

Here are a few of the letters Ron Radford has received in December 2018 and January 2018.

As Roger said, « Some of these guys are going to get out of prison, and we feel that what we are doing will help make them better people and someone you will be happy to have as your neighbor! »

About the spreads* :

The New Year's spread on C3 Block was better than before. This time we did it together. Everyone had their bowl on time and the ones who wanted a drink had a choice of blueberry or purple passion. We are getting better each time we get a chance to bring joy to the block with a spread. We had a chow line for real! Each course was so hot and ready that it still had smoke on it! Everything was set up beautifully. If we only could have taken a picture for your and our picture album! It was truly a family moment.

Ron, I wish you would have seen the faces of the ones that have been in prison a long time - they were so amazed and said that this was the first time they had witnessed something like this out of all those years they've been locked up in prison. They said they have never seen Black, White and Mexican come together – especially for a spread. We all gave God praise for making it possible. We also gave you thanks for letting God use you and the organization to be angels and saints for C3 Block – and also for the other Cell Blocks you help.

Once again, we had a good officer on the block. The first course was turkey, beef and cheese macaroni. Second course was a beefy meaty pizza. The third course was summer sausage meaty cheesy nachos! Drinks were Kool-Aid, Blueberry and Purple Passion.

Loving you is like food to my soul! Two things define a man in life: their patience when they have nothing and their attitude when they have everything. Keep that joy and love always in your heart my brother and have fun with it! Love and thanks!

-Marcom Stagg

**A "Spread" is a prison word for a special gourmet meal prepared by inmates in their cells from items purchased at the commissary and shared with other inmates and usually 'spread' out on tables in the Day Room.*

I live in a dorm that is divided by different ethnic groups due to racism. Whites eat with whites. Blacks eat with blacks. Mexicans eat with Mexicans, and so forth. About three weeks ago you sent \$50 to my account to present my dorm with a spread. Truth be told Ron, I honestly didn't believe that everyone would come together in unison regarding the proposed food gathering. Lo and behold, I was very wrong indeed! What touched me the most was the fact that everyone linked hands in unison and prayed before we broke bread :-). This took place on December 31, 2018 when we laughed, hugged and fellowshiped together! :-). What a beautiful way to kick off the new year, no? :-). That wouldn't have happened if it had not been for you and the other members of your organization, Ron. The guys on my dorm send their love and appreciation to you all. Thanks a lot, my friends! Peace.

-Adrian Eleby

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything you are doing and have done for me. I send all my love and best energy to you, and to everybody that has a part in making a way for us. Because the truth is, it gets hard down here in this place to walk around with a smile on your face. But by having brothers and sisters like you standing with me, I'm starting to notice that I'm smiling a lot more. And I have two of the best pen-pals you helped to arrange! So, I say again, thank you so much for everything you have done for me!!!

The spread we did back in November was good! But the second one we did on December 29 was a smashing success! All of the guys got to eat, and if they wanted it, they got to come back for more until it was gone. Everybody was happy. We had two times the amount of food from what we had last time and more guys came to eat than they did in November. This time we had lots of chips and drinks also. I also would like to say that everybody was respectful of one another, because instead of having everyone just run up to the food and eat, we had them form a line and we had servers at each table. So, everything had order to it. We are very happy that it turned out the way it did! Oh yeah! I'm the one who makes the pizza, and believe me when I say "Pizza Hut" doesn't have anything on me! LOL! Ron, we all look forward to keeping this going and we all enjoy taking part in doing it. Thank you for trusting us with this responsibility. It really means a lot. I send love and my best energy!

-Victor Todd Williams

When I say that Saturday was one of the best experiences that I've had in prison...well, words can't even describe it! Brother Ron, I've experienced a lot of things, but this definitely tops the charts! To see the looks on guys faces was amazing. I wish I had a camera to capture it. It was priceless!

At first, I have to admit, we had guys who were reluctant because prison can be a very divided, standoffish place due to the seriousness of the environment. But once the guys saw the genuineness and authenticity of our hospitable endeavor, they joined in with open arms and open hearts.

