

Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc.

(AVP)

The Committee of Local and Regional Groups

(CLARG)

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2015

May 2016



AVP-USA

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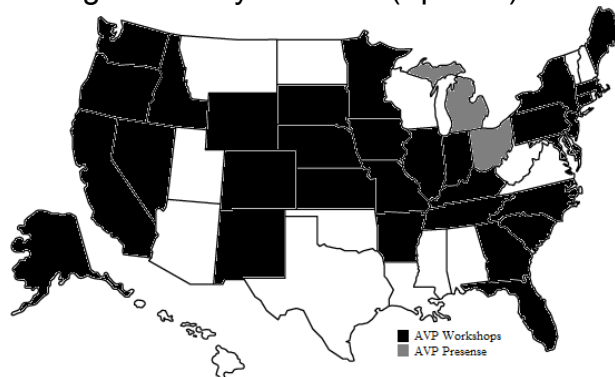
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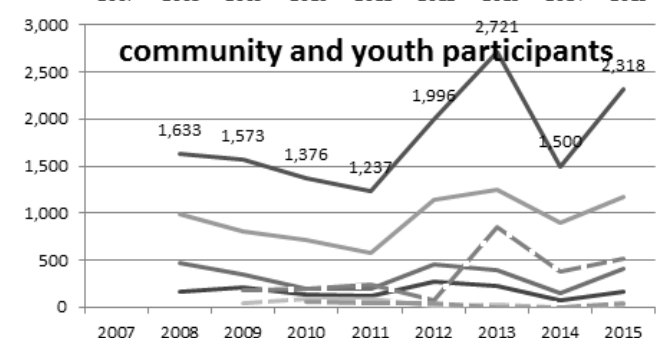
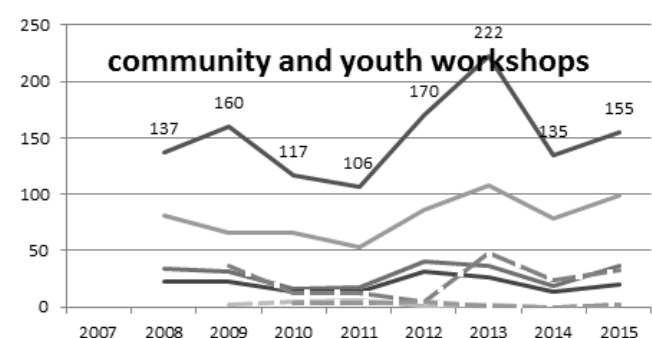
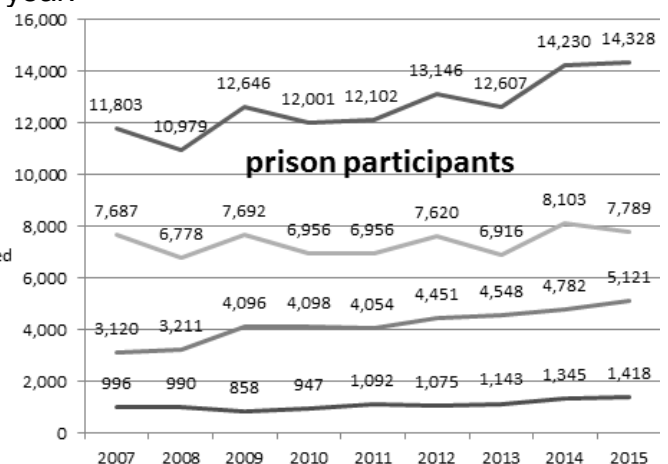
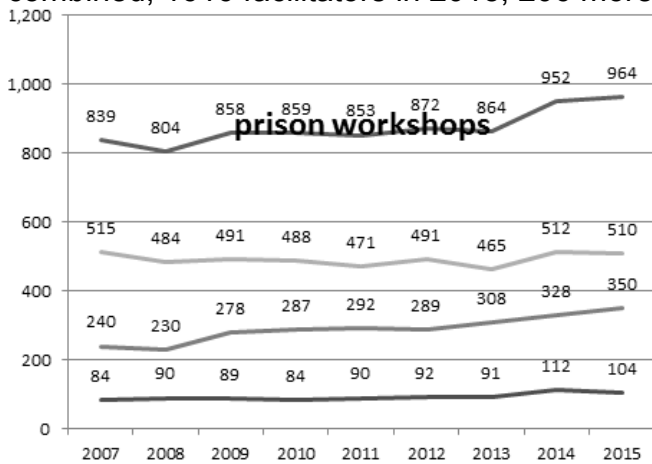
CLARG

The Committee of Local and Regional Groups is made up of representatives from each regional group, who compile statistics from each region. The numbers tell the tale of all the workshops we've done in prisons and the community in 2015. The stories tell the tales the numbers miss – about working within prisons, about making a role for ourselves in the community, about how AVP made a difference to one participant. (See Connecticut and South Dakota!)

It gives a look at AVP across the country and across the years. On the map, the black states had at least one workshop, either in a prison or in the community, in 2015. The grey ones had no workshops but do have some sort of AVP presence: someone is working to start up a new AVP program or revive an old one, or engaged in AVP-related programs. This year we lost Texas and Virginia, but gained Illinois, Tennessee, Arkansas and Kentucky with workshops and Michigan and Ohio with a new presence, with workshops in Michigan already in 2016! (Spoiler!)



We worked in 94 prisons this year, down from 98 last year. But we have 103 more inside facilitators than last year, and 87 more outside. And we trained, in prison, community and youth workshops combined, 1616 facilitators in 2015, 206 more than last year!



CLARG 2015

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New England Region: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT

CONNECTICUT

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

MacDougall CI, Suffield (men)
Osborn CI, Somers (men)
York CI, Niantic (women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

17 Basic workshops, 259 participants
9 Advanced workshops, 135 participants
2 T4F workshops, 16 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

47 inside, 28 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Connecticut: Welcome back York! The program has come back from suspension.

Things are looking encouraging on the Connecticut prison scene. Our governor, Dannel Malloy, has inaugurated his “Second Chance Society,” with an emphasis on rehabilitation and preparation for re-entry rather than warehousing. Our new Corrections Commissioner, Scott Semple, has established the first of several planned special re-entry units in Connecticut prisons: one general, one for veterans, one for women and one for youth. Connecticut is also the first state to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 18 to 21. We’ll see how that works out, but the plan sounds refreshing. DOC invited AVP to work with the new re-entry unit, but has not followed up.

The Episcopal Urban Caucus, a national group, held its annual meeting in Meriden CT and invited AVP to present a workshop.

MacDougall: The excellent new inside contact at MacDougall had to leave in May for medical reasons. Her replacement was also a supervisor and was overburdened with the

extra work, and continuity suffered, with workshops or meetings sometimes not happening because there was no list to let us in. (Spoiler: an excellent person took over in early 2016 with AVP as her whole volunteer program assignment.)

The “refreshers” we started for people who had completed the Advanced stopped with the staffing confusion, but we resumed them in October and they have gone well since.

Osborn: We were very pleased to be in the lecture hall/classroom that has been AVP’s “home” for many years – renovations and asbestos removal finally complete. Our working relationship with the Osborn staff contact has been excellent, and we seem to have positive interactions with most of the staff correctional officers.

We only managed to do two of the Alumni Gatherings this year. It has been very difficult to find a time that works in the prison. A late afternoon/early evening format is ideal for our programming, but various things going on in the prison make getting participants together in a timely fashion almost impossible. The need and desire for this AVP “booster” is evident; working with staff to find suitable timing will be a 2016 priority.

We continued to hold monthly Facilitator Gatherings, which consist of a mini workshop as well as planning time for the team doing that month’s workshop. The agenda is drawn by a facilitator who chooses the theme, tries to select exercises that are not familiar, and asks various inside/outside people to facilitate those exercises. The exposure and practice lead to more variety in what we eventually use in workshops for participants. The time together makes us far better team members, more able to play to each other’s strengths.

York: After being out of York CI since December 2013, our AVP team was finally able to pick back up again in summer of 2015! We held 5 workshops in just 5 months and graduated an energetic and dedicated group of 10 new inside facilitators! Many amazing transformations occurred during these workshops, but I would like to share the story of one woman's transformation in particular. Let's call her "D."

D was very uncertain about AVP when she came for the Basic. She called herself "Daring D" because she was a risk-taker who would do anything she was dared to do. Over the course of the weekend she made some insightful discoveries about herself and really opened up to the group. On Sunday, D asked if there was any way she could stay involved in AVP (she had just been sentenced to 20+ years). I let her know about the Advanced and T4F, and she asked to be included in both workshops.

When D came back for the Advanced, she decided to change her name to "Different D" because she felt that she was becoming a different person as a result of her experience in AVP. She continued to grow and challenge herself during the Advanced -- being more outspoken and truly sharing the light she had found within herself -- feeling like she was part of a team for the first time in her life.

