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## From Our Founder

Dear FAMM Supporters,

In many ways, 2016 was as momentous a year for me as 1991, the year I launched FAMM. Armed with little more than a card table, a box full of letters from prisoners, and outrage fueled by an experience in my own family, I was driven to fight for sentencing reform. Now, 25 years later, FAMM has grown well beyond that table and that box. FAMM has flourished into a \$2 million annual operation, with 14 employees, working throughout the country.



In 2016, after a quarter of a century, I made the difficult but natural decision to step down as FAMM's president and from day-to-day operations. I continue to be engaged in our work, though, as board president, and I spent much of 2016 in careful succession planning to insure that our organization could transition from my leadership.

With my input, the board hired Kevin Ring as our new president. Kevin is already filling my shoes and then some. An eminent policy expert, Kevin has worked at FAMM for more than eight years and has firsthand experience with unfair sentencing laws. He is a natural and inspiring leader whose innovation and creativity greatly impress me.

With my decision to leave came a long look at all we've accomplished. More than 330,000 individuals have received shorter, fairer sentences because of the reforms we helped to get passed. And I never tire of hearing from those families who were reunited a little sooner because of our efforts. I realize, too, that without their willingness to let us share their stories, FAMM's work to reform sentencing laws would be much harder.

A highlight for me in 2016 was our celebration of FAMM's 25 years. The sold-out dinner was attended by fellow advocates, supporters, and former prisoners whose sentences were shortened because of FAMM's work. During their stay in Washington, many of these former prisoners went with us to Capitol Hill so that they could share their stories firsthand and remind lawmakers of the very real impact of the laws they pass.

Thank you for supporting FAMM and me these 25 years—it has been the journey of a lifetime. My role in the organization has changed, but my deep pride in what we do in this battle has not.

FAMM's role in the battle for sentencing justice must continue to grow. I invite you to read this Annual Report and hope that you will be as inspired and heartened by our progress as I am. FAMM is in excellent hands with Kevin at the helm, and I can't wait to see what happens next!

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Stewart





Julie Stewart, FAMM Founder

## 25 Years of Advocacy

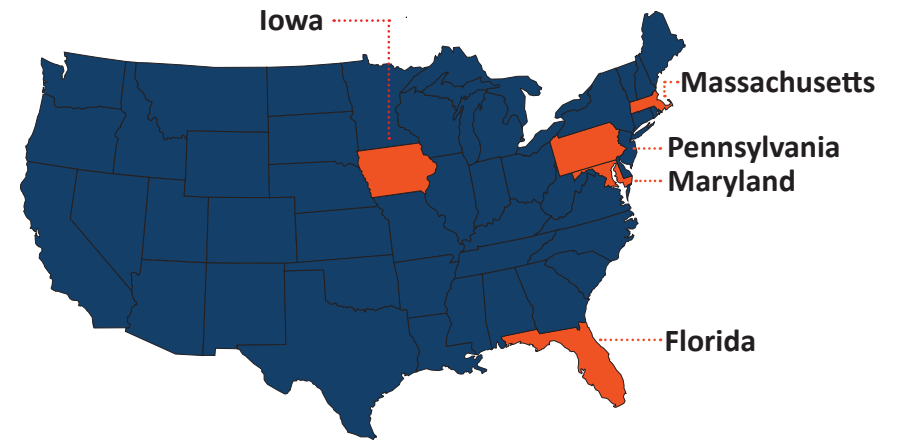
It is no accident that “FAMM” begins with “families.” For 25 years, families have been at the heart of our advocacy. We campaign against one-size-fits-all sentencing laws because they waste money without making us safer. But, most of all, we oppose these policies because they do real harm to real people. Highlighting the human toll of broken sentencing laws has been FAMM’s hallmark for 25 years.

FAMM’s most meaningful victories of 2016 were achieved through a combination of substantive knowledge, hard work, political savvy, and strategic alliances. The rewards produced by these victories were reunited families, strengthened communities, and free individuals. As we review our advocacy efforts from 2016, we share some of the stories that moved us to act.



