

Faces of SAP: Expressions of Recovery

Recovery is Powerful



Kentucky Department of Corrections
Division of Addiction Services

a message from the director

The Division of Addiction Services is proud to share our 4th annual Faces of SAP – Expressions of Recovery. Each year, we ask clients of our residential substance use treatment programs to submit artwork that represents their vision of hope and recovery, and a panel of judges selects the 25 entries to be published. This creative contest highlights the talents of our clients from all over Kentucky and provides them with an opportunity to express their recovery through art. Recovery is powerful no matter what path a person takes to achieve it, which is why this year’s theme is Recovery is Powerful. We hope that this annual project will help to reduce the stigma that justice involved individuals with substance use disorder often face, and we hope you enjoy this opportunity to share in a part of their story through their art. We dedicate this book to every parent, grandparent, child, family member, friend, and support person that has never lost hope of recovery.



Sarah Johnson MSW, CSW, LCADC
Director, Division of Addiction Services
Department of Corrections

Faces of SAP – Expressions of Recovery Creative Contest

Recovery is happening inside re-entry service centers, jails, and prisons throughout the Department of Corrections. Each year, thousands of individuals enter treatment with the hope of change and a better life. Many have lost friends, family, and their freedom but are finding hope, courage, and a chance to build up relationships to be stronger than they were before.

Our judges invite you to share in our client’s stories and celebrate the power of recovery. We believe we have more in common than we might think. We all want to be the best parent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, child, and friend that we can possibly be.

Thank you to this year’s judges: Lisa Lamb, Deputy Commissioner of Community Services and Local Facilities; Erica Hargis, Director of Probation and Parole; Kristin Porter, Director of Reentry Services; Kirstie Willard, Director of Local Facilities; Alicia Bloyd, Adult Institution Justice Program Administrator; Sarah Johnson, Director of Addiction Services; Jeannie Waldridge, Assistant Director of Addiction Services; Addiction Services Branch Managers: Mylea McFelea; Veronica Hunt; Jay Volkert; Matthew Manley; Maryann Strickland; Amy Turner; Erin Kron-Chia; and Ashley Short, Executive Advisor of Addiction Services.

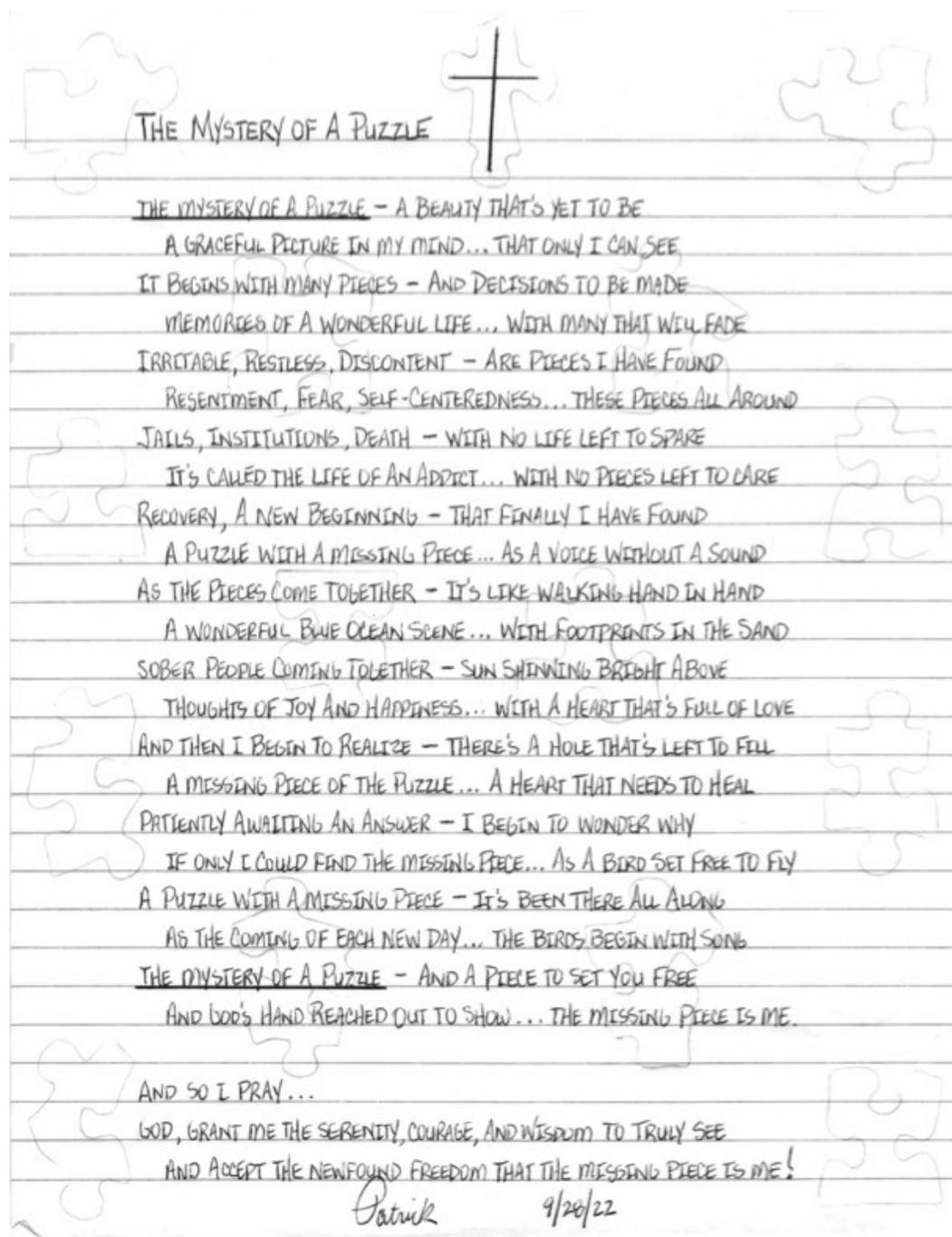
2022 winner

Gabriel W.
Hopkins County Jail



"My expression of recovery represents the moment in the darkness, where we find that beacon of hope that leads us back home to who we once were. I am using my talent as an artist to bring about real change, especially to imprisoned mental health awareness."

