



## **KRISTIN EDMUNDSON**

SCI MUNCY



### **STATUS**

- Incarcerated in 2001 at age 20
- Hometown: Hollidaysburg, PA

### **EDUCATION**

- National Center for Construction Education & Research
  - Also known as Building Trades – Received Multiple Certificates
- Unit Buffer Training
- Certificate in Electrical Maintenance
- Certificate in Painting Maintenance

### **PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Moving on (Pilot Program)
- Thinking for a change
- Violence Prevention
- Violence Prevention After Care
- Out Patient Seeking Safety Program (Domestic Abuse)
- A.O.D. Outpatient Program
- Character Development
- Canine Partners for Life
  - Prison Puppy Program

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## **THE WOMAN I AM TODAY**

I am an Inmate a S.C.I. Muncy, I am also one of Pennsylvania's Lifers. I have been incarcerated for 14 years. Twelve of them have been spent at S.C.I. Muncy.

The two years I spent in County were a rollercoaster ride of emotions but when I stepped foot on Muncy's grounds it really smacked me in the face hard. I had to wake up and realize that this was my life. This is where my "home" is.

During my first few years at Muncy, I was just going through the motions, learning the ropes, pretty much doing what I was "told" to do. I wasn't doing anything for myself in a positive manner. I wasn't making a difference for myself. I was even denying my groups for a couple of years because I thought "what's the use." I cannot tell you how wrong I truly was with that statement, there was use. There is a flame of hope burning, you just can't let it extinguish! Now, I don't know if it's because I got a little older or if it's because of seeing the older lifers still trying to make a difference. I would like to think it's a combination of both.

From then on I started doing all my groups and even signing up for voluntary ones. I try to take something from every group, every life experience that I go through. Whether if it will help me personally or if I could pass on that little bit of knowledge to help someone else in need.

I wake up every day with the bittersweet task of reality. I am one of the lucky ones who has support of my family on the outside. To see them in pictures...to see them at visits.....but to also know the pain that's buried deep down inside of them and myself. So, I try not only to make a difference for myself and keep hope that someday I will get a second chance, but for my family who has never given up on me.

Being incarcerated doesn't even compare to having your freedom, not even close, but if you utilize the programming and opportunities you are given, you can make a difference. You can be rehabilitated, you can learn from past mistakes, and become productive members of society. We get the tools to work with, we just have to learn how to use them. I am learning every day and will continue to learn.

You want to have to change, to make yourself a better person. It's our choice to become a better person and I have chosen to become just that. A better person and a stronger woman!