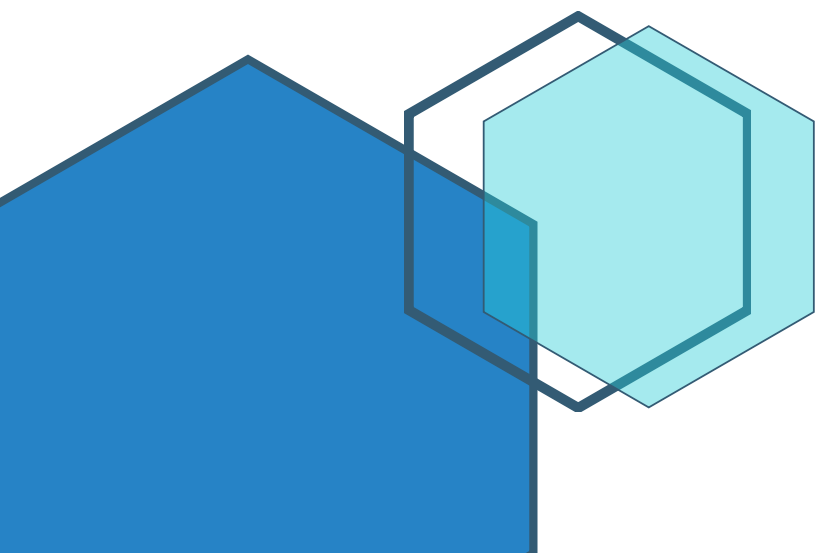




# 2023 Annual Report



## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the support of people like you, 2023 was a great year for Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS). While returning to the pre-pandemic "normal" is a challenge, we are thrilled to report that most of our volunteers are back to regular visiting at most federal and military prisons. We have been able to recruit new visitors to replace those we lost due to the effects of the pandemic, and people who are incarcerated continue to reach out to us to ask for visitors who will help them cope with prison life and prepare for re-entry into their home communities.

For the first time since 2019, PVS was able to host an in-person training conference in 2023, where volunteers came together in Lexington, KY to hone their visiting skills, get updates from the federal Bureau of Prisons, and enjoy the company of fellow visitors. Thanks to our hosts, Ken and Jan Cottrell, the other Lexington visitors, and Warden David Paul and the staff of the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Lexington, we learned a lot about the storied history of the FMC (formerly known as "The Narcotics Farm") and the current culture of horses and bourbon in Lexington!

Earlier in the year, PVS partnered with Catholic Community Services (CCS) in Salem, OR to host an event with Fr. Greg Boyle and PVS Board Member Luis "Suave" Gonzalez entitled "The Power and Compassion of Community." Over 400 people joined us in Salem to hear from Fr. Greg, legendary minister to gang members in Los Angeles and author of several books, and Suave, a formerly incarcerated artist, activist, and podcaster. It was a powerful evening, and we are grateful for the support of PVS Board Chair Tom Slick and CCS CEO Josh Graves, who made it all happen.

As we enter 2024, we are focused on recruiting more volunteers to help us reach our ultimate goal of providing a visitor to anyone incarcerated in a federal or military prison who wants one. Part of that work includes a review and refinement of our 2021 Strategic Plan, so that we can be as clear, strong and forceful as possible in letting people know about the life-changing work of PVS and prison visiting.

Thank you for making our work possible. Have any thoughts you'd like to share, or know someone who might make a good visitor? Contact us at [pvs@prisonervisitation.org](mailto:pvs@prisonervisitation.org).

All the best for a happy and healthy 2024.



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*

**Emily Cashell,**  
*Program Manager*

**Stephanie Perez,**  
*Administrative Assistant*

## Message from the Board Chair

Dear PVS Friends:

Visiting for the past 14 years has been a life changing experience for me, and now I feel truly blessed to also serve on the Board of Directors where I am able to collaborate with some truly gifted people to set the future direction of Prisoner Visitation and Support. Our Board is made up of both visitors and non-visitors who come from diverse backgrounds. At the end of 2023 two of our Board Members retired from the Board, Virginia Rinella and David Poundstone. Both of these individuals have made significant contributions to PVS as long-time visitors, members of the Board and Board committees, and members of the training committee. They are also our "go to" people when it comes to PVS history as well as adding wisdom to visiting issues and other PVS business. They will be sorely missed.

