

## **Mission Statement of BighouseArt.com**

The mission of BighouseArt.com is to advocate for and provide support to inmates and their families through legal, educational, emotional, and financial means for the purpose of increasing inmate self-reliance and decreasing criminal recidivism.

## **Corporate Value Statement of BighouseArt.com**

**People are a priority:** At BighouseArt.com, we believe that no person can be fully defined by his or her worst action and offer that regardless of a person's history, each individual deserves to have his or her basic needs met. Just as a hero may stumble and fall, one that has fallen may one day rise to become a hero.

**Do what is right:** It is often easier to do what is popular than what is right. Since the majority of incarcerated individuals will eventually be released back into society, the 'lock them up, and throw away the key' mentality does not prepare these individuals for their reintegration back into society. While 'tough on crime' rhetoric may sound good in a political speech, who would not rather have a rehabilitated ex-convict living next door than a punished ex-convict? BighouseArt.com will consider providing assistance to any inmate that has demonstrated a true desire to become a better person.

**Death is not the answer:** Bighouseart.com is opposed to the death penalty in all instances and does not believe that capital punishment is consistent with the evolving standards of decency associated with a maturing society. The arguments that support capital punishment are weak at best and erroneous at worst. First, no convincing evidence has ever been shown that capital punishment is a deterrent to violent crime, and in modern times our current prison structures are capable of protecting society from violent offenders. Next, the argument that capital punishment brings 'closure' to the family of a victim does not consider the fact that the punishment is carried out on an extremely small percentage of offenders. This means that any closure claimed by supporters of the death penalty would be brought only to a select few. Furthermore, we believe that capital punishment is a penalty for the poor and the minorities in the United States as can be shown by many studies. In the words of late Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, "One searches our chronicles in vain for the execution of any member of the affluent strata of this society". Lastly, with an imperfect legal system, there is always the chance of executing an innocent person. With 130 exonerations of death row inmates since capital punishment was reinstated in the mid 70s, can there be any doubt that some individuals have 'fallen through the cracks' of justice and faced the ultimate penalty for crimes that they did not commit?