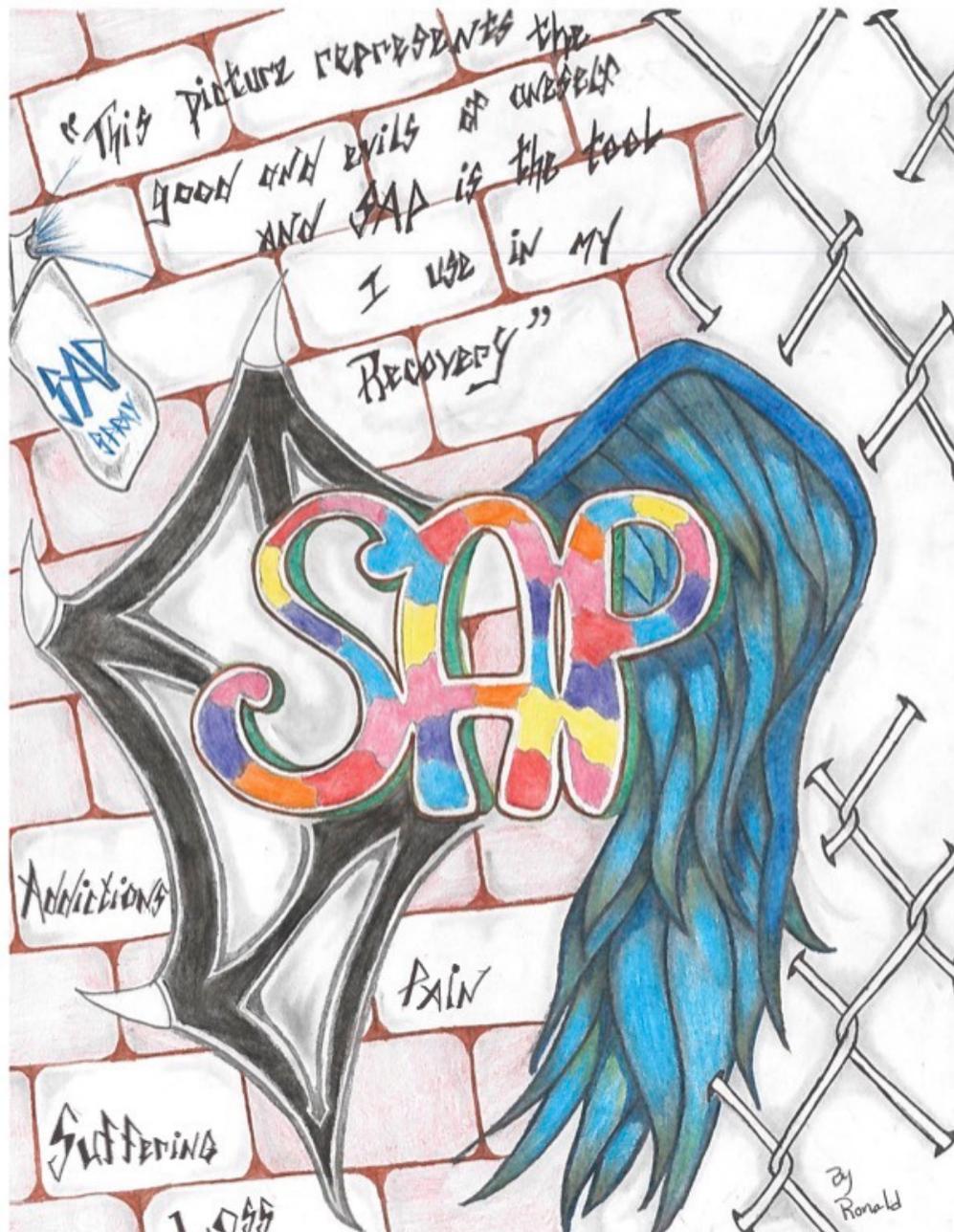
Patrick R.
Boyle County Detention Center



"My poem is a short narrative of my recovery journey. It touches on the highlights of who I used to be, what happened in the process, and the man I've become today. Life without recovery, from my perspective, is meaningless... it's like chasing after the wind."

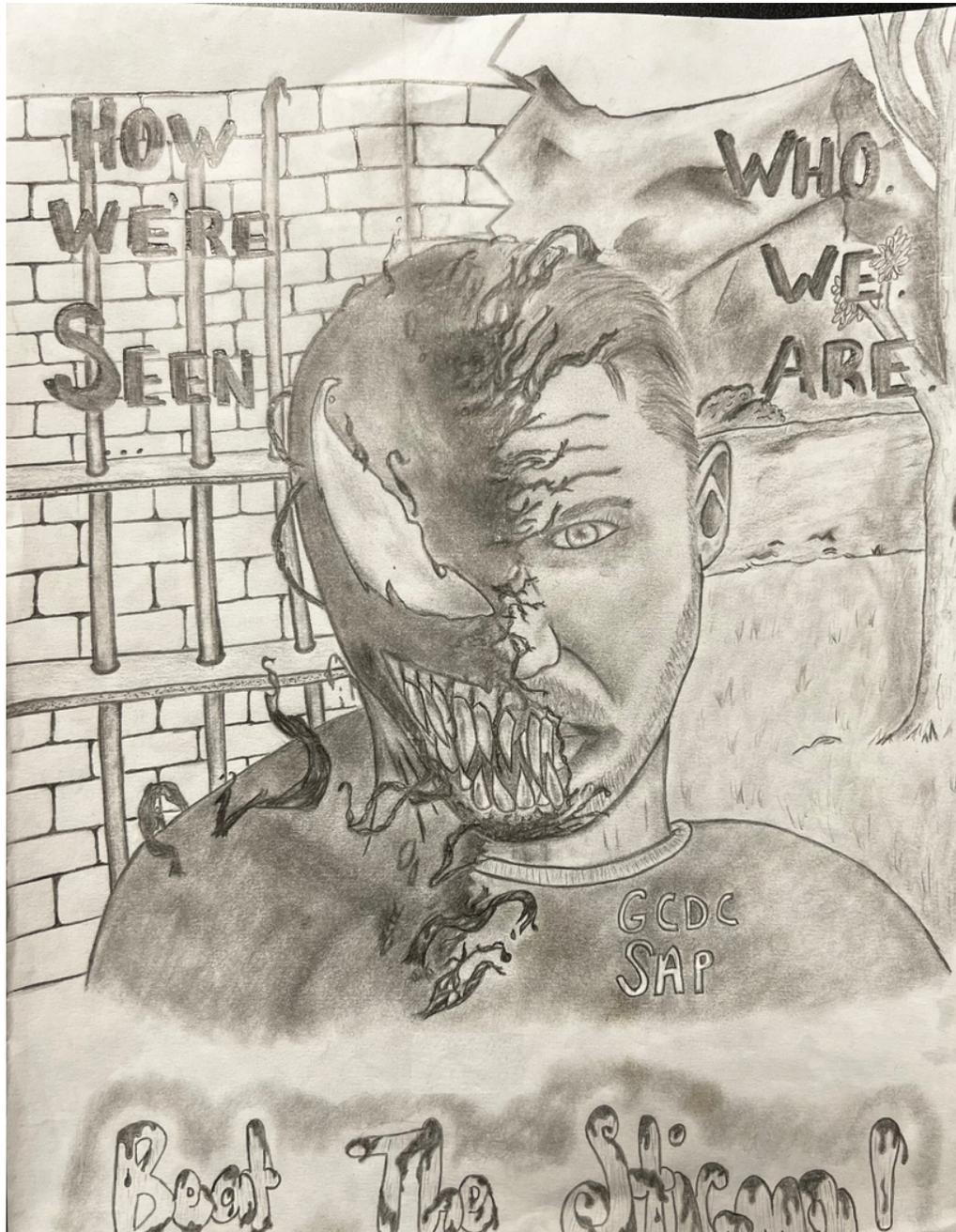
Ronald G.

