A New Way of Life Reentry Project
Annual Report 2019
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 1,200 formerly incarcerated women, helped reunite more than 400 women with their children, and provided pro bono legal services to more than 3,000 community members with conviction histories.
Every person has inherent value and holds the power of possibility within.

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

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.
Within a month of her release from prison, Patty Conklin got a job phone banking at Community Coalition. Just a few months later, she was hired at Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) to help formerly incarcerated people transition into work. She also took classes at West LA College with an eye on filmmaking.

Felicia Garcia put the bricklaying skills she learned in prison to work. Last summer, she got a union job as a cement mason, working on the runway at the new Los Angeles Airport terminal. The only woman on her job site, Felicia says, “I get to rejoice at the end of the day and say, ‘I did it!’”
Residents

In 2019, Cristina Nevares started both a leadership course and a job at the Goodwill Resource Center, which then funded her to enroll in paralegal training at LA Valley College. Though her son lives with her mother, Cristina enjoyed taking him to school every day. She's grateful to be in AA and doing positive things every day.

ANWOL connected Pamela Thompson with the Worksource Center at Watts Labor Community Action Committee, which helped her get work at FedEx. After working at another reentry home, Pamela came full circle and was hired by WLCAC as a community health worker. She's since worked her way up to case manager.
We provide housing and support to formerly incarcerated women for successful community reentry, family reunification and individual healing.

We served 78 women, mothers of 63 minor children and 57 adult children.

We helped 53 women access education opportunities.

We helped 33 women access permanent housing.

We helped place 45 out of 68 women who were seeking jobs in employment.

9 out of every 10 women served met benchmarks identified as necessary for successful reentry after periods of incarceration.

Ninety-nine percent of the women served were not reincarcerated.
SAFE Housing

In 2019, we trained more than 30 people from 14 states in how to start and maintain a safe house using our model. Our three-day training included tours of our homes, an in-depth look at our unique model, and guidance in development, grant-writing, communications and accounting and finance.

A New Way of Life also selected eight safe homes in seven states to support. These homes include:

- Turning Point (Los Angeles, CA)
- Black and Pink (Omaha, NE)
- Welcome Home Sis (Byesville, OH)
- True Beginnings (Las Vegas, NV)
- We Rise (St. Paul, MN)
- Founding Mothers (Phoenix, AZ)
- WIN Recovery (Champaign, IL)
- Starting Over (Riverside, CA)
We empower, organize and mobilize formerly incarcerated people as advocates for social change & personal transformation.

In 2019, we:

- Supported and helped pass eight bills regarding sentencing reform, community service reform, rights to jury service, accountability for peace officers, criminal history record relief and other issues.

- Mobilized community members to advocate for criminal justice reform in Sacramento and to pass a county motion to cancel a $1.7 billion jail construction contract.

- Worked with LA County officials and community leaders to develop recommended alternatives to incarceration.

- Trained community members in grassroots organizing.

- Worked with Let’s Get Free LA to produce a report on the harm done by criminal system fines and fees.
We work to restore the civil rights of formerly incarcerated people.

In 2019, we served 352 people.

- We filed 1,138 petitions for expungement, with an 87.1% success rate.
- We filed 78 petitions for reduction of felony to misdemeanor, with a 68.9% success rate.
- We filed 112 petitions to reduce Prop. 47-eligible offenses to misdemeanors, with an 84.8% success rate.
- We filed 30 petitions to reclassify Prop. 64-eligible offenses with a 91.7% success rate.
- We successfully sealed 9 out of 9 arrest records under a new limited-effect sealing law.

- We also helped 10 people secure occupational licenses or government clearances. (Seven cases remain pending.)

- Our team litigated cases against multiple public entities and filed a number of new cases following investigation.
As part of ANWOL’s onsite support, in 2019, we offered ongoing education for all 78 residents who lived in our safe homes. Examples of leadership development include classes, organizing meetings, and civic engagement opportunities.

Our Women Organizing for Justice & Opportunity (WOJO) Leadership Lab is a rigorous, specialized six-month training program. Because of systemic issues routinely faced by women living in our safe homes, each year we formally train a cohort of women to address family reunification issues and navigate the DCFS system.

WOJO advocates distributed advocacy tools for families and community members and provided trainings to address challenges to reunification for families entangled in the criminal courts and best practices for attorneys working with incarcerated parents. They also participated in multiple panels, including the Annual Empowerment Congress Summit and the National Children of Incarcerated Parents Conference.

We celebrated these phenomenal women in May 2019 for their ongoing dedication to reuniting mothers and children.
Our work in developing the Family Reunification Advocacy Project (FRAP) was formalized into two paid employees who provide reunification services at LA County Probation Department’s DOORS (Developing Opportunities & Offering Reentry Solutions) resource center. These staff provide counseling, court advocacy, child visit coordination and supervision, case planning services, and educational resources for families. Since July when we began offering services at DOORS, we have served 78 individuals, with 30 families receiving active case management services.

- One child returned home: the father has full custody with the mother’s visitation contingent upon father’s discretion.

- Four more children are scheduled to be returned home.

- A mother who had already lost custody of nine children gave birth. DCFS threatened to remove the child, but with assistance from FRAP, she was able to take her baby home from the hospital.
More than 300 people attended the seventh annual Justice on Trial Film Festival at Loyola Marymount University in September. 2019's festival featured 17 short and full-length justice-focused films, panels, Q&A sessions with filmmakers, a keynote address from Senator Holly Mitchell, and talks from authors Talitha LeFlouria and Dwayne Betts.

