



2017 Annual Report

*Working for more than 26 years to
end the death penalty through
education, organizing and advocacy*



VADP helped Virginia religious leaders organize a press conference near the state capitol in Richmond urging clemency for death row inmate Ivan Teleguz. Thanks to their advocacy and that of many other VADP supporters, the Governor reduced his death sentence to life in prison without parole. Now Mr. Teleguz and his attorneys have time to prove his innocence claim.

Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

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Our Work Continues

Dear Abolition Champion,

VADP saw some significant victories and many notable challenges throughout 2017 as we work towards abolition in Virginia.

Another year passed with no new death sentences imposed by Virginia juries. It is now over six years since anyone was sentenced to death here!

Across the nation, only 39 death sentences were handed down in 2017, the second lowest annual total since the U.S. Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional in 1972. It was the seventh year in a row that fewer than 100 death sentences were imposed.

In 2017 Virginia executed two people, one of eight states to carry out an execution. The national total of 23 executions is half the number carried out seven years ago, and the second lowest total since 1991. Only the 20 executions in 2016 were lower.

While we were saddened by these two executions, clemency was granted to two others, leaving Virginia with just three souls on death row.

I want to thank our capital defense attorneys for their crucial work. They are true warriors for an improved criminal justice system.

In Virginia, we continue working towards our goal of becoming the first Southern state to abolish the death penalty. We currently are focusing our efforts on legislation to ban the use of the death penalty on individuals with severe mental illness. This proposal lost in the 2017 Virginia General Assembly session by a slim margin in committee.



During the legislative off-season, we targeted key legislative districts as our new Field Director has worked tirelessly to build support for our cause in those areas of the Commonwealth.

A profound wave of change marked the November 2017 state elections. Its impact on abolition efforts remains to be seen, but we are hopeful.

As an organization, VADP's 2017 was marked by a significant increase in donor support and by our most successful annual awards luncheon ever. We had a larger, younger and more diverse group of people attending and celebrating our work.

VADP thrives due to your support. You can send a check in the mail or donate by phone or online. We now are able to accept stock contributions. You can also memorialize a friend or loved one or remember VADP in your estate planning.

VADP is a small organization with a mighty impact. Your generous support enables us to grow and reach our goal of death penalty abolition.

Please accept our gratitude for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,

Virginia Podboy, VADP Board President



Members of St. James Episcopal Church in Richmond at a VADP education event.

Why We Contribute to VADP

Dave Knight, Alexandria

As my wife and I were driving to Richmond early on the morning that my brother Jamie was shot, I vividly remembered our earlier conversations about the death penalty.



I had visions of standing outside a prison holding signs decrying the execution of my brother's killer. My wife and I had discussed the reasons why the death penalty doesn't work and is unfair. But what

truly sealed it for me was this:

Jamie was one of the most caring, friendly, outgoing, I'm-always-gonna-have-your-back person I'd ever known. He was making the world a better place with his life, and I did not want someone killed in his name. It would have been an insult to his memory.

I do remember feeling a sense of calm knowing that when the situation was no longer academic, that our convictions were steadfast then and now, twenty-one years later.

That's why I'm happy to support VADP.

Cliff Maloney, President of Young Americans for Liberty

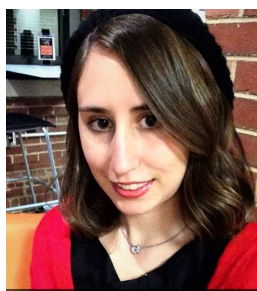
VADP does phenomenal work in Virginia. They take the very complex and serious issue that is the death penalty and they clearly present the merits of why we need to abolish it in a way that reaches everyday Virginians.

As a limited government advocate, nothing is more important than stripping the government's ability to legally kill a citizen. I commend VADP on its work with this issue.



Rachel Sutphin, Christiansburg

My father, the late Corporal Eric Sutphin, was killed by William Morva during a manhunt in Blacksburg in 2006. When Morva's execution date was announced for July 2017, I was alarmed.



I wrote to the Governor and other public officials urging that he be granted clemency. But Morva was executed. Now I mourn for two people.

I mourn because I believe in the sanctity of human life, regardless of criminal record.

Therefore, I chose to share my story, as a victim's family member, to show my support for the work of VADP.

I long for the day when the government stops killing its own people in the name of justice. True justice does not deny human rights. True justice takes all lawful measures to preserve life.

May justice come and bring healing to the families of the victims and perpetrators alike.

Rev. Connie Clark, Earlysville

I have worked as a chaplain in two state psychiatric hospitals. I learned how people with severe mental illness who commit crimes can either be served well by the state or served poorly — to the point of death through neglect or killing by the death penalty.

Knowing that so many people who wind up charged with crimes and are imprisoned suffer from mental illness, I am passionate about preventing their execution.

But fundamentally, I am against killing in any case, for any reason.



Making Progress During 2017

Dear VADP Supporters,

2017 was an exciting year of significant progress for VADP and the Virginia abolition movement.

Thanks to the outstanding work of capital defense attorneys and the advocacy of VADP supporters like you, Ivan Teleguz and William Burns were granted clemency. They were released from death row and will serve life sentences.



Unfortunately, two others – Ricky Gray and William Morva – were executed despite massive appeals for clemency from the public, the faith community, and mental health experts.

The Morva case, in particular, highlighted the need for a new Virginia law to ban the execution of people with severe mental illness. A coalition of seven mental health organizations has joined VADP and others to advocate for this common

sense reform with widespread public support.

The missing piece for VADP has long been the lack of grassroots outreach in the southern and western parts of the Commonwealth.

