

Volunteer Spotlight...Lori Freedman

Seven years ago, Lori Freedman began volunteering with us as a case worker. We must have done something right to have her choose us as the beneficiaries of her skill and compassionate care. Lori is a social worker by training and we quickly conscripted her to assist us with Richard Lapointe, who we knew would need housing. She worked seamlessly with his supporters and together they found suitable care for him. Over the years she has rolled up her sleeves and jumped into whatever situation needed her help. Her advice and follow-up is invaluable. With Lori's guidance, we are doing much better in our post-release support.

We have known for a long time we needed help in assisting our freed clients. Whether paroled or exonerated, they all have significant needs and Lori has the tools to facilitate locating the correct services. Her expertise has saved us money and time, but most importantly it has enabled our freed clients to have a much better level of care. Lori actually has a fulltime job as a social worker. But she manages to strengthen our family in significant and lasting ways. She literally changes the lives of those she helps. We are grateful to our core for Lori's genuine care and affection for our family.



Lori Freedman with Shawn Henning



Why we give

Living in NYC, or frankly anywhere in the world, one can focus on so many causes, so many social, political, economic and environmental issues that need to be addressed, all needing money, time, service and focus of leadership. We are compelled by many issues, but first and foremost is human dignity, the right of an individual to justice and freedom. The work Centurion does is fundamental, and affects all of us.

We don't say this lightly. For some reason many people think that if they do not have family members affected, or do not know communities impacted by such issues, that there must be some reason for an imprisonment, even for an accusation. Instead, what we believe is that if this happens to anyone — this miscarriage of justice, a false accusation and a false conviction — this affects all of us: what we stand for as individuals, and as a nation. Centurion's work is a starting point for reestablishing a just system that values individual rights and believes in justice, no matter the circumstance — the harder cases are specifically those that Centurion takes on, because the hard ones are the ones that need the justice most, the ones left behind, the ones not served by our current system.

Jozelyn & Peter Davis