**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Contact: Anne Rose

 Phone: 910. 390.2964

 Email: arose@lincnc.org

**Amanda Knox, Exoneree and New York Times Best-selling Author, to Keynote LINC, Inc. 20th Anniversary Milestones Dinner**

*LINC, Inc. will celebrate its 20th anniversary at the 6th annual Milestones Dinner, on February 3, 2020, with keynote speaker Amanda Knox, exoneree and journalist, as well as recognition of the accomplishments of program participants and honoring inductees to the LINC Society of outstanding supporters.*

[Wilmington, North Carolina, November 16 2019] - Amanda Knox, exoneree, journalist, public speaker, and author of the *New York Times* best-selling memoir, [*Waiting to Be Heard*](https://www.amazon.com/Waiting-Be-Heard-Amanda-Knox-ebook/dp/B00AHCPXKS), will be the keynote speaker at LINC, Inc.'s 20th anniversary Milestones Dinner on February 3, 2020.

Between 2007 and 2015, Knox spent nearly four years in an Italian prison and eight years on trial for a murder she didn’t commit. She is now dedicated to inspiring people toward empathy and perspective instead of judgement, and her work hits upon themes synergistic to LINC, Inc's mission: rehabilitation instead of incarceration, misogynistic stereotypes in criminal justice, racial inequity in sentencing, interrogation reform, restorative justice, and the issues of public shaming, public vilification, and media demonization.

Knox writes of herself and her experience with the criminal justice system, “Despite standing out as young, white, and female, one of the many things that people convicted and exonerated all share in common is that other people—strangers through a window—projected their ideas about what we were like onto us—with devastating results.”

The 6th Annual Milestones Dinner program will celebrate 20 years of “turning setbacks into comebacks” by working to destigmatize persons with a history of incarceration, and demonstrating that supportive reentry broadly benefits the community. The Milestones Dinner will include recognition of the accomplishments of LINC program participants and inducting new LINC Society members. The event will be held Monday, February 3, 2020, at Hotel Ballast, 301 South Water Street, Wilmington, NC, with a 6pm reception and 7pm dinner. Tickets, sponsorship information, and reservations can be made at the [event website](https://bit.ly/2QiVLS3) (<https://bit.ly/2QiVLS3>).

# # #

LINC, Inc. provides transitional living and case management services to meet the immediate needs of men and women returning from prison, assisting them in becoming productive members of the community. LINC, Inc. operates the [Marvin E. Roberts Transitional Living Campus](https://www.lincnc.org/residential-re-entry-program) which offers shelter, food, and clothing in a therapeutic environment for up to 25 men and 20 women, 25 and older, who have been recently released from State and/or Federal prisons or local jails. LINC, Inc., through its [L.I.T.E. Manhood](https://sites.google.com/lincnc.org/lite) program, works to educate and motivate youth to make positive life choices with culturally specific youth development services for African American young men ages 16-24. LINC, Inc., founded in June 2000 by Executive Director Frankie Roberts and co-founder Tracey Ray, is a Wilmington, North Carolina 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, a member of the New Hanover County Local Reentry Council, and the first North Carolina chapter of the statewide Second Chance Alliance.