our story

A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL) provides housing, case management, pro bono legal services, advocacy and leadership development for women rebuilding their lives after prison.

We were founded in 1998 by Susan Burton, who cycled in and out of prison for nearly two decades after trauma led to addiction. When Susan left prison for the sixth time, she found healing at a rehab center in a wealthy part of Los Angeles. This made her wonder: why are there so few resources for justice-involved women in poor communities in South Los Angeles? ANWOL was born.

To date, we have provided housing to more than 1,100 formerly incarcerated women, helped reunite more than 300 women with their children, and provided pro bono legal services to more than 3,000 community members with conviction histories.

Susan Burton
founder

Credit: Dario Griffin
we believe

* Every person has inherent value and holds the power of possibility within.

* Public resources are better invested in opportunities for transformation than in prisons and punishment. ANWOL provides reentry services for less than a third the cost of incarceration.

* When a woman goes to prison, her kids serve time, too. Therefore, the healing process must be inclusive of her entire family.
housing

We provide housing and support to formerly incarcerated women for successful community reentry, family reunification and individual healing.

In 2018, we:

- Served 81 women and their 55 minor children. These women were also able to reconnect with 75 adult children.

- Helped 28 women access education opportunities.

- Helped 45 women access permanent housing.
We grew from five houses to eight! In 2018, Harbour Area Halfway Houses in Long Beach, California, asked us to take over their three reentry homes for women. Merging gave us access to 24 additional beds and allowed us to expand from our base in the Watts neighborhood of South Los Angeles into the southernmost part of LA County.
In 2018, we founded SISTERHOOD ALLIANCE FOR FREEDOM AND EQUALITY Which is a training program that will help organizations around the world replicate our model & give even more women a fresh start.

Our first cohort of 12 replicators met in Los Angeles in December for two days of training, panel discussions and tours. Our replicators came from as far away as Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois & Washington, DC.
In 2018, we hired an employment & social enterprise associate to help our residents prepare for and find work or enroll in school.

- A total of 73 residents and non-residents went to our employment associate for help.
- 63 were actively seeking employment.
- 58 (92%) of these women were able to get jobs.
In 2018, **April Adkins** went from resident to full-time housing coordinator for our Los Angeles homes. In her spare time, she is a passionate writer and spoken word artist.

**Karen Hernandez** got off parole early and had her record expunged. She enrolled in college, where she earned a 4.0 GPA in her first semester and became vice president of the Respect Immigrant Student Education club and a member of the Amaranth Club for formerly incarcerated students. She has spoken on numerous panels, both on campus and off.
April Amey moved into her own home in 2018. Since founding Mothers Educating Mothers to help women at California Institute for Women understand their parental rights and fight for their children, she has remained a passionate advocate for parents working to get their children out of the foster care system. She is also an avid public speaker.

Sequarier McCoy completed an internship in solar panel installation with Grid Alternatives. She then became the first female African American site supervisor with Center for Employment Opportunities, Wild Fires Crew and Beaches and Harbors.
policy

We empower, organize and mobilize formerly incarcerated people as advocates for social change & personal transformation.

In 2018:

- Our policy department worked with the LA County Probation Reform & Implementation Team to ensure that the primary role of probation officers will become “positively effecting behavioral change” through partnerships with community organizations.

- We joined with county officials and hip hop artist Common in the LA Free the Vote campaign and registered nearly 1,000 people incarcerated in LA jails to vote.

- We organized a convening on eliminating court-imposed fines and fees. In October, the LA County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to discharge $90 million in fees imposed on families with children in the juvenile justice system.
We work to restore the civil rights of formerly incarcerated people.

In 2018, our reentry legal clinic celebrated 10 years! *

Our reentry legal clinic was honored by Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove (middle), as well as Senator Holly Mitchell and LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

In 2018, we served 275 people and had:

- An 87.7% success rate on 868 petitions filed for expungement.
- A 71.2% success rate on 68 petitions for reduction filed under PC 17.
- An 87.8% success rate on 117 petitions for reduction filed under Prop 47.
- A 98% success rate on 33 petitions for reduction filed under Prop 64.
Women Organizing for Justice and Opportunity, our six-month leadership laboratory for formerly incarcerated women, graduated one cohort and brought on another one. Focused on family reunification and navigating dependency court, WOJO teaches women organizing theory and practice, issue identification, and campaign building.

In 2018, through our family integrity project:

- An ANWOL resident won a multi-year battle to regain custody of her son.
- We provided guidance to more than 40 family members excluded from becoming resource families because of criminal records.
- We represented six families who were approved as caregivers, keeping more than a dozen children out of the foster care system.
In 2018, our JustUS Voices storytelling platform for formerly incarcerated women became Testif-i. The name has a double meaning: it refers both to the testimony a defendant makes under oath in a courtroom and to the witness these women bear to their own lives now that they live in freedom.

