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Subject: Riley Update

Attachments: OPINION.docx

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope this note finds you well and enjoying your summer. Dennis and I just returned from visiting Riley. In three days we spent over 20 hours on the road but were rewarded with nearly 10 hours of visiting with Riley.

I haven't written in a while because things have been very turbulent within SCDC. On April 15th there was a riot at another level three facility in South Carolina that resulted in 7 inmate's deaths and 21 other inmates being injured. Following the event all facilities were locked down 24/7. During the first 4 weeks we had little contact with Riley. In mid-May his dorm had partial privileges restored allowing inmates to return to their jobs during the day but still locked down each evening from 6pm until the following morning. That model is still in place. Despite the many hours he is locked down, he is one of the fortunate ones. Many have been locked down for 2 and a half months with no end in sight.

Prior to the restricted schedule, the Character Dorm where Riley resides (CBU Program) was making great strides. The inmates develop, schedule, teach and monitor classes on various subjects. For the most part these classes take place in the evenings after they finish their other obligations. Through donations we have been able to provide books, study materials and computer equipment in order to teach a computer literacy class. We have also been able to donate 8 TV's to be installed in the common areas to encourage a sense of community and provide entertainment for those who are not fortunate enough to have personal televisions in their cells.

During the past fall there was a committee formed to look at sentencing guidelines and propose improvements. I'm attaching a letter published by a local newspaper written by the chairman of the subcommittee, Representative Pitts. While the bill was not introduced during this past session, we are hopeful to see it passed this coming session and offer relief and hope for many affected.

Riley stays very busy with assisting in the GED program as well as taking a lead role in fostering the CBU program which promotes pro-social values, attitudes, thinking and behavior through peer accountability. The model has shown a high level of success and he is working hard to help it to sustain and grow. There is a relatively new warden at McCormick who seems to embrace and support this and other positive programs.

Critical to keeping Riley's spirits up and encourage his continued dedication to the program are the support that he

has received from many of you in a variety of ways. Each visit, e-mail, phone call, letter, card, donation and prayer remind him that he has not been forgotten and that people still think of him and care about him. For anyone who wishes to write to him and may not have his address it is as follows:

McCormick Correctional Institution
Riley McDermott #367945
F1A 188
386 Redemption Way
McCormick, SC 29899

The love and support provided by each of you over the past 4 years has been incredible and is greatly appreciated by Riley and our entire family. We have a long way to go and greatly appreciate your continued outreach.

Sincere thanks,

Laurie McDermott