

# BUILDING A HUMAN LIBRARY IN A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

October 2016

Freida Hull, Librarian

# ST BRIDES CORRECTIONAL CENTER



# A QUICK NOTE

❖ **A LEVEL 2 / 1 FACILITY**

❖ **DESIGNATED RE-ENTRY SITE**

❖ **POPULATION OF 1200**

❖ **ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

❖ **TREATMENT PROGRAMS**

# THE BIRTH OF AN IDEA

**AN INFOPEOPLE WEBINAR  
IN 2014  
ENTITLED  
“WHAT’S YOUR PREJUDICE?”**

# COULD THIS WORK IN PRISON?

## PRISONS ARE A MICROCOSM OF OUR SOCIETY

- **MANY TYPES OF PEOPLE IN A SMALL AREA**
- **TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR PROBLEMS**
  - CULTURAL DIFFERENCES**
  - RACIAL DIFFERENCES**
  - RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES**
  - GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES**
  - DIFFERENT ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS**



## THESE DIFFERENCES CAN LEAD TO

- ANGER
- FRUSTRATION
- INTOLERANCE
- SAFETY PROBLEMS FOR STAFF AND OFFENDERS
- MISCOMMUNICATION



**ALL OF WHICH CAN LEAD TO  
A DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT**

# THE BEGINNING OF AN IDEA

- \* **ONE GOAL FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN PRISONS:  
TO ASSIST OFFENDERS WITH POSITIVE LIFE CHANGES**
- \* **COULD A PROGRAM LIKE THIS OFFER A FORUM FOR OPENING UP COMMUNICATION**
- \* **COULD SUCH A PROGRAM WIDEN HORIZONS AND, THROUGH EDUCATION, BRING ABOUT A GREATER TOLERANCE FOR THE BELIEFS OF OTHERS**



## ACCEPTANCE

Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?

~Henry David Thoreau

# TIME TO GET GOING

- ❖ **TALK WITH THE PRINCIPAL AND WARDEN**
- ❖ **IDENTIFY THE LEADERS IN THE OFFENDER POPULATION**
- ❖ **SELL THE IDEA TO THE OFFENDER LEADERS**





# MOVING FORWARD

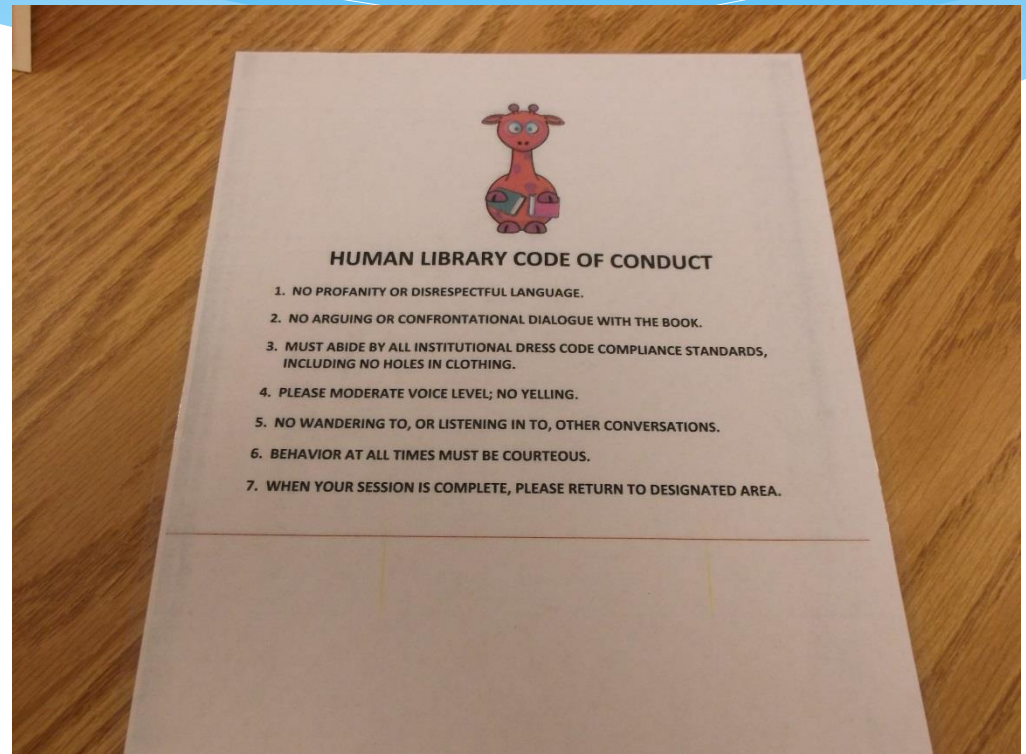
- \* **LETTERS OF INVITATION TO ELDERS AND IRG MEMBERS**
- \* **PRESENTATION**
- \* **ENTHUSIASM MIXED**
- \* **COMMITTEE FORMED**