As I relayed to you in my previous letter, I'm grateful for everything that you and your organization are doing for us. Because you are a shining light upon a dark place, restoring hope in individuals who were on the verge of giving up, and letting people know that had lost sight of reality that there are good honest people in society that still care.

As I shared with everyone, this "event" - because that's what it was - was much bigger than just eating food. It was the beginning of restoring hope, love, and unity - and that is something this place has been needing for a long time.

Of course, everyone says, "Thanks and God bless you!", and they're really looking forward to being a part of such a prestigious event again. And on my behalf brother Ron, again, I tilt my hat to you, because it's brothers like you that make this world a better place... and I don't know where we would be without you. Love, peace, and harmony.

-Rodney Keith Cash

Last night we did the spread on C3 for the second time, and it was great in all ways. As with everything, things get better each time you do it and this was no exception. We were fortunate enough to have the same officer as we did last time, so he already knew what time it was when he saw us setting up. We set up three tables that were in a row and everyone in the day room (and it was packed!) formed a line and very respectfully went from table to table as we served them. It was most definitely a sight to see all the smiling faces and to just feel the environment of so many men happy and full! I am personally very adamant in responding to all the "Thank you's" with "Please don't thank me, thank God, because this is a blessing and if He hadn't blessed us through others none of this would be possible!"

After everyone was served and the food was all gone, I just stood back and looked around thinking about how amazing it feels to be used as an instrument of God's love and to be blessed with this opportunity through donations from people I don't even know! It's a feeling that is so overwhelming I can't find the words to describe it. You and everyone that are a part of what you all do for us are truly changing people's outlook on things, and giving people hope. I thank God every morning for you and everyone involved. Know that I greatly appreciate all that you do - and please know that your kindness is having a huge

impact and literally changing people's lives – because I'm one of them! Thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of C3 Cell Block.

-Edward Hughes

I just want to take the time out to let you all know how much we appreciate you for your time and effort. What better time than the day of our spread to tell you how grateful we are for you! It is such a comforting feeling to know that we can always count on you to be our advocate when we are confined; our cheerleader when we're feeling a little down on ourselves; our counselor when we need someone to listen. In fact, no matter what we need you somehow seem to know just what to do or say. And since the spread is a special occasion to celebrate, it's also a good time to express the warmth and gratitude that are so often left unsaid. Through it all, thank you for the love, care, and concern!

-Dontrale Brown

Our Support for individuals we helped:

To all the wonderful people who continue to love and support us in prison: It is because of your beautiful souls, the love you share, the kind words, the time taken to write to us, with other inmates that you open hearts, take away despair and bring hope to many who had given up hope. Because of beautiful people like you, my awesome friend Roger McGowen will be free – and is already now free in mind and spirit, and because of you, I have hope for my freedom as well! I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Because you all care, I now have a pair of new tennis shoes! It is fair to say, "Because people like you care, that I now care!" From my heart to yours I say thank you! Thank you! God bless you.

-Emilio Rodriguez

We thank you for adding sunshine and sparkles to our lives and situations. It feels good to know that we are not alone and that we're always being thought of and talked about. "Thank you" are two words that never add up, and words from the lips are never enough. But we thank you anyway, because it's the only tool we have in this place. Thanks a lot! Peace!!

-Adrian Eleby & Victor Williams

This missive is a small token of my appreciation for your sincere acts of kindness concerning my situation. You and Roger are such a tremendous blessing and uplift meant to help guys here on the Wynne Unit. We are forever in debt to you guys. You make us feel adequate and of great worth. Many times, the fear of rejection tends to close down the heart of a man because of his unbearable hurt and pain. He becomes bitter and hard-hearted to a degree. That was me at one time, Mr. Ron. I've lost a lot throughout the course of my incarceration. But little did I know that I was being shaped and molded into the person that I am today. I am stronger than ever now. My morals and standards have risen beyond my grasp. I've learned that each stage of life has its own challenges and potential. Somewhere ahead of those challenges lies undeniable victory to the one that endures to the very end. I won't allow this time to conquer my mind or derail my faith. I will continue to do the time and not allow the time to do me! Thank you ever so much again for your love and concern towards us. May your day continue to be filled with joy and bliss. Peace!!!

