

Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc.

(AVP)

**The Committee of Local and
Regional Groups**

(CLARG)

Annual Report for Calendar Year 2014

May 2015

AVP

AVP-USA

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The Committee of Local and Regional Groups Report 1

CLARG Regional Representatives 2

AVP/USA Regional Reports underlined states have an active AVP program

New England Region: CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT 3

New York Region: NY 5

Pennsylvania and New Jersey Region: NJ, PA 8

Mid-Atlantic Region: DC, DE, MD, VA, WV 11

Southeast Region: AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VI 13

Midwest Region: IL, IN, KY, MI, OH 16

Northern Midwest Region: MN, ND, SD, WI 19

Central Midwest Region: IA, KS, MO, NE 20

South Central Region: AR, LA, MS, OK, TX 23

Rocky Mountain Region: CO, MT, NM, UT, WY 23

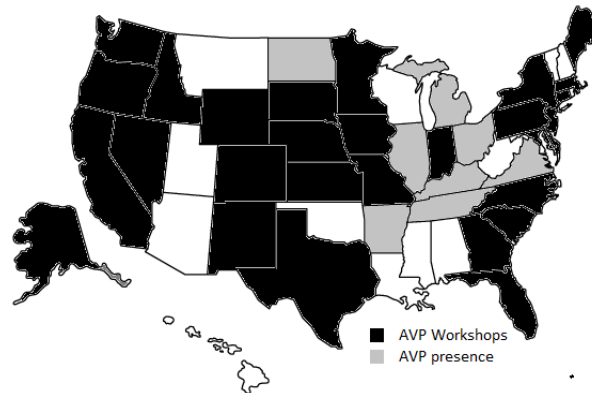
Northwest Region: AK, ID, NV, OR, WA 26

Southwest Region: AZ, CA, HI 28

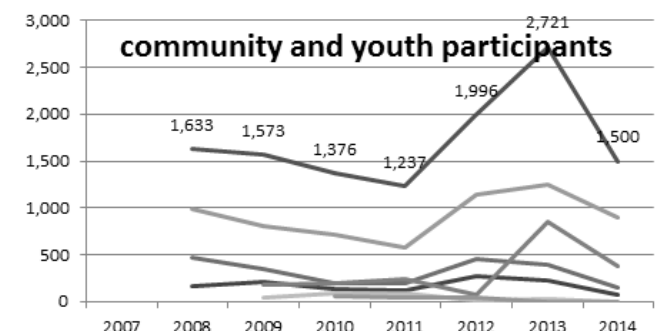
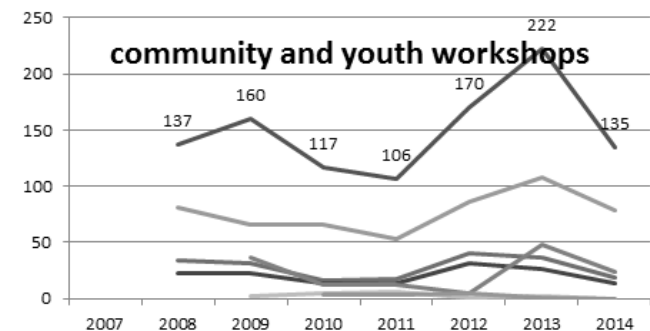
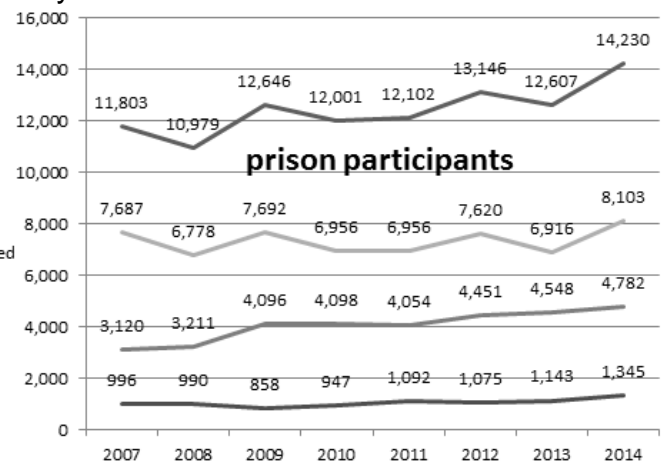
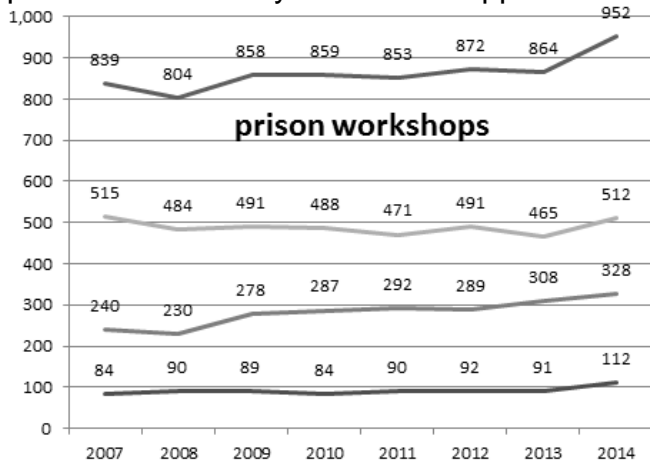
CLARG

The Committee of Local and Regional Groups is made up of representatives from each regional group and works to form the bridge between local groups and AVP/USA. Here is its annual report of all AVP workshops in USA states and territories.

It gives a look at AVP across the country and across the years. On the map, the black states had at least one workshop, either in a prison or in the community, in 2014. The grey ones had no workshops but do have some sort of AVP presence: someone is working to start up a new AVP program or revive an old one, or engaged in AVP-related programs.



Over time, it seems that the numbers of Basic and T4F workshops have stayed fairly constant, but the number of Advanced workshops is increasing. Is that a result of some programs adding Special Topic workshops, perhaps? We have an all-time high of inside facilitators and of prisons, 1589 in 98 prisons. Community work has dropped from a spike of last year.



CLARG 2015

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

CONNECTICUT

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

14 Basic workshops, 246 participants
7 Advanced workshops, 113 participants
2 T4F workshops, 20 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Bridgeport CT

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

33 inside, 23 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Connecticut

A UU church on the CT shoreline was looking for a “taste of AVP”. A mini with two from MacDougall, one from the church and one recently released facilitator from Osborn who is now getting back into AVP went very well and may lead to more community activity.

MacDougall

In June our long-term inside coordinator retired just as the outside coordinator was getting ready to leave for the International Gathering in Dublin. Suddenly facilitators who had been coming in for years were no longer on the list of those cleared for entry. One facilitator did a workshop and then found that he wasn't on the cleared list, so couldn't attend the facilitators' monthly meeting, which almost didn't happen. Emails flew back and forth across the Atlantic where cell phone calls couldn't go, it was nuts. Both that coordinator and her replacement left after a short time, but the third replacement

turns out to be a very helpful partner in the AVP process. She attended our annual facilitators' meeting shortly after coming on board and was very impressed with the leadership our inside folks showed – “They should hear this upstairs,” she said. She has become knowledgeable about our procedures and very willing to adapt to new ones.

At the same annual meeting, we decided to begin “refresher” sessions, for participants who had done a Basic and Advanced but not gone on to become facilitators and thus had had no opportunity for further contact with AVP concepts or practices. Watch this space!

We also had a T4T in October and graduated eight inside and four outside new facilitators. Three of the inside and one of the outside trainees have already facilitated on a team.

Osborn: Once again, part of the prison space we use was taken for almost six weeks as the asbestos removal project from last year was completed. Having previously experienced this disruption, we were prepared to be more proactive. Only one workshop had to be canceled. We held one workshop in alternate (less than ideal) space but did make it possible for men who were waiting to attend. We managed our Facilitator Gatherings in the library, a more open and public place than could be used for a regular workshop.

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

makes us far better team members, more able to play to each other's' strengths.

