

# INSIDE-OUTSIDE ALLIANCE RESOURCE GUIDE

## BOOKS and MAGAZINES for PRISONERS

### Durham Prison Books Collective

A non-profit organization that sends books to people inside women's prisons in North Carolina and to the Durham county jail by request. Durham Prison Books can send three books at a time, approximately once a month, in addition zines and this resource guide.

Durham Prison Books c/o Internationalist Books  
P.O. Box 1524, Durham, NC 27702

### PEN Prison Writing Program

The Prison Writing Program sponsors an annual writing contest, publishes a free handbook for prisoners, and provides one-on-one mentoring to inmates.

588 Broadway, Suite 303, New York, NY 10012  
(212) 334-1660 penmentor@gmail.com - pen.org

## Legal and Parole Resources

### ACLU of North Carolina

The American Civil Liberties Union takes on individual cases and provides referrals. They publish a quarterly journal and helpful booklets. Intake Department, ACLU of North Carolina PO Box 28004, Raleigh, NC 27611-8004

### Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Legal help and advocacy for immigrants. Works with INS detainees and imprisoned immigrants.

Se habla español. Immigrant Legal Resource Center, 1016 16th Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20036 - <http://www.ilrc.org/>

### Lewisburg Prison Project

Publishes several low-cost materials for prisoners, including Legal Bulletins, Federal Parole Guide, and Due Process standards. PO Box 128, Lewisburg, PA 17837 570-523-1104 [www.lewisburgprisonproject.org](http://www.lewisburgprisonproject.org)  
National Center on Institutions and Alternatives Can help with preparing sentencing and parole recommendations; death penalty mitigating circumstances; jail suicide prevention. 7205 Rutherford Road, Baltimore, MD 21244 - 443-780-1300 - [info@ncianet.org](mailto:info@ncianet.org)

### National Lawyers Guild

A national organization of progressive and radical lawyers active around a wide range of issues which affect prisoners. They publish an excellent Jailhouse Lawyers handbook, free from: 132 Nassau Street, Rm. 922, New York, NY 10038 - 212-679-5100 - [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)

### North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services

A non-profit legal services firm to provide inmates meaningful access to the courts. Can determine whether there were legal errors made in convictions. PO Box 25397 Raleigh, NC 27611 Phone: 919-856-2200 [ncpls@ncpls.org](mailto:ncpls@ncpls.org) - <http://www.ncpls.org/>

### Prison Legal News

A monthly magazine with review & analysis of prisoner rights, court rulings and news concerning prison-related issues. \$3.50 sample issue/\$30 year subscription. Has catalog of legal books. Accepts books of new stamps as payment. PO Box 1151 Lake Worth, FL 33460 561-360-2523 [info@prisonlegalnews.org](mailto:info@prisonlegalnews.org)

### Prison Self-Help Legal Clinic

Supports prisoners' efforts at self-ligation with education resources. Provides services in Spanish and in English. Se habla español. One Newark Center, Seaton Hall University School of Law, Newark, NJ 07102 - [PSHLC@domain.com](mailto:PSHLC@domain.com) 888-415-7271

### Southern Center for Human Rights

Provides legal representation to people facing the death penalty, challenges human rights violations in prisons and jails, legal representation for poor people, and advocates for criminal justice system reforms. 83 Poplar St. Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-688-1202 - [www.schr.org](http://www.schr.org)

### NC Center on Actual Innocence

Investigates claims of innocence for NC felonies with at least three years left in the sentence.  
PO Box 52446, Shannon Plaza Station, Durham, NC 27717-2446 - 919-489-3268 - [admin@nccai.org](mailto:admin@nccai.org) - <http://nccai.org/>

# feedback

inside & outside, voices from the jail struggle

Durham, NC ~ June 2018 ~ volume 41

## Justice for Dashawn Evans! No More Jail Deaths!



On May 27th, 2018, 23-year-old Dashawn Devonte Evans was found dead in the Durham County Detention Facility. He was a healthy young man with a bright life ahead of him.

Over the last few days, people who knew Dashawn have shared information about his compassion, generosity, and commitment to his family. Statements from 9 members of Dashawn's family are provided below. His family is seeking information about the circumstances of his death. If you know anything about it, please write to us.

