A MESSAGE FROM SUSAN BURTON

“We are building an underground railroad. It starts at the prison gates and arches over all barriers to freedom.”

I look back on A New Way of Life Re-entry Project’s accomplishments during 2013 with satisfaction and I’m moving forward with a sense of hope. Fifteen years ago, my dining room served as both my bedroom and my office. Fifteen years ago, I thought that if I could just provide a safe place for women to stay after being released from prison, that would be enough. Fifteen years ago, those women and I became family and began to create a small community. We had to rely on each other because what we were doing was not popular; it was not easy and, I soon found, simply providing shelter was not enough.

Back in the days of “formal” slavery, Harriet Tubman created the Underground Railroad and led over 300 slaves to freedom. In 1865, the 13th Amendment of the US Constitution abolished slavery. At first, when we think about the 13th Amendment, we celebrate the idea that slavery ended. However, in the 1960’s, Rosa Parks recognized that shadows of slavery were present and lurking in “separate but equal” systemic segregation. In response, she quietly but courageously took her seat at the front of a bus. Yes, the 13th Amendment outlaws slavery for some. However, it also reads that slavery is abolished EXCEPT “as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.” Therefore, I submit to you, we are still not truly free. Slavery continues to be alive and well in these United States.
Every day, all too many people are caught up in the “criminal justice system” because of situations which could be better addressed through community-based intervention and treatment. Whether through a plea deal or a period of confinement, the minute a conviction stains your life’s record you become a slave. If confined, you are forced to work for pennies an hour and are over-charged for phone calls and personal care items. When released, you are not able to vote or ever serve on a jury. With a drug conviction, chances are, even food stamps are beyond reach. Everywhere you need to go to advance your life you have to “check a box” that asks about your past. These losses of our basic civil rights are links in chains that continue to bind us.

But let us focus on solutions. To date, more than 750 women and children have found safety and support in our re-entry homes. Over 160 women and their children have been reunited. Over 3,000 formerly homeless individuals and families have been able to furnish their new homes through our household goods distribution center. Since its inception in 2007, our legal department has provided pro bono services for over 2,000 formerly incarcerated individuals. These legal services have helped expunge records and secure occupational licenses to chip away at almost insurmountable barriers to employment. Most importantly, hundreds of formerly incarcerated individuals have been educated and empowered to step up and speak in advocacy about issues that directly affect their lives.
In 2013, we witnessed the passage of AB-218 or “Ban the Box” legislation. While we have far to go to ensure its proper implementation, at least formerly incarcerated individuals can now receive equal consideration and opportunity to demonstrate their qualifications when applying for California jobs in the public sector.

So, yes, I am determined and committed to continue my journey. Every day I witness the steadfast perseverance of our allies and community members as they work with us to loosen and ultimately break the chains that bind us. We continue to build on the achievements of Harriet Tubman. She built an underground railroad. We’re building a bridge. It starts at the prison gates and arches over all barriers to freedom. We are building a bridge from despair that crosses over to hopefulness; from struggle to success; from slavery to freedom. We must end mass incarceration. Once and for all, we must end slavery.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“Engaged and Involved”

(l-r) Mark Burman, Tiffany Johnson, Barbara Osborn, Judith Sydner-Gordon, Brenda Kydd, Gretchen Heidemann, Gregory Burks
Ten full-time staff, a contract accountant and two volunteers all worked together with insight, purpose and passion to fulfill the mission of A New Way of Life Re-entry Project and All of Us or None-SC

Founder & Executive Director: Susan Burton
Executive Assistant: Pamela Marshall
Accountant: Michael Towler
Case Manager and Social Work Intern Field Instructor (BSW): Evelyn Ayala
Housing Director: Gail Blackwell
Re-entry Housing Pilot Program Coordinator: Darlene Burke
Director of Advocacy: Joshua Kim
Staff Attorney: CT Turney
Community Organizer: Fanya Baruti
Community Organizer: Tiffany Johnson
Development Director: Claire S. Arcé
Volunteer Legal Clinic Coordinator: Charsleen Poe
Volunteer Distribution Center Director: Linda Washington

During 2013, A New Way of Life provided Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) opportunities for nine individuals. One was eventually hired as a full-time staff member.
Our Mission

The mission of A New Way of Life Re-entry Project (ANWOL) is to help women and girls break the cycle of entrapment in the criminal justice system and lead healthy and satisfying lives.
OUR GOALS

• To provide clean, safe, sober home environments where formerly incarcerated women and their children feel welcomed and supported in their transition to becoming independent members of the community.

