

**Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc.
(AVP)**

**The Committee of Local and
Regional Groups
(CLARG)**

**Annual Report for Calendar Year 2016
May 2017**

AVP

AVP-USA

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| | |
|---|------------|
| The Committee of Local and Regional Groups Report | 1 |
| CLARG Regional Representatives | 2 |
| <i>AVP/USA Regional Reports <u>underlined states have an active AVP program or a working presence</u></i> | |
| New England Region: <u>CT</u>, <u>MA</u>, <u>ME</u>, NH, RI, VT | 3 |
| New York Region: <u>NY</u> | 7 |
| Pennsylvania and New Jersey Region: <u>NJ</u>, <u>PA</u> | 10 |
| Mid-Atlantic Region: DC, <u>DE</u>, <u>MD</u>, VA, WV | 12 |
| Southeast Region: AL, <u>FL</u>, <u>GA</u>, <u>NC</u>, <u>SC</u>, <u>TN</u>, <u>VI</u> | 15 |
| Midwest Region: <u>IL</u>, <u>IN</u>, <u>KY</u>, <u>MI</u>, <u>OH</u> | 20 |
| Northern Midwest Region: <u>MN</u>, ND, <u>SD</u>, WI | 22 |
| Central Midwest Region: <u>IA</u>, <u>KS</u>, <u>MO</u>, <u>NE</u> | .24 |
| South Central Region: <u>AR</u>, LA, MS, OK, <u>TX</u> | .27 |
| Rocky Mountain Region: <u>CO</u>, MT, <u>NM</u>, UT, WY | .28 |
| Northwest Region: <u>AK</u>, <u>ID</u>, <u>NV</u>, <u>OR</u>, <u>WA</u> | .29 |
| Southwest Region: <u>AZ</u>, <u>CA</u>, HI | .33 |

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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, 279 participants
10 Advanced workshops, 147 participants
1 T4F workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

47 inside, 28 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Connecticut: We have received an expression of interest from Danbury Federal prison, where one inmate discovered AVP online and where another had become a facilitator in a state prison. Given the location of Danbury, close to Connecticut's western border with New York, it made sense to have the project be a joint one between Connecticut and AVP Westchester, and one facilitator from each program has now cleared into the Federal system and been oriented at the prison. After initial enthusiasm, though, the administration has been slow on follow-up, so no workshops have yet taken place.

We are still very pleased with our Commissioner of Corrections – who regularly visits AVP CT's Facebook page!

CT in general is making some good changes in its criminal justice system. There are four special units dedicated to re-entry:– one for men in general, one for veterans, one for women and one for youth. CT DOC has not yet followed up on its initial invitation to AVP to work with any of the units.

MacDougall: Workshops have gone well. Staffing has been a concern, since the excellent inside coordinator we got in January was laid off in May, and we returned to the

overburdened supervisor who let a lot of things slip. Refreshers have been intermittent. (Spoiler! The excellent person is back this spring!) The inside and the outside team both have outstanding facilitators, who work well together.

Osborn: We continue to have a very positive working relationship with our Osborn staff contacts, who have gone the extra mile in making workshops possible. We have good interactions with most of the correctional officers and appreciate their positive attitudes. Our monthly Facilitator Gatherings are a highlight of Osborn AVP. We have a one-day workshop designed by one facilitator, with several people taking exercises that are not among our usual repertoire. We have discovered several exercises that we have chosen to incorporate into regular workshops. We also use this time to have brief business meetings and for the month's team to plan their workshop. This monthly day together has really solidified our AVP bond: we know each other well; we are aware of each other's strengths; our workshops really benefit.

This year we held three Alumni workshops. Each was well received. Scheduling conflicts within the prison did affect attendance. We have yet to find a really workable regular date.

We regret not having our usual 11 monthly workshops. We count on having a workshop in every month but February when we do our T4F. In 2016 two workshops were canceled due to prison lockdowns. A third workshop was canceled when a snowstorm made travel for outside facilitators impossible. We'll hope for better luck in 2017!

York: We celebrated a lot of joys in 2016, including having three of our dedicated facilitators being released back into the community. We are fortunate to have a strong group of 14 inside facilitators continuing to provide support on the inside, but struggle to

recruit new outside volunteers. Despite having to spread ourselves a little thin, as one of our outside volunteers constantly says, “we are like a well-oiled machine” and our workshops continue to amaze and inspire.

During 2016 we tried incorporating some new facilitator exercises to hone our facilitation skills. One exercise is called “Spontaneous Combustion.” We split into groups of three and each person picks a paper with a different topic. One person has one minute to share their opinion on that topic, so they can practice being put on the spot and how to think and react quickly. When the minute is up, the two teammates give constructive feedback to the speaker, trying to frame it in a way that uplifts but also provides suggestions for improvement in delivery, tone, and overall presentation. Then the next person gets to speak, and so on and so forth. This is just one of several new exercises that we have incorporated into our facilitator meetings to keep the learning process going in between workshops, and to bring our facilitator community closer. Another joy to share is that our Coordinator was able to participate in a Basic level workshop at Wheatfield Detention Center in Dublin, Ireland while studying abroad in June. She was amazed by some of the differences, like inmates getting to wear any kind of clothing they choose (no uniforms!) and seeing inmates and guards watching television and drinking tea together without any hostility or sense of tension. She was able to share some of York AVP’s favorite exercises and bring home some of Wheatfield AVP’s favorite exercises to implement at York. It was an amazing experience to see how the power of AVP works no matter who is in the room, or where in the world you are!

We are optimistic that our recruiting efforts will be more fruitful in 2017, and look forward to increasing the total number of workshops provided each year.

Outside CT: One CT facilitator did an Advanced at Attica, an Advanced at Bedford Hills (women’s) and a community T4F in Westchester County 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 State Prison Warren

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 19 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

3 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

AVP Maine, based in southern Maine, Portland, found itself understaffed and unable to support workshops at Maine State Prison in Warren. AVP Maine was restored by former facilitators who had been inactive. The restored group met with the Maine State Commissioner for Corrections to establish a new relationship. Our meeting with the Commissioner and the Associate Commissioner was positive. We next met with the Warden and Assistant Warden for Programs for Maine State Prison in Warren, Maine. All meetings built on each other, and we established excellent rapport and credibility.

We held two basic workshops to begin in order to test our ability to deliver AVP as needed. The prison had us hold the two workshops in the medium unit.

Due to other obligations our small group of facilitators provided workshops only up to the end of the last quarter of 2016. We will again assemble as a group in the Spring of 2017. This strategy was presented to the prison administration and they support it.

AVP Maine held two basic workshops. 12 participants in the first and 7 participants in the second. We only had two available lead facilitators available for the end of 2016 with one apprentice facilitator. Two other facilitators are available but not during the last quarter of 2016. We foresee monthly workshops and the strong possibility of including weekly refresher sessions for those who have done a basic.

Concerns: Our small group has just begun this renewed effort to bring AVP to Maine State Prison. We are confident of good results but until we are established and clear with our intent and the intent of the administration at the facility we will be watchful and cautious.

Joys: We are thrilled to be back inside Maine State Prison. There are several trained inside facilitators housed in the area we are working. It would be good for us to convince the administration to include them in our workshops.

Other Activities

One of our lead facilitators traveled to New Mexico to establish AVP in Las Vegas. The community activists there became acquainted with AVP several years previously and contacted our facilitator to bring community training there. The effort culminated in one basic workshop being held early in 2017. The community continues to be energized and involved in the procedures to bring AVP to their area. We have compiled a list of contacts in the community and in AVP Northern New Mexico. The list has been shared with both groups and communication has been established to ensure continued growth of activities.

REPORT BY: George Goodwin

MASSACHUSETTS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

MCI Norfolk, (men)
North Central CC, Gardner, (men)
Northeast Correctional Center, Concord (men)
Old Colony Correctional Center (men)
MCI Shirley Medium, (men)
Essex County Correctional Center, Middleton (men) (county jail)
Essex County Pre-Release, Lawrence (men)

Currently inactive

Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center,
Lancaster (men)
MCI Cedar Junction, Walpole (men)
MCI Concord (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

30 Basic workshops, 343 participants
18 Advanced workshops, 199 participants
11 T4F workshops, 132 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

137 inside, 45 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

NECC Concord: There were no workshops at NECC for the first half of 2016 due to low sign-ups. The reason for this, as stated by the program administrator, was a changing population, where many were only signing up for 'good time' programs. Also, there had been a fluctuation of the census, as this prison only has a population of about 200 men.

We were able to start the workshops again in July, and they were met with great enthusiasm. In particular, the Manly Awareness workshop was especially well received, and was driven by the inmate facilitators, Daniel Chandler and Ryan Davidson.

MCI Gardner:

Joys:

- *Nine workshops were scheduled at NCCI, and there are eight enthusiastic and competent outside facilitators for this prison.*
- *The program has good support of a recreational officer, and we are working to enhance support of the new administrators. We have met together once since the change in staff.*
- *Administration has attended the last two graduation exercises of facilitator training.*
- *The outside facilitators for Gardner met at the coordinator's house, and three have attended potlucks for AVP-MA.*
- *Katie Green and Pat Miller-Fernandez appeared on Worcester cable TV to speak about AVP and to show the AVP video, When You Hear the Word Violence.*
- *We have arranged an agreement to extend day 3 by 15 minutes in order to*

include processing by facilitators at workshop's end.

- *The prison has been responsive to our concerns about safety (ex: absent CO on floor, no response to accidental alarm on volunteer.)*
- *We have two new vinyl banners: one for TP guidelines and a colorful AVP mandala.*
- *A mini workshop was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Worcester. The eight participants requested a weekly AVP workshop to complete the Basic*
- *Outreach to two of Worcester's CDCs resulted in the scheduling of one Basic workshop for the community. Unfortunately, this workshop was cancelled because of low enrollment. In spite of excellent support and publicity by the CDC staff, the residents were not able to commit to the three day weekend. We are thankful to Fred Feucht for his creative graphic designs. We are grateful for the response from the community and we will try to schedule these workshops in 2017.*

Concerns: The concerns at Gardner are primarily related to reported budget and staff cuts.