Dashawn's death is undeniably tragic, all the more so because it does not stand alone. His death marks the seventh that has occurred in the jail since 2013, a reflection of the indifference and incompetence shown by the sheriff and many in the jail's staff. We demand justice for Dashawn Evans and those before him: James Earl Staton Jr., Niecey Fennel, Matthew McCain, Raphael Bennet, Dennis McMurray, and Terry Lee. The jail must stop this pattern of neglect and abuse. We cannot let them rest until it ends.

### Statements from Dashawn's family – 5/29/18:

Valisha Evans, Dashawn's Aunt: "He's going to be missed. I loved him. He was always smiling. He loved his family and his children."

Karen Kirkland, Dashawn's fiancé: "I want to say that he was a great father, and he will be truly missed. And he was my best friend. I love you, Dashawn."

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Venise Jones, Dashawn's grandmother: "Dashawn was in jail for some problems, but I can promise you that he got a charge that he didn't do. I know for a fact, because it was on his birthday, he did not do it. I can say, he is a good child. Everybody has good children, and most people's children do stuff. But he still was a good dad. He was a good grandson. There wasn't anything he wouldn't do for me. And I love him. Whatever it is [that happened in the jail], it will come out."

Mercedes Jacobs, Dashawn's sister: "I just want to say that, even though he grew up a little troubled, no matter how hard his life got, he always had a positive outlook or a game-plan and a big smile on his face. Everybody goes through stuff, but he was the type to get through it and not give up. I love my little brother, and I'm gonna miss him."

Robert Miles, Dashawn's cousin: "We had a lot of good times. We had a lot of bad times. One thing I can say about him: nobody in this family can out-gamble him! <laughter> He wasn't a good child, he wasn't a bad child. He was a family man. It's sad that he's gone. But it's a blessing he's somewhere peaceful. We don't have to worry about him no more. But at the end of the day, what happened was wrong. He made sure everybody got taken care of. He loved his momma. He loved his kids. He's gonna be truly missed."

Shereka Evans, Dashawn's cousin: "One thing Dashawn always did, when he

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### What is Feedback?

**Feedback** is a publication of Inside-Outside Alliance (IOA), a group of people trying to support the struggles of those inside (or formerly inside) the Durham jail, and their families and friends. We recognize that any of us can be outside one day, inside the next – the revolving door of incarceration. We also participate in struggles against police harassment and brutality. IOA maintains a website called Amplify Voices Inside ([amplifyvoices.com](http://amplifyvoices.com)) that publishes the words of Durham jail inmates and former inmates talking about conditions inside and outside and how they see the world.

The name Amplify Voices Inside comes from something a brave and rebellious inmate wrote in the fall of 2012. This publication, Feedback, is a sampling of recent contents of the website. When something amplified is redirected at the source of the sound, the effect is called feedback. That is what this is: the voices that have been amplified to the outside world being re-broadcast inside the walls of the jail. Feedback is also distributed on the outside and sometimes includes 'outside' voices. Unless a person requests use of their real name, then writers' initials have been changed to protect identities and minimize repressive attacks and harassment.

**To contribute words or art, write to: IOA, PO Box 1353, Durham, NC 27701.**

You may be able to reach us by phone at 919.666.7854

Or, if you are not in jail and are able to, send an email: [insideoutsidealliance@gmail.com](mailto:insideoutsidealliance@gmail.com)

**\* Se habla español. \***



*Image from a protest for Dashawn Evans on Friday, June 1st, in front of the jail. Dashawn's cousin, Sharnella McCrae (center), gave the following speech:*

"Seven deaths in Durham County Jail—I'm speaking about Durham County Jail where my cousin lost his life at. Let it sit: seven deaths. Ridiculous! ... We need to let it be known that there is no reason for people to come here, for whatever they've done, and for them to lose their lives. We should not be out here celebrating my cousin, Dashawn. Ridiculous! He came here for whatever, but he should have walked out those doors. That's his right!

... My cousin, Dashawn, lost his life in Durham County Jail. I'm upset! I'm not happy about this! I'm pissed! Let's be clear. Let's be clear that any guards who gave him anything, anybody will be held accountable. ... If you did anything to him... That was my little cousin! I'm upset! So, we are out here today, and we are going to put these signs up to let America know that we are sick and tired of deaths! They were supposed to walk out these doors, not for you to bury them. They were supposed to have come home! I'm pissed. I want to let y'all know that I'm pissed and I'm gracious that everybody's out here to let me know that Dashawn was loved. We already knew that he was loved. That wasn't the question. But we just gonna let these people inside these walls know that he was loved. And we're gonna keep doing whatever we gotta do to let it be known. We gonna figure out what happened to him."

