

A New Way of Life Reentry Project

Susan Burton, Founder



A New Way of Life

Background – Trauma

- In 1982, my son, Marque “K.K.” Hamilton was hit and killed by a police car. He was 5 years old.
- Overwhelmed with grief, I took to numbing my pain with alcohol and drugs.
- Over the next 15 years, I was arrested and released six times, with limited money, no ID, and no social security card.
- I had been assaulted as a child, lost my son when he was a child, and society responded to my trauma by locking me away.





A New Way of Life

Background – Treatment

- In 1996, I learned that society responded to the trauma of others differently.
- White middle-class women were offered treatment services instead of incarceration.
- I fought for the same services, and was able to obtain treatment at the CLARE Foundation in Santa Monica. I became sober in 1997
- I began to wonder how life would have been had these services (instead of incarceration) been readily available to people like me.





A New Way of Life

Starting A New Way of Life

- In 1998, I started A New Way of Life Reentry Project by purchasing a home in South LA.
- My vision was that this home would offer formerly incarcerated women in South LA a space for healing, power, and opportunity.
- I sought out residents for the house by visiting the downtown LA bus station and offering formerly incarcerated women a place to live as they worked to rebuild their lives.
- Today, we have 10 safe houses and counting.





A New Way of Life

Expanding ANWOL

- In the early 2000s, I realized that the work to rebuild the lives of formerly incarcerated women had to be multifaceted and abolitionist.
- In 2003, Dorsey Nunn and I started All of Us or None (AOUON), A grassroots civil rights organization fighting for the rights of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people and our families.
- In 2006, I launched our Women Organization for Justice & Opportunity (WOJO) Leadership Lab for formerly incarcerated women.
- In 2007, Saúl Sarabia, Joshua Kim, and I began ANWOL's Legal Clinic.
- In 2021, I established our Family Reunification Legal Team.



BECOMING MS. BURTON

*From Prison to Recovery to Leading
the Fight for Incarcerated Women*

SUSAN BURTON & CARI LYNN

with a foreword by MICHELLE ALEXANDER



A New Way of Life

Housing & Development

- We now have 10 safe homes throughout Los Angeles county, from South Los Angeles to Montebello to Long Beach.
- We now have the capacity to serve 73 women, along with their children, at any given time.
- In 2020, we provided services for 94 women, along with their children.
- We offer our residents holistic support from case management to workforce and development training, and more.





A New Way of Life

Legal Expungement & Licensing

- We now have 3 staff attorneys dedicated to offering pro bono legal services for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- These services include:
 - Sentencing Expungement;
 - Reclassification & Reduction;
 - Prop. 47 & Prop. 64 petitions;
 - And, Occupational Licensing.
- In 2020, we provided pro bono legal services to 201 clients, with 602 petitions for expungement (92% success rate).





A New Way of Life

Family Reunification Support

- We now have 3 staff attorneys and 1 social worker dedicated to offering pro bono family reunification services for formerly incarcerated individuals.
- These services include:
 - Direct client representation;
 - Monitored Visitation;
 - And, help connecting to social services.
- In 2021, we assisted 127 parents, with 21 parents gaining increased visitation and 5 parents reunited with their children.





A New Way of Life

Advocacy & Leadership

- We now have 5 staff members dedicated to doing advocacy work with and on behalf of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people.
- This work includes:
 - Public policy development;
 - Voter registration
 - All of Us or None (AOUON) organizing;
 - Women Organizing for Justice & Opportunity (WOJO) Leadership Lab Training.
- In November 2021, we held a Peace & Justice Summit and January 2022 we co-organized a Protect Children, Restore Families Statewide Rally in Sacramento.

ALL OF US OR NONE!

MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS

Black Women's Excellence!

Join us in a panel discussion focusing on formerly incarcerated women who are leaders in this social justice movement. Let's hear from them, the ways they have been successful upon their release from incarceration and where they are today. We will also be having a discussion on the importance of sisterhood. Save the date!