While my first year as Board Chair was focused on organizational infrastructure, in 2023 we focused on raising the awareness of PVS and began developing a plan to achieve and maintain financial health. During the year we received two bequests from people who generously remembered us through a gift from their estate. These gifts firmed up our thinking that we needed to establish an endowment, not only for the purpose of achieving financial health over time but to also allow these generous gifts to forever benefit PVS. We have now created policies that define the endowment, establish how the funds can be invested and set policies around the distribution of those funds. We are in hopes that many others like the two people we received bequests from will reach out to us and commit to helping us build this endowment.

No organization can thrive without strong leadership and staff. We are fortunate to have Molly Clifford, who has exhibited both the heart and executive skills as our Executive Director, and joined by strong staff she will be the leader that guides us into the future toward achieving our vision of providing qualified visitors to fulfill all requests for visits by prisoners in all federal and military prisons.

And finally, I want to thank all of you whether you are a visitor, donor or a person who cares about criminal justice and the humanitarian treatment of the incarcerated. Without you we wouldn't exist and with you we are having a positive impact on the lives of people who are often forgotten.



Tom Slick  
Chair, Board of Directors

**Thank You  
for over 55  
Years of  
Service!**

We want to give a special thanks to retiring board members Virginia Rinella and David Poundstone for their years of commitment and service to PVS – not only as board members, but as visitors.

They may have stepped down from the board of directors, but they are both continuing to visit at their respective prisons.



David Poundstone,  
PVS Visitor, FCC  
Florence and FCI  
Englewood, since 1999

Board member from  
2010 - 2023

Virginia Rinella,  
PVS Visitor, USP  
Marion, since 1994

Board member from  
2006 - 2023



## 2023 Board of Directors

**Tom Slick**

*Board Chair*  
PVS Visitor – FCI  
Sheridan

**David Poundstone**

PVS Visitor – FCC Florence

**Shazad Carbaidwala**

PVS Visitor – MCC  
Chicago

**Virginia Rinella**

*Board Vice-Chair*  
PVS Visitor – USP Marion

**Eileen Gilkenson**

PVS Visitor – FDC  
Philadelphia

**Steve Schwab**

CEO, Elizabeth Dole  
Foundation

**Suave Gonzalez**

Artist, Activist,  
Podcaster,  
Former Juvenile Lifer

**Dan Struble**

*Board Treasurer*  
PVS Visitor – FCI Otisville

**Michael Guerra**

Attorney

**Scott Sussman**

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

**Erika Janifer**

Engineer/Management  
Consultant

**Dr. Esther Zeledon**

Independent Contractor;  
International  
Development/Coaching

## Welcoming New Board Members

In 2023, we welcomed one new member 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.

**Eileen Gilkenson**

Eileen first became involved with PVS in 1980, when she encountered PVS Visitors while incarcerated for 10 days at FPC Alderson. She was employed with PVS, first as the National Recruiter for 7 years and then as the interim Executive Director.



She currently visits and is the Local Coordinator for FDC Philadelphia.

Before joining PVS, Eileen worked as a licensed social worker and nonprofit administrator for over 30 years. She worked for 16 years as a clinical social worker in residential programs for those living with severe mental illnesses.

Eileen most enjoys spending time with her husband Ray (who is also a PVS Visitor) and her extended family which includes three active grandchildren.

## Welcoming New Staff

In November, we welcomed Stephanie Perez as Administrative Assistant and she hit the ground running, helping us process all of your generous end of the year donations. A Philadelphia native (and Eagles fan!) she brings over 13 years' experience working in nonprofit organizations. Stephanie has worked with different demographics, from Philadelphia's Elder Adults to Philadelphia and Camden NJ young scholars, giving administrative support.