During the T4F weekend, my co-facilitators and I decided to set up a mini-interview process with the prospective facilitators and I was assigned to interview Different D. I asked her how she could use AVP skills outside of the weekend workshops, and her answer blew me away. She shared that ever since the Basic, she had been memorizing the activities and bringing them back to use on her tier. She is housed in a Social Rehabilitation unit in the prison where she helps mentor teenage inmates. Immediately after the Basic, she began lining up some of the teens in her unit and having them brainstorm positive qualities about themselves (her adaptation of

Affirmations in 2s and 4s). When the teens gave her the usual "I don't have any positive qualities" answer, she prodded them with gentle questions about what they were doing on a daily basis and how even small things can be positive. This resulted in one teen saying, "Well, I am going for my GED so I guess that's a positive thing?" From there, the rest of the teens came up with their own affirmations and shared them with each other. She also led them through a version of Human to Human (guided meditation) and Concentric Circles. They wanted to learn more about where the exercises came from, and Different D took down the names of those who were interested in attending an AVP Basic workshop. At this point in her story, I was beaming from ear to ear. I asked her if she wouldn't mind sharing her story later on in the weekend during the "Where do we go from here?" section, so that the other women could hear how she was already incorporating AVP into her daily life. I was so incredibly proud of her for not only challenging herself by sticking with the program, but for using the exercises she had learned (without access to a manual!) to help others in her community. This kind of organic, "give it if you have it" sharing of knowledge is exactly what AVP needs to be able to thrive and help create a more caring environment in the prison.

While we were waiting to begin our workshops at York, our Coordinator wanted to see firsthand how other groups ran their program. The Coordinator and her husband participated in a workshop at Osborn at the beginning of June, and then the Coordinator participated in another workshop at MacDougall at the end of June. While being personally rewarding and a great opportunity to see not only how other groups run AVP, but what it is like to do AVP at a men's prison, these experiences also fostered a "facilitator lending" relationship between the programs. As a result of the connections made during the summer, we were fortunate to have a visiting facilitator from Osborn and another from MacDougall

participate in our own workshops at York. We look forward to continuing to “lend” facilitators between our programs to broaden our understanding of AVP and assist each other to ensure the sustainability of AVP in Connecticut.

We are very excited to share that we recruited two formerly incarcerated women as outside facilitators this year! Both women are enrolled in college courses, are working full-time, and are true success stories. While participants are always grateful for the volunteers who come into the prison to facilitate AVP workshops, they have been especially grateful and impressed by these two women who have courageously chosen to return to the very prison where one of them had previously been incarcerated (and was an AVP facilitator) and share their wisdom. We look forward to continuing to recruit a wide variety of volunteers, including formerly incarcerated volunteers, who are willing to demonstrate how transformation is possible and share their success with others.

Outside CT: One CT facilitator did an Advanced community workshop in Springfield MA, a Basic at Attica and an Advanced at Bedford Hills in New York State; and a Basic at Soledad in California.

REPORT BY: Mary Ellen Preston, Mandy Smallhorn and Valentine Doyle

MAINE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Maine Correctional Center, Windham
(Men and Women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Basic workshops, 54 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 19 participants
1 T4F workshop, 8 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

4 inside, 9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

We are concerned about the limited number of facilitators and the retirement of our Administrators.

REPORT BY: Pat Moynahan and Margie Scholler

MASSACHUSETTS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

MCI Cedar Junction, Walpole (men)
MCI Norfolk, (men)
North Central CC, Gardner, (men)
Northeast Correctional Center, Concord, (men)
MCI Shirley Medium, (men)
Essex County Correctional Center, (men)
(county jail)
Essex County Pre-Release (men)

Currently inactive

MCI Concord (men)
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center,
Lancaster (men)
Old Colony Correctional Center – (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

32 Basic workshops, 475 participants
22 Advanced workshops, 272 participants
12 T4F workshops, 144 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Scibelli Enterprise Center, Springfield
Springfield Housing Authority, Springfield
Mason Square Library, Springfield

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 44 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 58 participants
1 T4F workshop, 8 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

80 inside, 42 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVPMA has had a busy year. Ongoing programs in 5 prisons, continuing development of work in the Springfield community and new

developments in 2 county facilities. We are strapped for board members and outreach workers but everyone is doing as much as they can. First priority for almost all is the workshops inside. We are excited about the possibility of hosting the 2017 national conference.

REPORT BY: Nancy Shippen and Freddy

Lopez

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Corrections Commissioner has shut down the New Hampshire AVP program because it is “too expensive.”

New York Region

NEW YORK

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Albion Prison, Albion, (women)
Attica Prison, Attica, (men)
Auburn Prison, Auburn, (men)
Bedford Hills Prison, Bedford Hills, (women)
Cayuga Prison, Moravia, (men)
Eastern Prison, Napanoch, (men)
Elmira Prison, Elmira (men)
Greene Prison, Coxsackie, (men)
Green Haven Prison, Stormville, (men)
Groveland Prison, Sonyea, (men)
Otisville Prison, Otisville, (men)
Ray Brook, Ray Brook (men) (federal)
Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, (men)
Sullivan Prison, Fallsburg, (men)
Wende Prison, Alden, (men)
Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

63 Basic workshops, 853 participants
62 Advanced workshops, 860 participants
11 T4F workshops, 122 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Community Co-op, Little Falls
Delaware County Public Health, Delhi
Flying Squirrel Community Center, Rochester
Sisters of St. Joseph, Clarence
Yonkers Public Library, Yonkers

Scarsdale Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse, Scarsdale
Centro de Avivamiento, White Plains
Purchase Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse, Purchase
Shepherd's Flock, Yonkers

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

10 Basic workshops, 101 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 12 participants
1 T4F workshop, 7 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Compass House, Buffalo
Slater Center, White Plains
Yonkers Riverfront Library, Yonkers
United Methodist Church, Franklin
Fordham University, New York City

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 42 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 14 participants
1 T4F workshop, 13 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

281 inside, 90 outside (77 adult, 13 youth)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP New York's work in 2015

While the number of workshops AVP New York held in 2015 as compared with previous years contracted again in 2015, the number of participants completing the three-day work-

shops increased slightly. We held 155 full (18-22 hour) workshops in 2015 compared with 171 in 2014 and 196 in 2013. More inside facilitators were active: 281 incarcerated facilitators served on-team for at least one workshop, up from 219 in 2014. 77 adult and 13 youth outside (civilian) facilitators served on-team.

The number of hours our volunteers put in is impressive. Inside facilitators volunteered more than 16,400 hours and outside facilitators more than 8,340 hours to hold more than 3,648 in-session workshop hours with 2,104 participants in full (18 hour minimum) workshops and 532 participants in mini (half-day) workshops.

Landing Strips in Brooklyn and Rochester are lively – meeting weekly and monthly respectively. Our Manhattan Landing Strip has been less attended and we have subsequently laid it down for the time being and have added one in the Bronx, which meets weekly! Landing Strips offer a welcoming hand to people coming home from prison as well as to people in the community who are interested in AVP. Schedules and locations are on the website: www.avpny.org.

Our Work in Prisons

We held 140 full workshops inside sixteen prisons including five in Spanish (Sing Sing CF and Otisville CF) with 1,936 participants. Four all-facilitator workshops focused on strengthening our facilitation skills and addressing conflict on-team. We trained 125 new apprentice facilitators inside the walls.

We are up and running at our first federal prison in many years – FCI Ray Brook (in the Adirondacks)! We are pleased to have received such a warm welcome from the administration at Ray Brook, and AVPers in other states report being welcomed by federal prison administrators as well.

We held just five workshops at Green Haven Prison in 2015 compared with 23 in 2014. Staff

misconduct and the subsequent restructuring have meant that most programs there have been dismantled. This loss, though temporary (we hope), continues to be disheartening to facilitators inside and out.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Woodbourne Prison this year and fifteen inside facilitators joined with thirteen outside facilitators from across the state. Inside facilitators planned the day – it was a day of connection and reconnection with new and old friends. A newly trained hearing-impaired facilitator tested his facilitation skills for the first time with lots of encouragement and support from his teammates!

Special topic workshops in prison focused on power, parenting, anger, women of courage, re-entry, relationships, manly awareness and trauma resiliency.

Our Work in Communities

We held 15 full (18 hour minimum) workshops with 99 adults and 21 youth and trained seven adult apprentice facilitators. We also held six mini workshops with 71 adults and eight youth. Two facilitator days provided opportunity for 27 facilitators to hone skills and share new exercises.

Catskill Area Council held a mini workshop that served as team-building for staff of the Delaware County Public Health Services. Three youth facilitators served on-team. In Rochester, the Genesee Valley Area Council held a Basic (Level 1) workshop with ten participants.

The Niagara Frontier Area Council held a full Basic (Level 1) workshop and a ten-hour mini with nineteen youth who are homeless or close to becoming homeless at the Compass House Resource Center in Buffalo. The Council also held a Basic with six participants at St. Michael's Church, also in Buffalo, and a nine-hour mini with eleven from the Sisters of St. Joseph residence in Clarence.

The Westchester Area Council held nine full workshops with ninety-three participants in Purchase, White Plains, Scarsdale, and Yonkers, including eighteen who completed a Basic (Level 1) in Spanish in White Plains. Seven completed all three levels of workshop and became apprentice facilitators. A diverse group of ten 8th – 11th graders completed a Basic in White Plains; three workshops in Yonkers were multigenerational. In Albany we held one mini workshop with seven participants.

Our Work in Schools

Catskill Area Council's program at Franklin and Delhi Schools continued to grow, holding three full workshops – one Basic, one Advanced and one Training for Facilitators with forty-eight 9th – 12th graders and trained thirteen new apprentice facilitators. Thirteen seasoned youth facilitators served on-team for at least one of these workshops.