- *We are unable to get a support group started because we are told that there is "no space available". Scheduling for workshops is limited to weekdays. This does not allow men who work in Optical to participate.*
- *Our room was moved to smaller space with more auditory distractions (with CO's socializing outside our door).*
- *In the past two years, our time has been reduced by an hour each day.*
- *We have not been successful in arranging a special event to recognize inside facilitators.*
- *The coordinator for Gardner is in FL from December to May, and no one has been willing to step up to co-ordinate. Katie is therefore, as the NCCI volunteer coordinator says, "working from home".*

- *Katie asks that the volunteers have a standard for written evaluations (a couple of the outside facilitators provide limited information). Katie attempts to maintain a spread sheet. It includes participants, facilitators, dates, and pertinent information such as language and literacy competence, as well as facilitation skills.*
- *Katie's poor computer skills interfere with accuracy. This has interfered with sending information to the AVP-MA website.*

MCI Norfolk: 2016 has been a wonderful year for AVP at MCI Norfolk. The prison has experienced an increase in therapeutic programming of all kinds, all generously provided by volunteers. AVP has grown into a highly regarded, therapeutic program where folks are expected to open themselves to their own vulnerability. The program has a model of inside leadership that allows first time facilitators to work with 3rd time facilitators. All recognize that "teaching is learning twice." There is a tremendous sense of teamwork and mutual appreciation that is obvious in every workshop. There have been 6 new folks from the outside who are beginning the process and who will make great facilitators next year.

We are hosting the prison visit at this year's National Gathering. The planning team is very excited to have the opportunity to share how we approach the exercises in order to optimize emotional growth.

MCI Old Colony: The program has resumed after a gap of 2 ½ years. Its two workshops went well; all the facilitators were a little rusty, but OCCC has a very strong inside team and everyone was very supportive and helpful.

MCI Shirley Medium: Each workshop continues to provide participants and facilitators with innumerable moments of joy and pathos. Of particular concern was the prolonged absence of Christie Larkin, Director of Treatment due to a family illness, and the retirement of Susan Dickey, Christine's PA, after a prolonged absence due to illness. This led to one workshop cancellation, and we were

unable to orient any new facilitators. Things seem to be back on course at this time.

REPORT BY: Julie Crawford, Jo-Ann Della Guistina, Katie Green, Don Hague, Susan Jordan and Nancy Shippen

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

60 Basic workshops, 861 participants
71 Advanced workshops, 927 participants
17 T4F workshops, 184 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Alfred State College, Alfred
Arcade United Church of Christ, Buffalo
Brady Faith Center, Syracuse
Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church,
Buffalo
Delaware County Public Health, Delhi
Gandhi Institute, Rochester
Hoover home, Alfred
Ithaca Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse, Ithaca
Parkside Lutheran Church, Buffalo
Purchase Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse,
Purchase
Quaker United Nations Office, Manhattan
Redemption Center, Brooklyn

Riverfront Library, Yonkers
Scarsdale Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse,
Scarsdale
YMCA, Yonkers

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

7 Basic workshops, 72 participants
8 Advanced workshop, 81 participants
3 T4F workshops, 26 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Osborne Association, Bronx
Compass House, Buffalo
Eagleson-Scanlon home, White Plains
Friends Academy, Locust Valley
Franklin School, Franklin

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 52 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 14 participants
1 T4F workshop, 13 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

256 inside, 87 outside (80 adult, 7 youth)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP New York's work in 2015

In 2016, AVP New York held 174 full (18 -22 hours) three-day workshops, up from 155 in 2015. While the number of active incarcerated facilitators dropped from 281 in 2015 to 256 in 2016, we grew the number of active outside (civilian) adult facilitators a bit from 77 in 2015 to 80 in 2016. Seven youth facilitators served on-team in 2016.

The number of hours our volunteers put in is impressive. Inside (incarcerated) facilitators volunteered more than 15,750 hours and outside facilitators more than 8,750 hours to hold more than 3,800 in-session workshop hours with 2,369 participants in full (18 hour

minimum) workshops and 120 participants in mini (half-day) workshops.

Landing Strips in Brooklyn and Rochester are lively – meeting weekly and monthly respectively. Our new Landing Strip in the Bronx met occasionally in 2016. (In 2017, we are pleased to announce, our Bronx Landing Strip has found more stable footing, meeting 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 148 full workshops inside sixteen prisons (including one federal prison) with 1,972 participants. Four of those workshops were in Spanish (Sing Sing CF and Bedford Hills CF). One all-facilitator workshop focused on strengthening our facilitation skills. We trained 164 new apprentice facilitators inside the walls.

Our team at our first federal prison in many years – FCI Ray Brook – was honored to learn that AVP has been named a Model Program by the Federal Bureau of Prisons! Congratulations to Outside Coordinator Steve Bradley and the team at Ray Brook!

Our annual Forum Day was held at Elmira Prison this year and fifteen inside facilitators joined with fourteen outside facilitators from across the state. The Elmira team led us in a fruitful and fun day.

Special topic workshops in prison focused on re-entry, responsibility / accountability, anger, manly awareness, relationships, women of courage, grief, forgiveness, parenting and trauma resilience.

In 2015 we reported that our program at Green Haven Prison had been severely cut in terms of the number of workshops allowed and the number of hours permitted for each workshop. We are pleased to report that in 2016 the administrative staff allowed a few more workshops and our workshop hours have been

restored to the full 22-24 in-session hours. We are grateful for Outside Coordinator Carolyn Polikarpus and the team's patience and persistence in finding ways to work with what was possible.

Our relationship with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision continues to be challenging. We acknowledge that we have not adequately trained outside coordinators in that work. We plan to address this going forward. We also understand that following the escape from Clinton Prison in 2015, and the subsequent Inspector General's report that harshly admonishes DOCCS, all staff and volunteers throughout the system are under much closer scrutiny.

In 2015 our Outside Coordinator at Attica Prison lost her volunteer status with NYS DOCCS due to correspondence with an inside facilitator. We are grateful to DOCCS for not suspending the program at Attica and to Hannah Brown for ably stepping into coordinating there.

In 2016 our Outside Coordinator at Elmira Prison was suspended by NYS DOCCS for sharing an article about the nationwide prison strike with inside facilitators. Again, we are grateful to DOCCS for not suspending the program and to Kathleen Gale for ably stepping into coordinating.

In 2016 our program at Groveland Prison was suspended by NYS DOCCS. At this writing we are still not clear on the reason for the suspension but we have received encouraging signs from DOCCS that the program will be restored soon.

In 2016 the administration at Eastern Prison confiscated all of the AVP manuals from the inside facilitators and commenced an investigation of our manuals. Subsequently DOCCS Central Office has become involved in the investigation that continues at this writing.

These challenges have renewed our faith in Transforming Power. We remain open and

ready to listen and revise our position, seeking to carry the conversation and the relationship with DOCCS forward, trusting that all involved deeply value AVP and seek ways to make it workable for all.

Our Work in Communities

We held 26 full (18 hour minimum) workshops with 218 adults and 42 youth and trained 26 adult and 13 youth apprentice facilitators. We also held six mini workshops with 50 adults and 25 youth. Two facilitator days provided opportunity for 19 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.

Genesee Valley Area Council held an advanced workshop with seven participants in Rochester. Nadine Hoover led a series of workshops in Alfred, which drew students from Alfred State College and Alfred University as well as people from the community. Eighteen completed both the basic and a special topic on trauma resilience. Nadine and team also held two thirty-hour intensives, the first on practicing peace and the second on practicing conscience, with twelve and eleven participants respectively.

Niagara Frontier Area Council continued their work with youth who are homeless or close to becoming homeless at the Compass House Resource Center in Buffalo. They held a full basic (Level 1) workshop and a ten-hour mini with thirteen youth. The area council also held a basic with four participants at Arcade United Church of Christ and another basic with ten participants, including some seminary students, at Columba-Brigid Roman Catholic Church in Buffalo.

At Osborne Association in the Bronx, T. Haywood led two workshops with young adults. At the Redemption Center in Brooklyn, Mark Graham led all three levels of workshops, training six new apprentice facilitators.

Central New York Area Council held a mini workshop with 22 (including 12 youth) from Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) in Syracuse and a basic in Ithaca with nine participants.

Westchester Area Council held eight full workshops with seventy-two adults and one youth in Purchase, White Plains, Scarsdale, and Yonkers. Two training for facilitators workshops graduated twenty new apprentice facilitators. A mini workshop with twelve American Friends Service Committee interns was held at the Quaker United Nations Office in Manhattan.

Our Work in Schools

Our Catskill Area Council's program at Franklin and Delhi Schools trained thirteen new apprentice facilitators.

At Friends Academy on Long Island, John Scardina coordinated two workshops with middle and high school youth, parents and teachers.

Our Work Outside of NYS

Several AVP/NY facilitators attended the AVP/USA Annual Gathering in Denver, Colorado and Milton Román and Bill Leicht presented an Aiki/AVP mini workshop there. Through Friends Peace Teams' Peacebuilding en Las Americas, Shirley Way and Fazilee Buechel served on-team with Salomon Medina (PLA's Country Coordinator for AVP in El Salvador) to hold three basic workshops and a training for facilitators workshop in El Salvador. Basic workshop participants were teachers and staff at a Friends school, women from a rural community and parishioners from an evangelical Christian church in San Salvador. The newly trained apprentice facilitators were from the organization Co-Madres – women and men whose loved ones were disappeared during the civil war. This work feels like just the beginning for both Shirley and Fazilee. Nadine Hoover continues to coordinate Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific, supporting AVP-Indonesia administratively, and hosting the annual International Peace Training in Pati, Central Java, January 4 - 10, with participants

from the U.S., Australia, Philippines, West Papua, Sumatra, Java and Nusa Tenggara Tengah, covering AVP Basic, Trauma Resiliency and Developmental Play. She held a similar workshop in Langkat, North Sumatra, January 16 - 22. She visited AVP-Aceh, but the program there has waned.