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex



"My picture is about the good and evil we have in us, and it's in everyone. And my tool for it is SAP and I am using it for my recovery. I am motivated because I want to be a better person to my son and my brother's kids."

Aaron H.
Grant County Detention Center



"My piece expresses one of the biggest problems I've had with recovery; being misunderstood by loved ones who don't understand what addiction is. I was afraid to reach out for help, ashamed of who they thought I was. I wanted to help promote the fact that we too are human, and maybe help others who have suffered the same problem."

Steven F.
Lee Adjustment Center



"The picture I drew is a reflection of how Jesus Christ and SAP helped me through my alcohol addiction. Recovery is powerful to me because I know I can enjoy life and do things with my family, sober."

Kenneth W.

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

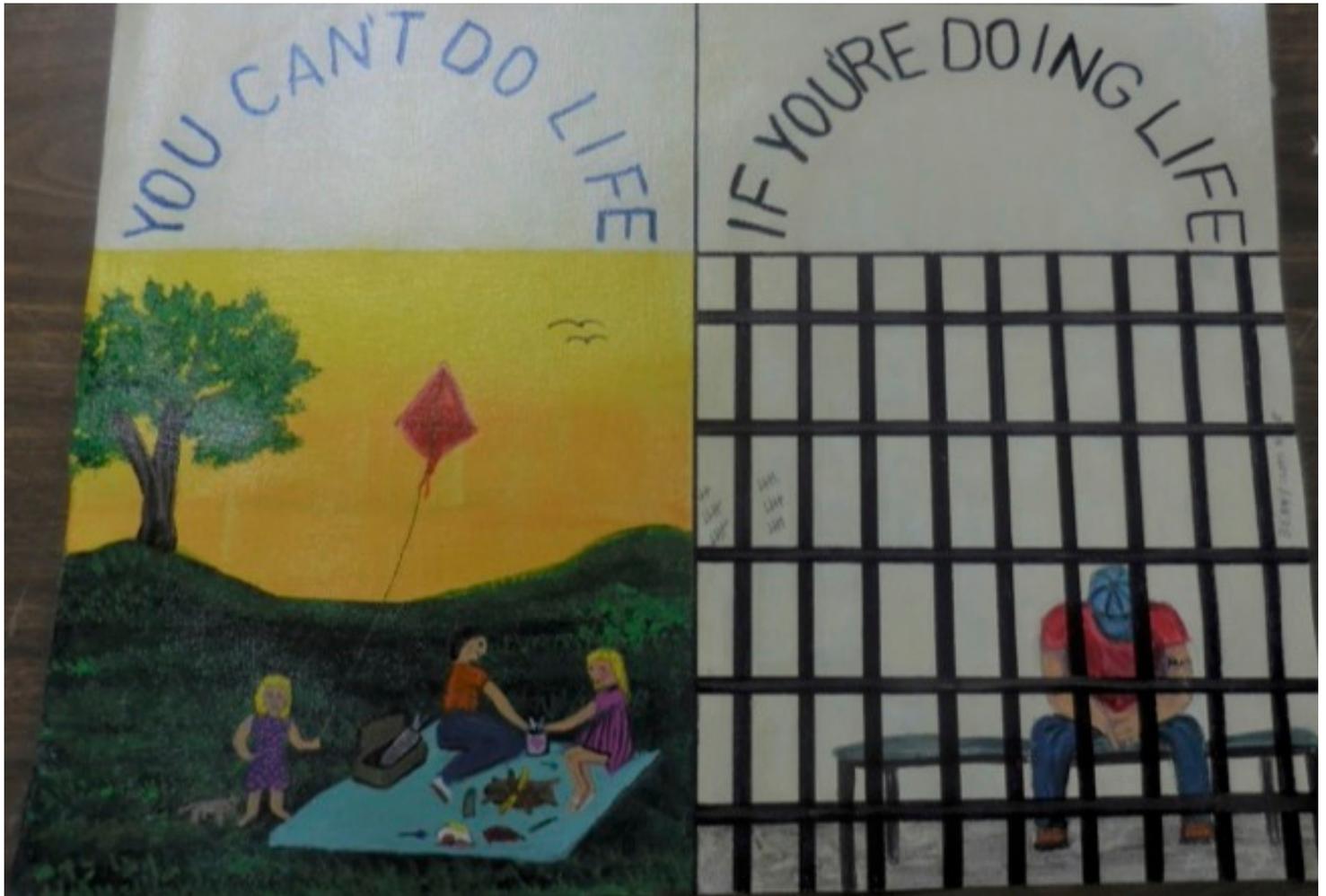
"My Recovery Is Powerful"

