

Bringing Light

PENNSYLVANIA PRISON
SOCIETY

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Bringing light to the inside and bringing the darkness on the inside to light

Our mission is to advocate for
humane prisons and a rational
approach to criminal justice.



From the Executive Director

BRINGING LIGHT TO THE DARKNESS

Almost two years ago, I was asked to take the helm of the nation's oldest human rights organization, the Pennsylvania Prison Society. My charge from the board was to help usher this vitally important and historically significant organization into a new phase as a contemporary powerhouse for justice and compassion.

Today, we are squarely on our way. Over this past year we have realigned our programming, resources, and staffing. We have undertaken significant new partnerships and stepped into new opportunities, modernized our governance structure, freshened-up our branding, and attracted many new funders and supporters. We are on the move.

This year has also been a time for introspection. We have been asking how can we be most impactful? What does true transparency in corrections and citizen-advocacy look like in the 21st Century?

To help with this inquiry, in April, with support from the Langeloth Foundation, we hosted a summit of experts in correctional oversight to help us think through the next chapter in the Society's history.

We don't have all of the answers yet, but we do know that as we ongoingly refine our work and expand our impact we need to focus on:

- providing real, timely information on what is happening in all prisons across the Commonwealth;
- being responsive to complaints we receive;
- harnessing the energy and compassion of our unparalleled volunteer network; and
- amplifying our advocacy potential through partnerships with other organizations.

To help lead us on this journey, in this upcoming year we will be hiring a new Prison Monitoring Director. This new Director will be charged with blazing our trail in correctional monitoring and advocacy for the decades to come.

At the Pennsylvania Prison Society, our volunteers and staff monitor prison conditions and assist more than 79,000 incarcerated people and their families. As we say, *"We bring light to the inside and the darkness on the inside to light."*



CLAIRE SHUBIK-RICHARDS

Executive Director

Bringing the Light

2018
STATS

What You Need to Know About Mass Incarceration in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania's prison
population has increased
850% in the last **40 years**.



It costs
\$42,000

per year to incarcerate
someone in a Pennsylvania
prison and \$16,000 to pay
for a year of college at a
Pennsylvania state school.

Half of the state's
prisoners are Black, even
though only **11%** of the
state's population is Black.



Nearly 25% of Pennsylvania's prisoners are awaiting trial—they haven't been convicted of anything, they are jailed while waiting to be seen by a judge.

Most are not considered a risk to society, they are simply too poor to come up with bail money.

PRISON SOCIETY AT A GLANCE

DID YOU KNOW? *The Prison Society was founded by Benjamin Rush, established in 1787.*

2

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

4

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

800+

SUPPORTERS

79,000

INDIVIDUALS INCARCERATED IN PENNSYLVANIA AND THEIR FAMILIES

OUTREACH



1,500+ requests
for help fielded
by staff and
volunteers



10,000+ Issues
of Graterfriends
distributed



2,800 round
trip bus rides
provided
to jails and
prisons



252 Mentees
served



115 Annual
Meeting
attendance

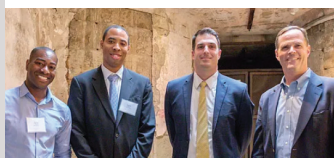


RESTRICTED AND
UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

\$595,262

WELCOME TO THE
BOARD

Simeon Poles
David Davis
Seth Williams
David Thornburgh



HISTORIC MOMENT

Governing
documents
updated for the
first time since
the 1830s

12 Foundations & Grants

Langeloth Foundation	Thomas Scattergood Foundation
The Barra Foundation	
The Philadelphia Foundation	Centre Gives (ie Centre County Foundation)
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation	William K. Stewart Sr. Foundation
Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Foundation	Djerassi Foundation
Uber	Roberts Charitable Foundation
MKM Foundation	

20 Media Mentions

(in 15 media outlets)

The Philadelphia Inquirer

AP Associated Press

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®

The Express	The Merciad
ABC 27	The Intelligencer
Huntingdon Daily News	The Philadelphia Tribune
Trib Live	Altoona Mirror
Star Gazette	Newsworks
Penn Live	The Morning Call



