

Dear Friends,

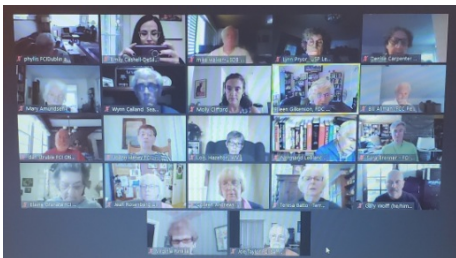
As we approach the end of 2022, there is light on the horizon for our 300+ volunteers who visit people incarcerated in federal prisons. As of this writing, almost 70% of the Bureau of Prisons' institutions are "green" – the BOP's signal that visiting is allowed, with fewer restrictions that at any time since March of 2020.

A sigh of relief for our volunteers – for the people we visit, a small but significant step forward in what is usually a very long and arduous journey toward release.

"People don't understand – to people in prison, a visit from the outside means everything." PVS Board Member and former "juvenile lifer" Suave Gonzalez shared those words with us during our recent virtual event, "The Power of Visiting," with author and activist Susan Burton



([*Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women*](#)).



That event kicked off PVS' first online training conference in November, where nearly one hundred visitors joined us to brush up on their listening skills, learn more about trauma-informed care, and share their recent visiting experiences with others. "We may not love Zoom," one

visitor reported, "but it really is the next best thing to being there."

As we reflect more on the last almost-three pandemic years, we are so grateful to the Visitors, donors, and supporters who made sure PVS continued to thrive – by writing letters instead of visiting, giving money for training and support; and raising awareness of PVS throughout their communities. We are deeply grateful.

Molly and Emily

P.S. If you would like to support PVS and haven't had a chance yet, please click [here](#) to donate. We are gearing up to recruit 100 new visitors in 2023 to get us closer to our goal of providing a visitor to every incarcerated

person who wants one. Your donation will help.

In Other News:

Saying Farewell to Dedicated Board Members

Come January, PVS will be saying "farewell," but not goodbye, to two people who have been instrumental in keeping PVS active and vibrant over the past 10+ years. **Rachel Osborn** was our Board Chair from 2014-2021, leading PVS through challenging financial times while creating a sustainable model for recruiting, training and supporting visitors across the country. **Susannah Rose** came to us from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and provided invaluable assistance in both updating our training program and facilitating the Board's 2021 Strategic Plan. Many grateful thanks, **Rachel and Susannah!**

Stay tuned as we introduce new Board Members who have recently joined us.

Planning for an In-Person Training Conference in 2023!

Those of you who know PVS know that the annual in-person training conferences are a hallmark of our visiting program. As our visitors are spread out across the U.S., the conferences provide a way for them to engage with and learn from each other that they don't ordinarily have.

Thanks to our volunteer Training Committee and a very generous contribution from an anonymous donor, we are happy to announce that we will be holding our **2023 Training Conference in Lexington, Kentucky from November 9-12, 2023**. Mark your calendars for activities from a visit to the Federal Medical Center (historically known as "[The Narcotic Farm](#)"), training opportunities for new and seasoned visitors, and perhaps an exploration of Lexington's famous horse and/or bourbon industries!

Want to Support PVS in Other Ways?

- [Susannah Makes](#): beautiful handmade jewelry, with all proceeds donated to PVS.
- [AmazonSmile](#): a proceed of your regular Amazon purchases can be directed to PVS.
- **Become a recurring donor!** Smaller monthly amounts are a big help in sustaining PVS throughout the year.
- **Qualified Charitable Deduction:** if you are 70 ½ years of age or older, you can work with your financial advisor on a tax-saving contribution to PVS.

For even more ways to support PVS, [visit our website](#).

Follow us!

