



Holiday **InDepth** 2023

INDEPTH LITERARY JOURNAL

**I'm looking forward to going home and never to come back to jail.
I look forward to making my family proud. I look forward to good
opportunities in the new year. I look forward to being a new man. I
look forward to the future. I look forward to being an example to
young youth so they do not go through the same thing. They don't
need to go through these walls of shame. I would do anything to
not come here again. I would do anything to get my freedom back.
I learned that its never to late to change.**

**Joseph L.
Unit B
12/30/23
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

Love Poem

**I'm lost when you are missing. It's hard to find myself when I'm
lost. I'd carry your heart with me always. I keep it safe always. I'm
mad I broke your trust. I carry taht burden in my soul it hurts me
deeply that I'm nothing without you. I hope I can carry your heart
again and keep your trust. I'll always love you and never stop
cause your the one who care and I care so much about you.**

**Anonymous
Unit B
12/27/23
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

**My mother comes from a strict and difficult family
At a young age, she had to become an adult
With beautiful brown eyes and gold straight hair
Her hands cook carne asada, tacos, rice with beans and pozole
And her hands cleaned the house a lot**

**She worked in the field picking oranges, lettuce, and grapes
Everyday in the hot beautiful morning
She also worked at a hotel to support trying to support her kids
Doing everything she could to be there for us
Her feet were always moving to support her kids... no days off.
She was always doing things to make extra cash.**

**I want her to know everything she did for us, I appreciate it a lot.
The small things and the big
For her to be happy in this evil world
to be at peace knowing she did her best raising each and one of us
Knowing it was going to be hard and to know everything she did was
for a purpose
Not for nothing, no matter what the situation we are in.
She still managed to get through each obstacle on her way and turned
it into something positive
I want her to know she's the bravest and strongest woman in this evil
world.**

**Esteban R.
Unit N
12/16/23
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

**I see many teenagers like me that come from a broken home
with no father figure in the picture**

**I watch them throw their life away to gangs and the system
I hear many of them saying the hood is like a family hey never
had**

**And one of their big homies is like a father figure they never
had**

**And the hood gave them the love they never had growing up
And I think to myself... every single one of us are exactly the
same**

**We've all been through a lot growing up
And seen a lot that nobody but us know about or experience in
this lifestyle**

**What an evil world we live in
All the system wants is for us to pin us against each other
And not giving us opportunities to choose a better lifestyle in
where we grew up in**

**Estaban R.
Unit N
12/30/23
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

**I see smoke and I
watch the sky turn
orange
I hear music and I
think to myself... I
need a lil break
And I think to
myself... What a
weird day.**

**Alfredo A.
Unit L
Unit 12/30/23
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

Mi lucha por mi futuro

1. Yo lucharé por mi mama para estar con ella mas tiempo.
2. Yo lucharé por mis hermanos para que agarran el camino correcto.
3. Yo lucharé por amor para estar bien.
4. Yo lucharé para tener Buena vida.
5. Yo lucharé en la escuela para lograr graduarme.
6. Yo lucharé para ser algo en la vida.
7. Yo lucharé para conseguir mejores trabajos.

**Pedro M.
Unit X2
12/20/23
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**

My favorite holiday meal is my mom's homemade rice that she makes for my birthday and that counts as a holiday. My mom has made this meal every birthday since I was young until I came to jail and this meal is homemade and nobody makes it as good as my mother. Nor have I told anybody about it or how to make it. And she makes an over-easy egg to go on top of it and its mouth-watering.

Jordan M.

Unit TV

12/25/23

Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/SYTF

My favorite holiday meal is Thanksgiving food. I like ham, greens, yams, and cornbread. My grandma cooks most of the food. Some people come over and bring dishes too. I help with the kitchen a bit and when the food is all done, we eat at a table after we say grace.

Antwan W.

Unit Z1

12/25/23

Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/SYTF

My favorite holiday meal is gumbo. I just love how all the many different flavors combine and how it tastes. My mom puts rice, crab legs, and sausages in the bumbo. My mom also makes cornbread on the side too.

Gooden R.

