

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

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

**Annual Report for Calendar Year 2011
published May, 2012**

AVP/USA

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The Committee of Local and Regional Groups

CLARG is composed of representatives from each regional group, forming the bridge between all the local groups and AVP/USA.

CLARG assists local groups (sometimes called Area Councils), tracks the number of workshops given in each area, updates the mailing list for AVP/USA, assists in the establishment of new local groups, helps to formulate policy or standards for facilitators, promotes financial grants from AVP/USA, brings local concerns to the attention of the national organization, and promotes attendance at the annual national gathering. This work is done at meetings at the annual national gathering, timely conference calls, mailings, intervisitation, and frequent emails.

In 2011, CLARG merged, simplified, and raised the maximum amount which could be awarded by the two financial grants. The new one is located at www.avpusa.org.

Comparison of workshop statistics

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Prison workshops					
# of Basic workshops	515	484	491	488	471
# of participants	7,687	6,778	7,692	6,956	7,305
# of Advanced workshops	240	230	278	287	292
# of participants	3,120	3,211	4,098	3,916	4,054
# of T4F workshops	84	90	89	84	90
# of participants	826	990	858	947	1,092
Community workshops					
# of Basic workshops		81	66	66	53
# of participants		996	806	715	571
# of Advanced workshops		34	32	16	18
# of participants		468	348	195	190
# of T4F workshops		22	23	14	14
# of participants		169	211	135	111
Youth workshops					
# of Basic workshops			37	12	12
# of participants			173	194	240
# of Advanced workshops			2	5	6
# of participants			35	81	85
# of T4F workshops				4	3
# of participants				56	40
Total # of workshops	839	941	1,018	974	959
Total # of participants	11,633	12,612	14,221	13,196	13,688
Total # of states/territories	32	33	33	32	28
Total # of inside facilitators	815	947	1,229	1,227	1,364
Total # of outside facilitators	530	622	651	588	595

CLARG 2011-12

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

CONNECTICUT

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

MacDougall CI, Suffield
Osborn CT, Somers
York CI (Women's), Niantic

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

19 Basic workshops, 489 participants
8 Advanced workshops, 164 participants
3 T4F workshops, 27 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

51 inside, 29 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MacDougall: We've had a successful year with one workshop a month. We have some new facilitators, both inside and outside, who show great promise. We also had two outside participants who are going to take AVP to Liberia! We are excited about having a sister program in Africa.

Osborn: We do a once-a-month one day event. Sometimes it is called an alumni workshop and is a one day training on a theme that is designated by one or more of our inside trainers. Themes have included power, stereotypes, empathy, and communication. Participants are selected by the prison from among those who have completed both a basic and an advanced.

Approximately once a quarter, the Saturday one day event is a trainers meeting, which is attended by as many as possible of the inside and the outside facilitators. This allows time for addressing overarching concerns of the AVP program as well as team building. The "alumni day" and "trainers meeting" event also provides planning time for those who will be facilitating the month's basic or advanced workshop.

In 2011, we experimented with using several of our alumni sessions to better prepare the people who were to be trained in the January, 2012, T4F, with the result that most of us felt we had an extremely well prepared set of new trainers at the end of the T4F weekend.

York: This past year has been a very tough year for the AVP program at York C.I. We have been struggling to establish a strong outside volunteer base. Lacking strong numbers and leadership, we have been struggling to provide enough regular workshops to meet the needs of the participants. While this has caused some

instability with our team of inside facilitators, one very clear joy is the consistent commitment of the inside facilitators to provide workshops of integrity.

REPORT BY: Valentine Doyle, Carol Lewis, Claude Tellier, and Kris Wraight

MAINE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Maine Correctional Center for Men
Maine Correctional Center for Women
Maine State Prison
Bangor Women's Re-entry Center

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

14 Basic workshops, 125 participants
4 Advanced workshops, 32 participants
4 T4F workshops, 21 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 14 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The good news is that we are still operational! 2011 was a tough year for our work in the men's prisons and as a group of facilitators. Our work at Maine State Prison was halted for a couple of months when that administration decided we must have an officer in the room. This was reconsidered and we continue as before. Our work at the Maine Correctional Center on the men's side was only operational for the first three months of 2011 due to a change in the administration policy as to how AVP participants are recruited. Then followed a misunderstanding – miscommunication – personality clash between the administration and a facilitator which necessitated several discussions before we could again have access (Jan. 2012) and an agreement to test the new policy.

Maine Department of Corrections received a new Commissioner who made a lot of personnel and policy changes with the result that most of the staff we worked with changed positions. This led to delays in communication and the inevitable lack of knowledge while staff settled in to new duties.

As a group, we lost two of our male facilitators who chose to leave the team and create their own prison program. Much of the hurt and anger within the group remained unresolved but eased with time. We are developing a

Restorative System for working with conflict in our outside facilitator group which will include some AVP exercises and the Restorative Circle process developed by Dominic Barter. We give thanks to ROSC (Resources for Organising Social Change) which continues to support us financially and makes it possible to send a representative to the National AVP/USA conference.

REPORT BY: Sue Rudalevige

MASSACHUSETTS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

MCI Concord
MCI Norfolk
MCI Shirley – Medium & Minimum
Northeast Correctional Center – Concord
Old Colony Correctional Center
Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center
MCI Cedar Junction

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

37 Basic workshops, 581 participants
12 Advanced workshops, 196 participants
11 T4F workshops, participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

205 inside, 45 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This is a transition year for AVP/MA as we say good-bye to Nancy Shippen AVP/MA Chair for four years. We honored Nancy at our Feb. 11th Business Meeting and welcomed a new Board: Kathy Rubenstein, Joan Russell – as Co-chairs, Robey Benson – continuing another year as Treasurer, and Bess Haire – Recording Secretary. 2012 will be a year to strengthen fundraising, support and train our facilitators and hopefully expand to NCCI-Gardner.