Nadine spent most of the year writing *Creating Cultures of Peace*, which describes all the activities on the core special topics that Conscience Studio is using in the Basic Empowerment, Trauma Resiliency,

Developmental Play, Liberation from Oppression, Liberty of Conscience and Discernment workshops. She began working on understanding and thinking about discernment as the consensus of conscience, and what implications that has for AVP.

Our Gratitude. Many thanks to all who do this work and who make this work possible.

REPORT BY: Shirley Way and all AVP/NY workshop coordinators

Pennsylvania / New Jersey Region

NEW JERSEY

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

8 Basic workshops, 101 participants
5 Advanced workshops, 67 participants
3 T4F workshops, 33 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting, Summit
Haddonfield Quaker Meeting, Haddonfield
Neptune City Community Center, Neptune City

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 41 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 10 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

AVP Summer Camp at Chatham Summit
Quaker Meeting, Summit

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 17 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 17 participants
1 T4F workshop, 11 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

30 inside, 27 outside

JOYS

We continue to work in two of New Jersey's 13 state prisons and in community settings. In 2016, we conducted 22 workshops – 9 at Edna Mahon Correctional Facility for Women, 6 at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility (young adult men) and 7 in community settings. We served 142 participants in Basic workshops, 94 in Advanced workshops, and 44 in Training for Facilitators workshops. We estimate that about 2,550 volunteer hours were served in 2016.

We also held AVP samplers or brief mini-workshops for the Haddonfield Quarterly Quaker Meeting, Monmouth University's Graduate Program in Corporate and Public Communication, Scotch Plains Baptist Church, and the Burlington Tri-Quarter Quaker gathering at Camp Ockanickon in Medford.

In its second year, the AVP summer camp was again a success. It put a group of 17 middle- and high school aged youth through the equivalent of Basic and Advanced workshops, with 11 of them also completing a T4F workshop later in the year. Some of the youth who had participated in the 2015 summer camp joined the adults as facilitators for this year's

program. We are working to bring some of the summer camp youth to the AVP National Gathering in Boston this summer.

In 2016 we were fortunate to have two returned citizens among our outside facilitators, strengthening their skills at community workshops. We were able to provide hospitality for one of them and pay both small stipends.

In 2016 we began working to establish AVP in the Asbury Park/Neptune area. We held the first Basic workshop in Neptune City in February for 11 participants and then formed a Local Council to support the initiative, made up of local facilitators and several participants from the first Basic. That group helped publicize a second Basic workshop in Neptune, which drew 13 participants. A third Basic workshop is scheduled in nearby Asbury Park in February, and we hope to offer an Advanced workshop this Spring.

CONCERNS

One of our continuing challenges this year was the small number of lead facilitators. Having only five people willing to organize and lead workshops regularly makes it difficult to serve our two prisons, add additional prisons, or build strong community partnerships. Although 27 outside facilitators were active in 2016, 19 of these served on workshop teams only once or twice during the year. In addition, long-time outside lead facilitators and strong inside facilitators will be retiring, moving out of state, released, etc. in 2017, further reducing our ranks. We celebrate their life passages, but will miss their skill and commitment that made our organization strong.

In 2016 we trained 44 new facilitators: 21 at the women's prison, 12 at the men's prison and 11 youth outside. We had roughly 30 female and 11 male inside facilitators at two prisons; however, a number of the women on the list have gone home or have not responded to invitations to join workshop teams as facilitators. Rapid turnover in the minimum security area of the women's prison (release to halfway houses) has diminished the team of

inside facilitators we previously had there.

REPORT BY: Eleanor Novek

PENNSYLVANIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Basic workshops, 93 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 35 participants

PRISON SHORT WORKSHOPS

(SCI Graterford allows only 14.5-hour workshops)

5 Basic workshops, 82 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 29 participants
3 T4F workshops, 18 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

New Jerusalem Recovery Program,
Philadelphia
Williamsport (North Central)
Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster
Crispus Attucks Community Center
Millersville University
Palestine and Israel – Ramallah, Hebron, Tel
Aviv

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

14 Basic workshops, 99 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 22 participants

COMMUNITY SHORT WORKSHOP STATISTICS (7 ½ hours) New Jerusalem

10 Advanced workshops, 166 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

21 inside, 29 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Graterford: We held a mindfulness retreat as an Advanced workshop.

FCI McKean: Central PA AVP has continued doing workshops at FCI McKean near Bradford, PA since 2008. After a few years of administrative uncertainty, we have been

fortunate that the AVP program has now been officially brought under the purview of the Reentry Affairs program that has allowed us to hold the workshops in their separate building. Interest in the program from inmates remains very high, but our major challenge is that the number of outside facilitators available to help lead workshops has dropped from five to two. We hope that we will be able to attract new people to join our team doing workshops at this facility. Our chapter has also been happy to support development of the new AVP program in Williamsport, now called North Central AVP.

North Central: We are in the process of establishing a new local program with a cycle of community workshops in Williamsport. This was made possible with the help of facilitators from New York, especially Elmira, as well as Central PA and the Philadelphia area. Feedback from participants has been extremely positive – for example, one written evaluation from each Basic workshop commented that AVP can change your life. We look forward to training a group of local facilitators and expanding the program to prison and/or youth.

South Central/Lancaster County: The South Central PA AVP Council had more organizational meetings in 2016 than in previous years. We provided workshops and minis in the community, at the Lancaster Quaker Meetinghouse, at the Crispus Attucks

community program which serves the minority communities, and Millersville University. In addition to two Basic workshops and an Advanced workshop, we conducted mini workshops for 150 high school youth at Millersville University during an all-day youth/law enforcement community event. We activated an AVP facilitator who had taken a long break from facilitation. We began an AVP training for staff and consumers of the Re-Entry Management Organization, which helps released prisoners adjust back to the Lancaster community. (We completed an AVP workshop series for 7 in 2017. These new facilitators will now begin their apprenticeships.)

Two of our facilitators continued their travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza to help develop AVP in those territories. One facilitator went on a Learning Tour of Iran with the intention of developing interest in AVP for Iran.

New Jerusalem Community: We hope to have two new Gold Certificate facilitators by May 2017. We need to find new locations for 3-day Advanced workshops and 3-day Training for Facilitators workshops.

REPORT BY: Charles Boyd, Joe DiGarbo and Anne Wallace-DiGarbo, Campbell Plowden, Leslie Stevenson, Anne Swoyer, Gloria Upanavage and Tony White

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

DELAWARE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Howard R. Young State Correctional Institution,
Wilmington
James T Vaughn State Correctional Institution,
Smyrna
Sussex State Correctional Institution,
Georgetown

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

22 Basic workshops, 302 participants
11 Advanced workshops, 142 Participants

5 Specialty workshops, 70 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Friends Meeting House, Wilmington
First Unitarian Church, Wilmington
Project New Start, Claymont

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 12 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 13 Participants
1 T4F workshop, 5 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

42 inside, 6 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

2016 was a building year for AVP in Delaware. While workshops in our three men's State Correctional Institutions continued as in 2015, the majority of our outside prison facilitators and some former inmate Facilitators, now returned to our community, pitched in to help build a team of new community facilitators – **AVP Northern Delaware**. Their goal is to offer more workshops in the community, in the schools, and in community correction programs. This has created a "vortex of energy" to use AVP to reduce the community violence in Wilmington, to train teachers to introduce students to the transforming power of AVP, and to strengthen "Returning Citizens" as they go forward on a new path.

Project New Start in Claymont, DE, an eleven-week program for Returning Citizens, has incorporated both the AVP Basic and Advanced workshops in their program. We completed our first class in the fall and will repeat these workshops in the spring to a new class.

AVP Sussex Correctional has shifted the focus of their workshop toward positive language by simply beginning with the words created in our weekend Ground Rules. This creates an atmosphere of possibility and hope!!!! In the fall they facilitated a bilingual Spanish-English Basic Workshop. It was so successful that they will offer a bilingual Spanish-English Advanced Workshop in the spring of 2017.

AVP in Howard R. Young Correctional reports that 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.

The Commissioner of Delaware's Department of Corrections announced to a statewide forum on understanding ways Delaware is improving the Justice System that the Alternatives to Violence Project is one of the most effective programs offered to incarcerated men and women. He was giving examples of ways that an incarceration can be an opportunity to strengthen and grow in more effective and more sustainable ways.

In a panel discussion in Sussex County, the Director of Youth Rehabilitation Services and the Bureau Chief of the Department of Corrections were discussing new reforms in 2016. During the Questions and Comments section, one of our former Inmate AVP Facilitators, Bold Brian, spoke about the powerful force AVP was in his many years of incarceration – first as a participant and then 25 years as a Facilitator. He finally is back in the community and would like to help struggling youth. Immediately, the YRS Director and several community agency workers in the audience connected with him. The entire audience clapped to support Bold Brian.

AVP Delaware participated in Wilmington's Peace Week by offering a workshop (or "mini workshop") on AVP. As a result we have another set of trainings for more new AVP Facilitators in our community. One participant is an administrator for the Christiana School District, one participant is interested in working with veterans, and several participants are interested in working in our State Women's Baylor Correctional Institution.

Community Mini Workshops

44 participants in three community mini workshops -- one in Dover, one at Christiana High School in Newark (with students, teachers, and administrators from the school), and one at Wilmington Friends Meeting House,

Wilmington as part of Peace Week Delaware.

Some sad news is that our program at the Women's State Correctional Institution, Baylor, folded as a result of multiple changes in the institution. We hope to resurrect this program in 2017.

