



(Left) Kris Wade-Director of The Justice Project (Right) Angie Klein

THE VOL 2 April 2016 JUSTICE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

www.justiceprojectkc.org

Volunteer Highlight- Angie Klein

Angie Klein has been volunteering for The Justice Project for eight months. She became interested because a longtime friend had been a victim of sex trafficking.

Angie explains, “My friend was victimized for 6 years when her boyfriend and her boyfriend's father terrorized her with threats to her family, beatings and emotional abuse. They victimized her further by forcing her into a sex trafficking situation. She is safe now, and after years of intense trauma therapy, she is able to function. Today, she is a kindergarten teacher in California.”

When Angie decided to look for volunteer work, she was interested in agencies that help women in need. The Justice Project was the one that stood out to her during her search.

Shortly thereafter, she saw Kris Wade, Executive Director of The Justice Project, on a TED talk and was greatly impressed. After reading an article about the FBI sting in Kansas City to rescue girls and women from trafficking, she decided it was time to pick up the phone and offer her services.

Angie attends The Willow Tree meetings every Tuesday evening at St. James Place. These meetings offer a gathering place where women involved with The Justice Project can enjoy an evening meal and share with other women in a safe environment.

Angie has helped with many projects, including helping women improve upon their reading skills, pass the GED, or learn to use a computer, phone or iPad. Presently, she is tutoring a woman who had been in prison 37 years and has very little formal education.

Angie is 38 years old and married with four children, ages 17, 15, 12 and 9. She has a background in Special Education and was a teacher in California. Angie now works part-time as a Pilates instructor, allowing her to dedicate her time to The Justice Project. She is also fluent in American Sign Language.

Thank you for all that you do for The Justice Project, Angie!



Jazz for Justice Event

The Justice Project kicked off 2016 with our annual spring fundraiser, Jazz for Justice. The event was a huge success, hosting roughly 135 guests and collecting close to \$6,000 in donations.

Guests enjoyed lively jazz music from the Yakety Sax Quartet, a raffle full of hot ticket items such as jewelry, spa gift certificates, gift cards to swanky restaurants and much more; all the while indulging in food and spirits graciously donated by a variety of local professionals.

Thanks to several constituents who bravely shared their testimonies explaining how The Justice Project has personally helped them overcome adversity, each of our guests left with a better understanding of the work we do for impoverished women in Kansas City. The evening was capped off by an informative speech from The Justice Project executive director, Kris Wade.



We would like to extend our extreme gratitude to our Fundraising Planning Committee for their commitment to making this event a success, as well as the many volunteers who offered their time and talents. A special thank you goes out to our 2016 Honorary Chair, Mary Sanchez, Editorial Columnist for the Kansas City Star and The Justice Project advocate, as well as The Bauer for donating their beautiful space to host our event.

If you were unable to attend Jazz for Justice, but would still like to donate, you can send a check or money order, payable to The Justice Project, to: **The Justice Project, PO Box 32804, Kansas City, MO 64171.**

If you would like to volunteer for future fundraising events, donate raffle items, or if you have talents you wish to share in the area of fundraising and event coordination, please send your contact info to: admin@piqueco.com.



Court Advocacy

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The women served by The Justice Project frequently face justice system issues that are not only challenging, but can also pose obstacles to their recovery and independence.

Legal proceedings, paperwork, and processes can be confusing; particularly if one suffers from mental illness, addiction, or illiteracy. Homelessness makes it difficult to keep up with official mail that may come from courts or other system providers. Not having a phone or using a government issued phone with very few minutes makes it hard to communicate with attorneys, probation officers or court monitors.



Certain documents are sometimes required for court cases, and frequently the client is responsible for obtaining copies of tickets, police reports or copies of other materials pertinent to the case. In order to get ahold of such documents, one is usually required to show state issued photo identification. ID's cost money, and in order to get an ID, a client has to be able to produce a birth certificate and/or social security card. More often than not, these are not readily available.

For a homeless, mentally ill, illiterate, unemployable woman with absolutely no income, dealing with even a simple city ordinance case can become an overwhelming ordeal that can spiral out of control very quickly. Thankfully, The Justice Project can and will help them navigate these often overwhelming tasks.

While we are not lawyers and cannot provide legal advice or represent someone in court, we can help women steer through the process of a court case and can advocate for their best interests. We can make sure they know how to connect with legal aid or the public defender's office. We can read court paperwork to them, help them get to court, and explain court etiquette and protocol. We can show them how to obtain copies of documents they may need, and can assist them with those costs. We can stand with them through difficult and often emotional, traumatic proceedings.

Hopefully they will not have to return to court for any reason, but if they do, they will be better equipped to understand and cope with the process. Women are more willing to address legal issues if they have compassionate advocates to help educate and guide them through the process; advocates like The Justice Project.

Call For Donations of Goods

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up." John Holmes

The Justice Project would like to extend our sincerest thanks for your donations in the past. Your generous donations provide goods and services to hundreds of women throughout the metro area, many who have used The Justice Project as a launching pad to get back on their feet and better their lives.

While we have a sufficient amount of personal items and toiletries at the moment, we are still in need of cash donations and furniture donations.

Financial donations can be sent in the form of a check or money order to:
The Justice Project, **P.O. Box 32804, Kansas City, MO 64171.**

Furniture can be dropped off at **Journey to New Life, 3120 Troost, Kansas City, MO.** Please call **816-960-4808** first to arrange the drop-off.

Thank you for your continued support of The Justice Project!