This year we also did three AVP Alumni workshops, consisting of a meal together, several Advanced exercises and time to talk about AVP in our lives. The men refer to these gatherings as AVP "booster shots." Had the outside facilitators more available time, we certainly could do more such gatherings – very well received!

York: 2014 was full of planning and self-reflection. Outside facilitators developed a centralized email and calendar account, set forth some outlines for policies and procedures when recruiting new members, and combined various contacts to become more organized. . While no actual workshops took place, conversations between York's administration and outside facilitators continued to be held in various forms throughout the year, to determine the best next steps for future programming. We are optimistic that workshops will begin again in 2015, and look forward to actively recruiting both inside and outside facilitators to join us.

Bridgeport: Habitat for Humanity asked AVP to do a Basic workshop for their homeowners with the goal of helping to make their new neighborhood one safe from negative influences. An exciting new connection!

Outside CT: One CT facilitator did a Basic youth workshop in Springfield MA and a Basic and an Advanced workshop at Attica Prison in New York State, and two attended the International Gathering in Ireland.

REPORT BY: Mandy Brown, Valentine Doyle, Jackie Labatt-Simon and Mary Ellen Preston

MAINE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Maine Correctional Center, Windham
(Men and Women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

9 Basic workshops (4 men's, 5 women's),
101 participants (45 men, 56 women)
3 Advanced workshops (1 men's, 2 women's),
24 Participants (5 men, 19 women)

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

6 inside (3 men, 3 women), 8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We started and completed 4 Women's Support groups of 2 hours each. All levels of AVP participation were included. Inside facilitators were encouraged to prepare exercises appropriate for the group. Ten women on average participate.

Additionally, we supported and coordinated the attendance of three children (two siblings) to Friends Camp in South China, Maine. These children of incarcerated parents were not identified as such at camp. We received reports of Mother and son doing a light and lively – Mrs. Mumbly – during a post-camp prison visit.

REPORT BY: Pat Moynahan and Margie Scholler

MASSACHUSETTS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

MCI Cedar Junction, Walpole (men)
MCI Concord, (men)
MCI Norfolk, (men)
North Central CC, Gardner, (men)
Northeast Correctional Center, Concord, (men)
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center,
Lancaster, (men)
MCI Shirley Medium, (men)
Essex County Correctional Center, (men)
(county jail)
Old Colony Correctional Center – (men,
inactive in 2014)



PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

38 Basic workshops, 573 participants
24 Advanced workshops, 348 participants
12 T4F workshops, 134 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Springfield

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 8 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Springfield

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 38 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

148 inside, 36 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP/MA had a good year with successes and challenges. We have developed an exciting community program in Springfield and a new program in a county jail. However, two of our prison programs have been idle, the first due to lack of available facilitators and the second due

to some institutional upheaval after an administrator was attacked. In the fall, Massachusetts went into a time of financial difficulty, resulting in a hiring freeze and very tight budgets for overtime, putting pressure on prisons to reduce weekend staff coverage. This has affected some programs.

We have appreciated and delighted in hosting facilitators from Connecticut and New York, as well as from the African Great Lakes region, and from the Caribbean. Also the coordinator of AVP El Salvador was able to visit a support group. We enjoyed our annual facilitator pot luck and two training days. We were able to be represented at both AVP National and the AVP International conferences.

REPORT BY: Nancy Shippen

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

New York Region

NEW YORK

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Albion Prison, Albion, (women)
Attica Prison, Attica, (men)
Auburn Prison, Auburn, (men)
Bedford Hills Prison, Bedford Hills, (women)
Cayuga Prison, Moravia, (men)
Eastern Prison, Napanoch, (men)
Elmira Prison, Elmira, (men)
Greene Prison, Coxsackie, (men)
Green Haven Prison, Stormville, (men)
Groveland Prison, Sonyea, (men)
Otisville Prison, Otisville, (men)

Sing Sing Prison, Ossining, (men)
Sullivan Prison, Fallsburg, (men)
Wende Prison, Alden, (men)
Woodbourne Prison, Woodbourne, (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

76 Basic workshops, 961 participants
62 Advanced workshops, 746 participants
18 T4F workshops, 176 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Scarsdale Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse, Scarsdale NY
Sister Karen Center for Nonviolence, Buffalo

Flushing Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse,
Flushing
South Presbyterian Church, Yonkers
Albany Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse,
Albany
Purchase Friends (Quaker) Meetinghouse,
Purchase,
Slater Center, White Plains
East New York Urban Project, Brooklyn
United Methodist Church, Franklin
Northeast Millerton Library Annex, Millerton
Ascension Episcopal Church, Rochester

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

8 Basic workshops, 93 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 19 participants
2 T4F workshops, 26 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie
United Methodist Church, Franklin
Franklin Central School, Franklin
St. Joseph Collegiate Institute, Tonawanda
Mount Vernon Schools, Westchester
Delaware Opportunities, Hamden

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 36 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

219 inside, 110 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP New York's work in 2014

Looking at the number of workshops AVP New York held in 2014 as compared with previous years, our work contracted slightly in 2014. 172 full (18-28 hour) workshops were held in 2014 compared with 196 in 2013 and 162 in 2012. Looking at the number of active facilitators inside prison and out, our work expanded: 219 incarcerated facilitators served for at least one workshop, up from 197 in 2013 and 110 outside (civilian) facilitators served on-team, up from 87 in 2013.

The number of hours our volunteers put in is impressive. Inside facilitators volunteered

more than 17,050 hours and outside facilitators more than 8,440 hours to hold more than 3,910 in-session workshop hours with 2,096 participants in full (18 hour minimum) workshops and 662 participants in mini workshops.

We added a third Landing Strip in 2014. We now meet every Wednesday at the Redemption Center in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. We continue to meet twice monthly in Manhattan and monthly in Rochester to offer a welcoming hand to people coming home from prison as well as to people in the community who are interested in AVP.

Our Work in Prisons

We held 156 full workshops inside fifteen prisons including two for hearing-impaired participants (Wende CF) and six in Spanish (Sing Sing CF) with 1,902 participants. Three all-facilitator workshops focused on strengthening our facilitation skills and addressing conflict on-team. We trained 166 new apprentice facilitators inside the walls.

We are back at Elmira Prison! Due to personnel changes, DOCCS discontinued our program at Elmira in 2012. We were re-instated and in 2014 offered eight workshops and expect to grow to twelve this year.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Groveland this year and seventeen inside facilitators joined with thirteen outside facilitators from across the state. Inside facilitators planned the day and tried out some new exercises. Our Spring newsletter featured Groveland facilitators.

Special topic workshops in prison focused on domestic violence, reliability, accountability, parenting from inside, anger, forgiveness, re-entry, relationships, manly awareness, trauma resiliency and racial justice.

Our Work in Communities

We held 15 full (18 hour minimum) workshops

with 151 adults and 31 youth and trained 26 adults and 16 youth apprentice facilitators. We also held six mini workshops with 93 youth and twelve mini workshops with 74 adults. These totals include workshops held in schools.

In Brooklyn, we held a Basic workshop with seven mostly homeless participants at the East New York Urban Project and in Flushing (Queens) we held a Basic workshop with nine participants representative of this ethnically-diverse community.

In the Catskill Area Council, we held one full Level 1 (Basic) workshop at the Methodist church and a mini with Safe Against Violence volunteers. At Franklin Schools, we held four mini workshops with forty-five school teachers, administrators and staff.

In Rochester, we held a full, second-level special topic workshop on racial justice with thirteen participants.

In the Mid-Hudson Area Council, we held one Training for Facilitators (Level 3) workshop, graduating twelve apprentice facilitators and two, two-hour mini workshops with thirty-five participants.

In Buffalo, we held a full Level 1 workshop with thirteen participants from Buffalo Peacemakers Gang Intervention and Outreach and three, twelve-hour mini workshops with thirty-five participants.

The Westchester Area Council held six full workshops with seventy-four participants in Purchase, White Plains, Scarsdale and Yonkers. Fourteen completed all three levels of workshop and became apprentice facilitators. We also held a facilitator reunion day to hone our skills and share new exercises.

In Albany we held one Basic workshop with eight participants.

