



This fall, a group of dedicated volunteers in our hometown of Princeton, NJ came together to support a very special event - *One Night, One Life* (photos from the evening are inside). The event's title had a big impact on many of us – especially the “one life” part. It made us think about what it really means to give one innocent person their life back after they’ve spent decades in prison wrongfully convicted.

For Centurion, it means bringing someone new into our family. Once we free someone, we make a commitment to help and support them to the best of our ability, for the rest of their lives. We provide financial assistance, connect them to services, and offer mentorship from other more mature exonerees to help them navigate their new worlds. We become the family members that so many have lost during their years of wrongful incarceration.

Supporting a person we’ve freed as they rebuild their life has ripple effects that span far beyond ensuring that one individual’s needs are met. Many of our exonerees have gone on to use their talents to create hope and transformation for others in need. You only need to look at a few examples to understand how one person – one life – can impact so many.

Darryl Burton founded *Miracle of Innocence* to help exonerate innocent people in Missouri and Kansas, and help the exonerated live a successful life.

Walter Lomax founded the *Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative* to advocate for humane and sensible criminal justice and sentencing reform in Maryland.

Richard Miles used his compensation to start *Miles of Freedom*, a nonprofit that provides parolees with a comprehensive set of services such as finding jobs, learning the skills needed to make good decisions to become successful, and helping them reconnect with their families. Richard is a CNN Hero!

Frank O’Connell is giving back by touring the country to raise awareness about the epidemic of wrongful convictions, while also helping exonerees obtain vehicles.

Mark Schand has opened a smoothie shop where he intends to hire parolees – he remembers how hard it was to obtain employment after having been incarcerated, and wants to make it easier for others to make a living when they get out. He has a vision of someday having a chain of shops with this same philosophy.

It costs an average of \$350,000 to free one innocent person from prison. We believe every dollar spent is worth it to free an innocent person. And as you can see, these are remarkable people making a difference after they got their lives back.

CENTURION

seeking freedom for the innocent in prison

november 2019

issue fifteen



A note from our Executive Director

Old Friends, New Friends and Family!

This is the season that brings us together. In my case, it is also a season to reflect. I think back to the gifts Centurion has received this past year: almost complete freedom for Shawn Henning and Ricky Birch; a ‘real’ wedding for Mark and Mia Schand; a joyful Family Gathering; the release of John Grisham’s book based on Centurion and Jim McCloskey; the new cases we’ve taken on; and the petitions filed with the hope of freedom for an incarcerated innocent person. I am grateful.

This is also a season to remember those innocent people who are still wrongfully incarcerated. I think of all of those whose cases we have worked up and believe in, but don’t have resources to take on. I reflect on the lives of the men and women who we have freed, some of whom rely on us as their sole source of support as they navigate the free world. There is still so much work to be done.

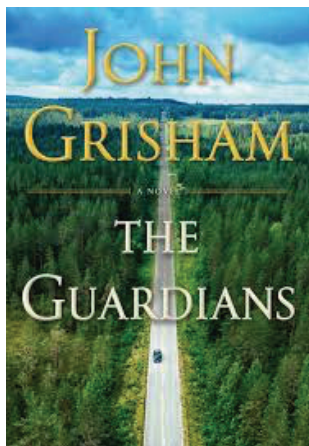
You drive us to do better as our partners in this work. Amidst the ups and downs and the long pauses between victories, your support serves as our encouragement. You really cannot imagine the lift we receive with your gifts, your kind notes, and your many “likes” on social media. We know that there are countless worthy organizations out there that you could support, and you chose us! We are grateful for your support and we need your continued alliance.

From our family to yours, we wish you a healthy and happy 2020.

In gratitude,

Kate Germond, Executive Director

DEDICATED TO JAMES McCLOSKEY... “THE EXONERATOR”



Excerpt from the author’s note:

“James McCloskey founded Centurion Ministries in 1980 while he was a divinity student. Working as a prison chaplain, he met an inmate who insisted that he was innocent. Jim eventually came to believe him and went to work to prove his innocence. His exoneration inspired Jim to take another case, and then another. For almost forty years, Jim has traveled the country, usually alone, digging for lost clues and elusive witnesses, and searching for the truth.