REPORT BY: Jo-Ann DellaGiustina, Susan Jordan, Betty Keddy, Donna Molloy, Patrick Parker-Roach, Prue Prentice, Mark Richards, Kathy Rubenstein, Joan Russell

NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

NH State Prison for Men, Concord

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 45 participants
1 Advanced workshops, 24 participants
1 T4F workshops, 13 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

25 inside, 5 outside

REPORT BY: Barbara Thorngren

NEW YORK REGION

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Albion, Arthur Kill, Attica, Auburn, Bedford Hills, Butler, Cayuga, Eastern, Greene, Green Haven, Groveland, Mid-Orange, Otisville, Sing Sing, Sullivan, Wende, Woodbourne

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

73 Basic workshops, 907 participants
64 Advanced workshops, 678 participants
20 T4F workshops, 201 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Bronx Lebanon Hospital (Bronx)
Institutional AME Zion Church (Yonkers)
Living Transformation International Center (Yonkers)
Manchester home (Lima)
Powell House Quaker Retreat and Conference Center (Old Chatham)
St. Paul's Episcopal (Buffalo)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Bronx, Tremont)

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

8 Basic workshops, 77 participants
1 Advanced workshops, 6 participants
1 T4F workshops, 9 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Church of the Ascension Episcopal (Rochester)
Family Partnership Center (Poughkeepsie)
Our Lady of Victory High School (Ossining)
Walton Central Schools (Walton)

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 81 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 36 participants
2 T4F workshops, 24 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

205 inside, 120 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP/New York grew our work in both prisons and in communities in 2011 even as we lost

two prison programs due to prison closures. The number of workshops offered and the number of participants are up significantly over 2010.

Landing Strip, our support group for people released, continues to meet bi-monthly in Manhattan.

The seeds planted in the Bronx in 2010 sprouted five full workshops in 2011 and nine new apprentice facilitators, two of whom are now instrumental in the establishment of a new area council.

In Westchester Area Council, we held four workshops in community settings – two in Yonkers two at Our Lady of Victory High School in Ossining.

In Rochester, we held two workshops at a church that has strong prison ministry. We hope the church will become a home to a Rochester Landing Strip.

In Buffalo, we held a basic for participants from Occupy Buffalo.

This year, the Walton Central Schools requested that we offer mini workshops to their 5th grade twice during the year in addition to the annual minis for all 6th and 7th grade classrooms, reaching approximately 555 students with approximately 20 young (high school) facilitators. Again this year, we held all three levels of full workshops for 8th-12th graders.

Our afterschool program in Poughkeepsie offered a basic workshop with 33 youth.

122 youth participated in full workshops, approximately 500 in mini workshops; 24 were trained to be facilitators and 27 youth served on a team.

While we lost two prison programs (Arthur Kill and Mid-Hudson) due to prison closures this year, and another program (Elmira) was suspended in 2010 and has not yet been reinstated, the number of workshops is up by

20 percent to 159 and the number of participants rose by 14 percent to 1,825. We trained 201 new apprentices inside the walls and 201 inside facilitators served on at least one team; 120 outside facilitators served on a team at least once, either in prison, in the community, or both.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Auburn this year and the “Home Team” delighted in sharing the new exercises they have developed with eighteen outside facilitators visiting from across the state. We were thrilled to be able to feature the Auburn team in our Fall newsletter, complete with photos!

Special topic workshops focused on manly awareness, building a support system, myself and my relationships, re-entry / new-entry, stigma, anger management, and parenting from inside.

Twelve facilitators from NYS participated in the 2011 AVP International Gathering in Antigua, Guatemala. The week-long gathering drew 96 facilitators from 22 countries and five continents. Nadine Hoover, joined by Sarah and Nick Rozard, continued her twenty-something-year-long venture of growing AVP in Indonesia, now as part of Friends Peace Teams' Indonesia Initiative.

Greta Mickey and Turtle MacDermott served on a team in several workshops with Maia Gonjilashvili (of AVP/Georgia) in the Republic of Georgia, under the care of New York Yearly Meeting.

Margaret Lechner worked with Friends Peace Teams' Peacebuilding en las Americas, facilitating workshops in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Shirley Way served on a team for a trauma healing workshop in Honduras also with FPT's PLA. Carolyn Polikarpus, John Gallagher, and Laurie Scott served on a team in a workshop in a prison in Costa Rica.

REPORT BY: Shirley Way and Carolyn Polikarpus

PENNSYLVANIA/NEW JERSEY REGION

NEW JERSEY

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Garden State YCF, Yardville

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 91 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 34 participants
1 T4F workshops, 16 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

9 inside, 5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

This was a good year for AVP/NJ. Despite a very small outside facilitator team and some real challenges in scheduling, we managed to offer 8 workshops and grow the chapter.

We added 8 new outside volunteers this year – 5 have completed T4Fs, two have already joined the team in workshops, and 3 are ready to facilitate but haven't yet. The rest are awaiting completion of their training.

This year, we trained 13 new inside facilitators. One of them got a chance to facilitate in December and the others are eager to begin. We plan to pair them on teams with experienced inside facilitators in the coming year. The inside team also helped to plan a facilitator mini-workshop for January, 2012, to help our new team members integrate with our experienced ones. Sadly, one of inside facilitators was transferred to another facility abruptly and we lost contact with him entirely. Another anticipates release to a halfway house soon.

Three of our outside facilitators attended the national AVP gathering in San Francisco this year. One of them, a graduate student, shot a video there for a documentary that will be his graduate thesis in communication. He was also granted permission to shoot video at the prison where we operate. After conferring as a team, we staged a day-long mock Basic with our entire facilitator team so that the videographer could capture the flavor and various elements of a workshop without compromising the privacy of actual participants. All our inside facilitators were eager to be in the video and we were permitted to take part in the session by the institution. One even performed an original rap he had written about AVP on camera. The video is in the editing stages and we hope to screen the finished project at the prison this spring or summer.