Kevin Ring, FAMM President

## FAMM in the States



Two million of the 2.2 million people incarcerated in the United States are in state and local prisons and jails. Excessive mandatory sentencing laws and policies in the states must be reformed if we hope to reduce overincarceration and promote individualized justice. In 2016, FAMM sought to build support for commonsense reforms in several states. Highlights include:

### Iowa

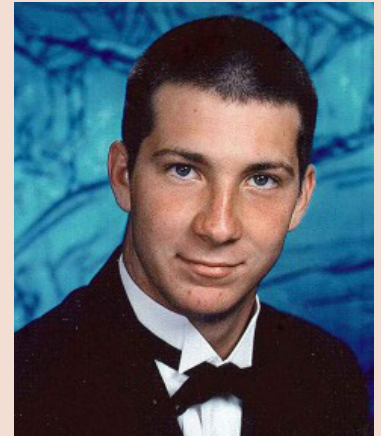
Relying heavily on FAMM’s substantive expertise, the Iowa legislature passed a reform that cut in half the time individuals serving mandatory minimums for low-level drug offenses must serve before they become eligible for parole. The new law applies retroactively, making some incarcerated drug offenders immediately eligible for parole. Overall, the measure reduced sentences for hundreds of nonviolent drug offenders and is estimated to save more than \$700,000 in the next fiscal year.

## Florida

FAMM spearheaded a major victory in Florida, persuading the legislature to repeal a mandatory minimum for the first time in 20 years. Gov. Rick Scott signed the FAMM-backed reform, which repeals the mandatory minimum sentence for aggravated assault with a firearm. More than 200 people are serving mandatory minimum sentences in Florida for aggravated assault with a firearm. This reform significantly curtails the scope and impact of Florida's 10-20-Life gun sentencing law, and guarantees no judge will be forced to impose a 20-year sentence for a warning shot, as the judge was required to do in the case of Erik Weyant.

## Erik Weyant

Threatened in a parking lot by a group of men and fearing a beating or even worse, Erik Weyant pulled out his legal handgun and fired shots into the air. Though no one was hurt in the incident, Erik was found guilty of aggravated assault with a firearm without intent to kill. He was sentenced under Florida's notorious 10-20-Life law, which requires a mandatory sentence of 20 years when a firearm is discharged during a crime. Without the 10-20-Life mandatory minimum, Erik would have faced a maximum term of five years for his actions. Judge Neil Roddenbery looked for a way out of the mandatory minimum in Erik's case but was ultimately forced to impose a 20-year term on a young man with no criminal record. [Learn more here.](#)



## Maryland

After securing meaningful reform in 2015, FAMM returned to Maryland in 2016 and successfully promoted an outright repeal of mandatory minimums for lower level drug offenders. FAMM supported this effort by testifying at public hearings, attending justice reform working group meetings, commissioning a poll showing strong support for repeal (which was used by other advocates and lawmakers), and engaging FAMM members in Maryland to contact their representatives.

The final bill, which was signed into law by Gov. Larry Hogan on May 19, applied retroactively; thousands of current prisoners might benefit from reduced, fairer sentences.

