

## **Mohawk Correctional Facility**

### **Essay Contest: If you could write a letter to yourself 10 years ago what would you say?**

The following are summaries of our first, second and third place winning essays:

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner displayed a great amount of self analysis in his essay. He recognized his anger towards his father for being absent in his life as well as his tendency to try to “outdo” his father in everything he does. He explains that this tendency has caused him to make bad choices in life and is ultimately turning him into a person like his father, the very thing he wanted to avoid. In making this realization he now sees what is really important in life: family and building positive relationships with the people around him.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Place winner writes about his feelings of regret over not being able to be there for his daughter. He explains the renewed sense of purpose he now feels by getting his life back on track. By being completely drug free, eating right, adopting a consistent exercise routine and participating in the college program here at Mohawk, he feels he is finally making the right choices.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner wrote a very unique essay in which he chose to use a simple metaphor of walking down a street and encountering holes in the sidewalk along the way. He explains that he has a son that needs his father and that bad choices have kept him from being the father he knows he should be. He states, “I can’t pretend I don’t see the same holes on the same street anymore...Goodbye holes in the sidewalk. We have a new street to travel.”