We also created a full-color brochure for our chapter and opened a PO Box and a Gmail account to have contact addresses for the program.

One member of our outside facilitator team spoke at an AVP information session at the Chatham Summit Quaker Meeting in December, 2011. This led to a Basic workshop at the meetinghouse in January, 2012, and lots of interest in an Advanced session and more AVP for this meeting – but that's for next year's report!

REPORT BY: Eleanor Novek

PENNSYLVANIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

SCI Chester
SCI Graterford
SCI Mahanoy
Federal Corr. Inst. - McKean

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

18 Basic workshops, 206 participants
10 Advanced workshops, 114 participants
6 T4F workshops, 56 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

New Jerusalem Recovery Community,
Philadelphia
Community Center at Visitation, Kensington
York

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

17 Basic workshops, 218 participants
7 Advanced workshops, 92 participants
6 T4F workshops, 42 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

49 inside, 24 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP activities in Pennsylvania remained vigorous in three state and one federal prison, a recovery community, and continued modest offering of workshops in other community settings. A few programs have been growing and a few stayed about the same at low to medium levels.

The strongest prison program continues at SCI Graterford where a large cadre of inmate facilitators began to meet monthly for inservice activities. This team also offered workshops in

Spanish to inmates from six distinct Latino regions. The program was enriched by the participation of a group of students from Eastern Mennonite University enrolled in a conflict resolution course. Two former inside facilitators are now supporting AVP community workshops on the outside. The principle challenge of the program is that the prison has now restricted the space available to AVP workshops. This has cut in half the number of workshops done at the prison from ten years ago. The group is set to meet with the new prison superintendent to address this and other concerns.

The AVP program at the New Jerusalem recovery center also continues to thrive by regularly doing workshops at three sites – one of which is a facility made available by the city of Philadelphia. There is a strong core group of facilitators including three new people who earned their “gold” facilitator certificate for being part of the facilitation team in at least ten workshops (some three-day and some one-day long).

AVP/Central PA is continuing to hold a regular series of AVP workshops at FCI McKean near Bradford, PA, with decreasing reliance on facilitators coming from distant State College as more outside facilitators slots are being filled by volunteers living in the area near the prison.

The program continues to receive very strong support from a top-tier prison administrator but also seems vulnerable to the eventual departure of this one staff person.

The program at SCI Chester had been hanging on due to the perseverance of two outside facilitators, and this responsibility now rests with one of them and a pair of very committed inside facilitators. Maintaining a regular series of workshops has also been challenging due to the quixotic nature of the prison bureaucracy.

The local coordinator of the program at SCI Mahanoy reported that last year she began to meet monthly with the inside facilitators to discuss any problems or concerns they may have and go over evaluations and exercises. Since this group lacks an inside coordinator, these visits have helped her stay connected to the group and continue building community.

We received an indirect report that community workshops took place in York, PA, with support from Friends Meetings in York and Lancaster, but we did not receive any data about these workshops.

REPORT BY: Campbell Plowden, Jessica Arends, Gloria Upanavage, Leslie Stevenson, David Watkins, Carolyn Schodt, Jorge Arau.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION: DC, DE, MD, VA, WV

DELAWARE

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 235 participants
16 Advanced workshops, 211 participants
3 T4F workshops, 23 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Delaware State University – Dover
Center Meeting, Centerville

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 19 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 17 participants
1 T4F workshops, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

49 inside, 18 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

One Delaware facilitator traveled to New Jersey to help establish a program at Garden State Youth Facility, now flourishing under the leadership of Eleanor Novek. They expect to expand to other facilities soon. This same facilitator also traveled to Nebraska to lead an advanced workshop on Anger at the State Penitentiary.

Delaware conducted the first-ever AVP Trauma Healing Workshop in a U.S. Prison for 14 participants. On the facilitation team was an experienced trauma therapist with AVP experience and 6 inmate trainers. The second one will be offered in the summer of 2012. Spanish programs are being offered in one facility with the help of two inmate bi-lingual

facilitators.

The number of participants is limited to ten in one of the facilities because of the size of the room made available.

REPORT BY: John Shuford

MARYLAND

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

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

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

42 Basic workshops, 729 participants
30 Advanced workshops, 454 participants
8 T4F workshops, 109 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Annapolis

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 36 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 21 participants
2 T4F workshops, 23 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

164 inside, 50 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A Fourth Annual Regional Meeting in the fall was held in Baltimore with about 18 people in attendance. Much of the meeting was focused on bringing everyone up to date on plans for the 2012 Annual Gathering to be held in New Windsor, Maryland, in May. Thanks to Ron Williams, we have the beginnings of an AVP/USA website. MCI-H was able to offer two

workshops in Spanish this year, and is working to train more bilingual inside facilitators, as well as searching for outsiders with Spanish.

Several programs in Maryland report strong support from administration and volunteer coordinators. Several local prison programs include monthly meetings with facilitators for practice, team-building and planning. Patuxent Institution is doing "Power Up" one-day workshops for inmates who have taken a basic workshop. The program at Roxbury was able to restart in the fall in a different location at the facility. There are some instances of facilitators working in more than one facility; however, this is not as prevalent as would be helpful to cover all the institutions.

In addition to the workshops reported above, three "mini" (2-4 hour) workshops were held in Annapolis. One "Hippy" workshop for youth was held in Baltimore for 17 participants. We had one guest facilitator from another group in Maryland.

Concerns include finding enough facilitators to keep the program at ECI healthy and finding coordinators for the MCI-J program so that it can continue.

REPORT BY: Leigh Ann Dodge, Ed Sabin, Nancy Hutchins, Kit Hanley, Bill Denison, Ron Williams, and Floyd Rogers.