Our Work in Schools

We held two full workshops and six mini (12 hour) workshops with youth — all were associated with schools.

At Oakwood Friends School, we held two Level 1 workshops with thirty-one high school students from the REAL Skills afterschool program.

In Buffalo, the Niagara Frontier Area Council held a mini basic with twelve St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute sophomores.

At Franklin School we held five mini workshops—two Level 1, two Level 2 and one training for facilitator workshop with 81 student participants. Sixteen students completed all three levels.

In Mount Vernon Schools we held twenty-four one-hour introductory sessions with approximately 480 middle and high school students.

Our Work Outside of NYS

Through Friends Peace Teams, Mara Komoska and Shirley Way served on-team with Salvadoran facilitators for three workshops – two with Co-Madres in rural El Salvador and one with a sister community and staff of the organization Fundahmer.

John Scardina led a group of students from Friends Academy to El Salvador, where he co-facilitated a Basic.

Nadine Hoover continued to guide the work of Friends Peace Teams' Asia West Pacific Initiative, coordinating and facilitating several workshops in Indonesia including advanced special topic workshops on trauma healing, discernment and developmental play. She led discernment workshops in Australia and Ireland and a mini workshop on youth in Philadelphia PA.

Several AVP/NY facilitators attended the AVP

International Gathering in Ireland. Margaret Lechner served on-team for a Basic workshop in Ireland. She serves as Treasurer for AVP International and Ray Rios as Vice President. Margaret, Jackie Labatt-Simon and Madelein Schuster served on-team for a workshop with Habitat for Humanity in Connecticut. Margaret facilitates at MacDougall Prison in Connecticut.

Gregg Osofsky, LJ Amsterdam, Laurie Scott and Bill Leicht facilitated a mini and a basic in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Dawn Zuppelli served on-team at Everglades Prison in Florida and Susan Wolf at Solano Prison in California.

REPORT BY: Shirley Way

Pennsylvania / New Jersey Region

NEW JERSEY

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 69 participants
5 Advanced workshops, 69 participants
3 T4F workshops, 34 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting, Summit
Newark Community Solutions, Newark
Women Rising, Jersey City
Madison Community House, Madison

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 58 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 14 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

19 inside, 16 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This year we conducted the largest number of workshops in a year to date: 13 workshops in prisons and 5 in community settings. Of the prison workshops, 7 were held at Garden State YCF and 6 were at Edna Mahan CFW. Of the community workshops, 3 were at Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting, Chatham NJ, 1 was

held at Newark Community Solutions, Newark NJ; and 1 was held at Women Rising, Jersey City NJ. The total number of participants was: 127 in Basics; 83 in Advanced; and 34 in T4Fs.

One of our greatest challenges this year was the start of a lengthy asbestos abatement project in the chapel at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility, where we hold our workshops. As a result, both the number of workshops we hold and the hours of each workshop have been sharply reduced – just barely enough for a certificate. There is no longer time for our post-workshop facilitator meeting. Our volunteer contact, the chaplain, is very stressed. We worry about getting access to the prison, maintaining team cohesiveness among our inside facilitator teams and developing their skills. These trends are expected to continue in 2015. At Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, high turnover has also created the need to rebuild our inside facilitator team. On a positive note, we have received permission to start offering AVP workshops in the maximum security wing of the prison. The first of these is scheduled for January.

Several of our AVP inside facilitators have left the prisons where we work, either on parole or to halfway houses. We have adapted a new policy of offering small stipends to returning facilitators for taking part in outside workshops, but to date no returning facilitators have been

involved in outside workshops. Three are on our volunteer list, but have not responded to invitations. Others have not made contact.

In order to introduce community groups to AVP and promote participation, we held a number of mini-workshops in community locations again this year. Sites for minis included the nonprofit Newark Community Solutions, Madison Episcopal Church, Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting, and a prison arts and activism conference at Rutgers University. The Newark mini led to a full weekend workshop in the summer, but we will need to revisit the hours and structuring of the workshop if we work with that agency again. We conducted successful workshops with two other community organizations: Women Rising in Jersey City and Wind of the Spirit immigrant resource center at two locations in Madison and Summit. Facilitators noted that the broad diversity of these workshops, in terms of race, ethnicity and age, created very rich experiences for participants. We hope to train several bilingual youth facilitators from these workshops and begin to offer bilingual workshops in 2015.

This year, four of our outside facilitators began serving as workshop team leaders, bringing our total to five. We held a one-day training to encourage more members of the outside facilitator team to serve as team leaders. Seven of our outside facilitators attended the 2014 national AVP gathering in Philadelphia. Our state coordinator also served on the programming committee to organize workshop panels.

In 2014 we launched our website, held a budget priorities meeting, approved expense reimbursement policies and stipends for returning citizens and planned for further growth of the organization. Members received AVP-NJ publicity materials for their own recruitment and publicity efforts. We also conducted a one-day training to develop more lead facilitators among our outside volunteers.

REPORT BY: Eleanor Novek

PENNSYLVANIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 48 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 31 participants
1 T4F workshop, 10 participants

PRISON SHORT WORKSHOPS

(SCI Graterford allows only 11.25-hour workshops)

8 Basic workshops, 101 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 34 participants
1 T4F workshop, 8 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

New Jerusalem Recovery Program,
Philadelphia
Arcadia University, Glenside
Germantown Life Enrichment Center
Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting
The Center for Returning Citizens,
Philadelphia
Haverford College, Haverford
Palestine and Israel – Ramallah, Hebron, Tel
Aviv

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

13 Basic workshops, 137 participants

COMMUNITY SHORT WORKSHOP STATISTICS (5 ½ hours)

6 Advanced workshops, 90 participants
2 T4F workshops, 15 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

21 inside, 32 outside

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS— Middle East

Tel Aviv, Israel
Jerusalem, Israel
Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine
Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Palestine

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS – Middle East

3 Basic workshops, 45 participants

3 Advanced workshops, 45 participants

2 T4F workshops, 38 participants

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SCI Mahanoy

My joys and concerns: here at SCI Mahanoy we welcomed two women who were interested in starting AVP at the Federal Prison in Minersville, Pa. They completed their training with us and will facilitate their first Basic workshop at FCI Minersville in Jan. 2015. The workshop was completed and was a great experience. We hope to work together to help improve our AVP Programs.

REPORT BY: Gloria Upanavage

FCI McKean

Coming into 2014, Central PA AVP was looking forward to continuing building a strong program at FCI McKean. We had amazing support from the assistant warden in charge of programming, who set up an office space next to the room where we normally conduct the workshops, so that the staff person assigned to be the workshop liaison could do their regular work. We also received a generous donation from the estate of Shirley Tuttle, the founder of our chapter, that would permit us to carry out a dual track of English and Spanish workshops. Unfortunately, when this supportive assistant warden was promoted to a position with the Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D.C., the new assistant warden only let us do two workshops with new restrictions on timing during the first half of the year and then stopped authorizing any more workshops for the rest of the year. It was very disappointing that while we had finished our first complete cycle of workshops in Spanish that there have not yet been any opportunities for these graduates of the T4F course to practice their skills in subsequent workshops. A new warden is now coming to the prison, so we are hoping that they will allow us to resume

doing workshops at the prison on a regular basis. In the meantime we are considering whether it is time to try and establish a relationship with a new facility.

REPORT BY: Campbell Plowden

SCI Graterford and Philadelphia

Now in our 25th year. AVP prison workshops are valued and respected throughout the institution. Thirty-two Eastern Mennonite U. students travelled from Virginia for the annual AVP Basic workshops, part of their coursework. Seasoned AVP facilitators are in leadership throughout the prison's various resident programs. Our Saturday morning monthly facilitators In services are especially important given the large number of AVP facilitators available and the limited prison space allotted for workshops. We are pleased to report our workshops have additional time added, beginning the preceding Fridays.

From the community standpoint, the AVP National Gathering was held at Temple University, featuring AVP efforts in three charter schools and our connection with The Center for Returning Citizens. These have been rocky roads and much learning.

