

LAST
PRISONER
PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT

[LASTPRISONERPROJECT.ORG](https://lastprisonerproject.org)



20
22



LAST
PRISONER
PROJECT

01

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR & BOARD SECRETARY

02

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

03

CANNABIS JUSTICE INITIATIVE

04

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT SERVICES

05

REENTRY RESOURCES

06

THE BREAKING-CHAIN REACTION

07

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

08

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

09

FEDERAL POLICY REFORM

10

STATE POLICY REFORM

11

OUR SUPPORTERS

12

FINANCIALS



LETTER FROM **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD SECRETARY**

Last year marked the most significant progress for cannabis justice to date. By the end of 2022, twenty states and the District of Columbia had legalized cannabis for adult use. Only three states had no form of legalized cannabis. Perhaps most significantly, in October President Biden made a historic proclamation signaling his intention to reschedule cannabis, also declaring that no one should remain incarcerated for cannabis use. The President took historic action by pardoning all federal cannabis possession offenses.

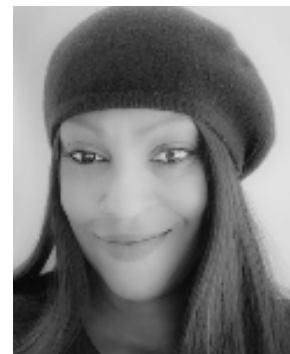
Though there is of course much more work to be done to fully redress the disastrous consequences of the War on Drugs and cannabis prohibition, it is a sure sign of the progress that has been achieved for the sitting president to acknowledge the injustice that is cannabis-related incarceration.

2022 also marked a year of major progress for LPP's programs and services. Our Cannabis Justice Initiative matched over 100 currently incarcerated individuals with pro bono attorneys. Our constituent support teams dispersed over \$1.3 million in reentry grants and commissary payments to our constituents and their families. Our policy and advocacy teams played a pivotal role in passing crucial legislation and implementing impactful campaigns at both the state and federal levels, focusing on record clearance for cannabis convictions and reducing or eliminating cannabis-related prison sentences.

We are in awe of what we have accomplished this year, both as an organization and as a movement. We could not have achieved these milestones without the support and generosity of this incredible community. We still have far to go to see the day when the last cannabis prisoner walks free, but we are closer than ever.



SARAH GERSTEN
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR &
GENERAL COUNSEL



STEPHANIE SHEPARD
BOARD SECRETARY
& DIRECTOR OF
ADVOCACY

OUR 2022 **IMPACT**



POLICY

Our policy team focuses on legislation that redresses the harms caused by cannabis prohibition. We work with stakeholders across the country to pass and implement bills that will (1) provide release for individuals still incarcerated for cannabis, and (2) automatically clear cannabis records.



LEGAL

Our legal release efforts focus on clemency initiatives at the state and federal level, filing motions for compassionate release, and record relief for individuals. This all made possible through our Cannabis Justice Initiative in partnership with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL).



REENTRY

Our reentry resources are focused on ensuring that our constituents who have been negatively impacted by the criminalization of cannabis have the tools and resources they need to successfully rebuild their lives as well as creating pathways to employment within the legal cannabis industry.



ADVOCACY

Through a variety of advocacy campaigns, ranging from letter writing drives, constituent storytelling, and direct actions, we raise public awareness of the harsh reality of cannabis-related incarceration and empower our supporters to join our fight to secure the full freedom of the communities we serve.

125 LPP
CONSTITUENTS
RECEIVED OVER

\$100,000

IN DIRECT FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE THROUGH OUR
COMMISSARY SUPPORT FUND

192 LPP
CONSTITUENTS
RECEIVED OVER

\$1.2 MILLION

IN DIRECT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT THROUGH OUR
REENTRY GRANT PROGRAM

NUMBER OF LETTERS OUR SUPPORTERS HAVE WRITTEN TO
OUR CONSTITUENTS INCARCERATED FOR CANNABIS
THROUGH OUR NEW DIGITAL LETTER WRITING PROGRAM

2,000+

130+ CLIENTS IN THE CANNABIS
JUSTICE INITIATIVE SERVED BY

105 CANNABIS JUSTICE INITIATIVE
PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

LPP's "A TIME TO HEAL" CAMPAIGN, NEW JERSEY CLEMENCY
CAMPAIGN, AND #FREEKEVINALLEN CAMPAIGN GARNERED
MORE THAN 8,000 SIGNATURES, EMAILS, AND CALLS

