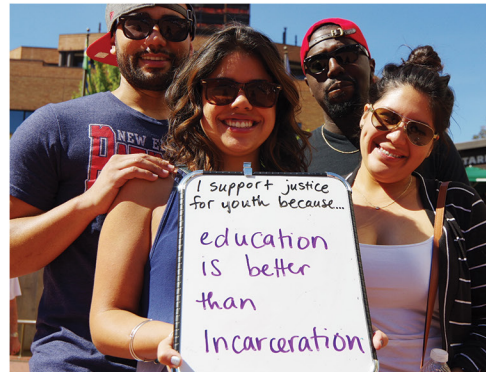




PARTNERSHIP FOR
SAFETY & JUSTICE

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

2017-2018 IMPACT REPORT



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director
ANDY KO

Summer 2019

When I first came to know Partnership for Safety and Justice almost two decades ago, the organization was doing something truly remarkable – subversive, even. It was proposing a wholesale rethinking of society's response to crime. Criminal justice and public safety policies, they argued, should be based on the needs of the people most directly impacted, including crime victims, people accused of crime, and their families and communities, not determined by economic interests or political ambition.

Our early visionaries showed us that it was possible to cut through false narratives to establish true measures of justice and public safety. They were among the first to give voice to the truth that mass incarceration has devastated families, weakened communities, and perpetuated racism and economic injustices that continue to degrade our nation.

PSJ also was the first justice reform organization to embrace another fundamental truth: that many crime survivors want positive accountability for the harm they've suffered and support for their own paths to healing, not excessively punitive jail and prison sentences.

Our focus on the people most affected by both crime and the justice system endures as the foundation of PSJ's work. For 20 years, our holistic vision has inspired generations of our advocates and allies and informed justice reform efforts across the country.

Since 1999, this approach has been a key element of PSJ's impact and consistent record of reform victories.

Together, we quadrupled funding for services that help survivors of domestic and sexual violence. We passed major reforms that Oregon's official prison forecast predicts will significantly reduce our state's incarceration rate. Just this year, we worked in coalition to effectively eliminate the harmful practice of automatically prosecuting children as young as 15 in the adult system under Oregon's Measure 11.

We've done all this while maintaining public safety and saving Oregon over *half a billion dollars*.

This is truly an exciting time to be Executive Director at PSJ. We have come far in our 20 years as Oregon's leading voice for criminal justice reform. But, we have far more work to do.

As we look to the future, we will continue to advocate for safety and healing for people harmed by crime and violence, particularly survivors of color and survivors who have themselves been involved with the justice system. We will continue to challenge Oregon's overreliance on prisons and its disproportionate impact on communities of color. We will continue to push for solutions that get at the root causes of crime, insisting that addiction and mental illness be rightly addressed as health issues, not as elements of criminality.

It is the people most harmed and least helped by our current justice and public safety systems who will guide and propel our work forward. By elevating their stories, we can build a safer, healthier, and more just Oregon that inspires and leads the nation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Ko". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Transforming society's response to crime through innovative solutions that ensure accountability, equity, and healing.

STAFF

Andy Ko, Executive Director
Shannon Wight, Deputy Director
Cleo Tung, Development Director
Anita Rodgers, Finance and Operations Director
Talia Gad, Communications Director
Amy Davidson, Crime Survivor Program Director
Aron Klein, Program Associate

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Partnership for Safety and Justice staff, board, and volunteers. Back row (L to R): Gina Anzaldúa, Amy Davidson, Jamie Brown, Shannon Wight, Felisa Hagins, Robyn Steely, Vanessa Usui, Anita Rodgers, Talia Gad, Andy Ko, Emma Kallaway. Front row (L to R): Babak Zolfaghari-Azar, Iris Maria Chávez, Dana Hepper, Gary Cobb, Lamar Wise.

OUR FOUNDING IN 1999

As a lifelong activist, organizer, and fundraiser, Brigette Sarabi always had a deep passion for racial, economic, and environmental justice.

But when her daughter was arrested in 1998, criminal justice became the center of her life.

As a loving parent, Brigette immediately sprang into action to care for her daughter and to navigate the complexities of the justice system.

Her efforts were thwarted at every turn by an oppressive system that was designed to punish and isolate. There were no meaningful pathways to achieve accountability and healing for the harm that had been caused.

