



Midwest  
Innocence  
Project

# BE THE

*Light*

FACES OF INNOCENCE • 2026 FUNDRAISER

Thursday, April 30, 2026 • 7-9pm

The Midland Theatre • 1228 Main Street • Kansas City, MO 64105

## 25 YEARS OF FREEDOM, TRUTH, AND JUSTICE

Midwest Innocence Project is honored to celebrate 25 years of representing innocent people in their fight for justice. *Faces of Innocence 2026*, our signature event, promises to be a celebration a quarter century in the making. Taking place on Thursday, April 30th, 2026, at the Midland Theatre in Kansas City, this will be a night you will not want to miss.

We invite you to join us as an event sponsor because progress in the fight for justice is never achieved alone. Every person who stands with MIP has helped build a powerful movement grounded in truth, courage, and hope.

Over the past quarter century, your support has helped bring home innocent people, provide social work support services, and advocate for policy to prevent future wrongful convictions. Together, we've turned moments of injustice into stories of resilience, and stories of resilience into lasting impact. We're honoring the legacy we've built together with a new venue, new sponsorship opportunities, and a brilliant theme – *Be the Light*.

Your partnership as a sponsor helps ensure that wrongfully convicted people have access to legal representation, social support, and the resources needed to claim their freedom. It strengthens our ability to educate people in our communities, advocate for policy reform, and prevent future injustices across five states: Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Arkansas. All our funding stays right here in our community.

Every sponsorship helps us grow our impact: reaching new audiences, deepening our outreach, and sustaining our mission for the next 25 years and beyond.

Thank you for believing in this work, for standing beside the innocent, and for helping us build a system of fairness and freedom.

With gratitude,



*Tahir Atwater*  
Executive Director

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# Waiting for Justice

NEBRASKA  
**63**  
IN 15 COUNTIES

IOWA  
**74**  
IN 35 COUNTIES

KANSAS  
**139**  
IN 28 COUNTIES

MISSOURI  
**396**  
IN 63 COUNTIES

TOTAL OPEN  
APPLICATIONS

**912**

ARKANSAS  
**234**  
IN 49 COUNTIES

TOTAL AREA OF REGION COVERED BY MIP  
**338,785 SQ-MI**

BLACK  
**56%**

WHITE  
**37%**

HISPANIC/LATINIX  
**4%**

OTHER  
**2%**

UNKNOWN  
**1%**

MIP IS AN AN INDEPENDENTLY FUNDED INNOCENCE ORGANIZATION.  
ALL DONATIONS MADE TO THE MIDWEST INNOCENCE PROJECT

STAY WITHIN OUR FIVE-STATE REGION TO DIRECTLY IMPACT CASES LOCALLY.

# Faces of Innocence 2026

## EVENT SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS

Level	PRESENTING	EXONERATION	INNOCENCE	BAR	JUSTICE	FREEDOM	GAME	ADVOCATE
<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$25,000</b> \$24,232 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$15,000</b> \$14,232 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$10,000</b> \$9,232 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$6,500</b> \$6,050 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$5,000</b> \$4,550 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$3,000</b> \$2,700 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$2,000</b> \$1,700 <i>tax deductible</i>	<b>\$1,500</b> \$1,200 <i>tax deductible</i>
Tickets to in-person event	8	8	8	6	6	4		4
Table	YES	YES	YES	—	—	—		—
Website recognition (logo or name)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		NAME
Recognition in event email (logo or name)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		NAME
Recognition on digital event materials	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		NAME
Recognition on printed event materials	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		
Recognition on event signage	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES			
Recognition at Bar (NEW!)				YES				
Recognition at games and activities (NEW!)								
VIP experience*	YES	YES	YES					
30-second video promotion	YES	YES						
Podium recognition	YES							
Listing throughout 2026	YES							

Note: if no logo is provided, name recognition will substitute in sponsorship benefit fulfillment.

\* Innocence, Exoneration, and Presenting sponsors will receive access to our exclusive **Golden Hour Reception** at the Chandelier Bar in addition to a reserved table and tickets.

### Not using all of your tickets?

Donate any unused Faces of Innocence tickets back to the ticket pool by emailing Tish Sjuts at [tsjuts@themip.org](mailto:tsjuts@themip.org).

 **YOU CAN HELP US CREATE A MORE JUST WORLD BY BECOMING A SPONSOR.**

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



300 E 39<sup>th</sup> St  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
816-221-2166  
[office@themip.org](mailto:office@themip.org)  
**THEMIP.ORG**

MIP's mission is to educate about, advocate for, and obtain and support the exoneration and release of wrongfully convicted people in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. **We are an independently funded innocence organization** that is a part of the national Innocence Network. Our partnerships with law firms, law schools, and student volunteers allow us to provide the very best representation at no cost to innocent people within our region. **All donations made to the Midwest Innocence Project stay within our 5-state region to directly impact cases locally.**

FOLLOW US @THE.MIP



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## SPONSORSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form, including payment and **mail back to the address below** or email [development@themip.org](mailto:development@themip.org).

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### 2025 SPONSORSHIP SELECTION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting Sponsor - \$25,000 (\$24,232 tax deductible) | <input type="checkbox"/> Exoneration Sponsor - \$15,000 (\$14,232 tax deductible) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innocence Sponsor - \$10,000 (\$9,232 tax deductible)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Bar Sponsor - \$6,050 (\$4,840 tax deductible)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Justice Sponsor - \$5,000 (\$4,840 tax deductible)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom Sponsor - \$3,000 (\$2,700 tax deductible)       |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate Sponsor - \$1,500 (\$1,200 tax deductible)      |

### PAYMENT TYPE

- Check Enclosed                       Send Invoice                       Credit Card Credit Card

# \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPANY LOGO

Please email your logo in **.pdf, .ai, or .eps** format to [development@themip.org](mailto:development@themip.org).  
Hi-res, transparent .png file will also be accepted. If no logo is provided, name recognition will substitute in sponsorship benefit fulfillment.



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