The Housing Issue

Four members of A New Way of Life’s Housing Staff. From left to right: Linda Washington, Roberta Brooks, Amatuallah Bradshaw, and Nichole Legard.
Dear Friends of A New Way of Life,

The past year was a resounding success. Our SAFE Housing Training, which trains partner organizations on how to replicate our acclaimed reentry model across the nation, was our largest yet—with more than a hundred participants from across the country and beyond! More than 750 participants registered for our annual Justice on Trial Film Festival, which brings together activists, impacted communities, filmmakers, and more to expose the injustices of mass incarceration and work towards exploring solutions. Our 2022 Gala brought together 350 distinguished guests and community leaders to honor our work and those we serve. We are proud of what we accomplished this past year.

Core to our work are our housing services. Twenty-five years ago, A New Way of Life was established with the mission of bringing holistic, person-centered reentry services to our most vulnerable communities: poor women, often women of color, in South Central Los Angeles. From one house with limited staffing, we have grown to twelve houses with seventeen incredible staff members dedicated to housing alone. We now have the capacity to serve eighty-three women and their children at any given time. This is why we are dedicating this issue to the wonderful staff and residents of A New Way of Life and our SAFE Housing Network.

We want to conclude by thanking you for the ongoing support you have shown us throughout the past year. When Ms. Susan Burton made the well-deserved decision to step back from day-to-day decision making, she said, the best gift one could give would be to support us with the same intensity as you have her. We are humbled to say that you have done so ten-fold. From the bottom of our hearts, and those we serve, thank you.

Best wishes,

Pamela Marshall & Michael Towler (Co-Directors)
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January 2023
Since 1998, more than 1,500 formerly incarcerated women and their children have found safety and support in our safe homes.

A New Way of Life’s Safe Homes: An overview

By Robert Mejia

A New Way of Life Reentry Project was established in 1998 with the purchase of our first safe home in South Central Los Angeles in 1998. Located in Watts, California, Ms. Susan Burton would sleep in the dining room so that the three rooms in this 3-bed, 2-bath home would be available to the formerly incarcerated women she was intent on serving. Over more than two decades, that first home has housed hundreds of women and continues to be called home by our residents.

In the years since that first home was purchased, A New Way of Life has expanded our housing to include twelve properties spread throughout Los Angeles county. We now have the capacity to support 83 formerly incarcerated women and their children at a time. To meet the needs of our residents, we have grown our housing team to seventeen, up from ten in 2020!

At A New Way of Life, we believe that housing is a fundamental human right and is critical for one’s flourishing. Access to secure and stable housing brings with it numerous benefits. Residential stability is connected with better political engagement, economic security, health, and more.¹

The high cost of living and discriminatory housing practices, however, mean that formerly incarcerated people are nearly ten times more likely—twelve times more likely for formerly incarcerated women—to be homeless than the general public.² Formerly incarcerated people of color, especially women, experience even higher rates of homelessness and housing insecurity due the ongoing and historical legacies of racism and sexism.³

Ms. Burton established A New Way of Life to address the need for holistic reentry and housing services for our most vulnerable individuals, formerly incarcerated women from impoverished and historically marginalized communities. Building from her own experience with incarceration, Ms. Burton had learned that White, affluent communities had access to reentry programming that was altogether absent in impoverished and historically marginalized communities.
Our safe homes offer holistic, person-centered reentry programs for formerly incarcerated women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Each individual is supported by a case manager, who develops a comprehensive reentry plan, with a focus on finding independent housing and working towards the resident’s self-identified goals. Residents are offered community, mental and emotional health counseling, job development and education preparation, and more. All these services are provided at less than half the cost of incarceration.

Though our services have expanded to include advocacy, family reunification services, leadership training, legal services, workforce development and education, and communications outreach, housing continues to serve as the foundation for all that we do at A New Way of Life!

To learn more about our housing services, including how to obtain assistance for yourself or a loved one, please visit our website (www.anewwayoflife.org/housing) or call us at (323)563-3575.

Notes:


3. Ibid.
When Ms. Linda Washington walks into an interview, you feel what every resident feels: the sunshine illuminating from her calm and peaceful soul. Join me as we learn more about our 2022 Gala Honoree, Ms. Linda Washington.

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MS. LINDA WASHINGTON**

*By Tracey Jenkins*

TJ: I would like to begin by learning about your position and the work you do at A New Way of Life.

LW: I am the lead housing coordinator, which means that I work closely with our housing staff to make sure that our residents get the proper support they deserve.

TJ: What do you find most rewarding about this work?

LW: Giving back. It is my passion. Helping others, supporting others. I just want to be able to support our residents. I can relate to the women, and so I am often someone who they know will listen. Our residents know they can come to me about their personal issues and that I will listen without judgment. I have had our residents come crying to me because they never believed they would get their kids back. To see them grow through this experience, and then come to me and say, “Thank you Ms. Linda for listening.” Wow. Having that compassion, that time, is really important to the women.

TJ: You mentioned giving back. Can you tell us what this means to you?

LW: It matters because I was one of the first residents at A New Way of Life. In 1998, I had visited the Clare Foundation, hoping to get a bed and support to fight my disease. I had gone to jail for a minute and was then working as a certified nursing assistant. But I got caught up in my disease and needed help. I had already worked with the Clare Foundation, but I relapsed. When I returned, I was told there were no beds available, but
Ms. Susan Burton was there, and she looked at me with a smile, gave me her card, and said, “I have a bed available if you want it.” I will never forget that.

After I left, and got my own place, Ms. Burton and the staff at A New Way of Life continued to help me. They helped me clear my record and renew my nursing license with California. I did not have to pay a dime for this help.

This is what I mean when I say my passion is giving back.

**TJ: How did you get involved as an employee?**

LW: Every Monday and Wednesday, while I was watering my grass at my apartment, I would see Ms. Burton struggling with a truck full of stuff. Bed Bath & Beyond had began donating items to ANWOL, and the truck would be literally tilted over full of their products.

One day, I asked Ms. Burton if she would like any help, and she said, “Yes.” She hired me to run their new distribution center. I have been an employee ever since, when I was hired twenty-two years ago (in 2000).

After the Distribution Center temporarily closed, I became a housing coordinator in 2017 and the lead housing coordinator this past year. It has been an incredible twenty-two years.