At the same time, the country was seeing a dramatic and alarming growth in incarceration. In Oregon and across the U.S., the increasing reliance on prisons was disrupting communities, tearing families apart, and draining resources from the very programs and services that prevent crime and help people recover from harm.

Brigette started examining the criminal justice system from every angle, looking for ways to advocate for her family, challenge mass incarceration, and advance more effective solutions to community safety.

“We began modestly,” shared Brigette, “by holding house meetings with community members and conducting a regional survey to find out who was



Founding Executive Director Brigette Sarabi

working on the issue of criminal justice reform at the grassroots level. We talked about the incarceration boom in the U.S. and its human rights implications, heard from people and organizations directly affected, and asked the question: Is there a need for an organization to coordinate and expand grassroots reform efforts in our region?”

The answer was a resounding yes.

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

1999-2004

RESTORING VOTING RIGHTS

A volunteer helping a formerly incarcerated person register to vote on their first day of release. The effort was coordinated through our VOICE Project, which educated more than 25,000 people with past felony convictions about their voting rights.



INCREASING CAPACITY IN THE FIELD

Allies at our regional training conference, which was dedicated to building the organizational and advocacy capacity of reform groups in the West.



FIGHTING PRISON CONSTRUCTION IN RURAL OREGON

Students, rural activists, faith leaders, farmers, and community members campaigning against the building of new prisons in Lakeview and Madras.



ELEVATING THE VOICES OF CRIME SURVIVORS



Arwen Bird (right), Founder of SAFES, and Kathleen Pequeño (center), former Program Director of PSJ, then known as Western Prison Project, speaking with a reporter about the joining of the two organizations.

As an organizer and advocate, Arwen Bird was always fiercely committed to human rights, environmental health, and social justice.

It wasn't until 1993 that she became deeply engaged in crime survivor advocacy after surviving a car accident involving a drunk driver.

During this time, Arwen experienced a criminal justice system that was more focused on punishment than on helping survivors like herself heal and rebuild their lives. She was increasingly troubled by the way some politicians and crime victims' groups claimed to speak for all survivors in their push for harsher prison sentences.

Recognizing the critical need for an alternative voice, Arwen founded Survivors Advocating for an Effective System (SAFES) in 1999.

SAFES amplified the voices of survivors of crime and violence who wanted a system focused on prevention, not increased incarceration. They empowered survivors to advocate for better solutions focused on accountability, rehabilitation, and healing.

In 2004, SAFES joined forces with PSJ, then known as Western Prison Project, marking the first time in the country that survivors of crime, people convicted of crime, and the families of both would come together to fight for more effective public safety policies.

This radical model for change blazed a new trail for the criminal justice reform movement, planting seeds for change that would take root across the nation.

MOBILIZING FOR CHANGE

2005-2009

CRIME SURVIVORS FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

Volunteers with our Forum Theater Project, which brought focus to crime survivors' need for healing and support. During this period, we built the power of survivors through education and advocacy, and we helped double Oregon's investment in services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

Board member Paul Solomon speaking about employment barriers for formerly incarcerated people. The campaign successfully barred employers in Multnomah County and the City of Eugene from asking about past felony convictions on initial job applications.



BUILDING POLITICAL MUSCLE

A volunteer mobilizing voters through the newly formed Safety and Justice Oregon, a 501c4 associated with PSJ. With this new political power, Safety and Justice Oregon defeated some of the state's most regressive criminal justice proposals.



ACHIEVING MAJOR REFORMS



› JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

Community members from across Oregon joining together in support of Justice Reinvestment. This landmark policy reduces prison use and significantly increases funding for victim services, addiction treatment, and local alternatives to incarceration.

In its first ten years, Justice Reinvestment is projected to save Oregon over half a billion dollars in prison spending.



› SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

Funders and allies at a national convening to discuss PSJ's groundbreaking model for reform. The convening was a bold call for proactive collaboration between crime survivor advocates and criminal justice reform advocates who have a shared interest in safe and healthy communities.



ADVANCING YOUTH JUSTICE

A volunteer at one of our largest rallies, which raised awareness about the harmful practice of charging youth as adults and its concentrated impacts on children of color. The gathering built on the strengths of our successful campaigns to keep kids out of adult prisons and jails and to challenge the racial disparities in our juvenile justice system.