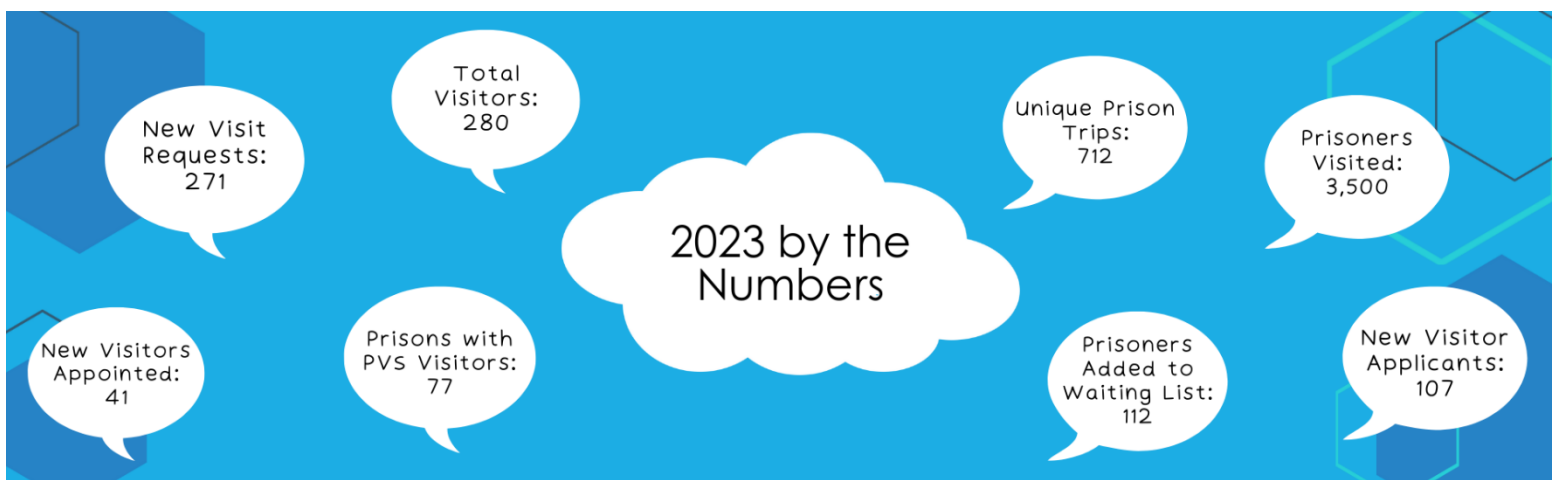
## The Power and Compassion of Community

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, PVS partnered with Catholic Community Services of the Willamette Valley to host a special guest speaker, Father Greg Boyle. In a program titled "The Power and Compassion of Community," Father Greg, founder of Homeboy Industries, was joined by PVS Board Member Suave Gonzalez to share their stories of hope and the power of compassion and community. A hybrid event, over 400 people attended in person in Salem, Oregon, and over 200 tuned into the livestream. If you missed this incredible, inspiring event, you can watch the video on our website.



*Clockwise from top left: David Luis "Suave" Gonzalez; Suave and Father Greg Boyle; Father Greg; Event attendees; Father Greg and two "Homeboys," Vince and Christian; Father Greg and Christian.*

*Center: Suave with Josh Graves, CEO of Catholic Community Services of the Mid-Willamette Valley & Central Coast.*