**TJ: That is wonderful. What advice would you give residents about how to thrive with A New Way of Life?**

LW: I would tell them: don’t leave until the miracle happens. Trust the process, do the necessary things that you need to do. Sometimes it is hard, but if you take a second, one moment, one hour at a time, and just keep putting one foot in front of another, you will be amazed with what comes from your journey.
I often encourage residents to make a list of their goals and accomplishments. They often don't think they accomplished anything, but when they do this, they see, “Oh, I did this, I did that.” I just really want residents to wait for their miracle and to trust the process.

TJ: I understand that you were recently honored at the 2022 Gala. What does this recognition mean for you?

LW: It means a whole lot because I felt so appreciated. I felt, wow, inspired. I felt like I was loved enough, cared for enough, for somebody to appreciate me. I was just so honored that someone took the time out to acknowledge me and the work that I do.
Nicole Yearwood is housing coordinator at our South Central safe homes. A dedicated staff member, Nicole is motivated by seeing our residents grow.

Staff Spotlight: Nicole Yearwood

By Tracey Jenkins

TJ: Can you tell us about the work that you do?

NY: I’m right in there with the residents making sure they have their supplies and their needs are met. I conduct one-on-one meetings with the residents to learn about their wants, and I do all of this with meticulous notes to make sure I solve their problems on a daily basis. Communication skills are also necessary in order to handle any issues that the residents may be dealing with. I also utilize my social skills in order to make sure the residents are making strides with their internal and mental health issues as well.

TJ: How did you get involved with ANWOL?

NY: It began when a family friend saw new life in me and suggested that I drop my hat into a new ring. After spending over seven years incarcerated, it was time to start my life all over again and do it right here in a new program. I interviewed with ANWOL, landed the job as housing coordinator and the rest is beautiful history.

TJ: What do you find most rewarding about the work that you do?

NY: The most rewarding thing that I see from the program are that the women grow and become more independent. Reuniting with their family members and finding their purpose by following the rules of the program and staying focused with staff’s help and inspiration.

TJ: What advice would you give residents about ANWOL, about expanding their opportunities, and finding success post-incarceration?

NY: For women just joining the program or already in: “Make sure you are open minded. Don’t be afraid to experience new opportunities. Take some time out to think about what you want to do. Reach for the stars and go for it!”

TJ: What would you want people to know about A New Way of Life?

NY: It’s a great program with amazing opportunity and helps women transition back into society and only works if you work it.?
The Miramonte House is one of A New Way of Life’s five intake homes. We met with Adriana Hardy, Marina Judkins, and Ariana Deblas, residents of the Miramonte House, to discuss their story and journey with A New Way of Life.

Resident Spotlight:
Miramonte House

By Kaysha Young

A New Way of Life’s intake homes serve a special role for our residents. These houses are the first point of entry for our residents and have staff on hand to support our residents as they transition towards their goals. The first few weeks of a resident’s reentry are particularly challenging, as staff and residents work together to obtain identification cards, birth certificates, social security cards, and register for critical services. The emphasis is on healing, rest, and community.

KY: Can you tell us a little bit about yourselves?

AH: I’m 32 years old and going on six years of sobriety. I was an addict since I was 15 years old and I got sober at age 19 for the first time. When I was pregnant with my daughter, my husband gave me an ultimatum. I was sober for five years and then I relapsed.

MJ: I was the baby in the family and I got treated fairly and was always loved. Unfortunately, my dad got into a little trouble which led to me going to multiple foster homes. You weren’t treated fairly. Similar to Adriana, I became an alcoholic at a young age once I ran away. I started to learn how to do street work and survive.

AD: So I come from Sinaloa, Mexico and I grew up in a very poor town. My family was going through a lot with having eight kids and my mom taking care of my disabled sister. I was 19 years old when I had my son, but the father of my son abandoned me. Due to that, I moved to the United States and began working.

AH: Things started to snowball for me. Domestic violence played a huge role in getting my kids taken away from me. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) took my children from me for failing to protect them from domestic violence. That brought on a lot of trauma. I had a lot of anger and resentment. My husband and I both ended up on the street and I experienced more trauma with men on the street and I experienced more trauma with men on the...
street. Because of a mistake I made on the street, I was given a nine-year sentence.

MJ: While I was in the streets, I ended up catching a case as well. I was looking at 50 to life. I didn't think I would ever get out and live an adult life. I don't regret it because part of growing up in the system made me who I am. I experienced a lot of trauma and lot of life skills. Before I was incarcerated, I was in a domestic relationship and it was very abusive. I learned a lot from that within itself.

AD: I was married for nearly 20 years, but it was a frustrating relationship. I had two more kids with him, but he was an absent father. He is the reason I was incarcerated, but I am now in the midst of a divorce.

KY: How did you learn about A New Way of Life?

AH: While I was in prison, I learned about the program. I wrote a letter and they sent me an application.

AD: For me, one of my aunts found the program while I was in prison,

MJ: When I got out, I spent the night with my sister and my parole officer told me about a program. I didn’t know it was A New Way of Life. I didn’t know what it was until I saw Ms. Burton’s book and I kept seeing it even in juvenile hall. I didn’t read the book, but I ended up in her house. I felt like it was a sign from God.

KY: What has your experience been like with A New Way of Life? What is it like living in the Miramonte House?

AH: I was blessed to be welcomed into this home. The girls are very nice and as you can see we all share a lot in common. Thanks to A New Way of Life, I was introduced to substance abuse programs and got my GED. I have rebuilt a connection with my family and I can now see my children.

MJ: I’ve never been in a program like this. It has given me a lot of healing. I was scared to go out because in my old program, we never went out. I was ready to start my life but it was about getting your foundation. A New Way of Life helped me with my transportation, I got a job, I actually ended up getting two jobs. I ended up working with A New Way of Life. I was so grateful, this is what I wanted. I thought I would die in prison. I am very grateful for this program. I’m doing things I thought I would never do. I have no complaints about this house, we all get along. If one person is down, we cheer each other up. Uplifting another woman and not tearing each other down.

AD: My experience has been good because A New Way of Life is helping me move forward. I am going to school at the Maxine Waters Center for ESL classes. A New Way of Life is also helping with my divorce.
KY: What would you have done without A New Way of Life?