# THE COMMITTEE DEvised

- \* **BOOK SCREENING PROCESS**
- \* **APPLICATION FOR BOOKS**
- \* **CODE OF CONDUCT**
- \* **ADVERTISEMENT FOR BOOKS**

**THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
TOOK OWNERSHIP AND  
ENTHUSIASTICALLY RAN  
WITH THE IDEA**



# SLOW BEGINNINGS



- \* CHANGED WARDENS TWICE
  - \* CHANGED PRINCIPALS TWICE
  - \* GETTING A RELIABLE GROUP
  - \* KEEPING A RELIABLE GROUP
- 
- \* LENGTH OF TIME TO GET OFF THE GROUND----  
ALMOST TWO YEARS

# FINDING BOOKS

**SBCC HUMAN LIBRARY**  
**We Still Want You!!**

**Currently We Are Looking For The Following Titles:**

- Adoption
- Non-Profit Director/Founder/Set Up
- Food Truck Owner
- Homelessness
- Self Publishing
- Weight Loss
- Dealing with Divorce/How to get a divorce while incarcerated .
- Parenting: Single Parenting, Parenting from prison.
- Street Vendor

The Human Library is where people's experiences are told and used to allow others the benefit of learning from them, either to get a head start in a profession or to make a change in life.

If you told "your story" what would the title of your book be?  
Or maybe you'd like to check out someone else's book.  
If you have a book suggestion or would like to know more about SBCC's Human Library? Send a request form to: **Ms. Hull in the Library**

**You Can't Judge A Book By It's Cover**



**SBCC HUMAN LIBRARY**  
**We Want You!**

The Human Library is where we allow the subjects of people's experiences to help others. What would your book title be? Think about it.  
Or maybe you would like to check out someone else's book. If you have a book suggestion or would like to know more about SBCC's Human Library? Send a request form to : **Ms. Hull in the Library**

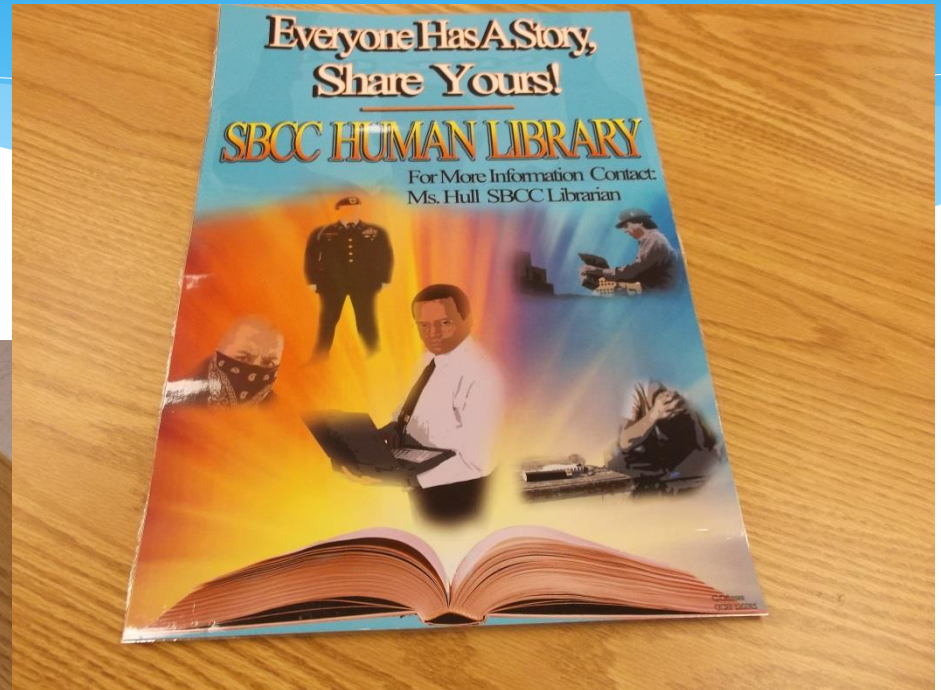
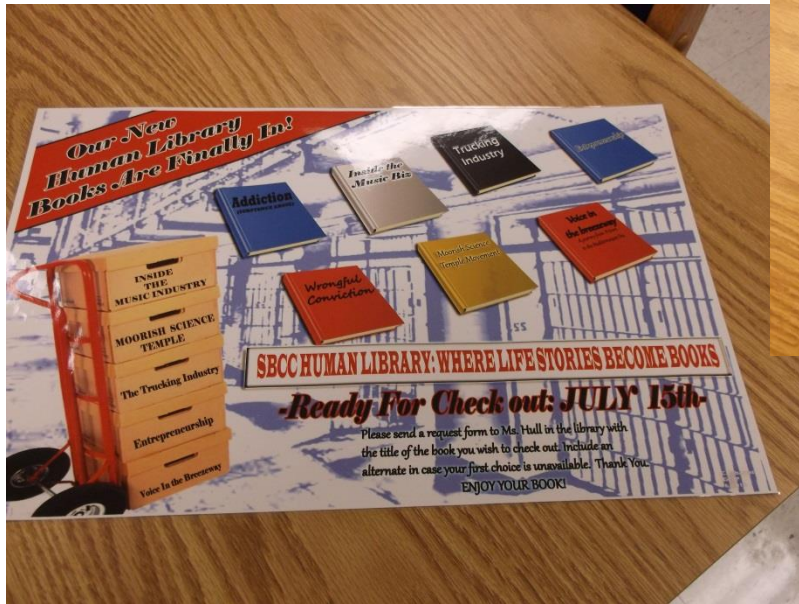
# COMMITTEE MEETINGS



