



**ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT, INC.**

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## **AVP New York's work in 2025**

In 2025, AVP New York held 47 full (16 - 22 hour) two or three-day workshops with 417 participants completing. This is down from 83 full workshops in 2024. This marked decrease is due to the cessation of programming inside NYS prisons in February 2025 when prison guards began striking. By the end of the year, we were back doing AVP in just three prisons. The hiatus from prison work freed up outside facilitators to focus on community workshops.

The Rochester Landing Strip continued to meet twice monthly, in-person, 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.

Brooklyn now has two Landing Strips. One meets monthly at the Brooklyn Friends Meetinghouse. They felt like they turned a corner in the fall when there were five attendees who had returned from prison and five supporters from the community. The second Landing Strip in Brooklyn is in the Brownsville neighborhood. They have been meeting weekly since November with a formerly incarcerated facilitator coordinating and facilitating the meetings.

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:

In 2025, we held a total of 25 full (16-18 hour) workshops and two short (6-12 hour) workshops inside eight prisons and one county jail with 256 participants completing. (By comparison, in 2024 we held 73 workshops with 909 participants completing in 16 prisons and two county jails.) Twenty-six outside facilitators put in 1,487 hours and thirty incarcerated facilitators volunteered 822 hours.

In January and February, we held workshops in seven prisons. After the strike, we were back in just three prisons: Green Haven, Taconic and Bedford Hills. We held monthly workshops in the Westchester County Jail throughout the year.

The life:

We held a fabulous 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AVP celebration inside Green Haven Prison on May 23, 2025 with 100 outside facilitators from the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Portugal, Australia and New Zealand (Aotearoa) and 61 facilitators and participants at Green Haven. Several from NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision leadership and staff attended for the full day as well. Find photos and reflections in our newsletter here: <https://www.avpny.org/avp-new-york-news/> And more photos here: <https://tinyurl.com/2rvz7nzy>

Jo Clayson and Aran Wonders, our volunteer corresponding secretaries, are in email communication with many of the more than 250 AVP facilitators inside the walls. These connections have been particularly important since there was no or limited programming and many prisons were in lockdown for months.

### **Our Work in Communities.**

The stats:

We held 22 full (16-19 hour) workshops (up from 10 in 2024) with 42 youth (under 18) and 149 adults participating, one short workshop and one facilitator retreat (12 hours each) with 20 participants, two facilitator days with 8 facilitators each and 15 mini (less than 6 hour) workshops with 133 adults and 77 youth. We trained 28 adult apprentice facilitators. 62 facilitators put in 2,924 hours and 13 facilitators volunteered 246 hours supporting the community workshops.

The life:

We are very excited to have held more than twice the number of community workshops in 2025 compared with 2024.

The Central New York Area Council held a Power of Goodness training for facilitators workshop and then a Power of Goodness mini AVP workshop with seniors in Syracuse. Power of Goodness workshops are centered around true stories of Transforming Power. See <https://friendspeaceteams.org/power-of-goodness/>

The Elmira Area Council held two AVP Basic Workshops—one full and one short—at Ecovillage Ithaca with 17 adults.

AVP Rochester reached 50 adult participants in the community with one Training for Facilitators, two Basics, one Mini and one Advanced Workshop. A two-day Facilitator Retreat helped nine facilitators hone their skills.

The New York City Area Council held three Mini workshops at a women's shelter in Brooklyn and two Basics and one Mini on the Upper East Side of Manhattan with 28 adults and one youth.

In Buffalo, the Niagara Frontier Area Council held seven Power of Goodness mini AVP workshops with 40 adults and two youth and one AVP Basic Workshop with six adults.

The Westchester Area Council held four Basics, two Advanceds and one Special Topic Advanced on Trauma Resilience workshop with 56 participants including four teens. Two Training for Facilitators workshops graduated 21 new apprentice facilitators! One Mini workshop was a listening session for members of a social justice organization. Two facilitator days saw eight facilitators honing their skills and building community.

### **Our Work with Youth**

Forty-two youth completed a full (16-19 hour) workshops in 2025—a six-fold increase over 2024 and 77 youth completed a mini workshop—doubling our 2024 number. This boost is due, in part, to a City of Rochester grant awarded to the Genesee Valley Area Council (AVP Rochester) specifically in support of nonviolent training for young people.

AVP Rochester held seven Basic workshops and one Advanced workshop with 128 unique youth participants and 96 youth participants across four Mini workshops. The partnerships continue with East High School (public), Camp Daydreams, Teen Empowerment and Greece Odyssey Academy Middle / High School.

On Long Island, we held one Basic and one Advanced with fifteen highschoolers at Friends Academy.

### **Our Work Outside of AVP New York**

Several AVP-NY facilitators support AVP for justice and peace work in the communities in NY and in Pittsburgh PA, Ann Arbor MI, and AVP-TX, as well as globally.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.avpny.org) and contact Shirley Way ([info@avpny.org](mailto:info@avpny.org) or 315-604-7940).