

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

Paul Loos	Richard Lohmeyer
Kim Shrewsberry	Miles Thomson
Maria Madariaga	Sam Kasley
Gloria Martin	Adrienne Biesemeyer
William Strange	Bobbi Loos

AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director
Brian DeRouen, co-director
Kayla Wiser, staff

FLIGHT INFORMATION



Raleigh County Memorial

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

AMTRAK INFORMATION

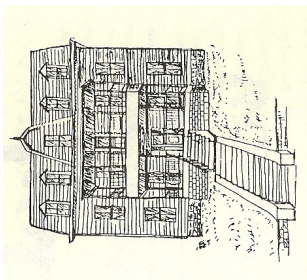


www.amtrak.com
Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV
ONLY Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50
From New York, westbound: Train #51

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
304.445.2980



www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org
aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com

ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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HOUSE NOTES By KATHLEEN

It's been a great spring for volunteers here at the Hospitality House. Spring break groups from Virginia Tech Newman Center and Hamilton College spent many hours cleaning, scrubbing, and painting. We always love having these groups around to help us get things back in order after the winter. Also starting this spring, Jake Harper is helping us with the landscaping in order to complete internship hour requirements for his Criminal Justice degree. We have also had guest cooks this spring. Thank you to Paddy Grady and the women from the churches in Hinton! We really benefit from the generosity and involvement of volunteers such as these.

We also have many of our guests who volunteer after visitation on Saturday and Sunday. There are too many to mention who help prep and clean up after dinner. Daniel and his

boys are in there now doing dishes with Kayla so I could take a break to write this

article. Claude has spent many afternoons weed wacking all over the property. And while it took a bit longer than the 15 minutes they promised, I certainly can't forget to thank the gentlemen who put together our new grill. We now have a huge new grill prepped and ready for summer grillin'.



This house runs on volunteers and donations, and I want to thank Alan and Lisa Zuccari for all the furniture

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BRIDGING THE RURAL AND URBAN DIVIDE TO END MASS INCARCERATION

Article by Nick Szuberla (workingnarratives.org), as published by www.nationinside.org

For nearly 20 years now, I've met with relatives of prisoners freighted to rural prisons. For working class families, the long distance phone calls and road trips required to keep in touch with an incarcerated loved one are hard to manage and put important human relationships at risk. It's a problem that gets resolved through broad public awareness and popular dissent. What's the most pragmatic, sustainable way to make that happen?

Even as mental health providers caution that prisoners fare better while incarcerated close to home, where frequent visits from family and friends are possible, the majority of the prison population is transported 100 miles or more from their communities of origin. Exiled from everything and everyone they know, these prisoners lack for nearby advocates, leaving them with few options when they face harsh treatment and civil rights violations.

In response, artists, activists and citizens are undertaking a cooperative endeavor to end mass incarceration, one that spans the urban-rural divide. We organize around everything from releasing aging people from prison to setting up best practices around how prisons impact and are impacted by environmental issues. But these types of enterprises require long-term grantmaking from philanthropists interested in bridging two seemingly disparate locales. Linking urban and rural communities is complex work that takes time, but it pays dividends in optimizing strategic grassroots power.

The vast majority of our country's pris-

ons are disproportionately filled with men and women of color from struggling urban centers, and are disproportionately located in white, economically-hard-hit rural areas. Urban criminalization and rural exploitation are tandem oppressions, and for as long as our criminal justice system functions as a

kind of Stanford Prison Experiment – pitting people against one another in false games of power and fear – the brutality will continue to be routine.

The urban-rural dichotomy is mostly contrived. Talk of out-of-the-way backwaters and insular cities belies the deeper reality: urban and rural Americans live in compara-

ble worlds bound by common values. Very few rural residents are farmers. Instead, they live civic lives similar to those of their urban counterparts but on a smaller scale. By the same token, both communities battle social pathologies like poverty and the drug war.

Rural communities are often depicted as homogeneous, but during the last couple of decades, they've grown more diverse. And they've always included vibrant communities of color. As Beyoncé Knowles notes in her much-discussed song and video "Formation," rural Black art has often been a catalyst for the American identity and culture we've most benefitted from.