REPORT BY: Rachel Grier-Reynolds

MARYLAND

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI),
Westover

Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI), Jessup
Maryland Correctional Institution, Hagerstown
Maryland Correctional Institution, Jessup
Maryland Correctional Institution for Women,
Jessup

Maryland Correctional Training Center,
Hagerstown

Patuxent Institution, Jessup
Roxbury Correctional Institution,
Hagerstown

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

40 Basic workshops, 608 participants
20 Advanced workshops, 304 participants
8 T4T workshops, 91 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Druid Heights Community Development
Center, Baltimore

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 3 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

157 inside, 45 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys: For ECI, 2016 marked nine years of monthly workshops, provided at this point by one outside facilitator and alternating between the two sides of the institution. The program is supported by the Episcopal Diocese on the Eastern Shore. Martha Baer is now coordinating the work at MCI-W (women's prison) as well as the program at MCI-J, so the program at MCI-W will be revived after losing

its outside coordinator last year. There is a strong program at MCI-J which is able to offer two workshops at a time and offers some additional shorter workshops, called "Power Ups," for those who have completed their basic and advanced workshops. Several other programs are using the Power Up model to keep those who have been trained engaged, including MCTC and Patuxent. Two programs are able to offer workshops in Spanish and 3 of the reported Basic Workshops were in Spanish in 2016. The program at Patuxent Institution now serves both the men's and the women's sides. The expansion to the women is new and a T4T has recently been held. Roxbury Institution's program is also managed by only one outside facilitator, who reports strong support from the administration and who coordinated 11 workshops last year.

There has been more interest recently by facilitators to work at more than one institution or program, with several branching out to help at other programs.

A focused effort is being made to host community workshops in Baltimore. The focus is on those involved in re-entry, though others are welcome. Richard Thayer and Elizabeth Duverlie continue to work on this and hope more workshops will be held in 2017 with the coordination of the case workers at the Druid Heights Development Center.

Concerns: The program at the Metropolitan Transition Center in Baltimore is no longer in operation in spite of the Center's interest because facilitators could not be found to lead the program.

The Department of Public Safety and Corrections in Maryland has been realigning its priorities, requiring additional paperwork and orientation of volunteers, which in some institutions has made it more difficult to get potential volunteers into the prisons to train them. Some programs are having a more difficult time with filling workshops because of a lot of movement of people in the system. The small non-profit at MCI-H that has supported the AVP program there (and other prison

programs) was disbanded by DPSCS, which is a loss, though the AVP program is still being scheduled to do workshops.

When this report is compared to earlier years, it appears that we do have fewer active facilitators in Maryland than we did just a few years ago. The Annual Regional meeting held

in the fall had a small attendance, though it was a productive meeting.

REPORT BY: Rev. Penelope Morrow, Martha Baer, Rebecca Alder, Bill Denison, Ron Williams, Ed Sabin, Alexandra Silanskis, Beth Curry, Anthony Newman and Richard Thayer and 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

15 Basic workshops, 319 participants

11 Advanced workshops, 156 participants

2 T4F workshops, 23 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

5 Star Veterans' Center, Jacksonville
Tampa Friends Meeting House, Tampa

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 11 participants

1 Advanced workshop, 18 participants

1 T4F workshop, 12 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

St Johns Youth Academy, Juvenile Detention
Center, St Augustine (HIPP)

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 13 participants

1 Advanced workshop, 13 participants

1 T4F workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

68 inside, 21 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Miami: One of the best activities AVP Miami

has started in the past 2 years is the Facilitator Mentee program. Inside people who are interested in being facilitators come and shadow or mentee with a facilitator during a workshop. This gives them the opportunity to see what a workshop is like from the other side, before they are fully trained. This lets them decide if they want to continue with the full training and it prevents us from training people and then having them drop off later – after they discover that facilitating requires some work. This program has helped us retain more of our newly trained facilitators, because some of them were mentees first.

In 2016 the State of Florida discontinued bringing any snacks or drinks of any kind for all programs. This change did not impact participation as much as we thought it would, but it did decrease the numbers slightly. Through the generous donations of inside facilitators, we were still able to have 1-2 cups of coffee per day during the workshops.

We conducted a 1 day teambuilding training for the Inside facilitators at ECI, as well as an Advanced Special Topic Gender Awareness 2-day workshop, which was held at ECI. HCI and ECI both had Holiday Gathering Celebrations in December. The Holiday Gathering is an event which anyone who has participated in AVP can attend. It is a great opportunity for them to reconnect with the AVP community and have a joyous time in the spirit of the season. This year we did not have any snacks or candy, due to the ban on food, but the inside facilitators (at both facilities) donated enough

coffee for the nearly 200 participants to all have a cup.

During Fall 2016, AVP Miami had an intern from the Adult Education and Human Resource Development Master's Program at Florida International University. He helped with promoting AVP to student groups by doing presentations, emailing and corresponding with other non-profits, attending community events and established an AVP Miami Facebook page. The intern was successful at securing several strong volunteer leads, some of whom did complete their Department of Corrections clearance paperwork, but have not attended a workshop.

Tampa Bay: After many years of attempts to engage new AVP participants in the community, we are experiencing more involvement in Tampa Bay. People are seeing that AVP can offer something worthwhile in our current social and political environment. We have 6 seasoned outside facilitators and four in the pipeline. We have extended beyond the Tampa Bay area, fostering AVP in Jacksonville, and sparking interest in Gainesville and Tallahassee.

In addition, we have held a Mini-Basic workshop in Dunedin and were invited to participate in a Faith-Based Symposium with what we called a "nano" workshop with more than 20 participants (Marilyn Williams and Beverly Ward, facilitators). The symposium was hosted by the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and in partnership with the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council and other statewide partners.

Vincent Cobb, Kathy Hersh, and Nancy O'Byrne also facilitated youth workshops at a detention center in the St. Augustine area. There were three (3) HIPP all 3 levels for thirteen boys at St. James Academy, St. Augustine, FL, juvenile detention center. Six boys did T for F and have been giving minis in the center. Team: Nancy O'Byrne, St. Augustine, Kelly Watts and Vincent Cobb, Tampa, and Kathy Hersh, Miami.

After 15 years of camp AVP, we work with often changing administration and line staff to make it happen, despite inevitable major obstacles. Out of 400-500 camp women, over 20% at any given time have taken some form of AVP. Coleman is the largest federal correctional facility in the US, at around 8,000 men and women in all levels of security, and is 60 miles N. of Tampa.

Around 50% are now Hispanic at the camp, from several Spanish speaking countries. Our AVP offers AVP in English & Spanish. Bi-lingual trained facilitators adapt what they learn into Spanish, and do a marvelous job. We now have one bi-lingual outside facilitator, who is going through the hoops herself to become an AVP facilitator with the camp women.

Coleman Camp stats for 2016: 20 AVP monthly workshops total (181 participants), 11 Basic (121 participants), 8 Advanced (51 participants), 1 T4F (9 participants). In English, 14 workshops; In Spanish, 6 workshops. All day Skill Building Day with inside facilitators is a fun annual learning event for community building, brainstorming, deconstructing workshop activities, etc. Advanced topics include: Addictions & Recovery; Boundaries & Self-Esteem; Distant Relationships w/Family & Friends; Diversity & Community; Domestic Violence; Forgiveness of Self & Others; Loss, Grief & Growth; Resilience & Creativity; Transforming Power; Wellness & Health; Women in Transition, etc.

REPORT BY: Chaundra Whitehead (Miami); Christina Bellamy (Tampa Bay); Elaine Martin (Jacksonville) and Bev Ward overall

GEORGIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Lee Arrendale State Prison (women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 34 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 22 participants
1 T4F workshop, 13 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur
Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw
Georgia State University, Atlanta
Clarkston Community Center, Clarkston
Crossroad for Life Ministries, Douglasville

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

7 Basic workshops, 88 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 24 participants
2 T4F workshops, 20 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

13 inside, 18 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

2016 was another fabulous year that saw AVP Georgia continue to grow! We offered a total of 17 workshops and grew from 14 active facilitators to 31! Our community program is thriving with monthly workshops (except in December) offered in five different locations around greater Atlanta. This year we expanded our reach by offering a workshop in Douglasville GA (25 miles west of Atlanta). This workshop was offered in partnership with the recently elected Sheriff and the Crossroads for Life Ministries to a group of returning citizens. In addition to our full workshops, we held a one day "Facilitator Skill and Community Building day" in August for our growing team of outside facilitators to build community and practice their skills.

Our youth offerings also saw expansion through an exciting partnership with Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence (WRC). We offered weekly AVP sessions over an 8 week summer camp (CAMP PEACE) to 13 youth (ages 10-14) who were or had been living at the WRC safe house. We are currently planning to offer AVP to two age groups at the 2017 CAMP PEACE and looking for more opportunities to offer AVP Youth Workshops.

Our most exciting development in 2016 was the launch of our AVP program at Lee Arrendale State Prison, a women's prison outside of Atlanta. Between January and June we trained our first cohort of 13 inside facilitators each of whom had apprenticed on a

workshop team at least once by the end of the year. We held our first Inside Facilitator Council meeting in December and continue to work with the prison on expanding our offerings and growing our program. In the fall, we launched a successful fundraising campaign to support our work at Arrendale. Thank you to all of our generous donors and to the Atlanta Friends Meeting for continued support. Finally, a BIG shout out to all our new and continuing facilitators who are stepping up and helping us build AVP in Georgia!

REPORT BY: Heather Pincock

NORTH CAROLINA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Butner Federal CI, Butner

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 30 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 15 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 8 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 12 participants
1 T4F workshop, 12 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We are really excited about our prospects. We now have a core of outside facilitators and two prisons at the federal correctional complex at Butner now have AVP programs. We will soon have inside facilitators at both those prisons. In the state prison system, we are going to have programs at the re-entry facilities as soon as they come online. We will soon be doing staff training at the largest state institution and DOC is very interested in having AVP in other prisons. We have an excellent relationship with DOC administration.

