

Who is AHH?

The Alderson Hospitality House supports the women of the Federal Prison Camp Alderson and their families and friends. We believe in the importance of visitors during incarceration. Our volunteers and staff, through donations, demonstrate this belief by providing temporary lodging, meals, transportation assistance, information and support.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Dameron	Maria Madariaga
Susan Hewman	Lynda Neff
Paul Loos	Susan Vlajk
Kim Shrewsberry	Dale McCutcheon
Tina Marquart	Gloria Martin

AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director
 Brian DeRouen, co-director
 Chrissy Nesbitt, staff

FLIGHT INFORMATION



Raleigh County Memorial

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

AMTRAK INFORMATION

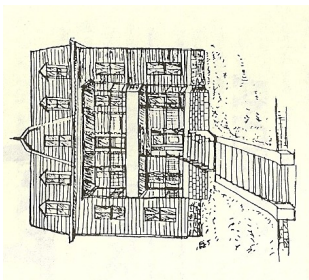


www.amtrak.com
 Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV
ONLY Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50
From New York, westbound: Train #51

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
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ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2012

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

By CHRISSEY NESBITT

In 2010, ten friends of mine were incarcerated for protesting nuclear weapons, and the experience of supporting them in prison changed my life and how I look at the world. I missed them. I struggled to get them what they needed in a system that was unfamiliar to me. I tried to keep up with some of the work they would do, since they weren't around to do it. I listened to my friends tell heart-wrenching stories about the people they were incarcerated with. And I began to realize that the burdens I felt in supporting my friends were just a hint of the much heavier burdens shouldered by so many people, millions in this country whose loved ones are incarcerated.

I am thrilled to be part of the Alderson Hospitality House staff and support people who come to visit their loved ones at the prison camp here. I feel grateful and humbled to participate in the good work of all the people who have kept this house going through the years. As I enter my fourth

month at the house, my love and admiration for my coworkers, our volunteers, and the people we host continues to grow.

My journey here at the Hospitality House will last twelve months. I am looking forward to a year full of growth, love, laughter, and enjoying the company of those around me. My goal for the year (other than becoming an expert at house chores and casserole baking!) is to get to know myself better, and meet and learn from as many different people as I can.

Before my journey took me here, I was a middle school teacher in Baltimore for five years. I loved being a teacher. It was difficult to leave my school, but I felt called to live simply in community some-

where where I could share life and a mission with my coworkers. That search has taken me to North Carolina, back to Baltimore and now here. Every move has been an adventure and a learning experience! I'm hoping that soon all these experiences will lead me to somewhere I will call home.

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CHRISSEY CONTINUED

In the meantime, thank you so much to all of you who have made me feel at home in Alderson! Thank you for welcoming me so enthusiastically into your community. I know there are many friends of the house

whom I haven't met yet, and I look forward to meeting you when you come. Also, thanks to all of you who support the house from afar. I am so grateful for everyone who makes it possible for me to spend this year here. Love, peace, Chrissy 🌍



THE MINT PROGRAM

Having a new baby in the house is a wonderful and exhausting experience. This being our second time around (Micah is 3 and a half) we had some idea of what we were getting into, but it was still a bit daunting as Kathleen's belly grew and the due date was quickly approaching. With a newborn around there is so much to do, so little sleep, and so little energy to get everything done. Both Kathleen and I have each other, wonderful families, and friends to help out and we are absolutely in awe of both single parents and our many guests who are taking on the full parenting role while their partner, daughter, etc. is incarcerated. It is never easy for a family to be separated due to incarceration, but during pregnancy and the first year or so of a new child's life, the strain of incarceration must be particularly hard to bear.

Since we began working at the Hospitality House and started taking ladies over to surrender (some of whom were pregnant and had many questions), we have known about the existence of the MINT program (Mothers and Infants Nurturing Together). As interested as we were in the program we had not yet made the trip up to Hillsboro, WV for a visit. So as we reached the end of our 2nd trimester we figured, what

By BRIAN

better time to visit the facility for soon-to-be and new mothers than when we ourselves were expecting?

Anyone who thinks that Alderson is in the middle of nowhere has never made the beautiful but torturous drive up to the Greenbrier Birthing Center in Hillsboro. Nestled in a beautiful green valley is a building full of toys and diapers, toddlers and newborns, and when at full capacity, 20 new mothers raising their children together all while serving federal prison sentences.

