

## 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
Paul Loos	Lynda Neff
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](http://www.flybeckley.com)  
**Greenbrier Valley**  
Lewisburg, WV  
[www.gvairport.com](http://www.gvairport.com)

## AMTRAK INFORMATION

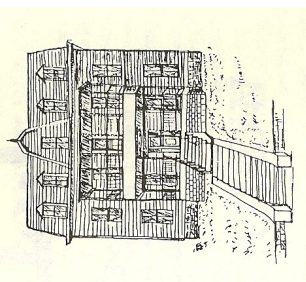


[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)  
Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV  
**ONLY** Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays  
**From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50**  
**From New York, westbound: Train #51**

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](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org)  
[aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com](mailto:aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com)

ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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## THE DERECHO By BRIAN

Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June was a beautiful sunny day at the Hospitality House. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was right around the corner, and the town had already begun its huge weeklong celebration. Dinner was over and dishes were being washed while guests were walking around town or relaxing on the front porch. Brian, Vitale, and Micah were cooling off in the river. Then the storm hit.

Summertime storms are not infrequent in West Virginia where there is a 30% chance of them virtually every day, but this one was special. It was a derecho, a term that nobody around here will soon forget.

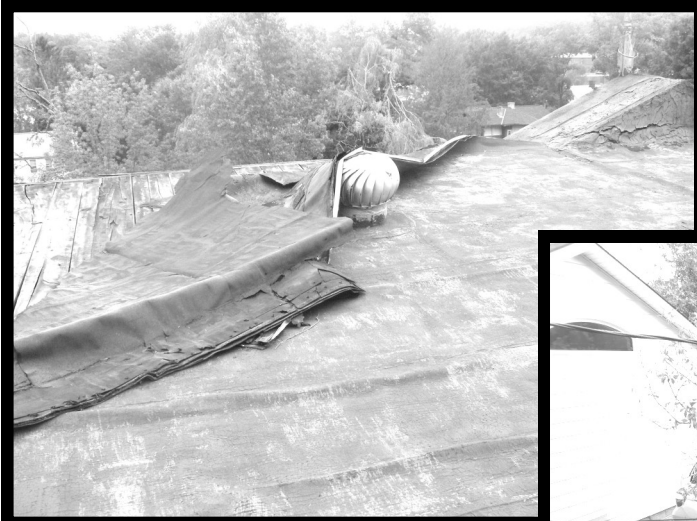
One minute the sky was blue and the sun was shining; the next minute 90 mph winds were barreling up the river and slamming into town! There was no warning or even a weather advisory before the storm arrived, and when it first hit, everyone went out on the front porch to watch. That didn't last too long, however, as the winds were so strong that the

hanging baskets on the porch were vertical and the chairs and tables were sliding around as if they were light as feathers. Within minutes of the storm's start, the electricity went out, the huge black walnut tree in the park had crashed down destroying half of the pavilion and the tops of the weeping willow trees were in shambles on the ground. Realizing the danger everyone quickly moved inside just as the cherry tree on the side of the house crashed

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## DERECHO DAMAGE



## HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED



clean up  
the rest of  
the park.  
They  
carried  
wood,  
mowed the

lawn and weed-wacked throughout. There are still spots of dead grass, but their efforts were much appreciated. As I type, there is a volunteer group here from Camden, NJ with home repair knowledge and a desire to help the Hospitality House recover from the storm. Much damage was done, but we have been truly blessed by the help of others.



The park even improved during all of this. Rafael, one of our frequent guests, donated an awesome play structure for the park. He and three of his friends rented a truck and drove the structure all the way from Chicago! They put it up during the weekend, and now it's ready to be climbed, slid, and hung on by all of the kids who visit. It is a great addition to our park.