AH: I would have probably ended up living in a sober living center. I didn't know much about A New Way of Life.

AD: I didn't have any other options. I would probably be in Mexico. It would have been a last option to be in Mexico.

MJ: I probably would have lived with my sister, but it wouldn't have been successful with my recovery of becoming a young adult. I got a chance to notice and discover a lot of things that I haven't before. I have accomplished a lot of life skills. I saw a lot in my sister that was not great. I am very distant from family and I am in need, but I am allowing myself the space to be a better self and if that means staying away from the negativity, then that is what I am going to do. If I didn't have A New Way of Life, I would have gone back to the streets or transferred out to a different county.

KY: What would you like for people to know about incarceration and reentry? What would you like for women about to begin their reentry journey to know?

AH: I want people to know that it is what you make it. There are lots of bad parts. You will be mistreated but there are resources there. No one is going to force you to do anything, it is in you to decide if you want to change. It's up to you to take advantage of the resources. I just started my journey, but I would tell people to not be scared and don't give up. It can be scary at times, the unknown, but the support system is amazing. You have to take it one day at a time. You have to really want it.

AD: I would tell other people that there is help out there and that it is important to speak about what happened. Like Adriana said, it does take time, but the help is there.

MJ: It is definitely an eye opener. I agree with both Ariana and Adriana when they say you have to really want it. When it comes to a program, you have to want it. Everybody has options, but you have the option to want something better for yourself. Whatever you have gone through, you have to want it. You have to allow yourself to feel. Be willing, just be willing. Open up. That's how your journey starts. Don't be afraid to tell your truth.
Melanie Robledo is a former resident of A New Way of Life. We met to discuss her reentry experience, including some recent accomplishments she has made since being on her own.

Resident Spotlight: Melanie Robledo

By Kaysha Young

KY: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

MR: I was released from incarceration on June 29, 2021. It was the most lengthy incarceration that I ever faced. I had been in and out of the system for the past four years prior to that. I had also gone through addiction prior to that, but then I got pregnant at the age of 22. I was sober for 10 years, then I relapsed.

This last time I was incarcerated, I was approached by the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) and they asked if I was interested in participating in their job program. The job program was a joint program between A New Way of Life and CEO. It wasn’t something I really was expecting: my reading skills were not that great and I wasn’t confident with my fine motor skills. Going through the program, however, made me realize that I had forgotten that I was actually really good at this. I worked hard and I finished the program.

When I was released from prison, my family, ex-husband, and my daughter picked me up and took me to A New Way of Life. I was afraid because I had done it before and the structures were difficult. When I walked into Ms. Burton’s home I was shocked. There was a big screen television, the bathrooms were clean and the rooms were spacious. I stayed at the 91st Street house. Everyone was so friendly and that’s what really changed it for me. It was the people. On my first day, I was approached about the things I had with me and the things I needed and I was immediately connected with a social service coordinator who was able to assist me with getting a phone, new clothes and being connected with reunification attorneys.

I was still worried that I wasn’t going to be able to make it. I would question why this time is going to be different. Then I heard Ms. Burton speak and she was known as a celebrity in the jails. I had seen her at every meeting that we had and she eventually invited me to speak on a panel for the SAFE Network. I was hired
with CEO within two weeks of being released and she wanted me to share my story.

KY: What services did you receive from A New Way of Life?

MR: Workforce & Development with Bernard, Natasha, and Berenice. Ms. Burton connected me to a woman who was hiring and encouraged me to talk to her. I went to the interview and got the job for an entry level position at Turning Point. Within three months, I was promoted to a case manager and was offered the program director position, but I returned to CEO. I often saw Cheryl and Linda. Ms. Linda was always checking in: she was amazing and so humble. When things happened at the house, I would call her and she would come down to help.

KY: Can you tell us about some of your recent accomplishments? Did A New Way of Life help you achieve these goals?

MR: I’m currently a Peer Navigator and a P2E Instructor at CEO. I moved to Riverside and although there is an office near where I live, I like the office I am at because I want to give back to this community as much I can to the people who gave so much to me. I’m coming up on the end of my first semester as a full time student. With access to my license, I’m able to see my children. Although, I don’t have custody of my children, I am able to see them every week. I recently watched my 13-year-old son win his championship game for soccer. I was also able to take my daughter out for her first birthday lunch in four years.

Building that trust back with my family is something I wanted and I had to wait for their timetable. It’s an odd dynamic, they spend half the time with my ex-husband and the other half with my parents.

KY: What would you have done without A New Way of Life?

MR: Besides being homeless, a lot of what ANWOL is about is your peers. This experience is different because there are people who had spent lifetimes in prison and they refused to allow themselves to fail. It really opened up my eyes. Why am I allowing myself to become a statistic? Why am I just playing into what the system expects me to do or wants me to do?

KY: What would you like for people to know about incarceration and reentry? What would you like for women about to begin their reentry journey to know?

MR: I would say that everyone’s situation is different, but there is an option out there for everyone. Regardless of what you did, that doesn’t mean you don’t deserve a chance. I ran into a lot of people who have a stigma on a specific type of crime and they were judged. At the end of the day you just have to give us the opportunity to show you.

I would also say to ask questions. Not only ask questions, but take the help that is given to you. Realize that you don’t have to do this on your own. This is an opportunity to gain skills. Take advantage of the resources. You don’t have to be strong anymore.
With the generous support of Bed Bath & Beyond, A New Way of Life’s Distribution Center provides a range of products for our residents and partner organizations.

A NEW WAY OF LIFE’S DISTRIBUTION CENTER

BY ROBERT MEJIA

Through the generous support of Bed Bath & Beyond, A New Way of Life reopened its Distribution Center this year. Originally established in 2000, when Susan Burton received a phone call from Bed Bath & Beyond expressing interest in donating items to our residents, the Distribution Center had closed in 2017 due to costs and staffing difficulties at the time.

The Distribution Center had been incredibly popular, with Bed Bath & Beyond donating items twice per week, but its popularity meant that what had originally been a small operation grew to require dedicated staff and a warehouse for storage. Today, A New Way of Life is better prepared to operate the distribution, and we were excited to go forward with a soft reopening earlier this year.