TUESDAY, MARCH 8TH
5:30 - 7:00 PM PST
ZOOM ID: 2428712086
OR CALL 619-900-9129

CONTACT: AOUON@ANEWWAYOFLIFE.ORG





A New Way of Life

Communications

- We now have 2 staff members dedicated to empowering, mobilizing, and changing lives through storytelling.
- This work includes:
 - Media & Press Relations;
 - Social Media Outreach;
 - Justice on Trial Film Festival (JOTFF);
 - And, Testif-I | Storytelling for Change
- In 2021, Facebook and Instagram accounts reached over 50 thousand profiles and we and 2,765 individuals viewed our Testif-i videos.

TESTIF-I

2022 Call for Stories!



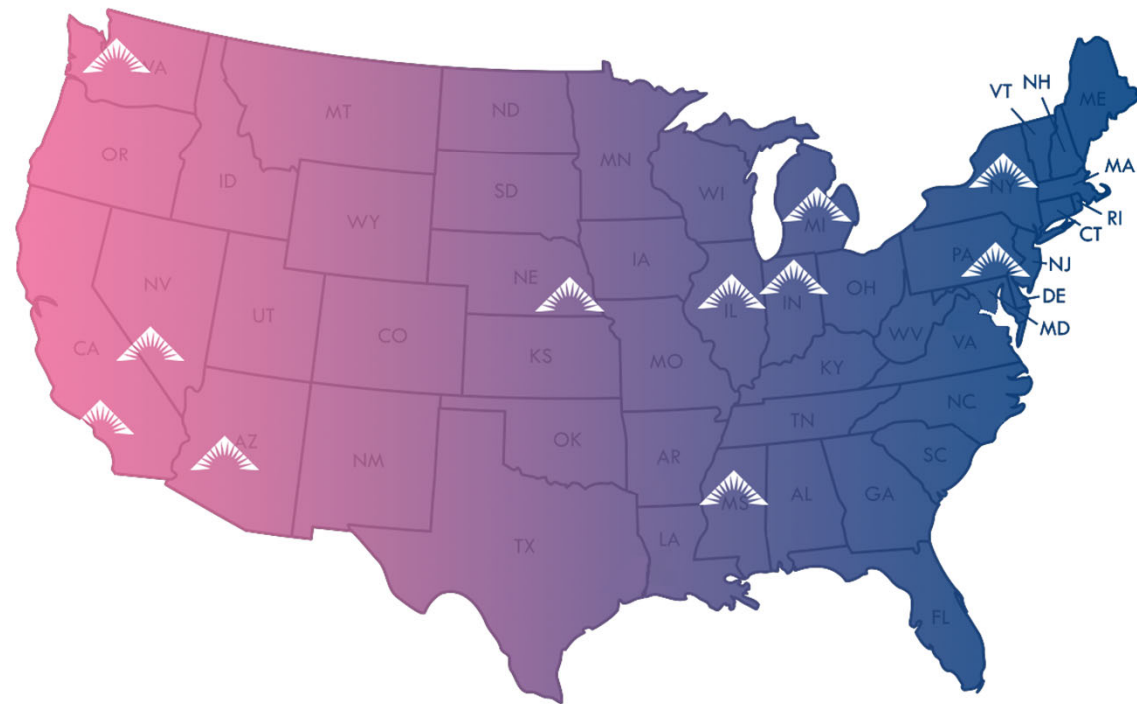


A New Way of Life

SAFE Housing Network



- Our SAFE Housing Network (established in 2018) consists of partner nonprofits dedicated to replicating the ANWOL model.
- We now have 16 network members operating across 12 states and three countries (Kenya, Uganda, and USA).
- Members of this network receive training and technical support for implementing our reentry model.





A New Way of Life

To Learn More

ANWOL: <https://anewwayoflife.org>

JOTFF: <https://justiceontrialfilmfestival.net/>

Testif-i: <http://testif-i.com/>

Facebook: [@ANewWayofLifeReentryProject](https://www.facebook.com/ANewWayofLifeReentryProject)

Instagram: [@anewwayoflifela](https://www.instagram.com/anewwayoflifela)

Twitter: [@ANewWayofLife1](https://twitter.com/ANewWayofLife1)

