

What is Adopt-A-Prison ©?

- A community engagement guide
- Encourages a joint journey towards a more equitable justice system
- Founded on redemptive concepts
- Works for the safe return of inmates AND the safety of the community in which they live
- A second chance is a human right
- Addresses complex social issues:
 - disproportionate incarceration of people of color
 - imprisonment of the mentally ill
 - long-term sentencing practice
 - high recidivism rates if only punishment and no rehabilitation



Some of the over 100 attendees at the first-ever Adopt-A-Prison© event sponsored by the Town of Bedford, the Interfaith Prison Partnership, and the two women's state prisons located within the Town of Bedford: Taconic and Bedford Hills Correctional Facilities

Why Adopt-A- Prison?

- A Restorative Justice approach has more promise than the punitive Justice model
- To address the root causes of crime: poverty, substandard education, inadequate health care, and broken families.
- Restorative Justice recognizes the need for outreach to the victims of crime.
- More services provided to those in prison leads to:
 - safer working conditions for prison employees
 - more successful reentry
 - decrease in generational prison
 - stronger family units
 - safer communities
 - significant savings in tax dollars
- Opens a safe door for the public to the world of prisons.



The Superintendents of Taconic Correctional Facility (l) and Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (r)

How to Adopt-A-Prison

- Engage with local civic and faith organizations
- establish a local Advisory Committee mandated by local Town Boards, Prison Administration, Human Rights and Faith Organizations, for the purpose of addressing mutual needs and sharing of resources.



The Supervisor of the Town of Bedford speaking at the inaugural Adopt-A-Prison © event.

- Initiate dialogue with town governments and local prison management
- Raise Community awareness about prison issues
- Organize and facilitate an "Adopt-A-Prison" event, inviting elected officials, superintendents of jails and prison, and all organizations in your community involved in volunteer and professional prison work.

The underlying sentiments of the Adopt-A-Prison concept are solidly imbedded in our philosophical and religious heritage.

At a time when mass incarceration numbers are still high, we are morally obligated to reach out to those in prison...to foster relationships with inmates and to seek to provide healing and hope for them, their victims and the community. This is a community-based justice system focused on restorative justice, as evidenced by the high success rate of rehabilitative programs (academic, artistic, experiential and spiritual) in reducing recidivism and cost to taxpayers.



Gloria Gilbert-Stoga with one of her “puppies” of the “Puppies Behind Bars” program, speaking at the Adopt-A-Prison event. The program trains prison inmates to raise service dogs for wounded war veterans and first responders, as well as explosive-detection canines for law enforcement. The inmates learn what it means to contribute to society rather than take from it.

Speakers:

George Latimer, **Westchester County Executive**
 Shelly Mayer, **NYS Senator**
 David Buchwald, **NYS Assemblyman**
 Chris Burdick, **Supervisor, Town of Bedford**
 Amy LaManna, **Superintendent, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**
 Tanya Mitchell-Voyd, **Superintendent Taconic Correctional Facility**
 Two Formerly Incarcerated Women
 Fred Feucht, **Alternatives to Violence Project**
 Angela James, **Angela James Photography**
 Emily Tai, Chair, **Committee on Higher Education in Prisons, City University of New York**
 Dawn Ravella, **Coming Home Program**
 Jacqueline McLeod, **Healing Communities and Riverside Church Prison Ministry**
 Jane Silfen, **Hour Children**
 Sean Pica, **Hudson Link**
 Aileen Baumgartner, **Director, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility College Program**
 Alonzo Jordan, **NAACP**
 Peter Cook, **Exec Dir, NYS Council of Churches**
 Nicole Schwalbe, **Northern Westchester Interfaith Council**
 Anne Faustin-Davis, **Odyssey Impact**
 Gloria Gilbert-Stoga, **Puppies Behind Bars**
 Jen Lackard, **Race for Reentry**
 Jose Saldana, **Release Aging People in Prison**
 Katherine Vockins, **Rehabilitation Through the Arts**
 Luz Maria Utrera, **The Luz Maria Foundation**
 Liz Gaynes, **The Osbourne Association**
 Cheryl Wilkins, **The Center for Justice, Columbia University**



NYS Senator, Shelly Mayer, Donna Robinson, RAPP volunteer, and George Latimer, Westchester County Executive



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...If One could possess, grasp and know the other, it would not be the other” – Emmanuel Levinas

Adopt A Prison.

A Joint Program of the Interfaith Prison Partnership, the Town of Bedford, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility and Taconic Correctional Facility