Mini-workshops were also held in Graterford on "AVP and Compassionate Listening" and "AVP and Mindfulness Practice." Mini-workshops were held in a Philadelphia summer day camp for 8 to 12 year olds.

REPORT BY: Carolyn Schodt, Charles Boyd

New Jerusalem Community

The New Jerusalem Community wants to add AVP facilitators to our team - but life shows up...being in a recovery community. Four new facilitators received their gold certificates this year (2014). Two more facilitators received their gold certificates at the end of February, 2015. If all goes as planned, we hope to find a new location to hold 3-day workshops for Advanced and T4F.

REPORT BY: Barbara Brigham

Palestine: In the Lancaster area, there were no AVP workshops in 2014. The Lancaster organization has been focusing on Palestine

and Israel since 2007. There was one AVP trip to Palestine and Israel in 2014.

REPORT BY: Joe DiGarbo

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

DELAWARE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Baylor Women's Correctional Institution
Howard R. Young correctional Center
James T Vaughn Correctional Center
Sussex Correctional Institution

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 242 participants
11 Advanced workshops, 130 Participants
3 T4T workshops, 26 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

53 inside, 12 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

I am blessed to have Ms. Pamela Faulkner (Minor) Treatment Services Administrator as the liaison for AVP. Ms. Faulkner supports AVP 100%, has memos distributed and participants notified in advance of the workshops. In addition, she prepares and notifies the kitchen of AVP breakfast and lunch needs. Without Ms. Faulkner the AVP would never run as smoothly as it does. Many of the other staff at the prison are welcoming and helpful.

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



MARYLAND

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Eastern Correctional Institution (ECI),
Westover
Jessup Correctional Institution (JCI)
Maryland Correctional Institution- Hagerstown
(MCIH)
Maryland Correctional Institution-Jessup
(MCIJ)
Maryland Correctional Institution for Women,
(MCIW), Jessup
Metropolitan Transition Center, Baltimore
Patuxent Institution, Jessup
Roxbury Correctional Institution (RCI),
Hagerstown

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

54 Basic workshops, 1030 participants
27 Advanced workshops, 456 participants
9 T4T workshops, 114 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Frederick

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 12 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 14 participants
(in a correctional facility)

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

165 inside, 59 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys: For ECI, 2014 marked 7 years of monthly workshops, provided at this point by 1

outside facilitator and alternating between the two sides of the institution; however, 3 new outside facilitators are in training. With a grant from the Episcopal Diocese on the Eastern Shore, ECI looks forward to soon offering an AVP workshop on both sides of ECI each month. Both the programs at RCI and ECI operated with one dedicated outside facilitator.

A new program at the Metropolitan Transition Center in Baltimore was begun this year after outreach to AVP from the institution. There is the intention to train some inside facilitators to help continue the program.

Several programs are offering one-day "power-ups" on different topics to provide ongoing support to those who have completed at least a Basic workshop. In this model, the power-up is held on one of the days that a weekend workshop is being held.

AVP Maryland hosts a one-day Regional Conference in the fall each year, and this year's meeting seemed to energize those who attended.

Two of the prison programs are able to hold some workshops in Spanish.

Concerns: AVP's good reputation with the parole board results in pressure from inmates to take the program, which they see as a condition of their parole. AVP continues to work to insure that participants volunteer themselves for the program and that enrollment procedures are fair to those waiting for a workshop.

One institution has begun to insist that a male outside facilitator must be part of a workshop team, which may cut down on the number of workshops that can be offered. Other

programs continue to struggle with communication issues regarding scheduling and clearances.

Mid-Shore AVP, based in Easton, MD, began its service to the community in summer 2013, with an emphasis on youth; however, no workshops were able to be held in 2014.

REPORT BY: Rev. Penelope Morrow, Martha Baer, Bill Denison, Ron Williams, Ed Sabin, Phyllis Lawrence, Leigh Ann Dodge and Alexandra Silanskis, Sheila Gaskins and Mariel Rubin and compiled by Nancy Hutchins

VIRGINIA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION
Richmond

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS
0 workshops

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS
2 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Richmond Peace Education Center continues to work with youth. Last year we facilitated CR workshops for approximately 700 youth and trained 200 teachers and 80 adults. We do use AVP and HIPP exercises and activities when working with youth and adults. We did do a Basic HIPP with youth and adults.

We continue to move forward with HROC. We have worked with Veterans, Social Workers, Psychologists, Afghan and Sudanese Refugees and general community in Richmond.

REPORT BY: Santa Sorenson

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

30 Basic workshops, 573 participants

22 Advanced workshops, 371 participants

3 T4F workshops, 72 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Florida International University Center for
Labor Research and Studies, Miami

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 23 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

85 inside, 25 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Miami: I am deeply concerned that when inmates are released, their rights are not restored in Florida and they are not allowed to volunteer. AVP support needs to go deeper into the newly released community.

December reunion gatherings are so beautiful and build so much community at each institution!!!!

Team building sessions with facilitators are great at re-energizing!!!!

Tampa Bay: Coleman women's camp is up to 500 women in a federal facility of 8,000 men and women in Coleman FL. Hispanic women in the camp number around 50%, and come from many different countries. AVPTB has been offering nearly monthly AVP w/the women

since 2002, and we completed 21 AVP workshops in 2014.

After a few years of working with the Spanish speakers in the English workshops, we developed a Spanish speaker AVP, with up to 6 trained bi-lingual facilitators. Half of the 12 Basic workshops were in Spanish, 3 of the 8 Advanced were in Spanish, and several bi-lingual women attended the T4F. Spanish speakers have translated many of the materials for their AVP.

We have an AVP camp council that had 21 trained facilitators through the year. They developed a five page charter for our AVP at the camp, which was reviewed line by line in council. The charter guides everything AVP and sets up clear agreements to enhance accountability and support.

Advanced topics offered in 2014: 10th annual Addictions & Recovery, Domestic Violence, Boundaries & Self Esteem, Distant Relationships with Family & Friends, Diversity & Community.

In August we offered a Day for Facilitators, and an inside team developed a four hour AVP workshop with outside facilitator support, to address the AVP community's challenges and strengths. In December, we offered an AVP celebration to welcome in the T4F grads. 60 women in the camp attended, and three outside facilitators as well. Lots of L&L fun, building community, and cookies provided by the kitchen.

FBI and Coleman pulled some of our long term facilitators for fingerprint issues, and after 2 years they reinstated them; nothing had changed. It is more challenging to get outside facilitators badged for AVP at Coleman, but we continue to work with staff to find ways to get

new people inside.

It has become increasingly difficult to fill community workshops. Only a few happened in 2014, and none were more than a day. In January, we had our 11th annual MLK/AVP community event.

REPORT BY: Dawn Addy, Mitchell Brown, Eduardo Diaz, Dustin Muller, Warren Hoskins (Miami), Christina Bellamy, Edie Daly, Nancy Tait (Tampa Bay)

GEORGIA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Atlanta
Decatur

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 21 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 7 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

3 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP in Georgia had an excellent year in 2014! Thanks to a team of three facilitators from Nashville TN, who traveled to Atlanta to offer the first Basic and Advanced AVP Community workshops offered in Georgia in anyone's working memory (as far as we know), AVP is getting (re)established here. These workshops helped bring together three AVP facilitators from Maryland and New York who are now located in Atlanta and we have happily accepted the torch handed off to us by our friends from Nashville. They encouraged us to keep building AVP in Atlanta and we have been doing so!

We hosted several potlucks and mini-workshops throughout the fall to build interest in AVP. We also offered 1 day of T4F to 4 participants and 1 day of Basic to 8 participants in 2014. There is already much to report for

2015. We've offered 4 Community Workshops in 4 months and trained 10 facilitators, several of whom have begun their apprenticeships. We have established a Steering Committee, opened a bank account, received generous support from the Atlanta Friends Meeting and begun outreach efforts to prisons in Georgia with plans to develop a prison workshop program. There's lots of momentum here and we are excited to keep it going!

