



PROFILE OF  
JERRY W. LASHUAY

Full Name	JERRY WARREN LASHUAY
Prisoner Number	176424
D.O.B.	July 17, 1968
Crime Convicted Of	First Degree Murder
Date of Crime	August 26, 1983
Conviction Date	May 25, 1984
Age at Time Crime was Committed	15-years-old
Age at Time Entered Prison	15-years-old
Prisons Resided Within/Dates	RCF: May, 1984 SRF: November, 1993 MRF: August, 1997 KCF: December, 1999

Brief description of offense and prisoner's role in it

Jerry and his uncle, Nicholas Lashuay, were playing in the basement of Nicholas' home (Jerry's grandparent's home) when the two boys got into a disagreement. Jerry hit Nicholas with a baseball bat and then stabbed him with a pocket knife. As Jerry came to understand after years of therapy, this was an act of rage resulting from years of repressed anger. While the disagreement with Nicholas provided the trigger to that rage, Nicholas was in no way its cause. Jerry deeply regrets his actions and the pain he has caused as their result.

What difficulties have you experienced as a juvenile living among adult prisoners?

Jerry was younger and smaller of stature than nearly everyone else when he first arrived in prison. Because of this, he was often viewed as a target. He also had to find a way to deal with the fact that he would never be released from prison, and that a life sentence for him could easily mean 60 or 70 years of incarceration. According to the prevailing belief, it was pointless for him to try to improve himself, learn a trade or get an education, since these things have no ready place in prison. With no chance of hope for release, depression and thoughts of suicide were a constant theme.

Have you been negatively affected by your experiences as a juvenile living among adult prisoners? Please explain.

Jerry was a good-looking kid with blonde hair and a slight build. Predatory adults often targeted him with intentions of sex or domination. Shortly after arriving in prison, Jerry was attacked and held at knife point while another prisoner performed fellatio on him. Because of this experience, Jerry became untrusting of other people and constantly questioned their motives and intentions. This led him to isolate himself from nearly everyone around him for several years. Jerry was forced to fight to defend himself on many occasions

and has sustained serious injuries as a result, including a broken jaw on two occasions, a cracked sternum, a dislodged bone fragment from his right eye socket, several chipped teeth, a bite mark on his side that didn't fade for ten years, and a separated shoulder. Further, his emotional development was burdened by the continual questioning of his sexuality by other prisoners, a burden made more difficult given his self-imposed isolation and the lack of role models.

How have you resolved these difficulties or dealt with them?

To deal with the sexual predators, Jerry quickly learned how to defend himself. He discovered that having a tough exterior would often deter such advances. Jerry describes developing "masking" skills which allowed him, as would an actor, to appear as whatever he needed to be in order to protect himself. He learned that wearing public facades was a successful defense for any difficulty, as was the ability to quickly change from one to another as the need arose. Jerry also became physically fit, a state that serves as further deterrence to trouble.

Jerry also discovered, contrary to the prevailing belief, that a meaningful life could be found through education. While few, there did exist opportunities for educated prisoners to utilize their skills. So Jerry set his feet firmly on a path of self-education. In addition to earning a college degree, Jerry has received technical training in food preparation, computer operation, and office procedures. He also spent much time exploring and developing his leadership abilities in prisoner and facility organizations, and has been both sought out and acknowledged for his skillful steering and resolution skills.

He has earned over 225 hours of college credit and will soon graduate from Ohio University where he has studied history, English, and sociology through their correspondence program.

Jerry also found role models and friends in the late Bill Hemmings and his wife, Professor Annette Hemmings. Jerry credits Bill with showing him how to reconcile being a good man while remaining a prisoner. And Professor Hemmings provides Jerry with a continuing focus for his educational pursuits as well as a standard by which to measure his achievements.

How has a life of incarceration changed you?

Jerry the man is far different from Jerry the boy who took his uncle's life. He has lost the anger and impulsiveness that once characterized him and has become, instead, a man of quiet self-assurance who is ruled by his own rationale and sense of morality.

He has educated himself and uses what he has learned to aid others. Jerry teaches a voluntary 6-week English and writing skills workshop to other prisoners in his spare time. He also mentors at-risk young men who enter prison for the first time, and regularly corresponds with other juvenile lifers as a means of sharing his knowledge and experience of dealing with a life of incarceration.

