



February 2020

**We are thrilled to welcome Exoneree Amanda Knox to Springfield!
And to welcome *back* The Exoneree Band for our
13th annual Defenders of the Innocent Event!**

Secure yours seats now during Early Registration

Social Work Intern Helping Launch Client Wellness Visits

IIP's innocent clients, though buoyed by our work on their cases, need to go on living in a place they do not belong. Talking to someone they trust can help, which is just what UIS senior Diamond Price had in mind when she applied to intern at the Project.

"The Project seemed the perfect fit for me because I really do enjoy helping people."

Diamond, a social work major from North Chicago, is participating in IIP's new "wellness visit" initiative to offer emotional support and encouragement to clients through non-legal prison visits.

"When we visit our clients, we can't and don't talk about their cases. Instead, we want to know more about them, get a sense of their family lives before they were wrongfully convicted and see how they're functioning now. We want them to know they're not forgotten."

After graduating in May, Diamond hopes to pursue a master's in social work at Arizona State University and, because of her experience at IIP, now wants to work within the prison system.

Looking for a Speaker for Your Next Event?

Providing education about wrongful convictions – how they happen and what can be done to prevent them – is one of our three missions. **Consider reaching out to IIP if you're looking for a speaker for your next event: IIP@uis.edu or (217) 206-6569.** Here's a sampling of recent and upcoming engagements:

National Endowment for the Arts "Big Read" Kickoff at the Quincy, IL, Public Library: John Hanlon, executive director, related his experience litigating death penalty cases for the Office of the State Appellate Defender to the assigned Big Read book, "A Lesson Before Dying" by Ernest J. Gaines.

Elks' Black History Month Celebration: Christine Ferree, case intake/evaluation manager, and Diamond Price (IIP intern, featured above) discussed the intersection of race and wrongful convictions.

At the University of Illinois Springfield, staff and students will present IIP's work to this year's members of the University of Illinois System's Academic Professional Leadership Program and the President's Executive Leadership Program.