## Massachusetts

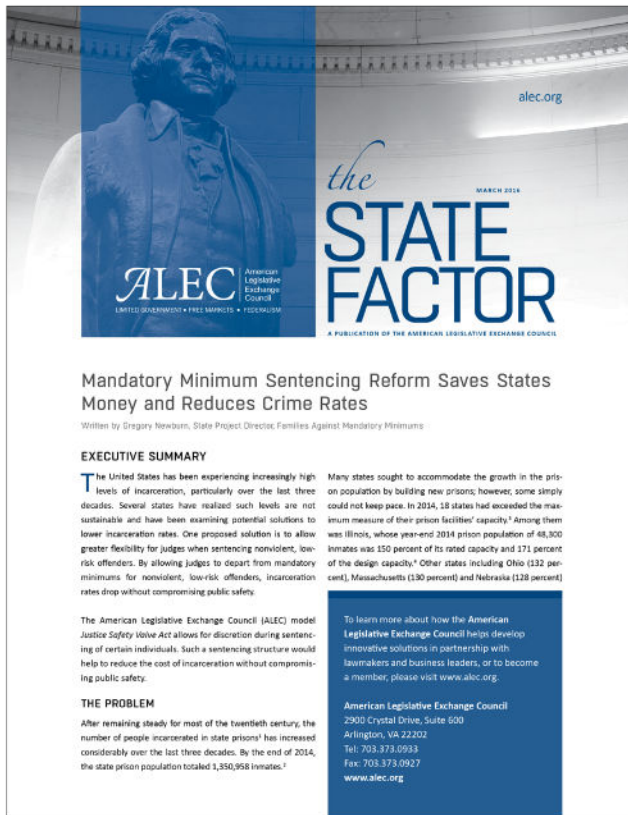
In October 2016, FAMM urged the [Massachusetts legislature](#) to pass commonsense sentencing reform in response to a Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's ruling that state law does not currently allow departures from mandatory minimum sentences. FAMM filed an [amicus brief](#) in the case along with 40 other groups that oppose mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

## Pennsylvania

In 2015, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down many of the Commonwealth's mandatory minimum sentencing laws. The Pennsylvania House approved legislation in 2016 to reinstate these laws, but FAMM led the campaign to block the bill. As part of our advocacy campaign, FAMM organized a panel briefing for Pennsylvania senators that featured FAMM then-Vice President Kevin Ring, Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist, and former New York City Police Chief Bernie Kerik.

## Other States

In addition to providing support for other reform campaigns across the country, FAMM partnered with the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to publish a new report that promotes judicial discretion in sentencing in order to ease prison overcrowding, save tax dollars, and ensure public safety.



### Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Reform Saves States Money and Reduces Crime Rates

Written by Gregory Newburn, State Project Director Families Against Mandatory Minimums

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States has been experiencing increasingly high levels of incarceration, particularly over the last three decades. Several states have realized such levels are not sustainable and have been examining potential solutions to lower incarceration rates. One proposed solution is to allow greater flexibility for judges when sentencing nonviolent, low-risk offenders. By allowing judges to depart from mandatory minimums for nonviolent, low-risk offenders, incarceration rates drop without compromising public safety.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) model Justice Safety Valve Act allows for discretion during sentencing of certain individuals. Such a sentencing structure would help to reduce the cost of incarceration without compromising public safety.

#### THE PROBLEM

After remaining steady for most of the twentieth century, the number of people incarcerated in state prisons has increased considerably over the last three decades. By the end of 2014, the state prison population totaled 1,350,958 inmates.<sup>2</sup>

Many states sought to accommodate the growth in the prison population by building new prisons; however, some simply could not keep pace. In 2014, 18 states had exceeded the maximum measure of their prison facilities' capacity.<sup>3</sup> Among them was Illinois, whose year-end 2014 prison population of 48,300 inmates was 150 percent of its rated capacity and 171 percent of the design capacity.<sup>4</sup> Other states including Ohio (132 percent), Massachusetts (130 percent) and Nebraska (128 percent)

To learn more about how the American Legislative Exchange Council helps develop innovative solutions in partnership with lawmakers and business leaders, or to become a member, please visit [www.alec.org](http://www.alec.org).

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Specifically, the report discusses ALEC's [Justice Safety Valve Act](#), a model policy that allows sentencing courts to depart from mandatory minimums for low-level offenders who meet specific criteria. In addition to showing how safety valves work in practice, the report highlights several states that have passed versions of the model policy.

## 2016 Federal Efforts

Federal sentencing and prison reform legislation got caught in the contested presidential election of 2016. FAMM nevertheless found other ways to continue recent progress and lay the groundwork for meaningful reform in the coming years.