- Sharnella McCrae

## Just a girlfriend...

This girl looked very young, at first I thought she was 15 or 16 (we have those age girls at the pod too and stop wondering why such a young girl are here with insignificant (not felony) misdemeanors in here with experienced criminals – but I’ll write about that next time).

She is 24 years old. Tomorrow is one of the worst days of her short life – the funeral of her boyfriend. He left this life one week ago, the same day that she got here. An overdose. No need to say that she wanted to be close to him one last time and say “goodbye” – at the very least. It didn’t happen. Mrs. Bell didn’t give her permission to go to the funeral, because she is not a wife, just a girlfriend. Anna and James (not their real names) were together for 7 years and have two daughters. They

did love each other. When Anna learned that James died, she lost consciousness. Her grief is huge, and what’s with the combination of being in jail, just unbearably painful. Her felony is not proven yet but she already must suffer from punishment being here. Plus one more punishment – lacking the very right to say “bye” to the one she loved only because she did not have official papers. I know it’s a jail policy that you can only go to a funeral if you have an official connection. But it is still not normal and not human! But again – who cares – in their view, let the young widow suffer, if she is in jail, she must deserve it!

– F. L.

## Gunning At the Press

|                        |                       |                          |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| You say youre          | In front of thousands | Just to slang            |
| An eyewitness          | Of people             | Drugs                    |
| Tell me what           | Painting a picture    | And shoot shit           |
| You seen               | For the viewers       | Up                       |
| Because youre throwing | Causing them to       | Statistics has proven    |
| Dirt on my             | Look down a           | We’ll never get          |
| Name                   | One way street        | The respect and          |
| Like you personally    | All I ask             | Opportunity              |
| Know me                | Is you get            | We deserve               |
| What gives you         | You facts straight    | In this country          |
| The right to           | Before you speak      | So fuck yall and         |
| Run                    | On me                 | The sof ass              |
| A man’s name           | Or anybody that       | United States government |
| Down on national       | Grew up in            |                          |
| TV                     | The streets           | - Ghost                  |
| Throwing around his    | Yall stereotype us    |                          |
| Dirty laundry          | Like we live          |                          |

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saw me, was hug me. He always hugged me and told me that he loved me, regardless of anything. I will always remember that about him. He loved his family, and I know that he didn’t do anything to jeopardize himself being with his family. He did anything for anybody, whether it was a quarter, whether it was a bag of potato chips. It doesn’t matter what it was, he gave it. So, I know it was something wrong, what happened with my cousin. And we just want to get to the bottom of it, and make sure everybody has light and peace in this situation in the end.”

Lewis Jacobs, Dashawn’s father: “One thing I can say about my son is he’s a survivor. He’s always been a survivor through all kind of ups and downs. He’s a survivor and I love him to death. And I knew that he loved me and he loved his family.”

Sharnella McCrae, Dashawn’s cousin: “Growing up with Dashawn, you would never know what to expect. Dashawn was so active. Growing up around my house, my grandma had ten children, so there’s a lot of us on both sides of our family. He has a big family. So, Dashawn always was family oriented. Dashawn loved his family, loved both his grandmothers, loved his grandfathers. Dashawn loved to play. No matter whenever I’d see my cousin– if I’m driving down Main Street, Liberty Street, wherever I’m at–I can look out the window and say, ‘what up, Day-Day, what up, cuz, I love you!’ Every time we saw each other, we’d say ‘I love you.’ Even though he got on my nerves, when we departed from each other, we’d say we loved each other. No matter what it was, if I ever felt like I needed

Dashawn, Dashawn would be there. I would be there for Dashawn. It’s just an unfortunate situation that we have to see a young man go away from two families that dearly loved this young man. He was really loved. He has two children that will miss him. They’ll never really get to see the young man that I knew Dashawn to be. But he’s looking over them, so that’s a positive. We’re gonna always keep Dashawn lifted. We love you. You’ll never be forgotten. And whatever it is, Dashawn, we will get to the bottom of it. Just know that we got your back, just like you had our back.”