Westchester Area Council continued the annual practice of introducing AVP to six middle and high schools in the Mount Vernon school district, reaching about 400 students. The Council also held a mini workshop over two sessions of a Conflict Resolution class at Fordham University.

Our Work Outside of NYS

Several AVP/NY facilitators attended the AVP USA Annual Gathering in Tacoma, WA.

Through Friends Peace Teams, Deb Wood and Mike Murphy served on-team with Nepali facilitators for several Basic and advanced workshops in Nepal. Deb also served on-team for a Basic in Boise, Idaho.

Nadine Hoover continued to guide the work of Friends Peace Team's Asia West Pacific Initiative, facilitating AVP workshops and supporting AVP coordinators. With AVP Korea she led a special topic advanced workshop on trauma resiliency and discernment. The third international week-long training at Peace Place

in Central Java, Indonesia included participants from Australia, Philippines, Mentawai Island, and the U.S. as well as Indonesia. The training began with a combined AVP basic and trauma resiliency workshop and, using the AVP framework, moved to developmental play in early childhood education with teachers and parents. A Basic workshop was held in Aceh Tamiang, Indonesia, and Basic and Trauma Resiliency workshops in Barak Induk, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Three workshops were held in Palestine: a Basic in Bethlehem with a women's rights group, two trauma resiliency workshops – one in Hebron with a counseling group and the other in Ramallah with a mixed group – as part of the AVP outreach by Joe DiGarbo and Joe Moore. Nadine then collaborated with Anne Wallace-DiGarbo to lead a trauma resiliency workshop in Beit Shemesh, Israel, with a counseling group, while Joe and Joe went to Gaza to contact Basic AVP workshops. Chris Hunter of Peacebuilding UK invited Nadine to participate in and offer feedback to the Chechen Little Star facilitation team offering Power of Goodness workshops in Odessa, Ukraine. They use AVP approaches and activities and most of the Ukrainian AVP facilitators participated. Power of Goodness workshops are adapted to occupied territories, refugee camps and schools in former war zones.

Nadine also gave two lectures:

March 2, 2015 Lecture on Quakers and the Peace Movement including AVP in Daejeon, Korea, hosted by the Daejeon Quaker Meeting, the Women's Association for Peace, the KNCC in Daejeon, the Catholic Committee for Peace and Justice, the Shalem meeting, the Methodist Pastors' Association and the YWCA, among other organizations.

April 21, 2015 Lecture on the Peace Movement including AVP at Hanshin University Graduate School of Theology in Seoul, Korea to about 200 graduate students and faculty.

REPORT BY: Shirley Way

Pennsylvania / New Jersey Region

NEW JERSEY

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Garden State Youth Correctional Facility,
Yardville (men)
Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women,
Clinton (women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

9 Basic workshops, 127 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 42 participants
1 T4F workshop, 11 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting, Summit

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 12 participants
1 T4F workshop, 12 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

AVP Summer Camp at Chatham Summit
Quaker Meeting, Summit

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 22 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 22 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

22 inside, 22 outside

JOYS

AVP-NJ has had a very active year. We continue to work in two of New Jersey's 13 state prisons and in community settings. In 2015, we conducted 18 workshops – 8 at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, 6 at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility (a prison for young adult men), and 3 in a community setting. We served 161 participants in Basic workshops, 64 in Advanced workshops, and 23 in Training for Facilitators workshops. We held brief mini-workshops at a conference at Monmouth University and

Scotch Plains Baptist Church, and a fundraiser mini at West Orange Presbyterian Center to provide scholarships to the AVP national conference. We estimate that a total of 3,800 volunteer hours were served in 2015.

In 2015 the chapter accomplished three new initiatives. 1) We piloted an innovative 2-week AVP summer camp (with a Basic and an Advanced) for youth from families of mixed immigration status (some with undocumented family members). This led to a Basic workshop and follow-up programming for their parents at Chatham Summit Quaker meeting. The organizing involved created a solid team of facilitators who are committed to continuing this program in the future, to strengthen the role of AVP in the immigrant community. 2) We began holding workshops in the maximum-security wing of Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, where we have served the minimum-security wing since 2012. Five workshops were held in the Max this year, with some logistical struggles with the institution but enthusiastic reception among the inmates. 3) Finally, at the request of the chaplain at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, we piloted delivery of an Advanced workshop in 12 once-a-week evening sessions. The institution offered the chance to do workshops year-round if we offered AVP in this format. This approach allowed us to introduce more content than a typical workshop, but it proved much less effective at building community. At the end of the 12 weeks, one-third of the original 18 participants did not complete the program. The facilitator team deemed this approach ineffective overall.

CONCERNS

One of our continuing challenges this year was the aftermath of an asbestos abatement project in the chapel at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility. This reduced both the

number and length of our workshops. Our volunteer contact, the chaplain, is increasingly overworked. We worry about access to the prison, maintaining cohesiveness with our inside facilitator team and developing their skills. At Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, our contact person, the chaplain, retired in 2015. Similar concerns exist in this institution as the DOC burdens chaplains with additional duties. At both prisons, high turnover has also created the need to rebuild our inside teams; several strong inside facilitators have left, either on parole or to halfway houses. We have adopted a new policy of offering stipends to returning facilitators to take part in outside workshops, but due to work schedules, lack of transportation, and other issues, in 2015 no returning facilitators were able to facilitate in our outside workshops.

We also need to develop a stronger outside facilitator team. More lead facilitators are needed and ongoing skills training for all is desirable. At present we have a good relationship with the Commissioner of the DOC and would be able to get access to more prisons if we had enough outside facilitators to lead workshops regularly, but we don't.

REPORT BY: Eleanor Novek

PENNSYLVANIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

SCI Graterford, Collegeville (men)
SCI Mahanoy, Frackville (men)
FCI McKean, Lewis Run (men's federal)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 42 participants
3 Advanced workshop, 33 participants
1 T4F workshops, 6 participants

PRISON SHORT WORKSHOPS

(SCI Graterford allows only 11.25-hour workshops)

7 Basic workshops, 88 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 29 participants

1 T4F workshop, 9 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

New Jerusalem Recovery Program,
Philadelphia
Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center, Wallingford
Haverford College, Haverford
Palestine and Israel – Ramallah, Hebron, Tel Aviv

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 43 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 7 participants
2 T4F workshops, 15 participants

COMMUNITY SHORT WORKSHOP STATISTICS (5 ½ hours)

11 Advanced workshops, 191 participants
2 T4F workshops, 9 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

20 inside, 32 outside

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS– Middle East

Ramallah, West Bank
Bethlehem, West Bank
Hebron, West Bank
Gaza, West Bank
Beit Shemesh, Israel

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS – Middle East

4 Basic workshops, 64 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 44 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

7 from the US, 5 from the West Bank, 2 from Gaza

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SCI Mahanoy

Here at SCI Mahanoy things are going well. We meet once a month with the facilitators to review the workshops and any concerns that they have. We trained a new outside facilitator, Arwilda Haynes and she has added strength to our team. Thank you!

REPORT BY: Gloria Upanavage

FCI McKean

Slow year for AVP due to reduced number of active outside facilitators and difficulty scheduling workshops at the prison. Good news for 2016 is that we now have much stronger institutional support for the AVP since it has officially come under the care of the Reentry program.

REPORT BY: Campbell Plowden

SCI Graterford and Philadelphia

2015 was another rich year for AVP inside SCI Graterford. We are blessed with gifted and dedicated inside facilitators who are politically active and personally committed to growth and knowledge. Two of them obtained degrees from Villanova University, and one is in the forefront of the juvenile lifer debate. Having been incarcerated since age 15, he currently awaits word about whether or not he will leave the gates.

One issue of *The Transformer* in 2015 had articles by four Graterford men, and more submissions planned.

One of the things that make Graterford AVP unique is our Monthly Inservice. Insiders who have completed the Advanced Workshop are welcome to attend as well as other active or inactive facilitators from inside and out. This half-day event allows us to try new exercises and deepen our connection in community. Our leadership team of insiders and outsiders also meet 3-5 times a year to discuss issues, problems and brainstorm new ideas.

We offered a special Advanced Workshop, including mindfulness, yoga and meditation, which was enthusiastically received.

Every March we do two simultaneous Basic workshops with students and faculty from Eastern Mennonite University, who travel about 5 hours from Harrisonburg, Virginia. This year

we had 18 students, 2 graduate assistants and 2 faculty.

We are grateful to have cooperation and access to the administration to propose ideas and programs, and hope this relationship continues to thrive.

Community

We have a new relationship with the Catholic Peace Fellowship of St. Malachy's Church. We continue to have AVP as an optional part of Haverford College coursework, with Haverford graduates joining AVP efforts elsewhere.

We conducted an experimental AVP intensive at Pendle Hill: 7 participants completed a Basic, an Advanced and a T4F as an 8-day consecutive experience. It can be done! Much was learned, especially the all-important team-building ahead of time.

At New Jerusalem Recovery Community, AVP is integrated into the residential recovery program, now for approximately 20 years, and an adaptation of AVP with reduced hours is offered with great success in establishing a supportive community with skills in handling conflicts.

REPORT BY: Carolyn Schodt

New Jerusalem Community

Team New Jerusalem is still working hard in North Philadelphia Community. Participant numbers are down – especially for T4F.

