

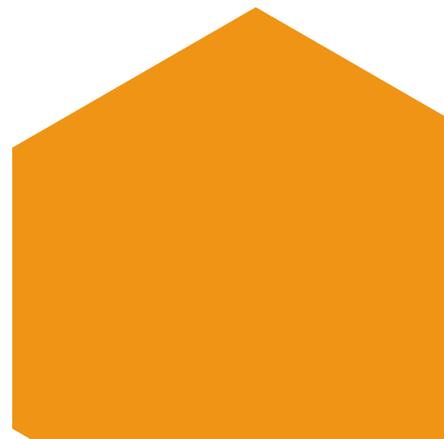
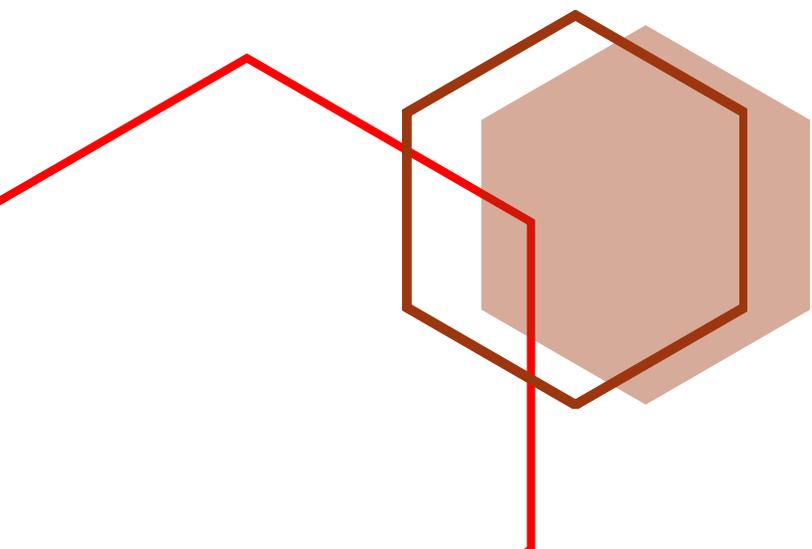
**P|V|S** PRISONER  
VISITATION  
& SUPPORT

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## 2022 Annual Report

“I wanted to say thank you for the service of humanity that you offer inmates, like me, while we sit, abandoned and often forgotten by most of the outside world and by all our friends and family. It was amazing to converse with an educated, non-judgmental, friendly, and charismatic fellow human.”

Simon,  
FCI Otisville





## Message from the Executive Director

Dear PVS Community,

While we might not say that 2022 got us back to “normal” at PVS, it feels good to be able to report that most of our volunteers were able to return to visiting people incarcerated at federal and military prisons at least once during the year. While Covid precautions and staffing challenges still presented some difficulties for our visitors, hopes are high for 2023!

With the support of the PVS Board of Directors, we are entering Year 3 of our Strategic Plan in a strong place to recruit and train new volunteer visitors, and to increase our fundraising to expand our outreach efforts. We will be working diligently towards our goal of providing a visitor to any prisoner who wants a visit.

A highlight of 2022 was promoting Emily Cashell-DeSilva to PVS Program Manager, with primary responsibility for Visitor engagement and support in addition to some of her previous administrative duties. Emily has been a great asset to PVS in her five years with us, and we appreciate her dedication, reliability, and commitment to PVS visitors and the people we visit.

We are grateful to the donors and supporters who keep PVS thriving. Our finances are stable, and our fundraising efforts continue to grow as more people learn about PVS and the positive impact we have on the lives of people incarcerated, both in prison and once they return home.

On behalf of our small but mighty team at the national office in Philadelphia, thank you for all of your support of PVS. Without your help, PVS visitors across the country would not be able to be the “shining light in the darkness” for many incarcerated people.

My best for a happy and healthy 2023,

Molly Clifford, Executive Director

## Our Mission

Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) is a volunteer visitation program for people incarcerated in federal and military prisons throughout the United States.

**Our mission** is to provide prisoners with regular, face to face contact from the world outside of prison to help them cope with prison life, encourage personal growth, and prepare for successful reentry into society.

