



May 2017

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who came out on April 29 to support the Illinois Innocence Project at our 10th Annual Defenders of the Innocent event! Your support means the world to our staff and exonerees, and is critical to continuing our work on behalf of the innocent. Check out our [Defenders Event photos on Facebook!](#)

NAACP Decatur to Present Civil Rights Award to IIP at May 27 Gala

The NAACP Decatur Branch will present its prestigious "Joe Slaw Civil Rights Award" to the Project at its annual event on May 27 in honor of our work to free Charles Palmer, IIP's 10th exoneree and a Decatur resident.

"This Civil Rights Award has existed for more than 30 years, yet this is the first time we are bestowing it upon a group based outside of the Decatur community," says Jeanelle Norman, NAACP Decatur Branch president. "The NAACP believes the service of the Illinois Innocence Project was of such magnitude that the Decatur community moved one giant step forward in criminal justice."

The NAACP branch will celebrate 102 years of service to the Decatur community at its 77th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet and 4th Annual Game Changers Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 27, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, 4191 US 36 West. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. For reservations, call Mildred Bond at (217) 877-2439 or email: jeanelle_norman_319@comcast.net. Reserved tables of 10 are \$350, individual tickets are \$35 per person.