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**Gretchen Burns Bergman**



**Vol XII July 2003**

**President's Message**

by Tom O'Donnell

I'm not positive, but I think that most states have budget problems internally. I am positive about California and its deficits, and what it's causing in most state departments...especially our justice and education systems.

Perhaps if most Americans realized the savings they could create by alternative sentencing – now and in the future – they would contact their legislators and those in their respective justice systems today!

A New PATH is successful in targeting quality treatment for non-violent drug offenders – inside/outside and after incarceration. This offers the addict an extended opportunity to alter his/her life and return to our communities with the knowledge and attitude to, hopefully, stay out of prison – thus reducing recidivism.

As an advocacy organization, A New PATH joins the majority of voters in this state in wanting something better than incarceration for the non-violent drug offender. In fact, quality treatment is an all-around beneficial concept. It's good for the addict and the community, and it saves lots of money that the state could use in other areas, such as education of our youth.

Our continuing effort to gain A New PATH goals now includes a future site at Donovan State Prison, where inmates may enjoy a meditative moment in a quiet atmosphere of shrubs and walkways. It's a start and might be the one element to offer a change of life.

(See article on page 7.)

**Executive Director's Message**

by Gretchen Burns Bergman

**The Global Demand for New Drug Policies**

The United States now incarcerates over 2.2 million people. Billions of dollars are spent each year on incarcerating non-violent drug offenders. In 2003, the United States will lock up approximately 1.2 million nonviolent offenders.

This push to punish and imprison has led to further damage to the addicted individual, their families and society. Yet it hasn't affected the core problem of addiction or diminished the worldwide drug trade.

For example, the result of the US military crackdown on the cocaine drug trade in Columbia is a shift to opium cultivation in that country. Columbia now produces about 80% of the heroin that reaches the US.

A trend towards therapeutic rather than punitive drug policies is emerging in various states. Arizona passed a law in 1996, and California passed a similar law in 2000 that mandates treatment instead of incarceration for non-violent drug offenders.

These new laws have already saved millions in taxpayer dollars and improved public safety. In California over 36,000 people have been diverted to treatment rather than prison and are receiving services for their addictions.

Hawaii is planning a secure treatment facility for inmates with drug addictions. The change of thinking is sweeping across the states because so many people have been personally affected.

**A New PATH** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of API Hospital: 7050 Parkway Drive, La Mesa, 91942. Phone: 619-465-4411. We invite you to attend our educational speaker meetings.

**Upcoming PATH Speaker Meeting at API Hospital:**

We invite you to an informative and stimulating meeting on Tuesday, August 5, 2003 with Dennis Kelso, who will speak on the topic of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral Services for Substance Use Disorders. He will talk about the successful San Diego model, the economic impact, and improving community services.

**There will be no general meeting in September** because we invite you to join us at the 4th annual *It Takes a Community...* event on Saturday, September 6, 2003 at the Emerald Wyndham Plaza Hotel at 400 West Broadway in San Diego. This is a fundraiser to benefit A New PATH and the Mental Health Association. To reserve a table or become a sponsor, please contact PATH at 619-670-1184 or MHA at 619-543-0412.

## A New PATH 2003 Committees

Please help us move forward with our goals by joining one of our committees:

Legislative & Prison Reform: Chairs, David Beck-Brown & Caroline Stewart

PR & Publicity: Chair, Leah Fine

Membership: Chairs, Dianna Flint & Sylvia Liwerant

Fundraising: Chair, Erica Radway

Education & Recovery: Chair, Kim Healy

Demand Treatment!: Chair, Gretchen Burns Bergman

It Takes a Community... Chairs, Connie Conard & Cynthia Birnbaum

Contact the office at 619-670-1184 or email [anewpath@cox.net](mailto:anewpath@cox.net) to join a committee.

### PATH is endorsed by

- ⇒ San Diego Psychiatric Society
- ⇒ Mental Health Association in San Diego County
- ⇒ NAMI San Diego
- ⇒ Friends of SD Psychiatric Society
- ⇒ Families to Amend California's Three-Strikes
- ⇒ The San Diego District Attorney's Office

### Alternative News Sources

[www.anewpath.cc](http://www.anewpath.cc)  
[www.jointogether.org](http://www.jointogether.org)  
[www.narconews.com](http://www.narconews.com)  
[www.drcnet.org](http://www.drcnet.org)  
[www.reconsider.org](http://www.reconsider.org)  
[www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org)

A New PATH newsletter is published quarterly by the Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing non-profit organization.