• To offer education, job training and skill-building opportunities for women to prepare them for self-sufficiency.

• To serve as a leader and community advocate for the rights of women inmates, formerly incarcerated people and their families.
ANWOL’s service approach was conceptualized around five key values that, based on the founder’s personal experiences, are determined necessary for successful community re-entries after periods of incarceration:

• All people should be treated with dignity and respect;
• Treatment services better serve the individual and society than prisons and punishment;
• With community support, everyone can excel;
• The power of mentoring helps people achieve their dreams; and
• Empowerment is possible through critical analysis of the world around us.
Successful Community Re-entry—How We Define It

- Housing Stability
- Personal ID Acquired
- Maintenance of Sobriety
- Development of Self-Identified Goals
- Compliance with Conditions of Probation/Parole
- Progress toward Achieving Self-Identified Goals
- Ability to Access Eligible Assistance and Benefits
- Access to and Continuation of Physical/Mental Health Services
- Enrollment in School and/or Able to Access Employment
- Regular Attendance at Recovery Meetings & Participation in On-Site Programming
In addition to formal and “word of mouth” referrals, ANWOL received a minimum of 245 letters from incarcerated women. Although they may be months or years away from being sent home, they write letters seeking a place to lay their heads to prevent re-engaging in a cycle of homelessness and re-incarceration upon release. Every letter is answered and each woman is told that there is a place for them. This response is standard and designed to give them hope that a community is ready to welcome them home. Upon their release, we stand ready to help them.

A New Way of Life’s five re-entry homes served a total of 62 women and 23 children during 2013.

We were able to provide services for less than half the cost of incarceration.

On average, eight out of every ten women who received our services were able to meet annual benchmarks identified as crucial to make successful community reentries.
RE-ENTRY HOUSING SUPPORT

Family Reunification
• Of the total women we served during 2013, seventeen were mothers.
• Eight of these mothers were provided with family reunification services.
• Five women were able to successfully regain custody of their children; three are in process.

Parole/Probation Discharges
• During 2013, seven women were able to meet the conditions to successfully discharge from parole.
• During 2013, nine women were able to meet the conditions to successfully discharge from probation.

Evelyn Ayala, Case Manager and Social Work Intern Field Instructor (BSW)
PERMANENT HOUSING

• ANWOL collaborated with community-based service providers to help our women access permanent housing.
• Twenty-five women residents were able to access permanent housing; fifteen were able to access Section 8 Vouchers, the remaining ten through resources from mental health providers.
• As of January 2014, ANWOL is working with ten women to help them access permanent housing.

Evelyn Ayala, Case Manager and Social Work Intern Field Instructor (BSW)
Our wrap-around re-entry services include:

- Transportation assistance (bus tokens and taxi vouchers) through a partnership with First AME Church;
- A Department of Rehabilitation program that helps women complete their education and obtain permanent employment;
- Theater and story-telling workshops;
- Weekly Big Book Study (12-Step meetings);
- “Woman to Woman” peer support groups;
- Empowerment and education through the Women Organizing for Justice and L.E.A.D. programs; and
- Community engagement opportunities such as visits to LA County Board of Supervisors meetings to engage policy makers and the Board of Prison Terms in Sacramento.
Every August we provide our women residents and their children with the opportunity to attend an annual 12-step Recovery Convention. This year’s convention was held on August 22 - 25, 2013, at the JW Marriott Resort & Spa in Palm Desert. The annual trip to the convention is an opportunity for women to deepen their recovery through:

- Meeting other people in recovery from around the country;
- Participating in 12-step meetings;
- Listening to “long-timers” speak about staying sober; and
- Participating in fun, “clean and sober” entertainment and events, such as golf, karaoke and dancing.

