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BILL COSBY REACHES OUT TO NEW MEXICO INMATES

Santa Fe - Bill Cosby recently partnered with the Correctional Education Association to offer a new resource to offenders nationwide. Dr. Cosby donated thousands of his most recent book, *Come on, People! On the Path from Victims to Victors*, to correctional facilities nationwide to be used in a massive educational effort. The New Mexico Corrections Department Education Bureau received 360 of the donated books to be used in all 10 correctional facilities across the state. Inmates will have the opportunity to read the book and participate in discussion groups and essay and artwork contests. Contest participants will write essays or produce artwork, as inspired by Dr. Cosby's book. The results will be printed and bound in a contest publication that will be distributed to prison libraries statewide. Winners will also receive a copy of the contest publication to share with their families.

Cosby, one of America's most beloved cultural icons, and Alvin F. Poussaint, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and a civil rights veteran, co-authored *Come on, People!* In this New York Times Bestseller, Drs. Cosby and Poussaint lay out their message of hope and empowerment that was built around Cosby's popular call-out sessions held nationwide. Cosby challenged people in towns and cities across America to reclaim and restore their families and communities.

Cosby and Poussaint share their vision for strengthening America by addressing the crisis of people frozen in feelings of low self-esteem, abandonment, anger, fearfulness, despair, and vulnerability. By addressing these issues and providing tools to deal with them, Cosby and Poussaint help empower people to make the daunting transition from victims to victors. The themes of Cosby's book make it an excellent resource for inmates who are learning to build successful lives during their incarceration.

The Corrections Education Bureau serves thousands of offenders every year, operating much like a school district, offering adult basic education, post-secondary education, vocational certification, and family and life skills. Dedicated educators in correctional facilities across New Mexico are eagerly incorporating Dr. Cosby's book into their course work as another tool that will help offenders find the path from victims to victors.

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