

Project RETURN

2821 N. 4th St., Suite 202 Milwaukee, WI 53212
Phone: (414) 374-8029 Fax: (414) 374-8033

Helping men and women leaving prison make a positive and permanent return to our community.

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Pd.
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 2597



Project RETURN Presents the 2015 Golf Outing



Project RETURN is hosting its annual golf outing on June 11, 2015 at 8 am. This event is held every year to raise money for the program as well as allowing contributors to build relationships with the Project RETURN staff and some of the clients. You can either show up or play or donate to the cause! It is a day of learning, fun and fund raising!

We hope to see you there!

Please come and support the cause by joining the Project RETURN staff for an afternoon of fun and prizes!

For more information contact:

Wendel Hruska
(414) 218-2238

wendel@projectreturnmilwaukee.org
Pastor Mark

(414) 875-9407

You can find sign-up information online at:
Projectreturnmilwaukee.org

NEWSLETTER

Project RETURN

Spring, 2015

It Takes Time

Ed de St. Aubin

Marquette Professor

Project Return Board Member

Director, MU-PR Internship Program



Ed with the 2014-2015 Interns

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rodney Evans,
President

Ed de St. Aubin,
Vice President

Elijah O'Neal,
Co-Treasurer

William Harrell,
Co-Treasurer

Pastor Mark Thompson,
Controller

Rob Schreiber,
Secretary

Pastor Joseph Ellwanger
Lydia McCoy

Sister Patricia Rogers
Charles Hampton

Patricia Gorrence
Jaqueleen Ivy

Ernie Pruitt
Mark Rice

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Marietta Advincula
E. Michael McCann

Rep. Gwen Moore
The Most Reverend

Richard J. Sklba
Joel McNally

STAFF

Wendel Hruska,
Executive Director

LaVealea Ball Johnson,
Outreach Specialist

Andre Brown,
Employment Specialist

Teri Woodley,
Office Manager

Brian Osei,
Community Organizer

Clem Richardson,
AODA Counselor

It has been immensely gratifying to see the MU-PR internship program develop over the past several years into what it has become today. All five of the current interns committed to working with Project RETURN for both the fall 2014 and the spring 2015 semesters - from late August until early May. This amount of time being engaged with the mission of Project RETURN has three clear results. First, it allows the needed time for the mentors - each PR staff person serves as a mentor to an intern - to provide a **developmental model of mentoring**. Interns begin with rather simple tasks as they each familiarize themselves with the agency. But over time the mentor asks for increasingly more difficult tasks, such as independently managing a client case. Second, this full academic year internship allows for a **deep relationship** to form between mentor and intern. This simply cannot be rushed. By the end of the nine months working together, the two know one another quite well. Stereotypes have been smashed. Mutual respect emerges. Humor, collaboration, and friendship ensue. Finally, the length of the internship opens up the possibility of **authentic transformation** in the intern. Both head and heart are changed as the intern dives into the realities facing our clients, reads and discusses the scholarship regarding the reentry process, and reflects on one's internship experiences in written assignments, weekly meetings with the director (me), and the large-group lunches that include all the Marquette interns and all the Project RETURN staff.

We are always looking for ways to improve the internship program. One of the tenets we expressed as we started was that it must grow organically; it must continuously be assessed and modified such that both the interns and the agency benefit optimally. We now see that the insistence that interns sign up for **both** fall and spring was a good decision. This length of commitment is required if we are to make this a meaningful endeavor for all involved.

Marquette University Internship Program: Project RETURN Interns 2014-2015



Cara Wienkes

Psychology Major, Health Sciences Minor

I chose to intern at Project RETURN because I admire the close client contact that is integrated in the program. I wanted to help the previously incarcerated rejoin society and I also wanted to help Project RETURN prevent a deficit in the Milwaukee communities.

At Project RETURN I work closely with Andre Brown, who specializes within the job search assistance program. Each day at Project RETURN is different for me; some days I work one-on-one with a client, other days I make phone calls to previous clients, and every once in a while I am granted an opportunity to attend off-site events.