Unit Z1

12/25/23

Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/SYTF

My favorite holiday is Christmas because I get a lot of stuff. My favorite food that I love is tamales and pozole. My grandma makes the best food in the family. I know if we invite anyone they will love the food she makes. I would like to learn how to cook tamales, pork, and chicken, and I can't forget about pozole. The reason why I would like to learn is so that I can be the next one to cook on Christmas.

Alex A. S.

Unit TV

12/25/23

Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/STYF

My favorite Christmas meal to eat is tamales and soup. My grandma makes it and my grandma makes the pink tamales on Christmas and makes the soup. Sometimes I help my grandma make the tamales and we spread the tamales on the food pan and throw them in the pot and wait for them to cook.

Brian U.

Unit M

12/25/23

Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/SYTF

My favorite holiday meal is Thanksgiving turkey. I like it so much because during Thanksgiving you are with family. Also, I like how my grandma makes it. It is so flavorful the way she makes it. Also, my mom makes a great peach cobbler. It is so warm and tastes great with ice cream.

Shamadia H.

Unit F

12/25/23

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

What makes me happiest in life. It is being home with my family and friends and meeting new people that come into my life. What also makes me happiest in life is to play sports, play video games, and live in the moment with my family and friends.

G. Gonzalez

Unit E

12/23/23

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

What is my favorite food?

My favorite holiday meal is Thanksgiving because my family gets together and we cook really good. My mom makes turkey stuffing, mash potatoes, gravy, and sweet potatoes with marshmallows on top. For dessert, we have pumpkin and apple pie.

Joey C.

Unit S1

12/22/23

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

2024

My actions in the past that were foolish got me locked up and now I can't spend time with my family for the holidays.

In 2024, I hope I graduate high school. Also I hope that I stay out of trouble. I used to be a fool or I be choosing to do foolish activities.

I would like to say to myself that I've changed and it's time to move on with my life. Transformation is to change in life and to move on with my future. I would like to say to the world that I am going to help the world change or be helpful to the world.

My past has made me want to change my life up.

Jeremiah P.

Unit 0

12/2023

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

When my mom makes macaroni and cheese, with turkey, ham, yams, and peach cobbler, my mom cooks only for me. My mom cooks for her only soon.

Love them roast and greens.

E. Reed

Unit E

12/22/23

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

"Meet Tim, a 56 year old meth addict, who saw no signs of a sober self, ever, especially anytime soon. He felt he was running out of time on days where he felt sad, stressed and depressed. He'd pack a bowl and smoke on up. He felt he was on top of the world. For 2-9 days he was high... until the come down. Man did he regret it each time. The next week he had tried to quit after realizing the damage he had done. Meth mouth, no teeth

_____ *cut off. Reference to post-it* On a cold night in February, on a Saturday. The venue reached capacity as the bored crowd began to check their phones. It was 7:45 and Post Malone was scheduled to perform at 8.

7:55 PM hit and the crowd began to get excited and anxiously waited for the show. 8:02 hit and the beginning of the instrumental of his song "wow" began to play and the crowd roared."

Ricky M.

02/18/23

Unit ESU

Central Juvenile Hall

Thoughts as We Enter 2024

1. Thinking about the power of words

The power of words is strong
The power of words can go a long way
The power of words can heal
The power of words can solve without harm
The power of words can also harm
The power of words can explain a lot
The power of words can help
The power of words is politics
The power of words is strong

2. Thinking about the year ahead

Before 2023 ends I just want to say thanks for all the good and bad times.

We all learn from our mistakes. It's what we do after that counts.
A lot of things happened this year. A lot of good and bad things. But throughout everything, I have learned so much that I hope to use in my near future.

A lot of new things are happening next year but I just hope for the best for me, my friends, and more importantly my family. I know everything will change for the better. I know I will make better choices next year. I need to focus on myself and get everything in order.

Brandon C.
Unit 0
12/2023
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Don't take freedom for granted

The day when I lost my freedom,
everything went downhill.

I basically lost everything - my
home, some of my family, and I
got taken away from my family
that I miss much.

My first night in jail I was just
mad thinking about my
mistakes, praying to God that I
was sorry for the sins I have
done, and being away from my
loved ones.