8,000+

FOR LPP'S MOST UP TO DATE IMPACT NUMBERS VISIT WWW.LASTPRISONERPROJECT.ORG/IMPACT

CANNABIS JUSTICE INITIATIVE



In partnership with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) the Cannabis Justice Initiative recruits, trains, and supports pro bono volunteers on back end and post release relief initiatives. Understanding that the multifaceted problem of mass incarceration is not solved by any single solution, the Cannabis Justice Initiative uses multiple types of relief, including clemency, compassionate release, and early termination of supervision to assist individuals seeking to obtain their freedom and restore fundamental rights.

In its second year, the Cannabis Justice Initiative doubled the number of participating individuals from 100 to over 200, with over 100 active cases and 37 filings being made. Along with taking on individual cases, LPP and NACDL worked closely with the Office of the Pardon Attorney, to advocate for commutations and to help implement the web portal for individuals to access pardon certificates in the wake of President Biden's announcement.

From Last Prisoner Project & National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

EARLY TERMINATION OF SUPERVISED RELEASE

A GUIDE ON HOW TO HELP YOUR CLIENT SECURE
EARLY TERMINATION OF SUPERVISED RELEASE



LAST
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EARLY TERMINATION OF SUPERVISION

Unfortunately, in most cases, someone's release from prison does not mark the end of their sentence. Following their incarceration, many of our constituents are forced to serve extended terms of "supervised release."

At LPP, we're always looking for innovative ways to ensure our constituents achieve full freedom and independence. That's why, in 2022, we launched our Early Termination of Supervision Program which aims to help our constituents move forward with their lives without the burden of ongoing government supervision. Project Director, Joe Elford, not only established the infrastructure for the program, but also created a comprehensive training manual for other attorneys to use to secure early termination for their clients.

CONSTITUENT SUPPORT SERVICES

COMMISSARY SUPPORT FUNDS

One of our main goals at Last Prisoner Project is to ease the burden of incarceration on our constituents and their loved ones while we work to secure their full freedom. One way we do this is by providing quarterly commissary payments to individuals incarcerated for cannabis offenses.

CANNABIS INDUSTRY EDUCATION

We're dedicated to helping individuals who have been negatively affected by the criminalization of cannabis pursue employment within the legal cannabis industry. To ensure that legacy operators have opportunities in the legal industry, LPP offers reentry constituents cannabis industry training and scholarship opportunities from providers including Oaksterdam, SCS Global Services, GreenFlower, and Cannabis Science.

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

Sharing our constituents' stories has the ability to impact their lives by raising awareness about their case and encouraging people to take action. Through our media channels, thousands of supporters sign petitions, contact key stakeholders, and educate the public. We also shared their stories with audiences at the many speaking events we participated in, including National Cannabis Festival, MJ Unpacked, Benzinga, and more.

+\$104,600

Funds dispersed in 2022 to

125

constituent commissary
accounts

LPP LETTER-WRITING PROGRAM

2022 marked the third year of our LPP letter-writing campaign, a program that empowers our supporters to write to our constituents still unjustly imprisoned for cannabis.

Thanks to our letter-writing drives and passionate supporters, we've sent over 19,500 letters to our incarcerated constituents since the program's inception. This includes 2,000 sent via our digital form that rolled out in 2022.

”

"I will never forget the letters I received from the LPP Letter Writing Program that brought my spirits up from such a dark place. Without LPP and your supporters, I wouldn't have been able to get back on my feet after my release."

— JOSEPH AGRILLO
KANSAS CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN

REENTRY RESOURCES

REBUILD LIVES

+\$1,200,949

Funds dispersed in 2022 to

192 released
reentry
constituents

A portion of LPP's funding goes directly to recently released constituents to assist in their reentry. We also distribute financial resources to the families of our constituents who find themselves in need of financial assistance. In 2022, we scaled our reentry program; growing it from 90 to 192 constituents, and increasing annual disbursements from \$474,000 to over \$1.2 million.



Way Quoe Long

For 25 years, Way Quoe Long (pictured left) suffered the injustice of receiving one of the harshest sentences for cannabis ever handed down by California's Ninth Circuit. In 1998, Way was charged with conspiracy to manufacture marijuana and, until early 2021, was serving a de facto life sentence for this nonviolent, marijuana-only offense. In January 2021, Way was granted clemency and freed from imprisonment.

