

Who is AHH?

The mission of the Alderson Hospitality House is to provide support for those incarcerated at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp, their families and friends by providing temporary lodging, meals, transportation, emotional support and education.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FLIGHT INFORMATION



Raleigh County Memorial

Beckley, WV
www.flybeckley.com
Greenbrier Valley
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www.gvairport.com

AMTRAK INFORMATION



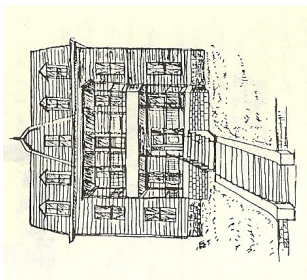
www.amtrak.com

Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV
ONLY Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50
From New York, westbound: Train #51

Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 579
Alderson, WV
24910

If you would like to be added or removed, please contact us!

ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE
203 High Street
PO Box 579
Alderson, WV 24910
304.445.2980



www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org
aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com

ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS By BRIAN

In recent years we have noticed increased congressional interest in the criminal justice system and in some cases, awareness of the need for change. We have been excited to see progress being made on sentencing reform, and on January 26th, another small step forward was made towards much needed improvements in the criminal justice system as a whole with the release of "Transforming Prisons, Restoring Lives: Final Recommendations of the Charles Colson Task Force on Federal Corrections."

The 9-person Task Force was established by Congressional mandate in 2014 and was lead by two former members of congress, Republican J.C. Watts of Oklahoma and Alan Mollohan a Democrat from West Virginia. This bipartisan panel spent a year studying the criminal justice system and will now share its findings with the Bureau of Prisons, members of Congress, the Department of Justice, the Attorney General and

the President. The recommendations of the task force are just that, recommendations. So while they do not change any laws or reduces any sentences, our hope is that they will shine some much-needed light on many problems, which need to be addressed.

Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) reviewed the report and highlighted key recommendations as follow:

1. Sentencing should be individualized, not one-size-fits-all
2. Federal sentencing should include greater use of probation, drug and mental health and veteran's courts, and other alternatives to incarceration – prison should be reserved for only the most serious offenders
3. Congress should repeal all mandatory minimum sentences for federal drug crimes, except the Continuing Criminal Enterprise statute, which applies to high-earning, large-quantity drug traffickers – and make such reforms retroactive
4. The U.S. Sentencing Commission should revise all drug sentencing guidelines so that sentences are determined by the

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HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN



tion of the storage room pulling down Christmas decorations. While these are busy days, they are filled with joy from our extended family made up of the guests who stay at the house.

This is a hard time for many of the families. Being forced away from their loved ones on such important days of celebration and family takes a toll on everyone at the House. We try to make



October through January is one of the busiest times at the Hospitality House. We start that time with the House O' Horrors at the end of October and the holidays just keep coming one after another.

The House O' Horrors was a success this year. We raised over \$1000 despite the rain and cooler weather. We had wonderful participation again from our local community and received great reviews of how scary the place was. We look forward to this event every year, and this year's "Dead and Breakfast" did not disappoint.

By the time we get everything cleaned up and catch our breath after the House O' Horrors, Thanksgiving is upon us, and soon after, I find myself again in the upper sec-

things a little less challenging by creating a relaxed and joyful environment. The holidays are marked by big meals, good conversation, and kids playing. At Christmas, we were again gifted gingerbread houses by Alan and Lisa Zucchari, and both adults and children alike enjoyed decorating them while singing songs and eating more of the candy than anyone should. I even got to sneak in after a day of cooking and decorate my own house with what was left of the candy.

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HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

The guests received a special treat this year for New Years. Two of our Cuban families cooked a traditional Cuban meal for everyone to share. There was a full slow roasted pig, beans and rice, fried plantains, and more! It



school and weather. I do not like to be cold, so one of my favorite things to do is to sit in front of the wood stove on cold winter nights. That's what I'm doing now as I write my article and listen to the sounds of a full house. There are kids in the playroom, and I can hear their joy and excitement through the closed playroom doors. Basketball is playing on the television and the guests watching are sharing in brief conversations. And still more are upstairs all snuggled in bed al-



took all day and into the evening for dinner to be ready, but no one was disappointed.