Jerry has worked to repair his familial relationships and now enjoys a close rapport with many family members.

Best of all, he has actively engaged in therapy and anger management classes, seeking to discover the source of the rage that led him to prison. Jerry found the answers he sought and worked hard to remedy the problem. After 25 years of incarceration, it appears that he has succeeded, and proven by the lack of violence on his record.

Have you remained in continual contact with family or friends since becoming incarcerated?

Jerry maintains regular contact with his family through visits, telephone calls and letters. In addition, he has made several lifelong friends with whom he regularly corresponds.

If you were granted a second chance and released, what would you do?

If given a second chance and Jerry is released, he would finish his bachelor degree and seek out opportunities to put his knowledge and experience to use by working with troubled youths. In this way Jerry hopes to further prepare himself to aid Michigan's juveniles-at-risk.

Further, he and another juvenile lifer, Amy Black, founded J.A.I.L., and are working to document the experiences of juveniles growing up in adult prisons. It is their hope to bring attention to the special needs of juveniles placed among adults and eventually to end the practice in Michigan.

Accomplishments

J E R R Y L A S H U A Y A 1 7 6 4 2 4

1984 to Present

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EDUCATION

01) Academic education:

- Currently enrolled in Bachelor of Specialized Studies  
correspondence degree program, Ohio University (OU)
- Arizona State University (ASU), KCF, 2000
- Indiana Institute of Technology (IIT), RCF/SRF, 1993
- Associate of Arts and Sciences degree, Montcalm  
Community College (MCC), RCF, 1990
- G.E.D., RCF, 1984

02) Technical certification:

- Business Education Technology, KCF, 2002
- Food Technology, SRF, 1995
- Office Occupations, RCF, 1986

03) Federal Emergency Management Agency class certification

- IS-2 "Emergency Preparedness-USA", SRF, 1996
- IS-7 "Disaster Assistance", SRF, 1996

COUNSELING

- 01) Cage Your Rage program, KCF, 2006
- 02) Psychology Enrichment class, SRF, 1996
- 03) Independent bi-weekly psychological counseling, RCF,  
1985-1987
- 04) Substance Abuse program, RCF, 1985
- 05) Stress Management class, Montcalm Community College, RCF,  
1985

## EMPLOYMENT

- 01) 03/07 to Present Certified clerk, Hobbycraft, KCF
- 02) 08/06 to 03/07 Garment Specialist, Michigan State Industries, KCF
- 03) 08/02 to 07/05 Technical tutor, Business Education Technology, KCF
- 04) 03/02 to 11/05 Certified clerk, Academic School, KCF
- 05) 09/01 to 01/02 Certified clerk, Intake Unit, KCF
- 06) 12/00 to 07/01 Certified Shipping Clerk, Michigan State Industries, KCF
- 07) 09/00 to 12/00 General Sewing, Michigan State Industries, KCF
- 08) 01/00 to 09/00 Certified clerk, Academic School, KCF
- 09) 10/98 to 12/99 Academic tutor, Academic School, MRF
- 10) 08/98 to 10/98 Aide for an elderly, handicapped prisoner, MRF
- 11) 07/96 to 09/96 Certified clerk/Commissary, Food Service, SRF
- 12) 10/94 to 01/96 Certified clerk/Technical tutor, Food Technology, SRF
- 13) 02/94 to 01/96 Academic tutor, Academic School, SRF
- 14) 05/89 to 11/93 Certified clerk, Academic School, Classification, and Prisoner Services, RCF
- 15) 10/92 to 11/93 Certified clerk, General Library, RCF
- 16) 01/90 to 07/91 Clerk for College Opportunity Prisoner Extension, Montcalm Community College, RCF
- 17) 08/88 to 05/89 Academic tutor/Special Education, Academic School, RCF
- 18) 08/86 to 08/88 Hobbycraft aide, Hobbycraft, RCF
- 19) 08/84 to 08/86 General porter, Control Center, RCF

## ACTIVITIES BY YEAR

### 1984

- 01) Completed G.E.D. at RCF. However, the diploma was not awarded until he turned 18 in 1986.