Last Prisoner Project provided Way with a reentry grant immediately upon his release. Additionally, he received support to heal from a stroke after suffering decades of unjust punishment.



Colby Standley and Maria Kinsey

In 2022, after having served over three years of a five year sentence for conspiracy, trafficking cannabis, and possession, Colby Standley was released on parole. Maria Kinsey — who served over three years of a seven year sentence for selling cannabis to medical patients in Florida and gave birth to her child while imprisoned—was also released to a re-entry center.

In addition to the reentry grants given to Colby and Maria, LPP is committed to providing them with ongoing support post-release to ensure their successful transition back into society.



Elliston & Hasani Callwood

In 2022, Elliston Callwood was released after serving over 30 years for a nonviolent cannabis offense. He now wants to utilize new cannabis laws to flip the narrative and show his family that the inhumane sacrifice wasn't in vain.

Elliston used his reentry grant to help cover the costs of applying for a New Mexico cannabis license. He and his grandson Hasani Callwood both took the Trichrome Institute course in LPP's scholarship program to prepare themselves for the legal industry.

THE BREAKING- CHAIN REACTION OF FREEDOM

At LPP, we know the harm of a cannabis conviction extends to more than just the individual; it also affects their family, friends, and community. But we have also seen the power that freedom has to amplify a positive impact. The release of just one constituent can create a chain reaction of justice.

Donte West & Kyle Page



With no criminal record and nothing illegal in his possession, Donte West was arrested and convicted on charges that were later overturned. He spent three years imprisoned, where he worked to fight his charges and was released on October 15, 2020. He has worked with the Last Prisoner Project as a Legacy Fellow to help free anyone incarcerated on cannabis-related charges, people like Kyle Page.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly granted Kyle Page—who had been serving a four-year sentence for marijuana—clemency. Donte West supported Kyle while in prison, and we were able to provide him with a re-entry grant upon his release. They both have their own legal cannabis brand and advocated for the release of LPP constituents in our New Jersey Clemency Campaign.

Mario Ramos



Days after New Jersey voted to legalize adult-use cannabis, Mario Ramos was sentenced to 7 years in prison for conspiracy to manufacture marijuana. Though he was released from prison after 13 months and 18 days, he then entered an Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) where his every move was monitored for over 19 months.

Mario was determined not to slip up. The military veteran and former High Times Magazine VIP Events Coordinator was hired by NisonCo through Last Prisoner Project's re-entry hiring program.

Now fully free, Mario has received an adult-use cannabis dispensary license in New York City and plans to focus on small-batch, environmentally-friendly craft cannabis. Additionally, Mario advocates for fellow cannabis prisoners and attended our Keep Your Promise rally in D.C.

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

NEW JERSEY CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN

At the same time as New Jersey is profiting millions from its state-regulated cannabis industry, others remain incarcerated for the exact same activity. To address this injustice, LPP — alongside a coalition of other New Jersey-based criminal justice and cannabis policy reform-focused organizations — called on New Jersey Governor Murphy to free all those who remained imprisoned in New Jersey for cannabis-related offenses. LPP successfully supported the release of all four of our New Jersey constituents including Alvi Ghaznavi and Mario Ramos.



Everything Last Prisoner Project has been doing for me has been real helpful. I appreciate it and know I can keep on moving forward with all your help.

— KEVIN ALLEN
LPP ADVOCACY PROGRAM (LA)

”

I never thought I would see cannabis legal in my lifetime and to have been awarded a CAURD license in my hometown of New York City is a blessing that I do not take lightly. The time I served for this plant feels validated.

— MARIO RAMOS
NEW JERSEY CLEMENCY CAMPAIGN



FREE KEVIN ALLEN

Kevin Allen is currently serving a 35 year sentence. His crime? Selling \$20 worth of cannabis to an undercover informant. LPP's #FreeKevinAllen advocacy campaign generated thousands of emails and calls to District Attorney Marvin to resentence Kevin, who was previously serving life without the possibility of parole.

LPP has provided Kevin commissary funding, letters of support from key stakeholders, and reentry planning support during his resentencing trial. We will continue to fight this injustice alongside Kevin until he is free.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY



KEEP YOUR PROMISE CAMPAIGN

Last Prisoner Project partnered with Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) to conduct a series of actions aimed at pressuring President Biden to release the nation's federal cannabis prisoners. Our demand was simple: "Follow through on your campaign promise to release all cannabis prisoners or we will remind the nation of your role in creating mass incarceration." The campaign included local meetings with policymakers, a coalition sign on letter, and it culminated with a rally in D.C.