I support justice
for youth because...
punishment
should not
be valued
over love

BOLD AND TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Partnership for Safety and Justice has become a dynamic and powerful force.

From community engagement and public education to advocacy and strategic communications, we are building a vibrant and influential movement for change in Oregon.

With a solid track record of success, deep roots in the community, and a holistic vision, we will continue to work toward a safer, stronger, and more equitable Oregon.



The Sunday Oregonian

IN MY OPINION

SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

We all have a shared interest in transforming the justice system

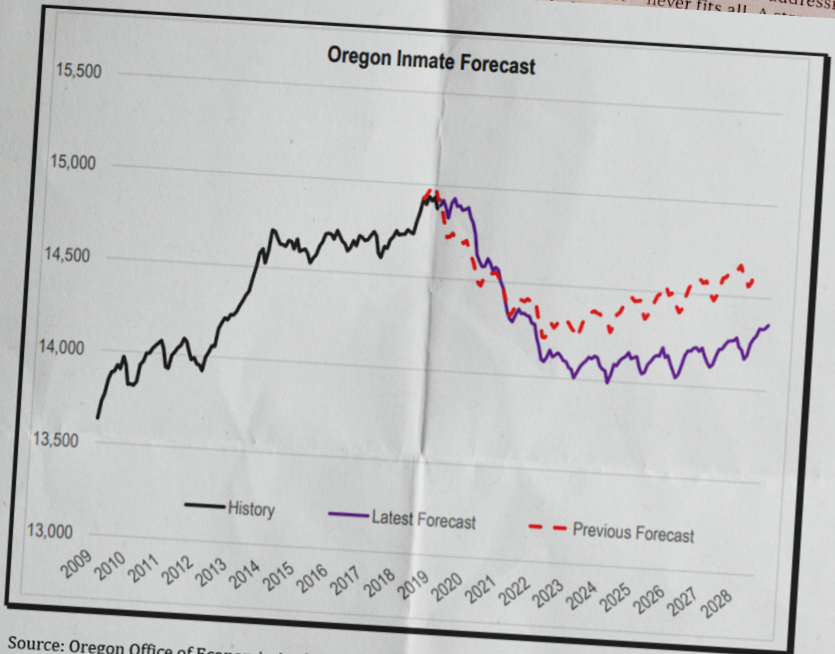
Andy Ko

The executive pardon of Harney County ranchers Dwight and Steve Hammond by President Donald Trump has stirred up a lot of feelings about the Hammonds' story, the Bundys and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. On July 14, The Oregonian's Editorial Board drew an important lesson from the case and pardons: Every American, whether we identify politically as left, right or center, should be deeply concerned about mandatory minimum sentences and their shocking results.

ity for hurting the victim and participate in the process of preventing future repetition of the harm. Such accountability would require us to reconsider our habit of heaping on heavier, longer and increasingly unavoidable punishments that make it impossible for them to function successfully in the community.

renewal again by the Legislature in 2019 — Oregon's justice reinvestment program is one of the most highly developed in the nation. Communities that also are exploring local alternatives to reduce the use of jail are increasing public safety. Communities are addressing crime, providing support for families intact and a principle of harm reduction for people suffering from addiction and extreme poverty.

Do the real work to prevent crime: We must work harder to improve services we already know are essential to prevent crime, including adequate health care to address mental illness and addiction. We must stop pretending that extreme sentences lead to better choices by people who face almost uniformly bad alternatives.



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis. (October 2018). Oregon Corrections Population Forecast.

statesman journal
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Proposed bill aims to cut Oregon's prison population

Whitney Woodworth, Statesman Journal | Published 4:07 p.m. PT April 13, 2017 | Updated 6:16 p.m. PT April 13, 2017

"When I arrested women with their children watching, I knew I was altering their lives forever," said Piluso, a former Gresham police chief. "Many of these mothers were in domestic violence situations or struggling with addiction or mental illness."