### Executive Clemency

FAMM has long believed that U.S. presidents should use their power to grant executive clemency—specifically, their power to commute (or shorten) prison sentences—to undo the injustices caused by federal mandatory minimum sentences. FAMM was proud to be a founding member of Clemency Project 2014, a massive pro bono project that helped to identify federal prisoners who were serving excessive, outdated prison sentences. In 2016, FAMM helped review thousands of petitions to determine whether they met the criteria set forth by the Obama administration for consideration of executive clemency. By the end of 2016, President Obama had commuted nearly 1,400 excessive federal prison sentences, more than the last 11 presidents combined.

Mandy Martinson was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison for helping her dealer-boyfriend in exchange for feeding her methamphetamine addiction. Mandy's judge, unable to go below the mandatory minimum, expressed his objection to the sentence, stating: "The Court does not have any particular concern that Ms. Martinson will commit crimes in the future." Mandy was able to achieve sobriety and get her old job back before her trial. Nevertheless, this first-time, nonviolent offender was given a sentence that was three years longer than that of her boyfriend. Happily, Mandy's sentence was commuted by President Obama and she returned home in December.



## Expanding Compassionate Release for Sick and Elderly Prisoners

FAMM helped convince the U.S. Sentencing Commission to expand the criteria for compassionate release and to tell the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to use compassionate release for all eligible prisoners.

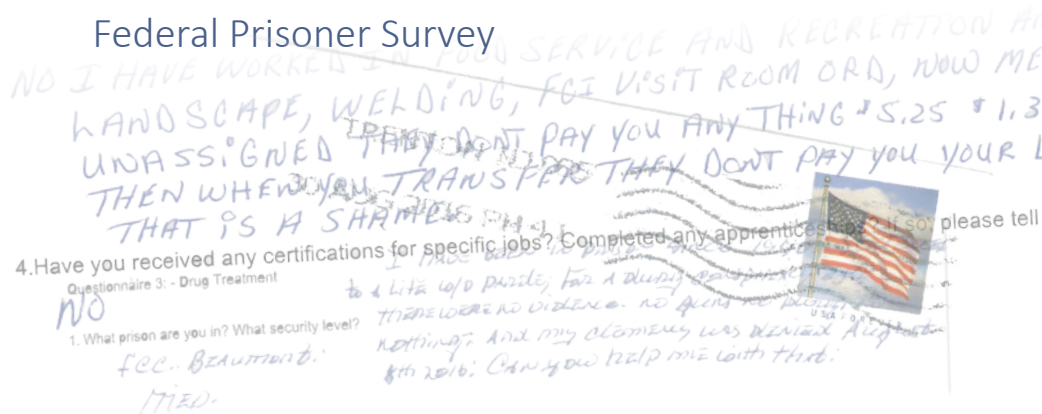
In February 2016, FAMM General Counsel Mary Price [testified](#) before the commission at its invitation and used her remarks to bring attention to the problems federal prisoners face when seeking BOP approval for early release due to extraordinary and compelling circumstances. The commission was considering proposals to expand the criteria for compassionate release. Ms. Price urged additional grounds for release and asked the commission to tell the BOP to use its authority more robustly. In April, the commission adopted a new guideline that incorporated many of FAMM's [suggestions](#), including the admonition to the BOP. The guideline became effective November 1.

## Good and Bad Federal Legislation

FAMM continued to promote bold federal sentencing reform legislation on Capitol Hill. We were disappointed that meaningful reform was not enacted, but heartened to see greater interest in reform than ever before. FAMM's federal team met with dozens of lawmakers from both political parties to educate them on the strengths and weaknesses of the major federal bills under consideration, including the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, the Smarter Sentencing Act, and SAFE Justice Act.

In 2016, FAMM's federal team successfully blocked passage of legislation that would have created new mandatory minimum sentences or expanded existing sentences. Specifically, FAMM opposed a bill known as Kate's Law, which would have created a new, five-year mandatory minimum sentence for thousands of people convicted of illegal reentry each year. FAMM also successfully defeated an attempt to apply new mandatory sentences to offenses involving the drug fentanyl. Passage of Kate's Law and the fentanyl proposal would have caused the federal prison population to explode and would have wasted billions of dollars without making the public any safer.