As she did when it first opened twenty years ago, Ms. Linda Washington has taken the lead with coordinating staff to run the Distribution Center. Under Ms. Washington’s supervision, staff unload and test products, as well as maintain the display of the items.

The Distribution Center offers a wide range of products to residents for free and to partner organizations for a nominal fee. Products include dishware, kitchenware, bedding, baby products, and more. New items are distributed from Bed Bath & Beyond each week.

A New Way of Life would like to thank Bed Bath & Beyond for their ongoing generosity and support for the Distribution Center.

To learn more about the Distribution Center, including how to volunteer or obtain items from the facility, please contact info@anewwayoflife.org.
Ms. Linda Washington stocking items at A New Way of Life's Distribution Center.
Established in 2018, the SAFE Housing Network is a national system of partner organizations trained, empowered, and supported to replicate A New Way of Life’s acclaimed reentry model.

**The SAFE Housing Network: An overview**

*By Robert Mejia*

A New Way of Life’s SAFE (Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom & Equality) Housing Network was established in 2018 after Ms. Susan Burton visited 64 prisons and jails across 26 states and three countries. Though women constitute the fastest growing incarcerated population, most reentry programs are designed to serve men, “with little attention to gender specific factors and needs.”1 Incarcerated women are more likely to suffer from poverty, substance misuse, and domestic violence.2 With our services located in Los Angeles, California, Ms. Burton realized that most of the women she met on her prison and jail tour would not have access to a place like A New Way of Life after release.

Undeterred, Ms. Burton set out to establish a national network of affiliated nonprofits designed to serve some of the most marginalized members of society: women and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Ms. Burton’s own personal experience had made it clear that access to safe housing is critical. Formerly incarcerated women are twelve times more likely to be homeless than the general public.3 Homelessness and housing insecurity lead to higher recidivism rates due to a number of factors, such as policies that criminalize homelessness.4 Lack of access to safe housing may contribute as well to the significant overrepresentation of LGBTQ+ people in the justice system.5

The SAFE Housing Network replicates A New Way of Life’s holistic, wraparound approach to reentry, empowering women and LGBTQ+ individuals to hope, heal, and thrive. To support and sustain the growth of this network, Ms. Burton invites current and potential network members (known as replicators) to participate in an annual training event in Los Angeles. These events cover everything from ANWOL’s reentry model and philosophy to grant writing, programming, communications, and more. Ongoing technical support and services are available and offered to SAFE Network members.
2022 SAFE Housing Network Members

**Alabama**
Starting Point

**Arizona**
Founding Mothers

**California**
A New Way of Life Reentry Project
Starting Over, Inc.
Turning Point

**Georgia**
ReNForce

**Illinois**
Sylvester House Enterprise
Talk to Me Foundation
Win Recovery

**Indiana**
Constructing Our Future

**Michigan**
RAHAM

**Mississippi**
RECH Foundation

**Nebraska**
Black and Pink

**Nevada**
True Beginnings

**New York**
Dream Deferred
New Hour
The Lilac House

**North Carolina**
Beauty After Bars

**Oklahoma**
Block Builderz

**Pennsylvania**
Ardella’s House

**Texas**
Angel’s Safe Home

**Washington**
Arms Around You

**Kenya**
Clean Start Kenya

**Uganda**
Wells of Hope Ministries
From its humble beginning in 2018, when 12 participants met in Los Angeles for two days of training, to this past August, when more than 100 participants met for three days of training, the SAFE Network has expanded to include 24 organizations operating across 20 cities, 16 states, and 3 countries (Kenya, Uganda, and the United States). In 2021 alone, the Network provided housing to 287 individuals and non-housing services to another 4,000 people.

To learn more, including how to become a SAFE Housing Network member, please visit: https://anewwayoflife.org/safe-housing-network/.

Notes:


2. Ibid.


4. Ibid.

In August, more than 100 nonprofit representatives and activists met for three incredible days in Los Angeles to learn how to replicate A New Way of Life’s reentry model.

THE SAFE HOUSING: 2022 TRAINING

BY ROBERT MEJIA

In August, more than 100 nonprofit representatives and community activists from across the nation met in Los Angeles to participate in A New Way of Life’s fifth annual SAFE Housing Training. For three incredible days, participants attended intensive training sessions and listening panels and toured ANWOL offices and safe houses with the objective of learning more about our services and replicating our model.

Attendees came from across the United States and beyond, with one participant coming all the way from Nigeria! Returning participants shared their experiences and accomplishments with new attendees, and new attendees shared their hopes and successes as well. Together, they networked and made plans to work together to support systems-impacted communities and end mass incarceration.

This gathering constituted the largest SAFE Housing Training since the event’s inception in 2018. The very first training brought together 12 attendees for two days of training, panel discussions, and tours. Strong national interest resulted in the expansion of our program from two days to three days in 2019, which 30 participants from 14 states attended. In 2020, 35 representatives attended the training, and the SAFE Housing Network grew to 18 replicators in 13 states and 3 countries (Kenya, Uganda, and the United States). Demand for our training has continued to grow, with over 65 participants attending our fourth training in 2021—which was held with strict COVID-19 protocols.

The 2022 SAFE Housing Training kicked off with a morning welcome from ANWOL Founder, Susan Burton, where she reminded attendees of our organization’s humble beginnings. Ms. Burton encouraged attendees to understand that nonprofit development takes time and to not measure their successes against those of more established organizations which have been in operation for much longer. Ms. Burton, likewise, reminded attendees that they are not alone, and that the SAFE Housing Network offers support to all our members.
The training continued with presentations from Jorja Leap, of Leap & Associates and UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, elaborating on ANWOL’s person-centered reentry philosophy and model. Robert Mejia, ANWOL Communications Manager, discussed how to develop and implement an effective communications strategy. ANWOL Co-Director Michael Towler and Controller Elixandria Hines addressed nonprofit
accounting and finance management. Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, ANWOL Chief Strategist, concluded the training sessions with a conversation surrounding nonprofit fund development.