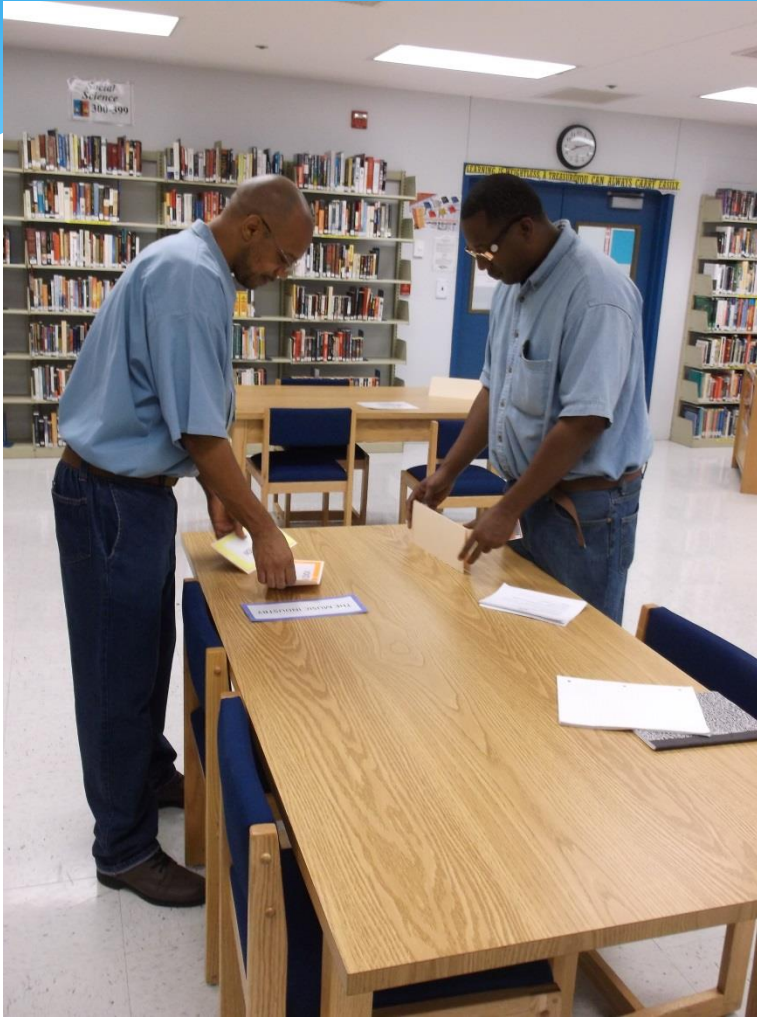
**MANY DECISIONS  
HAD TO BE MADE:**

- \* **CODE OF CONDUCT**
- \* **BOOK TITLES**
- \* **ADVERTISING**
- \* **SCHEDULING**

# ADVERTISING



# UP AND RUNNING

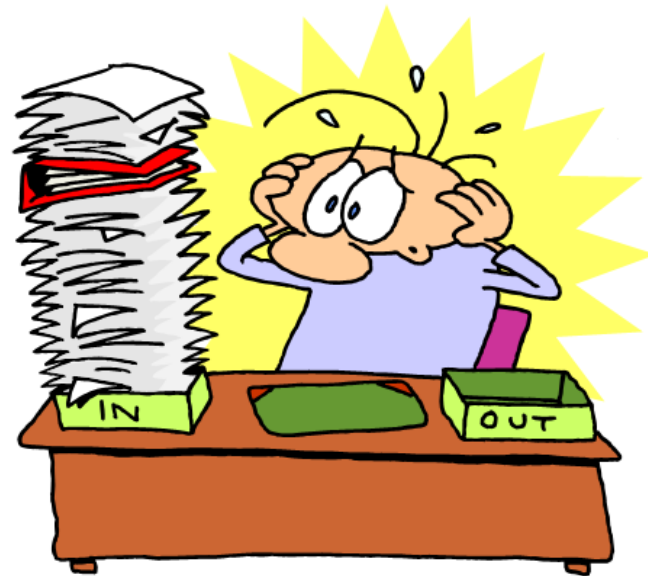


## CO-FACILITATORS ARE THE KEY

- THEY MUST SEE YOUR VISION
- THEY KNOW THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY
- THEY ARE EXPERT COMMUNICATORS

# WORK BEHIND THE SCENES

- ORGANIZING REQUESTS
- SCHEDULING BOOKS
- SCHEDULING REQUESTS
- ADVERTISING
- MAKING SURE INVITATIONS  
GET OUT ON TIME
- GETTING EVERYONE ON THE  
MASTER PASS LIST







