

Letter from Inmate Elizabeth Gonzalez :

My name is Elizabeth Gonzalez. I'm writing you in regards to Pamela Smart. I've known Pamela for eight years and I just want to share how her friendship has left a big impact in my life.

Pamela was a teacher aide when I came to pre-GED class. I had a 60 reading and math level. I couldn't read or write proper English nor did I know my time tables in math. Pamela would take her time every day and helped me through it all. When I took the table test Pamela had so much faith in me, and she knew that I would pass, and yes indeed I passed with a 9.5 and went straight to GED screening.

From there we built a friendship and she became my tutor. I got to know the person she is, and God she's a beautiful person inside and out. At one point in my life I fell into a depression, and even attempted to take my life, and Pamela was the only person I had behind these prison walls to help me get through my ordeal. She would sit with me for hours, and I would vent and tell her what I was struggling with. Her dedication to lift my spirits and the feedback she gave me always left me feeling so light. She has a heart of gold, and I cannot believe she has to spend her life behind bars. I call her my "golden friend" and I always tell her if I could take half of her time and do it with her I would. There is not an inch of malice in her, I can't see her harming anyone; Pamela deserves her freedom.

I'm twenty-seven years old and I'm HIV positive, and there is so much stigma in prison, but Pamela treats me with so much love and concern. I know if something was to happen to me, and I could not tend to myself, Pamela would be the only person who would be by my side till my dying day. I look at her and see the life she has in her, her smile, her kindness and her heart is a blessing to me. I thank God for sending me such a wonderful person, who has helped me become the woman I am today.

I hope you will consider granting her another chance at life outside these walls.