Now that the holidays are over and winter has set in, we are enjoying a bit of rest after all the hustle and bustle of holidays and decorations. The house is back to normal, and the number of guests lessens slightly because of



ready getting some sleep in anticipation of a long visit tomorrow. I really enjoy this job in all seasons, and winter is no exception. 🍷

POETRY

CORNER

Julia Ward Howe

I slept in your room last night,
 heard the thunder of the drums and fifes
 as they echoed the words of your song.
 What a paradox: fighting for world peace;
 what an oxymoron: battle hymn.
 You fought the battle for women's suffrage,
 women's rights, abolition.
 Still, a daughter of privilege,
 what could you know of suffering,
 of want, of injustice?
 Is ours the Mother's Day
 you envisioned, a forum and focus on world peace?
 Have you seen the glory?
 How bitter the grapes of wrath,
 crushed by gnashing teeth,
 tasting only vengeance.

By: Dan Gladich

Please share your artwork, thoughts and words of anguish, hope and joy. We'll consider any submissions for future publications, so please send us your stuff! 🌍

RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED

- role a person played, and the Commission should create more alternatives to incarceration and increase the availability of probation under the guidelines
5. Congress should make the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010's reforms to mandatory minimum crack cocaine sentences retroactive immediately
6. Congress should fix good time credit so that prisoners can earn up to 54, not just 47, days off each year for good behavior in prison
7. Congress should create a "safety valve" exception for the five-year mandatory minimum sentence for possessing a gun in the course of a drug trafficking offense so that judges can go below that sentence if the facts and circumstances of the case require it
8. Congress and the U.S. Sentencing Commission should review all other mandatory minimum sentences and determine whether they are producing just sentences
9. Whenever a new mandatory minimum sentence is created, it should "sunset" (automatically disappear and stop being required) after five years, and its cost and impact on prisons should be determined before it is passed into law
10. Federal prosecutors should not charge and prosecute drug cases that are not federal in nature and can be handled by state authorities
11. Congress should restore Pell Grants to federal prisoners so that they can pursue college degrees in prison
12. All federal prisoners except those serving life sentences should be eligible to earn up to 20 percent off their sentences for completing rehabilitative programs that

reduce their risk of recidivism – the time earned would be actual time off the sentence, not time in another form of BOP confinement

13. The BOP should make the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) and its one-year sentence reduction available to all prisoners who can complete the program
14. The BOP should create more rehabilitative programming and education for prisoners
15. The BOP should not use solitary confinement to punish disciplinary infractions except in extraordinary circumstances, and for no longer than necessary
16. The BOP should house prisoners as close to their families as possible
17. The BOP should make it easier for prisoners to visit with their families, including using video conferencing for visits
18. The BOP should reserve halfway houses for medium- and high-risk people and use more alternatives to halfway houses for low-risk people
19. The President should "ban the box" so that formerly incarcerated people do not have to report their convictions on employment applications for federal contractors
20. Congress should allow people to petition courts for early release after they have served 15 years in federal prison; if denied, people should be able to re-petition for early release every 5 years.

