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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

Circles of Support

Circles of Support are designed to help men and women coming back to the community from prison or jail so that they can be successful in their re-entry. It is a structured process that enables other members of the community to play a constructive role in supporting returnees to be successful. They open up new possibilities for returnees by creating a pro-social network around them as they chart a new course returning from incarceration. Participation is voluntary for the returnees. Each circle comprises approximately six returnees, six community volunteers and a trained circle keeper. There is the rigor of a talking piece and set guidelines with clear expectations from participants. They include a shared meal that will be provided.

Circles of Support create a safe space for people to tell and share their stories. Returnees are encouraged and supported in restoring themselves to be in good standing in the community. They are welcomed home and supported in envisioning and working towards new possibilities for their future. Project RETURN, and its committed partners, are creating monthly Circles of Support to start in late October 2018 to initially take place at Project RETURN, Hephatha Lutheran Church and St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Wendel Hruska and sign up for training on Tuesday, October 2nd at Project RETURN from 6.00 pm - 8.30 pm. By becoming a volunteer you have the opportunity to play an important but defined role in helping a returnee live into their God given calling.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Summer, 2018

38th Annual



Celebrate the RETURN

Join us at Marquette University
Alumni Memorial Union:

Saturday October 27, 2018

Meet & Greet begins
at 5:00 PM and
Dinner to follow at 6:00 PM



Project RETURN wants
to Welcome Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Janine Geske

- Professor Emeritus at Marquette Law School
- Founder & Former Director of Restorative Justice Institute
- Former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT:

- Spoken Word
- Music performance
- Amazing Silent Auction Pieces
- A Fine Dining Experience



For more information
or to purchase tickets
contact Amanda Smit
at 414-374-8029
or 920-948-7948.

Meet Our Summer Intern

Hello, my name is Steven Higgins, and I am this year's summer intern from the University of Notre Dame. I am a junior political science major with minors in the Hesburgh Program for Public Service and Business Economics, and I am originally from Montgomery, Alabama.



Steven speaking on EXPO Radio on Riverwest Radio

My summer with Project RETURN has been incredible, and I am going to miss it. I love all of my coworkers and have enjoyed the work. I have done community outreach with Andre, helped with client intake and the clothing closet with Teri, and worked on advocacy and activism with Wendel. Over the summer, I have met new people and gained new experiences which have informed my views and changed my beliefs. I knew about the stats of the criminal justice system, about what I could read in books and articles, but my time with Project RETURN has given me first-hand experience with a community about which I did not know enough.

Project RETURN has also allowed me the autonomy to use what I know to work for change. I have a passion for voting. At Notre Dame, I worked on expanding voting rights, running numerous voter registration drives and working to counteract Indiana's restrictive voter purge. And during this summer, I was given the opportunity to work with Wisconsin Voices on a plan to expand the franchise to individuals on extended supervision in Wisconsin. Nearly 40,000 people are out of prison and lack a voice in society, and we want to give them their voice back by reviving the Wisconsin Democracy Restoration Act. These individuals are living in our community, paying taxes, working, and leading productive lives. Why do we not trust them enough to vote? We should be seeking to fully re-integrate these individuals back into our communities. We must encourage them to participate, not prevent them from doing so.

I will always remember this summer and will be keeping an eye on voting rights in the state of Wisconsin.

10th Annual Golf Outing Held June 12th

It was a beautiful day on June 12, 2018. That was the day of our 10th Annual Golf Outing at Western Lakes Golf Club in Pewaukee. This year's event saw 65 people participate, some having attended all ten golf outings while for others it was their first. The event helped 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:

Thank you to all who played and supported this event. Please mark your calendars for the 11th Annual Golf Outing to be held at Western Lakes Golf Club on June 11, 2019.