SPOTLIGHT *on* PARTNERSHIPS

Uber | Provides transportation on behalf of the Society for elderly citizens and families with children to Philadelphia jails

Shawn Carter Foundation | Invited the Society to participate in the Made in America Cause Village and donated concert tickets

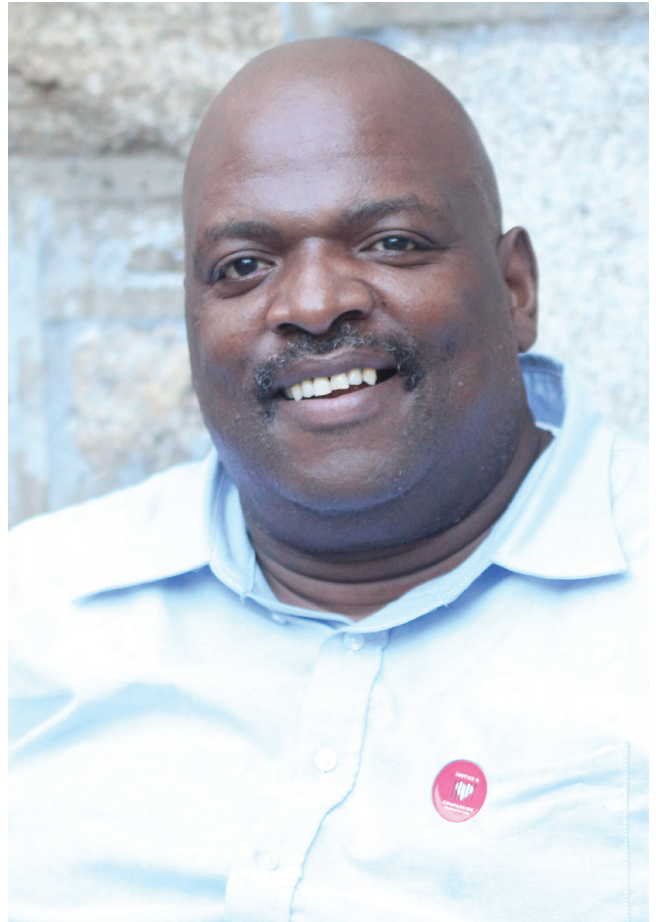
Broad Street Ministry | Partners with the Society on re-entry services including clothing closet, housing resources, access to healthcare, i.d services, mailboxes and much more

Temple University Klein College of Media and Communications | The Entrepreneurial Journalism class workshopped ways to improve Graterfriends, a Society publication that gives voice to those on the inside

01. FAMILY TRANSPORTATION

Keeping Families Connected

Meet Zachary



For the past year, I've been riding Society buses every other month to see my daughter. These bus rides are such an important service for people who don't have the resources to get to prisons that are far out. When you don't have a lot of money, it's easier to go on the Society bus than pay for tolls and gas and a hotel room.

Knowing that I can get to my daughter safely and affordably, takes a lot off my mind. I can't say how important and how much comfort providing transportation brings.