That's not to minimize what's emerging as a remarkable urban-rural political divide. As Josh Kron writes in this *The Atlantic* magazine article, presidential election data indicate that polarizing, ideological rifts along party lines increasingly manifest them-

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AROUND HERE CONTINUED

thoroughly love the work of the House, we are pretty darn happy about the days and hours that we spend in our non-Hospitality lives.

For the past nine months, Kayla has been attending the Greenbrier school of practical nursing, an LPN program. She spends two days of each week in the classroom studying the human body, its infirmities, disorders and their corresponding treatments. The other three days of the week she works either at the hospital or a nursing home where she gains her clinical experience. Each day she is assigned two patients for whom she provides basic nursing care and gets a taste of nursing in the real world.

It is entirely possible that Kathleen has sent a patient or two Kayla's way because in addition to being head cook and co-director of AHH, she is #25 Mary Magda-Slam, Co-Captain of the Green-



brier River Rollers! She is currently skating in her third season of roller derby and has fallen in love with the sport. She has been known to cordially serve dinner at the Hospitality House on her roller skates, but it is a very different scene when she gets onto the track. While flat track roller derby is not as theatrical as the WWF version many people remember watching on television during the 70's and 80's, it is a hard-hitting game and blockers like



"Slam" are not to be messed with.

In addition to playing roller derby and keeping Hospitality House guests well fed, Kathleen stays busy in the Alderson community. She is a member of the Town of Alderson Planning Commission and is on the board of directors of the Alderson Community Food Hub which last year opened up a grocery store when our local IGA closed.

Like his beautiful wife, Brian stays busy in the Alderson community. He is the director of the Alderson Ministerial Association food pantry and has been in that role for eight years now. He wrote a grant that helped to bring a recycling center to Alderson and can often be found hopping in and out of the recycling bins making sure that they are properly sorted and in good shape. As coach of the Greenbrier River Rollers, Brian does his best to ensure Slam and the rest of the team are fit and ready to take on all opponents despite the fact that his personal glory days on roller skates ended after his 10th birthday party.

Brian can often be found running (very slowly) around Alderson at any time of day or night, much to the amusement of the neighbors. Since moving to AHH, he has



run 9 marathons and will be running his first 50k ultra-marathon this month in Virginia. With his sights set on a 50 miler in California at the end of the year, Brian making a few beds in his running clothes will continue to be a common sight around the House. 🏃‍♂️

POETRY

CORNER

Elizabeth Gurney Fry

Friends. And aren't we all friends
whose fortunes test the hearts of others?
Elizabeth, tortured and tempered by life's extremes:
prosperity and poverty, power and impotence.

But at 18, what a desire to do good, to brave the dangers of Newgate,
witness women and children crowded together,
sleeping on straw, cooking on coal.
And after cleaning and clothing the body,
you did the same for mind and soul.
Outrageous: a school for women;
Pointless: a school for poor kids;
Impossible: a school for nurses that provided
Florence Nightingale the angels of mercy
for her sojourn to the Crimea.



You moved the heart of a monarch
victorious in casting the eyes of the powerful
on the plight of the powerless, the forgotten, the unfortunate.
And when your fortunes fell, your husband's bank failed,
even the Society turned you out.
Faith and family your only reward.

By: Dan Gladich

From a collection of poems inspired by
the women whose names adorn the
rooms of the Alderson Hospitality House.

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! 📧

WHAT DO YOU DO AROUND HERE?

At the Hospitality House we talk about incarceration a lot. We talk about FPC Alderson, visitation, commissary, good time, RDAP, how surrendering works and how release works. We are here to answer questions and provide information for all of our guests, and we love our job. Thus, the journey that our guests and their incarcerated loved ones are traveling is always a subject at our dinner table. While the ladies at the camp are at the forefront of our thoughts, sometimes our guests want to talk about anything but prison, and folks are constantly asking us about what life is like for us, the staff of the Hospitality House living here on the banks of

the Greenbrier River.

