

Lamont Moore 246986 WCI

A Juvenile Rehabilitated (Second chances for Juveniles)

As a youth, we're not equipped with divine understanding of what it means to be a leader, humane. Only through trial and error do we come to know and understand the importance of our existence, our soul, our spirituality. With this spiritual enlightenment, we come to accept and acknowledge the effects of our choices. Therefore accepting our fate in the world.

As a youth, we search blindly to fill a void of the very things we take for granted, such as compassion, companionship, friendship, family, loyalty and love, only to be substituted by the very things that plague our nation and our communities today.

By God's design, man is equipped with many imperfections with no sin greater than the next. Yet far too many are eager to judge, exploit and turn their backs of the ignorant and spiritually blind for no reason other than to satisfy the now "norms" of society, which will have us believe and act as if the future and lives of our youth have no place in the world when they make decision that the enlightened would not. Again, no man is perfect and neither am I.

There was a time when the leaders in our communities were not only role models, but disciplinarians of our youth>It was a calling. A duty that one took pride in. These same leaders are now scarce, which allows this injustice to plague our communities and youth to run rampant; free of constrictions that once were pivotal. The same injustices that are now sweeping our nation with rapid and brutal force reflecting that black lives don't matter. This reflection couldn't be farther from the truth.

But it's never too late to try to gain our foothold, standing up and being accountable. God gives us strength to overcome all things that do not sit well with us. We have our battle gear and as part of God's army, we are equipped to deal with the injustices within our communities. But first, we must realize that there is a problem.

And so arises the question of who is Lamont. No one can tell you this story better than I can. But I am a man who's genuine at heart though I've been through a lot. I have captured the spirit of the past and am using it to force my future. My faith is strong as well as my determination to erase the stigma placed upon me that I am a waste. I am still a child of God and my life does matter.

This is my story:

My name is Lamont. I'm a 39 year old Black man. I'll be 40 on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. I've been incarcerated since a juvenile I was 17 years old when I committed and act against a fellow young man. It changed my life as well as the victim's, forever, as he is no longer with us, and I, incapable of understanding life and its pleasures, nor did I comprehend the decision I'd made. For committing murder, I was sentenced to a term of life imprisonment with a 25 year parole eligibility date of August 2017.

23 years later, I am a completely different person> A man whose past will never be forgotten or ever ease. In my youth, I've made decisions I'm not proud of, but eventually played a major part in developing my future, carefully molding the man I am today.

Raised in Milwaukee, WI, I lost my father due to health concerns. I did have a single mother who gave me all that she could but I was troubled, mentally distraught from the loss of my father and the treatment thereafter.

Raised Christian, I swayed from the church, finding myself in the streets, searching, not really knowing or understanding what it was I was looking for: lost, misguided as I was I embraced this, abandoning my roots and my family and found myself going through a trial for my soul.

I attempted to fill a void with something that I thought was sincere and because I found “brotherly” love in the streets, I felt obligated to show loyalty to those I thought showed loyalty to those I thought showed me that same degree of loyalty. I was foolish and because of my personality, I went a step further: Unthinkingly, I senselessly took a life- another of God’s creations. Not once did I consider what it meant to do because remorse didn’t register. I didn’t think about what he’d grow up to be: whether he was a father, a loving son or a playful big brother. I didn’t take responsibility for what I’d done because I didn’t understand. I didn’t appreciate God’s design of life being a precious gift. It was not his plan for Goshida Hall to die at the hands of another. For that, I can earnestly say that I am truly sorry without being selfish, self-centered, irresponsible and immature.

That was then and still I am a work in progress, flawed yet making amends by accepting responsibility for such a careless, senseless act, which cost Yoshida his life. I had to find it within myself to decide if I wanted salvation because my soul was hurting and by finding myself, I found God again, setting myself right because the love that I sought was the love that I had overlooked throughout my youth. And for the last 23 years, I’ve grown, matured, become dependable, responsible and developed a sense of being and an identity I am proud of.

Even with my flaws, I know God will keep me strong and faithful; on my journey> and so, I am a man who has changed for the better and I’ve never forgotten my past because it’s the fuel that feels the fire that burns within me Today. I am understanding, compassionate, sympathetic and in tune with my spirituality, which gives me the strength and direction to become a better man tomorrow than I was yesterday. This is my story and it matters to me. I am rehabilitated and believe I deserve a second chance in society

Contact me at:

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