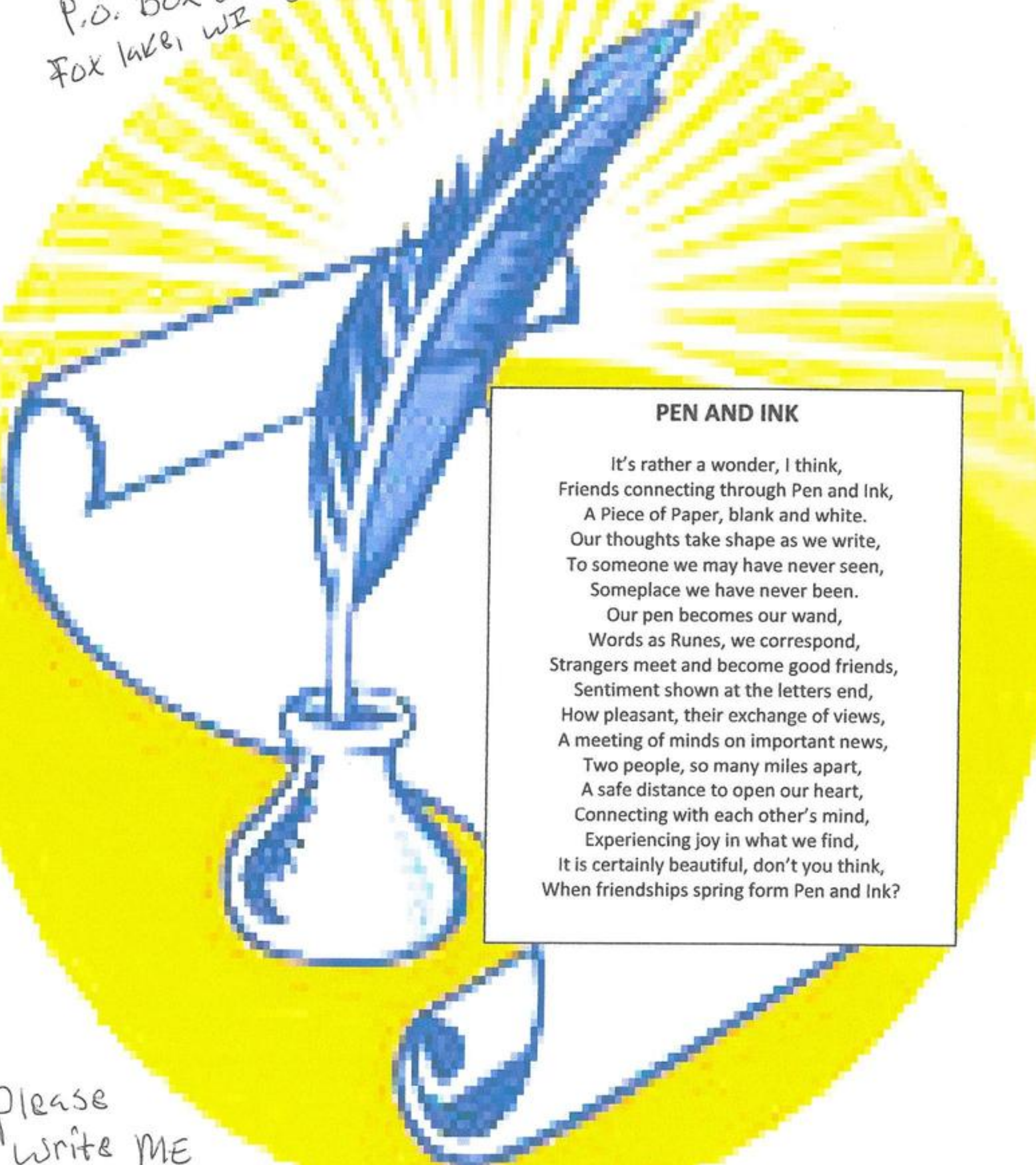
I am a 31 year old father of three boys ages 6, 7, and 16, I have been incarcerated for six years and during that time I can count on one hand how many times I've been able to call home and that hurts not only me, but everyone else. It's hard to explain to a six and seven year old that you didn't call on their birthday, first day of school, etc, because you couldn't afford to put money on the phone. I wish I could call home as much as I wanted, but I can't. The high cost of the correctional billing makes my family feel like they're failing me because they know that their is only three things that I look forward to in regards to my incarceration; (1) mail, (2) visits, (3) phone calls and the lack of phone calls makes it hard to be a productive parent, and my family feels like it's their fault that I can't be there as much as I want. I also feel like less than a man, son, father, etc because as a part of a support system their is nothing I can do to help with the cost of the phone, and I feel like I'm a let down as a parent. My family has had it hard in regards to the correctional billing system cost - I've had to learn of family deaths through third parties, I've had to deal with emotional traumas, and life changing episodes through news papers, prison staff, etc because my family can't afford to open accounts. The few times that they could afford to put money on the phone the connection fees were so high that if I called twice their wasn't enough money for a third call. I'm hoping that you'll be able to come to an agreement about how to control the cost of correctional billing, so that people like myself can have and build better relationships with their family, friends, spouses, and others.

Note: prison is a lonely and hard experience without a support system, and hearing a familiar voice can truly be the difference between someone giving up and someone being motivated to become a better person. The statistics provided by Justice & Mercy Inc state that "... An ex-offender who learns a trade and maintains good ties with family and friends is 40-60% less likely to re-commit a crime.

To: Anyone Reading this

From: Amondo Duckworth - 418846

FICI
P.O. BOX 200 53933
FOX LAKE, WI



PEN AND INK

It's rather a wonder, I think,
Friends connecting through Pen and Ink,
A Piece of Paper, blank and white.
Our thoughts take shape as we write,
To someone we may have never seen,
Someplace we have never been.
Our pen becomes our wand,
Words as Runes, we correspond,
Strangers meet and become good friends,
Sentiment shown at the letters end,
How pleasant, their exchange of views,
A meeting of minds on important news,
Two people, so many miles apart,
A safe distance to open our heart,
Connecting with each other's mind,
Experiencing joy in what we find,
It is certainly beautiful, don't you think,
When friendships spring from Pen and Ink?

Please
write ME