# INVITATIONS

## HUMAN LIBRARY GATHERING

Friday, September 30, 2016

The next Human Library Gathering will be held on Friday. If you have requested a session, your assigned time is below. Please be aware if you miss your scheduled time, you will not be rescheduled unless there is an acceptable reason.

If you are a book, you are aware of your scheduled times.

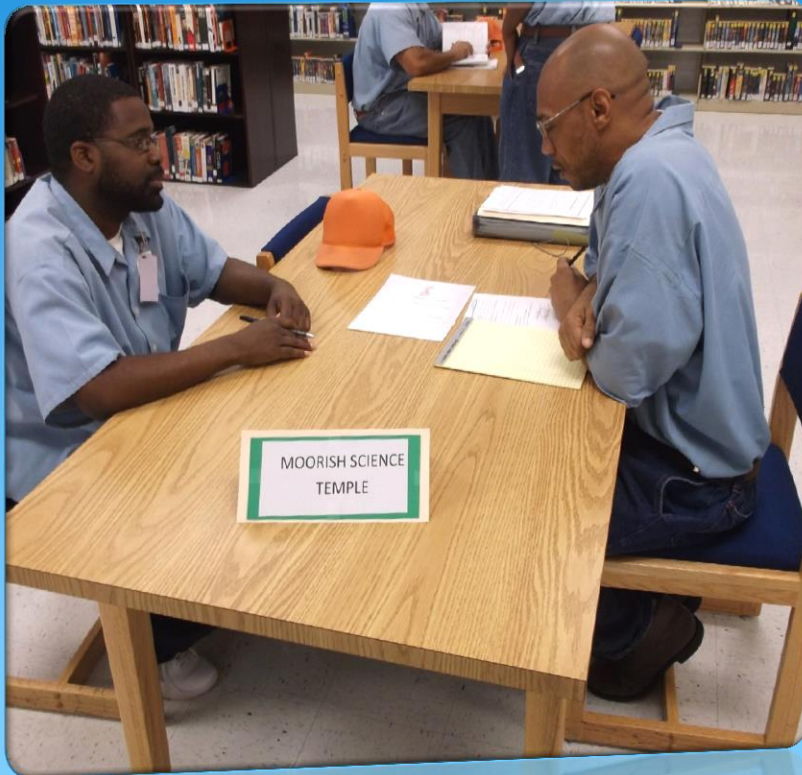
All of you will be placed on the Master Pass List. Please notify Mrs. Hull or one of the committee members if you will not be in attendance.

Thank you for your participation in this growing project.

