



2020 Annual Report

"I want you to know that those of us who have received visits from PVS really appreciate all the support and encouragement you have given us. When you live too far away to have regular visits from family and friends, knowing someone on the outside cares enough to visit the forgotten ones in prison means a great deal."

Eric
FCI Fort Dix

Abstract geometric shapes in shades of blue and teal are located at the bottom of the page, including a large hexagon and various lines and smaller shapes.

Prisoner Visitation & Support

2020 Annual Report

Message from the Executive Director

First, I want to express my sincere thanks to the staff, Board of Directors, visitors, and supporters of PVS who have made me feel so welcome over the past six months! It has been a wonderful experience getting to know you (mostly over Zoom) and learning more about this incredible organization and its mission.

Granted, joining PVS during a pandemic without the ability to carry out that mission of visiting has been strange, but the dedication our visitors have shown by writing letters and staying engaged has been inspiring. While we know it is not the same, we also know that those incarcerated deeply appreciate the commitment (as you will read throughout this report).

Here in Philadelphia, we are dreaming of the day when the pandemic is contained and all federal and military prisons are open for visiting. In the meantime, we will continue to support our volunteers in their writing, provide training so they are prepared when the time comes, and recruit new visitors so we get closer to our goal of ensuring that every person who wants a visit gets one.

Thank you for all you do to support PVS and the people we serve.

Molly Clifford

Our Mission

Prisoner Visitation and Support (PVS) is a volunteer visitation program to federal and military prisoners throughout the United States. Our mission is to provide prisoners with regular, face-to-face contact from the world outside of prison to help them cope with prison life and prepare for a successful re-entry into society.

Our priority is to visit those prisoners who:
do not ordinarily receive visits from family and friends,
want or need visits,
are in solitary confinement,
are on death row or are serving long sentences.

Board of Directors

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Michael Guerra *
Attorney

Marc Levin
Nonprofit development consultant

Liz Leshner *
PVS Visitor, FCI El Reno

Rachel Osborn
Professional fundraiser

David Poundstone
PVS Visitor, FCC Florence

Virginia Rinella
PVS Visitor, USP Marion

Susannah Hills Rose
Communications Consultant

Tom Slick
PVS Visitor, FCI Sheridan

Dan Struble
PVS Visitor, FCI Otisville

* Appointed 2021

Our Vision

Our vision is to recruit and train qualified visitors to satisfy all requests for visits by prisoners in every federal and military prison.

Message from the Board Chair

2020 was an eventful year for PVS - not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic! In that year, we gratefully thanked Eileen Gilkenson for serving as interim Director, welcomed Molly Clifford as new Executive Director, and appreciatively recognized Emily Cashell-DeSilva and the entire staff as they pivoted to working remotely, never missing a beat in service to PVS and our mission. Along with our devoted volunteers, we cherish these dedicated professionals!

The Board of Directors was incredibly active in 2020, conducting 14 Board conference calls and/or Zoom Board meetings. Ably assisted by the PVS staff team, we:

- Started the year with our annual visit with the BOP and DOD in Washington, DC in January 2020
- Refreshed our look with a new logo
- Adopted a revised mission, vision, and guiding principles statement - check our website for these!
- Embarked on a strategic planning process and revision of our bylaws
- Authorized completion of the revised visitors training manual
- Reviewed Board membership qualifications and developed a matrix for identifying and recruiting new Board members, in our ongoing plan to grow and develop the Board as we welcomed skilled and committed new Board members
- Approved moving to a new and more cost-effective office at Friends Center in Philadelphia in December 2020
- Continued our dedication as individual Board members to the mission and fiscal health of PVS, with a year-end \$10,000 challenge to our generous friends and donors to meet our 2020 annual fund goal - which was surpassed.

We look forward to the continued dynamic evolution of PVS in 2021 and welcome, as always, your engagement.

In warm appreciation,
Rachel Osborn

Staff

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Molly Clifford
Executive Director
mclifford@prisonervisitation.org

Eileen Gilkenson
Visitor Recruiter
egilkenson@prisonervisitation.org

Emily Cashell-DeSilva
Assistant to the Director
ecashell@prisonervisitation.org

PVS Welcomes New Board Member Tom Slick

PVS visitor (FCI Sheridan) and retired financial executive Tom Slick, pictured below, joined the PVS Board of Directors in November 2020. Having served as a member of the PVS Training Committee, he describes his experience visiting as "transformative." He is looking forward to helping PVS attain sound financial footing while supporting visitors through continued training and engagement. An Oregonian, Tom also enjoys hiking, kayaking, and cycling.



PVS Hires New Executive Director

After a thorough search process, the PVS Board of Directors hired Molly Clifford as Executive Director in August 2020. A native of Rochester, New York, Molly moved to Philadelphia about a month before the pandemic to be closer to her adult daughters and experience big-city living.