-Adrian Eleby

My name is Sam Jones and I am a recipient of your generous donations. I write to

express my overwhelming and sincere gratitude for your help and to reveal how your help has truly made a big difference in my life. In case you guys don't know, let me mention the fact that the Texas prison system does not pay inmates for our work. Our labor is absolutely free. Thus, in essence we are slaves of the state government which in effect makes inmates totally dependent upon the prison to provide our daily needs. However, the Prison does not adequately provide for our daily needs (sometimes not at all)...such as, but not limited to deodorant, skin lotion, hair cream, mouthwash, etc. And for inmates like myself who are destitute and do not have any family sending us money to purchase these hygiene items we often fall into a cycle of despair, loneliness, and depression. But thanks to the benevolent supporters of Roger McGowen, I and other inmates like me who receive help from you guys are able to purchase the hygiene items needed along with food and a few snack items. And we are truly thankful for that.

I must give additional thanks to you guys for purchasing me a typewriter. I am a self-taught litigator (meaning no formal schooling). I file and litigate civil action lawsuits against the prison system on behalf of myself and other individuals in the prison population as well as litigating my own criminal conviction - trying to get my case overturned.

Thanks to you guys purchasing me the typewriter I am now able to present typed, professional looking briefs and memorandums of law to the courts instead of just hand written. You guys are truly some extraordinary, warm hearted beautiful spirited people who are doing extraordinary things for prisoners!

In closing I would be remiss if I didn't mention my dearly beloved brother and best friend Roger McGowen. For without Roger introducing me to you guys I would not be a recipient of your help. Roger is just like you guys – he too has a warm heart and beautiful spirit. Allah (God) has truly blessed Roger with an abundance of humility. I am so appreciative that Roger, along with you guys count me as your friend. Thank you all!

-Sam Jones

Man, I'm doing great and very grateful for all you've done. I've always wanted to introduce myself and get to know you. Well it was a beautiful thing when you sent your mailing address. Ron, you and Roger and your group are all the family I have, and I feel very blessed to have you all. Every time you told me in your JPay message, "You are not alone!" I really felt that, Ron. To me you're a very beautiful dude, man. And Roger has set a very good example for me. Ron you wouldn't believe the things I've seen and been through. What I got from all that was a new kind of strength. I've been really blessed, and I am so grateful to be who I am today.

-Alvester Sanders

Greetings and respect. I hope this letter finds you living well. For you should be, because your generosity is not only appreciated greatly, but it's an obvious gesture showing where your heart lies. Someone with a heart as big as yours deserves to live well. True story! I write this letter to give credit where credit is due. Your generosity surprised me, and if you think about it, that's unfortunate. What I mean is your generosity is a rare thing which makes you and your organization rare individuals! I can't thank you enough for the good I've seen your generosity do.

Honestly, I never saw myself as needing help. I've been around Rock (Roger) for a while, and I saw the good that's been done, but I never needed help. I figured others were better helped. And then, I did need a little help. I can't thank you and your group enough! It's hard to explain the feeling of being able to purchase hygiene items for yourself - and even a pint of ice cream - to feel "human" again, if only for the minute it takes to eat that ice cream! I could go on and on! Just know that you are appreciated more than words on paper could possibly express. I am eternally grateful.

-Kenneth Sheets

Hello friend. And, when I say “friend” I really mean it! What you and Roger are doing for me, I can never repay. But my love, loyalty, and friendship is for life. You all have given me hope to keep pushing on. Ron, my mother is the one who had sent me money, but she had to pay some bills. Because the \$20 she occasionally sent me would come out of her gas money for the week and she would then have to borrow money! I love my mother so much and I just hate to have to ask her for anything, but I have to have hygiene products. The \$50 you sent me might not be a lot to some, but to me, somebody who only had \$20 every other month or so - and sometimes I would have nothing - this is all I need and then some. I told my mother about everything that you and Roger have done for me. She also can't thank you enough! So, if you ever need help in Houston, Texas just let us know if we can do anything – no matter what. Just say it and she will come running. The worry that you have taken off my mind has been replaced with happiness!

