



December 2019

... Last Chance to Give in 2019

Because of people like you, 11 wrongfully convicted people will ring in the New Year tonight as free men and women.

Thank you!

We know you care about seeing justice done for innocent people who – at this very moment – are sitting in prison, convicted of crimes they did not commit.

Help us tell them they are not forgotten!

Please, before you begin your celebrations to welcome 2020, [make a year-end gift](#) to help us bring home more innocent people.

We wish you a safe and Happy New Year!

Look What We Did in 2019

If all we did was bring innocent people home, we hope that would be enough for you to [continue supporting us](#). **But we do so much more.**

With your help in 2019, the Project:

- **Celebrated the exoneration of Grover Thompson**, finally (23 years after his death) achieving justice for this innocent man and his family.
- **Trained over 100 police recruits from across the state** about how wrongful convictions happen and what they can do to help prevent them.
- **Received favorable DNA results in the cases of three clients**, supporting their claims of innocence.
- **Successfully opposed three legislative bills that could have harmed the prevention of wrongful convictions** (related to eyewitness identification practices, access to crime-related information through the Freedom of Information Act and DNA testing of evidence).
- **Filed and argued to the Prisoner Review Board executive clemency petitions** for our clients Marilyn Mulero and Norman Probst.
- **Opened and responded to 277 applications** for assistance.
- **Continued to represent over 40 innocent clients** convicted of crimes they did not commit.

- **Secured Chicago-area office space** for our Northern Illinois attorneys.
- **Hired two new staff attorneys** – Maria de Arteaga (Chicago) and Stephanie Kamel (Springfield). Last month, **Maria**, a former staff attorney with the Wisconsin Innocence Project, won the freedom and exoneration of her client, LaShone Jackson, who served over 25 years for a murder he did not commit. Prior to joining IIP, **Stephanie** worked on cases involving crimes against humanity and human trafficking at the Center for International Human Rights at the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.
- **Spread awareness of wrongful conviction** through attorney seminars, law clinics, undergraduate classes and community speaking engagements.
- **Were honored to have our work recognized** by grants from the state of Illinois and U.S. Department of Justice, furthering our quest to secure the long-term financial health of the Project.
- **Benefited from** the passion and commitment of over 20 UIS students who volunteered and interned with us.
- **Saw five of our students graduate from UIS** and begin their journeys to law school.

Thank you for believing in us and supporting our mission.

We look forward to a great 2020, with you at our side!