In 1994, James Clowser founded the Greenbrier Birthing Center as a part of the BOP's MINT program. Inmates who qualify for the program are able to live and raise their child at the Center for up to 18 months. In addition to time spent bonding, feeding, and changing diapers, the women attend classes on parenting, learn to create and live on a budget. They also have access to chemical dependency treatment, physical and sexual abuse counseling, vocational and educational programs, exercise classes, and more.

Walking down the hall it feels very much like a community, which is the intention of the MINT program. Every woman has her own dorm style room that she shares with her baby. All other rooms, the kitchen, and

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HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

received a generous donation from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Mission Office to replace our fire alarm system which has served us well, but is over 30 years old.

We have two new board members who have joined us. Welcome to Paul Loos and Kim Shrewsbury. We are grateful for all you have to offer the house. We would also like to welcome the new warden, associate warden, and captain to FPC Alderson. We look forward to working with you all.

As always, we have had to say goodbye to some great guests. We'll miss you Holiday's, Fitzpatrick's, Brook's, McDonnell's, Maranto's, Clark's, and many more. The rooms are not empty, though. We have many new and old families to keep us company, and as we move into summer, we are as busy as ever. The kids are playing outside shooting hoops in the back or running around in the park. A few have even ventured over to the river to go for a swim.

The weather has been great recently,

MOSAIC PROJECT

We're going to beautify the back patio, and we need your help! Many of you are familiar with this area behind the playroom and next to the kitchen, and have spent a moment relaxing or visiting with other guests at one of the tables. Our plan is to make this space more interesting by designing mosaic patio tiles to install where the slate squares are.

We need your input! Any design that has to do with the house and what it represents

and we have been taking full advantage of it. Chrissy and I have been planting in the garden. She is already harvesting radishes



and swiss chard as I type this. We are participating in the community garden, and thanks to one of our guests, we barely had to buy seed this year. He donated lots of yummy vegetable seeds. If things work out

and the deer don't eat everything, we'll have a lot of fresh vegetables this summer and fall. It hasn't been all work, though. We have been enjoying the outdoor opportunities that this area provides: swimming in the river, hiking through the mountains

and riding our bicycles.

I look forward to all seasons around here, but this spring has been especially wonderful. The playroom is bustling with new children fresh out of school and ready to play. The house itself is looking better with each new improvement. And we have a great new coworker and a healthy baby boy. Things are good. 🌍



to you is welcomed. Just sketch it in as much detail as you can provide, and bring it to Chrissy, Kathleen or Brian by August 1.

Jo Perez, a stained glass artist based outside Alderson (www.darkhollowglass.com), has donated a large variety of beautiful glass pieces for this project. Once one of the designs has been selected, we may be asking your help to create and install the final product.

We can't wait to see what you come up with! 🌍

Hoping, praying, and wishing

Hoping, praying, and wishing --

To achieve goodness...

Always to renew & maintain growth and prosperity.

Together we shall bloom beautifully!

Holding onto the strength we offer one another.

*Depending on only G.O.D. the sun and the moon
to see us through.*

Despite our hard times we'll make it through

Although it may thunder & sometimes pour rain,

After the storm

Glow a precious Rainbow.

Our Love shines as a pot of Gold treasures --

No pain.

*As long as our hearts signify all the petals...
of lovely rosebuds,*

We shall forever have everlasting love...

Donald E. Harrell Jr.

East Arkansas Regional Unit

POETRY CORNER

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! 🌟

HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

We have been very busy at the Hospitality House since our last newsletter. You met Chrissy on the first page of the newsletter. We welcomed her in March, and the timing could not have been better. One month later, on April 11th, we welcomed Vitale Francis into our family and we needed some extra help. He's a beautiful baby boy, and already he is excelling in his role here at AHH. He brings joy, life and spirit that only a baby can to the house and our guests. He often makes appearances at dinner time to say his hellos and pass his new smile around.

Not only were we lucky to have Chrissy around, but many of our local friends and board members stepped up to fill in while Brian and I were off having a baby.

MINT CONTINUED

telephone are shared and used by everyone. Women wear civilian clothes and do their own shopping once a week at the store where most use food stamps and or money sent by family.