+6,500 FEDERAL CANNABIS PARDONS

On October 6th, President Biden announced that he would grant pardons to over 6,500 people with federal simple marijuana possession offenses. The announcement comes after years of advocacy by Last Prisoner Project, who — in addition to our direct lobbying of the Biden Administration — has launched two campaigns (A Time to Heal and Keep Your Promise) focused on getting President Biden to use his clemency power to provide relief to those with federal cannabis convictions.



CALL ON GOVERNORS TO GRANT PARDONS

In an acknowledgment of the fact that the vast majority of cannabis convictions take place on the state level, President Biden's pardon announcement simultaneously encouraged the country's governors to use their clemency power to issue similar grants. Building off this, LPP contacted more than 30 governor's offices to urge them to heed the President's call to follow his example by providing cannabis pardons.

FEDERAL POLICY REFORM

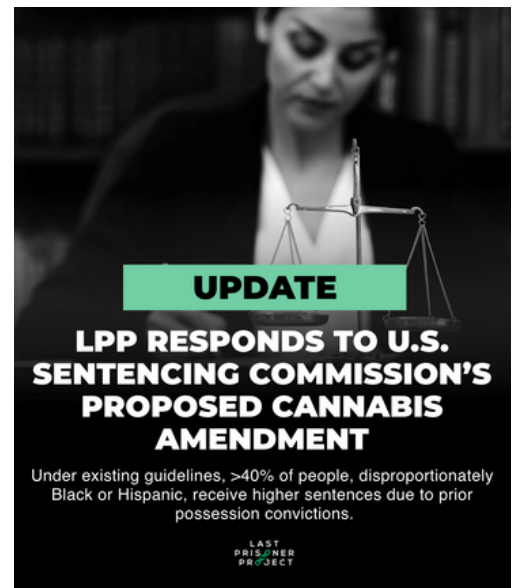
Harnessing Opportunities by Pursuing Expungement (HOPE) Act

Last Prisoner Project officially endorsed the Harnessing Opportunities by Pursuing Expungement (HOPE) Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that would provide federal funding to help states expunge cannabis-related criminal records. In 2022, we worked with the bill's co-sponsor, Representative Dave Joyce (R-OH), to improve language in the bill to make the record relief provisions stronger and ensure broad eligibility. LPP has also advocated for its inclusion in any SAFE+ Banking bill and will continue to support HOPE when reintroduced in 2023.

United States Sentencing Commission

Last Prisoner Project submitted comments to the United States Sentencing Commission in response to the Commission's January 12, 2023 notice of proposed Amendment #7, which concerns the impact that simple possession of marijuana offenses have on criminal histories. Simple possession of marijuana offenses still result in criminal history points being added to sentencing calculations. This policy leads to longer sentences for thousands of Americans each year.

With that in mind, LPP's comment supported the Commission's proposal to exclude marijuana offenses from criminal history score sentencing calculations. In addition, we urged the Commission to consider implementing additional reforms to federal sentencing guidelines related to cannabis crimes.



THE OFFICE OF THE PARDON ATTORNEY

In addition to advocating for commutations and assisting in the implementation of the web portal for individuals to access pardon certificates, LPP worked with the Office of the Pardon Attorney and the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center at Ohio State to better educate the public on who President Biden's pardon announcement affected and what it means for future clemency actions.

STATE POLICY REFORM

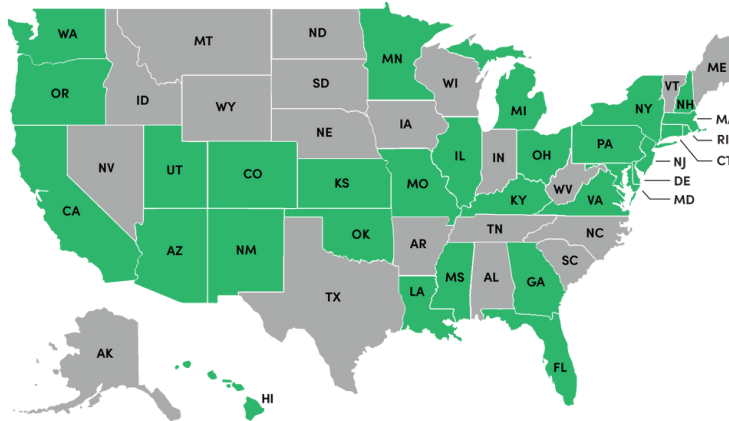
In 2022, LPP's policy team provided nonpartisan, evidence-based technical assistance to jurisdictions working to advance cannabis laws that provide retroactive relief. The LPP policy team focused on two core components of retroactive relief for cannabis-related offenses: state-initiated resentencing and record clearance. On a local, state, and federal level, the team pursued policy reform by conducting statutory assessments, crafting policies, providing technical assistance, and strategically lobbying.