Through this trip we help our women residents make positive connections and support their ongoing recovery. For many of our women and children, it is the only time they have taken a family vacation or left the South Los Angeles area except for being incarcerated.
After years of advocacy efforts, including ongoing meetings with the Board of Supervisors and the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), we were awarded a Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) to work with community partners to reunite formerly incarcerated individuals with their families living in LA City Section 8 Housing. This has resulted in a major policy change as it has removed non-federal barriers to family reunification in LA City Section 8 Housing.

Through this collaboration, we are gaining valuable insight and data about specific structural re-entry barriers faced by individuals who are trying to access formal Section 8 Housing through their families holding vouchers.

Darlene Burke, Program Coordinator
Through a relationship with a major retailer of household goods, we receive weekly donations of high-quality items such as baby blankets, toasters, lamps, space heaters, trash cans, pots and pans.

- During 2013, ANWOL accepted referrals from community agencies for 237 formerly homeless individuals to receive household products through the distribution center.
- During 2013, ANWOL distributed donated merchandise valued at over $2M dollars to those referred, as well as other people in need throughout Los Angeles County.
A New Way of Life provides internship opportunities for students pursuing Bachelor Degrees in Social Work (BSW). This program helps us provide individualized attention to more fully meet the complex needs of women living in our re-entry homes.

- Currently, six students are completing their internship requirements covering the Fall, Winter and Spring semesters 2013-2014. (In June 2014 they will graduate with their Bachelors’ Degree in Social Work.)
- Social Work Interns provided over 2,000 hours of program service during 2013.

Evelyn Ayala, Case Manager and Social Work Intern Field Instructor (BSW)
• During 2013 community service volunteers provided **20,821 hours** of service to a New Way of Life Re-entry Project

• After completing community service hours, **5 individuals** continued to serve the organization as permanent volunteers.

• At $10/hr., the labor market value of these volunteer services totals **$208,210.00**
All of Us or None (AOUON) is a national grassroots community organizing effort that works to reverse the discriminatory policies and practices affecting formerly incarcerated individuals. ANWOL is the fiscal agent of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Chapters, which together form the Southern California Chapter of All of Us or None (AOUON-SC).

AOUON’s values are grounded in its "Self-Determination Pledge":
- We demand the right to speak in our own voices;
- We treat each other with respect and will not allow differences to divide us;
- We accept responsibility for any acts that may have caused harm to our families, our communities or ourselves;
- We fight all forms of discrimination;
- We help build the economic stability of formerly-incarcerated people;
- We claim and take care of our own children and our families;
- We support community struggles to stop using prisons as the answer to social problems; and
- We play an active role in making our communities safe for everyone.

Community Organizers: Fanya Baruti & Tiffany Johnson
During 2013, AOUON-SC:

• Held 12 successful monthly meetings, one during each month of 2013. Approximately 286 new members joined our efforts to help reduce re-entry barriers;

• Provided four specific and ongoing leadership development trainings for three emerging AOUON-SC leaders;

• After the passage of AB-218 (“Ban the Box”), engaged AOUON-SC membership to develop a Fair Employment & Housing Policy proposal for introduction in Los Angeles and surrounding jurisdictions;

• Increased capacity through adding another community organizer; and

• Launched the development of a Policy/Advocacy Department.