VIRGINIA

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Richmond

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 4 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

2 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The focus this year has been on Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities workshops.

REPORT BY: Santa Sorenson

SOUTHEAST REGION: AL, FL, GA, NC, SC, TN, VI

FLORIDA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Coleman Federal Prison
Everglades Correctional Institution
Florida Correctional Institute
Homestead Correctional Institution

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

33 Basic workshops, 544 participants
28 Advanced workshops, 405 participants
2 T4F workshops, 29 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

United Church of Christ, Tampa

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 10 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

84 inside, 11 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Tampa Bay Chapter: Community workshops: Three 8 hr. Basic workshops with 22 participants total were completed. While the evaluations continue to be very positive, we have had difficulty finding participants who will commit to more than one day of AVP. Our seventh annual AVP/MLK event in January was attended by 45 participants and is created and facilitated each year by everyone on our AVP/TB team.

Darrell Hefte continues to offer AVP activities, philosophy, and principles to homeless men and women in St. Petersburg and to some of those who serve the homeless in downtown St. Pete.

- 1) AVP training for St. Petersburg Homeless Coalition: Eleven participants, 5 hrs, no certificates.
- 2) Ongoing AVP activities at UU Church downtown St. Petersburg, at Friday evening weekly 'picnic,' year-round. Three hour sessions, averaging 12-19 participants, three member facilitation team.
- 3) Ongoing AVP activities at Saturday morning breakfast at Trinity Lutheran Church, downtown St. Petersburg. Average 12-15 participants, 2 hr sessions, year-round. Average 150 men and women served breakfast every Saturday.

Miami Chapter: I (Dawn Addy) bring in student interns from Florida International University and the general Miami Community as outside

facilitators. I have about 14 outside facilitators but usually there are only about 4 or less from the outside at any workshop. Inside I have about 22 at ECI and 25 at HCI. We conduct 3 workshops each weekend at HCI and 4 workshops at ECI. Of those workshops, about ¼ are conducted in Spanish since we have a large Spanish speaking population here and they have few opportunities to communicate in Spanish in their daily lives.

At HCI, I have 4 bi-lingual facilitations inside and at ECI I have 5. I also have one outside facilitator, Mitchell Brown, who was an inmate for 37 years and is now one of my outside facilitators for ECI (where he used to live). He is an inspiration for the men inside.

Each year, I conduct a "Holiday Gathering" in December. Two community gatherings were held and were attended by 375 people. The holidays are always a difficult time for inmates, especially those with little or no family visits. It is a one-day event. Due to its popularity and the capacity of the chapels, I have split it in half so more people can attend. This event is open to anyone who has successfully completed a Basic (the AVP community).

I meet with my facilitation team one day prior to the event and we plan activities and stuff packets. Last year everyone received a cellophane bag with: 1 full-sized candy bag, 1 bag of chips, 1 candy cane, 1 packet apple cider, 1 packet hot cocoa, 1 styrofoam airplane kt, 1 holiday pencil, one ballpoint pen, 1 note card, 4 small decorative papers, 20 stickers, 15 hard candies, 1 marshmallow candy, 1 pocket calendar.

I also bring in puzzles and craft supplies and give them opportunities to make bookmarks and cards and things to send to family members. The puzzles I donate to the prison each year and the inmates check them out of the library. It gives them much pleasure to have nonviolent activities and they involve other inmates in their dorms to join in the fun.

We share stories of our favorite holiday memories and develop songs and skits. We also have cookie decorating. I bring in those Scandinavian butter cookies in the tins. Then I bring premade frostings, food coloring and decorations. Each table gets about 4 different colors of frostings and everyone is encouraged to share. The assortment of sprinkles is placed at each table. Many of them (the men especially) have never decorated a cookie in

their lives.

The facilitators sing for them and put on short silly skits. It is a day of joy and laughter and relaxation for everyone. For most of them, it will be the only holiday celebration they have inside. I have no financial support for my work so it has become my charity of choice. There is such a huge demand for our program inside. Even when we have wardens who ban the bringing in of food from the outside – we still have hundreds on our waiting lists.

This is my 16th year for AVP. A wonderful community exists at both ECI and HCI. I have enjoyed being part of that community. My son came to live with us two years ago. He did his workshops and apprenticed on the inside and he is now one of my best facilitators. Last summer I had breast cancer surgery and was unable to go in for several of the dates. But my son, Dustin, led the groups and worked with the facilitation teams to make those weekends happen.

REPORT BY: Dawn Addy and Christina Bellamy

TENNESSEE

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION
Nashville Friends Meeting

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS
1 T4F workshops, 5 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS
9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

There is much enthusiasm about the AVP program in Nashville, but limitations of time and many competing agendas. Several attempts were made to talk with prison officials and we were told that a weekend workshop was not allowed. They would discuss a two hour, ten week program to be held in the evenings. We are not sure we want to attempt doing AVP with this format. We are continuing the discussion.

A community workshop was planned with diverse groups in the community. It was held on two Saturdays. Approximately 15 people attended, but attendance was sporadic and the group was not consistent. We found that in the shorter workshops that it is quite difficult to build community trust. Our group is re-evaluating our AVP program goals and resources.

REPORT BY: Caroline Kiev

VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION
Territorial Prison, St. Croix

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS
1 Basic workshop, 17 participants
1 Advanced workshop, 13 participants
1 T4F workshops, 10 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION
School Venue, St. Croix

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS
2 Basic workshops, 22 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 14 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS
9 inside, 2 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

One facilitator from St. Croix was happy to facilitate workshops in our sister island of St. Thomas and also assisted with two workshops at AVP/USA. While in Costa Rica for the Peace Forums prior to AVP International Gathering in Guatemala, she also assisted with two mini-AVP workshops in a school, one elementary, another high school level.

