

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	Dale McCutcheon
Paul Loos	Gloria Martin
Kim Shrewsberry	Joe Lusk
Tina Marquart	William Strange
Maria Madariaga	Richard Lohmeyer
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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



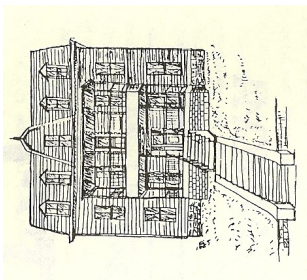
www.amtrak.com

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
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ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

By KATHLEEN

Each season brings a different light to life at the Alderson Hospitality House. I enjoy that about the change of seasons. Winter is a time when things at the house seem to settle down a bit. Less people make the trip here because of the threat of weather or because school is in session, and those that do come tend to go to bed earlier because it's dark by 5pm. There is also something peaceful about the crackling of the fire and snuggling under blankets to keep warm in our drafty old house.

Despite its hibernating nature, winter still has its moments of hustle and bustle that no other season provides. The holidays at AHH are one of the most challenging, yet most enjoyable, times for me. Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years are very hard on our guests. The separation and alienation created by the incarceration of a loved one is hard enough on any normal day, but on days of celebration, when family is supposed to gather together, those emotions intensify. I, too, miss my family during the holidays.

This year, however, things felt differently for me, and I hope those feelings were felt by our guests as well. While nothing will ever top being with my family, this year I really felt like I was, as the Hospitality House community has become a second



family for Brian, the boys and I. Christmas Eve was especially fun. The kitchen was full of men and women helping to prepare dinner. I come from a big family and having all those people in the kitchen bumping into each other and discussing what should happen next reminded me of when I was little watching all my aunts working together to get Thanksgiving

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KINDLING THE HOME FIRE

By CHRISSY

"The great work we face requires rekindling the home fires."

This quote was on the back of a book that was recommended to me recently. The book is about people across the U.S. who embrace homemaking as their way of contributing to their communities, saving the environment, and even -- really! -- changing the world.

Domestic work can be a lot of things. It can be unpaid, underpaid, undervalued, or unsafe -- many people who earn their living working in other people's homes are not protected under labor laws. And yet, the Greeks valued domestic work so highly that Hestia, goddess of the hearth fire, was counted among the twelve Olympian gods. It was under her power that people were able to transform a cold, forbidding old building into a warm home - a place to spend time together, laugh and cry and share stories and dreams.

Most of us are hearth-keepers in one way or

another. Many people whose loved ones are incarcerated take on the role of homemaker until their loved ones come home. Some are newly stepping into the role, others have been at it for decades. I had expected that most people when they came to stay with us would be tired from the road and take a well-deserved break for a few days from the responsibilities of keeping house. Instead, almost every meal we serve at the house is a collective effort, with guests contributing cakes and cookies, chopping vegetables, sharing kitchen tricks, washing and drying and putting away the dishes. And don't assume that it's only us

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FAMILY CONTINUED

or Christmas dinner on the table (or buffet line as the case was because we didn't fit at one table). I always imagined myself doing the same some day, and here I was running crazy around the kitchen trying to prepare dinner for almost 50 people. It felt so right and so fitting for the day.

This year for Christmas Eve we added a new tradition with the help of dear AHH friends, the Zuccari Family. While we were all busy in the kitchen, the Zuccari's and Brian were helping the kids, both old and young, with our first annual gingerbread house decorating contest. Despite the fact

that many loved ones were missed, I really believe that the laughter and joy that evening had everyone in the Christmas spirit.

As I think back to Christmas, I realize with a happy heart that most of those guests will not spend another Christmas with us. We will miss all of them, but I am happy that they will be together at their home rather than far from home at ours the next time Santa comes on his sleigh. Of course for every family that leaves us, another is coming for the first time so I have no doubt that next year's Holiday Season will be beautiful as well. 🌟

HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

to turn those trees into firewood for our stove. Kathleen is especially fond of using the wood splitter and we are very grateful to our guests who have come home from visitation, put on their work clothes, and headed out to split wood.

While the staff and guests do a lot of work around here, without the oversight and efforts of our Board of Directors, the Hospitality House could not exist. We want to welcome Joe Lusk, Bill Strange, and Pastor Richard Lohmeyer to our board and thank them and each of our wonderful board members for all they do to support the house.

Speaking of supporting the House, we want to thank our friends at Bethlehem Farm (www.bethlehemfarm.net) who have helped to continue our recovery from the storm by working on our park fence; guests Jason and Raphael who purchased and installed a new countertop and wonderful new faucet in our kitchen; and a fabulous group of students



KINDLING CONTINUED

women doing this work! The men are invaluable partners in the kitchen, from the husbands who are pinch-hitting while their wives are incarcerated, to the professional chefs, to the teenage boys. We all keep the hearth burning here in Alderson, because one day every last inmate will come home, but in the meantime we need a home where the heart is. As this newsletter goes out, I will be spending my last month at the Hospitality House. I have built on my housekeeping skills during my fourteen months here, I've added new dishes to my cooking repertoire, and I've spent a lot of time quite literally learning how to tend the hearth and keep

from Virginia Tech who spent a long weekend with us doing everything from cleaning and dusting, to cooking and, of course, spending countless hours playing with Micah and Vitale.

