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**Project RETURN's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing to be held June 12, 2018**

In just a few short months Project RETURN will be hosting our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing. We have been blessed to see this event grow every year.

This year's event will again be held at Western Lakes Golf Club (W287 N1963 Oakton Road) in Pewaukee, WI. The event will start at 8:00 am with a shotgun start with a meal to follow catered by Saz's.

Donation of \$100/person includes:

- Golf Fees with Cart
- Catered Buffet Lunch
- Locker Room Facilities Available
- Driving Range Opens at 7:00 am
- Prizes & Golf Awards
- Par 3 events
- Continental Breakfast
- Beer & Soda sold on the Course
- Raffle Prizes to be Won

If you are interested in registering a foursome please fill out this form and send your check payable to Project RETURN in the enclosed envelope. We hope to see you there!

Golfer #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golfer #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golfer #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golfer #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Spring, 2018

*Remembering Mary*



Mary Steppe passed to her heavenly home on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Mary was integral in shaping the mission of Project RETURN and building connections in the community. Even in retirement, Mary was always there for an encouraging word, a pat on the back or a gentle push to action. For three decades she has had a tremendous impact on the lives of those returning from incarceration, this will not change now. She has left behind a legacy of people that she mentored in prison ministry. The staff of Project RETURN have shared their thoughts about Mary.

Mary Steppe will be truly missed by many, she was a beacon of light, a mentor, friend, comforter, the friend that tells you about yourself whether right or wrong, a woman that would lend her ear to those who were broken, down on their luck or just wanted to talk about life. Even though we lost a good woman Heaven gained another angel. You will be missed by many. Thank you for your work here on earth and rest easy and peacefully. -Brian Osei

Knowing Mary was one of the greatest rewards of Project RETURN, she really believed in the mission of 2<sup>nd</sup> chances and many more. I came to know Mary in 1996 being mentored by my case manager Cathy Shaprio. I was asked to help in the kitchen to serve the youth in the Project RETURN youth program and of course I said yes and I really enjoyed doing it over the next 3 years and working with the preschoolers as well. Mary and Wendel came to me to offer me a temporary position to answer the phones for Project RETURN in January 2006 until they could find a person to fill the position. As you can see its 2018 and I am still here. Mary believed in me more than I did and I want to thank her for her mentoring, mothering, loving and kind heart she has some big shoes to fill and I am truly blessed to have been a part of her life. I am going to miss you my dear friend, until we meet again. -Teri Woodley

I am reminded of a time when Mary Steppe responded to a letter I wrote asking for reintegration assistance, and when I eventually met her face-to-face, I immediately discovered her passion for those who are under-served and disenfranchised. She was a fiery woman who believed in 2<sup>nd</sup> chances and volunteerism. I was honored to be an individual who benefited from her compassion to help those in need. She will be missed and God has received another angel who lived Matthew 25:40 in that she "did for the least of these." -Eugene "Geno" Nelson

Mary Steppe was very important in my life, being one of the decision makers to hire me at Project RETURN. This simple gesture set my life on a blessed course. Thank you, Mary, for your wonderful spirit and giving personality. You truly believed in inclusion, not exclusion. -Andre Brown

# Meet the 2017-2018 Interns



Katie Jelcz

I have always been interested in helping people I just never knew what career path I wanted. It took me until Junior year, to fully understand and switch majors. I knew criminology and psychology were right for me because I have always had a huge interest not only in helping people but helping people who had a criminal background especially juveniles. I have always been really interested in drug crime as well as the unfair treatment of jails and prisons so when I saw the Project Return internship I was immediately interested. With all my interests in Criminology and how the brain works when committing crimes especially while on drugs, I wanted to learn more about the person who commits these acts. Before Project RETURN I had never met anyone who was incarcerated. At Project Return I work with Teri Woodley who is a case manager. I help with the monthly job lists as well as housing lists. I also help clients fill out job applications, resumes, check up on clients regarding housing and jobs and even help get clients clothes from the clothing room. Sadly, I am graduating in May and plan on taking a gap year ad doing a year of service. Since being here, it has only furthered my want to get my Masters in Social Work and eventually work in a juvenile detention center.

I have spent the last four years at Marquette being a student and until this past fall, I have not really had the chance to actively reach out to the community outside of the campus. Interning at Project RETURN has given me the opportunity to do exactly that and more. I am responsible for a lot of the background work to be done at Project RETURN. This includes looking over grants, organizing group events, organizing the clothing closet, tabling at resource fairs, and helping clients with any walk-in services I can assist with. I appreciate how this internship allows me to combine my interests and really get hands-on in aspects of both Psychology and Criminology. It has been a great privilege to mainly work alongside Wendel, the executive director at the Project RETURN offices. Wendel is so experienced and I can tell how much he loves his job and how much he cares for his clients. Wendel and all the other employees at Project RETURN diligently work towards a cause they believe in and I am honored to be able to spend this year working with them. I feel like this internship will be preparing me for graduate school, especially because I plan on pursuing a PhD in counseling psychology after I graduate this May. This has been a truly enriching experience and I excited to see what this year brings as my time at Project RETURN comes to a close.



