FACES OF INNOCENCE

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

GALA 2020

Muehlebach Hotel Marriott Downtown

Honorary Chairs
Will & Senia Shields

Keynote
Yusef Salaam
Dear Friend,

We are excited to announce the date and location of the Midwest Innocence Project’s 2020 Faces of Innocence fundraising dinner and auction. This signature event that raises the critical funds needed to bring innocent clients home will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the Marriott Kansas City Downtown-Muehlebach Tower. Last year, generous supporters of the Midwest Innocence Project raised over $300,000 to support the mission, funding that was critical in exonerating MIP Client Ricky Kidd!

Inspired by last year’s success, we have raised the bar even higher and set the goal at $400,000. **You can help us reach that goal and achieve justice for more innocent clients by sponsoring the 2020 event.** Enclosed is a packet outlining the sponsorship levels. Funds from these sponsorships directly supports our work to screen, investigate, and litigate cases for our clients. Currently, there are 500 individuals still waiting for assistance. MIP staff, partners, and volunteers are reviewing and investigating on behalf of an additional 60 individuals and MIP is actively litigating for the release of 12 clients. Your support provides critical DNA tests, forensic analysis, and hours of investigation.

Representing our clients at no cost, the Midwest Innocence Project is the last hope for innocent individuals in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Arkansas. Indeed, your support is an investment in the values we all hold dear—liberty, equality, and justice. We cannot do it without you. For additional information, please visit our website at [www.themip.org](http://www.themip.org) or contact the MIP at office@themip.org. Together, we can tell these untold stories and provide justice for innocent people in our region.

Sincerely,

Tricia Bushnell  
Executive Director

Will & Senia Shields  
Honorary Chairs

Austin & Alison Thompson  
Event Chairs

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: YUSEF SALAAM**

Dr. Yusef Salaam is a committed advocate and educator, focusing on the issues of false confessions, police brutality and misconduct, press ethics and bias, race and law, and the disparities in America’s criminal justice system. Yusef, a member of the Exonerated Five, received the President’s Life Time Achievement Award in 2016 from President Barack Obama. He was appointed to the board of the Innocence Project in 2018, and is a part of the Netflix Feature limited series called *When They See Us* based on the true story of the “Central Park Five” directed by Ava DuVernay.

**HONORARY CHAIRS: WILL & SENIA SHIELDS**

For over 25 years, the Shields’ have made countless contributions to the Kansas City community, including the formation of the Will to Succeed Foundation, which supports the needs of abused women and children. Senia is a trained social worker, helping families throughout the metro area, and supporting organizations that do the same.

Will, who had a 14-year hall-of-fame career with the Kansas City Chiefs, is a 12-time Pro-Bowler and has been recognized as the Walter Payton NFL Man of The Year and the Walter Camp Man of The Year. He has been awarded the Outland Trophy, the Ed Block Courage Award and was named to the NFL All-Decade Team. Will has served as a spokesperson for the United Way, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Council on Philanthropy.
The Midwest Innocence Project's (MIP) mission is to educate about, advocate for, and obtain and support the exoneration and release of wrongfully convicted people in the Midwest. Recent studies conservatively estimate that between 2% and 5% of all inmates in America are innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted, with some estimates reaching up to 7%. This means that somewhere between 2,000 and 7,000 innocent people in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Arkansas are locked behind bars this very moment for crimes they did not commit. Thanks to the ongoing support from organizations and individuals like you, MIP is able to give freedom back to clients whom the legal system has failed.

2019 By the Numbers

738 Open Cases
153 Counties

45 Cases
14 Counties

99 Cases
28 Counties

378 Cases
60 Counties

159 Cases
40 Counties

57 Cases
21 Counties

Case Status

212 Questionnaires Sent
75 Questionnaires Processed

554 Screening Waitlist

56 Screenings in Progress
23 Screened, Review pending

65 Pending Investigations

17 Active Investigations

12 Litigation

Client Demographics

Gender

96% Male
4% Female

Race

56% Black
40% White
3% Hispanic
7% Asian
3% Native American
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<th>LEVEL</th>
<th>ADVOCATE</th>
<th>FREEDOM</th>
<th>JUSTICE</th>
<th>INNOCENCE</th>
<th>EXONERATION</th>
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* Optional: please specify when securing sponsorship

Total table space inclusive of optional table-mates

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR HESITATION WHEN IT COMES TO INNOCENCE WORK. EVERY MINUTE, HOUR, AND DAY MATTERS, AS INNOCENT PEOPLE SIT IN PRISON FOR CRIMES PERPETRATED BY OTHER PEOPLE.
SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Please fill out this form, including payment and mail back to the address below or email Arie Foley at office@themip.org. You can also reach Arie at 816-301-7458 with any questions.

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name ________________________________

Contact Name ________________________________

Contact Email ________________________________

Contact Phone ________________________________

Address _____________________________________

City __________________________________________

State _________________________________________ Zip ________________________________

2020 SPONSORSHIP SELECTION

☐ Presenting Sponsor - $25,000 ☐ Exoneration Sponsor - $15,000

☐ Innocence Sponsor - $10,000 ☐ Justice Sponsor - $5,000

☐ Freedom Sponsor - $3,000 ☐ Advocate Sponsor - $1,500

PAYMENT TYPE

☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Send Invoice ☐ Credit Card Credit Card

#: __________________________ CVC: ____________ Exp. Date: _______ / _______

COMPANY LOGO

Please email your logo in .eps format to office@themip.org.

The Midwest Innocence Project is a not-for-profit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible.

Together, we can create A BOLD NEW REALITY.