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Check our website at [www.anewpath.cc](http://www.anewpath.cc)

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# Faces of Recovery Calendar

by Gretchen Burns Bergman

There is nothing more beautiful than a person in recovery...the light of life shining in their eyes and beaming hope for a fulfilling future.

Addiction is a disease that touches us all. Efforts to eliminate the stigma associated with the diagnosis and treatment of drug problems are essential. We know that treatment for drug addiction is as effective as treatment for other chronic illnesses, yet the perceived disgrace associated with it and the misunderstanding of the nature of the disease interfere with access to quality treatment services, and effective solutions that could save lives, heal families and build healthier communities.

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) would like to invite you to be a participant in a very special project to reduce the stigma of the disease of substance abuse and addiction. We are creating a "Faces of Recovery" Calendar for 2004 that will feature thirteen people who are graciously sharing their life stories in order to help others to understand and experience both the devastation of the disease and the miraculous reality of recovery.

The individuals chosen are from every walk of life, including a dancer, a rock star (Chuck Negron of 3 Dog Night), a substance abuse treatment professional, an actress (Mackenzie Phillips), etc.

The cover design is being created by an artist in the Arts and Corrections program at Donovan State Prison. The calendar will be a very visual example to all that treatment works and recovery is possible. We hope to see it hanging in homes and offices throughout San Diego County. Your support of this project will be recognized and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor a page of the calendar for \$500, your name or the name of your company will appear as a sponsor of that page. If you would like to place an order for a calendar, you can send a \$15 check payable to: A New PATH to: 2527 Doubletree Rd., Spring Valley, CA 91978, or you can order and pay by credit card by calling the PATH office at: 619-670-1184. Thank you for being a part of a community that is making a difference!

## Suggested Reading:

*When Prisoners Come Home,  
Parole and Prisoner Reentry* by  
Joan Petersilia

*Save My Son* by Maralys Wills &  
Mike Carona

*Drug Crazy* by Mike Gray

## PATH would like to thank:

- ⇒ **The California Endowment**
- ⇒ **The Fund for Drug Policy Reform  
of the Tides Foundation**
- ⇒ **Las Patronas**
- ⇒ **Join Together/Demand Treatment**
- ⇒ **San Diego County,  
Supervisor Ron Roberts**

**For their generous support!**

## California's Three Strikes Law

More than 650 people are serving life sentences in California prisons for possessing small amounts of drugs, according to an article in March by the San Jose Mercury.

Voters deserve a second chance to amend this law. Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg has a bill (AB112) to put a measure on the ballot that would ask voters to limit the third strike to repeat violent or serious felons.

The Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of our Three Strikes Law. Now it is up to the California voters to make this needed change.

A New PATH endorses the efforts of FACTS (Families to Amend California's Three Strikes) and CAVC (Citizens Against Violent Crime) to bring the issue before the voters in 2004. For more information: [www.Amend3Strikes.com](http://www.Amend3Strikes.com).

Please Help Support Our Cause by  
Purchasing:

- PATH Pins \$10
- PATH T-shirts \$10
- Resource Guides \$10
- Musical Gift to Recovery CD's \$20
- PATH License Plate Holders \$5

through our office: 619-670-1184  
or email: [anewpath@cox.net](mailto:anewpath@cox.net).

If you would like us to mail any  
of these items to you, please add  
\$4.

## It Takes A Community...

Join us in waging a war on the stigma of addiction and mental illness! On Saturday, September 6, 2003 A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing) and the Mental Health Association in San Diego County (MHA) will present the fourth annual *It Takes A Community...* event at the Emerald Wyndham Plaza.

This elegant gala, co-chaired by Connie Conard and Cynthia Birnbaum, will feature a silent auction, dinner, entertainment and awards ceremony. **Audrey Geisel** is the Honorary Chair of an Honorary committee that includes: Judge Robert Coates, Patricia Hoffman Judd, Scott Silverman, Mike Brady, Senator Dede Alpert, Peggy Matthews, Carole Le Beau, Dr. Rodrigo Munoz, Dr. Mark Chenven, Dr. Mike Plopper, Congresswoman Susan Davis, Sylvia Liwerant, Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg, Dr. Dan Gross, Glen & Virginia Napierskie, etc.

