



November 2018

The Empty Chair at My Table

My Thanksgiving table has an empty chair. It's been empty for 18 years.

In 2000, my daughter was wrongfully convicted of the death of a child in her care. She was only 30 and had two very young children of her own.

Jackie missed their entire childhoods. When her husband died a few years after she was taken from her family, Jackie made the painful decision not to attend his funeral. She didn't want her children to see her brought to the funeral in chains.

She will never get back what she's lost.

If Jackie were with me today she'd be helping me cook for Thanksgiving, making extra for people who have nowhere else to go. That's the kind of family we are and that's the kind of person I raised my daughter to be.

Maybe next year, she'll be home.

When the Illinois Innocence Project took Jackie's case, I finally felt hope. They heard my daughter's cries for help and they're doing something about it.

I'm trying to do my part too.

I give financially to the Project when I can. Not because they ask me to but because I want to. **If the money I give can help someone else's family member, then it's worth every cent.**

I think we all need to do that for people like Jackie who have been wrongfully convicted. The justice system acts on behalf of all of us. When the system makes mistakes, we need to do our part to correct them.

So today I ask you to join me in supporting the Illinois Innocence Project. [Give the Gift of Freedom](#) and **help them reach their \$15,000 goal.**

One day my innocent daughter will come home to take her seat at my Thanksgiving table. **And I will thank you for helping make that happen.**

With hope and gratitude,

Marge