It was a pleasure to talk to Miss Sara Citroni another woman who served time that H.O.P.E is honoring. Miss Citroni did a lot on the inside once she completed her certified peer support program training she started mentoring fellow inmates. She also created a boot camp to help fellow inmates to stay fit and healthy. She also facilitated many groups including the group women helping others. Miss Citroni also initiated the prison clean-up program, and also raised money for the house of Ruth helping women who suffered from violence and affected communities. Miss Citroni was a juvenile lifer and when she came home, she stayed at the Marion House until Oct. 2022. Then she signed the papers to start work with Prepare working with Mrs. Anne going to meet women to help them get applications to meet there needs for reentry. She is another former inmate giving back to her community. We at H.O.P.E salute you Miss Citroni. Everyone be safe and blessed.

Anne Bocchini Kirsch
Incarceration date: Oct. 30 2015
Release date: September 26 th 2022

I had the privilege to interview Anne. She didn’t just start giving back when she came home, she started behind the walls where she created a domestic violence program and co-founded PREPARE, a non-profit that helps Marylanders understand and prepare for parole and reentry. She brought her vision and work home to become the PREPARE’s Director of Advocacy.

She was released from MCI-W on September 26, and on September 27 2022 at 9:30 am she led her first advocacy call with the Parole Commission. She hasn’t slowed down since.

Anne said she was anxious and hesitant to leave prison because of all
the friendships she built and the lives
that she impacted behind the walls.
In particular, she worries that she
will never see some of her friends
and colleagues again, as some are
sentenced to life without the
possibility of parole (LWOP) or
sentences so lengthy they are
effective LWOP sentences.
PREPARE continues to serve the
women at MCIW with in-person
advocates and has been scaling to the
men’s institutions through
correspondence, materials
distribution and workshops. It started
as a small pilot designed to serve the
500 women incarcerated in
Maryland, but now provides some
level of service or education to any
of the 15,000 incarcerated
Marylanders, whether that is
education, parole packet
development or reentry support.
PREPARE believes that a strong
reentry begins at intake and that
building self-efficacy is an important
part of long-term success. Because of
that philosophy, PREPARE does the
work of packet development with
clients rather than for clients,
encouraging them to grow.
PREPARE also offers public
education for family, friends and
community advocates through
monthly Family Empowerment
Workshops and several advanced
level workshops, videos and print
materials.
One of the interesting things about
PREPARE is that 6 of the employees
(and all of the full time employees)
are returning citizens themselves.
Several worked together inside
MCIW to build programming,
mentor and educate and have
reunited on the outside to continue
serving the community. We at
H.O.P.E. as community partner
salute you Anne for giving back. If
you would like further information
about
You can learn more about PREPARE
on their website - https://prepare-
parole.org. Everyone be safe and
blessed.