

friends of gaile

Last fall, Gaile Owens nearly became the first battered woman ever executed in Tennessee. Thanks to Gov. Phil Bredesen, her sentence was commuted. More than 10,000 of you supported Gaile by writing a letter or email to the governor, signing a petition, and telling her story. You played an instrumental role in winning her future freedom. **Gaile is deeply grateful to each of you.**

How Can I Help?

Gaile is scheduled to appear before the Parole Board before the end of the year, but she needs your help now.

- **Write a letter to the Parole Board.**
- **[Sign the petition](#) for the Parole Board.**

What's Next?

Gaile, her attorneys, and her friends have been working relentlessly to prepare Gaile for life outside of prison. She must prove to the Parole Board that she is rehabilitated and understands the gravity of her actions. In addition, she must show that she has made adequate preparations for her life outside prison walls.

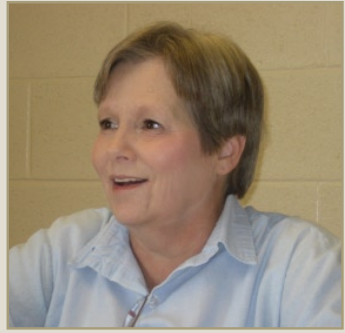
As many of you know, Gaile has repeatedly expressed extreme remorse for her crime to friends, family, and prison staff and counselors, as well as in a letter to Gov. Bredesen. She has become a role model for inmates and staff members alike at the Tennessee Prison for Women.

Gaile has volunteered in many capacities at the prison and regularly attends church. She proudly mentors younger inmates as they seek to rehabilitate themselves.

Gaile has already secured housing for herself following her expected release in 2011 or 2012. She and her friends and family are building a strong support system to help her transition seamlessly into the community.

How Can I Help Gaile Owens?

- **Write a letter to the Parole Board.**
Let the board know that, as a friend of Gaile, you support her release from prison. Be specific about how you know Gaile, and let the board know that you believe Gaile is remorseful for her crime and has rehabilitated herself.
- **Send signed letters and petitions to:**
Gretchen Swift
Assistant Federal Public Defender
810 Broadway, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 736-5047
gretchen_swift@fd.org
- **Sign the petition for the Parole Board.**
Everyone is welcome to sign, but only signatures from Tennessee residents will be presented to the Board.



Timeline

April 19, 2010: The Tennessee Supreme Court denies Gaile's commutation request, and the State of Tennessee promptly sets a September execution date.

July 10, 2010: The petition asking Gov. Bredesen to commute Gaile's sentence has 11,422 signatures from nearly every state and a dozen countries. Additionally, 53 organizations formally petitioned in support of Gaile. The Friends of Gaile Owens Facebook page has more than 2,800 fans.

July 14, 2010: Gov. Bredesen commutes Gaile's sentence to life in prison. Because of time served and good behavior, she will be eligible for parole as early as the fall of 2011.