



Dear Friends,

As federal prisons open back up to visiting, PVS has finally been able to get back to doing what we do best – supporting people incarcerated through the simple act of listening.

We were pleased to welcome new Visitor Coordinator [Jennifer Whitton](#) in early June, and she has been busy getting to know our Visitors and Local Coordinators, recruiting and interviewing new volunteers, and planning trainings to support Visitors new and old.

We are hopeful that the [appointment of new Bureau of Prisons Director Colette Peters](#) will bring stability and progress to the Bureau, with the additional staffing and support necessary to ensure visiting can happen regularly and safely at all federal prisons.

As the summer progresses, we hope to report that more prisons have re-opened and more of our Visitors are back to visiting in person. In the meantime, please save the date and join us for an exciting virtual event with acclaimed author and activist [Susan Burton](#) on October 26th - more details to follow!

Thanks for your support of PVS,

Molly, Jennifer & Emily

An Update from our Visitor Coordinator, Jennifer

I have enjoyed getting to know many of you through Zoom meetings, phone calls, Committee Meetings and emails. I can't wait to continue meeting each of you, as you are truly the reason PVS has been so successful in its mission to provide humanitarian visits to incarcerated individuals for over 50 years. I have open "Office Hours" each **Tuesday and Thursday from 1pm EST - 4pm EST**, where I am available to take calls to answer any questions, listen to concerns and absorb any of the priceless wisdom each of you have gained through your unique experiences visiting. I have an updated number, so please make sure to update my contact information. My new contact number is 706-255-9112.

I am excited to share that the October Virtual training conference is being solidified, with some innovative ideas about encouraging socialization

among Visitors, even via Zoom! I am eager to share more updates as the schedule, training topics, and closing speaker are finalized. So keep an eye out for an email with more exciting details in the next couple of months.

Also, as all of us are aware, COVID-19 impacted all areas of life as we once knew. This was especially felt in the world of Incarcerated Individuals who have experienced countless months without any in-person visits due to BOP and DOD regulations put in place to help reduce the spread of the virus in large communal living areas. As an organization, PVS created new ways to provide support to incarcerated individuals via letter writing. Recently, many facilities have begun re-opening visitation, dependent on current infection rates. We are so glad many visitors have been able to return to in-person visits and we are hoping that all facilities will be open for visitation again very soon.

In anticipation of an influx of facilities reopening visitations, we are working diligently to contact applicants who applied to become Visitors during COVID but were added to a list for follow up once visitations resumed. Once we receive confirmation an applicant is still interested in becoming a Visitor, we plan to group and prioritize interviews based on the need for Visitors and the status of visitation by location and local infection rates.

Sincerely,

Jennnifer

Save the Date!

**“Want to Help Returning Citizens?
Visit Them Now.”**

A Virtual Conversation with Susan Burton
and Luis 'Suave' Gonzalez



**SUSAN
BURTON**

Activist,
Transformational
Leader,
Author
(Becoming Ms.
Burton)

October 26th, 2022

7 pm EST

**\$15 suggested donation to PVS.
More info and registration to follow.**

PVS
PRISONER
VISITATION
& SUPPORT

PVS Welcomes Two New Board Members

Gary Blanchard

PVS Visitor - FCC Coleman

Gary has been a Visitor with PVS for 15 years, and Local Coordinator for 10 years at FCC Coleman in Florida. He is semi-retired and volunteers at the local hospital with Chaplain services. Gary is married with two daughters and four grandchildren. He has been active in the community as a past businessman and leader including Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, and Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Club. Presently serving on staff as Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church with responsibilities in Pastoral Care. He loves to play golf.



Scott Sussman

District of Columbia Board of Elections

Former BOP Deputy Administrator, Community Reentry Affairs Branch



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, 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.

Retirement of Visitors

So far in 2022, we have had many long-time Visitors step down from volunteering. We would like to thank all of them for their commitment to and support of PVS!

Chuck Barrett, *FCI Tucson*

Wynn Calland, *FCI Seagoville*

Jacqueline Cummings, *FCI Terminal Island*

Ann Entsminger, *FCI Coleman Low*

Joseph Entsminger, *FCI Coleman Low*

Robert Garcia, *FCC Lompoc*

Gail Goleas, *MCC Chicago*

Murray Hiebert, *FCI Petersburg Low*

JoAnn Haney, *FCI Waseca*

Timothy Mellen, *MCC Chicago*

Marian Moore, *FCI Tallahassee*

Shawn Murray, *FMC Fort Worth*

Brenda Peterson, *FCI Waseca*

Alan Wallen, *FCI Fort Dix*

Randall Wolf, *FCC Coleman*

Keith Vanderlin, *USP Allenwood*

Jacob Vargas, *FCI Morgantown*

THANK YOU!

Follow us!