**Rory Devine**, reporter for KNSD News 7/39 will be our Celebrity Emcee.

We are excited to announce that **Chuck Negrón** of Three Dog Night fame will be honored at the event for his efforts to reduce the stigma of substance abuse. Other individuals being honored for their contributions to increasing awareness and ending discrimination against those who seek treatment and recovery from addiction and mental illness include: **David Beck-Brown** of Arts in Corrections, Donovan State Prison; **Susan Burton** of New Way of Life; Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pheiler**; **Marianne McDonald**, Founder of the McDonald Center; and **David Rosenbloom**, Director of Join Together / Demand Treatment.

*It Takes A Community...* to reach out and help a youth or young adult struggling with alcohol or drug addiction. This event will benefit MHA and A New PATH, organizations who share a commitment to provide treatment and recovery services for individuals whose lives have been damaged by addiction and / or mental illness.

Past major sponsors include The San Diego Foundation Dr. Seuss Fund & The California Endowment.

For sponsorship or ticket information please contact: Gretchen Burns Bergman (PATH) at 619-670-1184 or Karen Luton (MHA) at 619-543-0412.

## Did you know that the War on Drugs Costs You, The American Taxpayer \$380 per year? And...

...California spent \$9.2 Billion on illegal drugs. (UT 12/02)

...It has been estimated that 200,000 drug-addicted convicts are released each year from prison without treatment, only to have 80% of them return within a few years". (USA Today 1994)

...Among young adults aged 18 to 25, the rate of any illicit drug use increased between 2000 and 2001 from 15.9 percent to 18.8 percent. (2001 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse)

...Untreated addiction costs America \$400 billion per year. 23 million Americans suffer from substance abuse addiction. (Brandeis Univ. Schneider Institute 2001)

...Drug related deaths have almost doubled since 1990 – approx. one in four deaths each year is attributable to substance abuse. (Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem, Brandeis Univ. Schneider Institute, 2001)

...More than 9 million children live with a parent dependent on alcohol and/or illicit drugs. (Physician Leadership on National Drug Policy, Brown Univ. 2000)

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## Executive Director's Message

Continued from page 1

On the international front, marijuana possession was officially decriminalized in Belgium in June 2003. Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain have already legalized or decriminalized marijuana, and the Netherlands has long held a position of harm reduction. Canada is considering a bill to decriminalize possession of up to 15 grams of marijuana. In contrast, the US federal government is cracking down on medicinal marijuana users, despite State laws that allow for it.

We invite you to join us as we explore new directions in the handling of the global epidemic of addiction and encourage discussion about collaborative planning for therapeutic solutions. We feel that it is both appropriate and necessary for health care professionals to join family members and recovering individuals in taking leadership positions, and actively participate in the influencing of public opinion and policy.

# From the Inside

with David Beck-Brown

## Arts in Corrections

### Don't blame the prisons

Don't blame the prisons for California's financial problems. Blame the voters.

