



One in four people in the U.S. has a criminal record.
Four in four have a criminal history.

Those of us that have been working for criminal justice reform have come to understand one very important thing: the power of art to change people's minds.

In some ways, it may be the only thing that does.

-Rev. Jerry Hancock, regarding We Are All Criminals

Support WAAC

Our main source of funding is individual donors. [Help us continue our work by donating online.](#)

We Are All Criminals in 2016



As I close out this year and prepare for next, my heart swells with gratitude. With the help of volunteers and donors, we were able to share We Are All Criminals with thousands of people across the US. Here are just a few of the places and partnerships that made 2016 so incredible:

- The System, the Failures, and the Consequences for the Country with *Making a Murderer's* Dean Strang and Jerry Buting
- Wake Forest University School of Law, Lac Courtes Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and the University of Minnesota
- Lino Lakes Correctional Facility with Voices for Racial Justice and BRIDGE
- North Carolina Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Unity Unitarian in St Paul and Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston Salem
- Overcoming Racism conference in St Paul and the National Association of Social Workers conference in Asheville
- Center for Death Penalty Litigation in Durham, North Carolina
- Center for Conflict Resolution in St Cloud and Duluth



At each stop, I hear from participants that this work is transforming lives. It's these conversations with students and faculty, peace officers and policymakers, that make me truly believe that mass criminalization can be ended, one deeply personal story at a time.

This work is *working*—thanks to you.

Emily

Foundation Support

WAAC is grateful to The Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Minnesota for its generous support of our work.

Looking Ahead

2017 will be filled with challenges. Filled with conversations, courtroom and congressional debates, and tweets that romanticize and endorse some of the most regrettable criminal justice policies our nation has conjured up—and a few more. From “law and order” policing to racial profiling to augmenting the war on drugs, support for a more divided, disparate, and deeply unmerciful system grows by the day.

With your help, we're pushing against that.

We're hitting the new year's ground running with January talks at the University of North Carolina School of Government and UNC's Parr Center for Ethics, sounding the call for reason, equity, empathy, and compassion.

Invite us to your city or campus; let's work together to end mass criminalization, one story at a time.