To date, sixty-three men and women owe their freedom to Jim and the dedicated team at Centurion. Their website tells much of their story. Take a look, and if you have a few spare bucks, send them a check. More money equals more innocent people exonerated.”

~ John Grisham

Volunteer Spotlight...Kathy Vik

In early 2018, Kathy Vik joined the Centurion family when she signed on to help organize our annual fall fundraiser in Princeton, NJ. Shortly afterward, she sought other ways she might help and so we gave her the formidable project of re-writing case profiles for our website. At the time, Centurion's website had a profile of every freed client's case, but they were inconsistent and too often contained factual errors. With tremendous attention to detail and a commitment to ensuring that every one of our client's stories is well-told, Kathy reviews case files, appeal documents, and court decisions to re-craft case profiles to help educate site visitors about the factors that contribute to wrongful convictions. It continues to be a work in progress.



We took note of Kathy's great work and she was assigned a case to develop. She somehow managed to come up with enough time to co-chair our most recent fundraiser, *One Night, One Life*. Together with Cheryl Mooney, they led the most successful Centurion fundraiser to date. Her suggestions and ideas are thoughtful and strategic, and she helps us identify ways to better engage our supporters and reach new audiences. As a result of Kathy's dedication to Centurion and her efforts to shine a light on the crisis of innocent people in prison, she was unanimously voted onto Centurion's Board of Directors in October. We are thrilled and so lucky to welcome Kathy Vik to the Board.

Why we give

We began supporting Centurion after a small get together at a friend's house, where we met exonerees and heard their stories. It was impossible not to be angry about the incredible injustice these good people endured – and amazing to see no anger or bitterness after decades in prison for other people's crimes. Since that first introduction, we have come to wholeheartedly believe in and support Centurion's mission - freeing the wrongfully convicted.

We lived overseas for over a decade and every day appreciated more the attributes of our system of government, including its legal system. But we now appreciate the flaws of a system that allows such miscarriages of justice – and the enormous consequence for individuals, families and our communities. For every wrongfully convicted person in prison, a guilty person walks the street.

We support Centurion because as a society we must be better than that – and we support Centurion because we have been inspired by its noble efforts and the exemplary exonerees we are now proud to call our friends.



Cheryl & Rob Mooney



Clockwise from the top: Peter Pringle, Executive Director, Kate Germond, Sunny Jacobs; Judy Scheide, Preston Breunig, Michael Austin, James Waller; Peter and Anne O'Neill; Ross and Leslie Wishnick, Princeton Councilman Dwaine Williamson, Richard Miles; Sandra Allen, Ann Fries; Kathy Vik, Michael Austin, James Waller, Cheryl Mooney; Shelly Yedlin, Laura Sinderbrand; Tom and Jackie Gibbons; (center) Tom Marx and Liz Zuckerman



ONE NIGHT . ONE LIFE



Princeton, NJ
September 28, 2019



Clockwise from the top: Committee chairs, Cheryl Mooney and Kathy Vik with exonerees and Executive Director, Kate Germond; Cheryl Mooney, Frank O'Connell, Kathy Vik; Joyce Carol Oates, Ed Baker; Ricky Kidd, Darryl Burton; Founder, Jim McCloskey, Bill and Carol Burden; Ed Baker, Ralph Lee, Tyler Spikes, Michael Austin; Martha Sword, Jennifer Hilton; (center) Daniel and Tina Motto

Announcing a new Executive Director for Centurion



On January 1, 2020, Corey Waldron will take on the role of Executive Director for Centurion. Corey has been working with us since June of 2018 as Deputy Executive Director and Development Director. The Board unanimously endorsed her to transition to Executive Director in January. Corey's entire career has been spent working in non-profit management and fundraising; those skills combined with her great affection for our clients and exonerees make her the perfect person to take the reins. Kate Germond will remain on the Centurion team, continuing her work in Case Development, and partnering with Corey to carry Centurion's legacy into the future. Corey is from the Princeton area, where she lives with her adorable 4-year old and very patient spouse.

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Become a monthly donor!