Attendees also had the opportunity to attend a number of listening sessions. These listening sessions included panels with staff, current and former residents, SAFE members, and foundation representatives. Participating
staff included Brian Barajas (Family Reunification Attorney), Bernard Wilson (Director of Workforce Development & Education), and Ms. Linda Washington (Lead Housing Coordinator). Residents included Evie Ponder and Natha DePue. The replicators panel consisted of Bethany Little (WIN Recovery), Avon Curtis (Arms Around You), Pauline Rogers (RECH Foundation), and Vera Moore (True Beginnings). Adolfo Hernandez (Pritzker Foundation), Altaf Rahamatulla (Wellspring Philanthropic Fund), and Leslie Kautz (Kautz Family Foundation) kindly participated on the funders panel. Together these panels provided attendees the opportunity to speak with those directly impacted by our services, as residents and network members, and funders who support reentry programming.

The training was punctuated with a tour of our Montebello office and four of our safe homes. Attendees had the chance to visit ANWOL's first two reentry homes, located in South Central Los Angeles, and two of our newer homes in Long Beach and Montebello. The first home, in South Central LA, was purchased in 1998 and has been a staple of our reentry housing ever since. The last home on the tour, our Montebello house, was opened in 2020, and has already become an important home for our residents with children. In visiting these houses, attendees were able to see first-hand what is meant when we say that at A New Way of Life we offer “a place to call home.” Each one of our houses has been remodeled and provides a beautiful living space for our residents. (For pictures of these safe homes, see “A New Way of Life’s Safe Homes: An Overview,” on page 5).
The final day of the Safe Housing Training included a surprise visit from Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón. He encouraged attendees to work with their local elected prosecutors’ offices to implement meaningful criminal justice reform. Gascón told attendees to not give up, even when confronted by antagonistic elected and appointed officials. Sometimes, he stated, one might be surprised by the opening, however small it might appear, for an opportunity for change. Should no opportunity exist, Gascón continued, then we should not be afraid to organize and hold government officials accountable to their communities.

Each year, A New Way of Life’s SAFE Housing Training brings old, new, and sometimes unexpected faces together to discuss and develop meaningful reentry programming. The 2022 SAFE Housing Training brought together our largest collection of nonprofit representatives and activists yet. We look forward to building upon this success in the future.

To learn more about A New Way of Life’s SAFE Housing Network and our annual training program, please visit our website (www.anewwayoflife.org) and join our email list. There you will find the latest and most current information about our SAFE Housing Network, including how to register for our future trainings.

Elixandria Hines (Controller) and Michael Towler (Co-Director) at the 2022 SAFE Housing Training.

Ms. Susan Burton with Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón.
MG: Thank you so much for your time. Can you tell us about yourself and how you came to be involved with the SAFE Housing Network?

AC: I came to be a part of the SAFE Housing Network by building relationships. Initially, I was able to learn what freedom looks like by getting therapeutic support from peers in a two-year treatment facility in the Bay Area. Going through that treatment, I was able to really look at what healing looks like. That healing offered me a chance to be able to look through the lens of healing and freedom. Being free looks different for everybody and we know that freedom is an internal thing. In 2017, I started Arms Around You and in 2019 I built the relationship with A New Way of Life. I was googling to see how other organizations model the work and was blessed to reach A New Way of Life. Susan Burton gave me a call personally and offered to pay for the expenses to come down to Los Angeles. From then on we have been phenomenal in building our relationship with A New Way of Life.

MG: Sometimes Google is just what you need! What services does your program offer?

AC: We have the housing hands-down. We provide case management and transition services. Though, let’s take that word transition out because that’s a common word used by the system. We want to use “foundation services.” We provide life-enrichment workshops, mindfulness groups, and workforce services. We offer reentry support services inside women’s corrections monthly. We provide foundational support to the broader community who have interest in our reentry services. We have education resources, therapy life-skills resources, support services, substance misuse information, legal assistance, and our safe foundational women’s homes in King and Pierce County.
MG: I hadn’t really thought of the importance of framing services as foundation services.

AC: When you say transition services, we think that there’s an exit to this. We’ve got to hustle because we know that there’s an end. So we just changed the language.

MG: Thank you for that. How has the SAFE Housing Network supported you and your organization’s work?

AC: Oh my goodness. That’s a never-ending answer because the Safe Housing Network has been extremely exemplary in providing resources to Arms Around You. We’re all coming from like-minded lived experience so we feel like a family. Having that Safe Housing Network behind us allows us to build a concrete infrastructure. When I came into this work, I was like “I have that Harriet Tubman spirit and will set my people free.” I still have that Harriet Tubman spirit, although you need support from individuals who have been in the organizational day-to-day development. Having Susan and her team has helped me develop a level of understanding. As a leader, developing leadership qualities means I have to be around other leaders.

MG: What would you like people to know about the importance of reentry services as they relate to the community you serve?

AC: It takes all of us collectively understanding that we cannot do this work alone. We understand that each of us has a unique skillset that we bring to the table. Healing is not a service. Freedom is not a service. It’s a mission. With the mission, we need the community because we cannot do it alone.
MG: Definitely. How else can the community support your mission and your organization?

AC: Share. Tell a friend. Information and education is key to ongoing restoration. When we’re restoring ourselves, we need to able to share the information collectively so that the community will know what we’re doing. That allows for engagement because people will be interested. We want people to know that we’re here so that we can do this work together, so that we can heal together, and so that we can work on the freedom together.

MG: Awesome, thank you. Is there anything else that you would like our readers to know?

AC: We work like we don’t have a need for money. We love like we have never been hurt. The work that we do is not work to some of us. We know that realistically it is considered work. But we want to change that mindset. We want to consider it a mission, we want to consider it an assignment, and we want to consider it a lane for our community to be able to heal so that we can have the power to choose. The power to choose allows us to create a healthy thinking pattern. A healthy thinking pattern will make a huge difference for the community that we serve.
Pauline Rogers is the Co-Founder and President of the RECH (Reaching and Educating for Community Hope) Foundation. We spoke with Pauline about her work, experience with the SAFE Housing Network, and how we can support RECH.

SAFE Member Spotlight:
Pauline Rogers
By Mario Garcia

MG: Thank you for taking the time for this interview. Can you tell us about yourself and how you came to be involved with the SAFE Housing Network?

PR: I am Pauline Rogers. I am formerly incarcerated. I have been out almost four decades. I got out of prison in 1987. I started this organization while I was incarcerated and named it in honor of Wendy Hatcher who mentored me while I was in prison.