An AVP Presentation was also done for Senior Citizens in Camden, NJ by 3 of our facilitators

Beginning AVP in the Camden, NJ area looks hopeful – we will have an AVP presentation on May 16 of this year for about 60-80 people: law enforcement officers, teachers, parents and members of an organization hoping to work with at risk youth in the area.

Serenity House

Three Basic workshops with about 10 participants each.

REPORT BY: Leslie Stevenson and Barbara Brigham

Palestine:

There were no workshops in the Lancaster area; AVP workshops did take place in the West Bank and Gaza (Palestine) and Israel for 2015.

REPORT BY: Joe DiGarbo

Mid-Atlantic Region: DC, DE, MD, VA, WV

DELAWARE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Howard R. Young correctional Center,
Wilmington

James T Vaughn Correctional Center, Smyrna
Sussex Correctional Institution, Georgetown

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 259 participants
12 Advanced workshops, 143 Participants
3 T4T workshops, 22 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Wilmington Friends Meeting House and
Hanover Presbyterian Church

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

36 inside, 9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Howard R. Young Correctional Institution- Men's

AVP is well received in this facility. Ms. Pamela Faulkner, Treatment Services Administrator, is very supportive. She sees that the memos are distributed and that the participants are informed and ready to come to the workshops. The participants continue to enjoy the workshop and express surprise and gratitude for it. We have a waiting list of attendees.

There are several correctional officers who respond readily to our requests. I experience cooperation and a smooth run of AVP in Howard R. Young Correctional Institute throughout the year.

James T Vaughn State correctional - Men's conducted 2 Specialty Workshops on FORGIVENESS for a total of 26 participants.

In November, upon the request of the community groups **Movement for a Culture of Peace** and **Pacem in Terris** in Wilmington, DE, 3 outside Facilitators (2 from SCI Georgetown and 1 from SCI Howard Young) and a "Returning Citizen" began a series of all levels of AVP by conducting a Basic Workshop. Our 6 Participants included a lawyer from our Criminal Justice Commission, a coordinator of a sensitivity program offered in all institutions, several coordinators in community rehabilitation programs, a Peace Keeper, and a Mom. The participants were thrilled by the methodology to the point that they are designing applications for use with Youth and Returning Citizens and reconciling different factions in the City of Wilmington. One participant might help to fill the need for Facilitators in Baylor, the women's prison, which is without Facilitators. (In April 2016, 5 of the Participants completed the T for T and are now trained AVP Facilitators!!!!)

REPORT BY: Rachel Grier-Reynolds, Mary E. Killoran, Gianni Siri and Marisa Wengryn

MARYLAND

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Eastern Correctional Institution, Westover
Jessup Correctional Institution
Maryland Correctional Institution- Hagerstown
Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup
Maryland Correctional Institution for Women,
Jessup
Maryland Correctional Training Center,
Hagerstown
Metropolitan Transition Center, Baltimore
Patuxent Institution, Jessup
Roxbury Correctional Institution,
Hagerstown

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

42 Basic workshops, 658 participants
23 Advanced workshops, 340 participants
8 T4T workshops, 143 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Fort Washington Library

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 30 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Patterson High School, Baltimore

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 7 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

160 inside, 50 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Strong programs persist in Maryland state prisons. Many of the programs offer supplemental AVP programs such as support groups, one or two-day "power ups" or one or two-day workshops for those who have already had AVP workshops, and facilitator workshops to enhance training. Some of the special topics of the additional workshops were "Using TP in court and parole Hearings", "Parenthood," and

"Using TP for manhood". Two of our long-running programs continue with a single out-side facilitator participating in all the workshops. Two programs offer some workshops in Spanish, a needed addition because of the population in Maryland prisons. Most of our programs enjoy support of the administration, though several programs have been affected negatively when staff was absent or replaced. Getting timely clearance for volunteers remains a difficulty in some institutions.

Transitions of note:

Our coordinator at Eastern Correctional Institution, Penny Morrow, shares sadly that an outside facilitator passed away in the summer having just recently completed her facilitator training. Happy Hildy was dearly loved as a retired teacher at ECI for 15 years. After twenty- plus years, the program at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women will be discontinued due to lack of volunteers. But on the bright side, AVP may begin on the women's side of Patuxent Institution.

The program at the Metropolitan Transition Center, which began in 2014, had to be reconfigured because of reorganization when the Baltimore City Detention Center was shut down by executive order of the Governor; there are efforts being made to get the program restarted.

A small group has begun an AVP program for girls at a Baltimore school, holding a Basic workshop over 8 weeks as an after-school activity. Plans are to continue with more workshops and an after-school club.

REPORT BY: Rev. Penelope Morrow, Martha Baer, Bill Denison, Ron Williams, Ed Sabin, Alexandra Silanskis, Sheila Gaskins, Marial Ruben, Jeff Kersey, and Frederick Jennings; compiled by Nancy Hutchins

Southeast Region: AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VI

FLORIDA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Homestead Correctional Institution (HCI)
(women).

Everglades Correctional Institution (ECI)
(men).

Coleman FL federal women's' camp

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

26 Basic workshops, 407 participants

26 Advanced workshops, 377 participants

1 T4F workshop, 8 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

5 Star Veterans' Center, Jacksonville

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 6 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Florida International University Center for
Labor Research and Studies, Miami

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 23 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

80 inside, 27 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Miami: I am pursuing training with state DOC staff who are interested in sponsoring workshops at other institutions across the state.

Tampa Bay: Am including overview of the Coleman Federal prison AVP workshops here, because the workshops with the women incarcerated at the camp (minimum security) are only 13 hours total. We are working with admin and other staff to change some correctional procedures so that the hours can be increased to meet the AVPUSA national standards of 18-22 hrs.

Titles of Advanced AVP workshops at camp,

'Sp.' for those also offered in Spanish:

Addictions & Recovery (Sp.) (11 yrs. in a row in English, since 2004)

Boundaries & Self Esteem (Sp.)

Diversity & Community (Sp.)

Domestic Violence (Sp.)

Forgiveness of Self & Others (Sp.)

Wellness & Health in Mind/Body/Spirit

Women in Transition

Annual four hour 'Day for facilitators' in May, skill development and community building with 12 inside facilitators. Christina Bellamy, Nancy Tait, Edie Daly, outside facilitators.

Annual AVP Coleman Camp December

celebration: about 50 women attended, planned by inside team of four facilitators.

Everything offered w/2 women prisoners translating into Spanish, and six inspiring testimonials by AVP participants. Christina Bellamy & Nancy Tait, outside facilitators.

AVP at Coleman Camp has been offered monthly since 2002, with very few missing months. There are up to 500 women at this minimum security camp, and at any given time, there may be up to 20% who have taken at least one AVP workshop. The waiting list for a Basic can be up to 100 women, and averages around 25. Coleman is the largest federal correctional facility in the US, with 8,000 men & women.

In the last few years, the percentage of Spanish speakers has increased so that it is now officially 50% Hispanic women at the camp. Coming from several different Spanish speaking countries, many speak no English upon arrival at camp. We responded to as many requests as possible so that there could be workshops for Spanish speakers every month that it was feasible. Our AVP also

reflects some of the problems that occur in the broader camp community regarding those changes.

Conflicts involved issues regarding council agreements listed in our camp AVP charter. They included scheduling, leadership, conflict management, workshop content and how to address problems in council.

Seasoned bi-lingual inside AVP'ers have been involved as best they could. A few facilitators resigned, and rumors sometimes affected workshop enrollment. It has been a test of everyone's AVP skills to maintain respectful dialogue. Outside facilitators don't include Spanish speakers often enough: Christina Bellamy, Nancy Tait, Edie Daly, Cece Yocum, and Ashley Sweet.

Despite all the troubles, Coleman camp had 20 AVP workshops in 2015, and about 150 women experienced AVP at least one weekend. New prison staff and new AVP leadership began in January 2016, and hopes are high as we strengthen the camp AVP.

Jacksonville FL new AVP Chapter forming!
AVPTB facilitated the first JAX Basic AVP in September. They hope to have a cadre of trained AVP facilitators by the end of 2016, focusing on AVP with the JAX vet community. Cece Yocum, Bev Ward, Christina Bellamy, Ned Bellamy, facilitation team.

Community AVP: only a few mini-workshops in 2015. The Tampa Bay Quaker communities have generously offered their space to AVP for half or full day workshops. We also offered our 11th annual AVP/MLK event in January with the St. Pete Quakers, facilitating a mini-workshop reflecting MLK's legacy. Community facilitators: Christina Bellamy, Edie Daly, Cece Yocum, Nancy Tait, Bev Ward, Susan Hefte, Darrell Hefte, Robin Leigh.

Jacksonville: Our great joy in 2015 is the initiation of the AVP Jacksonville chapter with a

Basic workshop held in Jacksonville in September 2015 and facilitated by Cece Yocum, Beverly Ward, Ned and Christina Bellamy of Tampa Bay-AVP. In 2015 we submitted a grant proposal to AVP-USA, minuted support from the Jacksonville Friends Meeting and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. In 2015 we received \$150 from Friends and requested \$250 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget.

We are most grateful to Tampa Bay- AVP for their generous support as we get the Jacksonville program established. We have four facilitators in training and one experienced trainer in Jacksonville, all of whom are eager, enthusiastic and committed to bringing the message of nonviolence and the AVP program to the people of Jacksonville.

