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Date: 12/20/2016 4:37:10 PM  
Subject: Re: WLTX-DJJ Holiday Story

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Brian,

The ABC piece will be tonight at 6.

-Patrick Montgomery

On Dec 15, 2016, at 2:48 PM, Patrick T. Montgomery <PTMONT@scdjj.net> wrote:

Brian,

One of the products from media.

Team DJJ,

Below is the lead story on Tuesday night's 11 pm WLTX Newscast.

Please take a moment to read and offer a big thank you to Mrs. Lucia Jacobs of Birchwood School District for being the engine to help bring a more complete holiday for some Juveniles and their child...

WOLO-ABC, Columbia came out as well for the story and will be used soon...

<http://www.wltx.com/news/local/djj-program-allows-juveniles-to-send-some-love-home-for-christmas/369650874>

Thank you!

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DJJ Program Allows Juveniles to "Send Some Love" Home For Christmas

-Mary Sturgill

Columbia, SC (WLTX) Some of the young people housed at the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice have children of their own and they won't be home for the holidays to spend time with them. But a program called "Sending Some Love" is hoping to make the connection and make Christmas a little better

for all involved.

On the day News 19 visited DJJ, Charles was reading "The Snowy Day" for his 10-month-old daughter, Sophia. He's only been in DJJ for two weeks, but he will miss Christmas and her first birthday. Even though he won't be there in person, his voice will be thanks to the Sending Some Love program that allows those juveniles in DJJ, who are also parents, to read and record books to be sent home for Christmas.

Charles tells News 19, he wants to break the cycle. He says, "My dad wasn't there and I don't want her to feel like I felt, that I'm not there and I don't love her. I do love her, I'm not there physically to show it, so I'm sending this home to show my token of love."

It's a small gift he hopes has a big impact. He says, "I wish she would smile. That's what I want to see, her smile. I'm a good father. I am not a bad person. I just made a bad mistake."

It's a mistake he hopes he does not repeat. He says, "She definitely motivates me to go home get a job, do right. I don't want to be another statistic, another black man who is not taking care of his kids."

Like Charles, Hunter's father was absent too, until recently. He is hoping to turn the page and be a better parent to his three-year-old daughter, Faith. He says it's what keeps him up at night. He says, "I'm really thinking of how much I am going to miss of her life, just missing one Christmas and having her have to think about it about when she was younger and I wasn't around."

That's a plot he hopes has a turn in the right direction in the next chapter. He hopes this recording is a step in the right direction. He says, "I hope it helps her through it and I hope she sees her daddy is ready to commit himself to her life." .

Lucia Jacobs teaches at the Birchwood school at DJJ. She says she has eight students who are sending home these audio books. She tells News 19, "This project just makes a connection. It lets the people at home know that they are loved and that they are thinking about them. They chose their own books. This is the second read for them. So now they are sending two books home."

But the message speaks volumes more than just what's written in the pages. Jacobs says, "This recording specifically helps them reach back into the community, reach back to home and let the people at home know that Mom dad, 'I'm doing ok.' Specifically for this recording, they're making these recordings for their children, letting their children know, 'mama and daddy's ok and I want you to know that I'm ok and I love you.'"

The project is funded through DJJ's partnership with the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings.

Very Respectfully,

*Patrick Montgomery*

Public Affairs Director

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