REPORT BY: John A. Shuford

SOUTH CAROLINA

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

2 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We scheduled 2 workshops but were unable to get enough participants. We held 3 mini-workshops in the community which were fairly well attended and thus had a data base of people who might be interested in full workshops. We have a strong steering committee which meets monthly. We developed bi-laws. We joined AVP-USA to get tax free status and opened a bank account. We have 8 active facilitators who have completed at least part of the apprenticeship. So far, in 2017 we have had 2 workshops and hopefully we will have a 3rd the last weekend in April.

REPORT BY: Sallie I. Prugh

TENNESSEE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

201 Poplar, youthful offenders pod, Memphis Jail East, youth under 21, incarcerated as adults, Memphis

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 36 participants
1 T4F workshop, 6 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Memphis Friends Meeting
Nashville Friends Meeting
Inglewood United Methodist Church, Nashville

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS:

4 Basic Workshops, 28 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 18 participants
2 T4F workshops, 14 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Bridges Youth Empowerment Center, Memphis

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 40 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

17 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Memphis:

We had our first AVP workshop in Memphis October 2015. Then we had SIX workshops in 2016 — a very busy year! 3 in prison working with the young men under 25; 2 community; and 2 youth workshops at Bridges, a Memphis youth empowerment program, where two of our AVP facilitators work.

We had a lot of help from outside. Martin Kraft and Jalani Traxler from Atlanta; Marge Schlitt from Nebraska; Dawn Addy and her son from Florida. (And everyone drove! AVP people are insane. We offered to buy plane tickets!) We are developing a strong core of facilitators in Memphis. With so much going on, it can be bumpy. But the jail administration has been supportive, and one of our facilitators is the director of youth services at the jail. She is a wonder.

In addition to our weekend workshops, we had minis at the Gandhi/King Youth Conference with 40 teenagers, another mini at Rhodes College with college students, co-sponsored by the Black Student Association, and a handful of minis and continuing education with the apprentice facilitators at the 201 Poplar jail. In Memphis, AVP has started to become a tool in the culture of two youth initiatives: Bridges and Incarcerated Youth Speaking Out for Change (IYSOC). We also held a public screening of the *In an Ideal World* documentary at the Quaker meetinghouse.

We did not do an Advanced workshop in prison, but some participants who did both basics were given Advanced training & certificates. This is because the first basic was led by Atlanta facilitator Martin Kraft, who does a combined Basic/Advanced workshop.

Nashville:

In Nashville, we also had a busy year. Rubye Braye was the lead facilitator for our Advanced workshop. We had several participants from out of state for our Training for Facilitators

workshop, and Michael Hackett, a new facilitator from Asheville, returned to apprentice at a Basic Workshop.

During the year, we did a great deal of outreach in the community, including a one-hour session at the Regional Gathering for the Nashville Friends Meeting; two two-hour workshops for the Social and Emotional Learning Conference, sponsored by the Nashville Public Schools, Alignment Nashville's Behavioral Health team and CASEL and held in Nashville; two two-hour workshops at the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting, and an in-service for teachers at the local Waldorf school.

Throughout the school year, we have facilitated a class at a local Middle School. Although we only go to the school twice a month, we have learned quite a lot about working with middle school students. Hopefully, we will be able to continue at the school next year.

Thanks to a supportive judge in Nashville, we have had two workshops where some of the participants were referred to us by the court on first offense assault cases. Participants were able to take their certificates back to court, allowing them to have their jail time excused and their records expunged. The participants were very enthusiastic about this program.

We held three Power-ups on Friday evening where we invited interested people to attend and where the facilitators were able to try new gatherings, Light and Livelies, exercises and closings. The Power-ups which had a cohesive theme proved to be the most thought provoking and were a good opportunity to build the AVP community and give facilitators a chance to try new things.

REPORT BY: Ann Sieber and Trina Baum

VIRGIN ISLANDS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS
Aureo Diaz Alternative School, St Croix

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 13 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 8 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys: The Virgin Islands AVP, St. Thomas and St. Croix, has maintained a community presence with a core group of four outside facilitators.

The facilitators have been able to meet over the last year on a quarterly basis via teleconferencing.

Two proposals were submitted and accepted by the Department of Education; one for training the Alternative School Staff and the other to develop an anti-bullying training for 4-6th graders using HIPP on St. Thomas.

St. Croix:

A Basic and an Advanced Workshop were held at the Aureo Diaz Alternative School; thirteen completed Basic, eight the Advanced Workshop held August 29-30 for Basic and August 31- September 1, and one (1) mini was held for the Housing Authority later in the Fall.

Facilitator presentation at the St. Croix campus of the University of the Virgin Islands during activities celebrating International Day of Peace on September 16.

St. Thomas:

Mini for 100 children and 28 adults to train and present conflict resolution alternatives and team building to participants as a part of the 3-day Anti-Bullying Initiative, September 27-30th.

Concerns:

With the transfer of inside facilitators and the changing administration at the Golden Grove Correction facility, it has been difficult to reestablish AVP.

The group decided *not* to pursue its group's individual 501c3 status, as member participation and bank maintenance have

become major stumbling blocks.

Consistency in providing service to the community is attributed to the lack of

corresponding schedules.

REPORT BY: Carmen Hamilton, St. Thomas, and Rachel Pakenham, St. Croix

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

ILLINOIS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The only AVP group operating in Illinois in recent years is in the Chicago area, based out of the Lawndale Christian Community Church. Sadly, the contact person for the AVP Chicago group, Darryl Saffore, died unexpectedly in June of last year. Darryl was the leading force behind the Chicago group and since his death, I have lost all contact with the other members. I am not aware of any AVP workshops taking place in Illinois in 2016. At last count there were still at least seven trained AVP facilitators in this group but to date, none have responded to email or phone calls. My hope is to find a way to reconnect with this group this year and see if there is any way AVP Midwest Region might be able to support them in the future.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner

INDIANA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, Indianapolis (Men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 52 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 24 participants
2 T4F workshops, 18 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

West Richmond Friends Meeting

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 6 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 9 participants
1 T4F workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

12 inside, 11 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This has been another busy year for AVP Indiana. We were able to incorporate under the AVP USA umbrella and hosted our first Annual Gathering in July. Our facilitators gained enough experience finally to branch out to do more workshops independently, so we often had two workshops going on the same weekend in different locations. We sent five facilitators to Michigan and Kentucky to help new AVP groups in those areas conduct workshops. We consistently got more requests for workshops that we could accommodate, including requests for help from other states. We hope to give more support to AVP Ohio in the coming year.

We continue to offer workshops at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF). Because it is a re-entry facility, many of our inside facilitators are released shortly after receiving their training. However, a number of them have contacted us since being released, hoping to reconnect with AVP on the outside. We are still working on ways to make that work and to continue to support our returned citizen facilitators. Because of difficulties with scheduling at IREF, we had fewer workshops last year. However, we managed at the end of the year to start an AVP support group for inside facilitators which has gone exceptionally well. This inside group has met a couple of times with outside facilitators to do continuous learning exercises, practice facilitation skills, and craft agendas. This is part of an ongoing effort by our Core Organizing Group (COG) to support our inside facilitators and to keep them informed about what AVP Indiana is doing, as

well.

Another exciting development occurred this summer when our facilitators were asked to help present a mini-workshop at Western Yearly Meeting in Plainfield, Indiana. This was attended by over 30 people, including the Director of Religious and Volunteer Programs at the Indiana Department of Corrections. He was impressed enough to give us the green light to start AVP in other correctional facilities in the state. Plainfield Correctional Facility in particular requested that we start the program there as soon as possible. We held a mini-workshop with staff and administration at Plainfield in October with 17 participants. Our first workshop at Plainfield took place in January 2017.

In addition, we planned a youth workshop during the school fall break in October, but due to the short notice, we did not have enough registered to do an entire workshop. Instead it became a mini-workshop to help give participants an idea of what to expect in a full workshop. Participants were excited about attending a future workshop. We have at least four facilitators who are teachers in Richmond Community Schools and three at the high school level. One of our facilitators went through the arduous process of requesting to present an AVP class at the high school beginning fall of 2017. All levels of the school administration approved the request. Our first AVP high school class will be offered beginning in August 2017, led by two of our facilitators. They hope to be able to take the students through all three AVP levels during the semester and have them become apprentice facilitators for the spring 2018 class. This will be a test year so the class will not be offered for credit until 2018, if all goes well. However, initial promotion of the class at the high school is very promising and a significant number of students have expressed interest in taking it.

This year has been busy and fruitful, but we still find that our opportunities outstrip the number and experience of our facilitators. It often feels as if we are being stretched beyond our capacity to handle all of the requests we

receive. However, this is an indication of the great need in our larger society to find less violent, more healthy ways to deal with conflict. We are encouraged that we are being recognized as a useful resource and are looking forward to the many opportunities in the year ahead.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner

KENTUCKY

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Knapp Hall, Berea College, Berea

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 12 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

2 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We had high hopes for getting Central Kentucky AVP established in 2016, but had disappointing results. Two more Kentucky facilitators were trained in Richmond, Indiana in March 2016, bringing the total to four apprentice facilitators in the Berea area. Three AVP Indiana facilitators traveled to Berea in February and October to help facilitate workshops and to support the program there. Unfortunately, the small numbers of participants has made it difficult to produce a large enough group for an Advanced workshop. There is definite interest in AVP in the community, but the program is having a hard time getting off the ground. AVP Indiana hopes to continue to provide support for Central Kentucky AVP, and will look for opportunities to include their apprentice facilitators in workshops in Indiana or Ohio in the coming year.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner

MICHIGAN

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Muskegon Correctional Facility, Muskegon

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 77 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 25 participants
2 T4F workshops, 21 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

7 inside, 3 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

After being dormant for more than 20 years, AVP is once again active in Michigan! Thanks to requests from two incarcerated men and approval and support from the Warden and staff, we are doing monthly workshops at Muskegon Correctional Facility in southwestern Michigan. The workshops have been enthusiastically received by the participants, and the sign-ups far exceed our capacity to deliver. We have two seasoned facilitators and one new facilitator from the community, plus a couple of occasional volunteers. We also have been blessed with the help of three facilitators from Indiana who came up to help with our first Advanced and Training for Facilitators workshops.