OUR TEAM HAS
ENGAGED WITH

31
STATES

LPP TESTIFIED

IN **3**
STATES:
CA, RI, & VA



6

AUTOMATIC RECORD
CLEARANCE AND
RESENTENCING BILLS
LPP POLICY TEAM
WORKED ON IN 2022:

- Rhode Island Legalization Bill
- California AB 1706
- Virginia Resentencing Bill
- Hawai'i Legalization Bill
- New Mexico Record Clearance Rollback Bill
- Federal HOPE Act

CALIFORNIA

In order to help fix California's failed implementation of a robust retroactive relief program, LPP authored Assembly Bill 1706. It provides clear deadlines and guidance for the agencies charged with sealing eligible cannabis records. It also adds oversight and progress reporting to ensure delays and lack of transparency no longer bar deserving individuals from relief.

On September 18th, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 1706 into law, resolving these unacceptable implementation delays. This bill — authored by LPP — has already provided record relief to over 9,000 Californians.

RHODE ISLAND

LPP joined a coalition of Rhode Island advocacy organizations to help author parts of The Rhode Island Cannabis Act, which creates an automatic record clearance process that should remove at least 27,000 cases upon full implementation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

LPP Sponsors CA Bill to Fix Failed Automatic Cannabis Record Sealing

**AB 1706 would ensure that
California delivers on its overdue
promise to those harmed by the
War on Drugs.**

HAWAII

LPP's policy team presented to Hawaii's Dual Use of Cannabis Task Force, urging the group to consider, state-initiated resentencing and record clearance as part of legalization. The task force endorsed our recommendations in their official report.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are eternally grateful for each and every one of our supporters that enable us to do this work. Your generosity allows us to achieve our mission to keep fighting until everyone that is still incarcerated for cannabis is free.

Our Partners for Freedom Program is a nationwide group of our most committed and generous partners in our mission to free cannabis prisoners. They believe in our vision that anyone profiting from the legal cannabis industry has a moral imperative to work towards restorative justice.

PARTNERS FOR FREEDOM

Champions

Ascend Wellness
Ayr Wellness
Dutchie
Happy Valley

Reformers

AVD
Cowen
GrowHealthy
Hawthorne
Leafly
Trulieve
Weedmaps
Wurk
Farmer and The Felon
Evidence

Advocates

Canopy Growth
Cheba Hut
Good Day Farm
MJUnpacked
Pax
Sanctuary Medicinals

Supporters

Aroya
Benzinga
Beyond Hello/Jushi Holdings
Bhang
Burnl
Burning Love
Cannabiz Team
Carp Growers
Dad Grass
Dana Borys
District Cannabis
Edie Parker
Emjay
Escape Artists
Eureka Vapor
Gentleman Smugglers
Greenlane
Harborside
Hashtag Cannabis
Heir
Her Highness

Supporters

Highrize
The High Confectionary
House of Wise
Island
Jane Technologies
K Savage Supply
Kikoko
King Palm
Last Podcast on the Left
Learn Brands
Leune
Levo
Maven Genetics
Mission
Mom's Organic Grocery
Nature's Grace and Wellness
Nova Farms
Oak Impact Group
Open Book Extracts
O.pen
Paradiso
PayQwick
Perfect Union
Playboy
PuffCo
Redmond
Redwood Cannabis
The Reef
Schwag
Seed Talent
Simply Crafted CBD
Stoner Ape Club
Sunday Goods
Terrascend
THC Alaska
Two Joints
(Pleasantrees)
Uncle Ike's
Veriheal
Vibes Papers
Vlasic Labs
Wana Brands
Windy City Cannabis



Our Roll It Up For Justice Program is a nationwide campaign encouraging cannabis businesses to educate their customers, raise awareness of our mission, and give them an opportunity to donate to Last Prisoner Project at check out. Small change can make a big impact, and every cent raised through the program gets us closer to the day when every last cannabis prisoner is set free.

