Released from prison with only $200 dollars and a one-way ticket to Skid Row, Susan Burton decided she was never going back.
Following the tragic accidental death of her five-year-old son, Susan Burton’s world collapsed. Her loss snapped the final tether of resilience burdened by a past of pain and trauma. She descended into an emotional abyss of darkness and despair, yet was not offered the treatment needed to heal. Without support, she turned to drugs and alcohol which led to nearly 20 years revolving through cycles of incarceration.

The sixth time she left prison, a guard yelled, “See you in a little while!” With only $200 and a one-way ticket to Skid Row, Susan knew she wanted more than a life locked up and in chains. This time was different; a special person reached out to help her. Susan was able to receive treatment in a more affluent area of Los Angeles. Through a process of personal healing and introspection, Susan wondered why, instead of being sentenced to prison, she had never been offered the help she needed. She came to understand that systems designed to offer meaningful supports were fractured. She resolved to transform her grief into purpose; to find a way to help others heal. Through this determination, A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project (ANWOL) was born.

Susan’s work began with simple acts of compassion through offering shelter to women recently released from prison. In those early years, the women worked together, pooled their meager resources and built a community of family in Susan’s home. Together, they began to recognize and challenge barriers that kept them in a virtual state of ongoing punishment.

Seventeen years later, A New Way of Life’s work continues to be rooted where we began, in the communities of South Los Angeles. Our voice is amplified by thousands who have joined our journey. Beyond California, we are speaking with influence at the epicenter of government.

Even so, the concept of A New Way of Life is simple. Every person has promise. Following Susan’s vision and leadership, we work to link promise with opportunity. When a prison sentence ends, the chains that continue to bind must also be released.

V I S I O N

We ENVISION a world where every person can make decisions for his/her own life, is ACCOUNTABLE for those decisions and is valued as a contributing member of the COMMUNITY.

Pictured on Right:
Camilla reuniting with her children
“People made me feel I needed fixing, but it’s the system that needs fixing. With the money wasted on my incarceration, I could have gone to Yale, not jail!” -- Susan Burton, Founder & Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM SUSAN BURTON

Half century ago, right here in Los Angeles, Martin Luther King, Jr. declared that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. In his optimism, could he have imagined our emerging struggles to achieve his dream?

In 2015, I had the honor to walk in King’s footsteps in Selma; a tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. Through the example of those early pioneers, my resolve to advance civil rights has been strengthened. Even so, the question remains, how do we continue to bend the arc toward justice?

We bend it by our honest examination of the causes and conditions of mass incarceration across our state and country. This examination has resulted in unprecedented bi-partisan unity and movement toward meaningful criminal justice system reform.

We bend it by our commitment to create opportunities for those returning to our communities. This was evidenced by our call to President Obama and his answer, which was to ask Congress to “Ban the Box” for federal hiring and hiring by federal contractors.

We bend it through linking promise with opportunity. Our efforts have been magnified through Proposition 47’s smart on safety approach; by investing in health, safety and effective justice, instead of failed systems of incarceration.

To our allies, you have helped us craft links of support to replace shackles of untapped potential.

The moral arc may sometimes seem out of reach, but we will move forward. Make no mistake about it; collectively, we are bending the arc … toward justice.

Sincerely,

Susan Burton
Founder and Executive Director
“A New Way of Life gave me the security from which I could be in control of my liberty.”
--Georgia, Former Lifer turned Published Author

SNAPSHOT of ANWOL’S WORK

RE-ENTRY DIRECT SERVICES

RE-ENTRY HOUSING PROGRAM
Five re-entry homes serve up to 32 women and their children at any given time.

WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT
Transportation Assistance
Rehabilitation Programs
Theater & Storytelling Workshops
Weekly Big Book Studies (12-Step Meetings)
Women-to-Women Peer Support Groups
Community Engagement Opportunities

RE-ENTRY HOUSING SUPPORT
Family Reunification
Parole Discharge
Probation Discharge
Employment and Education Services
Legal Clinics
Distribution Center

RE-ENTRY PILOT PROGRAM
With the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), ANWOL works to reunite formerly incarcerated individuals with their families living in LA City Section 8 Housing.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & ORGANIZING

HOUSEHOLD GOODS DISTRIBUTION CENTER
The center serves formerly homeless families, helping them to furnish their residences.

TRANSITIONAL SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT (TSE) PROGRAM
The TSE program pays wages for entry-level workers to provide on-the-job training that may lead to employment.