MY RECOVERY HAS TO BE **FIRST** - IF NOT, THEN THIS IS HOPELESS
ROU AND ME - **WE** - NEED THE WILLPOWER TO STAY FOCUSED
RELENTLESS, WE **MUST** STAY AWAY FROM OLD PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS
EVERYONE CAN **ADMIT** WE MUST BE DIFFERENT, SHORT OF CHANGING OUR NAMES
COMING UP THE TWELVE STEPS **THAT** BILL W. USED TO PAVE THE WAY
OBSERVING THE PROGRESS **WE** PUT FORTH BY LIVING DAY-TO-DAY
VIVIDLY WE REMEMBER THE HOLD THAT SUBSTANCES USED TO **HAVE** ON US
EACH PERSON HAS **BEEN** LUCKY OUR HIGHER POWER DIDN'T TURN ITS BACK ON US
REMARKABLY WE HAD NO CLUE THAT WE WERE ABSOLUTELY **POWERLESS**
YOUTH LOST **OVER** THE YEARS; WE SIT WONDERING WHERE THE HOURS WENT
INDEFINITE TIME WASHED AWAY BY THE **ALCOHOL** IN SORROW
SOMETHING BETTER OUT OF REACH, **AND** DREAMING OF TOMORROW
PUTTING **DRUGS** AHEAD OF OUR LOVED ONES, WE DIDN'T HAVE OUR MIND RIGHT
OUR CRIMINAL THINKING, **AND** TACTICS DISRUPTING OUR LIFE'S TIMELINE
WE CAN AND DO RECOVER, **THAT** STARTS BY GAINING WILLINGNESS
EARNING TRUST, LEARNING ACCEPTANCE, **OUR** HEARTS BEGIN FEELING THIS
REALISTICALLY, THERE'S POWER IN THE PATH OUR **LIVES** HAVE TRAVELED THROUGH
FURTHERMORE, NOW WE'VE **HAD** TIME TO OBTAIN ATTITUDES OF GRATITUDE
UNTIL WE **BECOME** HUMBLE, WE'LL NEVER SEE THROUGH THE PRIDE
LET'S NEGATE BEING **UNMANAGEABLE** AND BE LEADERS IN LIFE

Kenneth W.
9-28-22

"Recovery is powerful to me because it can change lives entirely. Recovery mends broken lives and relationships. Recovery is all about personal growth. In my poem, I try to reflect these things and incorporate some of the things I've learned while in SAP."

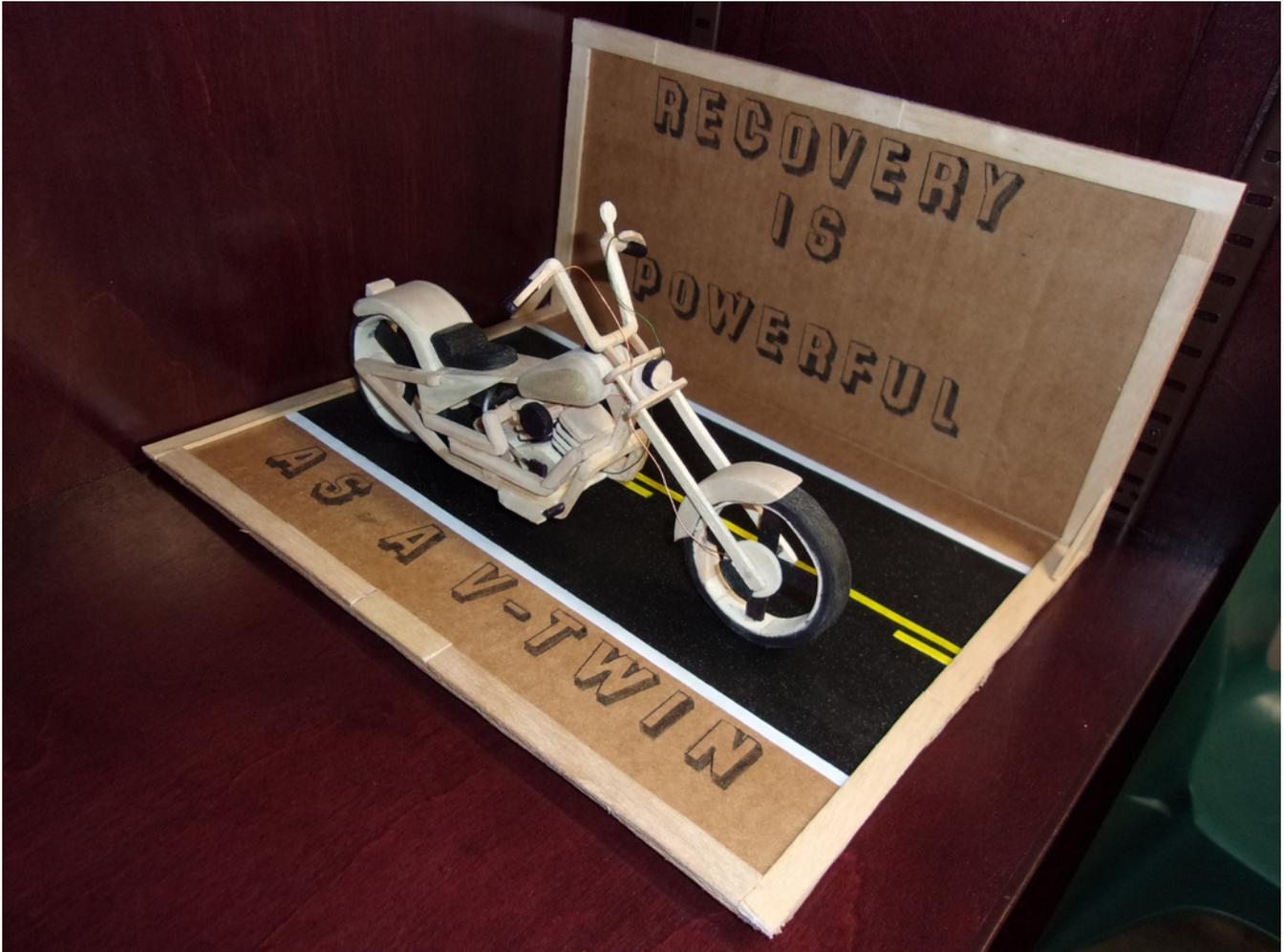
Kevin P.
Kentucky State Reformatory



"My piece shows how a person who is sober can do life the right way, not life in prison. Recovery is important to me because I can't stay out when I use. My recovery is the only way I'll ever get out and stay out. I want people to know I have changed. I have a disease, but it is a disease that can be treated and managed."

Allen L.