## Federal Prisoner Survey



In the last months of the year, FAMM began work on one of our most ambitious projects yet, a report on Prison Reform and Reentry, to be released in 2017. The research involved gathering information via survey from prisoners, then compiling that data and analyzing it. The project marks the important launch of our reentry and reform work.



FAMM then-Vice President Kevin Ring appeared on a [panel](#) at a criminal justice summit hosted by the Washington Post. Mr. Ring was interviewed alongside House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA); Steve Cook, associate deputy attorney general, and Malika Saada Saar, senior counsel on Civil and Human Rights of Google. The Washington Post's Sari Horwitz moderated the panel.

## 2016 Communications and Media Highlights

FAMM consistently seeks to maximize opportunities to educate and communicate with six distinct audiences: prisoners, families who have been affected by mandatory minimum sentences, legislators and policy groups, donors, the public, and the media. FAMM utilizes general public relations tools, storytelling, social media, and multimedia production to educate the public and change laws. FAMM invested heavily in developing a strong communications team, comprised of a communications director, deputy director, storyteller, and multimedia director.

### Online Communications and Social Media Outreach



FAMM is constantly evaluating our online platforms to strengthen our ability to reach our communications goals. Below is a list of the different tools we use, and our average reach.

- FAMM.org: Our website averages 33K monthly users and 69,000 monthly page views.
- Corrlinks: FAMM uses Corrlinks to communicate with approximately 39,000 federal prisoners each month.
- Salsa: FAMM uses Salsa to manage our communications with our members via email. Subscribers: 39,270
- Facebook: Our Facebook followers are mostly affected families. Likes: 41K | Followers: 40K | Avg monthly reach: 12,000 people
- Twitter: FAMM is followed by a mix of advocates, affected individuals, like-minded nonprofits, lawmakers, and journalists. Followers: 6,006 | Tweet impressions (reach): 1.3M people

## FAMM in the Media

FAMM is well-known to most national media outlets. Our legal experts regularly serve as subject matter experts on criminal justice issues for news organizations such as the Wall Street Journal, AP, the Washington Post, the New York Times, Rolling Stone, and more. We process between 15 and 20 media inquiries per month. In 2016, FAMM was mentioned in 3,072 news articles, reaching 5.57 billion viewers. FAMM regularly sends out press releases and statements to promote our issues and reports.

### 2016 Major Media Placements

The Washington Post



NBC NEWS

Forbes

BuzzFeed

The Marshall Project



Florida Watchdog.org





## Prisoner Profiles/Storytelling

For more than 25 years, FAMM’s signature contribution to the sentencing reform movement has been the ability to tell the stories of real people affected by unjust and counterproductive sentencing policies. These stories move policymakers in a way that facts and statistics simply cannot. In 2016 we took a major step to enhance our storytelling abilities by hiring our first-ever multimedia director and a new storyteller.

### 2016 Prisoner Profiles

- [Charceil Kellam](#)
- [Ramona Brant](#)
- [Paul Fields](#)
- [Robyn Hamilton](#)
- [Nicole Forde](#)

### 2016 Success Stories

- [Eric Wilson](#)
- [Weldon Angelos](#)
- [Elizabeth Melson](#)
- [Yolanda Flournah-Perkins](#)

## Multimedia/Video Production

In 2016 FAMM established in-house video production services in an effort to better engage the public and legislators.

### 2016 Videos

- [Leo Guthmiller](#)
- [Maryland Repeal of Mandatory Minimums Sentenced to Die in There](#)
- [Marijuana Sends First-Time Offender to Prison for 55 Years](#)
- [The Story of Mandy Martinson](#)
- [How Mandy Martinson Got 15 Years in Prison](#)



# FAMM's 25th Anniversary Dinner

On March 24, presidential commutation recipients, former prisoners and their families, and advocates from around the country gathered together in Washington, D.C., for an evening of celebration and a renewed commitment to reforming our country's sentencing laws. Guests such as W. Neil Eggleston, former White House general counsel, and Busta Rhymes joined us as we celebrated our families.