Roy Dunkins, Dashawn’s uncle: “He loved his family. Anything he could do for anybody, he would. He loved being around his family. All I can say is he’s a family oriented man. Everybody has their issues, but at the same time, he’s a good dude. He’s gonna be missed by his family. He’s loved by his family. Anybody that comes up against him: we want to come together as a family, as a team, and show them that just because one person makes one bad decision, that doesn’t mean that’s their whole life.”

**WFTP 92.9 airs a monthly radio show with music, interviews, and news from prisoners.**

**Tune in on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 7pm at 92.9!**

## Give us freedom or in God we Trust

This is D, whom you wrote to through Inside-Outside Alliance. I wanted to express my thankfulness for your concern, I am humbled. This is very overwhelming at times and I thank God for a loving family. I have lost a lot of things, relationships, time, sleep – but God has sent some people right when you need it. When you allow the devil or arrogance to make bad decisions, to me, I can't blame anyone. Being black or poor does not make you lose freedom, peace, family and love. Life is a decision (sin).

No complaints, but I am very thankful. The sheriff is in need of replacement (just like the dead, over-priced batteries that Commissary sells). Sheriffs can't rise people but he can allow the Life Skills program (taught by the Durham Literacy Council) to be open to all the jail and the program for youth offenders and recovery to be jail-wide, something else beside STAR

for recovery from drugs, poor decisions, sex, anger, etc... Instead of being like Thomas Clayton (TomTom), who admitted to nothing but crime. Also, during this election, don't forget the District Attorney (who has to go even though is black), like a true hypocrite who doesn't benefit anyone righteous except their self. With a 90 percent conviction rate, 5 years to TomTom of being there but 2 years without concrete involvement, give us freedom or in God we Trust.... Devil and his lawyers with a waiting game to convict, or be censored in the process by GlobalTel (what, can I get a contact with God for good behavior?)

Pray you preach that,  
Hope to hear more,  
D. Q.

### ***SURVEY and PETITIONS ABOUT MEDICAL NEGLECT***

*Have you experienced medical neglect, medical inattention, or any kind of problems with medical care in the jail?*

We want to know about inmates' experiences of medical neglect in the jail. If you have any such experiences, please write to us and tell us about your experiences (or what you have witnessed of other people's experiences). We are inspired here because there are inmates making petitions around these issues in some pods. Please consider making a petition for your own pod, gathering signatures, and sending it to us. We would then help publicize the petitions, to create pressure for change.

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some dump ass excuse like we thought he had a gun knowing damn well you can tell the difference between a gun and a phone. We keep the problems we have amongst ourselves. In other words street justice. We're not just shooting any and everybody its logical reasons behind most crime we commit. Y'all might not see it that way but you'll never understand because it was the hand we were dealt. And for the record we're not the one's shooting up schools cause we were upset and getting a slap on the wrist. But everything is wrong in America when it has something to do with the black man.

-Ghost

### **“Yes, this is medical neglect”**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I come from New Jersey. Been in Durham 40 plus years. My parents are deceased. My mother passed here in Durham 7 years ago. I come from a family of 5. I am the middle child: 2 sisters younger, 2 brothers older. Me and my brother been in and out of jail and prison. We're all locked up now. My oldest brother got 14 months and my other brother got about 2 years or less to go. So I am 47 and unemployed, but a jack-of-all-trades, master of none!!! I applaud what you're doing and if I was free I would be standing beside you.

I am in here for a number of charges. My first violent crimes. I had gave up on the world a long time ago. But out of 47 years, this was the first time in my life that I gave up on myself. I am not a violent person but my spirit was being pulled at my so very strong demons (stress). But I believe that things happen for a reason. But now I am in jail without the bail. ...

I found out today that I've got some medical problems. Medical drew my blood and all they state to me is that I need to stop eating fatty food. But I been here since February and

now my legs are swell and they do not wish to do nothing at this time but give me a pill for three weeks and an ice pack for my triglycerides count, which is 469 and should be 200 and below. I've got to wait even longer to start a diet here. The nurse said that “she would let the doctor know.” Okay, it will be Monday of next week before I hear anything. ... Yes, this is medical neglect. Just to give me a pill that does nothing. Something donated to the jail.

