

# Beacon Of Light

## Michelle Payette, Executive Director

Michelle was born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in Saratoga Springs. She served a 2-year prison sentence from 2010-12 for a white-collar crime. It was during her incarceration that Michelle turned her life over to Jesus and became a “brand new creation.” Since that time God has changed her heart and Michelle became the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Coordinator for Grace Chapel Church from 2012 to the present.



As Angel Tree Church Coordinator, Michelle is liaison between Prison Fellowship and the church, leading the church team by recruiting and training volunteers to serve Angel Tree families. The team sets realistic goals, verifies caregiver data and gift request information, arranges for gift purchases, delivery and evangelism, and coordinates an annual Angel Tree party. Michelle is responsible for completing proper reports and submitting them to Prison Fellowship.

Michelle is also the New York State Angel Tree Area Coordinator. Appointed by Prison Fellowship in 2014, her duties are to recruit churches and groups in the areas assigned who will implement the Angel Tree program. She then trains, supports and maintains relationships with the Angel Tree churches and groups as well as their church/group coordinators and volunteers.

Michelle’s compassionate heart was led by God to care for those beyond the limits of Prison Fellowship, by creating “Beacon of Light” (BOL) in June 2016. BOL’s ministry goals are to support, educate and reconcile families of the incarcerated, resulting in reducing recidivism, creating safer communities and changing family legacies.

Michelle serves as Executive Director of BOL, serving the Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga Schenectady, Warren and Washington counties. She is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of the organization. Other key duties include recruiting, training and maintaining volunteers, fundraising, program development, marketing, and community outreach. BOL regularly meets with a local Board of Advisors and reports directly to Ministry Alliance (Charlotte, NC) and their Board of Directors for legal and financial accountability.

Michelle is a single mom of two children: Alexandra, 28, living in Connecticut, and Billy, 17, a student at Burnt Hills High School. Michelle helps care for her aging mother, is self-employed as an e-commerce entrepreneur and has several part time cleaning jobs.

### **Specific short-term goals for BOL:**

- Provide emotional, spiritual and financial support (in the form of approved programs only) to those families who present a need

- Monthly support and mentorship group meetings
- Create a budget to support programs to serve more families
- Recruit volunteers and form partnerships with local churches, businesses and organizations to assist in meeting the needs of the programs we offer

**Specific long-term goals for BOL:**

- Create programs to further enable reconciling families to each other, their communities and God.
- Ideas include reaching out to Correctional Officers, creating a Scholarship Program for children of the incarcerated entering college, and growing a food pantry for families of the incarcerated.

**Prayer Needs:**

- For physical healing and strength for Michelle and to implement a healthier lifestyle in 2017
- For Michelle to keep healthy boundaries and not let her compassion enable unhealthy habits in others
- Spiritually bind and rebuke Satan and any demonic spirits from interfering in ministry efforts, her family and her daily life
- For compassionate and qualified volunteers to work with families and implement committees or projects
- For unity of those on the Board, committees and volunteer team
- That families BOL serves will thrive under their support, and that God opens the eyes of their hearts to hearing His Word and flame a fire of desire to know Jesus more intimately
- Funding needed to provide more ministry – community needs outweigh our ability to provide at this point

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

Pen Pals (male need far outweighs female), drivers to transport family members to visit their incarcerated loved ones, facilitators to run Family Embraced/ Outrageous Justice classes in our community, fundraising committee members, camping coordinator, support group hosts, Christmas Present Project volunteers, Prison Pantry (Food) Manager, Social Media/Blog writer, Newsletter Editor.

**Ways to Get in Touch:**

Beacon of Light  
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 Rexford, NY 12148  
 (518) 982-0179

Newsletter and Prayer Requests by email: [info@BeaconOfLightNY.org](mailto:info@BeaconOfLightNY.org).

Website: [www.BeaconOfLightNY.org](http://www.BeaconOfLightNY.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BeaconOfLightNY](http://www.facebook.com/BeaconOfLightNY)

### **Ways to Give Financially:**

- Give on Sunday mornings through the offering basket at Grace Chapel of Clifton Park by noting Beacon of Light on the memo section of the check or specifying on your giving envelope.
- Give by check by making the check to Beacon of Light and mailing to:  
Beacon of Light c/o Ministry Alliance  
P.O. Box 49341  
Charlotte, NC 28277
- Give online two ways:  
Grace Chapel: <http://gracecp.org/giving>  
  
Ministry Alliance: <https://secure.cognitionSMARTsites.com/sites/ministryalliance/ministry-donations.php?p=0&r=44>