

# NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2024



P R O J E C T  
**RETURN**

## PACKERS GIVE BACK AWARDS \$250,000 TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS



### *Hope Through Restoration and Project RETURN, Inc. to receive \$125,000 impact grants*

Green Bay Packers Give Back announced that the organization has awarded two \$125,000 Social Justice Impact Grants to Milwaukee-based organizations Hope Through Restoration and Project RETURN, Inc. The Social Justice Impact Grants aim to support social justice and racial equality causes in Wisconsin communities.

Both organizations serve individuals and families who have experienced the effects of incarceration and those who are at a critical crossroads in life. The grants will allow both nonprofits to help their clients overcome barriers and gain access to the resources and community they need.

**Hope Through Restoration** focuses on after incarceration housing and development programs and youth in transition housing and development programs. The organization meets individuals where they are in life and provides positive options for them to come into a healthy, clean and safe environment where they get personal support, engage in positive activities including employment. This environment also offers individuals hope-filled options and confidence in meeting the challenges they face with those who care about them so they are prepared for successful independent living while re-engaging with their families and being a positive influence in their neighborhoods and communities. To learn more, please visit [www.hopethroughrestoration.org](http://www.hopethroughrestoration.org).

"We are grateful for to the Green Bay Packers Give Back program for engaging with us and supporting us in our mission of personal restoration for individuals that come from challenging situations," said LT Austin, Co-founder, CEO and Executive Director of Hope Through Restoration. "Through their restoration, they can, in turn, restore their families, neighborhoods and communities."

**Project RETURN (Returning Ex-incarcerated people to Urban Realities and Neighborhoods), Inc.**, works to help individuals who have experienced incarceration to make a positive, permanent return to community, family and friends. Their key programs include job readiness, training, placement, holistic support and services. The funds from the grant will be put towards these services. To learn more, please visit [www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org](http://www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org).

"We are so honored to be awarded this Social Justice Impact Grant from the Green Bay Packers Give Back program," said Wendel Hruska, Executive Director of Project RETURN. "This grant will have a huge impact on those we serve who are returning from incarceration back to the Greater Milwaukee Area. With this support we will be able to provide more assistance with employment, housing and counseling for those most in need. Thank you to Packers Give Back for making a difference in our community!"



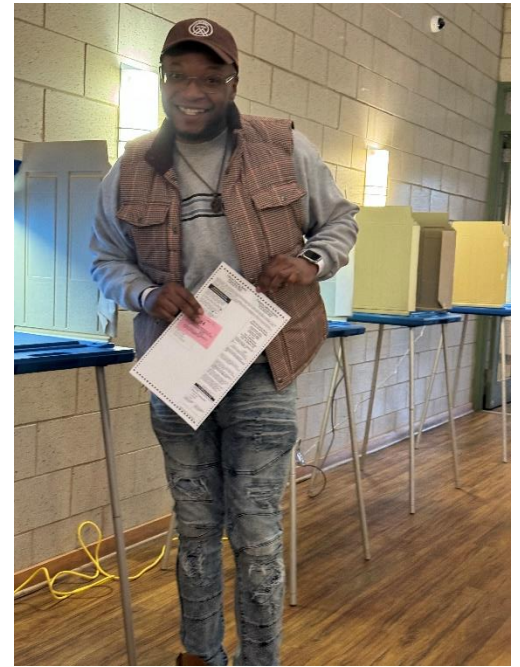
A component of the Green Bay Packers Give Back program, the grants, combined with other Packers charity endeavors, contribute to a comprehensive Packers charity impact in excess of \$11 million in the past year.

# The Power of Having a Voice

For too many citizens in Wisconsin, the ability to vote has been stripped from them due to laws impeding an individual's right to vote based on being incarcerated or on extended supervision. The following is a testimony from Andron Lane who voted for the first time earlier this year.

I remember Gabi yelling; "Andron - you can voteeeee!!"

Laughter spread across my face as we exchanged smiles. For a split second, the very idea of me voting started to sink in. You see, 26 years of my life have been under the care of the Department of Corrections. 18 years of that I spent within the prejudicial confinement. While the other 8 years have been under community supervision. So the fact of me being 42 years old and I knew nothing about this subject, it literally scared me because I knew nothing about voting or where to even go! Thankfully my fellow comrade and friend was completely aware of the current situation and was willing to explore this new journey of my life.



As I began to pack up my work equipment, I realized that the more I thought about voting, the excitement of having an opportunity to reclaim something back in my life was building. Arriving at the voters' precinct my anticipation grew as I got out of the car and walked to the door. Once in this building, which was nearly vacant, I proceeded to make my way to the registration. I learned that there were only particular places that I would be able to go to vote. After giving my address, and ZIP Code, I learned that I was not able to go to this particular place to vote. Confused because I thought that we could vote anywhere. I was a little bit sad and discouraged.

While discouraged, I was determined to vote for the first time. After having a small conversation, I watched my friend Gabi vote. I was told that I need to go to this other place that is located off Highland. In the past, the discouragement would have stopped me from going to this place to vote. But I realized that this is what I wanted and needed to do.

After providing my ID with my old address, I was asked to supply a document stating my current address. Looking through email and trying to find anything that has my lease or anything that stated my current address, I was determined to not let setbacks impede my rights. While frustrating, I am so grateful for the individuals at this voting registration for their patience and willingness to help me. I was able to find a document that stated my current address and I was able to vote. Compelled with a different type of emotions, I for the first time finally felt like a citizen, like a human being, like someone more than a DOC number!!





15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Golf Outing  
June 26, 2024



In just a few short months Project RETURN will be hosting our 15<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 Muskego Lakes Country Club (S100W14020 Hwy 36) in Muskego, WI. The event will start at 8:00 am with a shotgun start with a meal to follow.

Donation of \$125/person includes:

Golf Fees with Cart  
Catered Buffet Lunch  
Locker Room Facilities Available  
Prizes & Golf Awards  
Par 3 events

Driving Range Opens at 7:00 am  
Raffle Prizes to be Won  
Beer & Soda sold on the Course  
Continental Breakfast

You can register for the golf outing on our website ([www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org](http://www.projectreturnmilwaukee.org)) or fill out this form and send your check payable to Project RETURN in the enclosed envelope.

Golfer #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



P R O J E C T  
**RETURN**↑

2821 N. Vel R. Phillips Ave.. Suite 223 Milwaukee, WI 53212

Phone: (414) 374-8029 Fax: 414-374-8033

*Helping Individuals Leaving Prison Make a Positive and Permanent Return To Our Community*

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

Electronic Service Requested

# SAVE THE DATE

**Project RETURN**

**44th Annual Celebrate the RETURN**

**October 26, 2024**

**at**

**Alverno College**



P R O J E C T  
**RETURN**↑



**ALVERNO**  
**COLLEGE**  
ESTABLISHED 1887