

Fall, 2011

AVP Auburn's Home Team of Facilitators Speak of AVP



For all of us who've ever built anything, there's nothing more valuable than a quality tool. In AVP, we use Transforming Power. Transforming Power is a tool that, if used properly, can build character and community. It also empowers while it educates.

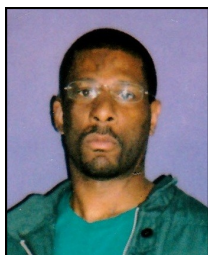
AVP is a lifetime learning experience that has helped change me for the better. When I was first introduced to AVP, like many men, I rejected it. I thought I was too cool to engage in the fun and games AVP had to offer. Now, 14 years in, many workshops, and a great circle of AVP friends, my service to AVP is permanent. I recommend it to anyone who is seeking change because it's real, it's transformative, and it works! Viva la AVP.

— *Kha Gould, a.k.a. Kharismatic Kha, Inside Coordinator AVP Auburn*

I came to prison and was lost. I could have been swallowed up by the politics, agendas and unhappiness around me, but I wasn't. AVP provided a guiding light. That light embraced me with community, transforming power, and the opportunity to empower myself. It's my choice to continue to walk in the light of AVP, but without this light, I would have no choice but to wander in the dark.



— *Michael Shane Hale, a.k.a. Second Chance Shane*



AVP has given me a sense of hope after 26 years of imprisonment, and a new found purpose in life. I strive to better myself and others and have found a sense of humanity behind these prison walls that are inhumane.

— *Richard Davis, a.k.a. Rick the Ruler*

Continued page 2.



Our AVP family always continues to grow and yield blessings. Life may have its ups and down, however I like to consider them adventures. This past week, AVP gifted me with a wonderful houseguest, Maji Peterx, an AVP brother from Nigeria! Entertaining an AVPer from a place so different than

hometown Brooklyn reminded me of my love for the streets of Brooklyn, and my deep love for the life changing work AVP can offer each and every one of us regardless of race, creed, color, bars or stripes. My son's eyes lit up as he made a new friend from Africa, and listened to the stories in our little picture sharing exercise.

As for adventures, I will be moving on shortly. After many years as AVP New York President, and then Co-President, I will be making way for our future leaders. I will still be on the AVP NY Board and Leadership Team, but will have more free time to work on some future AVP projects. This past week at Landing Strip we had 16 AVPers in the circle as we shared the news of men at Green Haven raising over \$160 for our program! Landing Strip is over 17 years and still going strong, and waiting for you. As always, I encourage all you AVPers both inside and out to keep stepping up to the plate so you can offer others the great gift you have been given to facilitators not yet discovered... Blessings from Your AVP family.

The Green Haven challenge...

In September, inside facilitators at Green Haven Prison donated \$150.00 to AVP/NY's Landing Strip. Landing Strip is our support group for men and women returning to life outside the walls. It meets at 6pm the first Tuesday and the third Wednesday of every month at the 15th Street Quaker Meeting-house in Manhattan.

We challenge you to be inspired by the commitment shown by Green Haven facilitators!

We deeply appreciate all contributions made, particularly in this challenging economy.

Thank you very much!

AVP Auburn's Team of Facilitators Speak of AVP *(continued from p.1)*



An amazing fact about AVP is that our experiential workshops are run by volunteers. We have a part-time office person who answers the phone, produces the newsletter and sends out materials, but she, too, is a volunteer when facilitating workshops. Last year 19,560 volunteer hours were logged in New York State. Those of us who volunteer ourselves are changed in the process.

— *Jill McLellan, a.k.a. Jumpin' Jill, Outside Coordinator AVP Auburn*

My name is All-some Andrew and I've been involved with AVP for 1.5 years and have witnessed what AVP can do for a man who has lost his wife, kids, and home and is mad at everything. But with AVP he has turned himself into a good man with a good heart. All thanks to AVP.



— *Andrew Ali, a.k.a. All-some Andrew*



AVP has allowed me to be part of a community that crosses boundaries of gender, race, and class. The opportunity to co-facilitate workshops with incarcerated people has enabled me to put into practice my belief that all human beings are deserving of respect and dignity. It has changed my view of the world and made me realize the incredible power of the human capacity to embrace positive change despite enormous challenges.

— *Heather Pincock, a.k.a. Hyper Heather*

My name is Gary Stewart and I've been involved with AVP now for twelve years because I am a witness to what I've seen transformed in others whom have been touched by AVP. My family is touched by AVP through me. I am a much better person in many ways all because I've found the guidance of AVP. An old song says "what the world needs now is love, sweet love" and that is how I feel about AVP. Thank you.

