



ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT, INC.

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AVP New York's work in 2022

In 2022, AVP New York held 75 full (15 -22 hour) two or three-day workshops, up from just 11 in 2021 and 36 in 2020. While we are not back to pre-COVID levels, it is exciting to see us come back, at least partially.

And we have come back changed in some cases. Our definition of a “full” workshop has needed to be flexible as some prison administrations are not allowing outcounts which means that the workshop is interrupted for a few hours each day while the participants and inside facilitators return to their cells to be counted. This reduces the number of in-session hours to 15 in some prisons whereas the minimum elsewhere stands at 18.

The Rochester Landing Strip continued to meet twice monthly, sometimes only virtually, sometimes hybridly and later in the year, in-person only alternating locations between the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence and a coffee shop. Landing Strip is an important means of connection for Rochester facilitators; many have returned from prison. People returning to any community in New York State are invited to call the AVP office and they will be connected with facilitators in their communities.

Our Work in Prisons.

The stats:

We returned to twelve NYS prisons and one federal prison in 2022, down from the nineteen state and one federal we were in in 2019. We are super-excited to be building back!

We held 64 full workshops inside prisons with 779 participants completing. All of those workshops were held in English. One all-facilitator workshop focused on strengthening our facilitation skills. We trained 47 new apprentice facilitators inside the walls.

Two special topic workshops were facilitator refresher workshops and one special topic advanced workshop focused on domestic violence awareness.

The life:

We hope you, dear reader, have read at least some of the very moving testimonies from incarcerated facilitators that we send to our e-list and publish in our newsletters. The newsletters are available on our website: www.avpny.org

Our Volunteer Correspondent, Jo Clayson, continued to be in email communication with many of the more than two hundred AVP facilitators inside the walls. This exchange of news has been a literal lifeline for some and incredibly important for most both inside and out.

Our Work in Communities.

The stats:

We held eleven full workshops with seventy-six adults and one teen participating. Three of those workshops were on zoom; the others were held in-person! We trained five adult apprentice facilitators. Four mini workshops saw twenty-nine adult participants. Two in-person facilitators' days provided opportunity for ten and then five facilitators to hone skills and share new exercises.

The life:

We are very excited to be back to holding in-person workshops in community settings. This work is so important.

The Mid-Hudson and Bronx Area Councils trained seventeen New York Harm Reduction Educators (see <https://onpointnyc.org/>) in East Harlem in two Basic Workshops.

The Genesee Valley Area Council trained nineteen in two Basic Workshops and one Mini Workshop at the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Rochester.

Mid-Hudson Area Council held in-person Basic and Advanced Workshops with six and five participants respectively from Credible Messengers and SNUG (guns spelled backwards) outreach workers.

Niagara Frontier Area Council held an in-person Basic and Special Topic Advanced on Trauma Resilience with eight participants, including one teen.

Our Work Outside of AVP New York

AVP-USA's 2022 Annual Gathering was in-person in Washington D.C.! A few from AVP New York served on the conference planning committee and many more attended!

Some from AVP NY's leadership team continued in leadership with the Transformative In-Prison Workgroup, a coalition of community-based organizations that offer meaningful programming inside NYS prisons and several AVP New Yorkers attend the monthly membership meetings. The coalition's (Transformative In-Prison Work Group or TPW www.thetpw.org) mission is to ensure that all people living in prisons have access to meaningful, high-quality programs, and to accelerate the impact of recent sentencing reforms towards our North Star goal of decarceration.

Our Gratitude.

Many thanks to all who do this work and who make this work possible.

Thanks to our donors, and our investments seeing sizeable gains in dividends and capital gains, we ended the year in the black and were able to make contributions of \$1,000 each to Youth Alternatives to Incarceration (YATI), AVP-USA and to the Transformative In-Prison Workgroup - New York (TPW-NY).

A Call for Facilitators.

We are grateful for our facilitator base, and we always need more facilitators to grow AVP in New York State to allow us to reach more communities, schools and prisons here and around the world. Please consider taking the three levels of workshops to become an apprentice facilitator. See www.avpny.org and contact Shirley Way (info@avpny.org or 315-604-7940).