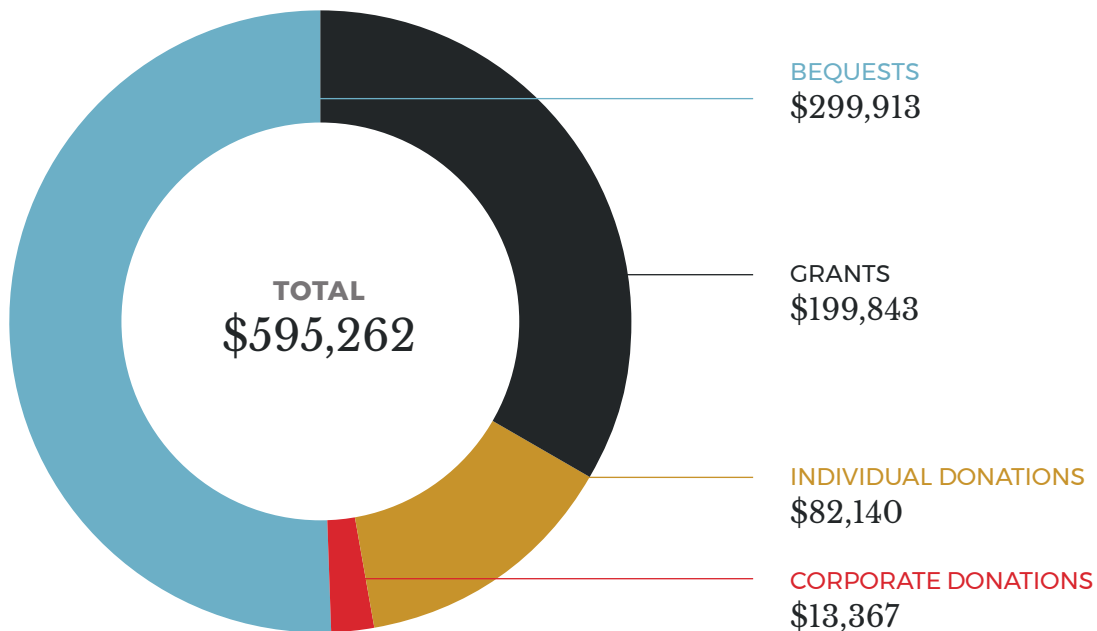
These visits give me a chance to support my daughter and she knows her daddy is coming to visit no matter what. I'll do anything to keep that promise. When we get to see each other face-to-face, I can look in her eyes to see she's alright—that she's walking and breathing—it's important. But I kind of keep my emotions to myself (even though my heart is crying on the inside, but I don't let her see it.)

It's overwhelming for my daughter to be locked up. She's fighting to get back home, and visits from her family give her hope that everything is going to be okay. It's hard leaving though because I know it's going to be a month before I see her again.

My son went with me on a recent visit. He hadn't seen his sister since she was locked up five years ago. There were lots of tears. Seeing her again made my son understand the urgency with which she needs our support. Now he's going to make it part of his schedule to visit.

Besides being able to see my daughter in person, visits help me understand the process of the system so I can help my daughter make it through and do what she needs to do to get home. ❤️

Financial Report



The change in financial position for the Society over the past twelve months is immense. Increasing funds from bequests, donations and grants coupled with improved financial oversight has vastly improved our standing. The focus of budgetary meetings has gone from where to cut to which growth initiatives to fund. We are talking about the possibility of an endowment rather than deficits. We are better off now than we have been in many years! And we are not finished. Thanks to our supporters and our donors for continuing their support and consideration of the Society. We need your gifts now, more than ever, to keep the momentum going.

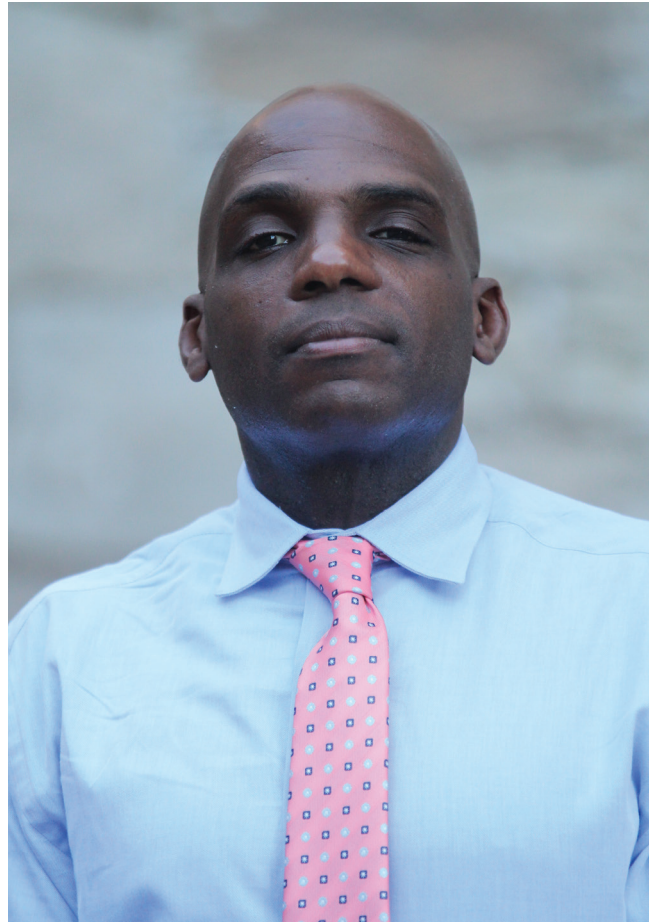
“As much as any time in our 231 year history, our mission of working toward just and humane conditions for those detained against their will faces real and unique challenges. The Society, with an energized staff and Board, dedicated volunteers and a new and more modern infrastructure are positioned to meet those challenges and to extend our work across the Commonwealth with the help of our members and donors.”

