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Nation Inside: Communication Strategies Against Mass Incarceration;

RE: Reply ID: AMC2012

I did not grow up wanting to be prison #11616584. As most any kid I had high hopes and expectations in my life. I grew up poor and with a single mother, but she tryed to instill a sense of goodness in my thinking.

I don't know where I got lost, but I do know it would be a miracle at this point to find that goodness again. I'm only 33 and I've spent half my life incarcerated. I guess by posting this blog I'm trying to lend my voice so the next boy growing up doesn't one day realize he's wasted half his life in prison.

Here are my answers to the following questions based on experience of prison life.

1. How can organizations working to end mass incarceration do better?

I feel the only way to end mass incarceration is by mass intervention of young offenders. The majority of

Prisoners I know all started committing crimes as juveniles. Instead of helping to instill greater family values in my life, I was sent from foster home to foster home. Once you get lost in this system, gangs and drugs are the only way to fill the void. Organizations should combine their efforts to stop the problem when it first starts.

2. What support do you need that you are not getting?

I feel prisons should offer more up-to-date education that could be used once released. Most offenders are given lengthy prison sentences so they struggle to survive in a society that is more technologically advanced. Given the right tools an offender can learn to fix cars instead of stealing them.

3. Are there any changes to law that we should advocate for?

I think we should advocate for the reduction of mandatory sentences.

I think what lawmakers fail to realize is that "good time" is not given,

It is earned. Without the possibility of early release for successfully completing cognitive and drug programs, most prisoners give up hope and have behavior issues. They carry these same behavior issues to society once released. I am in prison with prisoners ~~without~~ who receive "good-time" and prisoners without "good-time", the difference between them is like night and day. When you have nothing to lose and in this environment, it is only a matter of time before someone just trying to do his time is subject to this persons bad behavior. If we all had the same possibility of earned time, this environment would change for the better.

I hope this letter helps shed a little light on a dark subject.

Sincerely
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