The first answer to that question is honestly that we are working at the Hospitality House. While guests are primarily here on the weekends, most weeks we have ladies staying with us prior to their surrender and families staying at the House the night before their loved one is released. With 13 guest rooms and almost 40 beds there is always laundry to be done and the same goes for food shopping and preparation. We spend time on the phone making reservations and talking with individuals and families preparing for time to be spent at the camp. Working at AHH is different than a 9 to 5 job in that it can be tough to differentiate between life, work and family. We love our job, and while we

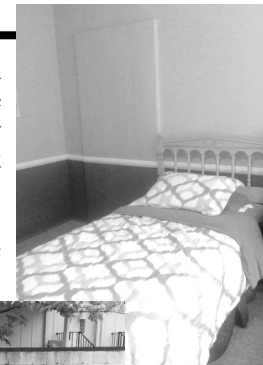
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HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

they just donated to the house. There were several chairs, a huge couch, a new rug, and lots more. We truly appreciate that so many people donate their time, money, and more to the House.

I've started a few projects around the house that I am excited to share with you. Our Septima Clark room was in great need of an overhaul. I've given the room a new paint job and bought some new linen for the beds. I must admit I'm not completely happy with the "grey" paint, but while the weather is nice, I'm more inclined to spend time in the garden then back inside repainting. I'm sure there will be a rainy spell when I can finish up.

Speaking of gardening, I've given up my garden plot at the community garden to work toward creating edible



landscaping around the Hospitality House. This is going to be a project that will take me several years to complete, but I am excited about the possibilities. The kids and I have torn up a large chunk of our back yard and planted a variety of vegetables; I've

started an herb garden out behind the main house, and I have plans for more spaces to plant. The added bonus to all of this work is that I no longer have to fill up milk jugs and haul them over to the garden across the river. The hose reaches every place that I have a plant!

The warm weather brings new life both inside and out of the house. The flowers bloom and the garden is planted outside; and inside there are more families and children coming to stay because school is out for the summer. I really do love springtime at the Hospitality House. 📧



RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

THE BEST chocolate cake

1 cup sour milk
2/3 cup vegetable oil
1 large egg
1 cup strong coffee (instant works)

2 cups flour
1 ¾ cups white sugar
½ cup baking cocoa
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda

- 1. Mix the sour milk, oil, egg, and coffee in a bowl.
Tip: If you don't have sour milk, just add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to 1 cup of whole or skim milk
- 2. Mix the flour, sugar, cocoa, salt, and baking soda together in a separate bowl. Make sure there are no lumps of baking soda- they don't blend in on their own
- 3. Add the wet and dry ingredients together and beat well. An electric mixer or just a whisk will do the job!
- 4. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees
- 5. Grease and flour a 9x13 pan- metal or glass, it doesn't matter.
- 6. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.
- 7. Serve with your favorite frosting or even just a dusting of confectioner's sugar

BRIDGING CONTINUED

selves geographically, giving rise to Democratic cities and Republican states. Red and blue Americans seem to be rushing to their sides of the playing field: “Cities, year by year, have become drenched in more blue. Everywhere else is that much more red,” Kron writes. A recent Pew Research Center report referred to these us-and-them communities as “alien tribes.”

Yet criminal justice issues are one way to unite both sides in solidarity for change. Almost everyone has had an incarcerated relative, friend or acquaintance. As *The Crime Report* noted, surveys show that Republicans and Democrats favor prison reform equally. Less than 1 percent of philanthropic funding flows toward rural counties. As philanthropic sources realize how important it is to strengthen inner-city justice movements that push back against systemic criminalization (something we need to see much more of), they’re slow to reach out to remote counties

where the infrastructure for criminalization is largely built and people are increasingly subject to it (the bottoming out of rural towns means escalating arrest rates). “We may have all come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now,” Martin Luther King once said. That couldn’t be truer than for rural and urban communities facing down the prison industrial complex. Dedicated more foundation resources to networking rural and urban grassroots organizations is a simple step toward growing grassroots power and building a robust movement to end mass incarceration.



THE ANNUAL FUND

Of all the jobs at the Hospitality House, the least popular is not cleaning toilets or washing dishes. It is fundraising, and in addition to being the least popular, it is also the one job that all the others depend on. If baking bread and fresh cookies from scratch was all we needed to run the House we would be set, but of course, that is not the case. In order for meals to be served and families to be together, we need money to pay the bills. Summer is often our toughest time for fundraising as school is out and vacations are taking their toll on our friend’s bank accounts. We hope that as summer

begins, you will think about our guests. For many, Alderson is their sole vacation destination because it is only here that the family can be together. We appreciate your support as do our guests and we can assure you that every dollar makes a difference.

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 recliners
- Power Washer
- Economy Car and/or Minivan