I want to thank you and everybody who chipped in to help us. From money to just being a friend we can write to. It's more than just help. To us it's life that you give us. And I know you don't get any award for what you do, but in our eyes, you are a first place gold-medalist! Thank you so much. I love you all!

-Victor Todd Williams

Peace and blessings to you. I pray that the creator is blessing you with as much as you are blessing the world – and more! It's people like you that give people like me life and hope. I want to thank you for life. I truly feel as if I can't thank you enough. Life has been so hard on me the thirteen and a half years that I've been here but yet I keep on pushing on until I find my way. I truly thank the Creator for Rock (Roger). It's like he has seen my struggles through my eyes and all my pain. I have no one in my corner family-wise, I'm on my own in this place with no support system and sometimes these people here can get out of hand! It's like no one that matters hears the cries of the world. All they ever think about is themselves. I was lost, but you reached and found me and gave me life – hope! So, I thank you and your support group - because light is all the world needs! I thank you for making my dreams reality. And with that being said, I leave as I came - with peace and blessings to you all.

-LaCarlton Mitchell

Sir, I would just like to say that you and your group are some inspiring people! I am on my way out of here on parole soon and I would like to be a part of some people like you all, and what you all represent. There are a lot of human beings in here that are in dire need of help of all kinds – but no one knows because there are not a lot of people who care. I've been down here for 21 years and I lost both of my parents since my incarceration so there's been no support at all. So, this help that you and your group has blessed me with I hope I'm able to do the same when I'm released - and I am able to help others. Thank you all from the top to the bottom of my soul. I'm going to do my part and spread the love with as many people as it reaches. Thank you!

-Bobby Brown

First let me thank you for helping my friend Wrandy Little. I told him about you and “Rock” and your international support group, and that there were nice people out there that wanted to help us out. I must admit he had a hard time believing it until you sent him that Jpay letter. Mr. Radford, you should have seen the look on his face. I can't explain the feeling I felt for my friend to see him so happy. This man has not been to commissary in over four years. I also want to thank you for all the times you have helped me out this year. Like I said before, I can't find the right words to say how thankful I really am. It is people like you and Rock and your group that make the world a better place!

-Ellis Jackson

!Hola! Como Estas! I am well, and needless to say, beyond blessed to have people in my life like you, Roger and your group, who cared enough to make my birthday a day to remember. My family wanted to do something for me, but because of holidays and money not being right they were not able to help. So, thank you so very much for that deposit to my account. There is nothing that makes a person happier than knowing someone cares about them on their birthday! So, thank you sir from the bottom of my heart. I truly thank you and I will forever be grateful. No doubt!

You are now on my prayer list. I ask you if you ever need prayer for any reason, know that I've got your back. I've got a strong prayer team on my side, and I have personally seen miracles take place here from these men and their strong devoted prayers. May God bless you!

-Lorenzo Villarreal

I would like to thank you for your help that you've sent me. It's extremely hard for me to ask anyone for anything, but one of the things that I've had to learn is humbling myself and giving all glory to God. The fact that there are people in this world so caring as to bless a complete stranger tells me that God is great and sees high and low. Thank you so much for your help and support.

-Derick Hunt

Thank you very much for the gift and the encouraging words that you sent. It really means a lot to know that there are people out there who care! Happy new year!

-Timothy Morgan

Just a few lines to say thank you and Mr. McGowen for all that you have done for me. I have no one on the outside to help me. Because of you all I had a blessed Christmas and I can't thank you enough for all you do. Thank you.

-Lucas Thomas

I received your Jpay email and the funds you sent and want to show my appreciation and say thank you – a very sincere thank you! It really feels good having a connection with society and knowing someone is willing to connect with me from society! It is something I truly need in order to free my mind from the confines of my situation. I am truly grateful for your support and I wish you guys all the best and much success throughout life. Again, Thank you!

-Chico Hill

In the name of God, I want to say thank you for your wonderful invaluable help to a person like me. God bless you and all your family – and have a very happy new year. Thank you for allowing me to be a recipient of your blessing.