Also participated on a facilitation team for a Basic Workshop at the national prison La Reforma for 22 inmates, I believe. Another person, not yet an AVP facilitator, also attended the AVP International Gathering and went on to take an Advanced in Belize.

We are happy to now have nine inside facilitators at our local prison after many years of effort. Because our prison work can only take place weekdays, the load is mostly on two of us. Also travel and lodging costs make our inter-island work challenging in our efforts to strengthen AVP there.

We are working on obtaining recognition as a unit of AVP/USA and hope to complete this within the next few months.

REPORT BY: Carolyn Keys

MIDWEST REGION: IL, IN, KY, OH

no activity this year

NORTHERN MIDWEST REGION: MI, MN, ND,SD, WI

MINNESOTA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Hennepin County Men's Workhouse
Hennepin County Women's Workhouse
Fairbault Medium & Minimum Security
Stillwater High-Medium Security
MN – DOC Moose Lake

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

18 Basic workshops, 243 participants
10 Advanced workshops, 115 participants
5 T4F workshops, 68 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Duluth Friends Meetinghouse

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 7 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Carleton College, Northfield

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 40 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

57 inside, 25 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We held 8 one-day workshops, 9:00 – 3:00 at MCF-Fairbault, with about 64 participant slots filled. (Many men take these workshops regularly and I don't have the count on total individuals.)

We experimented with 3 half-workshops of 12-15 hours at Hennepin County Workhouse Men's Section because they couldn't accommodate our usual full workshops (too many total residents, too few staff.)

We also had 3 mini-workshops around the Twin Cities, with 2-7 people at each. Five additional outside facilitators participated in these shorter workshops, for a total of 30 community facilitators.

A big transition for us was Erika Thorne giving notice in December, for a March 31 departure

from her staff role as AVP/MN Coordinator. After nearly 5 years on the job, many were sad to see her go. Wonderfully, Jenn Hamrick has been hired for 12 hours/week, bringing 2 years experience working inside the MN DOC, commitment to the well-being of currently and formerly incarcerated people, and lots more computer savvy. We are welcoming her with delight.

One of our biggest concerns remains the aging and attrition of our outside facilitator pool. Our community workshops remain anemic this year. We hope to rejuvenate outreach and recruitment efforts.

Norman Peoples, Jr. continues to facilitate on the yard at MCF-Moose Lake, which is among our biggest joys. He became a facilitator while residing at MCF-Fairbault, has been out more than six years, and remains the only ex-felon to go back into a Minnesota DOC prison to volunteer, as far as we know.

Another joy is that after eight years, Tenacious Terry has been able to consolidate and process data gathered when we began at MCF-Stillwater. Early interpretations appear to show statistically significant reduction in anger resulting from AVP workshops. He will continue to refine the report and we are presenting it to the Stillwater warden soon. No doubt Terry will bring it to the 2012 Conference, so check it out! Bravo, Terry and Norman.

REPORT BY: Nancy Helfrich, Erika Thorne, Jenn Hamrick

NORTH DAKOTA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

North Dakota State Penitentiary, Bismark

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 53 participants
1 Advanced workshops, 10 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

At our request, three outside facilitators met with the new warden at the Penitentiary. We gave her a copy of the Basic Manual and a pamphlet on AVP developed by the Bismark group several years ago. She was already familiar with AVP, and understood our particular requests. We thought it was a very productive meeting.

The penitentiary has a 60 million dollar renovation going on so there has been disruptions in our program, plus a new chaplain (AVP is under the chaplaincy program at the penitentiary). In addition, several of the inmate facilitators have been transferred or been released (praise be), and we are looking to recruit new ones.

REPORT BY: Betty Mills

SOUTH DAKOTA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Mike McDurfee State Prison
State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, Hill and Jameson Units

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Basic workshops, 96 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 27 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

10 inside, 9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

It has been a good year for AVP/South Dakota. AVP has become well established on the Hill Unit of the prison and we regularly have waiting lists for our Basic and Advanced workshops. As facilitators, we have become more comfortable offering Advanced workshops and trying new exercises. Our repertoire of practiced exercises is growing and our agendas have become more varied over the year. We also reinitiated Basic workshops at the Jameson Unit of the state penitentiary and now have 2-3 insiders there who are learning to help facilitate.

We continue to offer a monthly AVP refresher evening on the Hill Unit which regularly attracts 15-20 insider participants from previous workshops, and we started a monthly renewal at the Jameson Unit in September which has contributed to the success of the second weekend workshop at Jameson this past February. The process of building a vibrant inside team at Jameson is well underway. Two members of our outside team have offered mini-AVP sessions at the Casa de los Amigos (Friends Center) in Mexico City.

Finally, our sharing circles have become a time for deeper sharing of our pain, tears, and joys, and have contributed to a growing sense of community among AVP participants and facilitators.

REPORT BY: Steve Snyder & Ted Wechsler

CENTRAL MIDWEST REGION: IA, KS, NE, MO

IOWA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Iowa Medical Classification Center, Oakdale
Ft. Dodge Correctional Center
Ft. Madison State Penitentiary

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

11 Basic workshops, 157 participants
8 Advanced workshops, 96 participants
2 T4F workshops, 24 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Ft. Dodge

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

3 Basic workshops, 24 participants
1 Advanced workshops, 8 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Scattergood Friends School, West Branch

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

13 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

It is exciting to continue workshops in the Ft. Dodge prison and in the community, and to initiate workshops at a Quaker school near Iowa City, plus four-hour mini-workshops at another high school.

Developing new Advanced workshops is challenging but well worth the effort. Our new topics are Bullying, Healing Trauma, What is a

Man?, Shame and Guilt, and Planning for the Future. Our inside facilitators have had a major hand in designing these workshops.