Fatema Atshan



Erica Ness

My name is Erica Ness, and I study International Affairs, Political Science, and Spanish Language, Literature, & Culture. I started my internship with EXPO (Ex-Prisoners Organizing) in January. I decided to pursue an internship with EXPO because of my passion for criminal justice reform and my desire to gain experience working for a grassroots organization in Milwaukee. So far, I have been supporting EXPO's community organizing efforts, which is very exciting for me, because I can see myself pursuing a career as an organizer. Primarily, I have been promoting the #CLOSEmsdf campaign to shut down a local detention facility known for human rights abuse and for the unjust crimeless revocation of those granted parole. I have also been working on membership engagement and donor letters. Although I have only been with EXPO a few weeks, I already feel I have gained so much from this experience, and I look forward to continue being a part of its efforts to work for systemic change.

Danielle Golden



I am Danielle Golden, a senior at Marquette University studying Sociology and Psychology. I am currently interning with Table of the Saints. I am responsible for finding grants and donations for this organization as well as finding catering options for events that we host. I have learned how to make convincing pitches to larger companies who may be willing to donate as well as communication skills when speaking with others on the phone or in person about Table of the Saints. I learned about this internship through an email I received from the Sociology department. I decided to pursue it offered case management experience and I plan on going into social work when I graduate. Learning how to work and communicate with others is important to that field as well as being able to provide necessary resources clients may not know about. I am exposed to a lot of organizations that can be beneficial to clients I may work with in the future. Networking is key to this internship and that is what makes it influential.

My name is Ellie Marston, I am a student at Marquette studying Psychology and Criminology. I am intern for Ex-prisoners Organizing (EXPO). A main focus of mine at EXPO is the contribution to the research committee for the #CloseMSDF Campaign. I am looking at how other states have decreased their incarceration population and the importance of alternatives to incarceration. I have also been learning about the harsh reality of incarceration by reading and responding to letters from inmates and how families are also affected. Psychology is my primary major, but getting into this internship has helped me gain a stronger interest in the Criminal Justice System. After I graduate, I hope to continue my education and pursue a PhD in either Clinical Psychology or Clinical Neuropsychology.



Ellie Marston

Charlotte Vachon



I have always been interested in the criminal justice system, but never knew exactly what my career would be within the system. After taking psychology and criminology classes at Marquette, I was severely troubled with the amount of people who are falsely convicted of crimes based on incorrect eyewitness testimonies. After I graduate, I hope to attend law school and go on to work for an organization like the Innocence Project. I told my aspirations to Ed, who recommended I apply for this internship at Project RETURN. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and feel like I have gained experiences that I could not have had just in the classroom. At Project RETURN, I work with Brian and have been fortunate enough to help many clients with update their resumes and apply to jobs. Additionally, I update Brian's client information and create job lists for our clients. I feel very blessed to have been given this opportunity to work at Project RETURN with the wonderful staff and I look forward to taking what I have learned here and applying it in my future career.

I am currently a senior at Marquette interning for my mentor at Project Return, Andre Brown. Getting the opportunity to be a part of Project Return has been a great experience. I was born and raised in Milwaukee. I feel a special connection to this city and a strong drive to make it a better place. I have always been interested in mental health care, and when I started getting interested in the criminal justice system, I knew I wanted to integrate my passions. My professional goal is to be a psychotherapist for people involved and effected by the criminal justice system, particularly in the Milwaukee area. I hope to specialize in addictions counseling, as I know substance abuse plays a large role on mental health and behavior. Interning at Project Return has given me access to the population of people I want to work with, and I could not be more grateful. In addition to getting to meet the clients at Project Return, I also work to organize Andre's clients in an online database. I follow up with the clients by calling them and seeing if they would like to schedule an appointment to further receive Project Return's services. I love being able to talk and help clients with what they need. I have learned many valuable things through this internship, including an increased understanding of the struggles of recidivism and reentry. It has only strengthened my desire to aid in this journey that Project Return has embarked on, which is why I will volunteer with Andre and the others over the summer. I look forward to going to Racine Correctional Institution with Andre to meet with the inmates there that will soon be released. I am excited to see what the future holds for me at Project Return, and how it will further my professional goals of mental health care.



Rachel Bagha