

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

Michael Vincent	Nancy Plummer
Linda Dameron	Tina Marquart
Susan Hewman	Maria Madariaga
Neta Roush	Linda Neff
Patricia Talley	Stephen Jackendoff
Annette Carper	

AHH STAFF

Ashley Boone
Kathleen DeRouen, co-director
Brian DeRouen, co-director

FLIGHT INFORMATION



Raleigh County Memorial

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

AMTRAK INFORMATION

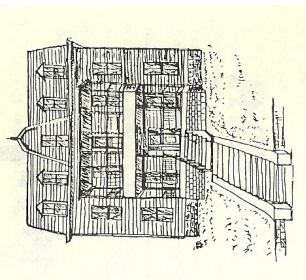


www.amtrak.com
Amtrak stops in Alderson, WV
ONLY Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
From Chicago, eastbound: Train #50
From New York, westbound: Train #51

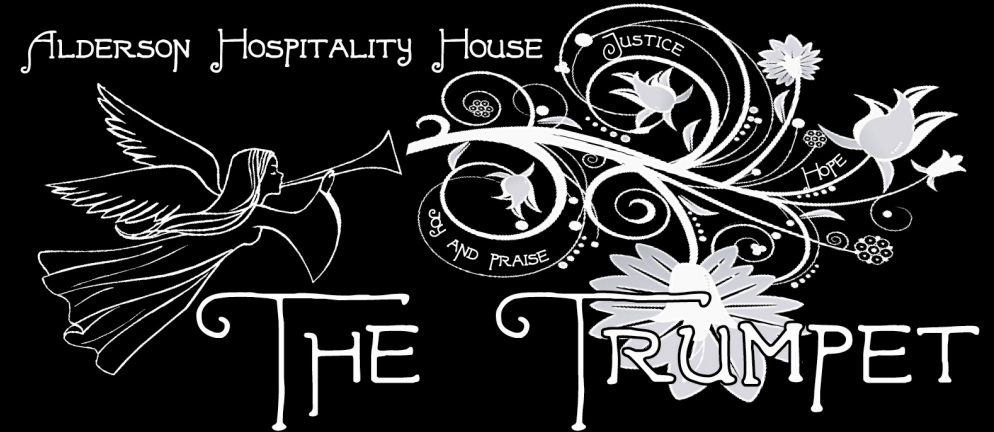
Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 579
Alderson, WV
24910

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

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HOLIDAY SPIRIT

By ASHLEY

Our house has a history, a thousand stories—a personality. I've never lived in a place that spoke to me without any words at all. Given it's stately character, it didn't come as a surprise to me to see how the house adopts holidays. It's as if she's been waiting all year to be decorated and to provide a space for extra smiles, or even screams.

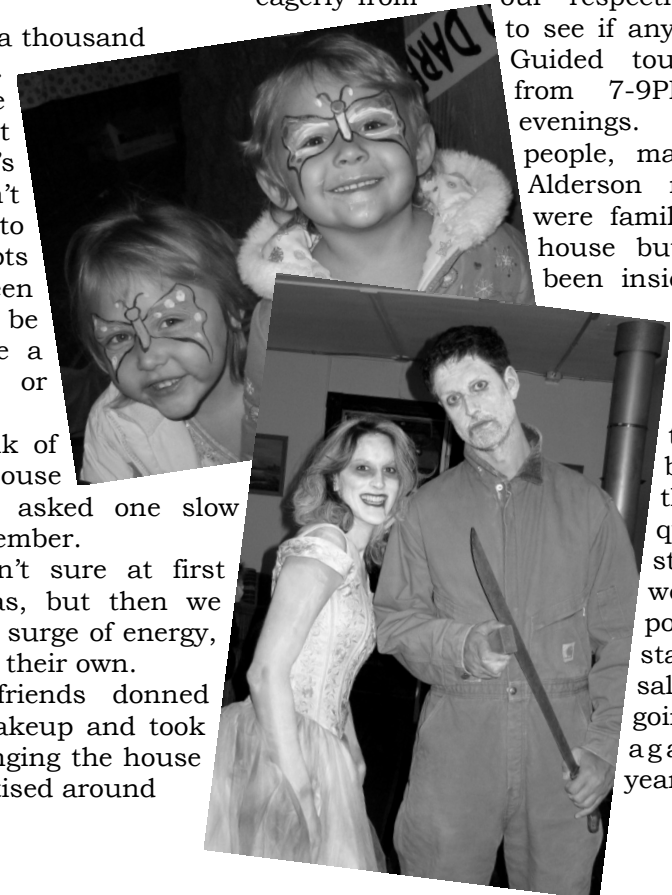
"So what do you think of having a Haunted House here?" our friend Kevin asked one slow Sunday afternoon in September.

