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

A Way to Help

Recently Wisconsin Public Radio did a story about the condition of the drinking water at Fox Lake Correctional Institution and Waupun Correctional Institution. According to the report the drinking water available to the men incarcerated at these two institutions contain lead and copper levels which exceed federal standards. There have been multiple tests over the past few years which have confirmed the unsafe levels of lead and copper. Though the Department of Corrections has attempted to correct the problem, those with loved ones incarcerated in these institutions maintain that the water is still unsafe.

Project RETURN and our partners have been in contact with the Department of Corrections in an attempt to provide some assistance on this matter. As of Sunday, June 19th, we will be collecting unopened cases of water to be distributed in the institutions to the men most affected. Donations are being accepted and stored at the Project RETURN offices (2821 N. 4th St., Suite 202, Milwaukee, WI 53212) from now until August 10th. It is our intent to deliver the cases of water donated to the institutions on or around August 11th. This donation could have a huge impact not only on the physical well-being of those incarcerated but also on their mentality as well. Knowing the community cares for them even while far from home will have a tremendous impact on the men's self-worth.

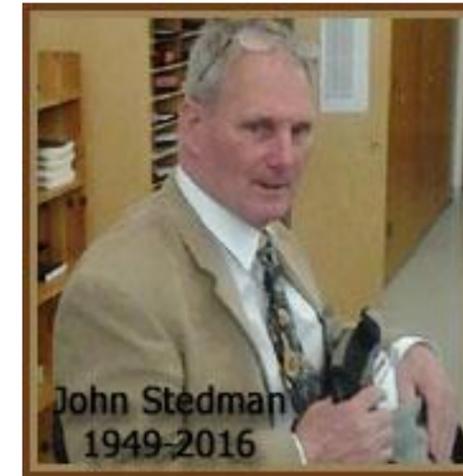
We would like to thank you in advance for your generosity and for thinking of those who are the least among us (Matthew 25: 40). Your thoughts and prayers do make a difference.



Summer, 2016



In Memoriam



On June 5, Project RETURN lost a true friend and advocate. John Stedman, who worked for eight years as a WISDOM organizer, based in Eau Claire, died suddenly of natural causes in his home. The advocacy community, the recovery community and the post-release community lost a great friend and champion.

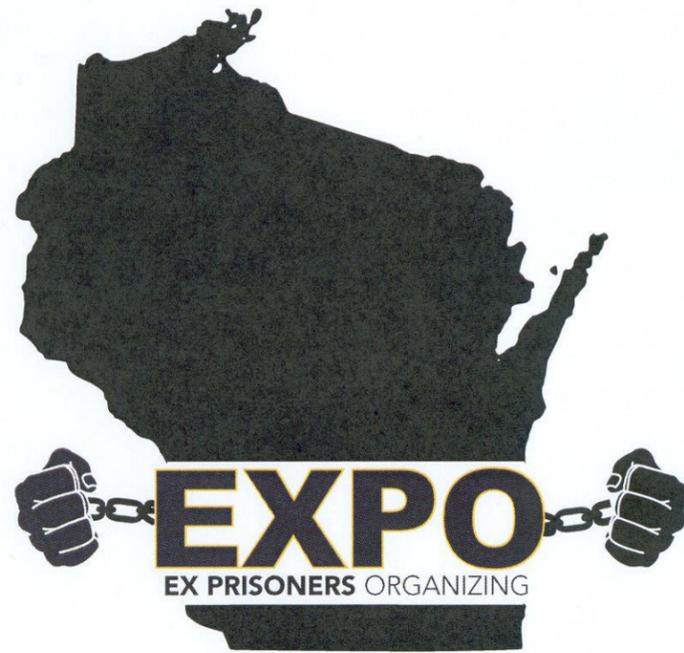
John was one of the people who helped to organize WISDOM's criminal justice reform work. As a matter of fact, he is the one who named the "11x15 Campaign" and the "ROC Wisconsin Campaign." John was a driving force in the establishment of EX-Prisoners Organizing (EXPO), and the Eau Claire EXPO chapter is one of the strongest in the state.

John Stedman drew much of his strength, wisdom and inspiration from his own struggles with addiction. He often told of how, before beginning his sobriety in 1985, he lived in a dumpster in Key West, Florida. (John liked to joke that even at his lowest point, he was still smart. He said, "If you have to live in a dumpster, Key West sure beats Wisconsin!") Until his last day, John was deeply dedicated to the recovery movement, and he sponsored many men and women through AA.

John was excellent at leadership training. His stories, his humor and his ability to communicate clearly made him a favorite of many groups. John could be very tough and very challenging. He never felt sorry for anyone, but saw it as his job to "agitate" – to push people to step up and live up to their potential. John especially loved bringing people in recovery and formerly-incarcerated people to training. He saw in them not just people who needed to help themselves, but as people who could change the world for the better. John saw in every leadership trainee a potential partner in making the world a more fair place where every person is valued.

John Stedman will be missed by a lot of people. But his presence lives on in the work for social justice, and in the movement to organize people to be a force in changing the world. His work will endure in WISDOM, EXPO and the ROC Wisconsin campaign. WISDOM has also set up a Stedman Scholarship fund, to send people in recovery to Gamaliel Leadership Training.

Partner Organization Spotlight:



[EX-Prisoners Organizing \(EXPO\)](#) is a group of formerly incarcerated people who drive WISDOM's [ROC Wisconsin](#) campaign to end mass incarceration. EXPO aims to influence conversations about penal policy and people who have experienced incarceration. They also aim to restore people with records to full participation in the life of our communities. EXPO wants everyone to view people with arrest and conviction histories as human beings, members of families, and assets to communities. Those involved fight to end all forms of structural discrimination against formerly incarcerated people. All EXPO members have the opportunity to attend one-day, two-day, and weeklong leadership development programs conducted by WISDOM and the Gamaliel Foundation. Over 100 people have participated in these training programs to date.

The stories of many EXPO leaders show that people with conviction histories cannot only change, but can become key leaders of social movements and organizations. EXPO members have led organizing efforts around issues like ban the box, sentencing reform, crimeless revocations, treatment alternatives to incarceration, solitary confinement, and transitional jobs. EXPO works to transform Wisconsin's unjust penal system and raise awareness of problems facing previously imprisoned people by

- participating in WISDOM's public actions and policy workgroups,
- doing presentations at community organizations,
- writing opinion pieces,
- meeting with legislators,
- testifying at public hearings, and
- appearing on radio and television shows.

People with records have the potential to become one of the most politically powerful groups in the United States, but we have often been excluded from the policymaking process and professional conversations on mass incarceration. Nearly one out of three adults in the nation has a conviction or arrest history. In the coming years, EXPO will continue to build the power of people with records.

Please visit EXPO's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/expowisconsin/> and follow them on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WisconsinEXPO> for their latest organizing efforts.

8th Annual Golf Outing Held June 9th

Though threatening all day, rain stayed away as Project RETURN held our 8th Annual Golf Outing on June 9th at Western Lakes Golf Club in Pewaukee. This year's event saw 50 people participate, some having attended all eight golf outings while for others it was their first.

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 9th Annual Golf Outing to be held at Western Lakes Golf Club on June 8, 2017.