[See a full list of participating dispensaries here.](#)

Our ROLL IT UP FOR JUSTICE program expanded from 250 to 350+ dispensary partners in 2022.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

Platinum
Transparency
2022

Candid.

The Last Prisoner Project has achieved a Four-Star Charity designation from Charity Navigator and a Platinum Seal of Transparency Rating on Candid, the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations. These ratings put us in the top 0.1% of charities nationally in terms of transparency.

Charity
Navigator



FOUR-STAR

LPP is able to cover its administrative and development expenses thanks to the generosity of our corporate partners. 100% of individual donations go directly towards our programs which include the Cannabis Justice Initiative and other legal intervention programs, policy and advocacy, as well as our support fund which distributes grants directly to incarcerated constituents and their families.

SUPPORT & REVENUE

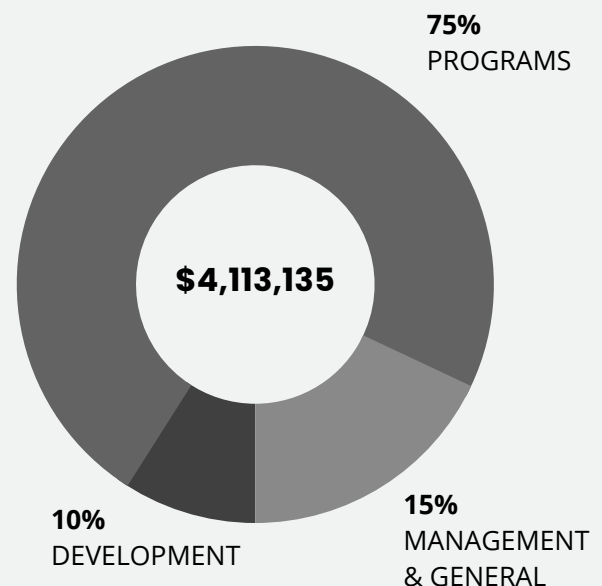
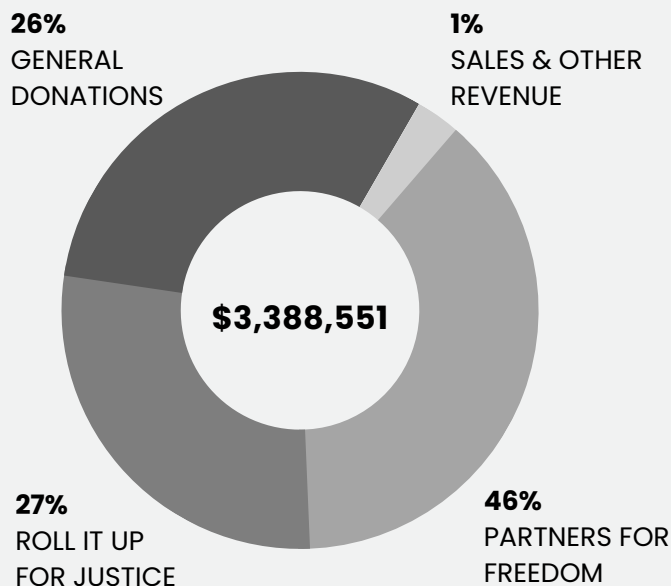
GENERAL DONATIONS: \$884,615
PARTNERS FOR FREEDOM: \$1,556,129
ROLL IT UP FOR JUSTICE: \$913,965
SALES AND OTHER REVENUE: \$33,842

TOTAL: \$3,388,551

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS: \$3,098,156
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL: \$605,865
DEVELOPMENT: \$409,114

TOTAL: \$4,113,135



*Partners for Freedom is our corporate sponsorship program.
Roll It Up For Justice is a program that enables consumers to donate their spare change to LPP at retail stores.
Independently audited financials will be posted to our website as they become available.

LAST
PRISONER
PROJECT

The logo for the Last Prisoner Project features the organization's name in a bold, white, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines: "LAST", "PRISONER", and "PROJECT". A green graphic of a chain link is superimposed over the text, specifically passing through the letters "S" in "PRISONER" and "P" in "PROJECT".

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WWW.LASTPRISONERPROJECT.ORG