REPORT BY: Heather Pincock

NORTH CAROLINA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Fayetteville
Wilmington

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 36 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 19 participants
2 T4F workshops, 15 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

7 outside

AVP workshops have begun in 2 locations in North Carolina: Fayetteville and Wilmington. Both groups initially planned to start work in the communities rather than the prisons.

Lynn Newsom, Co-Director of Quaker House, worked with local social workers, counselors, and persons from Fort Bragg regarding the full series of workshops in Fayetteville. The Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina offered 18 NBCC-Approved contact hours for the workshops. The local chapter of the National Association of Social Workers co-sponsored the 2nd Basic and the Adv. and T4F trainings in 2014. They also gave 18 hours credit. Future workshops are being considered.

In Wilmington, Goldie Walton, Clerk of the Wilmington Friends Meeting, worked with the meeting members to organize and host the full

series of AVP workshops. Participants included persons from the meeting, Wilmington Friends School, and the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department. The meeting continues to plan for future workshops.

REPORT BY: Rubye Braye

SOUTH CAROLINA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Columbia

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

1 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sharon Locklear (Lead facilitator), Diane Butler (Apprentice), and Rubye Braye (Facilitator) served on the team. This workshop was the first one held in Columbia, SC with this group. Diane Butler, Arnold Karr (Clerk, Columbia Friends Meeting), and members of the meeting and community participated in the workshop. Diane Butler worked with the local committee to plan the workshop as well as the Advanced and T4F workshops that were to be held in 2015.

REPORT BY: Rubye Braye

TENNESSEE

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Atlanta

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In 2014, facilitators from Nashville, Tennessee traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to conduct two workshops. The Basic workshop was held in January of 2014 with 21 participants and 3 AVP

facilitators. The Advanced workshop was held in September with seven participants and five facilitators. Two of the facilitators were from the Atlanta area and have since that time taken over the T for F training and several other Basic and Advanced workshops so that the facilitators from Tennessee could concentrate on their area.

We are sad to report that Caroline Kiev who has been a leader of AVP in Nashville has moved to Virginia to be closer to her family. We have been sad to see her go.

REPORT BY: Dot Dobbins, Trina Baum

VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility,
St. Croix

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 11 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 10 participants
1 T4F workshop, 7 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Housing Authority community rooms, 3 workshops
Reformed church, 3 workshops
Alternative Education school (Public) 1 workshop
Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Council office 1 workshop, 1 mini
Department of Education St. Croix, 2 mini workshops

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 35 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 14 participants
4 T4F workshops, 4 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Adelita Cancryn Junior High School (Public)
1 workshop

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 26 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

4 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

St. Croix:

Co-sponsored by the VI Bar Association and Frederiksted Health Care Inc., a Federally approved community health program, this year we have been invited to do work within the Dept. of Education (Public) and did several two 2-3 hour minis for 41 guidance counselors and monitors to prepare staff for our work with 4th graders. The sessions in 25 schools in St. Croix are to begin in January of 2015. We have also been doing AVP workshops in community rooms for residents of public housing communities. And for staff of our Alternative Education Program, where several of our AVP facilitators are now on staff. We've partnered with the Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Council in doing AVP workshops with their partners.

AVPers have been a part of a Practice Peace Initiative sponsored by Rotary Clubs. AVP St. Croix has spread the non violence work by forming a Community Peace Center to provide arts, skill building (AVP, HIPP and others) and peace advocacy. We look forward to much activity with AVP in the islands in 2015. Our great concern is having available more facilitators to share the rapidly growing AVP and HIPP work. Though we have trained more than 50 facilitators in the past 10 years, few are available to us now due to their jobs or other

commitments or moving off islands.

St. Thomas:

Two (2) mini workshops of 10 members each, respectively, were given to members of the Department of Education (STT) in order to introduce them to the Alternatives to Violence Project prior to HIPP being introduced in to the schools. One was presented to principals and the other to the counseling staff. HIPP was begun with the sponsorship of the Virgin Islands Bar Association. Additionally, (seven) 7 mentors of Sunrise Foundation, a not-for-profit youth mentor project participated in a half day mini.

The partnership with the Sunrise II Rotary Club of St. Thomas and the VI Peace Initiative has afforded us three (3) opportunities to discuss the mission and scope of AVP and its impact locally and internationally during their weekly Saturday radio spot.

An alliance with the Virgin Islands Housing Authority for use of space, where 3 workshops and a gathering of facilitators and participants yielded a discussion of the need for the project in the community and schools with the help of additional facilitators.

We will miss the leadership of Carolyn Keys as she has relocated to California to share her life with her daughter and grands.

We look forward to much activity with AVP in the islands in 2015.

REPORT BY: Carolyn Keys, St. Croix, Carmen Hamilton, St. Thomas, St. John

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

ILLINOIS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Although a group of people from the Chicago

area completed the three levels of AVP training in 2013 and have been meeting together regularly, they have not managed to conduct any workshops in 2014. The group is led by

Dr. Darryl Saffore of the Lawndale Community Church. This spring they were contacted by a group in the Chicago area who wish to take AVP training. However, Darryl writes that the facilitators are willing, but are a bit overwhelmed by life and ministry and don't feel they can do a weekend workshop. They are interested in trying to be creative and have asked Indiana for help.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner, Midwest Regional Representative

INDIANA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, Indianapolis (Men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 41 participants

3 Advanced workshops, 21 participants

2 T4F workshops, 16 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP Indiana had a very exciting year. We were successful in establishing a regular series of workshops at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Facility, in spite of many changes in the volunteer coordinators, and trained our first inside facilitators in the state of Indiana. AVP was accepted as a DOL approved workshop at IREF in June, 2014 which made it easier to get participants to sign up. From our first group of inside facilitators, a couple have been released, and two have been moved to different facilities. We have made contact with one of the facilities, Putnamville Correctional Facility in Green Castle, Indiana to introduce AVP to the administrators, but so far have not made much headway. The former Volunteer Co-ordinator and Chaplain at IREF took a new position at Heritage Trail Correctional Facility in Plainfield, Indiana (a privately run prison for first time offenders) and is working to get AVP

accepted as a program there.

Over the past year, most of our apprentice facilitators have had opportunities to gain experience. Also, we have made a number of connections with Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion (ESR) students and faculty in Richmond, Indiana. Several have taken workshops at IREF and the faculty at ESR have requested that we conduct a workshop for them in the fall of 2015. Two of our international students from Kenya and Rwanda have gotten training and are excited about taking AVP back to their home countries when they complete their studies.

In 2014, AVP Indiana started its own website in addition to its Facebook page. We organized our first Community workshop in two years, which took place in January 2015. We have been in talks with Richmond High School teachers and administrators, who are extremely interested in our working with the high school students. We will be conducting a three class session introduction to AVP this April at the high school and are hoping to organize our first youth workshop at Richmond High School in the fall.

We have also begun to get numerous requests from neighboring states (Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois) asking us to conduct workshops to help them get AVP started. We have even had a request from North Carolina to help them with apprentice training of their new facilitators in South Carolina. If all goes well, a facilitator from South Carolina will be helping with a workshop AVP Indiana is conducting in Kentucky in April.

In addition to the above, there has been an ongoing HIPP (Help Increase the Peace) program being conducted in the Indianapolis area schools and at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. I have finally managed to get a few details from the director of the Indianapolis Peace Learning Center. Tim Nation reports the following:

1) At Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, 326 youth participated in HIPP activities in 2014. Unfortunately this will no longer be a HIPP site since the Dept of Corrections canceled the contract to help the state make its 2 billion-dollar surplus. (I think they must have been using DOC resources).

2) At Indianapolis Public Schools – 8 middle and high schools – 3,258 youth participated in HIPP activities. (One was Irvington Community High School. I do not have the names of the other schools, but I don't think these were complete workshops.)

3) There were 6 Teach the Facilitator Sessions with 129 participants. (I don't know if these were youth or adult facilitators although I know that some of them were adults. I believe most were held at the Peace Learning Center in Indianapolis.)