While some great volunteers stepped up to help us in the park, we still had to hire professionals for some of the damage done. The van needed to be fixed and the roof is currently being replaced. Our house has been a bit of a construction zone. In addition to fixing the storm damage, we already had scheduled a bathroom renovation and, thanks to a generous donation from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, our 30 year old fire alarm system has been replaced. 🙏

GOODSEARCH.COM

You can help us raise money with just a click of a button. Start using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) as your search engine, and you can raise the Alderson Hospitality House \$.01 every time you search the internet. When you go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) you will be prompted to enter your charity of choice. Choose AHH; then begin searching.

**GoodSearch**  
YOU SEARCH WE GIVE™

You can register and get a toolbar for your internet page, set [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) as your home page, or just go to the page each time you begin searching.

Think about how often you search the internet! You can raise money for AHH every day without any effort. Please take a few minutes now to set this up, and you won't have to think about it again. Every penny counts in our organization. 🙏



photo: Bill Mill on flickr.com

Time and circumstance will tell-  
And, you're probably thinking someone like me couldn't possibly have  
been where I have been.

But if you really knew me  
You would be surprised, shocked maybe-  
But then I'll tell you my secret if you get to know someone like me.

I have thought my secret would be the worst one to tell-  
But I have found out that this is not really so.  
Because many people are someone like me-  
An Ex Con  
a past incarcerated person-  
And really it could be  
Anyone, even someone like me.

I am a mother, a grandmother, a wife, a teacher, a nurse practitioner,  
an author, a poet, a singer, and  
an Ex-CON  
Emphasis on the X  
Yes, even someone like me!!!

Diane A. Smith  
Alderson FPC

## 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 busy, as always, here at the Hospitality House. Visitors, volunteers, and guests have packed these last few months. We continue to have the women from the Prison Camp join us on Thursdays to help with the garden and landscaping. We had volunteers for a day from the School of Osteopathic Medicine, and another day, students from Creighton University helped us to clean. We also were graced with a visit from former directors, Hilary and John Benish. It was great to see them again. As always, it is a joy to host our many guests staying to visit their loved ones.

It seems like we're going through another wave in which many of the regulars whom we love are

## DERECHO CONTINUED

down onto the mini-van. Everything inside the house stopped and everyone moving from window to window trying to get a better look at the storm and assess the damage.

A sizeable portion of the Hospitality House roof was ripped off and most of the power lines and poles that held them were left strewn across every street and driveway in town. The storm lasted about 30 terrifying minutes for Kathleen as she knew that Brian and the boys were swimming in the river when it hit. Fortunately, they made it to safety. It was close, however, as several

ending their time with us. It is always a bittersweet time. Most of them we will never see or hear from again, but I hope they know that they always hold a place in our heart.

We want to thank our outgoing board members, Susan Vlajk and Susan Hewman. Thank you for all the knowledge you brought to our group. And welcome to Paul Loos and Kimberly Shrewsberry. We look forward to your input in our group.

The park has undergone quite a transformation since we last sent out a newsletter. The storm ripped it apart as you read in Brian's article. It took a while to get it back after that. The trees are now trimmed, and the city landscapers helped us out by volunteering a day to  
(Continued on page 7)



they had been parked only seconds before. Houseguests who were out walking around town took cover on a neighbor's porch through the worst of the storm and ran back to safety as the storm came to an end.

As a result of the derecho power was out at the Hospitality House for ten days, and the water was off for four. Amazingly, nobody was seriously injured, but the house was closed for two weeks and the recovery has been both slow and costly. 🎨

RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

OATMEAL BREAD

Makes 2 loaves  
350 degrees  
30-40 Min.  
**Combine in large bowl:**  
1 c oats (preferably quick cook)  
½ c whole wheat flour  
½ c brown sugar  
1 T. salt  
2 T. margarine  
Pour over 2 c. boiling water. Stir.

**Dissolve:**  
1 pkg. dry yeast in  
½ c warm water

When batter is cooled to lukewarm, add yeast.



**Stir in:**  
5 c. white flour  
When dough is stiff enough to handle. Turn onto floured board and knead 5-10 minutes. Place in greased bowl, cover, and let rise until doubled.