**Our vision** is to provide qualified visitors to fulfill all requests for visits by prisoners in every federal and military prison.

**Our priority** is to visit those prisoners who: do not ordinarily receive visits from family and friends; are in solitary confinement; are on death row; or are serving long sentences.

## Staff



**Molly Clifford**

*Executive Director*

[mclifford@prisonervisitation.org](mailto:mclifford@prisonervisitation.org)

**Emily Cashell-DeSilva**

*Program Manager*

[ecashell@prisonervisitation.org](mailto:ecashell@prisonervisitation.org)



## Message from the Board Chair

Dear PVS Friends:

As I concluded my first year as Chair of the PVS Board of Directors in December, it was gratifying to look back and see all of the accomplishments of the Board, staff and visitors in 2022. Most importantly, after nearly three years, many of our volunteers finally got back to visiting incarcerated people, and while there were some bumps in the road, most reported how happy they were to be able to get back to this meaningful work.

The Board of Directors completed some major infrastructure projects, including a Finance and Accounting Manual and an update to our Employee Handbook, and we began some work on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at the Board level. We are grateful to Linda Wilson of the Fund II Foundation for her help in guiding us on how best to move forward in becoming a more inclusive organization.

We said goodbye to two incredible Board Members this year. We are so grateful to Rachel Osborn, who served as Board Chair and Development Committee Chair for much of the past decade, and who has left the organization in a very strong position for the future. Susannah Rose, who provided invaluable assistance with our website, Training Manual, and Strategic Plan, will also be greatly missed.

We were fortunate to welcome two new Board members this year, former BOP liaison to PVS, Scott Sussman, and PVS visitor (MCC Chicago) and project manager Shazad Carbaidwala. Scott and Shazad have already been very helpful to PVS - Scott in giving us some insight into BOP operations, and Shazad in encouraging us to "think outside the box" in how we provide prisoner support.

2023 promises to be another exciting year for PVS. We are hopeful that Covid will continue to recede and visiting will get back to as close to normal as we can expect. We are in full visitor recruitment and training mode, so would ask that if you or anyone you know is curious about visiting, please put them in touch with us!

And of course, we could not do this critically important work without the support of so many of you. On behalf of the PVS Board of Directors, thank you very much. We hope to be able to count on your support in 2023 and beyond! As always, if you have any questions or thoughts about PVS, please contact us at [pvs@prisonervisitation.org](mailto:pvs@prisonervisitation.org) or (215) 241-7117.

Tom Slick  
Chair, Board of Directors

## 2022 Board of Directors



Tom Slick  
*Board Chair*  
*PVS Visitor – FCI Sheridan*

Suave Gonzalez  
*Artist, Activist, Podcaster*

Michael Guerra  
*Attorney*

Erika Janifer  
*Engineer/Management*  
*Consultant*

Brian Lewis  
*Chief Program Officer, exalt*

Rachel Osborn  
*Board Secretary*

David Poundstone  
*PVS Visitor – FCC Florence*

Virginia Rinella  
*Board Vice-Chair*  
*PVS Visitor – USP Marion*

Susannah Rose  
*Communications Consultant*

Dan Struble  
*Board Treasurer*  
*PVS Visitor – FCI Otisville*

Scott Sussman  
*District of Columbia Board of*  
*Elections*  
*Former BOP Deputy*  
*Administrator, Community*  
*Reentry Affairs Branch*



## Welcoming New Board Members

In 2022, we welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors! The volunteer Board of Directors provides leadership and guidance for PVS, helping to set organizational priorities, raise funds, and ensure operations are consistent in meeting our mission and vision.



### Shazad Carbaidwala

Shazad is a Senior Project Manager for SAP America, where he also acts as a Diversity and Inclusion Ambassador. He has been a visitor with PVS for over seven years, supporting FMC Devens in Massachusetts and MCC Chicago in Illinois. Shazad also leads the Chicago chapter of Project Rise, a global outreach organization, through his Masjid. The organization focuses on on community upliftment initiatives in the Chicagoland area. Shazad currently resides in Westmont, Illinois with his wife and beautiful daughter.

