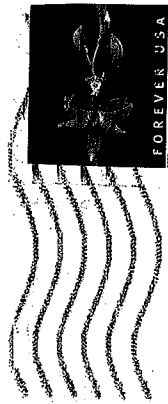


Richard Valdez #K56901
CSP: San Quentin 4CB105L
San Quentin, Ca 94974

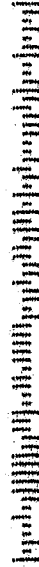


SAN FRANCISCO CA 940

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Prison University Project
Post Office 492
San Quentin, Ca. 94964

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Dear Prison University Project,

1 May 2020

This is a letter to say thank you for your most generous gift. With all that is going on in the world today, it is sometimes, the little gestures that make the biggest impacts. Although I am one of the fortunate ones with a good support system, even after close to twenty-five years, I am grateful for kindness' shown. So thank you again.

Not to take away from your intended generosity, but, it must be noted that when these gift packets were passed out the powers that be chose to do it when they were supposed to be running our yards. I am sure that this was not your intent, but it was what took place. Being that we only get yard three times a week now, you can understand why it is important for me to bring this up to you. The packets, by all rhyme and reason, could have, and should have been passed out after the yards were finished being run out. But, as with anything good that happens for the condemned population, the administration always finds a way to add an opposite gesture to the mix. Either way, I just thought that you should know this. Either way, it was still a very well received gesture that a lot of us are truly grateful and thankful for.

As for the P.U.P. program itself, I have been attending Feather River College's Incarcerated Student Program for a few years now, and with this last semester almost all the way under my belt, will be getting my degree. I truly feel that education is an important component for one's rehabilitation, and is an effective part of the equation to keep recidivism rates down. Prior to my incarceration, I was attending college. So this milestone is a longtime coming. I worked hard for it, despite my status as a condemned inmate. In my opinion, anything can still happen with my sentence and status, and so, if I am not being proactive in that process, then I am not helping myself in any way, shape or form. I am of the mind that one needs not do his or her time destructively. I choose to do my time as constructively as possible. It is through education that I have gained new insight into my own self, and was able to make necessary changes for the better.

So, in closing, I just wanted to thank all of you at the Prison University Project, once again, and let you know that the gesture you made was well received. These are hard, unprecedented times that we are all facing. And with that in mind, we all could learn to show more generosity and kindness to our communities, in order for us all to get through this with a better understanding of what it means to be a community. All of you, please stay healthy and safe.

With Best Regards,



R. Valdez

P.S. You can share my letter if you choose to.