

A film by Seeing for Ourselves



IN A WHOLE NEW WAY

Undoing mass incarceration by a path untraveled

THE FILM

Ensnaring almost four million Americans, probation has evolved from a second chance to avoid prison to a sanction actually feeding mass incarceration.

Equipped only with cameras and a technique called “participatory photography,” some of these individuals set to change all this—only to find themselves transformed. Their portrayal of their authentic lives aspired to counter the forbidding mugshots typifying media coverage and so help return probation to its roots. The effort itself led the photographers to see themselves and their world in a whole new way.

This half-hour documentary of their heroes’ journey peels back the veil on probation—the little-known domestic innovation that would eventually spread through most of the planet. The film itself warmed hearts in over 200 festivals around the world during 2021-2023, amassing 69 awards and 17 additional award nominations.

WHY THIS FILM

We Americans lock up far more of our people than any country on earth. Observers on both the right and left have long sought a way out of this situation that does not endanger the community.

The nonprofit Seeing for Ourselves believes that if probation could once again **rehabilitate rather than punish**, it would be viewed more widely as an effective alternative to jail or prison. And then the numbers incarcerated would begin to drop.

Creating a new public image of the millions serving a term of probation is the first step towards this end—and already underway, thanks to the initiative portrayed in the film. *In a Whole New Way* aims at amplifying the process.



PHOTO BY CARL

“A pioneering approach to criminal justice reform.”

Palo Alto Weekly



PHOTO BY MOSHELLE

“Finally, a positive treatment of probation. Inspiring!”

Veronica Cunningham,
Chief Executive Officer
American Probation and Parole Association

CATCH THE FILM | inawholenewway.com

“Captivating!”

United Nations Association Film Festival



JOIN US

In a Whole New Way is that rare “feel-good” film promoting justice reform. Not coincidentally, it has won fans across the political spectrum. But we of Seeing for Ourselves need your help to leverage the film further.

Our goal is to bring the documentary to the attention of wider and wider audiences and decision-makers. Doing so will build ever-stronger momentum for viewing rehabilitative probation as an alternative to locking people up.

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“Moving, important, inspirational, and eye-opening, you won’t want to miss this short film about one of the most pressing issues of our time.”

Thomas Memorial Library
Cape Elizabeth, Maine



Andre Whitehead (L), featured in the film, discusses the documentary with filmmaker Jonathan Fisher (R) at the annual conference of the American Probation and Parole Association, NYC, August 29, 2023.



Companion Book



THE TEAM

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Seeing for Ourselves equips and trains the marginalized to take control of their own public narrative. Our first effort, on behalf of public housing residents, led to the globally-acclaimed book *Project Lives* and helped restart government support.

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“Such a thoughtful and life-affirming documentary!”

Steve Woolworth, President
International Community Justice Association