## Special Thanks

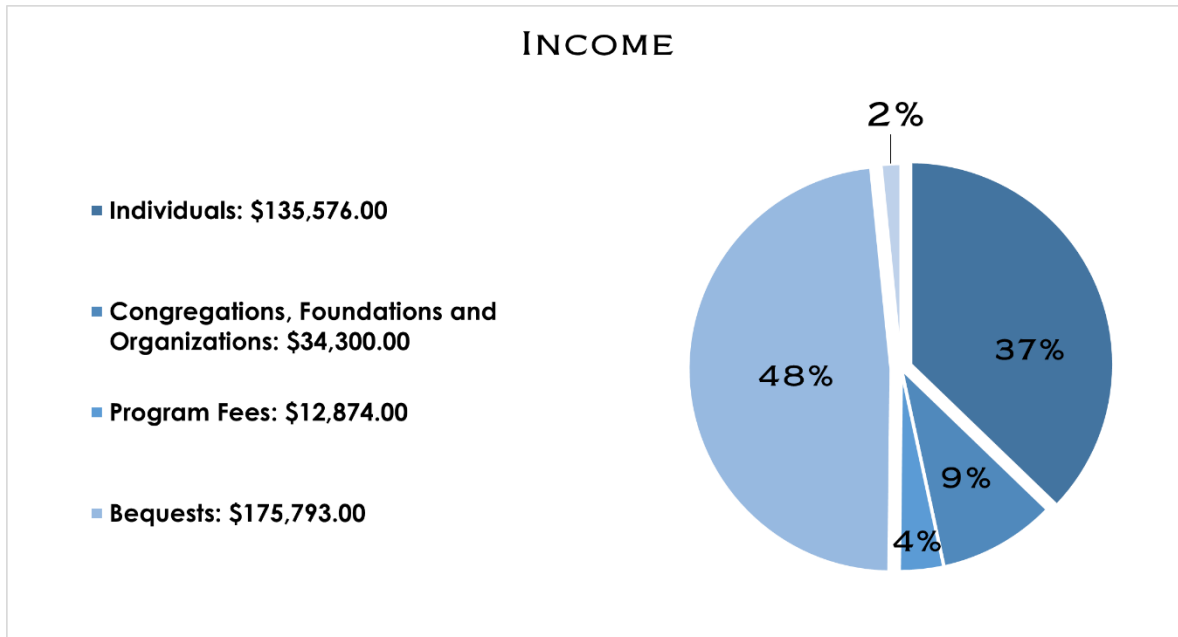
PVS was honored to receive several bequests in 2023 that will enable us to expand our efforts in visitor recruitment and training, furthering our progress toward achieving our Mission. In May 2022, we lost long-time volunteer **Nan Broeder**, who spent years visiting at FCI Danbury, CT, when she wasn't overseas on archeological digs. **William Brainerd**, an environmentalist in Southeastern Pennsylvania, remembered PVS in his will along with several conservation organizations. And **David A. Gibson**, a businessman and philanthropist in Kansas City, MO, surprised us with a large bequest in 2023 that will make a big difference to PVS and allow us to invest in much needed staff and strategic initiatives. We are deeply grateful to have been chosen in this meaningful way by these generous individuals.

We'd also like to thank the **Art4Giving Foundation**, a charitable initiative funded by the sale of Ross Ulbrecht's art. Ross is incarcerated in federal prison, where he is visited by friends and family. During visits, they noticed the PVS visiting team, and wanted to support our work with a grant from the Foundation. Ross has said of the Foundation: *"I see a chance to make a difference...My own future may look bleak, but I can still do a little something to heal the damage I see all around me."* We are proud to be part of that healing for many of the people we visit.

