

Project RETURN

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Helping Men and Women Leaving Prison Make a Positive and Permanent Return To Our Community

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You can now make online donations to Project RETURN. To make a donation, visit our website at www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org

SAVE THE DATE!!

39th Annual

Celebrate the Return

Saturday, November 2nd, 2019

Doors open: 5:00 pm

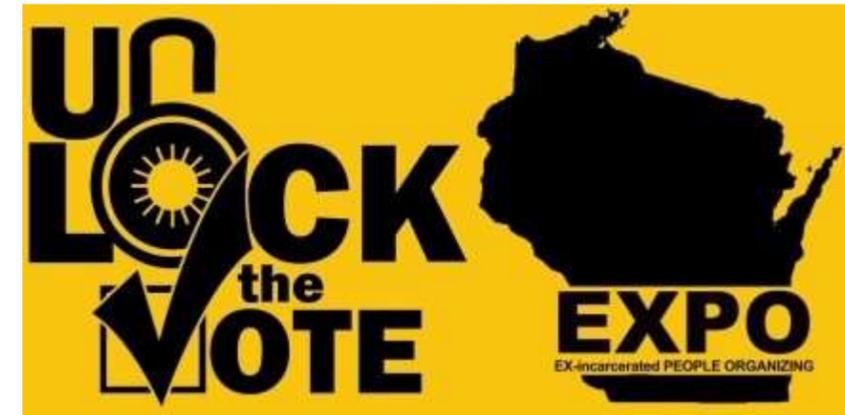
Meal served: 6:00 pm

Marquette University AMU



The evening will be a celebration of nearly four decades of assisting men and women returning from incarceration with their re-entry needs. The evening will include:

Testimonials
Spoken Word and Musical Selections
Award Presentations
Silent Auction
And More!



Project RETURN is proud to partner with EXPO (Ex-incarcerated People Organizing) in the Unlock the Vote Campaign. The right to vote is fundamental to our nation's democracy and should be guaranteed to every citizen. Preventing people with previous criminal histories from voting contributes to the racial divide polarizing our country. More than two million African-Americans (almost 8 percent of black adults) are prevented from voting because of felony convictions, compared to just under 2 percent of non-African-American citizens. Punishment needs to fit the offense, and lengthy disenfranchisement is simply out of proportion for all but the most serious crimes. In 2016, the average length of stay for parole in Wisconsin was estimated at 38 months, or over 3 years. This is 1.7 times greater than the average across all states (22 months), ranking Wisconsin third nationally in terms of expected length of time people spend under parole supervision. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia currently automatically allow people with previous criminal histories to register to vote after being released from jail or prison.

Wisconsin Felony Disenfranchisement

- Wisconsin bars people who are in prison, on probation, on parole, and/or on extended supervision from voting.
- As of 2019, there were 68,000 people under either probation or parole supervision in the state, just slightly over the population of Oshkosh, WI.
- One out of every 9 African Americans is disenfranchised in comparison to one out of every 50 Wisconsin voters.

Policy Reforms

- As of July 2, 2019, over 23 states have implemented measures to expand voter eligibility, extending the right to vote to over 800,000 people. Florida is one of the most recent.

Argument for Restoring Voting Rights for Felons

- The Florida Parole Commission reports that "the overall three-year recidivism rate for all released inmates" was 33.1%, while the recidivism rate for released prisoners who were given their civil rights back was 11%.
- The Berkeley Law Journal says "states which permanently disenfranchise people with previous criminal histories experience significantly higher repeat offense rates than states that do not."

Join us as we launch the Unlock the Vote Campaign in Milwaukee

September 4th
Hephatha Lutheran Church
1720 W. Locust St.
Milwaukee, WI 53206
6:00-8:00 pm

Beautiful Weather for the 11th Annual Golf Outing

The 11th Annual Project RETURN Golf Outing was held at Western Lakes Golf Club on June 11th. Over 50 golfers played in the event which help raise over \$10,000 for Project RETURN.

This event would not be possible without our sponsors. We would like to thank the following for sponsoring the event:

We would also like to thank the following for making a donation to our raffle:

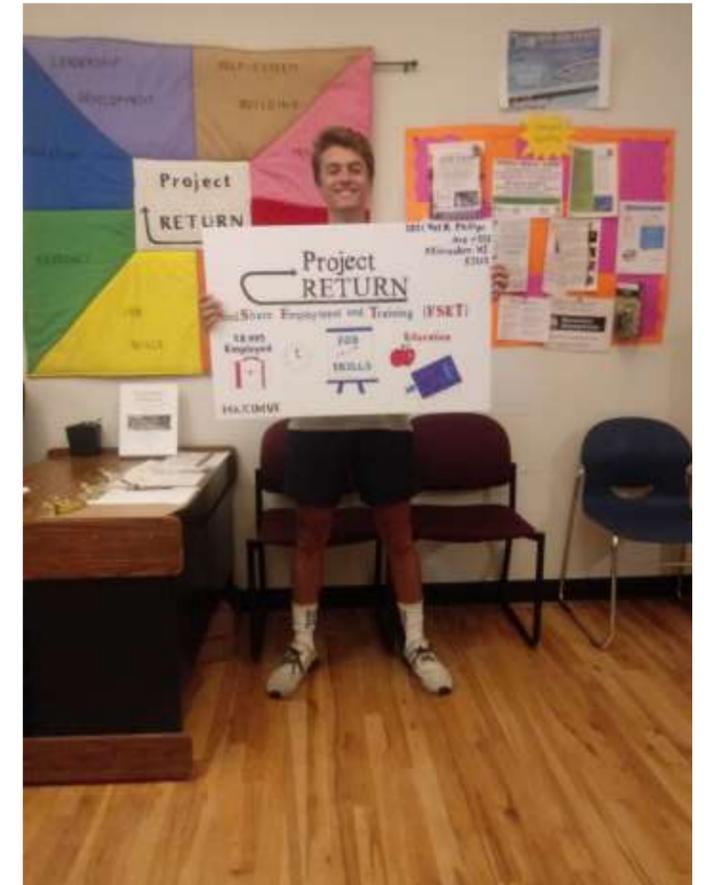
And finally, a very special thank you to the main event sponsor:



Summer Interns Bid Farewell

Project RETURN was blessed to have two interns for the summer. We are so thankful for all of your hard work and wish you both the best in your future endeavors.

My name is Levi Bognar and I just completed an 8-week internship at Project RETURN. Prior to my time with this organization, I had taken many classes at Notre Dame about the criminal justice system and issues with mass incarceration, however, my experience with these issues were limited to my academic life. Project RETURN changed this for me as many of these issues have become personal. So much of what makes this organization great is its stress on real human relationships with its clients, and it shows in how the great staff operate in the day to day. I am truly going to miss organizing the clothing closet with Teri, conducting outreach efforts with Brian at Central City, and all the engaging dialogue I got to participate in at the office. I am proud to call all those at Project RETURN my friends, and thank them for a fun and immersive 8-week experience. I also invite all those reading this to join Project RETURN in solidarity with its mission of combatting the effects of mass incarceration, as it is truly a battle worth fighting for.



My name is Jenna and I am graduating from Gateway Technical College with a degree in Human Services. I spent my summer interning for Teri Woodley at Project RETURN. I have learned so much from Teri and everyone at Project RETURN. I learned a lot about case management and support groups. I also helped with outreach and donations. I am grateful that I could be part of such an amazing organization. The reason that I chose Project RETURN is because I wanted to give back to the community and learn about my field of study. The compassion and dedication of everyone at Project RETURN is admirable. I gained so much from this experience and am forever thankful for the opportunity.