Fanya Baruti & Tiffany Johnson, Community Organizers
Advocacy Campaigns:

- **AB 218** - In favor of “Ban the Box” in California; (Status-Victory! Passed and is now law.)
- **AB 530** - Increased availability of certificates of rehabilitation and increased protections in employment for expunged conviction histories; (Status-Victory! Passed and is now law.)
- **AB 149** - In favor of enhanced communication of voting rights to incarcerated individuals; (Status-Victory! Passed and is now law.)
- **AB 651** - In favor of proposed “clean slate” remedy of changing pleas after completion of sentence; (Status-Victory! Passed and is now law.)
- **SB 530** - Reduction of waiting period to obtain a certificate of rehabilitation and prohibition against use of expunged convictions for employment purposes;
- **SB 649** - In favor of reducing criminalization/ harsh sentencing of individuals convicted of drug offenses;
- **SB 283** - In favor of restoring CalFresh eligibility to individuals convicted of drug offenses;
- **AB 831** - In favor of proposed drug overdose program-decriminalization of overdose reporting;
- **AB 870** - In favor of employment rights for formerly incarcerated individuals; and
- **AB 109** - More resources to communities under realignment.

Joshua E. Kim Esq., Director of Advocacy
On May 13th, with Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell as our host, over 200 people traveled by car, bus and air to Sacramento. Members of the Senate and Assembly greeted us in a special meeting room that Assemblymember Mitchell provided. Personal office visits to lawmakers were initiated and completed to advocate in support of our efforts. The day ended with a rally on the west lawn of the capitol building. Following this event, weekly strategy sessions continued to further the momentum to pass AB 218. This momentous collaborative effort helped this and other targeted legislation move through the process more effectively and ultimately contributed to targeted bills becoming law.

Fanya Baruti & Tiffany Johnson, Community Organizers
The Employment Rights Re-entry Legal Clinic provides a range of pro bono services for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Services assist clients with overcoming barriers to employment in order to promote successful community re-entries.

Joshua E. Kim, Esq. & CT Turney, Esq., Attorneys
Staff and volunteer attorneys provided services through the clinic for 304 individual clients.

Of this number, 92 received legal consultation without proceeding to formal representation.

Staff attorneys filed 835 post-conviction relief petitions. (This includes initial petitions, motions for reconsideration, re-filed petitions, motions for early termination of probation and “other” petitions.)

Attorneys were able to confirm the result of 662 petitions. Of the 662 total petitions with known results, 577 were granted, 65 were denied and 20 were withdrawn.

Petitions filed with known outcomes resulted in an 87% success rate.
In late 2013, All of Us or None-SC launched the Policy/Advocacy Department. The new department combines policy advocacy, impact litigation and community organizing work. As its inaugural project, the Policy/Advocacy Department has launched a campaign for comprehensive changes in hiring policies of local governments regarding people with conviction records. We are looking forward to strengthening AOUON-SC membership and continuing to make effective changes through policy advocacy and impact litigation.

Through 2013’s impact litigation work, we compelled a national trucking company, JB Hunt, to reform its hiring policy regarding people with conviction records and obtained an appellate win (and a published opinion) to clarify the eligibility requirements for expungement in People v. Parker. In People v. Parker, the court held that if someone is sentenced to prison, but that sentence is never executed, the conviction can be expunged.

Finally, we continue to organize formerly incarcerated or convicted people to effect changes in laws and policies affecting the population through AOUON-SC; for example, successfully conducting the Justice on Trial Film Festival at Loyola Marymount University—the first film festival of its kind, to showcase injustices in our criminal justice system.

Joshua E. Kim Esq., Director of Advocacy
The first annual Justice on Trial Film Festival in October 2013 provided the perfect blend of media and education to work toward changing the hearts and minds of people regarding our work and mission. The festival was held at Loyola Marymount University on Sunday, October 20, 2013 and Monday, October 21, 2013. Michelle Alexander, author of The New Jim Crow, was the keynote speaker on the 20th. Ethan Nadelmann, founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, was the keynote speaker on the 21st. All of Us or None, Justice Not Jails, Coalition to End Sheriff Violence and LA Progressive were organizing sponsors with assistance from KPFK, Californians for Safety and Justice and the Drug Policy Alliance. With well over 300 people in attendance, the following films were screened at the festival: Broken on All Sides, From Critical Resistance to A New Way of Life, The House I Live In, Crimes of Police, Gideon’s Army and Redemption of the Prosecutor. We were able to utilize the festival, not only to increase public awareness regarding issues facing our constituents, but also as a mechanism to recruit new AOUON-SC members. After the festival we were able to complete an event organizer debrief, participant survey, follow-up contact of 114 individuals who joined AOUON-SC and the engagement of new members through post-festival advocacy meetings.
MEMORABLE EVENTS