In 2018, we created 12 videos of formerly incarcerated women, and their children, telling their stories. Watch them at www.testif-i.com.
To commemorate our 20th anniversary, we remembered the 1,100+ women we have served over the years during a gala celebration on December 2 at the LA Grand Hotel Downtown.

We also honored:

**Peter Sheehan**  
Civil rights attorney  
Community Champion Award

**Ellen Adler**  
New Press publisher  
Industry Impact Award

**Ingrid Archie**  
Former ANWOL resident  
Flozelle Woodmore Award

**Margaret Prescod**  
KPFK Radio  
Movement Builder Award
As you've probably noticed, we look a little different these days. To celebrate our 20th birthday, we got a new logo with new colors...

...and aiming for the stars.

Leaving behind the bars...

...and a new website. Take a look at www.anewwayoflife.org.

Linking promise with opportunity

A New Way of Life Reentry Project provides housing, case management, pro bono legal services, advocacy and leadership development for women rebuilding their lives after prison.
In September, we held our sixth annual Justice on Trial Film Festival at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. We were joined by guests including now-First Partner of California Jennifer Newsom (left) and LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (right), among others.

More than 300 people attended the two-day festival, which featured 12 short and full-length justice-focused films, power panels, a keynote address from Newsom, and a living library where festivalgoers could speak with formerly incarcerated women and their children.
media

We had over 40 news stories, features and mentions in the media in 2018. Here are just a few.

“INSIDE AMY POEHLER’S SMART GIRLS 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER” DEC. 11, 2018

“ESSENCE 2018 WOKE 100 WOMEN” APRIL 2018

“NEGOTIATING TRAUMA: HOW SUSAN BURTON GAVE DISCARDED WOMEN A TOMORROW” JAN. 8, 2018

“PROP. 64 LETS PEOPLE REDUCE MARIJUANA CONVICTIONS, BUT HARDLY ANYONE’S DOING IT” FEB. 13, 2018

“EX-INMATE SUSAN BURTON GOES BACK TO PRISON TO LEAD OUT WOMEN SHE LEFT BEHIND” MAY 26, 2018

“WHY ARE WOMEN THE FASTEST GROWING SEGMENT OF THE PRISON POPULATION?” MAY 29, 2018
A big thank you to our board for their faithful service!

L-R: Mark Burman, Barbara Osborn, Leah Daniels-Butler, Marta Lopez-Garza, Regina Jones, Lynn Nguyen, Judith Sydner-Gordon, Susan Burton, Whitney Davis-Houston, Tami Warren, Gregory Burks and Michael Woltz (Not pictured: Jackie Andrews, Leon Kaplan and Tam Watkins)
2018 financials (Pre-Audit)

### REVENUE & SUPPORT
- Resident/Agency Pays: $59,085
- Contracts: $68,791
- Miscellaneous Income: $128,545
- Legal Service Revenue: $24,467
- Grants: $2,154,455
- Board Contributions: $13,855
- Donations - Individuals: $101,308
- Donations - Organizations: $226,895
- Donations - In Kind: $530,722
- Special Events: $166,752
- Other Income: $3,987
- **Total Income**: $3,478,861

### EXPENSES
- Program Services: $2,969,085
- Management & Administrative: $75,940
- Fundraising: $54,553
- **Total Expenses**: $3,099,577
- **Net Income**: $379,284

### BALANCE SHEET

**Assets**
- Cash and Equivalents: $2,031,926
- Accounts Receivable: $44,366
- Contracts & Grants Receivable: $1,026,145
- Property & Equipment (Net): $742,622
- Prepaid Expenses and Deposits: $27,836
- **Total assets**: $3,872,894

**Liabilities**
- Accounts Payable: $84,992
- Accrued Vacation: $16,826
- Other Accrued Expenses: $75,226
- Deferred Revenue: $1,729,575
- Mortgage Payable: $326,388
- **Total liabilities**: $2,233,007
- **Net Assets**: $1,639,887
- Unrestricted Net Assets: $1,639,887
- **Total Net Assets**: $3,872,894

**Special Events**
- $166,752

**In Kind**
- $530,722

**Donations**
- Individuals: $101,308
- Organizations: $226,895
- **In Kind**: $530,722

**Grants**
- $2,154,455

**Board Contributions**
- $13,855

**Fundraising**
- $54,553

**Legal Service Revenue**
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Income sources:
- Resident/Agency Pays: $106,889
- Contracts: $772
- Miscellaneous Income: $61,514
- Legal Service Revenue: $45,601
- Grants: $16,116
- Board Contributions: $170,520
- Donations - Individuals: $25,050
- Donations - In Kind: $67,632
- Donations - Organizations: $66,904
- Special Events: $1,237,362
- Other Income: $2,931,012

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Total revenues: $3,478,861
Total expenses: $3,099,577
Net income: $379,284
A New Way of Life
Reentry Project

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A New Way of Life is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.