



**ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT, INC.**

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## **AVP New York's work in 2023**

In 2023, AVP New York held 95 full (16 - 22 hour) two or three-day workshops with 1,543 participants completing. This is up from 75 full workshops in 2022 and just 11 in 2021. Seventy-five outside facilitators put in 6,227 hours; 133 incarcerated facilitators put in 9,492 hours.

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. 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 2023, we were active in twelve NYS prisons and one federal prison (as in 2022) and we added a program in one county jail. By comparison, in 2019 we were active in nineteen prisons.

While the number of state and federal prisons remained the same as in 2022, the number of workshops increased significantly. We held 81 full workshops inside prisons with 994 participants completing. Four of those workshops were held in Spanish. Some prison administrations have shortened our workshop hours due to staff shortages. We held an additional 21 short (12 hour) workshops inside prison with 304 participants completing. We trained 122 new apprentice facilitators inside the walls.

One all-facilitator workshop was held inside Green Haven Prison with 33 incarcerated facilitators and ten outside facilitators. A one-day facilitator seminar was held at Auburn Prison with 11 incarcerated facilitators and five from the outside.

Several special topic workshops focused on anger management, domestic violence awareness, accountability, trauma resilience and education.

The life:

Incarcerated facilitators submit writings for our newsletter and the e-list. The newsletters are available on our website: [www.avpny.org](http://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. We added a second Volunteer Correspondent, Aran Wonders, in 2023 to try to ease some of the load from Jo. These exchanges of news have been a literal lifeline for some and incredibly important for most both inside and out.

## **Our Work in Communities.**

The stats:

We held fifteen full workshops with 131 adults and fifteen teens participating. We trained sixteen adult apprentice facilitators. One mini workshop saw eight adult participants. Two facilitators' days provided opportunity for twenty-one facilitators to hone skills and share new exercises.

The life:

We are very excited to see our community programs growing. This work is so important.

The Catskill Area Council held one Basic Workshop with ten participants in New Paltz.

The Central New York Area Council also held one Basic Workshop with eight participants in Syracuse.

AVP Rochester trained eleven between one Basic and two Advanced Workshops; eight became apprentice facilitators upon completing the Training for Facilitators Workshop!

The Niagara Area Council held three Basics and one Special Topic Advanced on Consensus in Buffalo with 66 participants completing. Fifteen were youth—see below for details.

The Westchester Area Council held three Basics and one Advanced Workshop with 32 completing and eight new apprentice facilitators were trained! One of the Basics was with six Family Services of Westchester's Port Chester Mobile Crisis Response Unit. One mini workshop saw eight participants from the White Plains YMCA Women's Residence. The area council also held two facilitators' days.

## **Our Work with Youth**

We held one 16 session (2 hours / session) Basic Workshop with 12 teens completing. The teens are part of PUSH Buffalo—People United Sustainable Housing.

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

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.

Several AVP-NY facilitators support AVP for justice and peace work in the communities, both in NY and in Pittsburgh PA, Columbus OH, 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 and were able to make contributions of \$1,000 each to Youth Alternatives to Incarceration (YATI), AVP International 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](http://www.avpny.org) and contact Shirley Way ([info@avpny.org](mailto:info@avpny.org) or 315-604-7940).