### Scott Sussman

Scott retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 2021, where for the last 10 years he served as the Deputy Administrator of the Community Reentry Affairs Branch, but more importantly to us, he was PVS's primary point of contact for the Bureau. Scott assisted PVS throughout its many iterations and wishes to be a part of its current evolution as he believes it's more important than ever to link our incarcerated citizens with those outside the prison gates. Scott is currently working for the District of Columbia's Board of Elections, heading up a program that encourages incarcerated DC residents to register and vote in DC's local and national elections.



## Visitors Who Retired in 2022

We would like to thank all Visitors that retired in 2022 for their commitment to and support of PVS!

Keith V., USP Allenwood  
Gail G., MCC Chicago  
Timothy M., MCC Chicago  
Ann E., FCC Coleman  
Joseph E., FCC Coleman  
Randy W., FCC Coleman  
Michael M., FCI Cumberland

Alan W., FCI Fort Dix  
Shawn M., FMC Fort Worth  
John K., FCC Lompoc  
Robert G., FCC Lompoc  
Jacob V., FCI Morgantown  
Murray H., FCI Petersburg  
Wynn C., FCI Seagoville

Marian M., FCI Tallahassee  
Jackie C., FCI Terminal Island  
Chuck B., FCI Tucson  
Brenda P., FCI Waseca  
JoAnn H., FCI Waseca



## Reintroducing PVS to the Philadelphia Community

Thanks to the Morton Contemporary Gallery and PVS Board Member and artist Suave Gonzalez, PVS hosted an event with our Philadelphia-area supporters on November 10, 2023. More than forty people attended the cocktail reception at the Gallery, hearing from PVS leadership while checking out the artwork at the Center City gallery.

As a formerly incarcerated person, Suave talked about the difference visiting made for him during his time in prison at the event. "Those visits meant everything to me. I looked forward to them all week. They kept me feeling human." Guests had an opportunity to speak with Suave and other Board members about PVS, and several are considering becoming visitors.

And thanks to Gallery owner Debbie Morton and Suave, guests were also able to purchase artwork for a good cause! Suave offered 10% off the purchase of any of his paintings, and Debbie donated a portion of the evening's sales to PVS! Our grateful thanks to everyone who participated in the event and made it such a special night.



**Clockwise from top left:** Suave Gonzalez, artist, activist, podcaster, and PVS Board Member; Molly Clifford, PVS Executive Director; Morton Contemporary Gallery in Philadelphia, PA; "Life" by Suave Gonzalez; PVS Board and staff; attendees hear from speakers; "American Me" by Suave Gonzalez.

## Welcoming New Visitors

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all PVS Visitors that joined in 2022!

Cclanus C., FCC Butner  
John O., USP Canaan  
Noah F., MCC Chicago  
Kevin S., MCC Chicago  
Paul K., FCI Fort Dix  
Rene L., FMC Lexington

Carolyn C., FMC Lexington  
Doris R., FCI Loretto  
Skylar H., NCB Miramar  
Max G., FCI Otisville  
Rose G., FCI Phoenix  
Julie M., FCI Phoenix

Jay E., FCI Phoenix  
Peri P., FCI Sheridan  
Douglas M., FCI Sheridan  
Kelly M., FCI Terminal Island  
Linda K., FCI Waseca



## The Power of Visiting: Helping the Incarcerated Prepare for Reentry

In October 2022, PVS hosted our annual “The Power of Visiting” event featuring Susan Burton and artist, activist, podcaster, former juvenile ‘lifer’, and PVS Board Member Suave Gonzalez. Susan Burton is an inspirational, transformational leader who founded A New Way of Life Reentry Project (ANWOL) in Los Angeles in 1998. ANWOL’s approach to reentry is internationally recognized as an innovative model that creates welcoming, healing spaces for women to rejoin their communities after incarceration while developing as leaders to work toward liberation.

More than 80 joined the event virtually to hear the two discuss the importance of receiving visits while incarcerated and the invaluable impact it has on post-release life.

