



December 2020

Last Chance to Give in 2020!

Because of people like you, **17** wrongfully convicted people will ring in the New Year as free women and men – FIVE just this year.

Milam was released in June after spending 40 years wrongfully imprisoned.

Thank you!

The Illinois Innocence Project represents demonstrably **innocent** people. Having been wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit, our clients are trapped in crowded prisons and fear for their lives as the coronavirus continues its assault in Illinois correctional facilities.

We know you care about seeing justice done for these innocent men and women.

Help us tell them we care and are working tirelessly to free them!

Please, before you begin your celebrations to welcome 2021, [make a year-end gift](#) to help us bring home our innocent clients.

We wish you a safe and Happy New Year!

If you have already made a gift to support our work in 2020, we thank you.

If you have not yet made a gift this year, and feel you can – or if you'd like to make an additional gift – end-of-year giving is underway. You still have time to make your tax-deductible donation for 2020. Thank you!

Look What You Helped Us Do This Year

Rest assured, your donations to IIP are getting things done for the innocent.

- **Brought home FIVE innocent clients** who collectively were wrongfully imprisoned 131 years.
- **Filed 27 requests regarding COVID concerns or for compassionate release** on behalf of clients particularly vulnerable to severe illness or death as the coronavirus swept through IDOC facilities.
- **Received agreement** from the court and/or state's attorneys to **DNA test evidence in six cases**.
- Opened and responded to **265 applications** for assistance.
- Sent **CARES Act (federal stimulus) application** information, including guidance on how to fill out the forms, to **43 clients**.
- Hired a **part-time attorney to lead our Latino Innocence Initiative**.

- Worked with **10 forensic experts, three other innocence organizations** as co-counsel and **three law firms** as partners on our cases.
- **Started an externship program** with John Marshall Law School at the University of Illinois Chicago.
- Spread awareness of wrongful conviction through **15 presentations** to audiences such as law students, medical students, undergraduate classes and the community.
- Began **collaborating with the UIS Department of Social Work** to serve the needs of our freed clients.
- Benefited from the work of **31 students from undergraduate and law schools across the country**, including: UIS; the universities of Emory, Illinois State, Indiana State and Yeshiva; UIC John Marshall; and law schools at Boston University, St. Louis University, University of Illinois and University of Iowa.
- **Educated 77 students (including 21 law students)** about wrongful conviction of the innocent and postconviction legal work.
- Held **virtual educational forums for IIP students and staff**, with guests that included U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, civil rights attorney Sam Adam Jr. and UIS Professor Vince Flammini.
- Saw **seven of our students graduate from UIS**, with four beginning their journeys to law school.

We look forward to a productive and hopeful 2021, with you at our side!