Whole Foods Van Drive

Holly Mitchell
“Christmas in July”

Ebell Rest Cottage Garden
MEMORABLE EVENTS

Agape Sacred Service Volunteers Paint ANWOL Reentry Home

Women of Vision-OC “Christmas Angels”

Natasha Gets a Car Thanks to Karin De Leon
Mother’s Day Events

“Winner” Toyota 100 Cars for Good
Presented by the Office of LA County 2\textsuperscript{nd} District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, our 15\textsuperscript{th} Annual Gala, \textit{“Looking Back-Moving Forward”} was a huge success.
GALA 2013-HONORS

Community Champion Award
Drug Policy Alliance

Synergy Teamwork Award
Jim and Meg Morrow

Movement Builder Award
Simona Farrise

A New Way of Life Alumni Award
Tiffany Johnson

“The Staff”
Along with Host KPFK’s Margaret Prescod, our honorees, “ANWOL ladies”, board and staff, many notable public officials and celebrities joined us to honor those who lift us.
A New Way of Life Re-entry Project was honored with a Ford Freedom Unsung Award

“For individuals and organizations that have positively impacted communities with achievements that inform and inspire others.”
Susan Burton was honored to receive:

FIRST AME
Trailblazer Award

BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
Community Visionary Award
The objective of our community communications campaign is to challenge mass incarceration by re-humanizing people who are, or who have been, in the criminal justice system and to legitimize alternatives to incarceration as feasible and desirable.

In 2013, ANWOL received positive media attention from a host of local and national print, radio and television outlets, including:

- Justice On Trial Film Festival
- YouTube’s WIGS Unscripted Documentary “Susan”
- Bill Moyers-Moyers & Company
- “Orange is the New Black”-Piper Kerman
- Al Sharpton
- Radio France
- “Gender and Incarceration”-Tulane College
- YouTube-“The Dream Belongs to Us Too”
- Working Author
- L.A. Progressive
- L.A. Sentinel
- L.A. Times
- National Public Radio
- KPFK-Margaret Prescod
- The Huffington Post
OUR PARTNERS

• Adamma Foundation
• Agape International Spiritual Center
• Annenberg Foundation
• Max & Bessie Bakal Foundation
• Benefactors who wish to remain anonymous
• Board of Supervisors, 2nd District
• Tate Donovan
• Drug Policy Alliance
• DUB Magazine
• Ebell Rest Cottage Association
• East Bay Community Foundation/Alexandra Fund
• Fairfield County Community Foundation (Ms. Nicole Lindsay)
• Farrise Law Firm
• First AME Church
• Ford Foundation
• Fund for Nonviolence
• Goldsmith Legacy Foundation
• Groupon Grassroots
• James Irvine Foundation
• Katharine King Fund
• HealthRight 360
• LA Rotary
• Liberty Hill Foundation
• Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
• McKinney Justice Fund of Tides Foundation
• McMaster-Carr Supply
• Open Society Foundations
• Shlomo Y. & Tamar Rechnitz Charity Foundation
• RGHR Fund-Women’s Foundation of California
• Vernon and Veneatra Reid
• Norma Rivera
• Samuel and Helene Soref Foundation
• Schwab Charitable Fund
• Shelter Partnership
• Solidago Foundation
• Southern California Edison
• Sweet Nature
• The California Endowment
• The Wilshire Boulevard Temple School
• Threshold Foundation
• Tides Center/Californians for Safety & Justice
• Toyota (100 Cars for Good)
• UCLA School of Law
• UCLA Women’s Health
• Uplands Family Foundation
• V-Day
• Verbena Fund
• Whole Foods Market (West Los Angeles)
• WLCAC
• World Vision, Women of Vision, Orange County
• Audrey Wreszin
• Xerox

Claire S. Arcé, Development Director
REVENUE SNAPSHOT

Preliminary as of 2/17/14
A qualitative ethnographic study of A New Way of Life’s re-entry model by University of Texas doctoral candidate Melissa Burch in 2012 provides insights into our program’s success. The ideas below have been adapted from the study and are published with permission of the author.