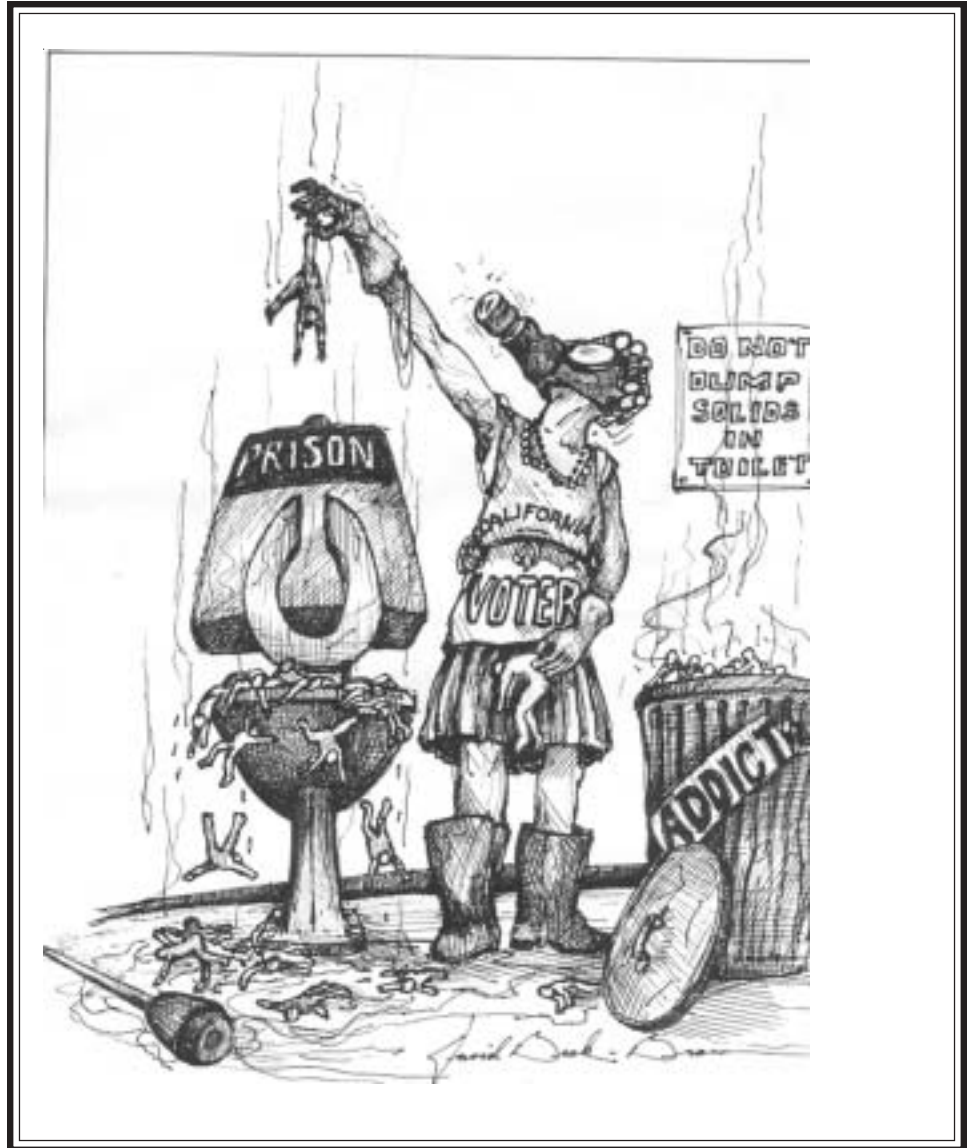
For several years, California voters have been getting "tough on crime". We've become skilled at sending the "evildoers" to prison. However, sometimes we forget to pay the bill for their incarceration. When it comes to the criminal justice system, Californians are fearless. Politicians know it and want to be tougher, meaner and stronger in the crusade against crime. No one wants to appear weak these days, especially our politicians.

In prison, strength is admired and kindness is considered weakness. For many convicts, inflicting brutal behavior on others is considered strength. By embracing this attitude, whether or not we know it, Californians are accepting the "convict code of conduct".

Californians are tough, all right. We supported 3-Strikes! We're not afraid to incarcerate criminals for 25 years to life. Who cares whether the third-strike was for an innocuous act such as stealing an inexpensive donut or, for that matter, the first-strike occurred more than forty-seven years ago. Damn the expenses of incarceration, we'll imprison them all.

However, by sending our anti-social people to prison, we're attempting to use our prisons to remedy all our social ills. Most Californians don't want to know what happens in our prisons. We don't even want to see them, unless our loved ones are incarcerated in them.

A growing number of prison inmates have been incarcerated for crimes stemming from their personal, non-violent, substance abuse, mental illness, and homelessness. This growing segment of non-violent prisoners needs to be redirected away from prison and towards Mental Health Care Centers where they can receive the care they desperately need. This will free expensive prison space and save tax dollars.



Community Mental Health Care Centers cost less money to build than prisons. Mental Health Care Centers don't require the amenities of a heavily armed, maximum-security prison that's staffed by professional Correctional Officers whose skills are in quailing prison riots and in keeping the status quo. Inmates receive little rehabilitation in prison. It's for this reason that our ex-felons continue to commit horrific crimes upon their release from prison.