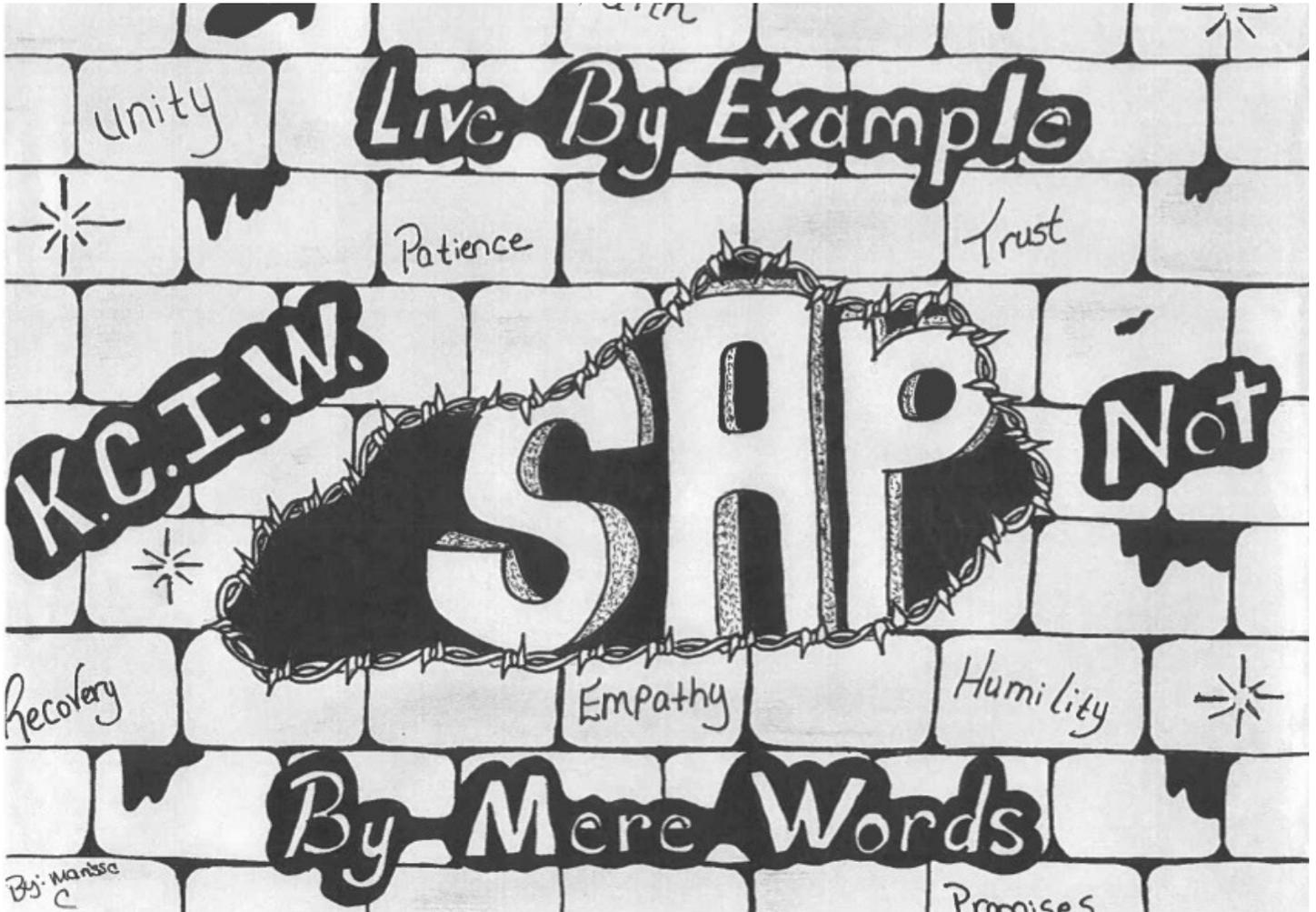
Southeast State Correctional Complex



"My piece reminds me of what I get to do when I get out. The wind blowing in my face and enjoying freedom. Recovery is powerful to me because I get another chance."

Marissa C.

Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women



"This drawing means that no matter how hard you've run or how much street life you have in you, you can always be willing and open-minded to grow in your recovery. SAP can provide you with the tools to get to the root of your troubles so you can continue to blossom to who you desire to be."

Matthew S.