Molly's extensive experience with a variety of non-profit organizations, from the Golisano Children's Hospital to Mary's Place Refugee Outreach, as well as her service in several leadership posts in government and health care, made her an ideal candidate to lead PVS into its next chapter.

"I look forward to supporting PVS visitors so that they can do the best job possible for the people we serve," Clifford said. "Appreciating that PVS was founded in 1968, I also want to make sure the organization is financially healthy and structurally sound so that we can grow and thrive for the *next* 52 years!"

Visitor Training Manual Update

While we were prevented from visiting during the pandemic, PVS staff and volunteers were hard at work on several different projects. As a result, we are pleased to be able to offer our volunteer visitors a revised and updated training manual when they resume visiting in 2021!

One of the hallmarks of PVS visiting is our cadre of well-trained volunteers, a process not always easy to do given our national footprint and a small staff. We are blessed with an extremely strong team of volunteer local visitor coordinators, who work with our staff and training team to make sure our visitors have what they need to support the people we serve.

Our new manual, which will be available to visitors online, will be introduced throughout 2021 in regular Zoom sessions, interactive modules, and one-on-one support once it is safe to do so. Thank you to everyone who made this project a success!

Zoomin' PVS

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Like the rest of the world, PVS has been using Zoom to keep in touch with our volunteers during the pandemic.

"The next best thing to being there" – Zoom has been a great way for us to communicate no matter where we're located, and we plan to keep using it even when the prisons re-open and we go back to "normal" life.

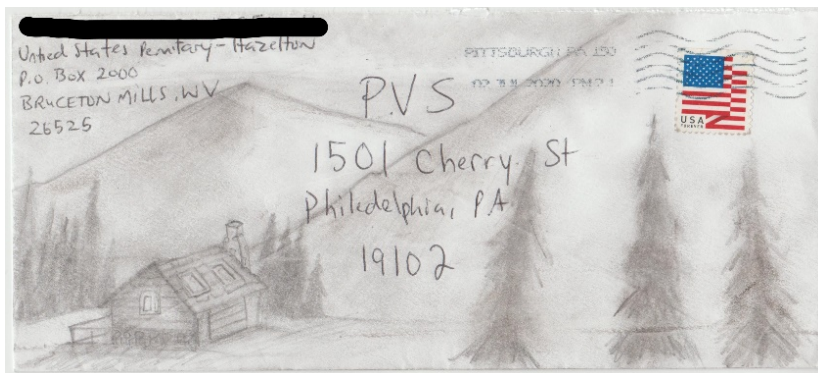


Letter Writing During COVID-19

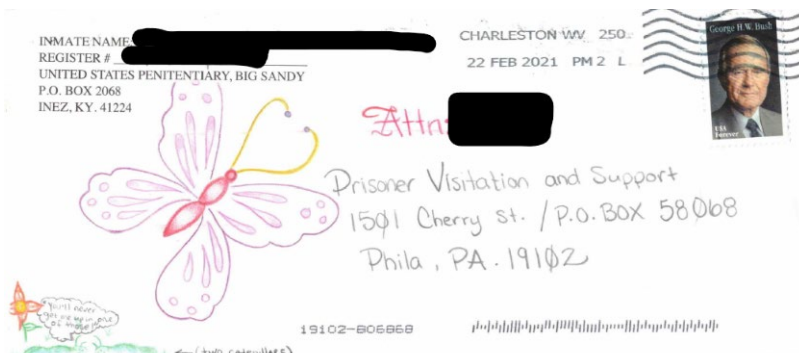
In the spring of 2020, shortly after federal prisons closed down, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons decided to allow PVS volunteers to write letters to the people they had previously visited. While not optimal, letter writing has served as a reasonable alternative to face-to-face visits.

The PVS team quickly pivoted to support volunteers and prisoners in letter writing. Visitors use the PVS return address and letters from prison are scanned and emailed to the appropriate volunteers. To date, more than 1,000 letters have been received from people who are incarcerated in response to our volunteers; the number written to them is more than double that!

Once prisons re-open again, we expect our volunteers who are visiting to not be able to continue to write letters. While letter writing has allowed us to support incarcerated people in the only way we could, we are looking forward to getting back to our central mission: **“to provide regular, face-to-face contact from the world outside of prison to help them cope with prison life and prepare for a successful re-entry into society.”**



Decorated envelopes we have received from prisoners across the country.



A Note from Inside

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“I feel more educated and focused than ever before. My old mentality of “no one cares” or “why should I” has been long outgrown and I see with new eyes.