I think your Feedback is on point, and I wish to further this, because I and others need to be heard.

The Sheriff race I do not have no information on any of the candidates, but I am unaffiliated. So I received a late ballot. It was too late by the time I received it. These people here at the jail had something to do why I got it so late. ...

Thanks for everything from all in here that I tell about your stand and where you stand.

- The Ferret

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problems, but all & all, today I'm a better person. My mind is way different and set on a better future. So. . .

You asked about the mental health pod. Well, we do some fun things sometimes, like we play bingo for prizes on Friday, or we do arts and crafts. We have cards, checkers, chess, Uno cards. Other than that it's still jail. It's also a lower population than the other blocks so it is a lot less stressful to me, anyway. I have anxiety and paranoia, the pod is still new and they say more things will come down the line.

You also asked what things IOA could do for us to make it better in here. Support is major knowing someone is thinking about you. That's why I was talking about mail, that's also why I asked for

## Feedback

I was asked why everybody gets mad when a cop kills a black man, but there's no complaining about all the black on black crimes.

Personally my opinion on the subject is one the police are the very one's the community calls on when they're in need of help so it looks bad to see the one's who is sworn to protect and serve just gunning down young black men yea the first few might've been a honest mistake now they're just shooting down young black males like targets at a shooting range. No black on black crime is not ok I agree with that.

But ask yourselves this question where does a black man stand

more people to write. That's just me though, I'd like to meet more people and network a little.

Another big thing I know a lot of guys don't get is money. It's hard to sit around and watch all the guys that get canteen when it comes and they eat cookies, honey buns, candy, etc. And plus the hygiene they give you is shitty and they have deodorant and other products on canteen. They also have a care package you can send inmates at i-caregifting.com. It's just something that I know guys struggle with. I know I do, who don't like a snack once in a while. I'm sure you heard of how shitty the food is (haha).

Well man, I guess this is it until next time. . .

Wallace Eubanks

in America's economy? The mass amount of us are born to single mother's either because our father's are locked up, dead, or just don't give a fuck. So we're forced to live in low income communities looking at our mother figures struggle to make ends meet. So we turn to local gangs because the older members is as close to a father some of us get. That leads to slanging drugs and shooting guns. Again no it's not right in any way to take another person's life. My point is that you don't see Bloods & Crips or any other street gangs just gunning down random people then making

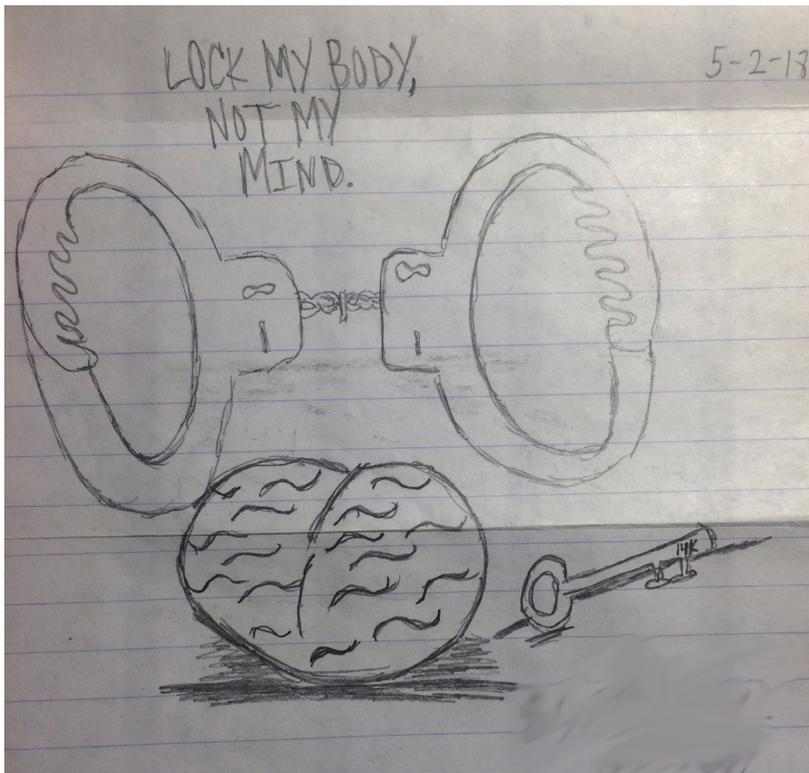
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## Genocide