Before I came to be involved with the SAFE Housing Network, I can remember, in 2008, people saying, “Pauline, they’ve got this lady in California that’s doing what you are doing.” Because I didn’t have any support, I was too busy to stop and figure out who this was doing something on the other side of the country. It was probably over a decade later, I started to hear about her again. Susan was actually over in Jackson, Mississippi, my city and state, giving a presentation, and so I went to see her. She was talking about reentry, and I was like, “Well, I know what reentry should look like,” and so I flew to California to see what she was doing, and when I saw, I was totally impressed.

Of course, when we met, I was griping and whining, and complaining to her about the lack of support that I get in the Deep South of Mississippi—which is the hub and epicenter of all this country’s consequential problems and fights. Susan said, “I got you.” But I didn’t know what “I got you” meant. After I visited California to go to one of the trainings, Susan invited us to be a member of the network, and so we did. That was definitely my appreciation of the SAFE Housing Network—that Susan looked back and included the Deep South and our work in what she’s doing.
So that’s how I came to be involved in the network. My husband and I do this work together. He is formerly incarcerated. We weren’t getting grants or resources. Susan was the first network to sponsor us with finances, in terms of housing. The Deep South is one of the toughest cities and states in this country. Susan recognized that and wanted to come alongside us, so it was very easy, because we saw her to be very genuine and authentic in helping, and she definitely was not threatened or intimidated that we had been doing this work longer. She got the resources and support.

MG: It’s incredible that you have been doing this work for so long. I’d like to hear more about your program. What services does your program offer?

PR: We offer direct services, supportive services. Direct services in terms of personal hygiene when they get out—we pick people up when they come from the gate. When they get out of prison, we help them with getting their ID their social security card, and their birth certificate. We also do a credit report on every single person when they get out, because we have encountered many people who have have had their identity stolen while they were incarcerated. We actually worked with one lady (who had been incarcerated for 38 years) where we had to call the federal government, and have them reissue her a new social security card.

We also call and setup payment arrangements for those who owe fees and fines. Incarcerated people come out with no job, and if they they owe money, they are expected to pay it once they are no longer in that gate. So we advocate for them.

MG: What are some accomplishments you are particularly proud of?

PR: We have been in operation for over 35 years. In the decades that we’ve been doing this work, something that still blows us away, is that we have zero recidivism—Z-E-R-O recidivism.

I am also proud of our preparation. Even when COVID hit, we were well ahead of the game. We had enough PPE gear that we supplied local hospitals and clinics, we just happened to have this donation some years ago of PPE gear, not knowing that we were going to be in a pandemic.

MG: That really came through.

PR: It came in handy! We even have MRE food that went in to the year 2033 that we still have!

MG: Yeah, I was looking at your website and I was really blown away by that.

PR: It blows us away too.

A lot of times we get accused of being too involved with the people that come from prison but I think being directly involved is the key. Everything that concerns them, concerns us. You can’t move people forward if they are stuck in one place, and you’re trying to move them forward. They can’t move if they are stuck being concerned about somebody stole my identity or my credit. They can’t move forward until that is resolved or they are on track to resolving it. So we are very involved and hands on in that manner.

We disagree with the system that says no fraternizing. You can’t help a person if you don’t know them, you don’t know their issues, you don’t know what concerns them, you don’t know what ticks, you don’t know what makes them tick. We are very hands on and very intentional. That’s what we are particularly proud of, that none of our residents have gone back to prison.

We are also proud that we’ve been instrumental in legislation being changed. In 2019, my state passed HB 1352, which finally allowed people with a drug crime in Mississippi to apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if they have a drug conviction—they had previously been ineligible. It shouldn’t matter what your crime is: every human being deserves a right to access food. So we stood with our former Governor to sign that bill into law.
MG: How has the SAFE Housing Network supported you and your organization’s work?

PR: The SAFE Housing Network supports us through capacity building training that we continue to undergo every month, as well as with website services and finances. If we encounter something that we’ve not encountered before, we also will ask Susan. When COVID hit, I called Susan and asked if there was anything in particular that she was doing differently.

So the SAFE Network has been very supportive, in being a listening ear, and making sure that we are on track to have our information in place. We started without having a support system, I wish I had a SAFE Network when I started out, a Susan Burton some decades ago. We didn’t then but we do now, and I am thankful that I do.

I am so glad that the SAFE Housing Network has a platform, has the resources, has the visibility to uplift people like myself in the Deep South, where we are at the top of the list for everything bad. Everything bad, Mississippi is in the top 5, top ten, top three, two, or we are it. So I’m thankful for the SAFE Housing Network, that they support us.

MG: What would you like people to know about why reentry services matter?

PR: What I would like people to know is that everybody deserves safe housing, safe secure housing, and an opportunity to succeed, an opportunity for a better life, an opportunity for another chance at life—not a chance at life as I think they should be living it, but rather the opportunity to be supported in whatever their vision and future is for their lives.

Reentry services are important for the community—we want the same thing, safe communities. Having the proper reentry services for people to reintegrate back into the community after incarceration is something that should be second nature, just the idea that anybody that is born just deserves a shot at life.
The population we serve are in underserved and distressed communities: over 85% African American and in communities and neighborhoods that are already depleted or deprived of services. Where services are available, there are barriers and bureaucracy to accessing that. It is hard to get access to information once you come out of prison.

Like, I live in a city (Jackson, MS), where we had a water crisis, but the homeless population didn’t know we had a water crisis because they don’t have access to the news. They didn’t know. The same with the formerly incarcerated population. They couldn’t go get water because of their lack of transportation. You can’t go on a bus and go get water and haul that water from the bus and then walk from the bus stop to wherever it is that they may have to walk to. So the barriers are piled on, so that’s why reentry services and connecting those services to the right reentry provider and supplier makes a difference.

That’s a big key for us, not only having reentry services but being in the right reentry position, person, place, thing. What happens in my state is that White reentry looks vastly different than reentry for people of color, poor people, because if you are White most of the time you are not going to a community where poor people are being served, so reentry for them looks a lot different than for those of us.

MG: Is there anything else you would like for our readers to know about you and your organization?