### 1985

- 01) Completed the Substance Abuse program, RCF
- 02) Began independent, bi-weekly, psychological counseling

#### College, MCC

- Small Business Management (BA 235)
- Sketching (HU 121)
- Stress Management (SD 120)
- Child Psychology (SS 221)

### 1986

- 01) Completed Office Occupations technical program
- 02) Continued independent psychological counseling

#### College, MCC

- Introduction to Data Processing (DP 110)
- Basic Computer Programming (DP 115)
- Painting I (HU 125)
- Freshman English I (LA 100)
- Elementary Algebra (MA 100)

1987

01) Completed two years of independent psychological counseling

Jaycees

02) Participated in "Dream Come True" with Riverside Jaycees. Jerry helped raise over \$2,000 to grant the wish of a child who was terminally-ill with leukemia. This child, Randy Colvin, was granted his wish to visit Disney World through the efforts of Jerry and the Riverside Jaycees.

College, MCC

--Physical Science (NS 101)

1988

01) Aided in the development of the first recognized lifeskills program in the Michigan Department of Corrections. This program provided special education prisoners with a means to develop and practice lifeskills strategies. His supervisor was given Department recognition for this achievement.

Jaycees

- 02) President of the RCF Jaycee chapter
- 03) Raised money to purchase closed caption recorders for hearing impaired students in the Ionia Public School system
- 04) Sponsored the "Just Say No To Drugs" program in the Ionia Public School system
- 05) Completed U.S. Jaycee-sponsored Dynamics courses in Time Management, Communications, and Leadership
- 06) Aided the Bay City Jaycee chapter by donating to them the RCF Plaque Project (equipment and inventory)

**College, MCC**

- Freshman English II (LA 101)
- Social Science I (SS 110)
- Social Science II (SS 111)

**1989**

**Jaycees**

- 01) Completed U.S. Jaycee-sponsored Dynamics courses in Financial Planning and Personal Dynamics
- 02) Recognized by Michigan Jaycees as a Martin P. Luthy finalist for leadership achievements
- 03) Honored by the Riverside Jaycee chapter with the Armbruster, Keyman, and Past President awards for his leadership role

**College, MCC**

- Management (BA 237)
- Humanities I (HU 200)
- Improved Reading/Writing (SD 175)

**1990**

- 01) Graduated with Associate degree in Arts and Sciences from Montcalm Community College

**College, MCC**

- Principles of Accounting I (BA 115)
- Humanities II (HU 201)
- Biological Science (NS 100)

1991

- 01) Chosen to speak to juvenile students participating in the Job Corp. Received a letter of appreciation.
- 02) Served as a Warden's Forum Representative.

1992

- 01) Aided the RCF Library to electronically catalog over 10,000 volumes, enabling a system that promoted accountability and drastically reduced theft.

College, IIT

- Personnel Management (BA 2400)
- Marketing (BA 2500)

1993

- 01) Assisted in the development of Youth Oriented Understanding (Y.O.U.), a juvenile delinquent deterrence program. While two groups of juveniles were run through the program, there is no follow-up data available attesting to the program's impact. Submitted Y.O.U. to Instructor Briegel at Indiana Institute's Extended Studies Division for credit.

College, IIT

- Report Writing (ENG 1210)
- Philosophy (HUM 2730)
- Business Communications (BA 1100)

1994

College, OU

- Law and Society (BUSL 255)
- Algebra (MATH 113)
- Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 103)
- Financial Accounting (ACCT 201)

1995

01) Earned technical certification in Food Technology, SRF:

- Bakeshop
- Vegetables/Grains
- Pantry
- Meat, Poultry, and Fish
- Stocks, Sauces, and Soups
- Introduction to Cooking
- Sanitation, Safety, and Equipment

College, OU

- Advanced Composition (ENG 308J)

1996

- 01) Completed two FEMA courses, SRF
- 02) Completed Creative Writing class, SRF
- 03) Completed American Literature class, SRF
- 04) Completed Psychology Enrichment, SRF
- 05) Submitted materials for the local D.A.R.E. program

Child of the Month Club

- 06) Helped to prepare an Anti-Crime Booklet for the Saginaw Public School system

College, OU

--Creative Writing: Fiction (ENG 361)

1997

College, OU

--Introduction to Literature (ENG 200)

--Western Civilization in Modern Times (HIST 101)

--Human Biology (BIOS 103)

1998

College, OU

--Critical Approaches to Fiction (ENG 201)

--Critical Approaches to Drama (ENG 203)