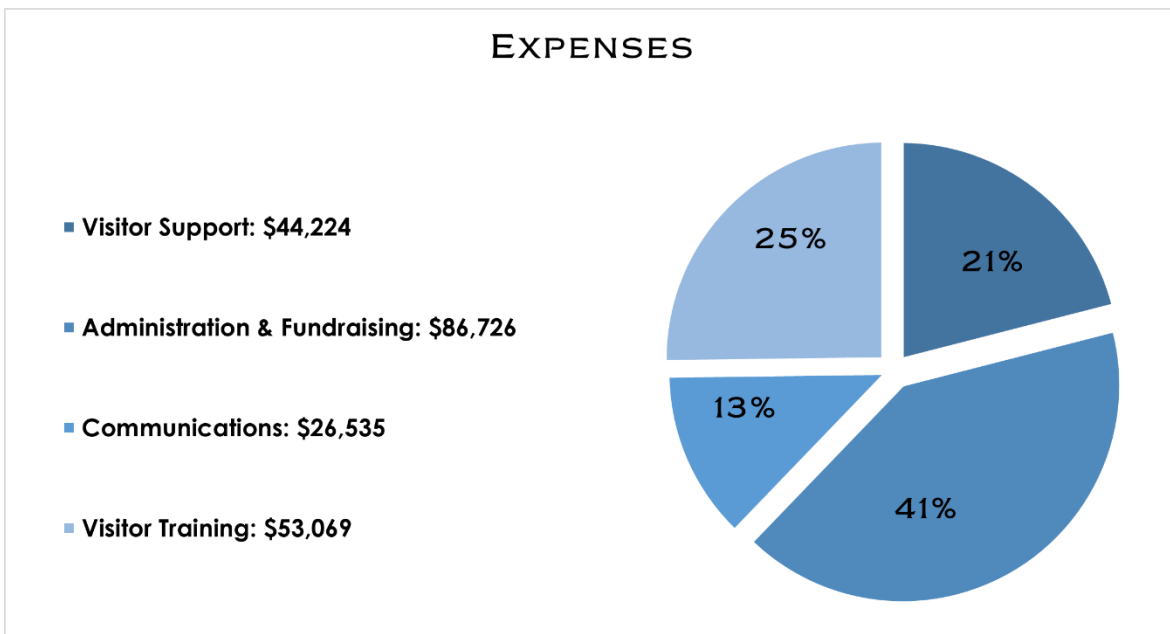
## Welcoming New Visitors

Nicole G., Alderson FPC	Kerry H., Coleman FCC	Michael P., Milan FCI
TeaJay A., Allenwood FCI	Linda Y., Coleman FCI - Low	Shelley K., Milan FCI
Jeffrey T., Atlanta USP	Leonard S., Cumberland FCI	Wendy W., Morgantown FCI
Kourtney S., Atlanta USP	Robert C., Cumberland FCI	Meghan B., Oxford FCI
Lisa Marie R., Carswell FMC	Kelly O., Fairton FCI	Wendy K., Oxford FCI
Shana Y., Carswell FMC	Annie B., Ft Leavenworth USDB	Michael K., Philadelphia FDC
Charity L., Carswell FMC	Mary Linda M., Ft Leavenworth USDB	Moiz A., Seagoville FCI
Marie S., Chicago MCC	Libby B., Ft Leavenworth USDB	Stephanie B., Springfield USMCFP
Michael K., Coleman FCC	Candace O., Greenville FCI	Michael M., Springfield USMCFP
Gary P., Coleman FCC	Robert W., Greenville FCI	Vanessa S., Terminal Island FCI
Donald W., Coleman FCC	Alison B., Lewisburg USP	Tiffany C., Terminal Island FCI
Roy V., Coleman FCC	Brian G., Lexington FMC	Janelle B., Terminal Island FCI
Clifford G., Coleman FCC	Drew F., Lexington FMC	Sandra L., Victorville USP
Cari C., Coleman FCC	Beth J., Milan FCI	

## 2023 Financial Report



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!



The three staff members of PVS recruit, train and support the nearly 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. The monetary value of these services is not calculated nor reflected in these reports.



## 2023 National Training Conference

More than 45 PVS Visitors, staff, Board Members, and guests attended the 2023 National Training Conference in beautiful Lexington, Kentucky, November 8th through 11th, 2023. We heard from the training team, toured the local FMC Lexington prison, learned about the First Step Act from members of the BOP administration and had an impassioned presentation by renowned civil rights attorney Stephen Bright. We collected more than 110 donated items and raised over \$1,200 for PVS during the annual silent auction. Most importantly, we **reconnected** with old friends and **reaffirmed our commitment** to visiting those incarcerated in federal and military prisons across



*Photos:*

*Above: The group during a tour of FMC Lexington, formerly the United States Narcotic Farm.*

*Left, top: The group outside the Clarion Conference Center in Lexington, KY.*

*Left, clockwise: Mary, Brock, Liz, and Judy, PVS Visitors at FCI El Reno in Oklahoma.*

*Executive Director Molly Clifford with guest speaker Steven Bright.*

*Board Chair Tom Slick addresses the group.*



## PVS Establishes Endowment for Long-Term Sustainability

The PVS Board of Directors recently voted to establish an endowment fund that will allow donors to support the long-term viability of the organization. As a grassroots, volunteer-based organization, PVS has historically, and successfully, depended on the generosity of individuals, congregations and small foundations to support our work on an annual basis. With the endowment, PVS supporters can go beyond annual giving and invest in our future. The Board of Directors has engaged Stillwater Capital Advisors to manage the fund, which may be an attractive vehicle for those thinking about including PVS in their wills or other planned giving instruments. These donors can have the confidence that their contributions will be invested wisely for the long-term, supplementing the PVS operational budget over time. If you'd like to find out more about the Endowment Fund and how to support it, please contact us at [mclifford@prisonervisitation.org](mailto:mclifford@prisonervisitation.org).