Mason County Detention Center

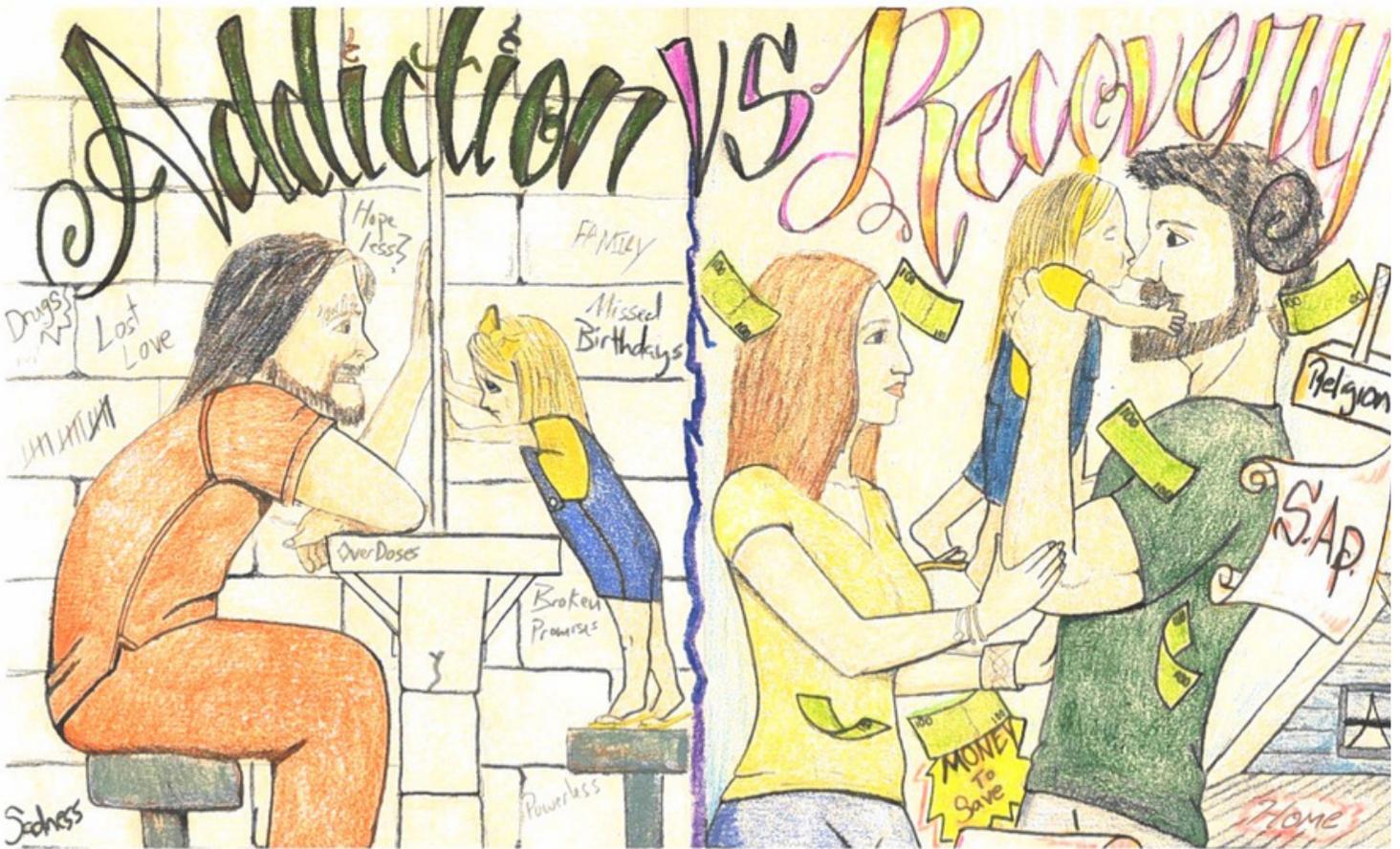
ARCHRIVAL NEMESIS

Heavy burdens weigh on my weathered heart,
I'm saying farewell.
Goodbye to romancing cruel intentions,
And sinning my way into hell.
I'm finding footing out here on a path,
That I've never walked before.
Though I may fall it won't be far,
Cause I've already hit the floor.
So I'm letting go and I thought it would be,
You I would surely miss.
But company, is misery.
With an Archrival Nemesis.
You're the tyranny of us sick and blind,
I choose to live and see.
That's how I'll truly break chains that bind,
Me to you, my old enemy.
If you want me you'll find me on the forefront of change,
We never had infinite bliss.
So now here I stand a weapon of man,
To fight you Archrival Nemesis.
These steps that I'm taken won't be forsaken,
And I know I'm not out here alone.
For Heaven's beside me as I walk along,
The Righteous Path leading me home.

By Matthew S

"My piece is titled Archrival Nemesis. It's my process of letting go of all the burdens I carried when I was in addiction. I talk about the Steps and that I've found it a new way to live and that I simply chose to change. Also that I have let God do for me what I couldn't do for myself."

Ronald S.
Green River Correctional Complex



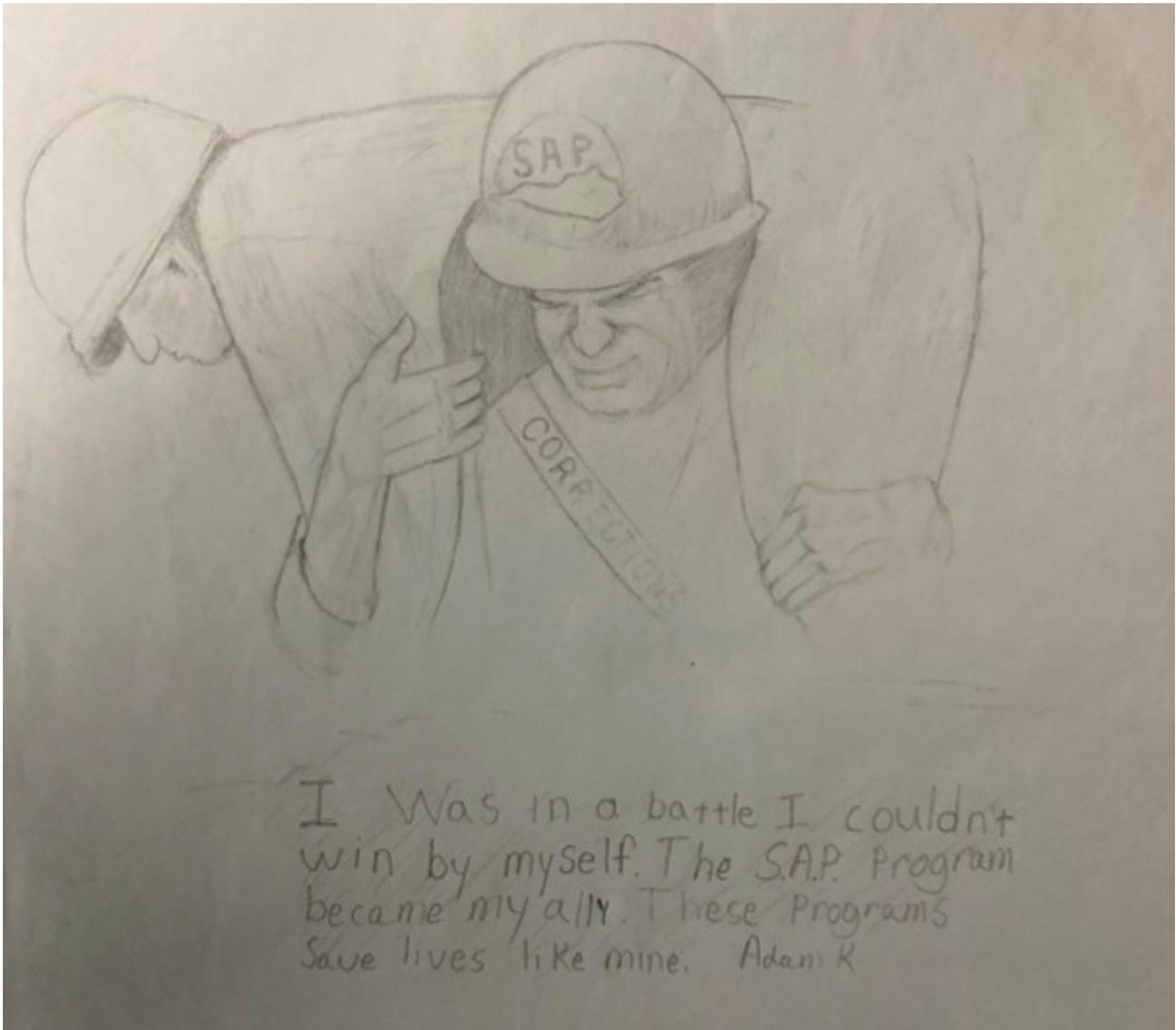
Diego A.

