



# 2024 Annual Report

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As winter transitions to spring and the country to a new administration, Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) is also undergoing change. While transitions can bring uncertainty, our commitment to our mission remains strong. I am continually inspired by the dedication, courage and goodness of our volunteers and visitors, who provide invaluable support to those often forgotten while promoting the notion of second chances. We will keep you informed of any updates in the Bureau of Prisons policies and welcome any insights from the field.

I want to express deep gratitude to my predecessor, Molly Clifford, for her leadership and dedication. During her tenure, she strengthened PVS by rebuilding the Board of Directors, solidifying committees, improving governance, and leading key strategic initiatives. Her efforts during the pandemic ensured PVS continued its mission, and she successfully recruited 172 new visitors. We are incredibly grateful for her service.

Special thanks to Emily Cashell, PVS Program Manager, for her dedication and leadership in organizing the first regional visitors' conference in nearly 20 years. Despite taking on additional responsibilities during this transitional period, her commitment to PVS and its visitors' program has been invaluable.

Looking ahead, I will work with the Board of Directors on key initiatives, including strategic planning, rebranding, and fundraising. One of our major goals is preparing for the National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, from October 23–26, 2025—please save the dates!

I look forward to meeting each of you, learning from your experiences, and working together to further the mission of PVS. Thank you for your continued support, see you in St. Louie!



**Anna Katz**  
**PVS Executive Director**  
**PVS Visitor, FDC Philadelphia**

## 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

**Anna Katz,**  
Executive Director  
(November 2024 – Present)

**Molly Clifford,**  
Executive Director  
(September 2020 – October 2024)

**Emily Cashell,**  
Program Manager

**Stephanie Perez,**  
Administrative Assistant

## Message from the Board Chair

Dear PVS Friends:

I just completed my third year as Board Chair and 15 years as a visitor. Throughout this time, I have had the opportunity to visit with, and serve with, some extraordinary people. Each year I look forward to writing this piece to share a lookback at the year just completed.

I want to start first by recognizing Molly Clifford and the impact she had on PVS while serving as Executive Director. Molly provided exceptional leadership during Covid when visiting was limited or not possible at all. She created alternative ways of communicating with prisoners, visitors and local coordinators. Zoom meetings became mainstream and Program Manager Emily Cashell has embraced this technology for use in ongoing training, events and communication. Molly collaborated with the board and successfully recruited additional talent and motivated board committees to become more active as an extension of the staff to accomplish a stronger administrative structure, focus attention on post covid visitor recruitment and improving fundraising efforts. We will miss Molly and her kind and collaborative nature.

We are excited that we were able to recruit Anna Katz to serve as our new Executive Director. Anna comes to us with many years of executive experience with USAID and CEO of Pearl S. Buck International. Anna hit the ground running reaching out to visitors, BOP executives, Board Members and other stakeholders. Anna has become a PVS visitor, and we look forward to her leadership as we are completing our strategic plan update, establishing new goals and redesigning our website to better serve us in recruiting, fundraising and communicating PVS's mission and accomplishments.

The Board and leadership have been working for some time on a way to acknowledge those people who have made a significant contribution to PVS. In 2024 the Board established an Honorary Board for just this purpose and at our annual meeting in November we welcomed the first eight members. We considered former leadership, formerly incarcerated individuals, BOP leadership, former Board members and others who have had an impact. These eight will be highlighted in this report and I encourage you to read about these amazing people.

Finally, during 2024 we completed the establishment of an Endowment which was created to ensure financial security as the fund grows, and to provide an avenue for gifts beyond annual operational support to have a forever benefit. We received some generous bequests in 2023 and 2024, part of which was allocated as seed money to start the Endowment growing.

PVS has had a life-changing impact on me, and I am grateful to all of you who care and support the work that we do whether it is by volunteering, providing financial support or being cheerleaders as we carry out the PVS Mission.



**Tom Slick**  
**PVS Board Chair**  
**PVS Visitor, FCI**

— — —

## **2024 Board of Directors**

### **Tom Slick**

*Board Chair*

*PVS Visitor – FCI Sheridan*

### **Leila Richards**

*PVS Visitor – FCI Elkton*

### **Shazad Carbaidwala**

*PVS Visitor – MCC Chicago*

### **Linda Roberts**

*Board Treasurer*

*PVS Visitor – FCC Coleman*

### **Ken Cottrell**

*PVS Visitor – FMC Lexington*

### **Steve Schwab**

*CEO, Elizabeth Dole  
Foundation*

### **Eileen Gilkenson**

*Board Vice Chair  
PVS Visitor – FDC Philadelphia*

### **Dan Struble**

*Board Secretary  
PVS Visitor – FCI Otisville*

### **Suave Gonzalez**

*Artist, Activist, Podcaster,  
Former Juvenile Lifer*

### **Scott Sussman**

*District of Columbia Board of  
Elections*

### **Michael Guerra**

*Attorney*

### **Dr. Esther Zeledon**

*Independent Contractor;  
International  
Development/Coaching*

## **Welcoming New Board Members**

In 2024, 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.

