Yes We Can
Integration of Electronically Surveilled Prisoners, Armed Correctional Officers in an Amity Free -World Teaching and Therapeutic Community
Presented By Juana Ochoa and Doug Bond
Amity Foundation a Teaching Community

Amity Foundation is a non-profit agency with teaching communities throughout California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Mission:
• Amity Foundation is dedicated to the inclusion, health, and habilitation of individuals and families marginalized by addiction, trauma, criminality, homelessness, incarceration, poverty, racism, sexism and violence.
• Amity is committed to research, development, implementation and dissemination of information regarding community building.

Remembrance – Resolution – Reconciliation – Restoration - Renewal
Amity Settings

We consider ourselves a Teaching and Therapeutic Community. It is our mandate to teach community.

• 184 bed residential campus in Los Angeles.
• 60 bed residential campus in Vista, California
• 139 bed residential campus for men, women and families in Tucson, AZ
• 39 Transitional housing units for families in Tucson, AZ
• Community services for over 200 homeless women in New Mexico.
• Nearly 2,500 men and women served in 5 prisons
• Employment services located throughout Southern California.
• Just In Reach jail project serving 300 chronically homeless men and women in LA County.
Amity Students Today

- Are dealing with major challenges in their lives.
  - Primarily Native American, African American, and Hispanic men, women, and children from impoverished backgrounds = inadequate parental resources, poor schools, dysfunctional neighborhoods, negative attitudes towards work, lack of opportunities for work (high unemployment areas).
  - Childhood and adult trauma
  - Health issues
  - Addiction
  - Criminal records that limit employment opportunities.
  - History of violence
  - Little or no family support
  - Lack of Employable skills and Vocational training
California Prison System

• California’s prison population has been on the decline for several years, since a 2006 peak of 163,000 inmates.
• In 2009, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered California to reduce its prison population to 137.5% of institutional design capacity.
• A mixture of reforms, inmate transfers, and new construction brought the population below the mandated threshold.
• As of March 2015, it stood at 112,300, or 135.8% of capacity.
• California has a roughly 50% Hispanic and African American population yet the prison system population is over 75% Hispanic and African American.
Gov. Brown has approved parole for 82% of the 1,590 lifers whose cases were presented to him by the California Board of Parole Hearings (Board).

During the first 2½ years he was in office, more lifers were released from prison than during the previous three gubernatorial administrations combined.

As of 2013 more than 26,000 prisoners in California – one in five – were serving life sentences, which was the highest percentage of lifers among state prison populations.

Amity has one of 2 lifer pilot projects in the State of California with over 60 former lifers who are in the TC helping those who are still in custody as mentors.
Amistad de Los Angeles

- In California, thirty years of activism combined with TC implementation and length of stay outcome research has resulted in a free world TC that includes 120 men serving the last year of their sentence.
- Nine armed correctional officers, surveillance cameras, and individual electronic ankle bracelets accompany those technically still incarcerated.
- This group is combined with 60 TC students who have completed sentences ranging from 25 to 45 years.
Community

Teaching and Therapeutic Community
Whole person education, family and community restoration, social and policy change

Therapeutic Community
Whole person education

Drug Program
Symptoms
Social Services + Social Justice = Social Progress

• All students in the community engage in curriculums designed to foster personal growth, emotional literacy, and social responsibility.
• Transformative self-actualizing processes are inclusive of family reunification, sustainability training, healthy eating habits and regular exercise.
Economic growth has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and improved the lives of many more over the last half century. Yet it is increasingly evident that a model of development based on economic progress alone is incomplete. Economic growth alone is not enough. A society that fails to address basic human needs, equip citizens to improve their quality of life, protect the environment, and provide opportunity for many of its citizens is not succeeding. We must widen our understanding of the success of societies beyond economic outcomes. Inclusive growth requires achieving both economic and social progress.
When people gather with good intent….
Wind collects spirit clouds…. 
Rain falls nourishing earth…. 
Spring returns for all of our relations…. 

Cuando la gente se reune con buenas intenciones…. 
Viento acopia nubes espirituales…. 
La lluvia cae alimentando madre tierra…. 
La Primavera florece en todas nuestra relaciones.
Contact Information

Juana Ochoa and Doug Bond
jochoa@amityfdn.org
Dbond@amityfdn.org