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex



"My pieces shows the faces of recovery. Recovery is powerful to me because it showed me life without using."

Adam K.
Powell County Detention Center



"I don't know a lot about wars, just have friends who have been in Afghanistan and Iraq. I can understand how important it is to have people to talk to though. I shouldn't be alive and probably wouldn't be without SAP."

Jessica A.

Westcare Lookout Center for Healthy Families



"I painted a phoenix for my Faces of SAP. The first time I ever saw a phoenix, I thought wow, look at the strength and determination of a creature. I wanted to feel that way too. The phoenix to me represents growth, a new life, and recovery is my new life."

Jamin R.
Lee Adjustment Center

The Beauty of my Recovery

The beauty of my recovery is the strength it gives.
Ugly to some but gives me the will to live.
The power to keep fighting, after each devastating blow.
The beauty of my recovery is I'm able to let go.
Struggles persist, but through them I strive.
Admitting wrongs to God and others the hardest - Step 5.
Showing things to the world that I've always tried to hide.
The beauty of my recovery is I'm still alive.
And it's for me, tailor made for my needs.
Hit rock bottom and God answered my pleas.
That's the beauty, it's for me.
And yours is for you.
Same destination, just different route.
Having to accept and living every day in the truth.
Even when it is hard to.
Never complete, knowing any day I could stumble.
The beauty of my recovery, how it's made me humble.
Opening my eyes to things I was blind.
Now I see things for what they are, with a sober mind.
Giving it over to God and watching him work.
Open heart apologies for anyone that I've hurt.
Thankful for the change to make an amends.
New places, new things, new friends.
The beauty of my recovery - it never ends.

"My poem is about my life, my struggles. Why recovery is powerful to me is it saved me. It has helped me overcome a lot of struggles. The strength I get daily from fighting my struggles is what makes me realize everyday I can!"

David P.

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex



"My piece, "Recovery Tracks," is about being on a path to recovery. We are in a substance abuse program and will to make a change in our lives for the good. So you can stay in addiction or get on the train and get on the right track to recovery."

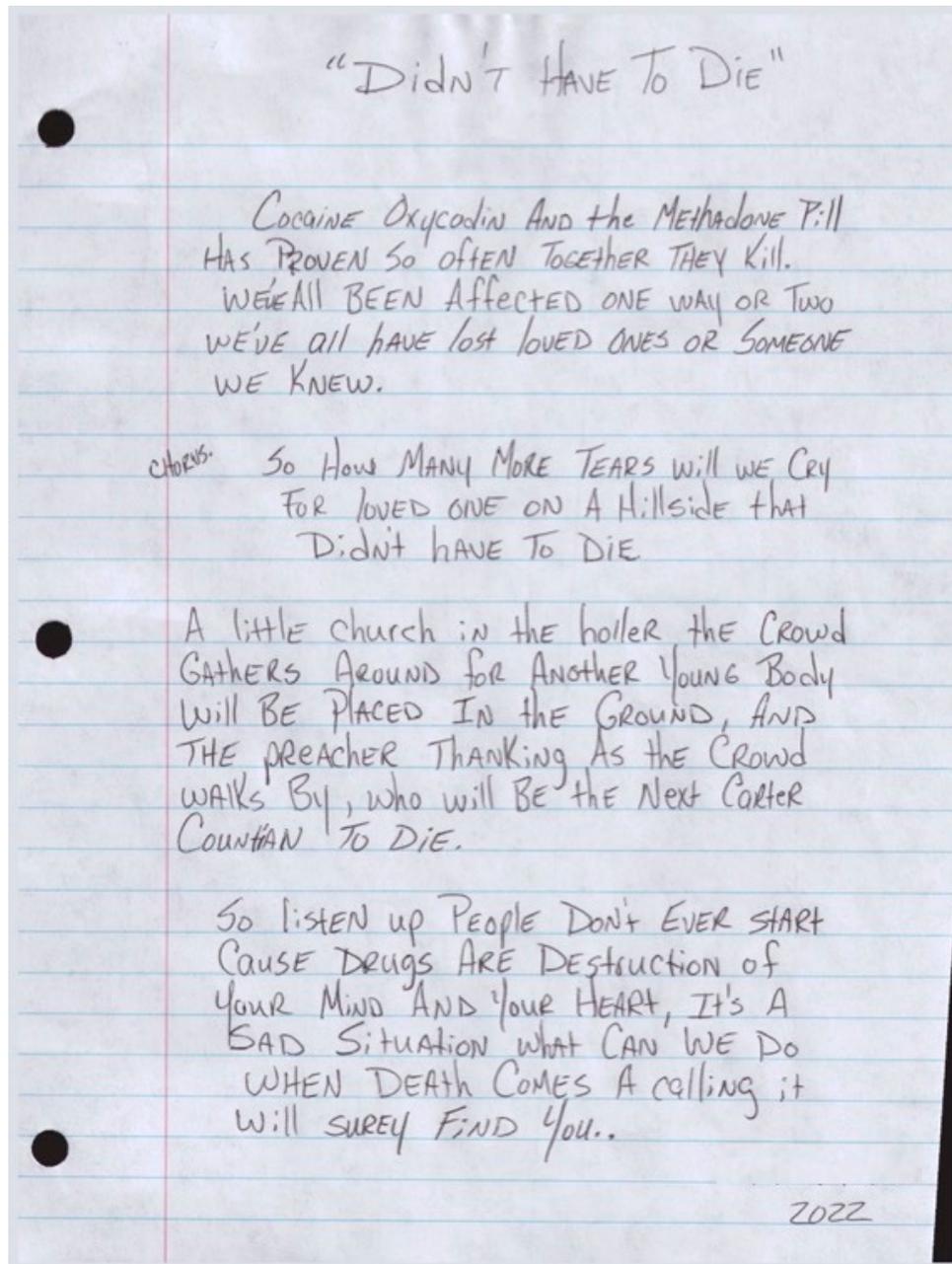
Kevin P.
Kentucky State Reformatory



"This piece shows what recovery looks like and what addiction looks like.
Recovery is powerful to me because I can't be free without recovery."

Floyd L.