The staff does not do any babysitting so the women have their little ones with them everywhere they go and have the experience of parenting 24 hours a day. All parents can understand how tiring this can be, but in talking to the women during our visit, it is clear that they do not take for granted this opportunity to spend time with their children. There are only 6 MINT facilities in the country and to be eligible for the program a woman must be within 5 years of her release date and be eligible for a furlough. Many MINT program facilities only allow the mothers to be in the program for 3 or 6 months before the inmate has to leave the

Many thanks to Evey who came every Saturday in April to help cook dinner, Tina who helped run the house a few weekends, Kevin for doing yard work, Patty and Anna for making beds, and Maria and Stefen for doing some general cleaning. We couldn't have made it through April without all of you.

For those of you who have stopped by the house in the last couple of months,



Vitale Francis

you'll have noticed some dramatic changes. Thanks to our generous donors, Alan and Lisa Zuccari, we were able to buy new linens for all of the bedrooms and redo the bathroom on the third floor. Next on our list is painting. We also have

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program and either family or the state takes custody of her child until the mother is released from prison.

We have had several guests stay with us at the Hospitality House while their loved one was participating in the MINT program. Each of them has expressed that while they would of course prefer to have the baby and her mom home, the chance for the new mother and her child to live together in the program has been a wonderful opportunity, which makes the best of a very difficult situation. As Kathleen and I are experiencing right now, being a new parent is not easy. However, having a support community that understands what we are going through makes the tough times easier and the joyful times that much better. This is something that the mothers and children in the MINT program are experiencing 24 hours a day up in Hillsboro. 🌟



RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Knead for 10 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

French Bread

In a small bowl, dissolve:
2 pkg dry yeast in
½ cup warm water
½ teaspoon sugar

In a mixing bowl, combine:
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons salt
2 cups boiling water
Cool to lukewarm
and add in yeast mixture

Stir in:
7 ½ - 8 cups of flour

Place in a greased bowl, turn once. Then, let rise until doubled.

Punch down bread.
Let it rest for 15 minutes. Divide in half.

Make the dough into long loaves of bread. Make 4-5 slits in the top.

Bake at 400°F
20 minutes



Chrissy is leading the kids in grinding wheat for bread making



HELP THE "DOUGH" TO RISE

Running a small non-profit like the Hospitality House is a balancing act. We make budgets, prioritize projects and make sure we have enough money to pay the bills without ever knowing how many donations are coming our way. We strive to do this without letting our level of service slip as we take pride in offering nice looking rooms, tasty food, and extravagant luxuries like heat in the wintertime! Baking bread from scratch is one way that we walk the budget tight rope. The bread we bake is tastier, healthier, and cheaper than store bought. It makes the house smell wonderful and is a little way for us to show our guests that we care about doing things right, all the while saving a few bucks.

While we have found as many cost saving tricks as we can, many costs are out of our control. From gasoline and new brakes for our van to paying the electric bills there are some things that simply cost money. When

doing a project like the recent remodeling of the 3rd floor bathroom it pays to do things right rather than cutting corners and paying the price in the long run. That is where you come in! We can bake bread, make beds, and clean bathrooms, but we need you to help us RAISE THE DOUGH! Whether you are a long time donor or a brand new guest to the Hospitality House, it is your generosity that keeps our doors open. Please use the envelope in this newsletter to send a donation, knowing that every penny we receive is used in direct service to each guest who comes to our door, without consideration of ability to pay.

HELP US RAISE THE DOUGH - THE ANNUAL FUND

By KATHLEEN

WISH LIST

Everyday Items

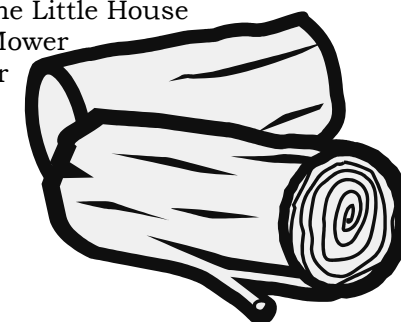
Postage Stamps
Dish Soap
Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent (for HE)
Toilet Paper
Light Bulbs
Fresh Produce
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Dry Beans
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix
5 Gallon Buckets
Refillable Salt and Pepper Shakers
Mason Jars
Kroger/IGA/Kmart Gift Cards

Willing to spend a bit more?

Horse Shoe Set
Landscaping shrubs
Standard size pillows
Quality wash cloths
Pressure Canner
Water Bath canner
Firewood

For the big spenders out there:

Television
Windows for the Little House
Riding Lawn Mower
Carpet Cleaner
Power Washer
Economy Car



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

THANK YOU FOR your SUPPORT!