Kathleen and I weren't sure at first when we heard his ideas, but then we began to imagine it, felt a surge of energy, and plans took on a life of their own.

Twenty-five of our friends donned creepy masks, ghostly makeup and took their rightful place in bringing the house to life. We casually advertised around

town and among our friends and waited eagerly from our respective positions

to see if anyone showed. Guided tours operated from 7-9PM for two evenings. Over 300 people, many of them Alderson natives who were familiar with the house but had never been inside, lined up to be taken by "Mildred" up the candle lit steps to join in the best fright of the year. The question we still get when we go to the post office, gas station or hair salon—"are you going to do it again next year?"



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HOLIDAY SPIRIT CONTINUED

The second night of the Haunted House was much cooler than the first, and the cool air has stayed since then—through Thanksgiving and up into December.

Everything about Christmas this year was special. Kathleen's parents, Kevin and our friend, Carley, who was visiting from Indianapolis helped Kathleen to decorate the inside of the house.

I took on the exterior decorating and was assisted by the women from the Prison Camp who had been coming Thursday afternoons to help with landscaping. It was cold, and their presence completely changed my mood in regard to the task. Having been at the Camp for a number of years already, the women were excited to put up the lights, something that had been so far removed from their lives for so long.

The idea was bold, and untraditional, but our house wore the accessories like a queen, glittering in the night, truly embodying the heartfelt welcome we hope to offer guests. On nights when families would be arriving late I left the Christmas lights on, instead of the regular porch light. More than once, I was greeted by extra big smiles at breakfast as a result.

My parents came for Christmas, and although the lasagna took way too long to cook, it was by far my favorite evening so far at AHH. The thankfulness and cheer that gathered all the guests was more than I had felt in a very long time.

Dinner was concluded with fruit and cookies to dip in a chocolate fountain (Kathleen and Brian had purchased it for use at their wedding). Santa came during the night, the reindeer enjoyed the food left outside for them by the children, and

we let the Christmas music play all day long.

Whether it was the eerie candlelight of the third floor at Halloween, the playroom when just lit by its Christmas trees, or the brightness of the kitchen at dinner, the times I stop to really take in the beauty of this house are the times when I feel great joy. A sense that feels like it comes from the house, herself, telling me how much she loves the community that forms within her walls. 🌟



HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

to the front steps. Four of the women from the prison camp also came to help us with our landscaping and setting up the outside Christmas lights. (Thanks to Warden Batts and Christy Ford for allowing this to happen.) We hope to start up that program again come spring, which will lessen our landscaping burden and provide a way for women at the camp to contribute to the work of the House.

There are many different ways you can give your support to the Hospitality

WE ARE THINKING OF YOU BY BRIAN

It is a great honor to work at the Alderson Hospitality House: to get to know the families that stay with us each weekend, feel the excitement of women and their loved ones on their release day, and share comfort and what information we have with women the evening before their voluntary surrender.

While these face-to-face interactions are the focus of our work at the Hospitality House, the people we meet are not the only ones we care about. Our newsletter goes out to hundreds of men and women across the country who are doing time. We want each of you to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We appreciate it when we receive your letters, give thanks for the stamps many of you send as

House. Judy and Peggy, who live out of town, came to help us out for a week, as they have in years past. They canned apples and cleaned the bedrooms from top to bottom. Stefen, the son of board member, Maria, joins us every other Friday to help clean, cook, and store food for the future. Kevin Johnson and other community friends have stepped up to babysit or fill in for an afternoon. Our local churches have donated food leftover from holiday meals. So, if you are interested in helping around the house, we would love to have you; just give us a call! 🌟