PR: The RECH (Reaching and Educating for Community Hope) Foundation is a 501(3)(c) organization operated by a board of directors. If your readers would like to learn more about us they can go to our website (www.rechfoundationms.org) or give us a call at (601) 918-2970 or (601) 874-0787. We are also on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tik Tok, and we would love for them to connect with us.
The 2022 Justice on Trial Film Festival was our most successful festival yet, with over 750 participants registered across three days. Together, we met for three days to expose the injustices of mass incarceration and explore solutions.

By Robert Mejia

The Justice on Trial Film Festival (JOTFF) was established to do justice to the experiences of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated communities. Too often, incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people are portrayed in the press and entertainment media in harmful stereotypical ways. False dichotomies, with victims on one side and offenders on the other, are frequently circulated, in often racist, sexist, and classist ways, so that those most harmed by the criminal legal system are represented as undeserving of even the most basic of human rights. The Justice on Trial Film Festival centers their voices in order to expose the injustices of mass incarceration and work towards exploring solutions.

The 2022 JOTFF was our most successful film festival since its establishment in 2013. Hundreds of community activists, systems-impacted people, filmmakers, students, and more came together from October 28–30 at Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles) to witness and share their experiences with mass incarceration.

The 2022 festival kicked off on Friday, October 28, with an awards ceremony and keynote from Lenore Anderson (Co-Founder and President of Alliance for Safety and Justice & Founder of Californians for Safety and Justice). Taking home the Best Documentary Feature Award was Art & Krimes by Krimes (Directed by Alysa Nahmias, MTV Documentary Films), a film about confinement and freedom, loss and creation, focused on the art and experiences of Jesse Krimes and his collaborators during and after his time in federal prison. The Best Documentary Short Award was presented to WINN (Directed by Joseph East and Erica Tanamachi, Brave Voices Media), a film about Pamela Winn’s fight to end the legal shackling of incarcerated pregnant people in Georgia. The opening night ceremony ended with a screening of “We Are Survivors” (produced by the Alliance for Safety and Justice).

The 2022 festival included a range of activities and events for attendees, in addition to the film screenings. MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellow and University of Chicago sociologist Dr. Reuben J. Miller delivered a public keynote on his 2021 award-winning book *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*. Meta Quest 2 headsets were on hand for attendees to engage with *A New Way of Life’s Going Home: A Virtual Reality Experience* (Directed by Rachel Bracker & Susan Burton, A New Way of Life). This 12-minute interactive video follows the reentry experiences of Evie Ponder, Hakim Anderson, Moonlight Pulido, and Terri Depue.
Free copies of Lenore Anderson's *In Their Names: The Untold Story of Victims’ Rights, Mass Incarceration, and the Future of Public Safety* (2022, The New Press), Susan Burton's *Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women* (2017, The New Press), Stephanie Jeffcoat’s *From the Streets to Christ’s Feet: My Journey from Homelessness and Addiction to Success* (2022), Jorja Leap's *Entry Lessons: The Stories of Women Fighting for Their Place, Their Children, and Their Futures after Incarceration* (2022, Beacon Press), and Dr. Miller’s *Halfway Home* (2021, Little, Brown and Company) were generously made available to all JOTFF attendees by Gordon Philanthropies. Attendees were given the opportunity to meet the authors and have their free copies signed.

The festival is committed to exposing injustices and exploring solutions, which is why in addition to post-screening conversations, community organizers from All of Us or None (AOUON) and the Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People and Families Movement (FICPFM) were present to register new members for their movements. Voter registration and information services were also provided by AOUON.

We would like to thank our incredible sponsors and volunteers for making the 2022 festival a resounding success. Loyola Marymount University provided the venue and funding for the event. Gordon Philanthropies donated the books and provided additional funding. The Alliance for Safety and Justice, FICPFM, Kearney, and Art for Justice Fund provided generous funding as well. LMU faculty Deanna Cooke and Kyra Pearson, and students Charlotte Spencer, Clarke Hamilton, Julia Novis, Lauren Ziyaein, and Sophia Katkov provided critical support as well.

To learn more about the JOTFF, including how to submit your own film or attend, please visit the festival website (www.justiceontrialfilmfestival.net).
Lenore Anderson (Co-Founder and President of Alliance for Safety and Justice) & Ingrid Archie (ASJ TimeDone Organizing Director).

Attendees at the 2022 Justice on Trial Film Festival.
The 2022 Gala: Mothering the Movement was a night to remember. More than 350 distinguished guests came together to celebrate our freedom work and honor the incredible women who have shown us the way forward.

**Events: 2022 Gala – Mothering the Movement**

**By Robert Mejia**

A New Way of Life’s 2022 Gala: Mothering the Movement was an event to remember. On that night, December 3, over 350 community activists, donors, elected officials, residents, staff, and distinguished guests came together to celebrate our freedom work and honor the incredible women who have worked to show us the way forward.

The gala, our first in person since the pandemic began, provided the opportunity to reconnect and reflect on our collective victories in the movement to end mass incarceration and support formerly incarcerated women. Three incredible women were honored for dedicating their lives to lifting up systems-impacted communities: Philanthropist Agnes Gund, for establishing the Art for Justice Fund to support criminal justice reform activism and art; U.S. Congressional Representative-Elect, Sydney Kamlager, for authoring landmark legislation in the area of criminal justice reform; and Ms. Linda Washington for her two-decades of service to the woman of A New Way of Life.


The program began with an opening prayer from Crystal D. Crawford (Executive Director of Western Center on Law & Poverty). Marya Bangee (Vice-President for Multicultural Audience Engagement at The Walt Disney Studios) and Ms. Susan Burton then invited attendees to learn more about the history and significance of our work at A New Way of Life. Co-Directors Pamela Marshall and Michael Towler welcomed the audience to what would prove to be a magical evening, and welcomed
Ms. Susan Burton at A New Way of Life’s 2022 Gala: Mothering the Movement.
From Left to Right: Nancy Moreno, Marta C. Lopez-Garza, Regina Jones, Tami L. Warren, Pamela Marshall (Co-Director), Darryl Green, Lynn Nguyen, Whitney Davis-Houston, Barbara Osborn, Lisa Baker, and Michael Towler (Co-Director). [A New Way of Life Board Members and ANWOL Co-Directors]

Ms. Susan Burton with ANWOL supporters Bill Resnick (left) and Michael J. Stubbs (right).
the presenters for our Awards. Ron Kellum, Sarah Paulson, Shanola Hampton, and Susan Burton each had the pleasure of presenting our Mothering the Movement Awards to philanthropist Agnes Gund, U.S. Congressional Representative-Elect Sydney Kamlager, and A New Way of Life Lead Housing Coordinator Ms. Linda Washington.