REPORT BY: Dawn Addy, Mitchell Brown, Eduardo Diaz, Dustin Muller and Warren Hoskins (Miami); Christina Bellamy (Tampa Bay); Elaine Martin (Jacksonville)

GEORGIA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Stewart Center, Atlanta
Emmaus House, Atlanta
Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur
Georgia Conflict Seminary, Athens

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Basic workshops, 63 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 12 participants
2 T4F workshops, 17 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

14 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

2015 was a fantastic year for AVP Georgia! We offered a total of 9 workshops and grew from 3 active facilitators to 14! Our community program in Atlanta is thriving and thanks to a

partnership with Georgia Conflict Center, our facilitators took the show on the road, and we offered our first workshop outside of Atlanta in Athens. In addition to our full workshops, we held a one day “Facilitator Inservice” gathering in November for our newly trained Apprentice Facilitators to build community and practice their skills.

We’ve also done several mini-workshops for youth in Atlanta this year. We offered two AVP teasers to AmeriCorps volunteers in Atlanta which have allowed us to recruit some of our most active and dynamic new facilitators. We have also conducted several mini-workshops to refugee youth at Dekalb International School as part of an afterschool program for the newly arrived in the refugee resettlement hub Clarkston GA (just outside Atlanta). We have been developing a partnership with the Dekalb County Dept. of Public Health and City of Clarkston to offer more mini-workshops to youth in 2016 as part of their federal grant funded youth violence prevention initiative.

In 2015 we were also laying the groundwork for our first prison workshop at Lee Arrendale State Prison a women’s prison outside of Atlanta. Starting in 2016 we’ll be offering our first Basic workshop and our plan is to train the first cohort of inside facilitators at Arrendale as soon as we can! We thank the Atlanta Friends meeting for continued support as well as AVP USA for its seed grant. Finally, a BIG shout out to all our new facilitators who are stepping up and helping us build AVP in Georgia!

REPORT BY: Heather Pincock

NORTH CAROLINA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Quaker House, Fayetteville (near Ft. Bragg)
Raleigh Friends Meeting, Raleigh

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 23 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Department of Correction is eager to have AVP. We began our outside facilitator pool development with two Basic workshops, one at Quaker House in Fayetteville and the other at Raleigh Friends Meeting. One of the participants at the Quaker House workshop, which serves Fort Bragg, was active duty military waiting for his CO discharge.

REPORT BY: John A. Shuford

SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Columbia Friends Meeting
University of South Carolina School of Social Work

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 22 participants

1 Advanced workshop, 9 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

During 1015, AVP SC concentrated on developing our organizational structure and organizing workshops. AVP SC is a non-profit organization in SC, we received permission to utilize AVP National 501 (c) 3 statuses and have a modest bank account.

We have five facilitators who have gone through all three stages of the AVP workshops and are in the process of completing their apprentice training. While focusing on present facilitators’ completing their apprentice training, we are also recruiting participants to increase our numbers of facilitators.

Presently our facilitators’ team has desires to conduct workshops in the prison system, other

churches, educational system and/or within community agencies. We are therefore seeking to develop a core group of at least five to six facilitators for each type of training site.

Our joy is in our small accomplishments, our dedication and tenacity. We will celebrate being one year old in February 2016.

REPORT BY: Diane Butler, AVP SC
Coordinator

TENNESSEE

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Memphis Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Nashville Friends Meeting (Quakers)

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS:

2 Basic Workshops, 30 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 12 participants
1 T4F workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Memphis:

We were thrilled and rather surprised to have an AVP program spring up in Memphis, fueled by the work that AVP facilitator Mahal Burr has done volunteering in jail with youth being tried as adults. AVP is part of a total mentoring/empowerment program that Mahal and her co-leader have been conducting. We also conducted a one-day training for corrections officers, with about 30 officers participating.

Nashville:

In January of 2015, four facilitators conducted a mini-workshop at Bailey Middle School with the entire faculty, about 60 teachers and administrators. After the workshop, several of the teachers reported that they planned to use activities that they had experienced in their classrooms that same day. From that workshop, we had two young teachers who participated in our Basic

Workshop. Later in the month, two facilitators visited the local Vets for Peace weekly meeting where we did a presentation and were able to get three people who participated in our Basic. Two of those went on to be part of our Advanced. We also presented a mini-workshop to our local Friends Meeting where we were able to get even more participants.

In May of 2015, we were happy to welcome David Zarembka, Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams, and his wife to Nashville. Nashville AVP, Nashville Friends Meeting, and the Nashville Peace and Justice Center sponsored three events where David talked about his work with HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities) in Africa. David met with a group of Medical Students at Meharry Medical College, spoke at a dinner and showed a film about the work done in Africa at the Nashville Friends Meeting House and also spoke to a group at a private home. These events were well attended, and people expressed interest in the work that AGLI is doing and in the HROC program to heal trauma. Our local AVP chapter has benefited by partnerships with other interested groups.

In terms of our facilitation team, we had two facilitators who attended the National Conference, bringing back new ideas and great enthusiasm. For our Advanced Workshop, we welcomed Ann Sieber from Memphis, Steve Olschewsky from Kentucky and several participants from Kentucky. For the first Basic in Memphis, Rubye Braye travelled from North Carolina to serve as a lead facilitator and two of Nashville's brand new facilitators, Martha and Jack Willis, apprenticed with the Memphis AVP. We were sad that facilitator Sylvia Hurdle moved to California, but very happy to have six eager and excited new facilitators. As a group, we are looking for ways to keep the momentum going for people who have taken a Basic or Advanced but who have not or do not want to move on to become facilitators.

REPORT BY: Ann Sieber, Dot Dobbins and Trina Baum

VIRGIN ISLANDS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Virgin Islands Public Housing
Alternative Education Program (Public School)
Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Council

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 26 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 12 participants
1 T4F workshop, 4 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

10 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS: It was a pleasure in 2015 to begin the HIP in the public schools on the three (3) Virgin Islands of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix. We were granted a stipend from the Virgin Islands Bar Association (Lawyers) to provide four 90-minute workshops to 4th graders. After many hours of contact with the Districts, we were able to begin.

Twenty-six (26) 4th grade classes in 13 schools, approximately 700 students. Students completed our survey based on the ACE Study (Adverse Childhood Experiences) per our proposed plan with the VI Department of Education. The information indicated the number of incidents of bullying and other troublesome behavior experienced by the students (in some instances teachers

participated in the survey as well). The data collected gave some indication of the direction and challenges for both the school pupil service department and for the facilitators.

We thank the facilitators who participated in these many weeks of AVP/HIP work carried out between January and April 23, 2015. The facilitators received a very small stipend for their work provided by Virgin Islands Bar Association (lawyers). We thank the schools administrators, teachers, and students for their cooperation; the sponsors and teachers experienced 6 hours of AVP/ HIPP exercises over 4 sessions.

Three (3) adult minis; Public Housing, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Council. One (1) 4-hr mini; AmeriCorps Volunteers and program director, 15 participants

Concerns: Our greatest concern was the lack of time to spend with our volunteers in order to develop skills and introduce them to the many facets of AVP. Many of our trained facilitators did not have an opportunity to apprentice during the weekdays and we lost our inside facilitators to relocation off island facilities. With so few outside facilitators, we were not able to introduce HIP in all the 4th grade classes.

REPORT BY: Carmen Hamilton, St. Thomas;
Jerry Weninger, St. Croix

Midwest Region: IL, IN, KY, MI, OH

ILLINOIS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

North Lawndale (Chicago area) and church in North Lawndale

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 30 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Lawndale Community Church has been committed to loving God and loving people for over 40 years, and our AVP facilitators are

extremely humbled to be a part of what God is doing in and throughout our community. However, we continue to pray for the violence that plagues our city. With that said, our congregation has been fasting and praying for several years, particularly that people would leave their guns at home. Over the past two years, our AVP facilitators have had the privilege to complete three workshops with a total of 45 participants in attendance. In looking back, we are extremely humbled that we had the privilege to come alongside those committed to the AVP training. In closing, please continue to keep us in your prayers as we move forward.

There was also a community workshop with 15 participants in 2014 at North Lawndale Church which was not reported last year.

REPORT BY: Dr. Darryl Saffore

INDIANA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, Indianapolis (Men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 58 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 27 participants
2 T4F workshops, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

12 inside, 8 outside

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

West Richmond Friends Meeting

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 10 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 8 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

West Richmond Friends Meeting

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

12 inside, 8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The year 2015 was a busy one for AVP Indiana. We continued to conduct workshops on a monthly basis at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) and saw an increase not only in the number of participants who signed up for the workshops, but also in the number who continued through the three levels. Several of our inside facilitators have subsequently been released or are in work release programs in the community. We are learning to navigate the murky waters of how to keep in contact with and give support to our newly released AVP facilitators as they return to their communities and start to rebuild their lives without jeopardizing our volunteer status at the prison.

In addition to the prison workshops, we conducted Basic and Advanced Community workshops. In February last year, we were asked to conduct a series of mini-sessions at the local high school for the Peer Mediation class. Eleven students and the teacher took part. That led to our hosting our first ever Youth Basic workshop in the fall with 6 high school students completing it. We hope to include the youth in an Advanced workshop this coming spring.