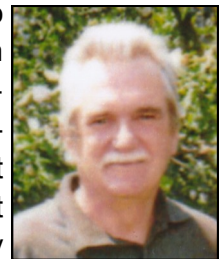
— *Gary Stewart, a.k.a. Postive Poppi*



Before coming to AVP I was known as an introvert, one who holds everything inside not knowing the damage I was doing to myself and others. It took AVP to open me up to my feelings in being able to express and identify with different emotions I wasn't able to deal with before AVP. AVP has taught me a lot about embracing non-violent paths. I can now look at life with a new meaning in a sense of hope I didn't have before AVP. AVP has become a home away from home for me. This is my village and I am their child.

— *Omar Richardson, a.k.a. Optimistic O*

When I was younger, I used to do everything my way all my life. Even after I got married, I still did everything my way, even after my children came along. Then I was sent to prison and over the years I got into AVP and it showed me a way to get all the stuff out in the open and it made me a better person. My children have seen a change in me that was not there before.



— *Glenn Van Norstrand, a.k.a. Glad Glenn*



AVP has helped me to embrace change and allowed me to be more open towards how I deal with people in general. Being able to find time in my life where I can communicate as well as give positive feedback tells me I'm able to touch someone in order to change them. My past experiences have given me the tool where I can now use a negative to [create] a positive. That's what AVP has done for me help to recreate.

— *Marlon Barry, a.k.a. God True GT*

AVP has provided a safe space for me to explore how to solve conflicts by listening, seeking common ground with others, and then building consensus based on that foundation. In addition, AVP has provided me with the tools to help integrate these ideas back into my life.

— *Mike Miller, a.k.a. Mellow Mike*

AVP Auburn's Team *(cont'd from p. 2)*



AVP has become more of a way of life for me and each member has been my family and backbone. Just knowing that I can depend and lean on individuals who can relate to and help me with the everyday temptation, trials and tribulations makes life that much easier. Growing up in an environment where independence equals strength, dependency equals weakness and violence is the answer... I knew no other way to deal with things. I lived in darkness, and AVP and its members shined a light on me. When I felt I was at my lowest... it lifted me up and when things seem to be the worst, AVP helps make things better. The concept of AVP and the dedication, devotion and genuine kindness of its members/volunteers has encouraged me to become a better friend, better son, better brother, better uncle, better father, and a better man.

— *Stephen Jones, a.k.a. Successful Steve. We rejoice in Steve's release in June of this year and hold him and his family in our hearts during this time of transition.*

To me, as an outside volunteer facilitator, the experience of AVP has been eye-opening and heartwarming. It is a privilege to participate in a program where men are working diligently to develop ways of thinking and interacting positively that will help them in every situation, in and outside the prison.



— *Lili MacCormick a.k.a. Lucky Lili*

AVP has provided me with many opportunities for growth. In the year since I began coming to prison workshops as a volunteer, I have improved my ability to express complex feelings succinctly, my listening skills, and my ability to empathize. In the few months since my T for F, I have learned to facilitate with a team, to respond to new and challenging situations, and to change plans as situations dictate. I look forward to learning more and gaining new members of my AVP family, inside and outside of prison walls.

— *Franklin Crump, a.k.a. Fun Loving Franklin*

A Bronx Area Council in Formation...

By Yanina Calderon

My adjective name is Yes Yanina. "Yes" because I am a positive person and I know that I can make a difference in someone's life.

I am a member of the Association Pro-Inmate Rights and they introduced me to AVP. I joined AVP to bring to the community the positive way of life to share with others and show the different ways of overcoming everyday conflicts in our lives.

As a participant in AVP, I really enjoyed learning and collaborating with the group. It was a great and unique experience. I had the opportunity to become a facilitator and I am so glad I did. I facilitated my first Basic training with Now or Never Nurideen and Inspiring Ilka in September. The responses of the group were positive. That's all about being part of AVP.

I am now part of the AVP Bronx Area Council Coordinating Team. [Eds. note: *Other members of the Coordinating Team are: Ilka Bobet, Nurideen Islam and Bill Leicht.*] I am so glad I became part of AVP. Now I'm ready to work with the Bronx Community to bring to them and learn from them in order to make a difference and stop the violence.