Continued on page 9

# Once A Dream, Now A Reality

by Leah Fine

I've had the awesome opportunity to return to CRC (California Rehabilitation Center for men and women) where I was once an inmate in 1980. What was once just a dream for addicts in the criminal justice system is now a reality! A once gloomy, dark place is now filled with miracles and hope for a new way of life - free from addiction.

When I was housed at CRC there was no recovery, just a lot of drug abuse and violence. The correctional officers were the main suppliers of narcotics and it was a very depressing way to live. You could trust no one, especially the correctional officers. There was no hope for change.

I was under the misconception that when I took a civil commitment I would receive some kind of treatment for my addiction problem. Instead, I was only offered a couple of "so called" substance abuse classes that were so outdated that I instead chose to buy my certificates to the Parole Board. And, one NA (Narcotics Anonymous) meeting a month just wasn't enough for an addict such as myself, who knew nothing about the disease of addiction, let alone recovery. So, I continued to use since that was all I had ever known. Because I was still not given a real choice, I was once again lost in my addiction.

Was this punishment? Not really! I knew nothing else but this cold dark life. Was it scary? No, not really! My friends were there and after experiencing a life-long addiction there is not a whole lot left in this world to be scared about, since you don't even care if you live or die.

Was it educational? Only in a criminal sense, because it opened my eyes once again to the fact that a lot of correctional officers are no better than the very worst addict in prison.

A civil commitment is a sentence given to a non-violent drug offender in lieu of a felony conviction that would send them to a regular prison where treatment is not usually available. It is housed at CRC, where they are required to complete a drug program such as Walden House.

Once the inmate has completed treatment he is released with a three to ten year parole, giving him the opportunity to return to CRC for more extensive treatment if he should violate parole. As long as he doesn't commit a violent offence he may return.

This facility is for men and women alike. They are housed in separate prisons within the same facility. The only problem I noted was the lack of knowledge that so many of our California Judges, District Attorneys and Public Defenders have of such positive programs and alternatives.

Today a civil commitment is a blessing in disguise. Now that there are actual treatment facilities such as Walden House within the prison walls, inmates are given the opportunity to build a foundation in their recovery while doing their prison term. The program holds inmates accountable for their behavior and they are not released until they have fully complied with the program.

I guess you could say that this is a blessing to the ones that want it and a true punishment to the ones that don't. Either way the seed is planted. A lot of these inmates come from rural areas, where they had never heard of recovery until now.

Civil commitment parole is anywhere from three to ten years depending on the individual's success, which gives them the opportunity to return for treatment as many times as they need, as long as they don't commit a violent crime.

On completion of parole their felony is removed from their record. The most incredible thing about all of this is that our prison system is doing something productive to help people with addiction problems turn their lives around.