During 2016 AVP-Michigan also provided a 4-hour mini-workshop at Red Cedar Friends Meeting in Lansing, as well as two 50-minute

presentations to psychology classes at Portage Central High School.

REPORT BY: Kathy and Joe Ossmann

OHIO

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In March 2016, we had a Training for Facilitators workshop in Richmond, Indiana and two of the new facilitators were from the Cincinnati area. However, because of too many commitments in Indiana and elsewhere, AVP Indiana was not able to help apprentice the new Ohio facilitators in 2016. The good news is that in September, a long time facilitator from Washington State moved to Loveland, Ohio to take care of family and has started organizing in southern Ohio. She connected with the two Cincinnati apprentice facilitators and a third that AVP Indiana trained in January 2017. She spent the fall speaking to numerous groups about AVP in the Cincinnati/Dayton area, including the Black Lives Matter group, and plans are shaping up to start an AVP program at the Dayton Correctional Institute in spring of 2017.

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)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

12 Basic workshops, 237 participants
14 Advanced workshops, 245 participants
16 T4F workshops, 132 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

30 inside, 25 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

In 2016 we continued a strong partnership with Sherburne County Jail to be offering shorter workshop sessions of 3-5 hours. We were able to reach 210 people this year! This particular jail has many individuals who only speak Spanish and we have had a translator in the room. In addition to great turnouts for these mini workshops we get positive feedback from the staff who love AVP.

We have been receiving really positive feedback from staff at the prisons where we do

full weekend workshops.

REPORT BY: Jenn Hamrick

SOUTH DAKOTA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

14 Basic workshops, 226 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 80 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

35 inside, 15 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Durfee Joys are the realizations of seeing inmates when they “get it”, watching the inside facilitators grow with their roles, concerns. The highest priorities would have to be our concerns for the future. Age is taking its toll and our continued efforts are to find new outside facilitator candidates.

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 continue to have a desire from AVP participants for outreach programs, both for AVP participants who have been paroled and their families, and the community as a whole.

We are working on the best way to address these problems.

This year, we also hosted an AVP anniversary dinner, in honor of our 100th workshop, for AVP inside facilitators and their families in the fall of 2016. At Jameson, including outside facilitators, inside facilitators, and the inside facilitators’ families, we had 30 in attendance; at the Hill, we had 46. It was a very moving experience for all. For many inmates, this was the first time in years that they had been able to eat a meal with their families. For many families, this was the first time in years where they heard their inmate honored for their constructive, altruistic accomplishments in pursuit of peace and non-violence during his time in prison. Besides eating, chatting, and recognizing accomplishments, we also did a few exercises, to show family members what AVP was like (in miniature of course). There was much laughter, and some tears. I am happy to announce that the DOC has approved an annual recognition dinner for AVP, and so we plan to host another one this fall.

As always, we are in awe of what excellent leaders our inside facilitators make. And we have every confidence that our current apprentices will continue that tradition.

Concerns:

- the ongoing need for more outside facilitators.
- the percentage of Native American inmates is again around 28%. They continue to be overrepresented in our groups as they continue to make up at least 50% of our participants.

REPORT 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 Classification Center, Oakdale
(men)
Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility, Mt. Pleasant
(men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

11 Basic workshops, 147 participants
13 Advanced workshops, 147 participants
1 T4F workshop, 20 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

35 inside, 29 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The AVP program at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility for men under the Iowa Department of Correction had its last workshop in July of 2016. There were two outside facilitators carrying the program relatively alone. Dependent on our decreasing availability, complications with facility scheduling, and dependency on hosting by others in Fort Dodge, we find it difficult to carry forward.

A challenge at ISP at Ft. Madison is that, along with the new facility, we have several new administrators and staff, many of whom weren't familiar with the program and some of whom are somewhat resistant. Over the 10 years we were at the old facility, we had developed a fantastic working relationship with the administration and the staff who worked most regularly in the chapel area where the workshops were held.

There have been other changes in the placement of inmates in the state of Iowa, resulting in more young short-termers. We have had to adjust to the lower maturity level and some of our seasoned facilitators (both volunteers and inmates – myself included) have had to adjust their patience level. This

lower maturity level has also affected the frequency of fights in the facility, resulting in more lockdowns. However, this just means a greater need for AVP.

We have been planning our 10-year reunion celebration since last summer and have met many obstacles along the way. The celebration was held in January, 2017. All five of our current volunteers attended, along with 28 current inmate participants and, as a strawberry on the sundae, Dorothy Whiston, who encouraged Tobin Krell and me to start the program at ISP and who helped facilitate the first T4F. Dorothy was our keynote speaker. Facilitators gave testimonials; we gave serious and silly awards and had great food and fellowship.

Our support group continues to meet monthly, with the veteran inmate facilitators planning and conducting the meetings. We have an incredibly supportive counselor working with us who is the official sponsor of our AVP.

IMC at Oakdale is celebrating the fundraisers, community games and activities, the separation of responsibilities within the group, and listening to participants in workshops. We are working on trust within the facilitating core group, communication and commitment levels. We added 36 new participants and five new facilitators to our AVP family. We gained two inside facilitators from other "camps" and a facilitator from another camp also participated.

At the end of the year, we had forty-three people join us for an AVP reunion. We gained two new facilitators from other prisons, but ended up losing four of our facilitators as the year went by.

At Mt. Pleasant, in early 2014, Lois Crane, who had been facilitating at IMCC for a few years, decided to try to get AVP reactivated in Mt. Pleasant. She was especially encouraged by the transfers of a number of insider facilitators

from IMCC to MPCF. Ed Webber, who offers another volunteer program at the prison and who has been involved in corrections programs for years, joined Lois as the essential outside facilitator enabling AVP to begin. Because of changes in personnel, an earlier program at MPCF which had been discontinued some nine or ten years ago was not well remembered, and the process of reestablishing AVP went slowly at first.

We have worked hard in finding the space, arranging the schedule, and convincing personnel that we promise a program that interests insiders in making more positive choices with a minimum of any added attention from them. The responses of the participants and our liaison people have been gratifying, and we think we now have the insider interest and prison approval to support more frequent workshops; but now, recruiting more outside facilitators is a major need. We're always looking! Ideas would be much appreciated!

The new prison Chaplain has just been assigned as our liaison person (our third), and we have great optimism that our communication will be continuing to improve. Because the insider/outsider communication is quite limited, we are only now able to transfer some of the agenda planning and preparation to the insider facilitators.

We want to express our very special thanks to Annie Tucker, IMCC volunteer, for helping us out by spending a very full three days here facilitating a T4F with us!

REPORT BY: Stan Sanders, Sandy Krell-Andre, Nancy Conybeare and Lois Crane

KANSAS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Leavenworth Federal Prison

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 35 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

3 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

It seems our workshops always produce insights and a sense of community and friendship that the men rarely (if ever) would experience otherwise.

We often lose hours or even a whole day of the workshop due to lock downs and such. In spite of this it still seems worth coming because of the effect on the men of the even more limited workshop.

REPORT BY: Randy Fletcher

MISSOURI

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Boonville Correctional Center (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 91 participants

1 Advanced workshop, 13 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

8 inside, 5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In October, 2016, Stephanie Brooks traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, to join John Coffin (Little Rock) and Jay Johnson (Fayetteville) in offering the first T4F at Tucker Facility (south of Little Rock). This is a comparatively new AVP group, which received help from Val Liveoak in San Antonio in getting the original Basic and Advanced workshops offered. There were eight inside graduates and one additional outside facilitator, Richard Tiffany.

REPORT BY: Stephanie Brooks

NEBRASKA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Nebraska State Penitentiary

Omaha Correctional Center

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

9 Basic workshops, 155 participants

7 Advanced workshops, 98 participants

3 T4F workshops, 26 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Lincoln Friends Meetinghouse

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

7 Basic workshops, 67 participants

4 Advanced workshops, 26 participants

4 trained on the job

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

32 inside, 29 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

At OCC, we have a number of new outside facilitators and intense on-the-job training. We continue offering 90-minute AVP sessions one night a week in the Omaha work release facility.

At NSP, clubs can now invite community members, including AVP facilitators, to attend their celebrations/banquets/special events. Assistant Director Rothwell attended one of our facilitator meetings and shared his thoughts on prison changes and programming. Three newly trained inside facilitators have earned their Gold certification.

Due to a recent NSP policy, facilitators or participants living in minimum security housing are no longer able to attend workshops with medium or maximum security facilitators and participants.

We were disappointed that we were not able to recruit enough staff from the Dept. of Correctional Services to fill a special community workshop, but hope that the interested ones will sign up through our listing with our local community college continuing education program.

In our Community workshops, participants come from our Work Release Center, people in the Lincoln Community, and people who started AVP while they were in prison and are now out. We have had at least one of the latter

on the team for every workshop. Community workshops couldn't happen without the help of a number of friends and facilitators who drive participants from the Work Release Center (CCCL) to and from the Friends Meetinghouse where workshops are held.

Our monthly Business Meetings have been attended by 7-10 facilitators, serving both facilities. Five of us were able to attend the AVP/USA annual gathering in Denver and were greatly energized by the experience. All of us picked up new ideas which we are using in our group.

Our recent Potluck and Play events for facilitators, with a potluck supper followed by several exercises and discussions, have been so successful we decided to have them 3-4 times per year. The November P&P was special because three facilitators from the Omaha group and five facilitators from CCCL were with us.

We are particularly pleased that five of our "outside" facilitators started AVP while they were in prison, one traveling from Missouri and one from Florida. One of our facilitators led workshops in Iowa, Minnesota, and Tennessee.

Except for the workshop which had to be canceled because there weren't enough staff at CCCL the day that passes were to be made out, we have been very pleased with the cooperation and support we have received from the staff at CCCL.

We are very grateful to the donors of the Lincoln Community Foundation which organizes the Give to Lincoln Day. This fund pays for most of the expenses for food for our community workshops.