Now I know not to take my
freedom for granted.

Jeremy D.

Unit X2

12/06/23

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Untitled

I'm from ragz to riches.

Where 4 outfits were
enough to make me smile,
my mom had no job. My job
was to stay out of trouble
and go to school, but I
didn't want that. I wanted
to be cool and be a fool.
EBT was the support and
even though I didn't have
much, I'm proud of where
I'm from. Poverty and
brotherhood. All I need.
Money comes fast and I
can't keep thinking about
the past.

A. Rodriguez

04/12/23

Unit Q

Central Juvenile Hall

The Power of a Smile

Whether you consider yourself “hard,” “soft,” “real,” “spiritual,” “religious,” or somewhere in between, having a smile will change your world.

I am not the type of individual who makes statements or comes to conclusions based on beliefs. For the things I don’t know, I will not speak on. However, for me personally, killing enemies with kindness is the best option.

Never let someone disrespect you, tell lies, ruin your reputation or bring you down. If you are getting physically assaulted, fight back with all your might. However, if a foolish person is insulting you, and you know for a fact what he says isn’t true, be nice. Here’s why. For me, arguing isn’t to be right, it’s to open another’s eyes to your point of view. If you stay nice the entire time, not only will it give you peace of mind that you were in the right, it will also make the other person question why they are hostile themselves.

If you shoot first, the guilt and regret will take over after the fact most of the time. Even if they hurt you, staying positive will reassure the fact you did all you could.

The hard part comes when you have to move on and accept things out of your control.

All in all, you stay true, the truth will come.

Ricky M.

Unit O

12/2023

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Goodbye 2023 & Welcome 2024!

Today is filled with disaster and hate and no hope. And today is built on imagination and thoughts which no one understands, but me and my family and everyone doubts.

But there is possibility in the air and wherever I go I see chances to be a better person and I hear many pieces of advice and different points of view. I want to do better and graduate high school or enroll in Trade Tech College.

At night I lay my head down and I think about my non-profitable choices but sometimes I think about how I can benefit my future and help my mom, and the things I can be and how I can benefit myself.

I wonder if anyone cares or if anyone believes in me and the goals I've got, to make myself a better person. There are many obstacles in the world but it can't rain forever. Tomorrow is a new day to think about my wrongs and the regrets I have, and maybe I can make sure I don't do the same mistakes. I can learn from them to become a better man for myself.

What I really want to say is: Goodbye 2023 & Welcome 2024!

I would like to say thank you father god for letting me see these ups and downs that came my way, and showing me it don't rain forever.

I appreciate father god showing I can accomplish anything that comes my way and that it's up to me to overcome it or how to deal with it. Learning from my past mistakes helps me become a better me and see different in life.

I am ready to make wise decisions to better me and support my family & especially myself.

Christopher A.

Unit O

12/2023

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

My favorite holiday meal would be a small buffet or a variety of meals made by my family on Thanksgiving day. Chilaquiles, tamales, pozole, sweet potato, turkey, and ham. Put a cold fresh soda and if your old enough you can drink adult beverages too. But for me what would make the meal enjoyable is being able to eat it with the ones you love, the ones who all pitched in and made all their own different dishes to bring to one house together as a whole. I consider my mom to be one of the best cooks and I would love to know how to make food the way she does.

Matthew G.
Unit TV
12/25/23
Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/STYF

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We extend our gratitude to the staff at
Barry J. Nidorf TRI Academy/SYTF and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
... and to our current teachers who continue to inspire, guide, and encourage our
students to express themselves one word at a time.

Our current Teaching Artists

Pluto Brown
Olivia Carrasco
Susan Cuscuna
Lauren Dani
Kathy Gamez
Michelle Gubbay
April Hong
Shane Jones

Monica Vega
Mindy Velasco
Kate Wells
Amanda Wilgus



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The mission of InsideOUT Writers is to reduce the juvenile recidivism rate by providing a range of services that evolves to meet the needs of currently and formerly incarcerated youth and young adults.

Using creative writing as a catalyst for personal transformation, these young people are empowered with the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully re-integrate into our communities becoming advocates for their future.

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