



TERRI HARPER

SCI MUNCY
P.O. BOX 180
Muncy PA, 17756



STATUS

Incarcerated in 1991 at age 22
Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

OBJECTIVE: To be presented with the opportunity to use my skills in the culinary or plumbing field while volunteering my services at youth and mental health facilities, colleges and geriatric residences as a helper/companion for listening, cleaning, cooking, speaking or some odd job; to somehow erase the face of the horrible decisions I made because that face is not the whole of the grown woman I am today

WORK HISTORY:

General Library
Tutor (Basic Education)
Infirmary
Maintenance – Paint Crew, Carpentry, Plumbing
Homemaker Services (and Catering with Class)
Peer Facilitator (Volunteer & Fill-In)
Caning/Woodwork Program
(Incomplete apprenticeship)
Housing Unit Details

EDUCATION:

All Foods & Nutrition Courses
ServSafe Certification
(Nat'l Restaurant Association)
Real Estate Course
Money Smart
Microsoft
ICDL
Accounting
Automated Accounting
NCCER Core Curriculum
Community Capacity Building Curriculum conducted by Reconstruction Inc., 2018

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GROUP PARTICIPATION

Stress Management
Anger Management
Violence Prevention
Thinking for a Change
Citizenship
Positive Relationships

ACTIVITIES

Aerobics
Weightlifting
Fit Club
3F Fitness
Fitness & Conditioning
Aerobic Walking
Insanity & T25
Zumba
Softball
Volleyball
Biggest Loser Training
Greenhouse Program w/Spec. Needs
PA Family Alliance Workshops
Trendsetters
PLA
Muncy Inmate Org (Past President)
Various Team Sports

HEALTH REPORT:

Although there's no reasonable expectation of my back ever being pain free, now 11 years removed from major surgery, the S.I. injections keeps pain at bay for months. I do however, have to deal with daily foot pain. For almost 4 years, I've been battling major pain in my right foot, that started as a "clicking" ankle. Now, after a bone scan, x-ray and injections, we have a new medical director, and I'm being told that we're starting at square one for a clear diagnosis. Any boot or shoe that isn't my high top New Balance sets the pain a flame, creates swelling and completely changes how I get around. Not enough is being done, especially since it often takes months to see the right doctor here, and it's a whole other level of difficult to see a specialist.

Bottom line: I think there's arthritis in my feet, and I'm gearing up to fight for access to have fish oil, B12, or B6, glucosamine and chondroitin supplements for possible relief. I will not fall victim to the psychotropic pain management medication again!

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THE WOMAN I AM TODAY

The last 24 years have been a journey best described by “ruination to responsibility, then arrival at renewal”. I walked into jail not realizing that prison was awaiting me, but I’ve since learned to live, to free myself from the incarceration of my weaknesses by strengthening my Faith, my character, my skills and my thinking.

All of that was facilitated by first acknowledging my guilt, my shortcomings and what I needed to address immediately. I immersed myself in learning about God and His mercy, myself and forgiveness. I stumbled upon bumps in the road because I didn’t want to accept my new surroundings as possibly being my last stop. Then it occurred to me that I had to focus on “what is”. From that moment, I dug into what I could control, took responsibility for all of my words and actions and turned around the consequences I was suffering. My achievements began to add up, backlash from staff and inmates alike dwindled and the elevated level of respect sparked a newfound appreciation for the opportunity I had in front of me to excel.

My involvement in the inmate organizations redirected my mindset from the streets to LIFE inside, so I stopped having unreal expectations, unattainable urges and stopped making unreasonable request of the people closest to me.

I’ve learned through it all, that in order to expect to be seen and treated outside of the stereotype of my sentence, I must demonstrate my understanding of the difference between right and wrong.

Once my attitude changed, the frequency of trouble for me did as well. I even picked up skills that are timeless in the workforce by being on jobs for extended periods. I began to be seen as someone staff and inmates alike could utilize for groups and other programming....I became an Asset. Facilitating broadened my perspective on life issues that I had experienced, pushed aside, only heard stories of or had yet to tend to. When that door closed, I was stronger and wiser, and moved into helping the elderly and some with mental health issues. That, I must admit, is most challenging and time-consuming, yet so rewarding.

I’ve learned through it all, that in order to expect to be seen and treated outside of the stereotype of my sentence, that I must demonstrate my understanding of the difference between right and wrong. I do. Then, someone must give me the opportunity to actually physically demonstrate what I know and have learned because what is on paper is only a fraction of that knowledge. The proof is in the action. I’m asking you be that person to give me that opportunity through your legislative power.