After this semester at Project RETURN I will graduate in May. I plan to attend graduate school for either Social Work or Counseling Psychology



Maira Gomez

Majors in Psychology & Criminology

I chose to intern at Project RETURN because of how I loved their mission and values. Reentry is a very looked over aspect in the community even though it is a very important aspect. The type of work that Project RETURN does is amazing and I knew I wanted to be a part of it. Another reason is because it connects well with my two majors that allow me to see how everything I learn is played out in real life. I know that in the future I wish to work in a setting such as this or something quite similar. Last semester I worked with LaVealea as my mentor. We would do a lot of outreach.

This would include going out into the community searching for job openings and other resources; spending time at Repairers of the Breach (a daytime homeless shelter) to explain to the work of Project RETURN and offer our time and assistance with resumes and job applications. Additionally, I would make phone calls to the clients of Project RETURN to check in on their progress or if they need any additional assistance. I have also attended a luncheon in which other organizations such as project return come together to celebrate successes and connect with one another. I have also made a visit to Tacheedah Correctional Institution to promote Project RETURN. It has been a great amount of experience thus far. After Project RETURN and graduation, I hope to attend graduate school for Psychology. I would love to further my education in psychology, more specifically, forensic psychology in order to continue working with similar populations and settings



Brittany Cords

Majors in Biomedical Sciences and Psychology

My first experience with PR was for a service learning project in my Psychology of Prejudice class. I worked with the all-women's AODA group and it was one of my favorite experiences in college. It gave me the opportunity to work with a population I had never interacted with before and it opened my eyes to social injustices I had never thought about. After I finished my service learning, I knew that 20 hours for one semester was not enough so I applied for the internship program.

Through my internship with PR I have been challenged to rethink things about incarceration and social justice issues that many in our Milwaukee community are faced with. My mentor at PR is Brian and together we do a significant amount of work in the community. We have been to job fairs and many other community events. I have recently began joining Brian and Andre on their trips to Hephatha Lutheran Church on Wednesdays which gives me the opportunity to have a significant amount of client contact, something I truly enjoy. After graduation, I plan on taking a few years off of school to work but my ultimate goal is to get my Masters in Public Health!



Caroline Uhlarik

Majors in Psychology and Criminology

Growing up with parents and other family members who were involved in the judicial system, I was provided with a single perspective about those who commit crime. I always thought when my father won a case and the defendant was sentenced, it was the end of his story.

Soon, however, I realized that it doesn't end there. I was very naïve and wanted to acquire more knowledge about what happens after prison and about how people move forward. I chose to intern at Project RETURN to learn more about the reentry process and gain a more grounded perspective about the individuals going through it. Since I began, I have felt honored to work with these people who are making the choice to work hard and become successful members of society. I think

it is so important to become more aware of the community we are living in and to broaden our views. Currently, I am working in the office with a database updating the attendance of clients. I assist with creating the job list which gets released every two weeks for clients to look over. I also have the opportunity to work one-on-one with clients who need help building resumes or searching for specific jobs. Project RETURN has truly opened my eyes to what is going on in the Milwaukee community outside of my small Marquette community. After my time at college, I plan on attending graduate school to receive my masters in social work to continue helping others.



Saffire McCool

Majors in Psychology and Criminology

I am currently in my second year as an intern at Project RETURN. I chose to return to this organization because I came to admire how it was ran and the people who work here. Helping people reenter back into the community after being incarcerated is a wonderful service to be a part of and Project RETURN really embodies their mission to help all those who walk through the door. I wanted to continue to be a part of that for my last year at Marquette University.

This year at Project RETURN I am working with Wendel Hruska. In contrast with last year, I am getting a look behind the scenes as to how a non-profit organization is run. This semester I have been able to visit prisons, do some outreach within the community, as well as sit in on meetings with the Department of Corrections. I also have been learning more about and aiding the 11x15 campaign by attending meetings as well as presentations about the various aspects of the campaign. I have worked alongside my mentor helping to plan and organize different events. After graduation in May I plan on going to graduate school to pursue my Masters in Social Work to be able to further give my time and energy to communities in need.