Dismas Charities St. Ann's



"I wanted to sing this song, because it talks about how powerful drug addiction is and how it affects everyone. My recovery is powerful to me because it's life or death for me and I want something different in life."

Sandra E.
Hardin County Detention Center



"We have to let go of our past, like leaves in the wind, let go of our old self and, like the seasons, change into the person we are becoming in recovery. All 37 participants of the HCDC SAP program have an individualized leaf, decorated by them, and incorporated into the design of the painting. I want us all to let go of who we were in the madness and learn who we want to become for the future."

Chris G. and Terrell C.
Southeast State Correctional Complex



Recovery Is Powerful

When the skeletal structure of a life becomes broken by addiction. A recovery program becomes the very cast that binds the person's life back together. Recovery is the cocoon of the person who is bound by affliction, destined to transform into a butterfly of purpose. Treatment is the water for the soul longing to blossom into its greatest version. The soul that understands second chances and that failure isn't final and a delay is not a denial. The soul whose will is driven by the legacy it will leave behind, that refuses to be defined by addiction. The overcomer will understand the fullness of life's beauty and the very essence of destiny. Destiny that is indeed fulfilling in all pleasant aspects. The muscle of love is strengthened by suffering caused by an adverse circumstance such as addiction. Recovery is learning to love oneself again without being selfish. As the outward reflection will only confirm the inward change.

Terrell C.

"Addiction is an injury to the soul, which is inside us and affects everything outside of us. We try many things to mask our hurt and pain, but that never seems to work, so we get into treatment to take off the mask of addiction and explore ourselves."

Angela S.

Dismas Charities of Owensboro



"This is a picture of a person deep in thought and discovery of himself and God, discovering who he is and who he was meant to be. The tiger over him is the new found power he feels to achieve his goals. Power from all the things he has been through and power from discovering himself and Christ."

Michael M.
Northpoint Training Center



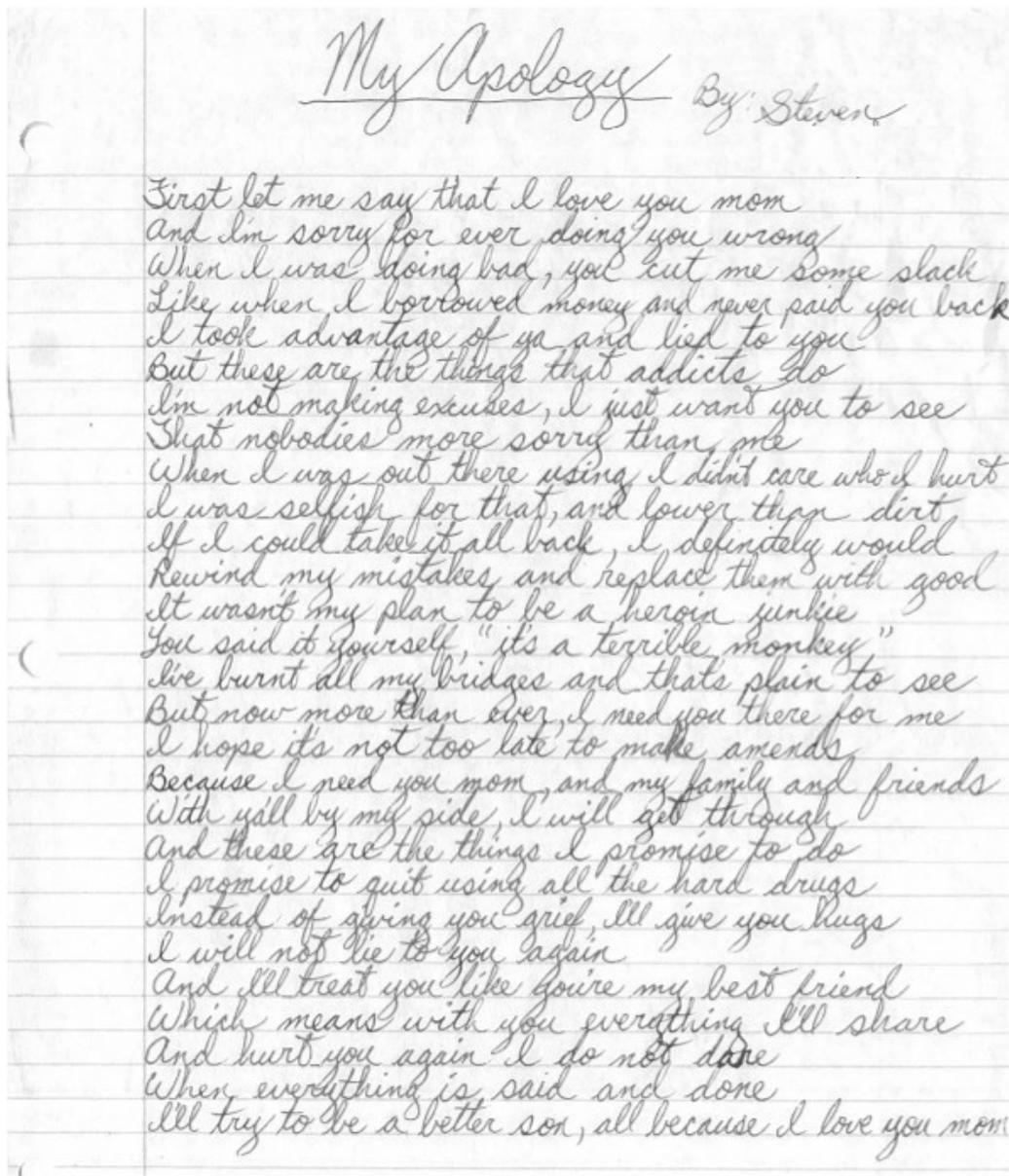
Rodney D.

Western Kentucky Correctional Complex



"I drew a picture of two faces - Good and Evil. Recovery is powerful to me because it has taught me how to face my fears and overcome my past. It has gotten me in touch with my higher power and it has allowed me to express my feelings openly and honestly."

Steven H.
Roederer Correctional Complex



"This is a poem that is an apology to my mom. It's centered around my problem with addiction and how that hurt the people around me. Recovery is powerful because it allows me the opportunity to live a good life, right my wrongs, and be drug-free."

Montana A.
Southeast State Correctional Complex



"If you can find the strength to overcome your addiction and move forward with your life, you will have the power and mindset to reach your goals in life and be a better person and live your best life."

Addiction Services of Kentucky

*Recovery is possible if you
ASK for help!*