During the ceremony, guests were treated to live performances by Billy Porter and The Singers of Soul. Their beautiful singing powerfully captured the spirit of the evening. As Mr. Porter’s incredible lyrics stated, “The audacity to show up honestly, how dare I believe that it’s okay to be me.” “The audacity to speak without trembling.”

The evening concluded with a live auction conducted by Felicity Huffman and Ron Kellum. Combined with the proceeds raised from the silent auction, sponsorships, ticket sales, and donations, the 2022 Gala raised over $350,000 to support formerly incarcerated women!

The 2022 Gala was made possible thanks the generous support of our sponsors: Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, District 3; Bill Resnick and Michael J. Stubbs; Agnes Gund; Julia Meltzer and David Thorne; Soze; Uber; Kearney; The Prism Way; Pacific Premier Bank; Scarlet Feather Fund; Alliance for Safety and Justice; Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8; Doordash; English Heiser;
Shanola Hampton (left) and Ms. Susan Burton (right) presenting Agnes Gund (center) with her Mothering the Movement Award.

U.S. Congressional Representative-Elect Sydney Kamlager during the acceptance of her Mothering the Movement Award.
JPMorgan Chase; The California Wellness Foundation; Los Angeles City Councilman Curren Price, District 9; Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District; The Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People and Families Movement (FICPFM); National Core; Amity Foundation; Natalie Portman; Starting Over, Inc.; Mark Ridley-Thomas; Bettis Insurance Services; Leverage Point Development; Western Center on Law and Poverty; Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation; The Mark; Lucy’s Auto; Rena Braud; The New Press; Affordable Housing CDC; Legal Services for Prisoners with Children; Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District.

We would also like to thank our dedicated Board of Directors, our amazing staff, volunteers, and the following individuals: The Skirball Cultural Center, Lilian Lin, Natalie Trujillo, Rick Austin, and Joshua Price; Derek DeVette and Pat Frey, Event Producers; Felicity Huffman, Event Chair; Regina Jones, Lisa Baker and Judith Snyder-Gordon, Silent Auction; April Adkins, Gala Graphic Inspiration; Allen Harris, Graphic Designer; Klause Obermeyer, Frederick Shannon, and Rocket Films; Frank Geary, Agnes Gund “Mothering the Movement” award design; Karon Davis, “Mothering the Movement” awards design; Harris Theophanous, PR 360 Global; Michael Schneider, The Mark Hotel; ROAM luggage; Beverly Hills Hotel; Carrie Ann Inaba, Dancing with the Stars; and all the generous silent auction donors and sponsors.
Upcoming Events

**Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**
Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals committed to recovering from the harmful effects of alcoholism. A New Way of Life hosts weekly, Monday meetings at our 420 Date St., Montebello, California location, from 6:00–7:30PM. Membership is free and open to all individuals.

**Cocaine Anonymous (CA)**
Cocaine Anonymous is a fellowship of individuals committed to recovering from the harmful effects of cocaine. A New Way of Life hosts weekly, Wednesday meetings at our 420 Date St., Montebello, California location, at 6:30–8:00PM. Membership is free and open to all individuals.

**A New Way of Life – Legal Clinic (LC)**
Our legal team offers pro bono legal services to help people with their criminal convictions. Legal Clinics are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00–12:00PM, and the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30–8:00PM. Registration is free and open to all individuals. For more information and to register, please call: 323-563-3575

**All of Us or None – Southern California (AOUON)**
All of Us or None is a grassroots human rights organization fighting for the rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. Our monthly membership meetings are free and open to all individuals. Meetings are currently held online, via Zoom, every second Tuesday, at 5:30–7:00PM PST. To learn more, contact: AOUON@anewwayoflife.org.

Upcoming Holidays

**Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday & Parade**
Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929. The City of Long Beach, California, celebrates King’s birthday each year with a parade and celebration. This year, the parade will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023.

**Black History Month**
Black History Month is observed and celebrated throughout the month of February. In addition to celebrations throughout the United States, several iconic Black Civil Rights leaders were born throughout the month: Frederick Douglas (specific day unknown), Rosa Parks (Feb. 4), W.E.B. Du Bois (Feb. 23), and more.

**International Holocaust Remembrance Day**
January 27 marks the annual commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust. Between 1933 and 1945, six million Jews (two thirds of Europe’s Jewish population) and countless ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities were killed.

**Women’s History Month**
Women’s History Month is observed and celebrated throughout the month of March. During this month, International Women of Color Day (March 1), International Women’s Day (March 8), the Anniversary of Anne Frank’s murder under Nazi persecution, and other important dates and events are recognized.
## JANUARY 2023

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Latanya Reed (Housing Coordinator) and Sherrick Enriquez (Maintenance Technician) at ANWOI's 2022 Gala.
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Attendees at the 2022 SAFE Housing Training.
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Attendees at the 2022 Day of Inspiration.
Dear Friend,

If you have a child or grandchild who is about to celebrate a birthday, please mail Gordon Philanthropies two weeks before the big celebration and we will mail some Birthday books to celebrate your child’s special day.

Each year in a child’s life is significant and we want to celebrate these milestones and encourage children to fall in love with reading. We also know how hard it is to be far away from your loved ones and we want to help you express your love to the children in your life and let them know how loved they are by you.

Instructions: Please include your first and last name, the name of the person (receiving the books) and address of where to mail the books and a phone number.

Then include the first name of the child and your relationship to the child.

We cannot deliver to P.O. Boxes and if it is a secured building, we need instructions for the Amazon delivery person.

Example: (Your Name) Junie Jones, 213333, name of facility
Mail to: Jamie Oliver, my daughter, 21113 Disney Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90000
Amazon instructions: house is in the back.
Phone: 213-345-5555
Kim, granddaughter, she is turning 5-years-old on April 12, 2023
Note: Dear Kim,
Grandmother loves you so much and I always carry you in my heart. Happy Birthday and many more.
Grandma

Mail the request to:
Gordon Philanthropies
1800 Avenue of the Stars
Suite 1475
Los Angeles, CA 90067