RE-ENTRY LEGAL CLINIC
Pro bono legal services assist clients with overcoming barriers to employment in order to promote successful community re-entries.

WOMEN ORGANIZING FOR JUSTICE & OPPORTUNITY (WOJO)
Through an intensive 6-month leadership lab, participants learn about the role of community organizing and social movements in changing the world for the better. They develop confidence as public speakers and advocates through skill-building workshops and real life opportunities to participate in advocacy and public policy development.

ALL OF US OR NONE (AOUON)
AOUON is a NATIONAL grassroots community organizing effort that works to reverse the discriminatory policies and practices affecting formerly incarcerated individuals.
It All Starts With a Letter

Surrounded by the despair of incarceration, but with a burning desire for change, a woman sits to pen a letter to A New Way of Life—a letter spelling out her desire for support with staying sober, getting a job and reuniting with her children. Little does she know that, with our help, once accepted into the program, she will get that and so much more!

The 17 years of accomplishments attained within A New Way of Life’s re-entry housing comes from meeting the direct needs of each woman. We nurture an authentic, up close and personal experience that speaks directly to the heart and soul of each woman that crosses the threshold of our door.

Not only are they greeted with a smile, respect, dignity and a place to heal, they’re provided with assistance in obtaining identification, opportunities for enlightenment, in-house 12 Step Programs, counseling, enrollment in school, job/career/leadership development and/or anything associated with helping them accomplish their definitions of success.

To date, we have walked with over 1,000 women. We help them understand that their yesterdays need not define, but refine. Like uncut diamonds, healing reveals a hidden beauty of clarity and self-worth.

RE-ENTRY HOUSING HIGHLIGHTS

We served 74 women and 27 children through our five re-entry homes for less than half the cost of incarceration.

On average, 8 out of every 10 women who received services were able to meet annual benchmarks identified as crucial to make successful community re-entries.

Forty-one (41) women requested/received employment services. Out of that number, 26 (63.4%) were able to access employment.

Thirty-one (31) women were able to access permanent housing.

Ninety six percent (96%) of women served were not re-incarcerated.

We screened 232 individual applications for the Re-Entry Pilot Program. The first family accepted in the program completed one year of services, including case management. The father discharged from parole and they welcomed a baby girl into the family.
A qualitative ethnographic study of A New Way of Life’s re-entry model by University of Texas doctoral candidate Melissa Burch 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.

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 17 years of 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.
“My life has been changed because of you guys!” -- Kerry W.
With the help of our Legal Clinic, barriers to meaningful employment were removed. Currently, he's in management and paying it forward by hiring others in need of a SECOND CHANCE.

RE-ENTRY LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Monthly Re-Entry Legal Clinics are held every second and fourth Saturday, alternating between Los Angeles and Long Beach. We help those who qualify clean up their records, receive occupational licenses, enforce “Ban the Box” laws and access relief as allowed under Prop 47. Many lives are being positively affected by the legal team’s efforts.

WE...

- Provided legal assistance to 150 clients to address over 300 traffic citations and/or misdemeanor cases, resulting in over $150,000 in court-ordered debt saved for clients
- Participated and/or conducted training regarding Prop. 47 implementation/traffic ticket amnesty at over 40 community events
- Reviewed over 300 potential cases, investigated over 30 and represented 13 clients for employment rights litigation
- Provided pro bono legal services for 328 formerly incarcerated and/or convicted individuals which included:
  - 920 petitions filed for expungement (known outcomes, 80.3% success rate)
  - 81 petitions filed for reduction under PC 17 (California Penal Code 17(b) allows those convicted of a felony “wobbler” offense to petition the court to have the felony reduced to a misdemeanor) (Known outcomes 72.8% success rate)
  - Filed for reduction of 173 Prop 47-eligible offenses (known outcomes, 90.3% success rate)

HOUSEHOLD GOODS DISTRIBUTION CENTER

ANWOL assisted nearly 500 formerly homeless individuals with furnishing their new residences.

TRANSITIONAL SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT (TSE)

Sixteen (16) individuals participated in this program and ANWOL offered one full-time employment; she accepted.
WOMEN ORGANIZING for JUSTICE & OPPORTUNITY (WOJO)

Thirteen (13) woman graduated, all equipped with a critical analysis of the justice system and a belief in themselves as agents of change in the struggle for social justice.