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

KENTUCKY

Although there have been no workshops and no active facilitators in Kentucky for some years, that will soon change. Steve Olshewsky, who went through AVP training in Indiana in 2013 and is an apprentice facilitator, has been speaking about AVP to numerous groups in Kentucky throughout 2014. In particular, there is now great interest developing among faculty and students at Berea College and Berea Friends Meeting. The college faculty are considering the possibility in the future of including AVP as part of the curriculum. Berea Friends Meeting has scheduled a Basic workshop for April 2015 and has requested facilitators from AVP Indiana to help them conduct the workshop.

MICHIGAN

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Progress in Michigan has been slow. Kathy Ossmann reports that they held a Basic workshop in November 2013 (with two facilitators) and graduated 10 people mostly from their Friends meeting in the Kalamazoo area. This did not get reported last year, so I am noting it here. Since then they have gotten set up to input their data online and will do it going forward. There have not been any workshops in Michigan since 2013, although they have done some speaking and mini workshops which they hope will lead eventually to more workshop attendees. Meanwhile, they have asked for and gotten a support committee from Kalamazoo Friends to work with them and feel it will be helpful.

Kathy has asked AVP Indiana to help them get further training. They would like to help facilitate an Advanced workshop since they do not have much experience yet. AVP Indiana hopes to offer them that opportunity sometime in 2015.

REPORT BY: Miriam Bunner

OHIO

JOYS AND CONCERNS

There have been no workshops in Ohio for some time, but recently there has been renewed interest in getting AVP started in Ohio. In January, several people from the Cincinnati area joined a community workshop in Richmond, Indiana. They are excited about continuing the training and an Advanced workshop is scheduled for May. Another group has also contacted AVP Indiana to ask for a series of workshops to be conducted in Cincinnati in the fall. Both groups are committed to building a group of AVP facilitators in Ohio.

Also, in **August 2014** a HIPP workshop (Help

Increase the Peace Project) was held in the Cincinnati area to train youth. The HIPP program is the American Friends Service Committee's youth version of AVP. Mary Kay Rehard is involved with this work and had help from James Taylor (J.T.) who has conducted HIPP activities at the Pendleton Juvenile

Correctional Facility in Pendleton, Indiana for many years. Mary Kay reports that a group of youth facilitators from the Cincinnati area were trained last year.

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
Stillwater (men)
Faribault State Correctional Facility in
Faribault (men)
Waseca Federal in Waseca (women)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

14 Basic workshops, 290 participants
9 Advanced workshops, 159 participants
8 T4F workshops, 114 Participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Carlton College, Northfield,

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 8 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

108 inside, 35 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

- * Beginning in a new prison – Women's Federal at Waseca – is going very well.
- * The Steering Committee, which meets monthly, is vital, and includes several former inmates.
- * We are doing 5-hour minis in a county jail, which are going quite well.
- * Most facilitators are late middle-aged and up – how to find younger folks who are willing to commit the time?

REPORT BY: Richard McLemore II and Nancy Helfrich

NORTH DAKOTA

No workshops currently in North Dakota.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The recent warden cut back AVP's hours to three on Friday evening total(!). There were no workshops in 2014. So the AVP group is in suspension till the new warden gets going, at which time they will approach that person about re-starting the full workshops. We'll see.

REPORT BY: Betty Mills

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, 209 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 55 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

St Peter Lutheran Church at Orland, Madison

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 7 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

26 inside, 18 outside

JOYS: (Durfee) Our AVP workshops continue to enjoy the cooperation of the staff of Mike Durfee State Prison. We are afforded the use of our very qualified Internal Facilitators. We also understand the difficulties of finding space for all the various external functions that are held at their facility and we are afforded some of the best rooms available to them, which we appreciate immensely. Our workshops are always filled and usually have an overabundance of inmates who want to participate

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sioux Falls

Joys: 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.

At a recent workshop training meeting at Jameson, one of our inside facilitators stated that Unit D is much calmer and more mellow now since many of the inmates there have made AVP workshops. The other inmates from Unit D agreed. That is a huge statement

to make considering that Unit D is the more maximum of the two maximum units at Jameson (not counting the SHU or administrative segregation.) One of the newer facilitators in training, who is a small white inmate, told us how amazed he is to work with some of our large Native team members. He said he never would have even dared talk to them before meeting them in AVP.

Some other highlights from 2014 include:

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

Concerns:

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

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

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)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

9 Basic workshops, 99 participants
13 Advanced workshops, 143 participants
2 T4F workshops, 19 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

35 inside, 21 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

2014 was a struggle at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. We put in many more hours planning and preparing for workshops than we actually facilitated. Two of us have carried the torch for the past four years and it is discouraging when illness or personal needs prevent us from doing a workshop with no one else available to step in on short notice. But we have recently added a community volunteer to our team, and are training two more, so things are looking up.

At the Penitentiary, one huge challenge is that Debbie Nichols, ISP's security director and an asset to AVP, is retiring. Debbie embodies a perfect balance between security and rehabilitation. She has been an advocate of AVP since we first started there in 2006 and has always been so very thorough and expedient in getting new volunteers approved. We will miss her greatly. We have had a number of things to celebrate. We have two new volunteers and seven new inmate facilitators, all of whom are great assets. We are in the process of getting the newsletter up and running again. The support group, which faltered for a little while, is building in strength again and provides great support to the men between workshops.

At IMMC, getting new people to sign up both on the inside and the outside is a concern for our group. The joy of this however is that we get work together as a team to brainstorm ideas to try and get the word out about AVP both inside IMCC and outside in the community. Retention of current inside facilitators and participants due to moving on to other institutions or returning home is a concern as people leave and we have fewer in the AVP community. This is bitter sweet as we embrace new chapters in people's lives, but it means that they leave the group at IMCC. We had a guest facilitator in our January basic and

this really invigorated the group for the rest of the year. Everyone enjoyed hearing about how AVP is done in other communities and the group benefited from an outside perspective.

REPORT BY: Sandy Krell-Andre, Isabella De Soriano, Stan Sanders

KANSAS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Leavenworth Federal Prison

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 36 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

1 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We had 19 participants in April with 4 facilitators and 17 students in the Life Connections program participate. In November we had 3 facilitators and 3 seminary students from Unity Institute join our group. Two of our prominent facilitators are Unity ministers who have moved to the Northwest Coast and will be very much missed. They have plans to pursue AVP in the prisons located there.

Our joy is that AVP continues to be rated the best seminar in USP Leavenworth and our concern is that we want more of it and cannot get the staff to give us the room yet. We continue to plant seeds in the state of Kansas Department of Corrections and keep going up the ladder to request our workshops happen in the near future. Persist and it will come.

REPORT BY: Gayla Crumm

MISSOURI

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Boonville Correctional Center (men)
Pacific-Missouri Eastern Correctional Center
(men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

9 Basic workshops, 155 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 45 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

15 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

At Boonville, the last four workshops have been exceptionally deep. The participants have shown a considerable amount of introspection even at the basic level. When we conduct an Advanced workshop, we outline the possible topics and let each participant write three topics in which he is interested and a little background on his concerns. These sheets are shared with the outside facilitators but otherwise kept private. The outside facilitators tally the topics and then develop the workshop based on the three most popular topics, and typically we touch on a couple of other issues.

In November, we were able to extract seven situations from participants' outlines, and give them back their own scenarios as role plays to work out with one other participant. This led to great insights for everyone in the workshop on how to deal with anger in the moment, how to speak up for oneself, and how to deal with repetitive arguments over the same subject with a significant other. We always have the participants play the scene twice, once in their non-AVP way, and secondly focused on conflict resolution.

Sadly, we've had to close the program at Pacific-Missouri Eastern because of not enough people and difficulties in administration.

REPORT BY: Stephanie Brooks and Tom Sandidge



NEBRASKA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Nebraska State Penitentiary
Omaha Correctional Center

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

9 Basic workshops, 138 participants
6 Advanced workshops, 86 participants
2 T4F workshops, 10 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Lincoln Friends Meetinghouse

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Basic workshops, 48 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 19 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

At the Omaha Correctional Center, we have had to deal with renovations of our space with constant relocations and facilitator turnover. Our two six-hour in-service days were enjoyable and great for spirit building. At the Omaha Work Release Center, we are unable to give workshops, but we are in our second year of a reentry program open to any who choose to attend. We do a mini-workshop on Wednesdays.

