A New Way of Life
RE-ENTRY PROJECT
"LINKING PROMISE WITH OPPORTUNITY"

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
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.

Drawing on her personal experiences, she founded A New Way of Life Re-Entry Project (ANWOL) in 1998, dedicating her life to helping others break the cycle of incarceration. ANWOL provides resources such as housing, case management, employment, legal services, leadership development and community organizing on behalf of, and with, people who struggle to rebuild their lives after incarceration.

Susan's journey is chronicled in her award-winning memoir, *Becoming Ms. Burton.*
We envision a world...

where every person can make decisions for her own life, is accountable for those decisions, and is valued as a contributing member of the community.

(Photo credit: Joanna Kim)
A SNAPSHOT OF ANWOL'S WORK

Re-entry Direct Services
"A New Way of Life means going from broken and separated to whole and reunified."
- Ingrid

Re-entry Housing Program
Five re-entry homes serve up to 31 women and their children at any given time.

Re-entry Housing Support
- Family reunification
- Parole/probation discharge
- Employment & education services
- Legal clinics
- Distribution center

Service navigation
- Transportation assistance
- Rehabilitation programs
- Theater & storytelling workshops
- Weekly Big Book Studies (12-step meetings)
- Woman-to-woman peer support groups
- Community engagement opportunities

Community Services & Organizing

Household Goods Distribution Center
Serves formerly homeless families, helping them to furnish their new residences.

Re-entry Legal Clinic
Pro bono legal services to assist clients in overcoming barriers to employment & promote successful community re-entry.

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.

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.
A New Way of Life remains committed to its mission to advance multi-dimensional solutions to the effects of incarceration.

**Housing:** We provide housing and support to formerly incarcerated women for successful community re-entry, family reunification and individual healing.

**In 2017, we:**
- Served 57 women and their 39 minor children. These women were also able to reconnect with 56 adult children.
- Helped 12 women access education.
- Helped 31 out of 45 women seeking employment get jobs.
- Helped 17 women access permanent housing.

None of the women served were reincarcerated.

ANWOL’s first re-entry home, opened in 1998.

We also provided services for more than 450 formerly homeless individuals through our Household Goods Distribution Center.
Our safe homes provide the foundation needed for women to heal and transform their lives.

Catherine was able to regain custody of her two children living in out-of-state foster care.
Veronica was able to complete all requirements to discharge from probation.
Selena found her voice and became an advocate for family reunification issues. She recently regained custody of her 4-year-old son.

"Through WOJO, I've learned the importance of stepping out of my shell, speaking up and telling my story. I'm learning how my story can help others; that we can all make a difference together and ultimately create change for systems that do not work effectively." -- Selena
Michelei fulfilled her dream of becoming a chef.
Legal Services

In 2017, our legal clinics helped 320 clients clean up their records.

- Of 951 petitions filed, we had an 89.5% success rate.
- Of 72 petitions for reduction filed under PC 17, we had a 73.1% success rate.
- Of 144 petitions for reduction filed under Prop 47, we had an 81.8% success rate.
- Of 26 petitions for reduction filed under Prop 64, we had a 100% success rate.

Family Healing: Through movement lawyering, advocacy and policy development, we worked on issues that families impacted by incarceration face as they navigate dependency court and reunification.

Litigation: The focus of litigation shifted to impact litigation against public entities, away from civil litigation enforcing background check laws. The fruit of these efforts will likely bear fruit in 2018 with filing of multiple impact cases against public entities in employment, voting, and probation.
We empower, organize and mobilize formerly incarcerated people as advocates for social change and personal transformation.

In 2017, we...

- Collaborated with local organizations and Council District 8 and the City Attorney’s Office to implement the LA Fair Chance Ordinance, which protects job applicants from discrimination over their conviction histories.
- Co-sponsored the California Money Bail Reform Act (SB 10), the California Fair Chance Act (AB 1008), and AB 535, which would eliminate the exclusion of people with felony convictions from jury service.
- Organized 120 members of our advocacy group for formerly incarcerated people and their supporters, All of Us or None Southern California (AOUON-SC), to attend Quest for Democracy, a two-day session of advocacy training in Sacramento.
- Engaged in phone banking and canvassing to extend Prop 47 services to the community.
A select cohort of women continued their development as community leaders working to address family reunification issues through their participation in our Women Organizing for Justice & Opportunity (WOJO) Leadership Lab. The training is rigorous with bi-weekly meetings over a period of six months. Session education covers a range of topics, including organizing theory and practice, "know-your-(dependency court)-rights," issue identification and campaign building.
Notable achievements

We launched JustUS Voices*, a multimedia platform where formerly incarcerated women can share their stories.

