



H.O.P.E Baltimore

Sara Citroni hope community honor

Incarceration date: July 1993

Release date: June 2022

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 their 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.