Our group presented a mini-workshop to introduce AVP to Circles of Whitewater Valley, a United Way organization that pairs community members as mentors with individuals struggling to find a way out of poverty. Several participants were interested in participating in a full workshop. We continue to work on ways of incorporating more diverse groups of participants into our community workshops.

Last April, AVP Indiana was able to travel to Berea, Kentucky to conduct a community Basic at Berea College. An apprentice facilitator from South Carolina joined us in his first workshop.

Over the course of the year we invited participants from Berea and community workshops to continue their training at IREF in Indianapolis, and that has been successful in helping a few to complete the process. We have had participants from Ohio and Kentucky attend our community workshops in Richmond. One of our facilitators traveled to Columbus, Ohio in the fall to present a mini-session on AVP to a group of Correctional Chaplains from the East Central Region of the American Chaplains Association.

We continue to generate great interest and enthusiasm from Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion students and professors who have traveled to Indianapolis to participate in workshops at IREF. Several have completed their training. We now have a core group of facilitators in the Indianapolis area, as well as our group in Richmond. We are hoping to conduct a series of workshops in the Indianapolis area in the near future.

Although we continue to struggle with finding the time and facilitators to handle the number of requests for workshops that we receive from people in the surrounding areas, our group is excited for the opportunities this presents in spreading the work of AVP, and we continue to make great strides in bringing AVP to Indiana communities and the Midwest.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner
(With help from Tim Nation, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Peace Learning Center)

KENTUCKY

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Knapp Hall, Berea College, Berea Kentucky

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

1 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In April 2015, AVP Indiana was asked to send facilitators to help conduct a Basic Community workshop in Berea, Kentucky. Miriam Bunner traveled to Berea and facilitated the workshop with apprentice Arnold Karr of South Carolina and apprentice Steve Olshewsky of Lexington, Kentucky. One of the participants of that Basic workshop traveled to Indiana to complete his training at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, becoming an apprentice facilitator in the fall. Others participants in that Basic workshop traveled to Nashville to take the Advanced in the May, and this spring, March 2016, completed the Training for Facilitators workshop in Richmond, Indiana. There are now four apprentice facilitators in the Berea, Kentucky area.

The Kentucky group introduced AVP to the Human Rights Commission in Berea, who expressed interest in pursuing and supporting this initiative in and for the Berea community. Some HRC members showed interest in taking an AVP workshop when one becomes available and asked for a proposal for funding. In addition, Berea College has been working on drafting a proposal for a prison outreach effort called the Berea Prison Initiative. They have gotten the green light for a two-year pilot program and are hoping it will give entree into the Northpoint Prison in Danville, Kentucky where the Berea Prison Initiative will be operating.

The group hopes to have the opportunity to gain experience in facilitating with AVP Indiana and in community workshops in the Berea area this year.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner

MICHIGAN

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP Michigan accomplished the following in 2015:

- Facilitated a mini-workshop at Kalamazoo Friends Meeting focused on preventing violence in the Peace Park which the meeting owns and operates
- Provided an overview of AVP for Tammy Taylor, Executive Director, Edison Neighborhood Association, Kalamazoo (a neighborhood with a recent increase in violent incidents)
- Received Church Women United of Kalamazoo Humanitarian Award for work with AVP and AGLI
- Facilitated a mini-mini for Church Women United of Kalamazoo
- Corresponded with 2 men incarcerated in Michigan prisons which led to a meeting with Warden and staff at Muskegon Correctional Facility (MCF)
- Received approval to facilitate monthly workshops at MCF in 2016

REPORT BY: Kathy Ossmann

OHIO

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In 2015, several individuals from the Cincinnati area traveled to Richmond, Indiana to take a Basic community workshop in January and an Advanced community workshop in May. Of that group, two completed the Training for Facilitators in spring 2016 in Richmond.

One of the participants, a former prison chaplain and East Central Regional Manager of the American Correctional Chaplains Association, Joseph Henry, invited AVP Indiana to present a mini-session at the October East Central Regional Meeting of the group in Columbus, Ohio. Aaron Nell of AVP Indiana traveled to Columbus to conduct the AVP mini-workshop and generated much interest among the chaplains who attended. There is still much work to be done to get the new Ohio facilitators' apprenticeship completed. The good news is that there is a core group in the southern Ohio area who are beginning to work on getting AVP re-established in the state.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner

Northern Midwest Region: MN, ND, SD, WI

MINNESOTA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Moose Lake State Correctional Facility in
Moose Lake (men)
Stillwater State Correctional Facility in
Bayport (men)
Faribault State Correctional Facility in
Faribault (men)
Waseca Federal in Waseca (women)
Sherburne County Jail, Elk River (men and
women, done separately)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 297 participants
16 Advanced workshops, 237 participants
14 T4F workshops, 153 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Our Savior's House, South Minneapolis

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 10 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

130 inside, 47 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

AVP/MN is in a comfortable place with their volunteer base and the agencies we do our work with. However, we are still worried about the continuation of the program once our “older” volunteers begin to retire from AVP. We are also facilitating workshops at Sherburne County Jail (SCJ), where we are currently doing 12 1-Day workshops per month. And we recently started Facilitating Support Groups at this County Facility as well.

REPORT BY: Richard McLemore II

SOUTH DAKOTA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

South Dakota State Penitentiary, Sioux Falls,
Hill Unit and Jameson Unit
Mike Durfee State Prison, Springfield

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

11 Basic workshops, 184 participants
5 Advanced workshops, 82 participants
2 T4F workshops, 29 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

28 inside, 16 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Durfee We outside facilitators at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, S.D. continue to enjoy presenting the Basic workshops with the aid of internal facilitators who are very good. We recognize that the prison has difficulties trying to find space for all their various programs to help the inmates; they (staff) continue to afford our workshops a priority. We are very thankful for this. We are looking into Advanced workshops during this new year. Our inside facilitator group has identified the need. We are trying to get the handbook and will evaluate our outside facilitator availability once that has happened. We are thankful to the MDSP staff for all their help during the year and look forward to another successful year.

Sioux Falls: Once again, a great year for AVP-South Dakota! We continue to have a strong inside and outside team, good relationships and cooperation with the officers and staff in the prison, a diverse mix of participants and good feedback from participants in our workshops. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated outside facilitator whose many, many hours inside the prison have contributed greatly to the strength of the program.

We are beginning an outreach program to AVP participants who have been paroled and their families. We have also received permission from the DOC to hold an AVP anniversary dinner, in honor of our 100th workshop, for AVP inside facilitators and their families in the fall of 2016.

Some other highlights from 2015 include:

- the insiders have proven themselves excellent as lead facilitators
- three of our outside facilitators did a mini-workshop on AVP at the Tekawitha Conference in Fargo in June. This was a national annual meeting for Native American Catholics from all over the USA.

Concerns:

- the ongoing need for more outside facilitators, as two of our outside facilitators retired in 2014, and we have not yet been able to recruit replacements. Although we are trying, and have had outside guests attend AVP workshops.
- the percentage of male Native American inmates is now 28%. They continue to be overrepresented in our groups as they continue to make up at least 50% of our participants.

A Great Joy: A letter from one of our inside facilitators was printed in the local newspaper,

The Argus Leader, on March 10, 2015:
“Volunteer program helps inmates end violence”

We are once again seeking to reform our corrections system, and once again we are focusing only on non-violent offenders.

Violence is scary, there is no doubt about that. But instead of trying to end it, we send violent offenders to a “school of violence.” That would not be so bad for society if every violent sentence was for life; extremely expensive, but society would be safe. But most will be released with their newly-honed skills. Many will be released from the highest security facilities, without even being tested at a low-level prison, much less being in any way rehabilitated.

One of the most critical elements to rehabilitating violent offenders is to separate them from violence. Despite the D.O.C’s name, there is little correcting done. I was even told I could not sign up for one of the only programs the South Dakota State Penitentiary had.

Why? Because I had to wait until my release date. Instead of trying to get help, I was told to wait 30 years. That is 30 years of being completely immersed in the violent culture of prison. I was able to circumvent the requirement being the class’ clerk. And what I discovered, was the class was a joke; written by some academic, with no sense of real life.

But there is hope. An all-volunteer program, with no association to the state was introduced. Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), was created by inmates and volunteers with the purpose of relating to inmates and through self-reflection and skill-building, to end violent acts. Not one inmate has ever told me coming out of a workshop that they were not in some way affected by the course. Where on the other hand, I have never heard of an inmate saying a state course affected him with anything but boredom. Sadly, AVP’s presence in the prison is limited by lack of resources and volunteers. Just imagine what would happen to violence in South Dakota if the state copied AVP’s success, putting its resources into expansion of treatment. And, if that treatment could be combined with a violence-free environment, the effects would be dramatic.

We cannot continue to ignore violent offenders, not if we want to end the cycle of violence. We must be proactive. If we are we can save all the victims of violence, include those who commit it.

John G. Huffman, inmate Alternatives to Violence Project inside facilitator South Dakota State Penitentiary

REPORTED BY: Eve Fisher, Mary Montoya and Steve Snyder (SD State Penitentiary), Ted Wechsler (Durfee)

Central Midwest Region: IA, KS, MO, NE

IOWA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Ft. Dodge Correctional Center (men)
Iowa State Penitentiary, Ft. Madison (men)
Iowa Medical and Classification Center,
Oakdale (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

12 Basic workshops, 160 participants

13 Advanced workshops, 135 participants
2 T4F workshops, 23 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

31 inside, 14 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Ft. Dodge struggles with high turnover in the prison, plus flu, work schedules, and camp events, but a successful program is continuing.