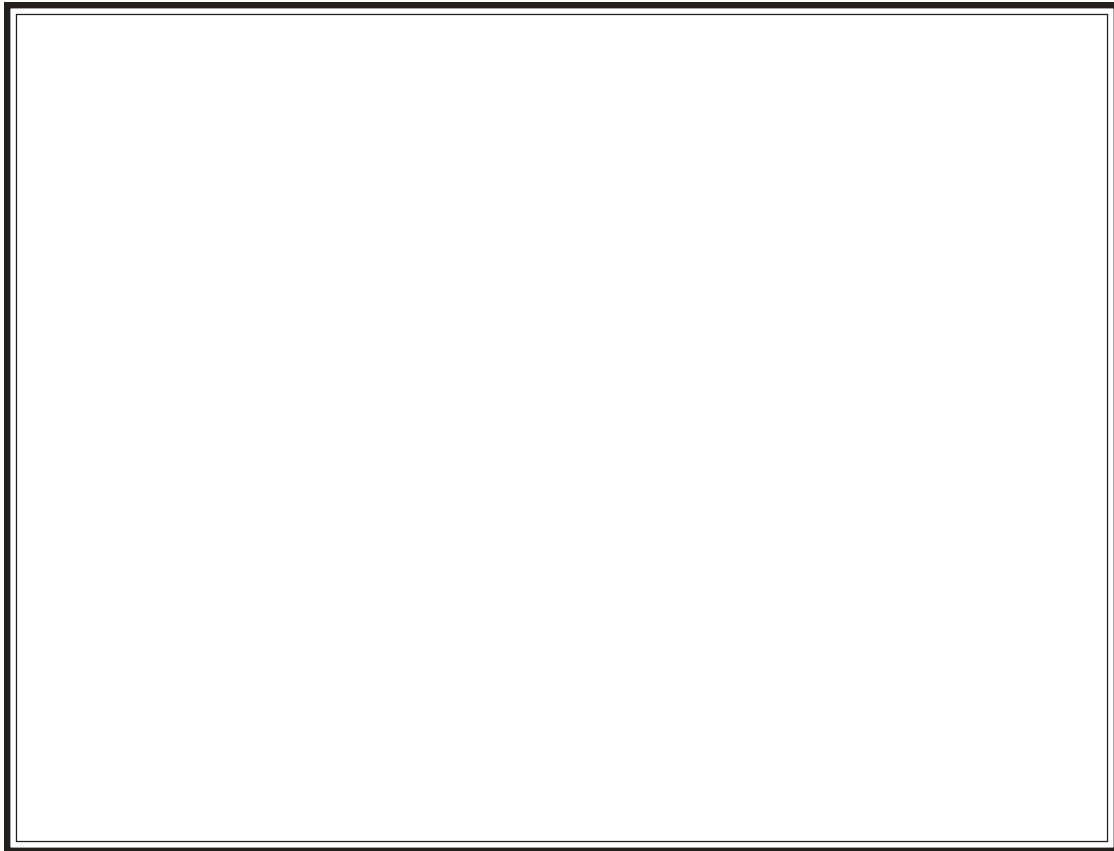
Walden House is funded from outside sources and provides a safe place for addicted people to deal with their issues as they carefully mold them into decent and productive individuals. It also provides an outstanding support group of alumni women, staff and long-term aftercare placement.

I was simply amazed at the way these women in prison carried themselves. They had poise, personality, manners, positive attitudes and grace. The excitement and hope in their eyes was so touching that it brought tears to my eyes! Seeing these women in this very different light gave me hope like never before that, maybe some day people will care enough to write our politicians, vote and speak out in favor of more treatment in our communities and in our prisons.

Maybe the result will be that people like us who suffer from the disease of addiction are no longer looked upon as a problem, but as an asset to our communities when we recover. Just think... if I had never been given a chance, I wouldn't have had this opportunity to see these miracles in progress.

## A Musical Gift to Recovery

As seen in Join Together Online 6/20/03



On Friday evening June 13, 2003 A New PATH (Parents for Addiction & Healing) presented a special evening of classical music for two pianos and eight hands at the Greene Music Concert Hall in San Diego. The event raised almost \$5000 for the Self-Reflection Garden that will be created by PATH at Donovan State Prison.

The musical venue, which included works by a variety of composers such as Beethoven, Bach and Schumann, was unique and memorable. Artists at the two pianos were PATH Co-Founder Sylvia Liwerant, Monique Kunewalder, Lynne Talley, and Phyllis Weiss Perrotti. Caroline Stewart, PATH Board member, organized a delicious dessert & coffee reception following the concert. According to Sylvia Liwerant, "It was wonderful to be able to give to the goals of PATH, through music".

The Self-Reflection Garden will be created for inmates seeking recovery from substance abuse. Donovan inmates will participate in the planning and care of the garden that is being designed by landscape designer Laurie McLaughlin. "The garden will be a serene haven to discover the strength within, and begin the journey towards change, sobriety and recovery", said PATH Co-Founder and Executive Director, Gretchen Burns Bergman.

Prisons are overcrowded and approximately 85% of all California inmates are imprisoned due to drug or alcohol related crimes. Unfortunately, there is very little substance abuse treatment available behind bars. The National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse reports that, within 5 years of their release, criminals who received treatment for substance abuse are 4 times less likely to commit another crime than those who did not.

The County of San Diego, Supervisor Ron Roberts has awarded \$20,000 in Community Project funds for this project and other current projects designed to increase access to substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. According to PATH Co-Founder and President of the Board, Tom O'Donnell, "With a large portion of these new funds and the money raised by the concert, PATH is ready to move forward with the garden as a first step to increasing substance abuse treatment opportunities behind bars".