She attributed these problems to lack of treatment and sentencing laws that created lengthy, expensive prison stays for repeat offenders. The change made in 2008 to implement longer sentences was created to target big-time drug kingpins instead mostly punishes low-level addicts, she said.

street roots news

No on 105: Protect against racial profiling; stand by crime survivors

COMMENTARY | Voters face a choice: maintain Oregon's sanctuary status or further deepen racial disparities in our criminal justice system

by Shannon Wight | 12 Oct 2018

Often when we think about the disparities in our criminal justice system, we think about people who are arrested for crime. And it's true, those disparities are huge, even here in Oregon, but those inequities aren't limited to incarceration; victims of crime also face disparities in the justice system that stem from discrimination and racial profiling. That's why Partnership for Safety and Justice is joining the coalition Oregonians United Against Racial Profiling in voting No on Measure 105.

The intersection between criminal justice and immigration justice is well established today, but it wasn't always. About 10 years ago, I participated in an impactful gathering with about 50 advocates from across the country — some from criminal justice and others from immigration justice — to discuss the intersections between our work.

We shared stories, talked through our differences and worked to bridge the parallel-yet-often-separate arenas in which we work. We found common ground in our anger at the way both systems tear families apart, and we connected through our passion to end those systems.

Today this intersection is known as "crimmigration." The laws refer to the criminalization of people who are immigrants, which is not in general, but they have a uniquely oppressive impact on victims. Even after experiencing crime, survivors should

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

In the face of intense opposition, we passed landmark reforms to curb the harmful growth of Oregon's prisons and invest in crime prevention, treatment, and solutions beyond incarceration.

REDUCING EXCESSIVE SENTENCES

We campaigned to decrease excessive sentences for addiction-driven drug and property crimes, which disproportionately impact women and people of color. By advancing a major policy reform, we ensured that more Oregonians have access to the treatment and support they need to be accountable and rebuild their lives.



ADVANCING LOCAL SOLUTIONS

We helped Oregon redirect over \$47 million of corrections spending in the 2017-2019 biennium toward addiction treatment, mental health services, and local diversion programs.

We also helped introduce a local program that eliminates prosecution for people struggling with addiction. This harm reduction approach connects people to critical services such as housing, employment resources, and treatment.





▶ PROMOTING HEALTH AND HEALING FOR SURVIVORS

In coalition with crime survivors and victim advocates, we addressed the critical funding shortage in victim services. We successfully urged the state to add \$1.7 million for crisis intervention, emergency housing, and other vital programs that help survivors find safety and healing.



▶ PREVENTING A SECOND WOMEN'S PRISON

Together with hundreds of advocates and partners across the state, we successfully stopped the opening of a new prison for women and passed reforms that restrained the skyrocketing rate of women's incarceration.

Oregon's official prison forecast projects that these reforms will reduce the state's overall rate of adult incarceration by 15% over ten years.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Partnership for Safety and Justice is advancing public safety solutions to keep more families together and protected from discrimination and harsh punishment.





DEFEATING RACIST AND ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLICIES

As a part of the One Oregon coalition, we defeated a ballot measure that would have repealed Oregon's sanctuary law and opened the door to racial profiling and discrimination by law enforcement. Together with our allies, we knocked on nearly half a million doors across the state to provide voters with the information they needed to reject racial profiling and family separation.



LOCAL INNOVATION

We successfully advocated for the expansion of a prison diversion program that preserves families and keeps kids out of foster care. Oregon was the second state in the country to pilot this innovative program, which enables parents facing prison to remain in their community with supervision and supportive services to care for their minor children.

"I could have been sent away to prison for 30 months and lost my four children. Instead, I received community supervision and treatment to battle my addiction. It's because of PSJ that these programs are offered to parents like me in Oregon."

A mother sharing her story with lawmakers in support of expanding prison diversion for parents.

AMPLIFYING VOICES FOR CHANGE

In the movement for healing and justice in Oregon, Partnership for Safety and Justice is amplifying the voices of crime survivors, people convicted of crime, and the families of both. We're organizing and training leaders across the state to share their stories and advocate for new safety priorities that break the cycles of harm and build safety for all.



› CENTERING THE NEEDS OF CRIME SURVIVORS OF COLOR

With community leaders in equity and racial justice, we conducted focus groups and interviews with crime survivors in the African American, Latinx, and Native American communities.

Through this process, we began to uncover the complex trauma many survivors of color experience with the justice system and the solutions needed to ensure that all survivors have access to healing and support.