A New Way of Life’s model was built on founder Susan Burton’s understanding that women released from prison faced two enormous challenges:

1. They must grapple with the immediate challenges of re-entry and overcome the state-imposed barriers in education, employment, housing, welfare and health that severely inhibit re-integration after prison.

2. They must overcome the constricted life options characteristic of poor women of color, which negatively defined their lives before incarceration, an aspect of the re-entry process often overlooked by existing programs.

According to a University of Texas study, A New Way of Life’s approach produces “empowerment, critical self-awareness and increased agency” through a holistic approach that attends simultaneously to the physical, mental and social needs of formerly incarcerated residents.
WHY A NEW WAY OF LIFE WORKS

Four key factors contribute to these outcomes:

1. **A New Way of Life provides a supportive sanctuary.**
   - A New Way of Life is a home—a safe, supportive environment from which residents can build a new relationship with home; one which emphasizes mutual accountability, respect and open communication.
   - Staff support residents, they don’t supervise them. ANWOL staff provide non-judgmental understanding, helping residents see themselves as a person with value and potential, rather than simply someone who made mistakes.
   - In addition, A New Way of Life has no pre-established limit on how long residents may stay, providing a rare sense of safety and security.

2. **A New Way of Life provides extensive services and resources, creating a foundation upon which residents can build.**

Armed with more than 15 years experience and a very knowledgeable staff, A New Way of Life’s network of services and resources is extensive, providing residents with transportation from prison, assistance in obtaining government ID, help applying for public assistance and affordable housing, support to reunite with children, access to free vocational training, and help to clean up a criminal record, find a job and challenge criminal history-based employment discrimination.
3. A New Way of Life offers Sober Living that respects residents’ autonomy.

ANWOL provides tremendous support for sobriety and the houses are drug-free, but residents are treated as autonomous adults and there is an absence of punitive enforcement typical in other programs. The program takes seriously residents’ individual agency. After an initial 30-day period, residents begin to attend school, look for employment and move forward toward meeting their self-identified goals.

4. A New Way of Life is “aimed simultaneously at personal transformation and transformation of the relations of power in which imprisonment is rooted.”

ANWOL actively challenges the discriminatory policies that impact formerly incarcerated people and provides opportunities for intellectual growth and political action. Residents participate in various campaigns and initiatives -- from testifying at the Board of Supervisors to participating in leadership training. The program fosters individual responsibility while facilitating analysis of a broader social context within which to understand their circumstances.
"The State of California (and the nation as a whole) would be well advised to heed Susan Burton's advice and embrace her wisdom—wisdom born of experience and a nearly unparalleled commitment to ending the unnecessary suffering created and perpetuated by our system of mass incarceration. It is difficult to understand why anyone would argue with her common sense and compassionate approach; yet Susan shares a voice and perspective that is rarely heard in mainstream public discourse. The lives of millions of people who are currently cycling in and out of our criminal justice system, as well as the fate of generations to come, literally depend on us listening and really hearing what people like Susan Burton have to say."

Michelle Alexander, Author of “The New Jim Crow”
THANK YOU!

Without the support of individuals, foundations, corporations and local government agencies, we could not have accomplished our many successes in 2013.

We look forward to continued partnerships in 2014!

For more information:
A New Way of Life Re-entry Project
PO Box 875288, Los Angeles, CA 90087
Office: 323-563-3575 | Fax: 323-563-3445
www.anewwayoflife.org