At the Penitentiary in Lincoln, workshop participation and success continues to be better and better. We feel that the limit of 6 workshops per year that we are allowed is not enough. The monthly community workshops in Lincoln, with many participants coming from the Lincoln Work Release Center, have been both challenging and wonderful. Because the people are with us short periods of time, we have individually trained participants to become facilitators after they have completed a Basic and an Advanced workshop. We give them the materials to study and then put them on a team "lightly," only leading the simpler parts of the agenda at first. We are pleased to have strong

inside and outside facilitating teams. The inside facilitators are positive role models and recruiters. Every community workshop has had at least one person on the team who started

AVP while they were in prison.

REPORT BY: Maureen Connolly, Nan Schweiger and Marge Schlitt

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

ARKANSAS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

No AVP workshops reported in 2014. However, at the International Peace Day program in September, one of our workshops had to do with revitalizing/re-introducing AVP in the area – lots of folks here aren't familiar with it. The consensus was that we'd try to have a Basic workshop some time in central Arkansas during 2015. Whether that happens is still up in the air – though the Tucker prison can count in some way. We've first to get a better planning group together here locally; the alliance of groups we count on for activist collaboration on the major issues is pretty diverse, each with their own priorities, etc. (Spoiler: there was a workshop in April 2015!)

REPORT BY: John Coffin

TEXAS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Austin
San Antonio

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 18 participants (including 4 youth participants)

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

3 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Concern is that we have so few facilitators and so much geography.

REPORT BY: Tom Martin

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

COLORADO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

15 Basic workshops, 240 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 56 participants
4 T4F workshops, 32 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

New Foundation Office, Denver
Independence Halfway House, Denver

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Advanced workshop, 7 participants
1 T4F workshop, 4 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

10 inside, 15 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **JOYS:** New Foundations is happy that two facilitators, Margaret Vrana and Norma Cady began offering AVP to the Buena Vista Correctional Facility for the first time.
- In addition, Rebecca Tucker and Angila Papsdorf started a series of Saturday Morning AVP sessions at the Independence House Half-way house in Denver where they had 6 participants for 5 sessions. The participants made a point to come to our quarterly AVP volunteer meeting to tell us how much they got out of it.
- The new program manager at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility has asked us to work with the higher security level women and to come more often. The new Chaplain at the Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center is very supportive of our program.
- In 2014, seven individuals began training to become facilitators and we look forward to them joining our ranks.
- We had a very successful annual gathering where Ray Rios and Carolyn Polikarpus joined us and shared their wisdom and enthusiasm.
- **CONCERNS:** We continue to struggle with having enough Lead Facilitators that can enhance our capacity to grow. We have not been able to find enough volunteers to go to the facilities that want us.
- We struggle to find ways to find and support people who participated in AVP while in prison and have since been released.

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,
Grants

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

8 Basic workshops, 109 participants

8 Advanced workshops, 71 participants

4 T4F workshops, 39 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

United Methodist Church, Truth or
Consequences

El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 17 participants

1 Advanced workshop, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

33 inside, 13 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP-Northern New Mexico

JOYS: AVP-NNM is expanding and becoming even more cohesive and enthusiastic. The group is clearly dedicated to and inspired by working with the state's returning citizens.

At the men's prison (PNM), we doubled the number of workshops from 5 in 2013 to 10 in 2014. We began using the men's prison as an incubator for potential outside facilitators, since this facility allows a one-time entrance without requiring volunteer training. Reunion meetings occurred almost monthly and provided experience for apprentice facilitators. One gold certificate inmate received strong support from outside facilitators upon release and is thriving.

At the women's prison, the numbers of participants increased and the yield of new, eager apprentices was gratifying. We developed a workable sequence of workshops

to accommodate the required separation of RDAP and General Population. Two changes of administrative liaison challenged the lead facilitator, necessitating flexibility and diplomacy.

Community workshop: Collaborating with Crossing Borders (the AVP chapter in southern NM), we offered a second-level community workshop.

Funding: Due to increased numbers of workshops and late receipt of our regular, annual single largest donation, we sought and received a “bridge grant” from a local agency to fund workshops for the remainder of the year.

Outreach: We held a successful public event to attract potential new facilitators. A seasoned facilitator took on the job of working with new facilitators, vetting them and then shepherding them through workshops at PNM; her work has led to the addition of several new outside apprentices.

CONCERNS: More lead facilitators are needed for both prisons.

Men’s prison participant numbers fluctuated and were often skimpy, due to a new sequencing of workshops recommended by a prison administrator. Unexpected transfers of inside facilitators led to reliance on just a few inside seasoned facilitators and apprentices.

Women’s prison T4Fs led to the difficulty of giving timely, regular experience for large numbers of apprentices. We are challenged to find enough outside facilitators for the women’s prison, because facilitation there requires three days and overnight stay.

Funding continues to be an ongoing concern, since by year’s end two grant applications were still outstanding.

Volunteer prison training, required annually, was erratic and although securing badges is

still a problem, most concerns were answered and next year’s training schedule looks to be regularized.

Crossing Borders AVP:

After a wonderful basic in March in El Paso we have been involved in the Peace Camp in July and many who have done the basic have been involved in creating a ‘Moral Injury’ group to work with veterans. One facilitator has worked with AVP of NNM in the women’s prison. She will also be a co-facilitator in the Trauma Awareness Workshop in Santa Fe. No more workshops have been planned in the area; this is a concern.

REPORT BY: Vickie Aldrich (Crossing Borders) and Margy Willen (AVP of Northern NM)

WYOMING

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 29 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 31 participants
1 AVP workshop, 9 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 1 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Riverton Group:
We did a presentation at our local community college. It amounted to one session of a regular workshop. The purpose was to inform interested members of our community of the service we provide at our local security prison. There were about 30 attendees.

REPORT BY: Doug Newlin, Margie Farias, and Michael Bohn

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

ALASKA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Fairbanks

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 25 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

After a decade or more hiatus, Alaska AVP is once again active! We've a core of five facilitators trained in the early 90's (and one, Karen Cauble, was trained by Larry Apsey in 1976!) Workshops this year were in Fairbanks, and we're planning more there, and in Homer and Anchorage. We're working on establishing an Alaska Area Council, made up of representatives from Fairbanks, Anchorage and Homer.

REPORT BY: Karen Cauble

IDAHO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Idaho State Correctional Institution

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 42 participants

2 Advanced workshops, 24 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Boise State University

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

3 outside

REPORT BY: Jim Williams

NEVADA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSSC),
Carson City – state prison

Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC), Lovelock
-- state prison

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

10 Basic workshops, 202 participants

5 Advanced workshops, 102 participants

1 T4F workshop, 12 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

40 inside, 9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP Nevada had another record year of workshops, which is especially remarkable because of having a set-back at one facility. We were able to increase our frequency of workshops in the rural prison of Lovelock, NV, from once per quarter (two separate yards) to once every other month (on each yard).

Our set-back came in September of 2014 at Warm Springs Correctional Center. When the person coordinating for us in the Administration took a job out of state, we were without someone willing to take on the job. Then a few weeks into the delay of resuming workshops, we were informed that the Nevada Department of Corrections was requiring all programs to resubmit an application for eligibility. Yet, in spite of rather quick NDOC Board approval of the program, a change of Associate Warden and a delay of assigning someone to coordinate the program on the inside kept AVP from doing workshops for the rest of 2014.

Our outside facilitation team has increased this year by three, including one formerly incarcerated facilitator. Unfortunately, he will not be able to facilitate inside the NDOC

system. He has spoken on behalf of AVP on a couple of occasions, and we hope to plan a community workshop in 2015 where he can facilitate.

