

>Date: Wed, 27 Feb 2002 22:20:39 -0800 (PST)

>From: Melissa Sanders-Rivera >

>

> > WE ARE EVERYWHERE

>>

>> For those who forget that the incarcerated humans in
>> this country are indeed just that - HUMAN - I would
>> like you to think on this the next time you talk
>> about "inmates, criminals, convicts, etc...". These
>> humans have families and those who love them despite
>> whatever they did. Look around you and wonder,
>> because this is who we are....

>>

>> We take care of your children and grandchildren in
>> nursery schools, we give them shots in the doctor's
>> office, we are dental assistants, we are school
>> teachers and Sunday school teachers, we stand behind
>> you in the grocery store, we prepare your medicine
>> in the drug store, we work in banks, we approve your
>> loans, we service your insurance claims, we work for
>> newspapers, TV stations and radio stations, we read
>> your electric meters and water meters, we are your
>> landlords, your neighbors, we take care of your
>> elderly parents in nursing homes, we are nurses, lab
>> technicians, X-ray technicians, we own beauty
>> shops, flower shops, printing shops, we are welders,
>> plumbers, tree trimmers, we work for the IRS, the
>> State Dept., in the courthouse, schools, churches,
>> drug stores and toy stores, we are legal
>> secretaries, lawyers, school board members, we are
>> bus drivers, we prepare meals for your kids in
>> school, we are city council members, bank tellers,
>> we process your checking account, your saving
>> account, we work at your Social Security office,
>> your insurance company, we take care of your IRA,
>> stocks, bonds, we sell your kids bikes, school
>> supplies, clothes, shoes, eyeglasses, we repair your
>> cars, we are real estate agents, car dealers,
> > college professors, psychologists, administrative
> > assistants, safety engineers and ranchers. We work
> > at Ralphs, Albertsons, Trader Joe's, Wal-Mart,
> > K-Mart, Target, Macy's, Nordstrom and Saks 5th
>> Avenue. We sell Avon and Tupperware. We are not
>> all "on welfare", no matter what the government
>> would like you to think.

>>

>> There are two million people in prison in America
>> and twice that many on parole and probation. Add in

>> mothers, fathers, children, sisters, brothers,
>> aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends and about
>> sixteen million people are personally affected by
>> the prison system in the United States.

>>
>>

>> We are tired of letting ourselves feel humiliated or
>> embarrassed because our loved one is in prison. WE
>> did nothing wrong, and they are paying for their
>> crime!

>>

>> We are tired of fearing the loss of our jobs or
>> evictions from our housing should anyone find out we
>> have a loved one in prison.

>>
>>

>> We are tired of being made to feel inferior or
>> unwelcome in churches, clubs, organizations or
>> society in general simply because we refuse to
>> abandon our loved ones.

>>
>>

>> We are ready to unite, to come out of hiding and
>> openly support each other and our loved ones. It's
>> a new day, America and we're here to prove it!

>>
>>

>> We are ready to speak out against the "they deserve
>> what they get" attitude we hear you talk about in
>> stores, theaters and restaurants.

>>
>>

>> We number in the millions, we are everywhere, every
>> state, county, city and town. We may even live next
>> door to you.

>>

>> Sixteen million & counting. We are everywhere.
>> Think about it.

>>

--

--