Please visit our newly  
updated website:

[www.anewpath.cc](http://www.anewpath.cc)

## Buprenorphine

It is estimated that there are approximately one million individuals in the US who are addicted to heroin. Changes in US law now permit doctors to treat opioid dependence as the chronic illness that it has always been.

The narcotic medications Subutex (buprenorphine hydrochloride) and Suboxone tablets (buprenorphine hydrochloride and naloxone hydrochloride) received FDA approval for the treatment of opioid dependence in 2002.

A New PATH wishes to dispel the myth that all people with opioid dependence should be able to stop taking drugs simply by sheer force of will. There is scientific evidence that opioids have long-term effects on brain activity that turn drug abuse into a chronic, relapsing illness.

We are very optimistic about the effectiveness of this medication and are hopeful that it will help reduce the stigma of the disease of addiction and further legitimize it as a medical condition. So, we are helping get the word out about this new office-based treatment option.

Physicians qualified to treat opioid addiction with Suboxone are listed on the Buprenorphine Physician Locator maintained by The Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration.

In San Diego County, these physicians are currently qualified to prescribe Subutex and Suboxone:

**Dr. Alan A. Abrams**, 3551 Front St., San Diego, CA 92103

**Dr. David Bergman**, 7050 Parkway Dr., La Mesa, CA 91942

**Dr. Eduardo Barreto M.D.**, 3420 Kenyon St., San Diego, CA 92110

**Dr. Gary Eaton**, 1450 Frazee Rd., Ste. 503, San Diego, CA 92108

**Dr. Stuart Douglas Klein**, 15721 Pomerado Rd., Poway, CA 92064

**Dr. Kai MacDonald**, 9904 Genesee Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037

**Dr. Robert D. MacFarland**, F.A.S.A.M., 3719 Fourth Ave., San Diego, CA 92103

**Dr. William C Mathews**, UCSD Medical Center, 8681 200 W. Arbor Dr., SD, CA 92103

**Dr. John E. Milner**, 18091 Bee Canjon Rd., Dulzura, CA 91917

**Dr. Allan H. Rabin**, 4540 Kearny Villa Rd., #117, San Diego, CA 92123

**Dr. Clark Ellis Smith**, 7989 Linda Vista Rd., San Diego, CA 92111

**Dr. Frank Jan Stass**, 5694 Mission Center Rd., Ste. 180, San Diego, CA 92108

**Dr. Susan Beth Weinstock**, 3719 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., San Diego, CA 921103

**Heywood Zeidman M.D.**, 4700 Spring Street #220, La Mesa, CA 91941

## Wasted Time

The time that I've wasted is my biggest regret  
Spent in these places, I'll never forget  
Just sittin and thinking about the things I've done  
The cryin, the laughin, the hurt and the fun.

Now, it's just me and my driving guilt  
Behind a wall of emptiness I allowed to be built  
I'm trapped in my body wanting to turn back  
To my youth with its laughter and fun.

But the chase is over and there's no place to run  
Everything is gone, including my pride  
With reality suddenly in my face  
I'm scared, alone & stuck in this place.

Now memories of the past flyin through my head  
and the pain is obvious by the tears that I shed  
I ask myself why & where did I go wrong  
I guess I was weak when I should have been strong.

Living for drugs & the wings that I've grown  
My feelings were lost, afraid to be shown  
As I look at my past, it's easy to see  
The fear that I had, afraid to be me.

I pretend to be rugged, so fast & so cool  
When actually I'm lost, like a blinded ole fool  
I'm getting too old for this tiresome game  
of acting real hard with no sense of shame.

It's time I change & get on with my life  
Fulfilling my dreams, with my family & wife  
What my future will hold, I really don't know  
But the years that I've wasted are starting to show.

I just live for the day when I'll get a new start  
and the dreams I still hold here in my heart  
I hope I can make it, I at least have to try  
Because I'm headed towards death and I don't want to die.

Robert F., 5/10/03

# California Proposition 36

by Gretchen Burns Bergman

As you are aware, Proposition 36, or the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act, was passed by 61% of California voters in November of 2000, mandating treatment instead of incarceration to first and second time non-violent drug offenders.