—THOMAS INNES, Board Chair

02. MENTORING

Giving Voice to those on the Inside

Meet Matthew



I'm originally from New York, so when I was released from prison I didn't have much support. I moved into a halfway house and began trying to take my next steps on my own but realized quickly that I needed help. At the time I was only able to travel within three counties in Pennsylvania, and none of them included Philadelphia.

While I was still incarcerated, I signed up for a reintegration program to find resources that were available to returning citizens. That's when I learned about the Prison Society's mentoring program. I decided to reach out in my time of need, and got connected with my mentor. Now, I have two jobs and am registered for school. I don't know where I would be or what my situation would be like without the Prison Society. I don't know for certain that I would still be unemployed, but I just don't see it happening without them.

Having an ongoing relationship with my mentor has been just as meaningful as his help with getting a job and registering for school. We stay in touch and I know that I can call or text him at any time. My mentor went above and beyond to help me and to create a game plan tailored to my needs.

Having a network for returning citizens like myself has made a monumental impact. I have now realized that there are many resources available for people who have been in my shoes, but most do not know about them.

The Prison Society's mentoring program helps to relay the message that although people who have been incarcerated may have some bruises and hit some bumps, they are still employable and valuable. I am so happy that I found the real deal with the Prison Society. ❤️

Donors & Members

The Prison Society accepts every gift with gratitude and values all contributions for their ability to advance the mission.

We are so grateful for every gift that has come through the Society's doors! With each contribution, you too have been a light for those who are incarcerated across the commonwealth through your commitment to the mission of the Society.

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DONOR SPOTLIGHT *Michael Buckley*

The Pennsylvania Prison Society is unique because of our special donors and supporters who walk this journey with us day in, day out. Our spotlight donor is an incredible member of this group and a dear friend to the Society. Michael Buckley has been a generous philanthropist and passionate partner from whom we have greatly benefited. From his support in communications and community engagement to merging our mission with arts and theatre, Michael continues to advocate for humane prisons and a rational approach to criminal justice. Thank you Michael for bringing your light to us. We are deeply grateful for community members such as Michael and would not be where we are without them.



03. OFFICIAL VISITS

Ensuring Human Prison Conditions

Meet Andrea



I've been meeting regularly with Matthew, an inmate at Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility since May 2018. He has been held in administrative segregation for over a year, prohibiting him from having any in-person visits. The exception, of course, is our Society Official Visitors, like myself.

What originally was a general visit concerning a medical concern has turned into a deeper, meaningful relationship. We meet once a week, sometimes for over an hour, to talk about whatever Matthew would like—sometimes it's current events, other times it's about how Matthew is feeling. We have recently begun reading a book on non-violent communication and he is beginning to understand that *he actually can have some power over his situation no matter how dire and miserable the circumstances.*

These visits, Matthew recently shared, have become the highlight of his week. Unable to have in-person visits with family, I am his window into the outside world, an opportunity to speak with someone whose sole responsibility is to help and be a listening ear. I regularly check-in with Matthew's family to share updates on him and vice-versa. Recently, the family shared with me a photo of Matthew's son, who participated in our recent back-to-school drive, shopping at Walmart. Matthew was ecstatic to see the photo, as he hadn't seen his son since being put in segregation.

This work, as Matthew mentioned in a recent letter, is useful for him. But I'd also like to think that this work is useful for Philadelphia as a whole. ♥

Staff & Leadership



The Prison Society Staff.

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**“What people
don’t realize
about those
on the inside
is that there is
someone on
the outside
there with
them.”**

—JOANNE, *Bus Rider*

**“Official Visits
make me feel
human and
help me stay
connected to
the outside
world.”**

—BRIAN, *Returning
Citizen*

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