

**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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**I will support Project RETURN'S vital ministry in the following way(s):**

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to RSVP to attend the Celebrate the Return event on October 15<sup>th</sup> at \$60/ticket. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ people in my party.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor a table of 8 at \$400/table with signage on the table and recognition in the banquet booklet.

Name to be recognized on table & in booklet: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Preference(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Broiled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Cranberry Harvest Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_ Portabella Mushroom Napoleon

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sponsor tickets for Project RETURN clients and their families to attend the event at \$60/ticket. My donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ will assist in this manner.

**Names of Those Who Will Be Attending**

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |

I would like to support Project RETURN by underwriting the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate the Return in the amount of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Underwriting to be listed in the Banquet Booklet as: \_\_\_\_\_

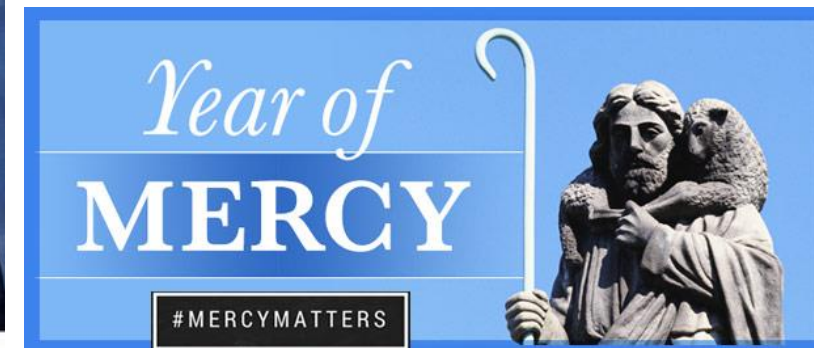
**NEWSLETTER**  
Fall, 2016  
*36th Annual  
Celebrate the Return*



WELCOMES

*Rev. Richard Shaw*

*Keynote Speaker for the Evening*



*Program will also include:*

- ❖ *Presentation of the Don Bein Volunteer Award and the Elijah O'Neal Achievement Award*
- ❖ *Performances by Local Talent*
- ❖ *Silent Auction including Inmate Made Art & Design*

Celebrate the Return  
Hosted By:



**Be The Difference.**

**Saturday, October 15, 2016**  
**Marquette Alumni Memorial Union**  
Meet & Greet and Silent Auction 5:00 PM  
Banquet 6:00 PM  
\$60/Ticket\*  
\$400/Table of 8

For more information please visit [www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org](http://www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org) or contact Wendel Hruska at 414-218-2238

\* Special reduced prices for students. Contact Wendel Hruska for details.

# Rev. Richard Shaw to Give Keynote Address at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate the Return

“What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” These are the words of the prophet in Micah 6:8. Pope Francis has declared 2016 to be a Jubilee Year, the Year of Mercy. Following this lead, the theme for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate the Return to be held at Marquette University on Saturday, October 15, is mercy. We all need the mercy from others to be forgiven for past transgressions and we need to be merciful to others. Nobody needs mercy more than our clients who are seeking redemption. The program during the Celebrate the Return will highlight the mercy both given and received.

The Board of Directors of Project RETURN are pleased to welcome Rev. Richard Shaw. Pastor Richard D. Shaw serves as the proud pastor of the St. Matthew C.M.E. Church in Milwaukee, WI. As a pastor, preacher, teacher and social activist he has lead this congregation into a renewed and revived spirit that has brought excitement and fulfillment to St. Matthew and its community. St. Matthew continues to strive as a growing and vibrant ministry. He believes that the church is the light of God in the world; called to shed light in dark places. He is an anointed powerful preacher of the gospel who shares God’s love with all through genuine pastoral care. His mission for ministry is to nurture and empower those whom God has called him to serve, through Prayer, Care, Scripture and Education.

As a social activist, he has been a voice for social justice; from many local venues to the steps of the Wisconsin capital in Madison. He is active with various ecumenical organizations and he serves as the chair of the 53206 Initiative of MICAHA (Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope). The 53206 Initiative addresses the disparity and high rate of African Americans incarceration.