* Now called Testif-i
Congratulations, Shulora!

Shulora, one of our office associates, was awarded a 2017 Soros Justice Youth Activist Fellowship to help victims of sex trafficking.
Memorable events

Our 5th Annual Justice on Trial Film Festival provided education and enlightenment for more than 200 participants over three days.

Susan Burton with keynote speaker and civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump and Donna Hylton of "A Walk to Freedom"

Tamara Perkins (director & producer of "Life After Life") with power panelist Shaka Senghor (author of "Writing My Wrongs")
Memorable events

2017 GALA
#TheProgression

Our 19th Annual Gala honored individuals who further our mission and our work...

SPONSORED BY

We are the Drug Policy Alliance.

Industry Impact Award
Benjamin Crump, Esq.

Community Champion Award
Senator Holly J. Mitchell

Flozelle Woodmore Memorial Award
A New Way of Life Legal Dept.

Movement Builder Award
Impact Justice
Emerging leaders

At our gala, Susan Burton announced her transition to the role of organization founder and introduced A New Way of Life’s new co-directors, Tiffany Johnson and Michael Towler.
Honors

Becoming Ms. Burton received an NAACP Image Award, as well as the Goddard Riverside Stephan Russo Book Prize for Social Justice.

A special paperback edition was developed with 11,000 books printed for distribution to incarcerated individuals throughout the USA. Follow Susan’s book tour blog at becomingmsburton.com.
2017 media coverage

Democracy Now: “Repair the Damage from the Drug War”

BBC Brasil: “The American who overcame crack addiction and today helps ex-offenders rebuild their lives”

The Root: "The Liberator: Susan Burton on the War on Drugs, Black Motherhood & Freedom"

Bill Moyers: "What I Learned from Susan Burton, a Modern-Day Harriet Tubman"

"USA Today Looks at How the US Is Failing Its Prisoners"

The Daily Show with Trevor Noah

Long Beach Lifestyle: "A Woman Once Ruined"

Primer Impacto (Univision): "Young Hispanic Woman Experiences Discrimination"

LA Times: "I tried to assimilate. And I couldn’t: The formerly incarcerated struggle to reenter the workplace. Now L.A. County trying to help"

The New York Times: "A Modern Day Harriet Tubman"

TruthDig: "The Link Between Violence and Female Incarceration"

Marketplace with Kai Ryssdal: "Susan Burton’s fight to stop a cycle of institutional abuse."

Truthout: "New Legislation Would Soften Foster Care Rules That Tear Extended Families Apart"

Forbes: "How Women Leaving Prison Are Finding Purpose in Their Lives"

WNYC: "Susan Burton's Path from Prison to Recovery"

WGN: "Susan Burton: From Prison to Recovery"

CSPAN Book TV: Susan Burton at Abyssinian Baptist Church, NYC
Replication

If you haven't read our 2016 case study yet, now is the time; the case study is the foundation for some big things we'll be working on in the coming months. Click on the photo below or call 323-563-3575 to request a copy.
L to R: ANWOL Founder Susan Burton, Tami Warren, Leah Daniels Butler, Gregory Burks, Marta Lopez-Garza, Whitney Davis-Houston, Regina Jones, Mark Burman, Vinny Green, Barbara Osborn, Leon Kaplan, Julia Meltzer, Judith Sydner-Gordon, Tam Watkins and ANWOL Co-Director Tiffany Johnson
Thank you, Dr. Phil!

Dr. Phil Stein volunteers at A New Way of Life every Thursday, offering counseling and support to our residents.
2017 Financial Snapshot

*Preliminary, pending audit

**Profit & Loss**

- **Total revenue:** $5,093,372
- **Expenses:** $4,761,763 (93%)
- **Net income:** $331,609 (7%)

**Income Sources**

- Resident/agency pays: $37,247
- Contracts: $47,584
- Misc. income: $192,341
- Legal service revenue: $224,139
- Grants: $1,495,297
- Board contributions: $5,305
- Donations - individ.: $182,376
- Donations - org.: $52,904
- Donations - in kind: $2,741,666
- Special events: $111,847
- Other: $2,665

**Total:** $5,093,372
A New Way of Life
Re-Entry Project

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