Reunions of present and former volunteers (inside and outside) are a lot of fun.

At another facility, the inside facilitators decided that, to recruit new participants, they wanted to be able to present what AVP is on different units and to ask for signups in the units instead of the library. The prison staff person agreed, and the result was greatly increased participation. Recruiting more new facilitators is always a priority.

REPORT BY: Stan Sanders, Cheryl Sutton, Sandy Krell-Andre, Chuck & Pat Comfort, Kathleen Crose, Annie Tucker, and Marian Klostermann

KANSAS

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 40 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Kansas City

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 6 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

6 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Making the dream of starting community workshops come true has been a lot of work but is actually happening! We are exploring ways to network, connect, and promote AVP in Kansas. It isn't about flyers and emails – it's about people and passion.

REPORT BY: Susan Clymer, Randy Fletcher, and Gayla Crum

MISSOURI

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Boonville Correctional Center'
Pacific – Eastern MO Corr. Center

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

17 Basic workshops, 331 participants

4 Advanced workshops, 55 participants
1 T4F workshops, 8 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Columbia

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

Basic workshops, participants
Advanced workshops, participants
T4F workshops, participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

20 inside, 13 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Mid-Missouri group provided facilitators for two workshops at the Leavenworth Penitentiary and for one community workshop in Kansas. In St. Louis, the long-time coordinator, Liz Oldham, has retired from prison workshops but is working toward initiating community workshops. We had a 4-hour mini-workshop at St. Louis University. Graphic arts students from U. of Missouri at St. Louis have developed a "brand" for AVP in St. Louis and have nearly completed print material for advancing our efforts to begin community workshops.

REPORT BY: Stephanie Brooks and Tom Sandidge

NEBRASKA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Lincoln Correctional Center, Lincoln
Nebraska State Penitentiary, Lincoln
Omaha Correctional Center, Omaha

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

17 Basic workshops, 254 participants
11 Advanced workshops, 147 participants
3 T4F workshops, 23 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Lincoln

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 18 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

45 inside, 20 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our problems with the new rules set by the prisons are slowly being worked out with many positive changes.

Spanish workshops are now being held in Omaha in spite of a high turnover of inside

facilitators. In-service days for all facilitators are now held in May and November. Outside facilitators are recruited from the Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution.

In Lincoln, monthly workshops continue at the Correctional Center, but limited by the administration to four per year at the Penitentiary, greatly restricting our program. We are very pleased to have traveling facilitators enrich our teams, coming from

California, Kansas, and Delaware!

It is exciting and challenging to start workshops in the Lincoln community with many participants coming from the Work Release Center and the local drug court, with help on the teams from former facilitators who are now out of prison.

REPORT BY: Kelly Orbik, Maureen Connelly, and Marge Schlitt

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION: AR, LA, MS, OK, TX

ARKANSAS

no workshops in 2011

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Unfortunately, we in Northwest Arkansas have not done any AVP work this year. And I haven't heard of any in our Arkansas-Oklahoma quarter this year. There is a lot of interest in prison work in Oklahoma but not AVP. Norman Friends Meeting, OK, has been doing a lot of public education around the fact that Oklahoma has the highest rate of incarcerated women IN THE WORLD!

At our winter Quarterly, they did a workshop on this and Susan McDougal of Pres. Clinton White Water fame, who is also a member of Little Rock Meeting, was also there and added much from a personal perspective. There is much to be done but unfortunately, I'm not carrying my share of this load at this time.

REPORT BY: Karen Takemoto

LOUISIANA

no workshops in 2011

JOYS AND CONCERNS

In fall of 2011, an AVP-friendly warden, Sekou Ma'at, became warden at Pollack Correctional Complex, about 100 miles SE of Shreveport, and said he "would love to have a group in Louisiana." Ma'at transferred from being assistant warden at Bastrop Federal Prison, where he was responsible for bringing in AVP (and which stopped supporting AVP when he left), working with Tom Martin of Austin. Ma'at became an AVP facilitator at Sing Sing Prison

in NY in the 90s, and also brought AVP to a federal prison in Coleman, Florida. Several Texas facilitators have been in touch with Ma'at.

Update April 14: Sekou is moving from Louisiana to Alabama to start a new Federal Female Prison in Aliceville. He writes: "On a brighter note, if you have folks in Alabama that would be interested in bringing us the program I stand ready and committed."

Ann Sieber from Houston and Bob Jordan from Shreveport are discussing next steps in starting a Pollack program, with Bob and other Louisiana facilitators Kathy Osuch, Susan McClatchey, and Henry and Linda Grayson as a possible team, with help from Ann and other interested facilitators.

REPORT BY: Ann Sieber, Bob Jordan

MISSISSIPPI

no workshops in 2011

REPORT BY: Jim Henderson

TEXAS

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION
Austin

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 10 participants
1 Advanced workshops 14 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

5 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We have a skeletal group of facilitators in Texas, although this core is not giving up on AVP in the long run. Val Liveoak of San Antonio is extremely active, but mostly internationally. Val has been a leader in the trauma-healing workshops, and is bringing her expertise to Texas.

Of the remaining four facilitators, none are currently in a life situation to take on extensive

leadership in building Texas AVP, although Tom Martin is doing great work in keeping AVP going in Austin. The Austin Friends Meeting is hosting the annual Friends Peace Teams conference in May 2012. FPT does a great deal of its work through AVP, so this is an indirect support of AVP, albeit not specifically in Texas.

REPORT BY: Tom Martin, Ann Sieber

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION: CO, ID, MT, NM, UT, WY

COLORADO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Camp George West, Golden
Cheyenne Mountain Re-entry Center, Colorado Springs
Denver Women's Correctional Facility
Federal Corrections - Englewood

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

12 Basic workshops, 157 participants
5 Advanced workshops, 60 participants
1 T4F workshops, 12 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

New Foundations office

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 7 participants
1 T4F workshop, 4 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

10 inside, 7 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We have four volunteers successfully completed training for facilitators and several more who have started the process. We had a community T4F. We are planning to expand to other facilities.