Last, but certainly not least, we are happy to share that Kathleen has joined the Greenbrier Valley Roller Vixens (www.greenbrierrollervixens.com) roller derby team! Guests have been intrigued to find her preparing and serving dinner at the House while rolling around on her skates as she is taking her training seriously. We can't wait to have a crowd of Hospitality House fans cheering her and her Vixen teammates on in their bouts just down the road in Ronceverte! 🌟



the fire going in our wood stove. And every weekend I have looked forward to the arrival of our guests, the keepers of our emotional hearth, who turn this empty old house into a home, with their laughter and compassion and the way they bring all of us -- families, friends, inmates, and staff -- into relationship with one another.

I want to thank all the people I have met during my time in Alderson, for kindling the home fire in my heart. As we each keep practicing the small miracle of turning strangers into family and house into home, I have no doubt that our hearth-keeping will change the world. 🌟

POETRY
CORNER

Letters from Guests



Thank you so 2/22/13
very much
for everything you
do. It means more
to me and families
like mine than you
could ever know! Please
share my story that
everyone should keep
praying and believing

Because God has
a plan for each
of us... and sometimes
it means to show
up at the Alderson
House 1 year early!
Love to you and
all who share
this house -
Cari

Walking into AHH for the first
time last Sunday was like walking
into a womb of love. It was a wholly,
and holy, positive experience. What a
beautiful ministry you provide for a
community of souls who share a
common pain and loss. I felt both
ministered to, and a part of the
ministry: love and support and caring
flowed in every direction.

Thank you. I will always choose
staying with you when I come
down to see my dear friend, Barbara.
With much gratitude & affection,

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 BRIAN

There are two distinct winter seasons here at the Alderson Hospitality House. The first, consisting of December and January is crazy, noisy, and busy. The second, made up of February and March is often snowy, cold, and quiet.

The craziness actually begins at the end of November when the holiday visiting crowds arrive. At the house Thanksgiving and Christmas are two of our biggest meals and are both weeks when the house is packed with guests. After the New Year's Eve celebrations things stay busy around here, but for a less festive reason. Judges recognize the importance of families being



together for the holiday season and thus many ladies surrender to FPC Alderson during the month of January. While it is much more fun to host families that are picking up their loved one to take her home, we especially enjoy spending time with the families who are staying with us for the first time and are just beginning their journey. They often come to us scared and confused, not knowing what to expect, but usually leave expressing gratitude for the support, information and love that their fellow guests and the house staff provide.

This first season of winter is so busy with guests at the house that very little outside of our weekly schedule of preparing, hosting the weekend crowds, cleaning up and beginning the cycle again gets done. However, when January draws to a close we have time to take on some new projects. Amongst those, wood chopping has been a huge one this year. Thanks to the big storm in June we have countless downed trees on the property and we have been working hard

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT!!!

On March 20, 2013 the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013, S. 619 was introduced by Senators Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Rand Paul (R-KY). If passed, this law would allow judges to sentence people below the mandatory minimum sentence in cases where the mandatory minimum is unjust, too long, or inappropriate as punishment for the offender.

Please call and write to your US Senators asking them to support and co-sponsor S. 619, the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013. You can send emails to both of your Senators by visiting <http://capwiz.com/famm/home/> and for

more information on the bill as well as efforts to end the injustice of inappropriate mandatory minimums visit www.famm.org.

Due to federal mandatory minimums, many people are serving unjust sentences in FPC Alderson and similar facilities throughout the country. Restoring discretion to judges will be an important step in restoring justice to our troubled system.

Having just been introduced, the bill has a long way to go, but at this stage momentum and education are crucial. This is an opportunity to make a real concrete difference in the lives of future AHH guests and their incarcerated loved ones. Please take a few minutes to contact your Senators! 🍷

RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

BBQ Chicken and Rice Casserole

1 Cooked Chicken - cut into pieces
 3/4 cup flour
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Vegetable oil
 1/2 cup onion
 1/2 cup celery
 1/4 c bell pepper
 Approx. 2 cups cooked rice
 1 bottle of your favorite BBQ sauce

1. Salt, pepper, and flour the chicken
2. Brown in the vegetable oil
3. Remove chicken, then sauté the vegetables (add oil if needed)
4. Combine the chicken, vegetables, rice and sauce
5. Place in a greased casserole pan
6. Bake for 1 hour at 350° 🍳



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

Willing to spend a bit more?

Horse Shoe Set
 Landscaping shrubs
 Standard size pillows
 Quality wash cloths

For the big spenders out there:

Television
 Windows for the Little House
 Push Lawn Mower
 Power Washer
 Economy Car

A NOTE FOR VISITORS

Due to the sequestration, FPC Alderson will be shutting down visitation on Mondays starting at the end of April. If changes are made and the budget cuts do not go through, they will reconsider. Please check with your loved one before you come if you plan to visit on a Monday.

HELP FAMILIES GO THE DISTANCE - THE ANNUAL FUND

"I couldn't afford to bring my children to see their mother without AHH."

Families and friends of the inmates at FPC Alderson travel from all over the country to visit their loved one. We have had someone visit from every state! Some come by plane, others by train, but most drive. It is a long, tiring, and expensive journey.

At the Hospitality House, we try to make that journey just a little bit easier by providing our guests with comfortable rooms to sleep in and healthy, delicious meals to

eat. You, too, can help bridge the gap between thousands of children and their mothers.

We need you to help families stay together. Please help these children visit their mother by donating now to our annual fund. Will you go the distance? 🍳

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