REPORT BY: Rita Sloan

OREGON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem (state prison)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 47 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We held workshops at Oregon State Penitentiary, in Salem, Oregon, sponsored by the Veterans' Association, in the Activities Department. These went well, despite the limitation of not being able to use weekends. Because of the heavy scheduling in Activities, we can only go in 3 times per year, and must use Fridays – usually consecutive – to get in our 18+ hours. The Friday scheduling can be a problem for inside participants and facilitators, who must miss work, although DOC must give them time off. It is an even bigger problem for quite a few of our outside participants and facilitators, who simply cannot take part because of their work hours on Fridays.

We are happy that now, through the special efforts of two great inside facilitators, AVP has been given a new status as an Interest Group. This means that for 2015 we can schedule 4 workshops – and hope for more in the future.

In addition to the workshops, we continue to hold AVP Reunions at OSP three times a year, inviting everyone who has participated in even one workshop. In the past the only outsiders who could take part were carded volunteers. But now DOC has opened it up to take in more

from the outside. This has gone very well, with our biggest turnout in November of 30 – 23 insiders and 7 outsiders. This is a good chance to connect with AVP friends, catch up on happenings inside and out, and enjoy some exercises and L&Ls. We recommend this Reunion idea to those working in other institutions. They are much easier to schedule than a full workshop.

We have been laying the groundwork for a number of years for getting into several other state prisons in the Salem area, and are hopeful that new leadership may be able to expand the work into Oregon State Correctional Institution, Santiam CI, Mill Creek CI and Coffee Creek women's facility.

Workshops in Sheridan Federal Correctional Institution have been laid down as an inactive site. Oregon Department of Justice approved distributing funds remaining to us as start-up funds for possible future Portland prison workshops under the care of the Multnomah Friends Meeting. Remaining additional funds went to Idaho AVP for supporting travel by Oregon facilitators there and other Idaho activities. Some Oregon facilitators helped with Idaho prison workshops.

REPORT BY: Rose and Dick Lewis and Ethen Perkins

WASHINGTON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Washington State Reformatory, Monroe (men)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 45 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Tacoma Veterans Bureau
Seattle World Affairs Council
Wenatchee Trauma Healing, Recovery Svcs
Seattle Group Health
Bellingham Friends Meeting

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Advanced workshops, 66 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our prison program is still reeling from the consequences of the murder of a correctional officer in 2011. The DOC removed all programming for a year while they dealt with security audits and consequences. Where we used to do 22 to 24 workshops a year (one a month in two prisons) – we are now down to only six per year in one prison, and scheduling problems left us with only 2 this year. With the restricted access we lost our pipeline to train new facilitators, and with a reduced number of facilitators we have had trouble delivering the workshops we planned.

On the brighter side, our community program

has been doing quite well in Seattle and Bellingham. We did a workshop for V.A. and Veterans Bureau officials in Tacoma, which convinced them to do AVP for veterans' programs in the county jail. We did a workshop in Wenatchee Washington for Trauma Healing and Recovery Services (which does AVP in Burundi) board members and community members. The community is looking for ways to plug AVP into their small city. Twice this year we sent facilitators to Fairbanks Alaska to help them restart AVP programming there. We are still partnering with the World Affairs Council, and with them have done 5 mini workshops. Three of these were with youth groups (from Brazil, Iraq and Mexico) and two with adult groups (one from Syria and the other from 9 North African and Middle Eastern countries). 2015 is looking to be a very busy year with a good number of new facilitators in training.

REPORT BY: Rick Krouskop, Roger Kluck

Southwest Region: AZ, CA, HI

CALIFORNIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

State Prisons:

California City Correctional Facility (CAC)
California City (men)
California Correctional Center (CCC)
Susanville (men)
California Correctional Institution (CCI)
Tehachapi (men)
California Institute for Men (CIM)
Chino (men)
California Institute for Women (CIW)
Chino (women)
California Men's Colony (CMC)
San Luis Obispo (men)
California Medical Facility (CMF)
Vacaville (men)
Calipatria State Prison (CAP)
Calipatria (men)

Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)
Chowchilla (women)
Centinela State Prison (CEN)
Imperial (men)
Correctional Training Facility (CTF)
Soledad (men)
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP)
Blythe (men)
High Desert State Prison (HDSP)
Susanville (men)
Ironwood State Prison (ISP) Blythe (men)
R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD)
San Diego (men)
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, Corcoran,
(SATF) Corcoran (men)
California State Prison, Solano (SOL)
Vacaville (men)
Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP)
Soledad (men)

Probation Departments:

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

County Jails:

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

PROBATION, PRISON & JAIL WORKSHOP STATISTICS

161 Basic workshops, 2,567 participants
 105 Advanced workshops, 1,691 participants
 37 T4F workshops, 501 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Antelope Valley, Nevada City, Oakland, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica/Los Angeles, Santa Rosa

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

21 Basic workshops, 276 participants
 4 Advanced workshops, 41 participants
 5 T4F workshops, 26 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Antelope Valley, Oakland, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

12 Basic workshops, 223 participants

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

13 Basic workshops, 173 participants
 7 Advanced workshops, 116 participants
 2 T4F workshops, 24 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

543 inside, 165 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

JOYS: One of our greatest joys in 2014 was to

bring AVP to two additional California prisons: Calipatria State Prison, a high-security facility in the Imperial Valley, and California City Correctional Facility, a new, level 2 facility in the Mojave Desert. In both cases, the introduction was facilitated by the positive experience of new wardens who had witnessed AVP in action in other facilities. Within one year, the program at Calipatria has expanded from one workshop every three months to two workshops every other month, and the prison is now requesting expansion of the program to an additional yard. The California City program is currently holding one workshop monthly, but expects to increase to two monthly workshops in 2015. All of this has been accomplished while maintaining our ongoing programs, so that AVP is now available to inmates in 18 out of California's 35 state prisons. In addition, AVP is now being offered in several juvenile probation facilities as well as in four county jails.

The number of Basic workshops for prison/probation/jail facilities increased by 27 percent in 2014; Advanced workshops by 15 percent; and T4Fs by 23 percent. In order to address the lack of AVP volunteers living in California's San Joaquin Valley (where nine of California's 35 prisons are located), AVP/CA launched a fund-raising drive to support the hiring of an Outreach Coordinator, resident in the area, for three years to seek out and train new local volunteers. The response to the campaign has been very positive and the program is set to begin in mid-2015; additional fund raising will be required to completely support the program for years two and three.

We are particularly gratified that with changing laws in the State of California, more inmates are gaining release from state prisons, including many of our experienced and talented inside facilitators. Ad hoc efforts on the part of local councils are assisting many of these returning citizens to find opportunities to serve as AVP facilitators in community workshops, thus increasing the number of community volunteers available and offering community participants an

opportunity to gain from the tremendous wisdom and experience these men and women possess. Lastly, despite the loss of five long-time statewide Steering Committee members in 2014, and Pat Hardy's transition from serving as AVP/CA President, the move towards instituting a "starfish" model for the AVP/CA organization is proceeding probably more smoothly than many had anticipated. Various Steering Committee members are now taking on responsibilities that had previously been the purview of the President. Fortunately Pat remains very active within AVP/CA, especially in terms of getting the Outreach Coordinator program up and running and serving as liaison with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and serving on the Fund Development Committee.

CONCERNS: Our joy at expanding the program to two new prisons is dampened only by the fact that we have more invitations to open new prisons, and new yards at facilities where we are already running programs, than volunteers available from the outside. The San Joaquin Valley initiative, discussed above, is one way we

hope to address this need for more volunteers from the community. The importance of recruiting new outside volunteers is emphasized by the fact that while our total number of inside facilitators increased from 478 to 543 (14%) in 2014, we actually experienced a decrease in outside facilitators from 172 to 165 (6%), despite offering programs in two additional prisons.

While we are excited to have many returning citizens joining the ranks of AVP community facilitators, we are still aware that there are other individuals who are not able to connect with AVP upon release as we lack any organized system of tracking and keeping them affiliated with the program. This is an area that is recognized as needing further discussion and initiative.

We are constantly amazed by the amount of work carried out each year by our AVP volunteers; just think what we could do if there were more of them!

REPORTED BY: George Ramos, Ann Leonard, and all the California Prison and Community Coordinators