Join us on June 27, 2023, for another virtual live-streamed event, “The Power and Compassion of Community,” featuring Father Greg Boyle, minister to gang members and founder of Homeboy Industries, and Suave Gonzalez. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-and-compassion-of-community-registration-558143340757>



*Susan Burton*

## What Visiting Means to Me

*by Liz Leshner, PVS Visitor, FCI El Reno*



Perhaps you are one of the many people who wonder what it would be like to visit a prisoner and, in doing so, to make a difference.

Many people have stopped reading or listening to the news. They feel at a loss. Ongoing war, natural disasters, refugee exodus across the globe – overwhelming crises beyond the ‘personal boundaries of supportive-action’ for most people.

Closer to home is the plight of those incarcerated behind razor wire. From federal and military prisons, letters requesting visits arrive at the PVS Office in Philadelphia from prisoners across the US in need of regular, in-person contact.

Their needs: to build trust, perhaps for the first time; mutual respect; and to experience non-judgmental listening and compassion.

My seven years as a PVS Visitor have supported the lives of many prisoners, most of whom come from backgrounds completely unfamiliar to me – yet, I now have a clear picture of the struggles that have landed them behind bars. Each prisoner’s story has impacted my own way of life.

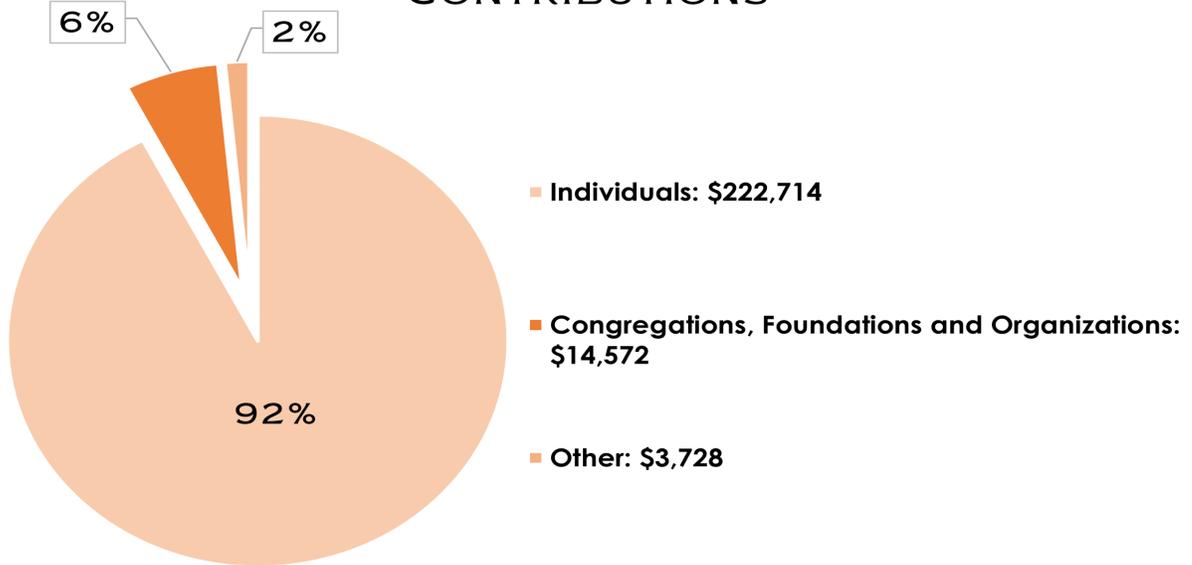
As a PVS Visitor, I am well-supported on an as-needed basis, by my local PVS team, by monthly on-line ‘PVS togetherness’ and under the caring ‘umbrella’ and availability of PVS staff in Philadelphia.

I feel well-supported in this extraordinary venture. I feel joy in the knowledge I continue to make a difference. I feel joy in being needed, and as part of a highly-revered volunteer-based organization, and I am a better person for “answering the call.”