### **Ken Cottrell**

Ken is a PVS Visitor at FMC Lexington in Lexington, KY. He is a volunteer optometrist at Mission Health Lexington and Nathaniel Mission Vision Clinics and Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity in Central and South America and Mexico. Ken is also a team member with Kentucky Refugee Ministries and a member of the Board of Trustees at Lexington Theological Seminary. He is married to the Rev. Dr. Jan Cottrell.



### **Leila Richards**

Leila is a retired physician with a writing background. She worked overseas for many years in humanitarian and public health programs. She lives in Pittsburgh. She has volunteered with PVS since 2019, visiting prisoners at FCI Elkton in Ohio.

## **Visitor Impact: Voices from the Inside**

"Many thanks for your visit in February. I imagine it becomes quite a long day, getting in and out of the prison security procedures, then waiting in the visiting room, and finally tapping into the strength to minister to us inmates. Please just know it is highly appreciated and recognized, the love all you PVS visitors bring into a very dark world.

As I mentioned to you, I haven't had a conversation like the one we shared in years. It felt like an awakening, and like maybe deep under my prison callous there still existed some of the old Dan, before I lost my wife, my son, my career, my freedom, all behind what can only honestly be called my many sins."

**Anonymous  
Incarcerated at FCI Sheridan**



## 2024 Regional Training Conference

On November 9, 2024, PVS held our first Regional Training Conference in 20 years in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Our small-yet-always-mighty group represented visitors from FCC Allenwood, FCI Lewisburg, FDC Philadelphia, and USP Canaan. The conference proved to be a great model for future events with presentations from area wardens and re-entry coordinators providing up-to-date information on prison programs and policies, invaluable networking and sharing took place as well as participation in a group activity, where we practiced active and compassionate listening, and learned about the importance of creating and enforcing boundaries during visiting.

The Training Team is already hard at work on our next conference, which will be a National Training Conference in St Louis, Missouri. Keep an eye out for more information soon!



*PVS Visitors and staff at Bucknell University  
in Lewisburg, PA.*

## Save the Date

We will be hosting the PVS

### 2025 National Training Conference

from **October 23<sup>rd</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup>**

in **St Louis, Missouri.**



Keep an eye out for both email and  
regular mail for more information and  
registration!

## Visitor Impact: Voices from the Inside

"Thank you. Your visit not only bring me a ray of sunshine I call hope into my life—it also prepares me for when I return to society."

**Anonymous  
Incarcerated at  
USDB Fort Leavenworth**

## PVS Establishes Honorary Board

To encapsulate the institutional memory and celebrate the amazing lives of those who had a hand in building this organization, we honor our recipients and recognize their invaluable input to the organization.

The inaugural group includes the following personnel:

**Eric Corson** served as Executive Director of PVS from 1977 to 2017, leading its national expansion and fostering deep relationships with volunteers, Bureau of Prisons staff, and inmates. After retiring, he published "Reaching Beyond Prison Walls: Stories of Volunteer Visitors and the Prisoners They See," based on interviews with PVS volunteers



**Luis "Suave" Gonzalez**, a former PVS Board member, helps formerly incarcerated individuals transition back to their communities as an Administrative Reentry Coach at the Community College of Philadelphia. He is the subject of the national IDA and Pulitzer Prize-winning podcast "Suave" and creator of the "Death by Incarceration" podcast

**Kathleen Hawk Sawyer**, served as Director of the federal Bureau of Prisons from 1992-2003 and again from 2019-2020, becoming the first female Director after starting her career as a psychologist at FCI Morgantown. A supporter of PVS, she attended its 1997 training conference and received several prestigious awards for her leadership, including the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Management and the Presidential Rank Award.



**Jim Marren**, a former federal prisoner who was visited by PVS volunteers at three institutions, walked to the PVS office on his first day of release to offer his help. He later became a PVS visitor, attended several conferences, and served on the PVS Board of Directors for several years.