On May 14 of this year, Governor Davis conceded defeat in his effort to force “realignment” of Prop 36 funds and programs with his May revision of the budget. Thankfully, the original plan of implementation was protected, which will give Prop 36 a fair chance to demonstrate its effectiveness in saving thousands of taxpayer dollars while saving countless lives.

On June 28 I attended the Route 36: Roadway to Recovery graduation celebration in Balboa Park. The success of the program in San Diego County was evident as a large number of participants were present to honor their sobriety. A total of 3,226 persons were sentenced in the first year and 4,000 individuals were projected for the second year in our county.

One of the additional benefits of this alternative sentencing is that there has been a dramatic increase in full time employment levels. We have also increased residential treatment capacity by approximately 300 additional beds, but there is a tremendous need for more slots.

Residential treatment facilities make good neighbors and they add a drug-free zone that contributes to public safety. The word is starting to get out as to the considerable benefits to the community.

The California Department of Corrections has reported that the state’s population of women inmates has dropped 10 percent in the past year, due in large part to Prop. 36.

The Little Hoover Commission gave a resounding endorsement of Prop 36 in its report that investigates state government operations, and called on policymakers to significantly expand cost-effective and successful treatment options across the state.

Approximately 36,000 people have received Prop 36 mandated treatment in California so far. Probably the most important measure of success is that a public health approach to drug addiction is taking hold across the state.

But to me, the most meaningful outcome is the faces of those people who are completing their treatment programs and the looks of renewed life and hope that shine in their eyes.

# Don’t blame the prisons

Continued from page 5

Prisons are expensive to build because they are designed to house violent criminals; they are not designed to rehabilitate inmates. Californians have paid dearly in developing the prison system. We have invested in developing reinforced concrete structures, steel doors, guard towers and rolls upon rolls of storm fences, topped with razor sharp concertina wire. We have financed state-of-the-art electrical fences and installed them as deadlines around the perimeters of our prisons.

At an enormous expense, we have incarcerated thousands of non-violent substance abusers, mentally ill and the homeless. These people are over-crowding our prisons and plugging the system. Californians are responsible for the rising costs of incarceration. We must let our prisons do the job for which they were designed. The function of our prisons is to detain and restrain violent, career convicts, thereby isolating them from law-abiding citizens.

California voters write the “law of the land”, not the prisons. Our prisons have to follow the law and accept the inmates assigned to them by the courts. If we really want to save taxpayer dollars currently being spent on prisons, then our laws must be changed. Let’s send the marginal inmates to less expensive facilities and to Mental Health Care Centers.

— — — — —

David Beck-Brown has worked in federal, state and city/country detention facilities, as well as the Federal Witness Protection Program since 1977. Currently, he co-chairs the Prison-Reform Committee for A New Path (Parents for Addiction, Treatment and Healing).

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(619) 661-7818 (wk.)

**A New PATH**  
**2527 Doubletree Road**  
**Spring Valley, CA 91978**

## **Mission Statement**

PATH is a voluntary organization of concerned parents of individuals suffering from the disease of addiction. Our **PURPOSE** is to partner with health care professionals, the justice system, recovering addicts and concerned members of society to seek better understanding of the illness and "therapeutic justice" for substance-related criminal activities.

Our **GOAL** is to reduce recidivism, save lives, heal families and move toward a healthier society.

## **History**

PATH grew out of a series of pre-Substance Abuse Summit meetings with parents, Superior Court Judges and officers of the criminal justice system in the Spring of 1999. Founding members are Gretchen Burns Bergman, Sylvia Liwerant and Tom O'Donnell.

### **Attention PATH Members...**

For immediate and up-to-date information, please send us your e-mail address and we can inform you electronically! Our email address at PATH is [anewpath@cox.net](mailto:anewpath@cox.net).

## **Our Proposals for Alternative Sentencing**

- 1) Long-term mandatory rehabilitation in a structured alcohol and drug-free recovery environment for non-violent offenders.
- 2) If the nature of the crime does not allow for this alternative, sentencing should include immediate placement in a rehabilitation and recovery program within the prison system.
- 3) Upon release from prison or recovery homes, substance abusers should be mandated to a transitional program in a sober-living environment to prepare them to re-enter society.