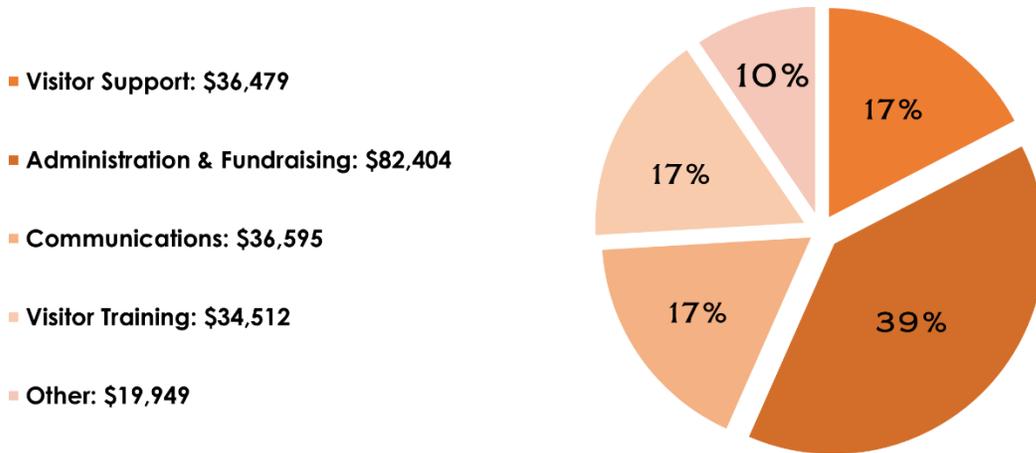
## 2022 Financial Report

### CONTRIBUTIONS



*PVS does not receive any government grants or aid to support our work. We are a grassroots, volunteer-led organization that depends on the generosity of donors like you!*

### EXPENDITURES AND OTHER



*The two staff members of PVS recruit, train and support the more than 300 volunteers who visit people incarcerated at 80 federal and military prisons across the country. Those volunteers provide thousands of hours of direct service each year, supporting prisoners in realizing their individual goals.*



## Visiting Report

by Emily Cashell-DeSilva

With Covid precautions firmly in place, we saw almost all prisons reopen to outside visitors in 2022, including PVS volunteers. However, we also saw that the need prisoners have for someone to talk to has never been greater. Once incarcerated individuals learned that PVS was able to visit once again, we received a flurry of requests. In 2022 alone, we received 430 new requests for visits from those incarcerated in federal and military prisons across the country. Unfortunately, of the 430 new requests, 101 people were located at facilities with no PVS presence and had to be added to our waiting list.

While we saw a drop in our volunteer numbers due to health concerns during the height of Covid, we are committed to recruiting a new and more diverse Visitor population. We appointed 17 new Visitors in 2022, adding to our current 305 volunteers across the country. Each and every one is a compassionate, dedicated individual who gives their time and energy to visiting those locked away in places most of us hope to never enter. Without our Visitors, there is no PVS; they are truly the backbone of our organization!

With a huge thank you to our Training Committee, we were able to present four online trainings on topics ranging from letter writing to a discussion on the organization's 5-year strategic plan. In 2023, we plan to hold more online trainings, and look forward to hosting our first in-person training conference since 2019.

Our goal is to be able to provide a visitor for everyone who requests one and to accomplish that, we need help recruiting! PVS Visitors must be empathetic, mature, and dedicated to respectful, nonjudgmental communication. They must commit to visiting once a month, for at least two years. While we ask for the minimum commitment of two years, we often hear that once you start visiting, it is hard to stop! Our Visitors get as much out of the experience as those we visit.

If you think you or someone you know would make a good PVS Visitor, please contact us!

## In Memorium

**Nan Broeder** (1932-2022) was a PVS Visitor from 1981 through 2021. Nan visited at FCI Miami in Miami, Florida and served as a National Visitor until the designation was retired in 2017.

**Judy Rosenblum** (1947-2022) was a longtime PVS volunteer, acting as the office manager for over a decade. Even after her cancer diagnosis, Judy continued to volunteer her time to PVS, processing incoming prisoner mail and forwarding requests to Local Coordinators.

**Ron Stansell** (1943-2022) was a PVS Visitor from 2015 through 2022. Ron visited FCI Sheridan in Sheridan, Oregon.