Monthly gifts create sustainable funding throughout the year.

donate online

centurion.org/donate

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**MILTON
SCARBOROUGH**

MARCH 1, 1940 - SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

We lost our sweet Milton Scarborough in September after being free for 6 short years. He suffered a massive stroke that took him from us. Milton spent 36 years in prison as an innocent man convicted of a vile murder. We were never able to get him exonerated because of Pennsylvania's cynical 60-Day Rule – a person only gets 60 days to get back into court with new evidence, which is a virtual impossibility in innocence cases. We were able to present enough evidence to get a prosecutor to free him if we did not pursue further litigation.

Milton's case was investigated primarily by Bill Raynor, a retired GE executive. He poured his heart into the investigation. And once Milton was freed, Bill continued to support him and Milton's niece, Bobbie Hostetler, who provided a stable and warm home for him. We all loved to get calls from Milton, his joy about life was contagious. He will be deeply missed especially at our Family Gatherings.



Mark and Mia Schand renewed their vows in front of family and friends at the wedding they've always deserved. When Mark was arrested and wrongly convicted, he and Mia were building a family. Mia was pregnant with Mark's third child and they never could have imagined that Mark would spend the next 27 years behind bars for a crime he didn't commit. But they never gave up on each other. Mia visited Mark EVERY week for 27 years and they were married in a jailhouse ceremony. Sunday, October 27th, they had a gorgeous wedding ceremony in New York City - a celebration fit for the enduring love they've always shared.

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CNN HEROES

EVERYDAY PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD

Centurion exoneree Richard Miles has been selected as one of ten finalists to become CNN's 2019 *Hero of the Year*! Richard spent 15 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. Upon his release, he established *Miles of Freedom*, a nonprofit dedicated to helping formerly incarcerated individuals restart their lives. *Miles of Freedom* assists individuals returning home from prison by helping them obtain identification, enroll in college and secure housing. They also provide computer and career training, financial literacy programs and job placement. CNN's acknowledgement of Richard's impactful work is much deserved, and we are so proud of him.

CONGRATULATIONS PAUL CASTELEIRO!!



Ralph Lee (Paterson, NJ . 25 years wrongly convicted) with Paul Casteleiro

The Spring Valley Branch of the NAACP awarded Centurion Legal Director, Paul Casteleiro, the Dr. Edmund W. Gordon Heroes of Humanity Award for his pioneering work as an attorney for the innocent in prison and a trailblazer in criminal justice reform. Paul's steadfast devotion to righting judicial wrongs is unmatched by anyone. Hero.

CENTURION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Mooney, *Chairman*
 Ken Javerbaum, *Esq.*
 Jim McCloskey, *Founder*
 Ed Pisani
 Stephen Pollard
 Kathy Vik
 Kate Germond, *Executive Director*

CENTURION STAFF

Kate Germond . *Executive Director*
 Paul Casteleiro, *Esq.* . *Legal Director*
 Priyanka Banerjee . *Communications Associate*
 Janet Baxendale . *Paralegal, Intake Analyst and Volunteer Development*
 Diane Bladecki . *Director of Events and Outreach*
 Jim Cousins, *Esq.* . *Attorney/Case Investigator*
 Rosemary Kay . *Bookkeeper*
 Alan Maimon . *Case Investigator*
 Madison McCoy . *Administrative Support*
 Tyler Spikes . *Exoneree Support*
 Gene Truncellito, *Esq.* . *Case Development Manager*
 Corey Waldron . *Chief Development Officer / Deputy Executive Director*
 Kimberly Weston, *Esq.* . *Case Development Manager*
 Laila Wilson . *Manager of Organizational Initiatives and Planning*

CENTURION VOLUNTEERS

Kathy Babcock	Marilyn Jerry	Michael Regan
George Carcagno	Carol Kientz	Sue Schmerler
Molly Chrein	Fidelis Machado	Hannah Shostack
Elizabeth Dovernan	Alan Medvin	Laura Sinderbrand
Lori Freedman	Jane McBunch	Trish Traverse
Ann Fries	Jock McFarlane	Kathy Vik
Lee Gidding	Sue Miller	

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