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Date: 10/18/2017 10:21:27 AM

Subject: Riley Update

Attachments: Operation Redemption.pdf

Hope this message finds you all well.

Sorry it's been awhile since I've written. Hurricane Irma put a lot of things on hold. While there haven't been a lot of changes with Riley I wanted to give you an update. When I last wrote Riley had been moved to the character dorm at McCormick which ended up being a real blessing. Things had gotten very bad at the facility with inadequate number of guards, excessive lock downs and lack of water during a water main break. In September there were several uprisings/riots at McCormick, fortunately he remained safe largely because of the dorm he was in. It was a frightening time for him and for us with extended periods of no contact. Fortunately SCDC has brought in additional guards and things seem to have calmed down.

On the positive side Riley has been working on initiating a program called Operation Redemption to give inmates a chance to share their stories in an attempt to deter future crime and help the inmates themselves – many of whom have never had an opportunity to deal with their own actions and regrets. I'll attach a copy of the flyer he designed. The art work was done by another inmate. We are waiting to hear if the program can be implemented. Riley also continues to assist with teaching GED which has been a life line for him during his time at McCormick. He takes extreme pride in helping students to meet their goals and has participated in two graduating classes. Riley has been fortunate to participate in the Kairos program, a prison ministry that is doing great things. He also works in his dorm assisting with computer reporting but is often frustrated with the antiquated equipment. We are waiting to be approved to donate a printer to replace the outdated one they must use.

For my part I have become very involved with efforts to implement changes in the laws to address excessive sentences with no opportunity to earn parole. There are several subcommittee's meeting and reviewing statistics that support these efforts. I have written over 100 letters to Senators, Representatives and elected officials. I plan to attend one of the meetings in person in November and hope to speak with some of the members. We continue to be blessed by an incredible support system. Thanks to all of you who visit, write, e-mail, assist with commissary and prayers. Your contact reminds Riley that he is not forgotten.

For anyone who needs, his address is:

McCormick Correctional Institution
Riley McDermott SCDC #367945
F1A 188
386 Redemption Way
McCormick, SC 29899 (you must include a return address on all letters)

For e-mail you must set up a pre-paid account through ConnectNetwork.com .

When registering select the following:

Location: South Carolina

Facility: South Carolina Department of Corrections

It will be 3 years on November 8th since the accident. It doesn't get any easier with time.

The thing that sustains us is the kindness of friends & family and the hope for changes in the law to allow an earlier release.

Thanks and love,

Laurie and the McDermott family