**Rachel Osborn**, a retired fundraiser and longtime PVS volunteer, served on the PVS Development Committee starting in 1997 and was a Board member from 2004-2022, including six years as Board Chair. She helped lead the organization through many challenges, including the pandemic.





**Jean Rosenberg** has been a PVS visitor and Local Coordinator at USP Big Sandy since 2014, after working in education and supporting low-income mothers and gifted students. Inspired by Jean, **John Rosenberg** became involved with PVS, recruiting visitors and speakers, and later served as Director Appalachian Research and Defense Fund and on Kentucky's Public Advocacy Commission, gaining a special appreciation for PVS and its visitors

**Betty Woodman**, recruited by co-founder Fay Honey Knopp, began visiting at FCI Danbury after hearing Honey speak at a UCC event and later replaced her as Local Coordinator. She continued visiting for 35 years while staying active on national UCC committees.



## Welcoming New Visitors

We would like to give a special welcome to all the new PVS Visitors appointed in 2024.

Patty H., Alderson FPC	Jasminda A., Devens FMC	Joel V., Milan FCI
John D., Allenwood FCC	Sheherazade K., Englewood FCI	Ravon A., Milan FCI
Marcus O., Bastrop FCI	Cori P., Englewood FCI	Marie P., Petersburg FCC
Mary Lou W., Big Sandy USP	Mary-Katherine F., Englewood FCI	Anna K., Philadelphia FDC
Gavin S., Coleman FCC	Kayla F., Fairton FCI	Kyla D., Phoenix FCI
Michael B., Coleman FCC	Malva Y., Greenville FCI	Brad J., Phoenix FCI
Rosalind K., Coleman FCC	Heather M., Greenville FCI	Colton G., Sandstone FCI
Mira T., Coleman FCC	Alisa W., Greenville FCI	Mark B., Sheridan FCI
Steven E., Danbury FCI	George R., Leavenworth FCI	Michael C., Sheridan FCI
Peter D., Danbury FCI	Merilyn H., Marion FCI	Jason L., Terminal Island FCI
Chris S., Devens FMC	Pilar B., Milan FCI	Patricia P., Terre Haute USP

## In Memoriam: Dr. Kenneth Rupert Smith Jr.

Ken was a Visitor at FCI Greenville in Illinois from September 2019 until his passing in May 2024. When Covid shut down all the federal prisons, he wrote letters to maintain contact with those he was visiting. In addition to his work as PVS Visitor, he committed himself to multiple volunteer roles after his retirement as Chairman of Neurosurgery Saint Louis University Hospital in 2004. Ken will be greatly missed by his family, friends, all of us here at PVS, and those he visited.

## 2024 Financials

### **Income:**

Individuals: \$126,704 (48%)

Congregations, Foundations  
and Organizations: \$13,688 (5%)

Investment Income and Other: \$12,925 (5%)

Bequests: \$112,642 (42%)

.....

### **Expenses:**

Program Support: \$72,522 (36%)

Management and Administration: \$77,904 (38%)

Fundraising: \$52,877 (26%)

## Acknowledging Our Supporters

A special **Thank You** to those who have demonstrated extreme generosity to PVS in 2024. *(Listed in alphabetical order by last name.)*

Mark and Elizabeth Berman

Carey Burkett and Stephen Kraemer

Thomas Dybdahl and Patricia Steen

Eileen Gilkenson

George Golden

Michael House

Mary Clare Jakes

Angenette and E. Robert Meaney

Virginia Rinella

Susannah Rose

Laura Schaller and Allen Parleir

Tom Slick

Daniel Struble

United Church of Christ

## Visitor Impact: Voices from the Inside

"What PVS has given me is an outlet for expression, an hour to escape my current situation, which is an environment of isolation and sometimes misinterpretation. During the visit I feel heard and seen as a human who is able to converse about new ideas and personal opinions on a variety of topics. It also gives me the opportunity to hear different life experiences that I myself may not have lived. Hearing my Visitor's perspective on life's obstacles permits me to develop a sense of optimism towards my future. PVS was the first and only visitor I've had. Honestly, my Visitor has motivated and encouraged me to pursue my personal goals and most of all, stay strong. Her encouragement has proven to be beneficial to my mental health and current state of mind. With the number of stressors in prison, PVS is the place I can find relief knowing that I will be met with an objective listener that will just listen. And sometimes that's all I need to help me pull through."

**Anonymous  
Incarcerated at USP Allenwood**