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
1 Advanced workshop, 17 participants
1 T4F workshop, 14 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 outside (2 from out of state)

The workshops were done in February, June and October. In 2015 we had done a basic in December, so it felt like more were done in 2016. Our program is currently on hold due to a new warden at the Tucker Unit, who is still sorting out other program priorities. We have made a request to him, however, for our wish to continue the program, especially since interest and acceptance of the program among inmates has been positive, and as we now have many inmate apprentices seeking workshop experience as helpers, as co-facilitators.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We've had a good year, full of enthusiasm and hope, especially since we've finished one T4T workshop. There continues to be a lot to learn. Strong acceptance from inmates continues. Appreciate the continuing help of Richard Tiffany, an insider since he had been visiting an inmate at Tucker, and that got us started. He has since gone through the T4T. Grateful for the help from experienced facilitator Val Liveoak during the Advanced workshop, and for the assistance, likewise, from Stephanie

Brooks, out of Missouri, in doing the T4T. Jay Johnson, the other (along with me) Arkansas facilitator, is great to work with. The commitment from all these persons is palpable! Hopefully the uncertainty about scheduling workshops the rest of this year will be resolved soon, and the new warden will allow for our Team to get underway again. And, we're learning to appreciate the AVP network.

REPORT BY: John Coffin

TEXAS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 15 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

2 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

An enthusiastic new facilitator has some ambition to bring AVP back to Texas and its prisons. The first AVP Community Basic since 2014 and the first in Houston since 2003. It benefited from the enthusiasm of a Friend returning from FWCC, where he was exposed to an AVP mini-workshop, and that influenced his meeting to fill the basic workshop. We are blessed to have Val Liveoak become more available, having stepped out of Friends Peace Teams in Central America. And we're sad to see Tom Martin leave Texas for Arizona.

REPORT BY: Kevin King

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, (contracted private) (men)
Buena Vista Correctional Facility – Buena Vista

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

22 Basic workshops, 327 participants
9 Advanced workshops, 149 participants
6 T4F workshops, 59 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

37 inside, 19 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The inside facilitators at Denver Women's Correctional Facility hosted a one-day session in the prison called "AVP Inside-Out," as a part of the National Gathering. Over 30 inmate facilitators planned the event and facilitated discussions and exercises on AVP. The prison gym buzzed with excitement as the inmate facilitators connected with AVP facilitators from around the country. At the end of the day, each of the groups was asked to write their ideas on cards for "Imagining a New Criminal Justice System" which were posted at the conference at Regis University.

We developed a volunteer handbook and did a one day in-service training for outside facilitators which were so helpful that we offered a one-day in-service training to inside facilitators at Denver Women's Correctional Facility. We continue to have quarterly meetings for facilitators outside and inside the Denver Women's Facility.

REPORT BY: Margaret Browne, Project Coordinator, New Foundations

NEW MEXICO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Penitentiary of New Mexico, Santa Fe (men)
New Mexico Women's Corrections Facility, (NMWCF) Grants
Western New Mexico Corrections Facility, Grants (women)
Springer Correctional Facility, Springer (women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

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

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

25 inside, 11 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

NMWCF: (1) We were challenged by the transfer of all the women from the large corporate-run facility where we began AVP in New Mexico 11 years ago. The women were divided by security level and health needs and were transferred to two smaller state-run facilities. The challenge was not so much tracking inside facilitators and participants, as introducing AVP into the new facilities in November and December. We are grateful that we already appear to be accepted. (2) Another joy is the continued participation of a strong inside facilitator who is now the lead facilitator for one facility's workshops. Indeed, when heavy snow recently obliged the outside team member to leave early, this inside lead completed a T4F with the inside team and 13 participants. (3) We are concerned about the lack of outside facilitators able to volunteer at the women's facilities, since travel/overnight stays discourage those who work fulltime or have other responsibilities.

PNM: (1) We continue to use the nearby men's facility as an incubator for community persons interested in becoming facilitators. The men inside express positive feelings about

outside participants joining them; the outside participants are inspired as they get to know people on the inside. As is the case with facilitating at the more distant women's prisons, a full weekend workshop makes it difficult for busy people to find time to do all three levels. (2) A series of lockdowns this year cancelled some workshops, further discouraging potential facilitators, as well as having a negative impact on numbers of inside participants. (3) Staff changes at both the facility and within our organization led to continuity challenges, though we were glad to welcome an East Coast transplant into AVP-NNM. (4) We were invited to provide AVP sessions (weekly 2-hour meetings for 5 weeks) to small groups of men in solitary who were approaching release. We provided 2 such series, and the lead facilitator fine-tuned the agenda into a mini-workshop. Called "Daybreak," the mini-workshop has also provided outside apprentice facilitators with carefully mentored experience.

SCF (Springer) and WNMCF (Western) We have been fortunate in finding supportive staff at these two facilities where the incarcerated women were transferred and where we initiated AVP workshops late fall. While we are working to smooth administrative bumps, we have also worked to keep staff aware of the positive impact on participants (evaluation comments), as well as statistical advantages for the facility (e.g., hours of programming). **Finances:** We were delighted and humbled to receive a substantial donation that allowed us, in this year of great changes, to avoid worry about financing our workshops.

REPORT BY: Margy Willen (AVP-NNM)

WYOMING

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT WYOMING THIS YEAR

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

ALASKA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Halfway House, Anchorage

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 14 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Homer, private home

University of Alaska at Anchorage (UAAA)
Center for Human Development, in
conjunction with Hands of Peace,
Anchorage

Alaska Training Cooperative in conjunction with
Hands of Peace, Fairbanks

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

7 Basic workshops, 77 participants

2 Advanced workshops, 12 participants

1 T4F workshop, 4 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Talkeetna Elementary School, Talkeetna

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 14 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

14 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys: We did connect successfully with Alaska Department of Corrections and have their invested interest, support and encouragement. Two Basics were scheduled for inmates in Halfway Houses. The Halfway House staff could not provide consistent scheduling and participants, making for difficult workshops, even though both workshops were completed. Hands of Peace Inc. and Alaska DOC concluded we would provide two more Basic workshops in a traditional correctional institution for spring 2017.

We had a T4F with only 4 participants but each person was talented in group work and organizational process and has made exceptional contributions to our mission.

We are blessed with having the support, partnership, and conference facility of the UAA Center for Human Development, Training Cooperative working with us.

Our one teen workshop reduced the 18 hours to 14; the group functioned as best it could but had to deal with incompatibility of younger teens and older more serious teens.

We have developed a Hands of Peace Inc. brochure promoting the Alternatives to Violence Workshops, and are in process of developing a website.

We have two volunteers, Diane Preston of Fairbanks, and John Lancaster of Homer, (retired from the Alaska Marine Ferry System as Chief Steward) who have prepared healthy lunches and snacks including home made breads, soups, and sandwich makings for the workshops held in Fairbanks and in Homer. Anchorage participants were provided snacks but used local eateries on their own for meals.

The Alaska/Alternatives to Violence Project Council (AK/AVP Council) met face to face in Homer in March for scheduling, and policy making. Another four meetings have used teleconference as needed. We have adopted fully the AVP Policies and Procedures, which also have been incorporated into Hands of Peace Inc, the Alaska non-profit providing the organizational umbrella for our mission. We, as a state region, are a cohesive unit; in the broader picture we are indebted to each volunteer for our incredible progress and we hope to maintain the energy. We are a creative community in listening and supporting one another. We keep our lead facilitators strong and cross fertilized with exposure to different areas. Travel is a concern because we are such a large state, travel between areas is costly in finances and time, requiring overnights for some when we gather.

Basic workshop was provided for Alaska Native Corporations staff, in Anchorage, specifically the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Cohort, a program training native dental aides serving in rural and underserved areas.

The AK/AVP Council has two Representatives from Homer and Anchorage and only one from Fairbanks. It puts a lot on Carrie's shoulders and we are hoping someone else in Fairbanks would step forward to help.

REPORT BY: AK/AVP Council Members: Liz Gerkin, Lisa Cauble, Ginger Bryant, Karen Cauble and Carrie Farr.

IDAHO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Idaho State Correctional Institution

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 25 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 25 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Boise State College

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 40 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

1 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Once a year the medium security men's prison permits us to conduct weekend workshops. We have very limited AVP in Idaho due to a shortage of facilitators.

Once a week, two facilitators, one of whom is an apprentice, facilitate two hour refreshers with exercises from both the Basic and Advanced manuals. From 5 to 12 men attend, mostly men with no prior AVP experience. A bright note is that we have one inside facilitator who, in addition, is the lead facilitator for those evenings.

We continue to rely on facilitators from Oregon

to assist us for the prison weekend.

We have been conducting AVP workshops as part of an undergraduate college course.

REPORT BY: Ann Dusseau

NEVADA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSSC),
Carson City (men)
Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC), Lovelock
(men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

10 Basic workshops, 164 participants
7 Advanced workshops, 124 participants
1 T4F workshop, 16 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church Parish
Center, Reno

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 13 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

39 inside, 8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP Nevada has grown this year. We completed 19 workshops in 2016 compared to 14 last year, including our first community workshop in many years. While we added only one outside facilitator (who had been absent due to medical issues), a few people are on the path to become facilitators, having taken Basic and Advanced workshops already.

We persist in our efforts to add a third nearby prison to our sites. Many people on staff have been contacted, including the warden, an acting associate warden in charge of programs, a psychologist, and a couple of caseworkers. We also wrote to the newly appointed director of the NV Dept. of Corrections seeking a meeting about this, and we will follow up on that note soon.

We are especially happy to have completed a

history of AVP Nevada, 1998-2016 this year, and look forward hopefully to more growth in 2017.

