

# REFLECTIONS ON THE *Journey*

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1  
SPRING 2022



*Nothing here at Journey to New Life is possible without your generous support and advocacy for what we do. We want to share some of the stories you've impacted and thank you for everything you do to go on this journey with us and our clients.*

## FAYE'S STORY: THE JOURNEY TO PARDON CONTINUES

You may remember in our Winter 2020 issue we featured Laquanda "Faye" Jacobs. In 1992, at the tender age of 16, Faye was arrested and subsequently convicted of murder. At her sentencing, Faye became the first and only female in Arkansas sentenced as a juvenile to life in prison without parole, a sentence that was later found to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. As a result, in 2018, Faye was resentenced to time served, released from prison and entered the Journey to New Life program. But four years earlier, she had attracted the attention of the Midwest Innocence Project who examined Faye's case and felt there was enough evidence and inconsistencies to exonerate her.

Faye faced a difficult decision, either accept her release in 2018, or continue to fight for exoneration. Her parents were aging and not in good health. Plus, Faye craved the independence and freedom she'd never experienced as an adult so she opted to accept the resentencing.

"The Innocence Project had filed my petition for my actual innocence, and so I was basically stuck with a dilemma. My mother was sick," Faye said. "I want

to say that I have no regrets in making the decision that I made to go ahead and walk out those doors to care for my 80-year-old mother. I don't ever want to take anything for granted. Life is so so short and it's so precious. I just want to enjoy the life that I have."

Since Faye was released from prison, she is no longer able to seek exoneration. Her only option is to get a pardon from the Governor of Arkansas, where the crime occurred.

She's continued to work with the Innocence Project toward that goal. Earlier this year, she collected the required number of signatures and submitted a petition to have her case considered for pardon. Unfortunately, it was denied. The explanation was, she said, "He agreed

***"I was really just anticipating that he would do the right thing. He wouldn't continue to crucify me, to hold this burden over me."***

- Faye Jacobs

[Faye's story continues inside >](#)

# FAYE'S STORY: THE JOURNEY TO PARDON CONTINUES

Continued

with the parole board that I hadn't been out in society long enough to determine that I'm innocent. I'm not sure what it would take or what that means." Since she's no longer incarcerated, she says she now has to wait eight years before she can petition again.

## Not giving up

So what's Faye going to do? She's turned her energy toward advocating for a bill to change that. She's become a fierce advocate for people wrongfully incarcerated. Recently, she spoke at the Innocence Project's conference in Arizona. "It has ignited a fire in me to just continue to pursue this pardon, to continue to advocate for those who come behind me," she said. "So that they don't have to go through what I went through, what I continue to go through because of the hindrance of this conviction." It remains a barrier to her in achieving the goals she has for everything from housing to employment to applying to adopt the child she wasn't able to have biologically due to her incarceration.

## Living her new Journey

And Faye's not stopping there. She now sits on the Board of Directors at Journey to New Life. "Being on the board is such an honor," she said. "I'm able to give my opinion and perspective on a situation. A person who's never been in this situation wouldn't know or understand, but me being in that situation before, I know from a personal perspective." 🌱



**"It is my desire to just give back and be a servant, to be available to them and the organization."**

- Faye Jacobs

## Want more success stories?

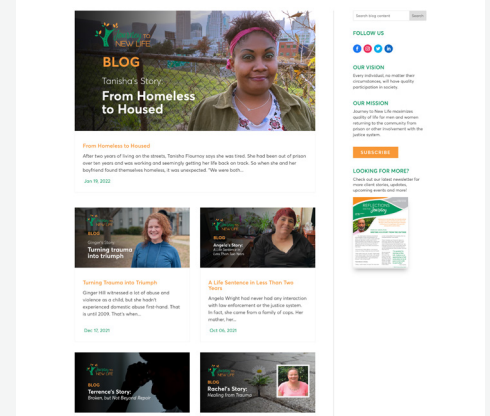
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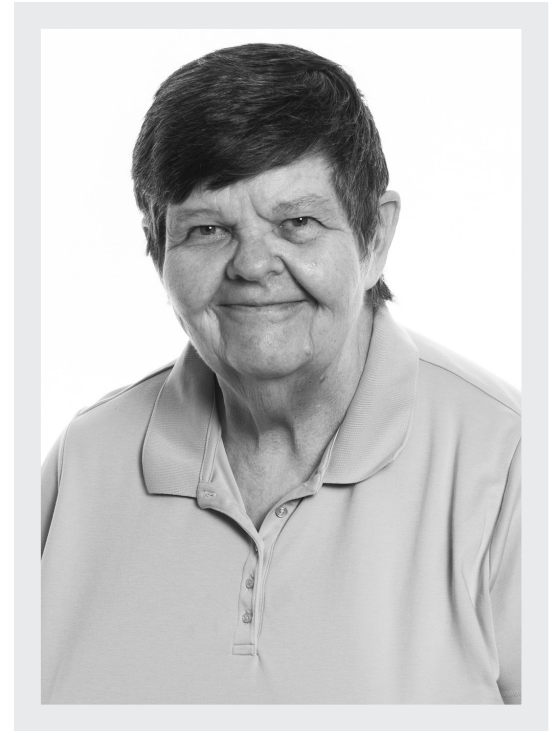
# GEORGIA K. WALKER: HONORING GEORGIA'S LEGACY

Our work at Journey to New Life continues even as we mourn the loss of our friend, co-founder and Executive Director, Dr. Georgia K. Walker (1947-2022). Her presence is missed by all who had the honor of working with — and alongside — her. She brought something truly special to her role and to Journey to New Life.

We know that Georgia was passionate about our mission at Journey to New Life. She made it clear to us that we must continue this important work. So we push onward. We know that she will always be here in spirit. Through our work and your continued support, her legacy lives on. We thank you for being on this journey with us. We couldn't do it without your unwavering support and assistance.

We hope you enjoy this small glimpse into Georgia's life over the years. She was a fierce believer, a humanitarian and staunch advocate for those who society might otherwise cast away. Georgia changed lives. She will be dearly missed by all who encountered her at any point in her life's journey.

Our Journey continues. 🌱



Georgia graduated from high school in 1965.



Georgia takes her first vows.



Enjoying a night of fun with friends, Georgia dresses as the Fruit of the Loom® grapes.



Georgia is all smiles after learning she is cancer free.



Co-founders Georgia and Rose McLarney (center) with their friend, Lil (right).



Georgia celebrating her birthday with friends.



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# WAYS TO GIVE

### MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

Does your company match charitable contributions? If so, make sure you submit the giving request.



### MONTHLY RECURRING GIVING

If you're giving by credit card, simply check the box to make an ongoing monthly contribution.



### PLANNED GIVING

Remembering Journey to New Life in your will is a great way to create a lasting legacy that reflects your support of the organization's mission.



### VOLUNTEER OR DONATE ITEMS

Journey to New Life is always in need of volunteer assistance and basic living and hygiene items.