At Ft. Madison, one challenge was moving to a new prison and all the adjustments needed. Three inside facilitators developed a new Advanced workshop on Restorative Justice, which was extremely well attended. We struggle with developing new outside facilitators.

IMCC has a good and ever-improving relationship between the inside and outside facilitators. All are enjoying the new warden, Jim McKinney, who is genuinely interested in the programs brought in by volunteers. We are glad to have traveling facilitators like Marge Schlitt join us for cross-fertilization. We are working toward starting community workshops. A worry is the over-working of facilitators and the need to share the load.

Report By: Stan Sanders, Sandy Krell-Andre, and Nancy Conybeare, coordinators

KANSAS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Leavenworth Federal Prison

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 37 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Several of the facilitators were just getting their feet wet; others have more experience and are very helpful with the workshops.

Leavenworth continues to be a challenge to get enough time set aside for the workshop during the three days that we are there. But it is always a joy to see how the men respond to the community building that we do at each and every workshop. The men truly appreciate our efforts and often tell us that it is the best workshop they have during the entire 18-month Life Connections Program. Love's in everything!

REPORT BY: Gayla Crumm and Randy Fletcher

MISSOURI

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Boonville Correctional Center (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 78 participants

2 Advanced workshops, 22 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

8 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In the November Advanced, we created a new exercise (at least new to us). Several ideas for controversial topics were posted on newsprint to give ideas for topics. We picked topics that we thought would provoke very different points of view (suicide, immigration, the death penalty, abortion, etc.) Participants were divided into twos. The pairs were given about four minutes to select a listed topic or another topic on which they had different views. Each partner was given two uninterrupted minutes to talk about his viewpoint on the topic. Then each person had one minute to reflect back to his partner what he heard his partner say. Finally they were both given two more minutes to talk about their own viewpoint. We debriefed by asking whether they noticed any difference in how they described their own point of view the second time around. The consensus was that they had mellowed after hearing the other person and having to reflect back what they heard him say. They were more aware of other viewpoints and conceded that there were other ways to view a situation. By the way, very few used our posted topics because they shared the same viewpoint on them. They selected much more common differences like who preferred cats over dogs, or Ford over Chevy.

REPORT BY: Stephanie Brooks

NEBRASKA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Nebraska State Penitentiary
Omaha Correctional Center

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

8 Basic workshops, 116 participants
7 Advanced workshops, 110 participants
3 T4F workshops, 29 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Lincoln Friends Meetinghouse

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 42 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 18 participants
3 T4F workshops, 35 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

25 inside, 6 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We are pleased to have a new Director of Corrections who is making positive changes in all the prisons and with the staff. In Omaha, the program is growing and expanding to include weekly sessions at the Work Release Center, but more needs to be done to increase the number of active facilitators. In Lincoln, we wish we were allowed to give more than six workshops per year at the Penitentiary, as we always have waiting lists. We are excited to have our newly-trained facilitators join the teams with their energy and enthusiasm. In the community, we struggle with people from the Work Release Center signing up but too many of them drop out. In spite of that, we are having some wonderful workshops, with at least one person on each team who started AVP while they were in prison.

Report by: Maureen Connolly, Mary Moore
Salem, Nan Schweiger, and Marge Schlitt

South Central Region: AR, LA, MS, OK, TX

ARKANSAS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Tucker Unit, Arkansas State Prison, located
just outside of England, Arkansas

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

1 outside + 1 visiting from Texas

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We were pleased with the workshop we put on in 2015 at the Tucker Unit. Pleased with the interactions with the men who took part, what

they seemed to pick up from the workshop itself, and from what we learned from them. We continue to be concerned about our relationships with the prison chaplain, but he seemed eager to try this "experiment." One of the men in the group seemed to be clearly a leader in wanting AVP to be introduced, and he has plans for further expansion. The numbers of signees for the weekend was high, far in excess of the number we were able to have in the workshop. . We were thrilled and excited that Val Liveoak, an experienced, seasoned trainer, was available to us for the weekend.

REPORT BY: John Coffin

Rocky Mountain Region: CO, MT, NM, UT, WY

COLORADO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Denver Women's Correctional Facility
Colorado Correctional Facility (aka Camp George) -- Golden (men)
Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center -- Colorado Springs, (men)
Buena Vista Correctional Complex -- Buena Vista

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 278 participants
7 Advanced workshops, 101 participants
5 T4F workshops, 60 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

10 inside, 15 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys

- We have increased the number of trained facilitators, both inside and outside.
- We offered a mini workshop to Denver Women's Correctional Facility Staff.

Concerns

- We continue to struggle with having enough Lead Facilitators that can enhance our capacity to grow.
- We struggle to find ways to find partners to offer AVP in the community.

REPORT BY: Margaret Browne, Project Coordinator, New Foundations

NEW MEXICO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Penitentiary of New Mexico,
(men's prison, PNM)
New Mexico Women's Corrections Facility,
(NMWCF), Grants

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

8 Basic workshops, 80 participants
6 Advanced workshops, 69 participants
6 T4F workshops, 45 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Santa Fe

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Advanced workshop, 15 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

29 inside, 16 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP-Northern New Mexico

Anniversary: We celebrated our tenth year of offering AVP workshops in Northern New Mexico, our very first dating from Nov. 2005 at NMWCF. In just ten years, we went from 6 workshops annually at one correctional facility to 20 annually at two facilities. Program expansion has created needs for grant-writing and more outside facilitators.

NMWCF: We responded to the requirement of offering separate workshops for the residential drug treatment program. An inside facilitator trained over several months to become lead facilitator and she is doing an outstanding job. Two gold certificates were awarded; a new session (w/ new exercises) was developed on the topic of grief/loss; and the new warden proved to be most responsive to our concerns. The challenge for 2016 will be to track the potential transfer of all the women from this facility to two other facilities and begin offering AVP there.

PNM: We continue to use successfully the men's facility as an incubator for community persons interested in becoming facilitators. A certificate of appreciation was given to an inside facilitator who has facilitated 200+ hours

of workshops. Our longtime facility liaison, a true AVP champion, retired. Three outside facilitators were invited to offer re-entry sessions (not workshops) for a small group of high-security men who had spent years in solitary.

New Volunteers: Our volunteer coordinator has developed procedures for vetting potential facilitators and then tracking their progress in apprenticeships. We feel this work has created an enthusiastic and well-prepared cadre of facilitators. A next step is to develop new lead facilitators.

Trauma Awareness: In March 2015, we offered a community workshop for regional AVP facilitators on the topic of trauma awareness. Two Minnesota AVP facilitators (not counted in our stats above) who were experienced with this topic led the facilitation team; the workshop was deemed a success. Participants left with the challenge of how to use new skills/information in their prison workshop facilitation.

REPORT BY: Margy Willen (AVP-NNM)
WYOMING

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp,
Newcastle (men)
Wyoming Honor Farm, Riverton (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

(Honor Conservation Camp only, see below)
2 Basic workshops, 22 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 22 participants
1 T4F workshop, 5 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

7 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Wyoming Honor Farm
Workshops are 16 hours maximum. The scheduling at our minimum security prison only allows for eight hours per day. We do not do more than two-day workshops.

REPORT BY: Doug Newlin and Michael Bohn

Northwest Region: AK, ID, NV, OR, WA

ALASKA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Homer, private home
UAA Center for Human Development, College
of Health, Alaska Training Cooperative,
at Hands of Peace, Anchorage
Alaska Training Cooperative at Hands of
Peace, Fairbanks

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 43 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 27 participants
1 T4F workshop, 14 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

13 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

1) We have an AVP/AK Statewide Council
2) We have our own Alaska Certificates
3) A proposal and contact made with DOC
4) Roger Kluck outside facilitator assisted with the Advanced in February in Fairbanks and Lisa Roy assisted in facilitating an Advanced in June in Anchorage. The Advanced scheduled for Homer was cancelled as only five signed up.

REPORT BY: Karen Cauble and Lisa Cauble

IDAHO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Idaho State Correctional Institution

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 18 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 8 participants
1 T4F workshop, 8 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Boise State University

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 65 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

1 inside, 3 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Support activities: Three Thursdays per month we have facilitated about six guys in a group at ISCI. One is an inside apprentice facilitator, two Basic graduates, the rest new to AVP.

In our BSU workshops, we face the problem of assuring that our students/participants are voluntary and understand and buy into what the workshop is about. Some of our students know only that the workshop is under the Dispute Resolution Program and therefore has something to do with that topic. Also many are simply looking for an easy credit to fill out their schedules. And, being college students, some lack the maturity to delve deeply into the substance of the workshop.

As a result, these workshops can be very superficial. On the bright side, we do get one or three per workshop who express some interest in further workshops, and one or two have actually gotten involved with the prison workshops or with the local HROC effort.