Thanks to a new \$25,000 grant from the Sisters of Bon Secours, VADP hired Dale Brumfield as our full-time Field Director. A Staunton native, Dale has extensive conservative ties throughout the state. He has been working hard to educate and build local support for abolition in places like Martinsville, Lynchburg, and Winchester.

Virginia had another year with no death sentences. It is now over six years since a jury sentenced someone to death.

It is indeed a new day for Virginia. We need you to continue responding to our action alerts, coming to regional meetings and education events, and making generous financial donations to our work.

– Michael Stone, VADP Executive Director

Why Board Members Support VADP

RJ Bee, Washington

My wife is a mitigation specialist and attorney. She shared stories of people who were wrongfully convicted, cases improperly handled and people just treated inhumanely. This has solidified my opposition to the death penalty over the years.



VADP is in an exciting and unique position. Our supporters play a significant role in the abolition of the death penalty in a state where it has long been a big part of the criminal justice system.

VADP is a thoughtful, strategic and ambitious organization, and I'm excited to be a part of it.

Theresa Dunleavy, Norfolk

In 1993 I read *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean and began to educate myself on capital punishment. I was horrified by what I learned.

Many death row inmates are exonerated due to post-conviction evidence; it is likely that innocent people have been executed. With this knowledge, I became a vocal activist to end the death penalty.



Thou shalt not kill applies to individuals and to the government. The death penalty defies logic and reason. That's why I'm happy to stand with VADP.

Accomplishments in 2017

Public Education

- ◆ Provided death penalty abolition speakers for a number of different audiences across the state:
 - St. George Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg
 - College of William & Mary in Williamsburg
 - St. James Episcopal Church in Richmond
 - ElderStudy Program in Fredericksburg
 - Loudoun County Algonkian District Democrats
- ◆ Organized a “Virginia Night” at the annual death penalty abolition fast & vigil on the plaza in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, featuring speakers from the Commonwealth:
 - Lawyer who worked to prove the innocence of a Texas death row inmate
 - Co-author of a biography about the legendary Virginia abolitionist, Marie Deans
 - Attorney coordinating the clemency campaign for Virginia death row inmate William Morva
 - Mother of former death row inmate Justin Wolfe
 - Former Virginia executioner
- ◆ Provided death penalty information on VADP website for a monthly average of 1,006 visitors.

Public Policy Advocacy

- ◆ Worked with mental health organizations to support legislation that would ban executions of people with severe mental illness.
- ◆ 18 conservative and Libertarian leaders endorsed legislation that would ban executions of people with severe mental illness, including:
 - Former Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli
 - Former Attorney General Mark Earley
 - Former Congressman Tom Bliley
- ◆ 12 family members of murder victims endorsed legislation that would ban executions of people with severe mental illness.
- ◆ VADP action alerts generated 1,217 messages to the Governor, urging clemency for Ricky Gray, Ivan Teleguz, and William Morva.

Media

- ◆ Helped to organize a press conference of faith leaders asking the Governor to grant clemency to death row inmate Ivan Teleguz.
- ◆ Worked to get op-eds supporting legislation to ban executions of people with severe mental illness published in the *Bristol Herald Courier*, the *Harrisonburg Daily News-Record*, and the *Lynchburg News and Advance*.

Organizing

- ◆ Met with VADP supporters at five regional meetings in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Roanoke in both the spring and autumn.



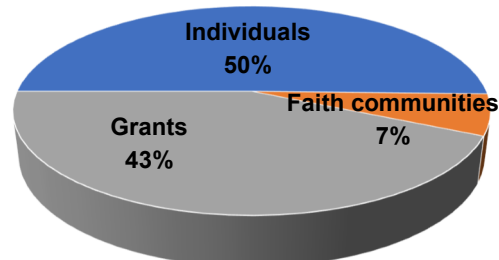
VADP supporters at an Arlington regional meeting

- ◆ Worked with local leaders to host VADP “friend-raising” events in Charlottesville and Washington, DC that produced new donors and identified potential board members.
- ◆ Hosted the VADP annual awards luncheon at a northern Virginia church. Over 80 supporters heard legendary capital defense attorney David Bruck speak about prospects for abolition. Rob Lee, Director of the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center accepted the *Citizen Advocate of the Year* award.

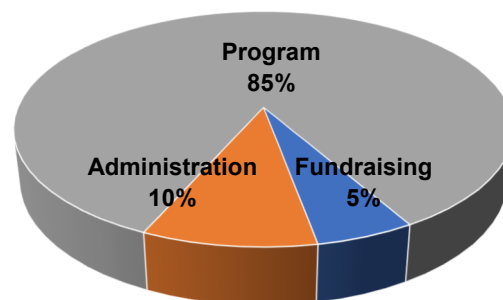
VADP Finances

	2016	2017
Income		
Individuals	\$ 61,455.59	\$ 81,522.03
Faith communities	13,154.38	10,247.00
Grants	38,000.00	70,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 112,609.97	\$ 161,769.03
Expenses		
Staff	\$ 59,000.36	\$ 86,637.40
Travel	5,442.22	11,146.62
Telephone	448.20	747.00
Postage and printing	725.06	1,504.30
Fundraising	6,770.45	7,505.12
Technology	5,512.94	7,251.47
Contract services	21,208.72	20,447.50
Miscellaneous	2,168.53	2,868.59
TOTAL	\$ 101,276.48	\$ 138,108.00
Net Income		
	\$ 11,333.49	\$ 23,661.03

Income: \$161,769



Expenses: \$138,108



VADP Board of Directors

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Richmond

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Paul O'Shea
Fairfax

Secretary

Mary Atwell
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Emma Johnston	Lynchburg
Kristina Leslie	Annandale
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Carissa Phillips	Charlottesville
Kent Willis	Matthews
Gerald Zerkin	Richmond



VADP board members at a September 2017 meeting in Ashland.