1999

College, OU

--Ancient Egyptian and Mesopotamian Civilizations  
(HIST 329A)

2000

- 01) Letter of Appreciation for assistance in preparing the KCF school's annual graduation
- 02) Received Michigan Penal Press Award from the Evening News, Sault Ste Marie, in "Best Short Story" category

KERYX Christian Ministry

- 03) Attended KERYX weekend 33, KCF
- 04) Appointed KERYX Journal editor

College, OU

- American Literature to 1865 (ENG 321)
- Shakespeare: The Tragedies (ENG 303)
- English Literature 1500-1660 (ENG 312)

2001

- 01) Received Michigan Penal Press Award from the Evening News, Sault Ste Marie, in "Best Short Story" category
- 02) Selected as finalist for Pen American Center's writing contest

KERYX Christian Ministry

- 03) Continued as KERYX Journal editor

College, ASU

- Elementary Spanish (SPA 101)

2002

- 01) Invited to write for "American Renaissance" magazine
- 02) Completed Business Education Technology technical program, KCF
- 03) Letter of Appreciation for assistance in preparing the KCF school's annual graduation

KERYX Christian Ministry

- 04) Continued as KERYX Journal editor

College, OU

- Shakespeare: The Comedies (ENG 302)
- American Literature: 1865-1918 (ENG 322)

2003

- 01) As clerk for Principal Catherine Spring, developed the following brochures for faculty programs and prisoner use:
  - KCF Career and Technical Education Center
  - Quickbook of English Grammar
- 02) Began to consolidate to electronic files the entire MDOC Technical Mathematics program

College, OU

- Shakespeare: The Histories (ENG 301)
- Ancient Greece (HIST 329B)

2004

- 01) Letter of Appreciation for assistance in preparing the KCF school's annual graduation
- 02) As clerk for Principal Catherine Spring, developed the following brochures for faculty programs and prisoner use:
  - Quickbook for WORD, Microsoft Office 2000
  - Quickbook for EXCEL, Microsoft Office 2000
  - KCF 2004 Softball Umpire's Handbook
- 03) As clerk for Principal Spring, developed the following:
  - Electronic forms for the MDOC Re-Entry Initiative program
  - Consolidated all MDOC technical program Progress Plotters to EXCEL
- 04) Continued work on the MDOC Technical Mathematic program

College, OU

- Ancient Rome (HIST 329C)

## 2005

- 01) Interviewed by PBS correspondent Ofrah Bickell for "Frontline" concerning juveniles in prison who are serving life sentences
- 02) Included in a publication by the Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, entitled, "The Rest of Their Lives: Life without Parole for Child Offenders in the United States" protesting juvenile life sentences. He was featured on the cover of this publication.
- 03) As clerk for Principal Catherine Spring, developed the following for faculty programs and prisoner use:
  - Electronic copy of the 2005 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Directory, MDOC
- 04) Completed work on the Technical Mathematics program. The program was then downloaded to CD and sent around the state for use in other facilities.

### National Lifers of America

- 05) Developed and instructed an essay writing skills class to help other prisoners enhance their writing skills

### College, OU

- Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101)
- Non-Western History Since 1750 (HIST 133)

## 2006

- 01) Wrote "15 and Life", an article about serving a life sentence from a juvenile perspective for publication in the "Journal of Prisoners on Prisons".
- 02) Co-authored with Professor Annette Hemmings of the Educational Studies Program, University of Cincinnati, Throwaway Kid: A Case of Responsibility of, and for, Juvenile Lifers

- 03) Completed "Cage Your Rage", a voluntary anger management program sponsored by the facility.

National Lifers of America

- 04) Continued to offer the Essay Writing program for other prisoners. Further developed and offered a Creative Writing program through which prisoners learned new writing strategies associated with creative writing.

College, OU

- Humanities--Great Books: Modern (HUM 309)
- Criminal Justice (SOC 260)

2007

- 01) Earned Certificate of Achievement for serving on the KCF Warden's Forum

National Lifers of America

- 02) Continued to instruct both the Essay Writing and Creative Writing programs

College, OU

- Women and Literature (ENG 325)

2008

- 01) Earned Certificate of Completion for participation in "Holocaust Class", an instructive program concerning the attempted extermination of the European Jewish peoples by the Nazis during World War II.