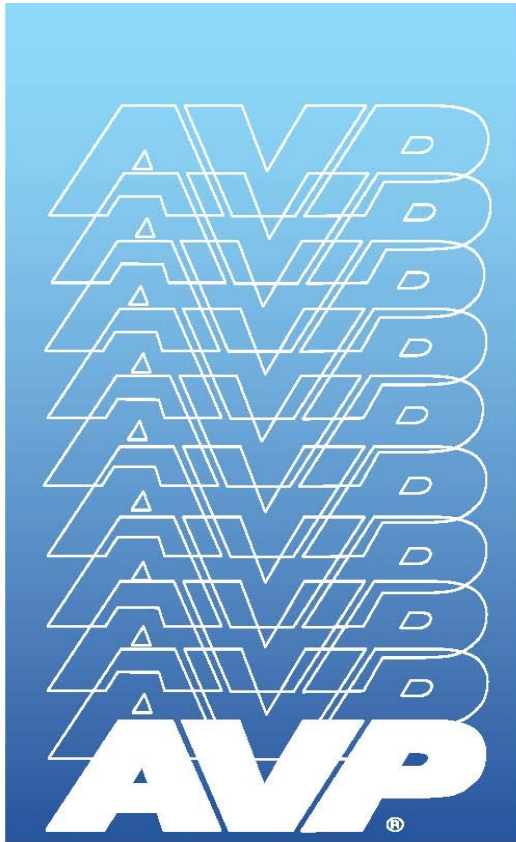
I'm a single mother of three children, now men, and I have four grandchildren. I raised my children by myself and it was not easy but we made it in a positive way. I thank my husband Raul for supporting me in the work I do with the community. We are working together to show the community that if we change our lives so can they.

Yanina Calderon a.k.a. Yes Yanina, with scholarship assistance from AVP/NY, attended the AVP International Gathering in Antigua, Guatemala in October where she led a session on AVP in the Bronx and she provided interpretation.



AVP basic participants and facilitators, Sept. 11, 2011. Center front: Apprentice Facilitator Yes Yanina (Calderon); Far right (blue shirt): Apprentice Facilitator Inspiring Ilka (Bobet) and Row 3 center (white beret): Facilitator Now or Never Nurideen (Islam).

Bill Leicht



ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT

Note: Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Please help grow AVP!

- ◆ Participate in a workshop.
- ◆ Host a community workshop.
- ◆ Become a facilitator.
- ◆ Invite AVP to your faith community.
- ◆ Make a financial contribution.

Thank you very much!

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ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT / NEW YORK

Year to Date 2011 Workshop Summary Report

ALBION Prison (Women's) Workshop count: 4 Participant count: 40	EASTERN Prison Workshop count: 4 Participant count: 40	SULLIVAN Prison Workshop count: 3 Participant count: 35	NEW YORK CITY Area Council Workshop count: 5 Participant count: 52 Mini workshop count: 2 Mini participant count: 19 Apprentices trained: 9
ARTHUR KILL Prison Workshop count: 4 Participant count: 48	GREEN HAVEN Prison English lang. wksp. count: 19 Spanish lang. wksp. count: 2 Participant count: 231 Apprentices trained: 39	WENDE Prison Workshop count: 3 Participant count: 43 Apprentices trained: 13	WESTCHESTER Area Council Workshop count: 6 Adult participant count: 38 Youth participant count: 16 Youth apprentices trained: 8 Mini workshop count: 1 Mini participant count: 16
ATTICA Prison English lang. wksp count: 5 Spanish lang. wksp count: 1 Participant count: 56	GREENE Prison Workshop count: 3 Participant count: 21 Apprentices trained: 4	WOODBOURNE Prison English lang. wksp count: 5 Spanish lang. wksp count: 1 Participant count: 98 Apprentices trained: 10	YTD PRISON WORKSHOPS: Prisons served: 17 Prison workshops: 129 Participant count: 1,429 Apprentices trained: 129 Inside facilitators: 148
AUBURN Prison Workshop count: 9 Participant count: 106 Apprentices trained: 5	GROVELAND Prison Workshop count: 7 Participant count: 83 Apprentices trained: 13	ALBANY Area Council Workshop count: 1 Participant count: 7	CATSKILL Area Council Workshop count: 3 Youth participant count: 50 Youth apprentices trained: 15 Mini Youth workshops: 15 Mini Youth participants: 375
BEDFORD HILLS Prison (W's) English lang. wksp. count: 9 Spanish lang. wksp. count: 1 Participant count: 106 Apprentices trained: 19	MID-ORANGE Prison Workshop count: 1 Participant count: 6	GENESEE VALLEY AC Workshop count: 2 Participant count: 31 Mini workshop count: 1 Mini participant count: 9	YTD COMMUNITY WRKSPS: Community workshops: 18 Participant count: 209 Mini workshops: 19 Mini participant count: 419 Apprentices trained: 24 Youth facilitators: 25 Outside adult facilitators: 93
BUTLER Prison Workshop count: 6 Participant count: 39 Apprentices trained: 4	OTISVILLE Prison Workshop count: 3 Participant count: 31 Apprentices trained: 13	MID-HUDSON Area Council Workshop count: 1 Adult participant count: 5 Youth participant count: 33	
CAYUGA Prison Workshop count: 8 Participant count: 80 Apprentices trained: 9	SING SING Prison English lang. wksp count: 28 Spanish lang. wksp. count: 3 Participant count: 366 Apprentices trained: 20		