Pow! Pow! Pow!  
There goes another  
Act of violence  
A black man  
Murdered in cold  
Blood  
Not because of  
Drugs  
Not because of  
Gangbanging  
But by the  
Hand of an  
Officer of the  
Law  
I thought they  
Were sworn  
To protect us  
Im starting to  
See a couple  
Of flaws  
How are we  
Suppose to trust  
In the police?  
When there's a  
Ninety percent chance  
They'll shoot me  
Dead  
In the streets  
Because the color  
Of my skin  
Without  
Getting the chance  
To know me  
For the person  
I really am  
A man might  
Rock tim's  
Levi's and a  
Hoodie  
I might be

From the hood  
That don't mean  
I'm always  
Up to something  
I want to  
Know  
What you see  
When you look  
At me  
And my counterparts  
Why do we  
Have to be  
Gunned down  
Why do we  
Have to die  
You say  
This is a  
Free country  
Why is there  
No remorse  
For our lives  
But something happen's  
To yours  
You expect us  
To break down  
And cry  
Why can't we  
Be treated equal  
As one nation  
Under God  
No mother should  
Have to bury  
Her child  
Because of the  
Hatred of their  
Skin color  
And social background

-Ghost



### Lock My Body, Not My Mind

I just wanna say thanks! For the support being that I only got two people who even think about me. I really ain't have no choice coming to jail to be honest. I needed some kinda shelter. I've been homeless, looking for jobs, in and out of school programs since I drop-out of school. I'm still waiting to hear my verdict and hoping for it to be light weight on me. I like to draw sometimes when my concentration opens up. I'm just really concern about if I will be homeless coming out of jail, and struggle all over again. I'm really in desperate need of a stable foundation that could give me that jump start back in society.

Thanks,

U.B. [artist of the drawing above]

### “Our greed and pride is our downfall”

Hey man,

I'm glad you wrote back, letters are important in here. You spoke about things being fair. I wish! Not only for me but the countless others. The most bizarre thing is this, humanity as a whole has the means and knowledge to provide for one another in such a way that none should lack much of anything. The great wealth combined with the knowledge we have is more than capable to provide solutions for the problems of poverty and great oppression that we as a world all share. Our greed and pride is our downfall, our world leaders are blind to these things and ideals. They seem to care more about how powerful their nation is rather than look to the true needs of a people that they swear an oath to provide and protect. They spend trillions and billions of dollars on military arsenal to “protect” a nation that needs protection from ourselves. Drugs, violence, hunger, shelter, and clothing are on the backlist that is ever growing. We worry about weapons of mass destruction yet we are destroyed within our own lands. I wonder if our leaders think about the addict that is only addicted because he wishes to drown the pain of abuse they suffered. Do they see or think about the homeless that are hidden by the shadows cast by the wealthy as they pass them without even a word or hint of empathy? What about the single mom with four kids of all ages, who can't work because she has no money to pay for the daycare. She is stuck with minimal

food stamps, no transportation, and low income housing in a high crime area. Do they see her tears at night when she cries for her little ones? I am in amazement at all of this, so when I start to think my situation is bad I'm humbled at the lives of others that share the struggle.

I did not mean to get as deep as I just did, but I've lived my life in a lot of these situations. When I was homeless, I was also an addict. I was a shadow, no one saw me. I do have to admit some people showed me kindness, and I'm grateful. But mostly I was a shadow, at 3 am I remember digging through a garbage can looking for food and was happy to find a “McDonalds” bag with a half-eaten hamburger and a few cold fries. I would shoplift clothes, hygiene, food, even my drug.

You see, I was a huffer, and I huffed “spraypaint”. My life was hell, mostly it was just sad and I would get high to forget and dull the pain. I knew I had a problem, but to get real help cost money or you had to have insurance. I didn't have anything. Some nights I would just cry. I did bullshit crimes, like, B&E “Breaking and Entering”. I wouldn't even steal anything, then I'd go to jail or prison. The cycle continued.

It was all I knew. Success was something that I knew not, but it was easy to fail, so fail I did. I didn't even know I had mental health

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