Were these recommendations to be addressed in full, they would have an immediate impact on a large number of our Hospitality House guests and myriad similar families throughout the country. The Task Force points out that they would eliminate federal prison overcrowding entirely and save taxpayers \$5 billion dollars 🌍

RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Chewy Oatmeal Cookies

1 Cup brown sugar

1 Cup white sugar

1 cup margarine

2 Eggs

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

3 1/2 cup rolled oats

1 1/4 cup flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

1 cup raisins

1. Beat the sugar and margarine together thoroughly. Add the eggs and vanilla extract and beat again.
2. Combine the oats, flour, baking soda, cinnamon separately, then add to wet ingredients and mix thoroughly.
3. Mix in the raisins
4. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
5. Form dough into 1 1/2 inch round balls.
6. Place on a cookie sheet, in 4 rows of 3.
7. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes. It helps to turn the trays half way through, and switch bottom and top shelves if baking more than one sheet at a time.
8. Cookies are done when the bottoms are golden brown and lift off the tray without sticking. You can check this by using just your index finger. 🍪



JOYFUL BAKING

As someone who enjoys baking, either trying something entirely new, or making a favorite recipe for the hundredth time, I have been nominated unofficial house baker. There have been many successful desert making experiences, but also many potential flops which have turned into learning opportunities. One very creative and useful tip I have recently learned is the making of cake balls. An attempt at icing a chocolate layer cake a few weeks ago soon turned into a disaster, when the whole top layer cracked and crumbled just as I was finishing up. The top layer was beyond repair, and there was no time to salvage the bottom. Under direction from Kathleen, I dumped the whole mess in a pan and mixed it all together. With the addition of a few crunched up candy canes, it was actually quite tasty. We put the mixture in the refrigerator to chill, so that it would be more formable. Then, formed it into small balls,

about one inch in diameter, and dipped it in melted chocolate. We used semi sweet baker's chocolate chips, but I imagine that almost any chocolate would work. The chocolate took about two hours to harden, in a cool room.

The finished product was delightful, and I was relieved that what had been a total flop was thus transformed! Thanks to Kathleen's experience, I now know the best quick fix to a cake disaster! I am quite tempted to experiment, as I believe any flavor of cake, with any additives and any type of chocolate would be yummy. We had chocolate cake, cream cheese frosting, peppermint bits, and semi sweet chocolate, but given time, I'm sure this basic recipe could be embellished! Thank goodness here at the Hospitality House, there is no lack of folks willing to taste any item that comes from this kitchen! 🍪

THE ANNUAL FUND

There is not much better than a warm cookie to pick you up after an emotional roller coaster. And that is often times what our guests go through during their day in Alderson. Visiting a loved one in prison is full of love, joy, sadness, and sometimes even anger. We try to make time here in Alderson just a little easier, and providing yummy baked goods is one of the ways we try to lift our guests spirits. You can help us provide the comfort these families need by donating to our annual fund.

Please donate now, and become part of our loving ministry. We really need to reach \$90,000 this year, and we cannot do it without your help! 🍪

Please make all checks payable to **Alderson Hospitality House** or donate online at www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org

THANK You FOR your SUPPORT! 🍪

Wish List

Everyday Items

Coffee
Postage Stamps
Ink Pens
Dish Soap
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Laundry Detergent (for HE)
Hand Soap Refills
Light Bulbs
Fresh Produce
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix
Kroger/IGA/Kmart Gift Cards

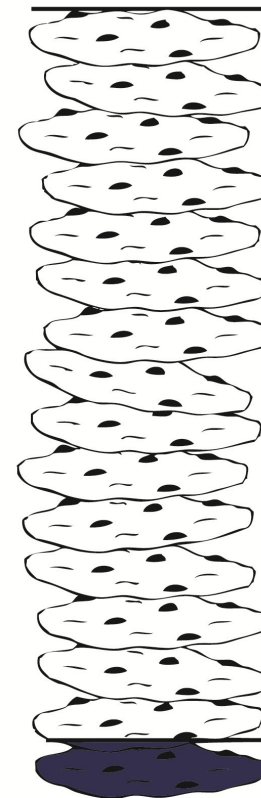
Willing to spend a bit more?

Extra Long Table Clothes
Bath Towels to match the rooms
Rain Barrel

For the big spenders out there:

New or gently used living room Chairs
Ice Maker
Economy Car

GOAL
\$90,000



FEBRUARY
\$8,268