We are challenged in developing the new facilitators into lead facilitators.

REPORT BY: Margaret Browne

NEW MEXICO

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Penitentiary of New Mexico, Santa Fe
NM Women's Correctional Facility, Grants
(Correctional Corporation of America)

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

6 Basic workshops, 100 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 40 participants
1 T4F workshops, 15 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

IMYM in Abiquiui, NM

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Advanced workshops, 7 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

17 inside, 8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our biggest joy was being invited by the addictions recovery unit at the women's prison in Grants to conduct workshops. We offered a total of four workshops for this population and both the participants and the clinicians for the program agreed that AVP workshop practices and goals dovetailed beautifully with this specialized prison program. In relation to the program, we developed two new exercises to use in the advanced workshop for the addictions recovery unit. Another joy at the women's prison was awarding three gold certificates to inmate facilitators.

Our third joy was returning to the men's prison in Santa Fe after an almost two-year hiatus. That is, after offering two workshops there in early 2010, changes in personnel led to suspension of workshops. We offered a workshop for the men in December 2011 and were invited to continue.

Our biggest concern is that we have only one lead facilitator for the state and a small cadre of active facilitators volunteering to facilitate in prisons. However, we do have a large cadre of eager inmate facilitators at the women's prison.

REPORT BY: Margy Willen

WYOMING

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp – Newcastle
Wyoming Honor Farm - Riverton

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

4 Basic workshops, 50 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 20 participants
2 T4F workshops, 12 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

2 inside, 4 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Wyoming Department of Corrections is fully supportive and wants to have an active AVP program in all five institutions.

The Wyoming Honor Farm in Riverton is on its

way to being self-sustaining. Doug Newlin is the central person here; he is competent and motivated. He is ably supported by Margie Farias from Lander – very competent, intelligent, and motivated. Scott Ratliff, an Indian leader, is in the wings.

Re-starting AVP in the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins is clearly the greatest need. This may be five years off.

AVP at the Wyoming Women's Center in Lusk has lapsed. It must be revived. The women are eager for self-improvement and are a joy to work with.

The unknown is the medium security unit in Torrington. It would be great to introduce AVP there.

REPORT BY: Chelsea and Donn Kesselheim

NORTHWEST REGION: AK, NV, OR, WA

NEVADA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Northern Nevada State Prison, Carson city
Warm Springs Correctional Center
Love Lock Correctional Center

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

7 Basic workshops, 132 participants
2 Advanced workshops, 42 participants
1 T4F workshops, 12 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

18 inside, 8 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP/Nevada has trained more outside facilitators this year. However, most of the outside facilitators have either full-time or part-time employment, and availability of enough facilitators for workshops is still limited.

This year, the original site of AVP workshops in this state closed (the building dated back to the 1800s). This was a great sadness for all of the AVP team, including 17 inside facilitators who have been disbursed throughout the NV prison system. We have only rumors from inmates in other facilities about the new locations of our team members.

We have worked most of 2011 to get a meeting

with the new director of the Dept. of Corrections, with no meeting yet. We have also worked to get permission to bring the program to another nearby prison where we know some AVP facilitators are housed, but thus far permission has been denied. We will continue to pursue this through various channels.

REPORT BY: Rita Sloan

OREGON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Oregon State Penitentiary
Sheridan Federal CI, Sheridan

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

5 Basic workshops, 78 participants
3 Advanced workshops, 59 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Cottage Grove
Salem Friends Meetinghouse

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 4 participants
1 T4F workshop, 7 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

8 inside, 21 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Helen Park hosted a successful small community workshop in Cottage Grove. Portland and Eugene have not held community workshops in 2011. Coffee Creek (Oregon Women's Prison) in Wilsonville remains a future Oregon AVP priority. Geographically isolated facilitators in Bend and Ontario (Jim Williams) may be helpful in initiating workshops and developing a local group based in Southwest Idaho and Eastern Oregon.

Rose Lewis reports that the Salem area group held a community reunion in September 2011 to make plans and try to get workshops in local schools. The Veterans Association, Activities Section, at Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP) hosted two workshops. Space limitations meant splitting the workshops, holding both Basic and Advanced on consecutive Fridays, instead of the same weekends. All inside participants attended both Fridays for both levels. Three more workshops at OSP are planned in 2012. A reunion for all AVP inmates with opportunities for exercises and light and livelies occurred there in December. The good turnout included several from as far back as 2005-08. More are planned each month in 2012.

Sheridan Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) workshops were successful, although several resident facilitators were transferred and only six remained by year's end. Staff support and enthusiastic responses of inmates and Oregon facilitators will allow as many as 10 for 2012. This joyful increase presents both challenges and opportunities.

On several upcoming dates, two workshops will be conducted in the facility simultaneously. Some workshops will have only one outside facilitator instead of two. An increased number of outside participants is expected. Sheridan's isolated location puts extra importance on expanding the local hosting base for outside participants and facilitators. We have confidence in our abilities to grow into the personnel, logistical, and fundraising challenges.

REPORT BY: Ethen Perkins, Rose Lewis, and Helen Park

WASHINGTON

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATION

Washington State Reformatory (WSR), Monroe

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

2 Basic workshops, 19 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATION

World Affairs Council, Seattle

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshop, 11 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

15 inside, 9 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

There was a murder of a correctional officer in one of our prisons early in the year and this resulted in a suspension of all programming for several months. During this time, we suffered some attrition of facilitators, both inside and out. The new procedures and security issues made it very difficult for us to get back in and we are currently only back in one of the two prisons we serve. We have several people who want to become facilitators but few opportunities now to get them into prison to train. But this new interest bodes well for the long run.

