

Second Chance Outreach

 www.HopeForHomies.org

March 23, 2020

Friends,

I want to say thank you for being with me as this organization grows and evolves. I know I always start by thanking you and maybe you're all tired of hearing it, but honestly, I come from a lifelong living of having nothing but disappointments, false promises, and being let down; and you all have shown me what it is to feel supported and loved.

I remember when I was a kid and I wanted to play basketball. I told myself I was going to get out of this neighborhood and I was going to be somebody. I told myself I was going to Duke and would become the best player on the team. I was 5'4" at the time but swore I was 6 feet tall. Nobody believed in me besides my sister. My sister and I were really close through my childhood and she let me dream of becoming that premier player. But the dream eventually faded away and was overtaken by all the violence in my neighborhood and the lack of love.

I believe that people like myself who hunger for love have a hard time adapting to the way this world runs because we are given handouts instead of solid friendships within our communities. Everyone, including the marginalized in our society, needs community. Somewhere they can be safe. Somewhere they can be themselves. Somewhere they can dream. Somewhere they can be uplifted and encouraged. It may be hard for you all to feel this email and to feel the heart, the inspiration, the love, the compassion, the kinship and humbleness when I say thank you; but know that I sincerely am grateful for all of you. Thank you for being with me as we continue to build a safe haven for folks who need it.

I was speaking to this beautiful young lady who is in her early 80's names Mary. I met Mary B. over 5 1/2 years ago by doing side jobs for her and slowly built a friendship that blossomed into a love that is rare and so out of this world. You wouldn't think that an 80 year old lady from Lyman, Washington would have compassion and love for a 38 year old man from the gang affected streets of Mount Vernon, Washington. But she does and I love her for it. Mary B. seems to always give me the best advice or say something that just impacts my heart and today she told me something. She said Fear is a scary word, not just to me, not just to you, but everyone views fear like a red stop sign. But Mary B. said she takes the word fear out of her vocabulary and uses challenges and obstacles instead, because it gives hope that there's a way around things. That there is possibility.

Friends, after today I will no longer have fear of building and structuring Second Chance Outreach / Hope for Homies. We will look for options, opportunities and ways around our challenges and difficulties in this year

to come as we move forward. So as we are now in the season of Lent and we look to give something up, I want to thank Mary B. for helping to find what I need to give up: Fear.

Second Chance Outreach has slowly been getting furnished and defined in a direction that will help us cure some pains, not just place a bandage on them. The Calling that we feel God has placed on us a Second Chance Outreach is very unique and time-consuming and requires a lot of work and prayer. Many years ago I was sitting in solitary confinement when I drew a picture of a safe haven for guys like me. It had places to lodge people. It had a fire pit and room to roam. It had places to grow vegetables, to grow flowers, to grow internally. I named this place Hope for Homies and I drew up a sketch for my friend and told him about it.

Some months later a friend of his named Fred Bahnson started writing a book named Soils and Sacraments. In this book he writes how he came to visit me in solitary confinement. I go by the name Bones in his book because that was my name in prison and I speak of Hope for Homies. And now we have the opportunity to make this dream a reality.

Right now we are faced with the unique challenge of supporting homies and continuing to grow our organization in the wake of CoViD-19. To ensure safety for all of those that we support, we are focusing on in-reach to homies in prison and developing the produce and flower production capability I envisioned way back when I was in solitary confinement. Now is an especially important time to support the inmates we are connected with, as many facilities have discontinued visitations to protect against infection. As a result, inmates are cut off from important personal interactions and need the additional letters, phone calls, and love that we are delivering. As we do this time consuming in-reach work, we are also growing our food production capabilities with the intent of donating a significant portion to the community.

With all the risk in our community, we at SCO are not only being cautious on our end, but we also invite you to do so as well. Stay home as much as possible. If you are in a high risk category, order delivery of what you need. If you are unable to order yourself, reach out to us and we will figure out how to get you what you need. Take care of yourself and those that you love by being safe, following expert advice, and reaching out to others through phone calls, letters, and the internet.

And once again, thank you for your support.

With thanks and love,

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Your donations are appreciated, and can be made through PayPal on our website: www.HopeForHomies.org

Or mail your donation to:

Second Chance Outreach

PO Box 741

Burlington, WA 98233

Phone: 360-429-9117