Punch down and let rise again. Shape into 2 loaves and place in greased 9x5x3” pans.

Bake at 350 for 30 to 40 minutes.  
Cool on rack. 🍞

HELP THE "DOUGH" TO RISE

Our fundraising year was looking promising. There was real possibility of reaching our goal and finishing the year in the black. Then, the storm came through. It was like having a hundred children run and stomp through the kitchen while the dough is rising. The dough deflates and the rising has to start over. So, here we are, turning again to you, our friends, family, and supporters for your help in this deflating time. We have come out of the red before, and I know, with your help, we can do it again.

At the beginning of this month, we did an internet fundraiser asking all of our Facebook and Email friends to ask 10 people to give \$10 in 10 days. For those of you who are not connected to us through the internet, I now pose that challenge to you. If everyone on this mailing list donated just \$10, we would have over \$17,000! That would almost pay for the Storm Damage. Just think what would happen if each of you found 10 friends to give \$10. Will you accept the challenge? 🙏

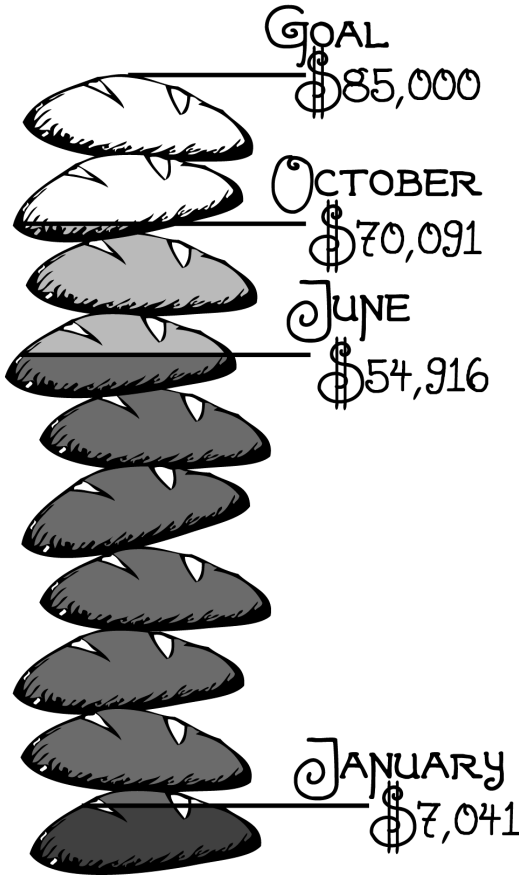
Total Cost of the Storm	
	<b>\$20,000.00</b>
	A new Roof
	Park/Pavilion Repair
	Minivan Repairs
	Lost Donations For 2 Weeks
	Water Damage From leaking Roof
	Replacement Refrigerator
	Fence Repair
	Food lost in the power outage
	Gasoline to keep the generator going

HELP US RAISE THE DOUGH - THE ANNUAL FUND

By KATHLEEN

ANHHH

OCTOBER 30TH & 31ST



Please make  
all checks payable to  
**Alderson Hospitality House**  
or donate online at  
[www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Halloween is rapidly approaching and we are getting ready for our annual Haunted House. I think it will be a great time. We will even have the event on Halloween this year! If you are in the area come join us. There are plenty of ways for you to get in on the action. We need people to scare, people to be scared, people to play with the kids in the park, and we could always use some extra hands setting up before and cleaning up after. Just let us know how you want to participate.

If you are not able to be there but still want to help out, we need lots of supplies to make the event happen. Below is a list of items that you may have lying around your house or might be interested in purchasing for the Haunted House.

With all of your help, we can turn our Hospitality House into a House of Horrors! Thanks so much!

- Dark sheets/material
- Lighting
- Duck tape
- Old dolls
- Glow in the dark things/stars
- Sound effects
- Computer Speakers
- Spray Paint
- Old costumes and masks
- Old Chains
- Face paint/make-up
- Baked goods
- Candy