On the community front, we held a youth workshop for staffers from several organizations involved in a youth violence prevention initiative, and have hopes of spreading AVP in this community. We continue to partner with the Seattle World Affairs Council and do one-day workshops for groups of foreign visitors. This year, we had a group of young African leaders from several countries, a group of young NGO leaders from Sri Lanka, and two youth groups, one from Iraq and the other from Mexico.

REPORT BY: Roger Kluck, Rick Krouskop

SOUTHWEST REGION: AZ, CA, HI

ARIZONA

no workshops in 2011

CALIFORNIA

PRISON WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

California Correctional Center
California Correctional Institution
California Institution for Women
California Men's Colony
California State Prison, Solano
Centinela State Prison
Central California Women's Facility
Correctional Training Facility
Chuckawalla Valley State Prison
High Desert State Prison
Ironwood State Prison
R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility
Salinas Valley State Prison
San Francisco County Jail
San Luis Obispo County Jail
Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
Valley State Prison for Women

PRISON WORKSHOP STATISTICS

106 Basic workshops, 1,697 participants
67 Advanced workshops, 1,090 participants
15 T4F workshops, 259 participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Antelope Valley, Grass Valley, Los Angeles,
Nevada City, Oakland, Santa Barbara, San
Diego, Santa Rosa, Temple City

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP STATISTICS

16 Basic workshops, 170 participants
5 Advanced workshops, 47 participants
4 T4F workshops, 38 participants

YOUTH WORKSHOP LOCATION

Santa Barbara

YOUTH WORKSHOP STATISTICS

1 Basic workshops, 10 participants
1 Advanced workshops, 15 participants

TOTAL ACTIVE FACILITATORS

298 inside, 118 outside

JOYS AND CONCERNS

AVP/California maintained the same number of state prisons as last year (15) but have added one jail setting (now 2), which makes 17 programs in the prison/jail settings. Requests for more workshops in many prison settings

keep being fielded.

However, we have actually increased those served in prisons by adding yards where our workshops take place (a yard in CDCR can be up to 2,000 men). These results would be like adding another prison in other states in terms of required volunteers, except it's possible with one AVP coordinator per prison and the help of institution staffing.

We also are gifted by adding inmate Lead facilitators which make it possible to bring in community facilitators who do not want to be Leads to function as the responsible community person.

Another example of expansion is the running of more than one workshop per month. Some prisons offer regular inmate support groups allowing inside facilitators to practice their workshop skills, devise programming, and reaffirm community building among themselves.

Though statistically we offer fewer community workshops in 2011, our coordinators are much more active in different settings and regions of California. This includes the greater Los Angeles County-wide area expanding the giving of workshops upon request. Of note, we are now serving Los Angeles's Homeboys Industries, a nationally known reentry program.

Community coordinators have also increased workshop activities in both the northern and southern parts of California. Support for this expansion has been made possible by monthly conference calls, which have been well attended. These calls include active discussions, for example, "How to Recruit Volunteers and Participants for Workshops in the Community." Though we have decreased our total number of inside facilitators, we are seeing more of them on the "outside."

We are also training new lead facilitators to be able to expand our outside facilitator base. With rare exceptions, most of our community workshops have had a formerly incarcerated person on the team and we are increasing diversity in most of our communities' workshops.

We produced a full-color Valuable People brochure last year, which has now been picked up by AVP/USA. Both of us are using it, not only as an annual fundraiser, but a year-long brochure. Production of this Friend-Raising

fundraising brochure was made possible by the largess of one former facilitator donor. Twenty-two scholarships to the AVP/USA national gathering were made possible by reaching out to Californians. Also on the fund raising front, two people requested donations in lieu of birthday gifts for 70th and 80th birthdays, which brought in \$3,000 to our budget.

AVP/California is honored to have hosted the AVP/USA annual Gathering. Two-thirds of the attendees came from California. Plus, we increased involvement of formerly incarcerated facilitators not only during the conference, but afterwards in AVP/CA committees. We also have a growing presence in social media, with a Facebook group of currently 101 members mainly used for communication between California facilitators and the “outside world” with more general information. Several wiki pages have been created, including Spanish language resources and videos. Spanish language workshops – 65 (included in totals above) California State Prison, Solano; Centinela State Prison
3 Basic, 51 participants
1 Advanced, 14 participants

Our concerns are that California's prison staff has been faced with deep cuts and many shifts in administration which has been reflected within AVP at many levels: from prison coordinators being unable to reach inside staff to make basic arrangements to cancelled workshops. Thus, the past year shows a decrease in the number of workshops and consequent graduates within the prison system over last year's 2010 numbers.

CDCR has publicly committed to volunteer involvement in prisons. AVP/CA has had input in how this policy is being implemented but it is still being rolled out so we still are unsure how it will impact our facilitators.

AVP/California's primary challenges are a lack of volunteers living close to the prisons where we have programs and the lack of diversity in our community facilitator base. We have prisons that have invited us to start programs, but having too few local volunteers prevents this from happening.

The lack of diversity among facilitators hampers us in a number of ways, but most articulated is the need for bilingual, bicultural Spanish-speaking facilitators. California prisons relate as weakly to the bilingual character of our state as does the rest of the state. To counteract this, AVP struggles to address the need for either Spanish-speaking workshops or bilingual workshops with the help of bilingual insider facilitators, and a small core of outside community facilitators.

Though ESL classes are offered by the prison's Education Department, the lack of prison educational/rehabilitation opportunities makes AVP workshops in Spanish welcomed. (According to Captains on yards, priority for Spanish language programming is offered within various religious services delivered in Spanish.

REPORT BY: Thanks to Kathy Smith and George Ramos for creating this report, and to Pat Hardy, Ana Maria Slingluff-Barral and Gary Wolff for their contributions.