He holds a Masters of Divinity Degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. and is currently a doctoral student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Center (Association of Chicago Theological Seminaries D.Min Program in Preaching).

## Local Artists to Play Celebrate the Return

Project RETURN is very excited to welcome Worldwide DG and Savannah Mays to perform at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate the Return. Worldwide DG and Savannah Mays are acclaimed local musicians who will help set the mood of the evening as they perform selections from their musical library.



## As One Door Closes....

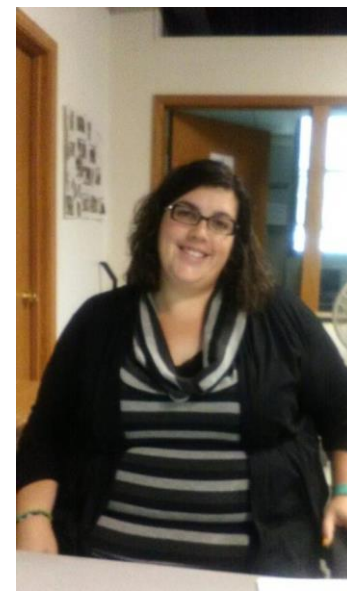
This summer I had the pleasure of spending 8 weeks as an intern at Project RETURN. I am a Junior Philosophy major at Notre Dame and came to Milwaukee through the Summer Service Learning Program offered at Notre Dame. I worked at Project RETURN throughout the week and took part in a Theology course through my program. My time at Project RETURN was as much a lesson in theology as my course readings were because of the powerful work done and genuine



connections made in the office every day. By being in the office and at our neighborhood sites all day with Teri, Brian, Andre, Wendel, and Amanda, I was able to learn from their experienced and passionate daily work in this Milwaukee community. Dr. Michael Duffey, a Marquette professor, also invited me and another Marquette student to co-lead a self-exploration and yoga course at the Milwaukee Women’s Correctional Center. Once a week we spent 90 minutes on yoga mats practicing meditation, discussing pertinent topics to women of all backgrounds, and encouraging each other through difficult yoga poses. It was a rich experience filled with positive reflection and community, allowing each of us a safe space for much needed self-care. My time at both the MWCC and Project RETURN was extremely fruitful and has opened my eyes to the work that needs to be done, but also to what is already positive and working in Milwaukee. I was welcomed into the realm of Project RETURN and Milwaukee so warmly by my co-workers and the community members. I am beyond grateful for this wonderful experience in Milwaukee, and I look forward to returning to this community I have grown to love so deeply someday soon.

## Another Door Opens...

My name is Amanda Smit. I grew up in a small town in the Fond du Lac county area with a population of only 800 people. Growing up I always knew that there was more out there than what the small town had to offer me. I knew that when I went to college I needed to experience the world from other perspectives. That way of thinking drew me to the big city. When I first moved here, I was completely shocked by the things that were going on in the city of



Milwaukee. This did not scare me off though; it made me want to learn more. I wanted to know why the things were happening and not happening. My majors really help me figure that out.

I went to school for Social Work and Africology. I decided that I wanted to major in Social Work because I wanted to work with the community. I wanted to serve the people in my surrounding community that were looked over a lot of the time. I believe that everyone matters and should be treated that way. I decided to major in Africology because I wanted to learn about different cultures and different ways of life. I took one class just as an elective and fell in love with the topic. I have learned many things about the other cultures that I would have never had a chance to experience growing up. I believe it made me who I am today. Due to my experience in college, I have decided to go back to graduate school. I am going to be going to school for a Masters in Social Work and a certificate in trauma care. I hope to use the knowledge I gain to help Project Return.

I am very grateful for the chance to work for Project RETURN. I have wanted this job for about a year and a half now. I first heard about Project RETURN when Wendel and Brian came and talked to a group of people where I worked. I was so inspired by the work that was being done that I knew I wanted to know more about this fabulous organization. I know that I will learn a lot working for such a wonderful organization. I will bring my curiosity with me. I always want to know and learn more. I will never take no for an answer or just let things be a certain way. I hope to help the organization grow in the right direction.