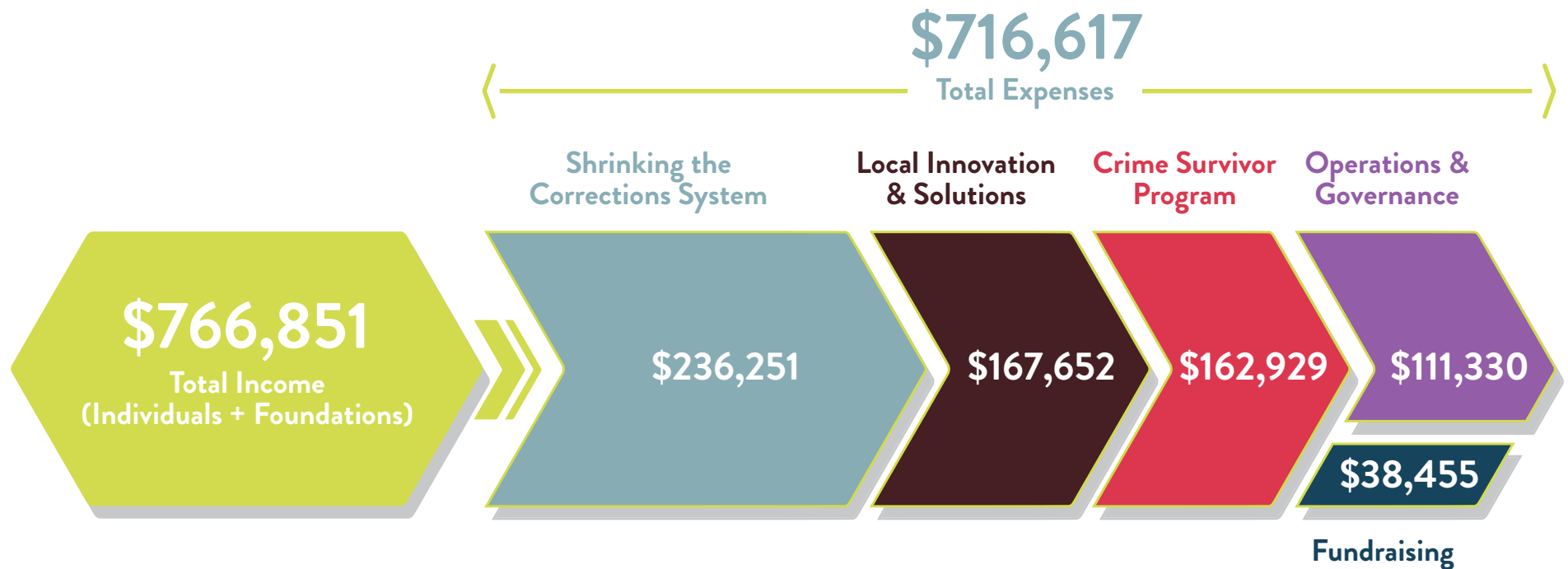
› CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY AND HEALING

We organized and engaged in an inspiring slate of conferences, workshops, and events to spark community conversations about reform. Survivors of crime, people convicted of crime, advocates, and lawmakers alike came together from across the country to reflect on current criminal justice responses and discuss innovative visions for accountability and healing.



Executive Director Andy Ko and The Sentencing Project's Ashley Nellis lead a conversation at Powell's Books on issues raised by extreme prison sentences in Oregon, including questions about public safety, equity, and racial justice.

FINANCIALS FOR 2018



THANK YOU to our supporters

We are grateful for our many individual donors whose generosity powers our work. We would also like to thank our foundation funders for their investment and confidence in Partnership for Safety and Justice.

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> DONOR SPOTLIGHT

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Today, I share my story of recovery and resilience to advocate for better solutions to crime.

But when I was younger, I struggled with addiction, and that led to my involvement with the justice system.

If Partnership for Safety and Justice's reforms had been in place at the time, I might not have experienced what I did with the system or had to carry the stigma of a conviction history.

That's why investing in them is so important. By supporting Partnership for Safety and Justice, we're addressing important issues like healing for victims, youth justice, and addiction treatment. We're making sure that the people most impacted by crime and incarceration have the opportunity to heal and live full and healthy lives.

I'm proud to be a board member and donor to Partnership for Safety and Justice. Together, we're bringing advocacy to a new level and inspiring change across Oregon.

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> Board Member and Donor
TERRY LECKRON-MYERS

> STRENGTHEN OUR MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE



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