Mrs. Hull, Librarian

Your scheduled time is \_\_\_\_\_

# BOOKS AT WORK



ADDICTION

BENEFITS OF BANKING

CREDIT BASICS

HARDSHIPS OF DIVORCE

THE VOICE IN THE BREEZEWAY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

MOORISH SCIENCE TEMPLE

MOVEMENT

WRONGFUL CONVICTION

STATE RAISED: THE GOOD, THE BAD,

THE UGLY

YOU MIGHT JUST BE A COMEDIAN

PUBLISH YOUR OWN BOOK

INSIDE THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

# MORE BOOKS TO CHECK OUT



# SMOOTH SAILING?

## NOT ALWAYS

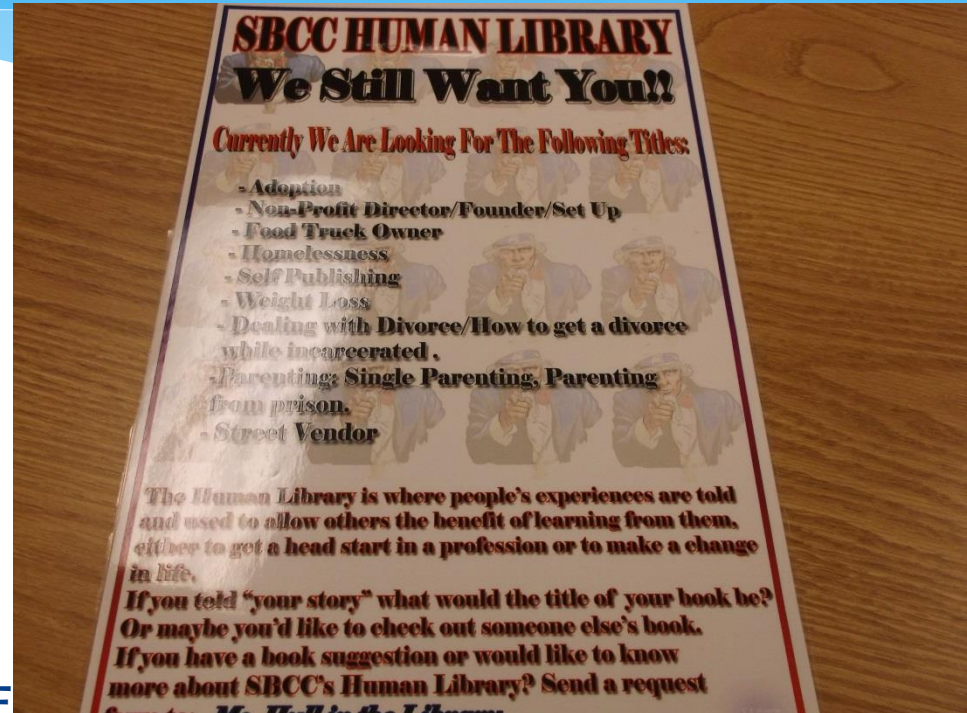
- BOOKS GO HOME
- BOOKS GET TRANSFERRED
- GLITCHES IN SCHEDULING
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS LEAVE
- SCHEDULED OFFENDERS MUST SUDDENLY GO ELSEWHERE
- BOOKS GET DISCOURAGED
- OFFENDERS HAD DIFFICULTY GRASPING THE CONCEPT