Director Nate Parker brought his film "American Skin" to the festival just days after its worldwide premier at the Venice Film Festival. Members of the Exoneree Band played in conjunction with a screening of "In Pursuit of Justice," a film about the exoneration of Greg Taylor. That film also took home the JOTFF's "Best Feature Film" award, while "What Happened to Dujuan Armstrong" won the prize for best short.
During our 21st gala, we celebrated freedom victories and the African American women who have fought for them since the birth of this nation: from Elizabeth Key Grinstead, who, in 1656, became the first woman of African descent to sue for her freedom and win, to Patrisse Cullors, who took a stand to say that Black lives matter. But perhaps the most exciting freedom victory we celebrated during the gala was the homecoming of Geneva Cooley, a woman sentenced to 999 years in Alabama for drugs. Thanks to Susan’s activism and the work of Geneva’s legal team, Geneva was paroled in October 2019 and joined us at the gala with her son Lamont (pictured above). We were also joined by special guests including Natalie Portman, Goapele, Anne Archer and Chiké Okonkwo.

Our 2019 gala honorees:

Desmond & Sheena Meade
Florida Rights Restoration Coalition
Movement Builder Award

Norris Henderson
VOTE Movement Builder Award

Joel Sogol, Courtney Cross & Terrika Shaw
Geneva Cooley legal team
Community Champion Award

Shanae Polk
Former ANWOL resident
Flozelle Woodmore Award
In 2019, we expanded our storytelling platform Testif-i from LA into the Bay Area. Our third round of Testif-i featured the video stories of six formerly incarcerated women. We also held four living libraries, where attendees met personally with storytellers to learn about their experiences. Through this work we seek to transform negative narratives about justice-impacted women and reform the criminal justice system.
ANWOL had what was probably our best year ever in the media, with 115 news stories, features and mentions in 2019. Here is a sampling of those stories.

"She, The People: Susan Burton On Leading Women Returning To Society To ‘A New Way Of Life,’” May 24

"Anita Hill, Katy Perry & Nadia Murad Honored at the 2019 DVF Awards,” April 12

"I Served My Prison Time. Why Do I Still Have to Pay?” April 30

"Felicity Huffman Is Helping Women Adjust to Life After Prison: She’s ‘Connected With Them,”’” Dec. 6

"US Jail Populations Drop, But Not for Women,” June 30
In April, Susan received the prestigious Diane Von Furstenberg People’s Voice Award. She was one of four women nominated for the award, and the public was asked to vote for the nominee they found most inspiring. Susan received her award (which came with a $50,000 grant) with other recipients including Anita Hill and Katy Perry.

To commemorate the series finale of "Orange Is the New Black," Netflix started the Poussey Washington Fund, named for a beloved character on the show. The fund benefits eight social justice organizations, including A New Way of Life. It has raised over $46,000 for our organization to date.

California State University, Northridge awarded Susan an honorary doctorate of humane letters. "For all that she has done, for CSUN and all those who have been touched by her efforts, we are proud to honor her," said President Dianne F. Harrison, noting Susan’s work with Revolutionary Scholars.
Geneva Cooley was released from Alabama's Tutwiler Prison in October. Susan met Geneva in 2017 and learned that she had been sentenced to 999 years without the possibility of parole for drugs. If Geneva didn't get relief, she would die in prison.

Susan tirelessly advocated for Geneva, helping her connect with a team of lawyers at the University of Alabama School of Law who helped Geneva get resentenced -- and later released.

Susan was issued a full pardon by California Governor Gavin Newsom in August. According to Gov. Newsom, while the pardon doesn't minimize or erase past convictions, it does "recognize a person’s subsequent progress and accomplishments."

Susan said she was most excited about the ability to serve on a jury again. But fortunately for formerly incarcerated people throughout the state, just two months later, Gov. Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 310, which allows people with felony convictions to serve on juries. A New Way of Life was an early co-sponsor of the bill.
Board of Directors

We are grateful to our board for their service and dedication.

Jackie Andrews  
Mark Burman  
Gregory Burks  
Leah Daniels-Butler  
Whitney Davis-Houston  
Regina Jones  
Marta Lopez-Garza  
Kevin Holland

Leon Kaplan  
Lynn Nguyen  
Barbara Osborn  
Judith Sydner-Gordon  
Tami Warren  
Tam Watkins  
Michael Woltz
# 2019 Financials

## Statement of Activities

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<tr>
<th>Revenue and Support</th>
<th>Pre-audit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Resident/Agency Pays</td>
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<td>Contracts</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Legal Service Revenue</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Board Contributions</td>
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<td>Donations - Individuals</td>
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<td>Donations - Organizations</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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## Balance Sheet

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<td>Cash and Equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Contracts &amp; Grants Receivable</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment (Net)</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses and Deposits</td>
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<td>Accrued Vacation</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>Mortgage Payable</td>
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<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<th>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</th>
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<td><strong>5,671,356</strong></td>
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*Photo credits: Paiwei Wei (1, 20), Dario Griffin (8, 14, 19), Gary Leonard (6), Getty Images (15, 16), Leroy Hamilton (32), MC Harris (1, 13, 18)*
A New Way of Life
Reentry Project

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