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Thank you for your interest in our organization, Adopt an Inmate.

We began our work in 2013, after a family member was incarcerated, and discovered the challenges of incarcerated people who have few if any positive social connections. Eight years later, we have been in contact with over 12K incarcerated people, with about 2,000 of those adopted. Our mission is:

- To remind the world and those caught in the grip of the justice system that both accused and adjudicated are human.
- To provide relief, comfort, and hope to those facing judgement, and to help those sentenced emerge from prison whole, knowing they are part of a larger family that loves and cares for them.
- Ultimately, Adopt an Inmate would seek to change prison itself from an arbitrary system of cruelty and punishment to one which internally recognizes the humanity of its charges and treats them accordingly such that recidivism is rare, rather than a feature of our current system's design.

Enclosed is a survey for you to complete and return. The survey data is for research purposes, and we will never share your info without your permission. Likewise, never share an adopter's contact info without their express permission. We do not charge inmates or their families for our services, and connect people based on their location, common interests, hobbies, educational and occupational background, family history, etc. Please use the blank page to share anything that would be useful in finding a compatible match. **We do not have the resources to respond to your completed survey, but know that your name will be added to the waiting list as soon as we receive it (if it indicates you want to be adopted).**

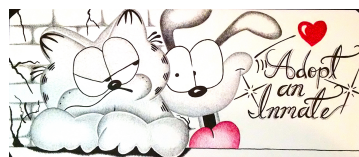
We welcome your stories from the inside for our "Letters From Prison" series, as well as poems, and artwork (including "welcome" banners, see examples below) to publish on our website. Please do extend this invitation to anyone who might have something to share. We love to get mail but please be patient with response time as we are constantly under an avalanche of requests. **A self-addressed stamped envelope is most appreciated if you require a reply.**

**NOTE:** We are not a dating service (although we do consider gender preference), nor are we lawyers (do not send us your legal documents). Our intention is to create opportunities for positive social connection and mentorship.

Please notify us with any updates to your address or custody status so that we can remain in contact with you.

Much peace to you,

Melissa Schmitt  
She-EO, Adopt an Inmate



P.S. If this is a duplicate survey, please discard or pass on to someone who might be interested ☺



# Adoptee FAQs

Q: What does your organization do?

A: *We are a ministry with a mission to provide friendship and support to prisoners.*

Q: Do you provide legal assistance?

A: *Sorry, we currently do not have attorneys on staff. Please do not mail us your legal documents.*

Q: Can I request a specific gender for my adopter?

A: *We do consider gender preference, however, **please note we are not a dating service** (our adopters do not volunteer for anything more than friendship) and we may not be able to fulfill your request, depending on the number and/or gender of adopters we receive.*

Q: Will my adopter provide financial assistance?

A: *All we ask of our adopters is that they make a commitment to write. Additional support including sending money for commissary, ordering care packages, sending book or magazines, phone calls or visits are completely up to the adopter.*

Q: How long will it take to get adopted?

A: *While our goal is to get everyone on our list adopted, our prisoner waiting list numbers several thousand at any time. Please be patient with us as we work to recruit new adopters.*

Q: What if things are not working out with my adopter?

A: *Sometimes relationships don't work out. If this happens, do let us know. We will put you back on the waiting list and work to find another person for you to correspond with.*

Q: What is expected of me as an adoptee?

A: *Please, please be respectful of your adopter in your correspondence. Honor their boundaries and never share your adopter's contact info without their permission. If you have requests for your adopter, it is best to wait until you get to know each other before asking him or her for a favor.*

Q: What if my adopter stops writing?

A: *Contact us if you have stopped hearing from your adopter so we can attempt to find out what happened and if he or she wants to maintain contact.*