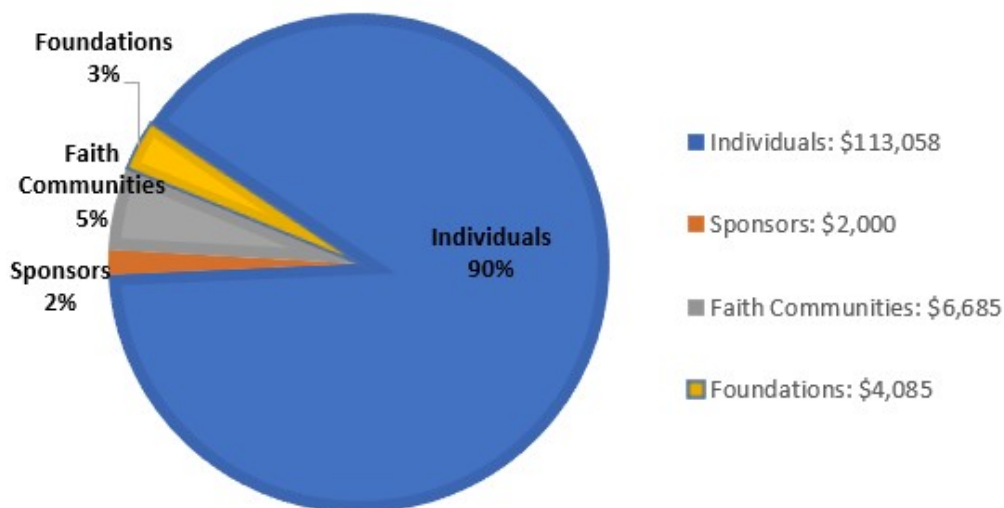
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your words of encouragement and insight. You have showed me that despite race, age, or anything, that there are good honest people who care about those that...they really don't need to.

You inspire me to help people and see past the exterior of matters and seek the good. I will never forget these ‘jewels’ you have bestowed on me.”

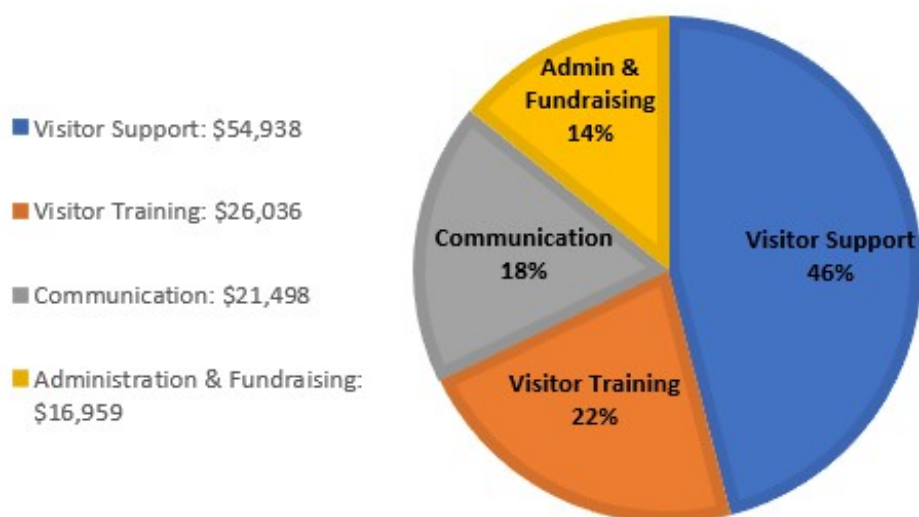
Michael
USP Big Sandy

2020 Financial Report

INCOME



EXPENSE



Visitor Recruitment

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In 2020, we received **98 applications** from prospective visitors, which is about half the number received in the prior year.

Despite the onset of the pandemic, we have continued to receive an average of **5 applications each month**.

We have not appointed any new visitors since March when visiting at all federal prisons was suspended.

We currently have **350 active visitors**.

In Memory of Phil Carrigan

"Hi, I'm Phil, Phil Carrigan." If you've met Phil you'll remember his initial greeting, along with a big outstretched hand. A tall Irish-American guy with a big smile, he gravitated to people and loved to engage with others, one and all. Rare was the place we went that Phil didn't run into someone he knew. Almost everyone to Phil was "a good person" no matter one's history. All of this led to Phil being a really good PVS visitor. He joined in 1996, having been interviewed by Barbara Heater. Each month he visited at MCC-Chicago rarely missing a month until he stopped due to illness in June 2018.

Phil rarely missed a PVS conference. It was a great time for him to chat with others, sharing stories and insights. He never wanted the tour of the local prison but always wanted the other option of meeting with the prisoners. Phil was often a humorous player in the role plays, always in the prisoner role. Phil really connected with Jim Marren, former prisoner, PVS board member and current visitor.

Phil believed in PVS, its mission and the impact it had on the prisoners we saw. Phil and I gave significant annual donations to PVS and in his will, Phil made a bequest to PVS of \$10,000 in unrestricted funds. It was important to him that PVS continue. I continue to donate annually and also have made a bequest in my will for PVS.

Mary Clare Jakes

Phil's spouse and PVS visitor 2003-2019

*Considering adding PVS to your will?
We would be honored.
Please feel free to give us a call at
215.241.7117 if you would like to talk
about it.*



Phil and Mary Clare