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## 2016 Financials

### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	973,526
Investment in securities	\$	694,732
Accrued interest receivable	\$	1,293
Grants and pledges receivable	\$	475,000
Prepaid expenses	\$	2,422
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,146,973</b>

### Property & Equipment- At Cost

Furniture	\$	3,495
Equipment	\$	41,372
Software	\$	20,067
Less: accumulated depreciation	\$	(40,530)
Property and Equipment, Net	\$	24,404

### Other Assets

Security deposit	\$	\$8,888
Total other assets	\$	\$8,888

**Total assets** \$ **2,180,265**

### Liabilities & Assets

#### Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	42,127
Accrued vacation payable	\$	25,274
Federal income tax payable	\$	0
Deferred rent	\$	8,029
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>75,430</b>

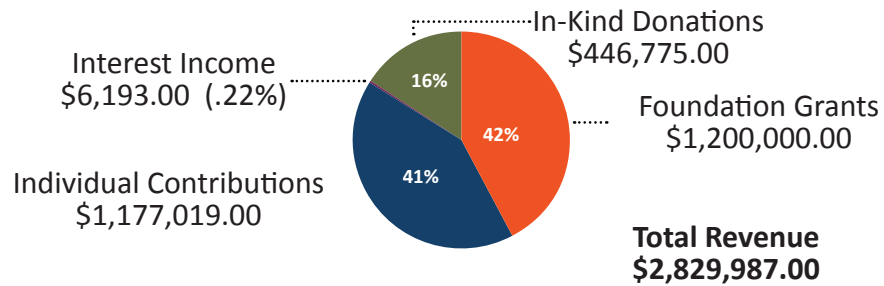
#### Net Assets

Unrestricted new assets		
Undesignated	\$	181,502
Designated by board	\$	990,000
Total unrestricted assets	\$	1,171,502
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$	933,333
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,104,835</b>

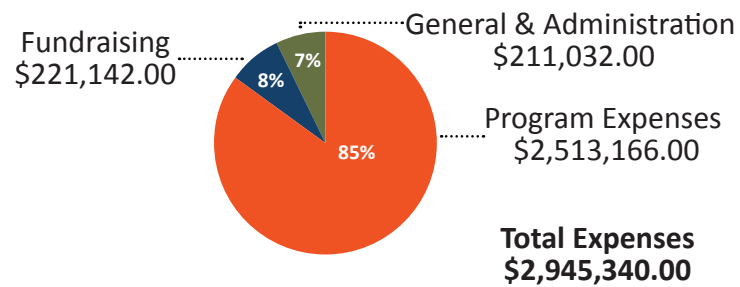
**Total liability and net assets** \$ **2,180,265**

# 2016 Financials continued

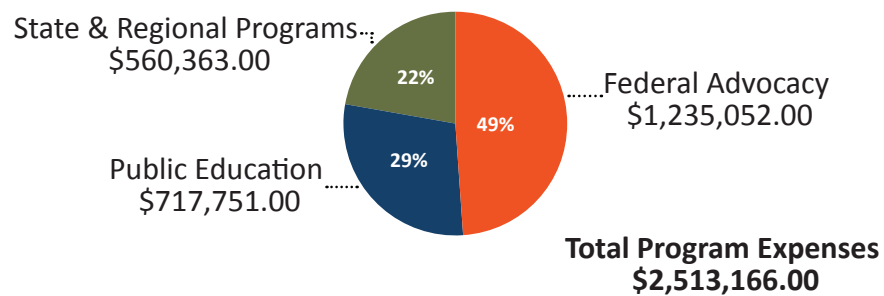
## Revenue



## Expenses



## Expenses by Program





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