ALL OF US OR NONE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (AOUON-SC)

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 participated in over 50 meetings/organizing/community events and mobilized allied organizations inspiring over 200 individuals to participate in civil rights advocacy campaigns, leading to Washington, D.C.

Working together, we contributed to the development of community safety policies in California and throughout the nation.
PRESS AND PUBLICITY

MEDIA PLACEMENTS

TV
K-Cal
NBC
CBS
ABC
C-Span
MTV

PSAs
PADNET.TV
Courage Campaign
XX Fund

RADIO/DIGITAL
Public Radio Exchange -PRX
WHCR-NY

iHeart Radio-KIIS-FM
LA Progressive
Friends of Justice
KPFK
Huffington Post
KCRW
Radio France
KKJZ
KCBS
Free Speech Radio
You Tube’s WIGS Unscripted
Documentary “Susan”

PRINT
The Guardian
VICE News
Long Beach Press-Telegram
Los Angeles Times
San Gabriel Valley Tribune
Pasadena Star News
Wall Street Journal
Los Angeles Register
Wave Newspaper

SPECIAL MEDIA
PLACEMENTS/CAMPAIGNS
Justice on Trial Film Festival
Left-Forum-NY
TEDx Ironwood State Prison
FrameWorks
The Marshall Project
Zocalo Public Square

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH
Publications/Special Projects
USC School of Social Work
Cal State Domiriqnez Hills
Criminal Justice
Columbia Law/Just Leadership
Cal State Long Beach Film & Electronic Arts

SPECIAL MEDIA PROJECTS/
PRESS CONFERENCES
AB109
SB1010
Propositon 47
THIRD ANNUAL EVENT

OCTOBER 23-24, 2015
MOUNT SAINT MARY’S UNIVERSITY

17th ANNUAL GALA & AWARDS
BENDING THE ARC...TOWARD JUSTICE
DECEMBER 6, 2015 at the OMNI HOTEL

Terron Franklin
Florence Woodmore Memorial Award

Daryl Atkinson
Movement Builder Award

Piper Kerman
Industry Impact Award

Women of Vision
(Orange County)
Community Champion Award
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Back Row L to R: Carletha Sterling, Gregory Burks, Whitney Davis-Houston, Naomi Seilgman, Mark Burman
Front Row L to R: Barbara Osborn, Vinny Green, Regina Jones, Judith Sydner-Gordon
Pictured in the Middle Below: Tami Warren
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended December 31, 2015
Pre-audit

REVENUE AND SUPPORT
- Resident/Agency Pays: $48,649
- Contracts: $280,373
- Miscellaneous Income: $8,882
- Legal Service Revenue: $25,421
- Grants: $986,300
- Board Contributions: $13,410
- Donations - Individuals: $56,011
- Donations - Organizations: $29,496
- Donations - In Kind: $3,086,130
- Special Events: $120,336
- Other Income: $71,363
- **Total Income**: $4,726,372

EXPENSES
- Program Services: $4,425,806
- Management & Administrative: $113,220
- Fundraising: $81,528
- **Total**: $4,620,555

BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 2015
Pre-audit

ASSETS
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $606,032
- Accounts Receivable: $14,798
- Contracts & Grants Receivable: $133,531
- Property and Equipment (Net): $314,621
- Prepaid Expenses and Deposits: $32,355
- **Total Assets**: $1,101,338

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
- Accounts Payable: $38,384
- Accrued Vacation: $9,408
- Other Accrued Expenses: $41,042
- Mortgage Payable: $161,377
- **Total Liabilities**: $250,211

NET ASSETS
- Unrestricted Net Assets: $851,127
- **Total Net Assets**: $851,127

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**: $1,101,338

2015 FUNDING

- Resident/Agency Pays: $120,336
- Contracts: $280,373
- Miscellaneous Income: $8,882
- Legal Service Revenue: $25,421
- Grants: $986,300
- Board Contributions: $13,410
- Donations - Individuals: $56,011
- Donations - Organizations: $29,496
- Donations - In Kind: $3,086,130
- Special Events: $120,336
- Other Income: $71,363

Legend:
- Resident/Agency Pays
- Contracts
- Miscellaneous Income
- Legal Service Revenue
- Grants
- Board Contributions
- Donations - Individuals
- Donations - Organizations
- Donations - In Kind
- Special Events
- Other Income
A NEW WAY OF LIFE
RE-ENTRY PROJECT

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aneywayoflife.org