REPORT BY: Rita Sloan

OREGON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 39 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 16 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Sponsors Re-entry Center, Eugene

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 5 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

4 inside, 6 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We had 3 workshops at the Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem, Oregon, in the Activities Department. The June 10th and 17th Advanced Workshop was cancelled by the OSP staff, as staff were needed to cover a special evening program in another part of the prison. The 3 other workshops went well and we continue not to be able to use weekends for workshops, because of staffing issues. We have to use 2 consecutive Fridays to get in 18 hours. It continues to be difficult for outside facilitators and participants to get time off from work to participate on Fridays.

OSP held three AVP Reunions this year that were well attended by outside and inside participants. The Reunions are planned by the Inside Facilitators. They help us stay connected with AVP friends, we find out what is happening on the inside and on the outside, and we enjoy some exercises and L&L's.

2016 was a rebuilding year for Portland AVP with start-up activities after many years of dormancy, and plans for a workshop series that

is well underway for 2017. Portland, Salem, and Eugene AVP activities continue to be through informal groups of community facilitators. Eugene managed a small community Basic with hopes of expansions in 2017. Eugene and Portland facilitators have been traveling to do workshops in Boise

REPORT BY: Bruce Stock, Ethen Perkins and Helen Park

WASHINGTON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Washington State Reformatory, Monroe
Pierce County Jail, Tacoma

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

18 Basic workshops, 260 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 56 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Pierce County Veterans' Bureau, Tacoma
Tacoma Veterans' Bureau
World Affairs Council, Seattle
Explorations Academy, Bellingham

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 37 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 12 participants
1 T4F workshop, 10 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

It has been a very good year for AVP in Washington.

For decades AVP in Washington had been centered in Seattle and serving one or two prisons with the occasional community workshop. Now Bellingham AVP is doing Community Workshops sponsored by Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center. We also recently did a basic workshop for a community on Whidbey Island, so there may be a new local running by the end of 2017! In addition, we have a loose partnership with a Law Society and justice program with the University

of Washington that looks to be sending us several new facilitators every year.

We are rebuilding our prison program after it was put on hiatus along with all programming for over a year by DOC, following the murder of a Corrections Officer by an inmate in 2011. We lost our training pipeline for that year and had a considerable amount of attrition, so that when we reentered we were doing only about 4 workshops a year. We are up to 10 for 2016 and hope to be in a second prison by the close of 2017. We have rebuilt our inside facilitator pool to over 20, and our outside teams are growing strong also.

Our biggest joy, our work with incarcerated veterans, has moved beyond the pilot phase and is now well established. We have done 28 veterans' workshops and see them continuing. We have learned a lot about adapting AVP to this unique group to work on anger and PTSD. We have been conducting research on reducing anger via the workshops and hope to publish a research paper this summer. (The results are astounding!) Several other communities have expressed interests in replicating the program in their jails and courts, and we expect to double or triple the size for the program before years end.

We partnered with AVP in Portland to do a workshop for Oregon Youth Authority Staff. (They run the state youth detention facilities.) We had two workshops this year in our partnership with the World Affairs Council – one workshop for visiting Mexican youth and one for Brazilian youth. In addition we have sent facilitators to help restart Alaska AVP and helped a nonprofit in Seattle, Guatemala Village Health, get trained AVP people into five villages in rural Guatemala focused largely on domestic violence.

This year is one of joys with no troubling concerns. Our biggest concern is training enough facilitators to keep up what promises to be a rapidly growing year.

REPORT BY: Rick Krouskop and Roger Kluck

Southwest Region: AZ, CA, HI

ARIZONA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Amity Circle Tree Ranch, Tucson

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 72 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS: The biggest joy is that AVP has started up again in Tucson, AZ, after a hiatus of more than 10 years. Cleveland Baker, a former inside facilitator from California, wanted to offer AVP where he now worked, Amity Circle Tree Ranch, a residential rehabilitation facility in Tucson that serves primarily Native American adults. In May 2016, he recruited AVP facilitators Susie Rios, Steve Gelb and Tap Burnham to come over to Tucson from San Diego. They in turn put out a call for local AVP help, which by a roundabout route found its way to me. I had been involved with AVP in the 1990s in Tucson, but had drifted away. It was with great excitement that I got re-involved, and I found Tucson had very fertile soil for starting back up. Amity was willing to host all AVP workshops for free, making space not only for its students, but also for a handful of community members. Amity not only provided a large workshop space, but also two meals a day for all participants. My employer, The Center for Community Dialogue at Our Family Services, provided copying services, markers, chart paper, and release time for me to facilitate. Seeking to recruit workshop participants and potential facilitators, I reached out to (i) Pima Friends Meeting, (ii) the corps of volunteer mediators who work with the Center for Community Dialogue and (iii) the local Americorps/VISTA office. We found willing participants at each.

In early 2017, with the help of AVP lead facilitator and Arizona winter visitor Suzie Clark (Northern California), and AVP facilitator Trish Carlton (Rhode Island), we were able to offer an

Advanced and T4F, resulting in 16 newly trained facilitators!!! In May 2017 (one year from when we started) Jane Kroesen, Cleveland Baker and new facilitator Maria Dotterer met with the director of the state prison in Tucson, and found real interest in restarting AVP in the prison here. In addition, we have had interest from a local high school about offering an AVP Basic for selected students.

CONCERNS: We only have 3 lead facilitators here in Tucson, and our jobs and family concerns have made it difficult recently to offer workshops at which the new facilitators can get experience. We hope that we can resolve this problem and continue to forge ahead before interest wanes. One possible solution is to see if lead facilitators from other states could come to Tucson to help us do Basics until we have sufficient capacity locally.

REPORT BY: Chris Medvescek

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 Medical Facility (CMF)
Vacaville (men)
- *California Men's Colony (CMC)
San Luis Obispo (men)
- California State Prison, Corcoran (COR) (men)
- California State Prison, Los Angeles, Lancaster (men)
- *California State Prison, Solano (SOL)
Vacaville (men)

*Calipatria State Prison (CAP)
 Calipatria (men)
 Centinela State Prison (CEN)
 Imperial (men)
 Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)
 Chowchilla (women)
 Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP)
 Blythe (men)
 Correctional Training Facility (CTF)
 Soledad (men)
 High Desert State Prison (HDSP)
 Susanville (men)
 *Ironwood State Prison (ISP) Blythe (men)
 Lompoc Federal Correction Complex (federal)
 Mule Creek State Prison, lone
 *R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD)
 San Diego (men)
 Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP)
 Soledad (men)

County Jails:

San Francisco (SF) San Francisco (men)
 San Luis Obispo Jails (SLO) San Luis Obispo
 (Men/Women)
 SLO Juvenile Hall
 Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran,
 (SATF) Corcoran (men)
 SLO Juvenile Hall

PROBATION, PRISON & JAIL WORKSHOP STATISTICS

212 Basic workshops, 3,513 participants
 140 Advanced workshops, 2,353 participants
 44 T4F workshops, 564 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Antelope Valley
 Bay Bridge
 Chico
 Coachella Valley
 Homeboy Industries (LA)
 Sacramento
 San Diego
 San Joaquin Valley
 San Luis Obispo
 Santa Barbara
 Santa Cruz
 Santa Monica/Los Angeles
 Santa Rosa
 Stockton

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

38 Basic workshops, 369 participants
 18 Advanced workshops, 151 participants
 12 T4F workshops, 83 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Civicorps
 Grizzly Youth Academy
 Salinas
 San Joaquin Valley
 Santa Barbara
 Santa Barbara Alternative Detention Center

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 273 participants
 1 T4F workshop, 3 participants

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

14 Basic workshops, 207 participants
 8 Advanced workshops, 134 participants

SPANISH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS *(included in 481 above)*

California Institution for Men
 California Institution for Women
 California Medical Facility
 California Men's Colony
 California State Prison Solano
 Calipatria State Prison
 Centinela State Prison
 Correctional Training Facility
 Ironwood State Prison
 Lompoc Federal Correctional Complex
 Salinas Valley State Prison

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

710 inside, 245 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

By far our greatest joy is to see the increase in total workshops for 2016: from 393 in 2015 to 481 in 2016 – a 22 percent increase! And our inside facilitators increased by 12 percent (from 636 to 710), while our outside facilitators increased by 23 percent (198 to 245). We opened two new state prisons in 2016 and re-opened the federal prison in Lompoc after an almost 20-year absence. We again applied for and received three three-year grants from the

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to increase volunteer support in one existing prison (Mule Creek) and two new facilities (North Kern State Prison and Wasco State Prison) in 2017. The choice of the latter two institutions reflects a decision by AVP/CA to focus on some of the many state prisons in the San Joaquin Valley that have not benefited from AVP workshops in the past. An important change in the grant program to begin in 2017 is that grants will now be for three, rather than one year, more accurately reflecting the amount of work required to recruit and train new volunteers, set up local councils, and get a new program up and running in a prison environment. AVP/CA is carefully taking note of what works and what does not work and is developing guidelines to assist future volunteer recruitment initiatives.

AVP/CA is rejoicing in the significant number of our inside facilitators who are getting out of prison and are now helping to strengthen the AVP program in our communities. In their honor, our 2016 Annual Facilitators' Gathering was billed as a "welcome home" celebration and 18 men and women Returned Citizens participated, making this one of our most diverse, enthusiastic, and successful Gatherings ever.

In 2016, AVP/CA launched its new website in a much more user-friendly format and began disseminating a biannual newsletter to highlight activities throughout the state. Our workshop reporting system, QEWR, was also updated to better serve facilitators throughout the state.

As always, our greatest concern is that we cannot reach more people – both inside and outside – with AVP workshops, but we continue to seek new ways to recruit and maintain facilitators. We also are seeking better ways to integrate the great resource of our Returned Citizens into AVP/CA at the local and state levels. The number of Spanish workshops remained almost the same as last year and, obviously, we would like to see these numbers increase. We also continue to seek better ways to raise funds to support the AVP program in terms of having funds available to pay necessary expenses and stipends to those who need them and continue to support our volunteer outreach efforts in California's Central Valley beyond the support for specific prisons we have received from CDCR.

REPORT BY: George Ramos and Ann Leonard