-Edgar Arroyo

First, I would like to say God bless you. I appreciate your organization and I'm truly thankful. It has been so long since I was cared about. The funds you sent helped me to get hygiene stuff that I have needed but just didn't have money to get. Now that God has finally heard my cry, he sent me an angel to look out for me! It finally feels like I'm not alone. Thank you for everything you do for me. I have seen men come together because of your organization. I pray that it continues to be a blessing in our lives. Well, it did make a difference in my life! I know I have a true friend and not somebody who will turn their back on me. I had to recognize that I was blessed, and not just some trash that people

don't care about. Please continue to be in my life – and others as well.

-Larry Ashley

Hi Ron! This is Sam, how are you doing my brother? Fine I hope, and I pray that Allah (God) is blessing you and your family with the very best of good health. I previously sent my appreciation collectively thanking you guys for the love and support that you all have showered me with over the years. At this time, I would like to offer you my personal individual thanks for all that you have done for me and do for all of us incarcerated inside the 'belly of the beast!'

Being so close to Roger on a daily basis makes me well aware of the fact that you are constantly doing things to help us down here – whether it's making phone calls to the proper authorities to voice a complaint on our behalf, making a phone call on a particular inmates behalf, locating information online for us or whatever, you always come through for us and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I thank you on behalf of myself and the countless other inmates whom you and Roger help.

In closing, my brother, let me add that I am truly honored that you and Roger would have so much trust in me as your friend that you would give me your home address to write to you and to enroll your phone to enable me to call you. As I have told Roger before I'll tell you now, I am very loyal to my friends and I will never betray your friendship nor betray the trust that you all have in me. I love you both. Thank you. Friends for life.

-Sam Jones

I am truly blessed and immensely grateful for you and the International Support Group. You guys have helped me tremendously with your love and support. I am just one out of many that are incarcerated without family or any supporting cast. Sometimes it gets hard to carry-on when no one loves you. Nevertheless, you guys have lifted a burden and help make this time a lot easier with your contributions. And with every contribution I find someone else who is less fortunate, and I contribute 10% to that individual. Therefore, the blessings are continuously going forth and being fulfilled. My gratitude is beyond measure and I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and generosity. I pray that you all may prosper and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

-Joseph Freitas

Thank you for allowing your light to shine upon the darkness in my life and for filling the void of abandonment. I am eternally grateful to have someone like you in my life. Here is a poem I wrote for you:

“A GIFTED REASON”

‘I need’ extinguishes ‘I want.’

I desire to feel, yet I don't.

I search to understand,

Yet I'm just a simple-minded man.

I grab hold to emotion,

I'm roller coasting.

As dizzy as a dog chasing its tail,

I fall head over heels,

Free falling toward hell.

You catch me with your love,

You satisfy my thirst!

-Samson Winn

I would like to thank you for coming into my life. It has been a blessing and I pray to

God every day for you. Here's to those people who make this world a better place because of who they are. People like you! I'm truly grateful for your kindness and consideration. You all are truly the ones who really care about others. I am grateful for everything that makes you all who you are, because having you all for a family has brought me so much happiness. It has let me know that God is real. From your brother for life!

-Haze Arin

It says in the Bible that God works through other people to spread his love and blessings. I've been around in the system a while, and this is the first time I've encountered anything like what you all do. I've been dealing with some very troubling personal issues to where I've pretty much lost all my support from the free world. Yet God put it on someone's heart to approach me with the opportunity to get a pen-pal not even knowing what my situation was.

I have been blessed with a couple of deposits from your organization that has kept me afloat, and just recently was able to be part of preparing a spread to bless the whole cell block.

Throughout my troubles, your organization has restored my hope. The greatest blessing of all was to be able to bless everyone else even less fortunate than myself. It was an amazing experience to see the watery eyes of a few guys and their appreciation. It's important for those involved behind the scenes that this has truly touched the hearts of many and made a great difference. Thank you so much for everything that you do for all of us! God bless you.

-Edward Hughes
