



October 2016

Exoneree Teshome Campbell Wins Certificate of Innocence!

We are proud to announce that on Friday, September 30, our client Teshome Campbell was granted a Certificate of Innocence by the circuit court of Champaign County. This is the court's "official" declaration of Teshome's actual innocence of the crime that sent him to prison for 18 years. IIP legal directors, John Hanlon and Lauren Kaeseberg, represented Teshome at the hearing with nearly 20 of our students, staff and volunteers on hand to assist, learn and offer support. It was such a meaningful day and an incredible experience for us all.

Teshome inspires us to no end with his positive attitude, relentless work ethic, determination to learn and succeed, and desire to serve as a role model for young people. He recently spoke to UIS students in this quarter's Conviction of the Innocent class. Please join us in congratulating Teshome on his Certificate of Innocence!

IIP Honors Exonerees with Wrongful Conviction Day Activities

On October 4, IIP joined 35 other innocence projects in North America hosting Wrongful Conviction Day events to raise awareness of the systemic causes, and personal and societal costs, of wrongfully convicting innocent people.

Project students, staff and volunteers pitched in to make and place 1,886 flags at UIS to represent the men and women exonerated nationwide since 1989. Blue flags marked Illinois' 175 exonerees.

That evening, more than 60 people gathered on campus to watch and discuss Kirk Bloodsworth's documentary "BLOODSWORTH | An Innocent Man" (available on iTunes and Amazon).

Amsterdam Native Steps into Case Coordinator Role

Not even 4,282 miles could keep Anne Felix away from the Illinois Innocence Project.

Last February, Anne, a law graduate and jurist from the Netherlands, returned home after her plans to volunteer for IIP morphed from a few months into one year. As soon as she set foot in Amsterdam she began working on a plan to return. The timing was perfect for her to step in as case coordinator after longtime volunteer coordinator, Bob Sharpe, relocated out of state.

Anne returned to IIP in August with plans to stay as long as she can. Please join us in welcoming her back!