REPORT BY: Ann Dusseau and Jim Williams

NEVADA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSCC),
Carson City – men's prison
Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC), Lovelock
-- men's prison

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

7 Basic workshops, 146 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 68 participants
2 T4F workshops, 29 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC), Lovelock
-- Unit 9 teen unit

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 10 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

27 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP Nevada ended 2015 on a hopeful note. A new Associate Warden in charge of programs quickly allowed the reestablishment of regular AVP workshops at one of the prisons that had held regular workshops in years past. A combination of factors was responsible for very few workshops at this prison in the months from September 2014 to October 2015: the retirement of both the warden and associate warden, an interim warden who was not program-friendly, and the departure of the AVP liaison at the prison. AVP Nevada is back on track for a regular schedule of workshops there, with inquiries from the new associate warden about increasing our presence. This prison now houses a Veterans' Unit, and the veterans will have priority in getting into AVP workshops.

In October, AVP Nevada held its first Youth Workshop, inside another prison where there is a segregated unit that houses teens. After months of inquiries, we were able to offer AVP to this unit of youths. We look forward to the

New Year with hope of increasing our outside facilitator numbers and possibly beginning to offer workshops at a new prison site, as groundwork has been laid for both.

REPORT BY: Rita Sloan

OREGON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem (state prison)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 24 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 9 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

3 inside, 9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We held the workshops at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, Oregon in the Activities Department. The workshops went well and we continue to not be able to use weekends because of staffing issues. We have increased our workshops to 4 per year and must use Fridays - usually consecutive - to get in our 18 hours. The Friday scheduling continues to be a problem for the inside facilitators and participants who must miss work. It is also difficult for outside participants and facilitators to take time off from work on Fridays.

We continue to hold AVP Reunions at OSP. We have increased to 4 a year and invite outside and inside participants who have participated in even one workshop. The Reunions are planned by the inside facilitators. They help us stay connected with AVP friends, we find out what is happening on the outside and the inside, and we enjoy some exercises and L&Ls.

A one day (8hrs) mini workshop was held in Portland, and a facilitator from there traveled to the Idaho State Correctional Institution to help Idaho AVP with Basic and T4F workshops.

REPORT BY: Bruce Stock and Ethen Perkins

WASHINGTON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Washington State Reformatory, Monroe (state prison)
Twin Rivers Unit, Monroe (state prison)
Northwest Detention Center (Tacoma City Jail)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

13 Basic workshops, 158 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 38 participants
1 T4F workshop, 10 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Seattle World Affairs Council
Seattle Group Health
Bellingham Explorations Academy

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 6 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 17 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

There has been a lot of change in 2015 for AVP in Washington. For several years we have had two organizations doing AVP in the state, one doing the prison work and one doing community work. At the close of 2015 Peace Between People decided to shut down and pass its prison work on to Projects for a Civil Society.

Our most exciting news is that we have started a program in a jail for incarcerated veterans. With support from the county Veterans Bureau and the jail, we are doing a workshop roughly every three weeks. In 2015 we did 10 workshops for them, as well as one for women in the jail. We have been conducting anger research in these and finding great results. We are rebuilding one prison program, still recovering from a year when no programming

was allowed in the prison after the murder of a CO. In the beginning of 2016 we began a partnership with a University program that has 200 students, all of whom need 100 hours of intern time. The administration has approved workshops for their interning, and we are just now beginning to work these students into the training pipeline. We hope it will mean more facilitators, more workshops, and more prisons. We've been blessed with several facilitators moving into our area from other states. There is a real sense of revitalization here!

For our other prison program where we're not currently doing workshops (space & facilitator availability problems), we're having bi-monthly Saturday meetings with inside facilitators. This meeting has aspects of support team ... and we've also explored ways that the AVP facilitators can contribute to TRU even without having workshops, e.g., making a connection with the younger gang members there.

Continuing to walk the talk. We had a one-day workshop for facilitators only, both to keep us "in shape" for doing workshops in the future ...

and just to give the guys more of an AVP hit. The workshop was incredible -- thanks to the depth of our AVP experience over the years and to our meeting regularly on Saturday, we naturally started at a much higher level of comfort and intimacy than a regular workshop. Some of the sharing that happened was profound.

Bellingham has been doing Community Workshops with prime support from the area Peace and Justice and Mediation organizations. It's been a great relationship, with them doing all the workshop organization, recruiting, site provision, and meals.

Again we've made a trip up to Alaska to help their reemerging AVP program get started. Our international visitors' workshops dropped this year to only one group, kids from Mexico (a mini). We are beginning dialogs with a couple of school districts and very hopeful there as well.

REPORT BY: Rick Krouskop and Monica Wood

Southwest Region: AZ, CA, HI

CALIFORNIA

PRISON, PROBATION AND JAIL WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

State Prisons:

California City Correctional Facility (CAC)

California City (men)

California Correctional Center (CCC)

Susanville (men)

California Correctional Institution (CCI)

Tehachapi (men)

*California Institute for Men (CIM)

Chino (men)

*California Institute for Women (CIW)

Chino (women)

*California Men's Colony (CMC)

San Luis Obispo (men)

*California Medical Facility (CMF)

Vacaville (men)

*Calipatria State Prison (CAP)

Calipatria (men)

California State Prison, Corcoran (COR) (men)

California State Prison, Los Angeles, Lancaster (men)

*California State Prison, Solano (SOL)

Vacaville (men)

Centinela State Prison (CEN)

Imperial (men)

Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)

Chowchilla (women)

Correctional Training Facility (CTF)
Soledad (men)
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP)
Blythe (men)
High Desert State Prison (HDSP)
Susanville (men)
*Ironwood State Prison (ISP) Blythe (men)
*R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD)
San Diego (men)
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran,
(SATF) Corcoran (men)
Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP)
Soledad (men)

Probation Departments:

Santa Barbara County Probation
Santa Barbara (Juveniles)
San Luis Obispo County Probation
San Luis Obispo (Juveniles)

County Jails:

San Francisco (SF) San Francisco (men)
San Luis Obispo Jails (SLO) San Luis Obispo
(Men/Women)
Santa Cruz County (SCZJ), Santa Cruz (men)

**PROBATION, PRISON & JAIL WORKSHOP
STATISTICS**

184 Basic workshops, 2,926 participants
117 Advanced workshops, 1,955 participants
34 T4F workshops, 515 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Antelope Valley, Bay Bridge, Chico, Homeboy
Industries (LA), Palm Desert, San Diego, San
Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz,
Santa Monica/Los Angeles, Santa Rosa, Sierra
Foothills

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

41 Basic workshops, 548 participants
10 Advanced workshops, 63 participants
7 T4F workshops, 46 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Antelope Valley, Oakland, San Luis Obispo,
Santa Barbara

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

25 Basic workshops, 411 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 6 participants

SPANISH WORKSHOPS *(included in total
prison statistics above)*

14 Basic workshops, 229 participants
7 Advanced workshops, 116 participants
1 T4F workshop, 15 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

636 inside, 198 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS: In 2015, AVP/CA completed 393 work-
shops in 20 state prisons, 3 jails, 2 probation
facilities, and 58 community settings, putting us
just below the 400 mark for the year and result-
ing in a 19 percent increase in total workshops
over 2014. We opened two new state prisons
and were active in several new communities.
The number of inside facilitators increased by
18 percent, from 543 to 636, while the number
of outside facilitators increased by just over 23
percent, from 163 to 198.

In 2015, AVP/CA was awarded two year-long
grants from the California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to help
increase the number of volunteers available to
go to prisons in underserved areas. These
grants involved increasing the volunteer base
for existing AVP programs at High Desert State
Prison, Susanville, and Chuckawalla Valley
State Prison, Blythe, as well as beginning a
new program at the California State Prison,
Corcoran. An Outreach Coordinator was hired
to implement each grant, working closely with a
group of very experienced AVP/CA facilitators.
With separate funds from individual donors, an
outreach coordinator was hired for the first of
three years to increase recruitment in
California's Central Valley. She is tapping a
wide variety of workshop participants from
Native Americans to Hmong people to the
Latino community and Unitarians.

During 2015, AVP/CA was certified as a

Service Enterprise by the California Points of Light working out of the Governor's office of the State of California and was also selected as one of the first of a number of non-academic or vocational programs that can earn selected inmates Milestone credits to help reduce their time served. This program was instituted as of July 31, 2015.

Again in 2015, due to more enlightened attitudes among voters and support from the State government, we were able to welcome even more of our experienced and talented inmate facilitators back to community, where many are now actively facilitating in community workshops and in supporting their local AVP councils.

AVP/CA successfully negotiated its second year operating as a "starfish" rather than a hierarchical organization, increasing the number of Steering Committee members to eleven. In addition to overseeing the many community, prison and probation/jail workshops, the Steering Committee launched a

new AVP/CA newsletter in 2015 and proceeded with the design of a new state website to be launched in Spring 2016.

CONCERNS: Despite some growth in the number of outside facilitators and the implementation of the outreach program, AVP/CA still could use many more volunteers to meet requests from both prison and the community for more workshops. Many of our experienced facilitators are serving at two or more prisons, as well as in the community, and are stretched pretty thin. AVP/CA is also looking to find more opportunities for individuals to provide voluntary support to the organization that does not necessitate facilitating workshops to help cover the large workload handled by the Steering Committee. We also need to put more effort into supporting our returning citizen facilitators who offer such a valuable resource to our community work.

REPORT BY: George Ramos, Ann Leonard, and all the California Prison and Community Coordinator