**IN A PRISON, YOU NEVER  
KNOW WHAT THE DAY WILL  
BRING**

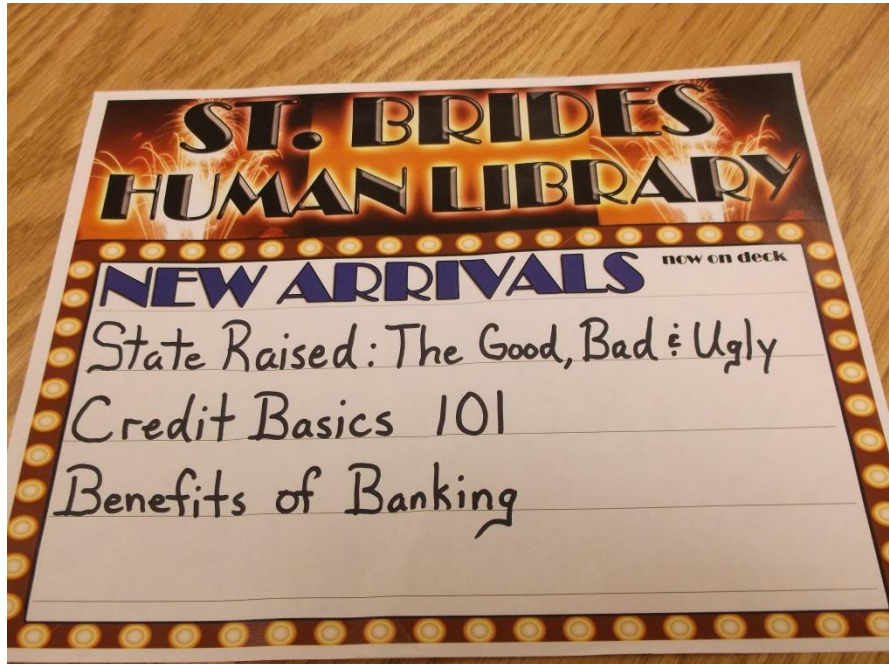


# OTHER CHALLENGES

- UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT
- TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT BOOKS
- DETERMINING THE BEST WAY TO ADVERTISE WITHIN THE RULES OF THE FACILITY



# SETTING UP SEMINARS



# GETTING ATTENTION



**IF YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE  
ASK ONE OF THE LIBRARY AIDES  
OR MRS. HULL**

# EVALUATING THE BOOKS

- \* 1. What was your book about? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* 2. Do you feel the information was valuable to you? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- \*
- \* On a scale of 1-5, with one meaning of low value and 5 meaning very valuable, please rate the following:
- \* 3. I felt comfortable with my book 1 2 3 4 5
- \* 4. My book was easy to understand 1 2 3 4 5
- \* 5. I had a chance to ask questions 1 2 3 4 5





# MANY REWARDS

REF.: Human Library

Book: Addictions – Substance Abuse

July 1, 2016 was our trial run for the Human Library. We used people who wanted to be there. I'm a book, and my book deals with Substance Abuse. The 1<sup>st</sup> person to check me out was a young man who was 27 years old here at this institution. He was interested in Substance Abuse, after sharing with him how different Substances have nearly destroyed my life. I could tell that he was in the grip of the disease of addiction. After further exploring me, he asked me what he could do to help himself. That's when I shared with him how I found help. I told him that he has done the most important thing and that was admitting. I shared with him the 12 steps of NA. I shared with him the Matrix Program here at SBCC. Before we were finished he asked me how to sign up for these programs. This was just the trail run, so I'm sure that there are more who are seeking help, and I believe the Human Library is a way for some.

Mr. Barry Cross

## BOOK REVIEW: BANKING

8/26/2016

FROM: JOSEPH G. POSTON

LIBRARY AIDE.

TO: MS. F. HUI

ST. BRIDE CORRECTIONAL CENTER

LIBRARIAN

Mr. MITCHELL WILLIAMS WAS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE OF INFORMATION. HE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS ASKED OF HIM. HE HAS AN IN DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF BANKING, LOANS, CREDIT REPAIR, AND MILITARY ISSUES PERTAINING TO BANKING. IT WAS A PLEASURE TALKING TO MR. WILLIAMS ABOUT MY SITUATION AND FINDING OUT I WILL BE IN GREAT SHAPE UPON MY RELEASE FROM PRISON. HE ALSO TOLD ME ACTIONS THAT I CAN TAKE WHILE BEING INCARCERATED TO HELP ME UPON MY RELEASE AS FAR AS MY CREDIT REPORT AND OBTAINING THE PURCHASING POWER THAT I WILL NEED UPON MY RELEASE. HE WAS ALSO VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BANKING (CREDIT UNION VS. BANKS). I WILL RECOMMEND THE HUMAN LIBRARY TO THE VETERAN'S GROUP AT ST. BRIDE, AND ESPECIALLY MR. WILLIAMS.

# THE UNIQUENESS OF IT ALL

Hope  
Changes  
Everything

- \* “HUMAN” IS THE KEY WORD
- \* HOPELESS vs HOPE
- \* VISION FOR A FUTURE IS NON-EXISTENT OR LACKING IN REALITY
- \* SOLVING PROBLEMS SOMETIMES DEPENDS UPON SEEING MORE THAN ONE VIEWPOINT
- \* SELF-EDUCATION INCREASES UNDERSTANDING

# RETURNING CITIZENS STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



# INTO AN UNKNOWN FUTURE

**“SO OFTEN TIMES IT HAPPENS  
THAT WE LIVE OUR LIVES  
IN CHAINS—  
AND WE NEVER EVEN KNOW  
WE HAVE THE KEY.”**

**From “Already Gone” by the Eagles**

