Lois DeMott, Coordinator
2014 Soros Fellow
Hosted by Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency
THE JOURNEY OF KEVIN DeMOTT
Avid in sports • a love for outdoors/farm • Young Marines • Many family historical vacations
a love for working with hands • community volunteer work • mental illness/bipolar disorder
unsuccessful treatment facilities • obtained GED • sentenced to prison at age 15 (#608223)

- Snowboarding
- Cross-County Win
- Napping and feeding calves at Grandparent's Farm
- Participating in Young Marines Parade
- BMX
- Roller Blading
- At My Grandparent's Farm/Sugar Shanty
- Young Marines Perfect Attendance
- Community Service
- Family Vacation Out West
- Kevin & Brother Nick
- Fun with Exchange Students
- Family Trip to Washington DC
- Kevin's Sentencing Day - May 2006
- In County Jail - Off Meds Suicide Photo by the
- MDOC Photo - May 2006
KEVIN DEMOTT, AGE 15
DAY OF SENTENCING TO MDOC

Photo by Battle Creek Enquirer
Youth in Juvenile Detention Center - Biloxi, Mississippi
Dear Grandma,

I'm sorry for not writing before. I hope this finds you well.

I wanted to tell you about the letter I received in the mail today. It was from a young man named Kyle, who is a minor inmate. He is 14 years old and has been in custody since 2007. He is currently incarcerated at the Thumb Correctional Facility, which is 14 years old. He is under the charge of the Adult Boot Camp, and for some reason, he was unable to complete his 2nd degree assault.

I have been told by his attorney that he is being held for 15 years old, and he is currently on parole in a juvenile camp. However, I have yet to receive any type of response from the judge.

The return to a juvenile facility is happening at this point. I believe only the judge was able to make a decision.

I am very sorry to hear about this. I hope you are doing well.

Love,
[Signature]
Another youth, a year prior to his sentence. Age 15 when sentenced to adult prison.
REMEMBERING
IN ORDER TO PREVENT
SIMILAR TRagedies FROM
HAPPening AGAIN

JEFFREY CLARK

TIMOTHY SOUDERS

01/06/2011
THE STORY OF CHARLIE LANE

HIGH SCHOOL Valedictorian -- U.S. Naval Academy Graduate --
Persian Gulf Marine Corps. Veteran -- Bipolar Mental Illness
Patient ---- Michigan Prison System Inmate # 314942.
A 2010 University of Michigan study found that more than 20% of the state’s prisoners — about 10,000 inmates out of a population of 45,000 — had severe mental disabilities.

The same study found that 65% of the 10,000 with severe mental disabilities had received no treatment in the previous 12 months.”
FACTS ABOUT THE SYSTEM:

• Currently there is one (1) Recipient Rights Specialist for the mentally ill in the entire prison system. Jails - Have none.

• Many prisoners with mental illness are unable to conform to the Department’s rules. They often wind up in long-term segregation as a result.

• Mentally ill prisoners who are outside of the in-patient psychiatric housing units cannot receive medication on an as-needed bases.

• Placement in segregation often leads to further deterioration of their mental health and increased acting out.

• Security management may then involve the use of restrictions (water, electricity, paper, or other) restraints, chemicals or hogtying.

• Mentally ill prisoners often have new felony charges pressed as a result of their behavior in segregation.
Michigan In The News

“Many of these prisoners end up among the thousand or so held in administrative segregation in Michigan. MDOC administrators acknowledge that the percentage of prisoners with mental illness in segregation is probably higher than in the overall population. Prisoners in segregation are handcuffed when they leave their cells, eat off serving trays pushed through the slots of steel doors, and generally lack the few privileges extended to those in general population, such as telephone calls, contact visits and television.”

*Shackled in Solitary: Prisoners with Mental Illness in Michigan’s Prisons*  
*Solitary Watch by Jean Casella and James Ridgeway February 5, 2012*
The Impact of Incarceration on Families and Children...

Families often feel walled off, uninformed and unable to get information about their loved one.
Purpose of the Program:

- Reach out to families and friends of the incarcerated
- Provide resources, information and support
- Bring awareness within the community

Four Pilot Sites:

Macomb – Detroit    Brooks/West Shoreline – Muskegon    Central Michigan – St. Louis

- Volunteer Family Advocates trained to assist other families.
- Informational Posters are in four pilot facilities for visitors and prisoners.
- Community workshops being held to provide support to loved ones.
- Family Advisory Board to Corrections Administration being created.