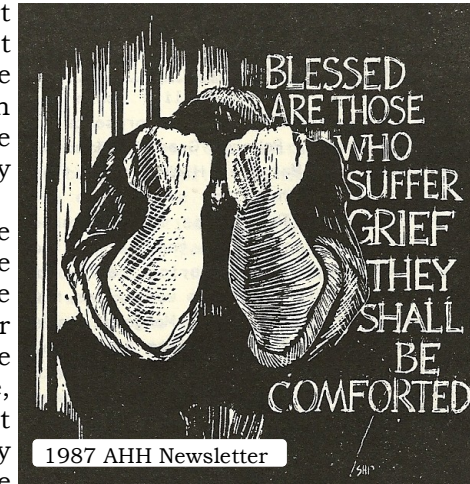
donations, and think about you each time we put your name and address on a *Trumpet* to send it out.

The system can make people feel alone and forgotten, but please believe us when we say that as long as the Alderson Hospitality House is running, there will be people who refuse to forget about you. We consider you to be our brothers and sisters, and whether you are a lifer or a short timer, we hope that you are able to keep your head up knowing that you are a beloved part of the AHH community. 🌟

THE WOMEN OF FPC ALDERSON

January was an exciting month for us in town. We were privileged to watch two different performances by the women of FPC Alderson. The Praise and

Worship Team sang for us at the Greenbrier Valley MLK Jr. March and the creative writing group read some of their poetry at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg, WV during a brown bag lunch performance. We were excited to experience the talent of some of the women over at the camp! 🌟



POETRY
CORNER

Here at AHH, 12 of our 13 guest rooms are named for important and influential women. (Ellis Baker, a former resident of the house when it was an apartment building, has his old room named for him. Guest and English teacher, Dan Sladdich, recounts the women's inspirational stories:

Gathering all the spirits together, Maggie Louden fosters love in this lighted house upon a hill: the founder of Hospitality House.

A catalyst for change, Rosa Parks, stalwart and solitary, galvanized Montgomery for the King's victory: a pioneer who won the Medal of Freedom.

A liberated woman, liberating others, Harriet Tubman's courage was tested: 19 night journeys to free sister, brother, niece, parents. "You'll be free or die!"

Inspiration for Florence Nightingale, admired by Queen Victoria, the first woman to address Parliament, reformer Elizabeth Fry beams from the £5 note.

Neither outshone nor discouraged, Julia Ward Howe educated herself. Daughter of the Republic and champion for God: the scholar of Hospitality House.

Why I Sleep

At night when I shut my eyes,
I drift to a better place,
Where my toes are in the sand,
And the wind is blowing in my face.
Where the farthest thing from my mind,
Is prosecutors, prison, and my case.

I sleep because I dream,
And my dreams are a sweet escape.
I'm so happy there,
As safe as I'll ever be,
Floating in the air,
Where no one can harm me.

I fly to the bluff,
Where there's all the peace I want
And I don't have to worry,
Because nothing can go wrong.

So you ask me,
Why I sleep so long?
Because when I drift away,
All the pain is gone.

**Lance P. Wickner
Stillwater, MN**

Barred from teaching, the black educator of Hospitality House fought racial injustice side by side with Dubois and Marshall. Septima Clark was granted a Living Legacy Award.



To comprehend words that bear the weight of history, Maya Angelou translates for us: the poet of Hospitality House.

To soothe the suffering of the soul, Sojourner Truth sold herself, stealing slaves, stealing hearts: the evangelist of Hospitality House.

A saint? More! Saints paid tribute to Dorothy Day, her life of faith. This saint of Hospitality House risked prison to promote peace.

Protestor of Hospitality House, Jean Gump walked the walk, Peace the battle cry. No guns, no wars, no nuclear weapons. Blood on the silo, eight years in prison.

Visitors, lost and confused, Prepare to cross the threshold, Longing and loathing to visit the women of 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! 📧

HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

Hello from the snowy mountains of West Virginia. There has been intense weather all over the country thus far this winter from massive snow falls in the east to flooding rains out west. Winter weather has a way of changing everyone's plans and that is never more noticeable than in the visitation room at Alderson FPC. Between the winding country roads and icy conditions many families make the decision to save their next visit until spring arrives.

We keep the fire going and the meals coming for those who can and do brave the weather to get to our little town of Alderson for a visit. The heat at the Hospitality House remains on, too, which has been a large part of our fundraising focus these past few months.



Many of you have responded generously, including our board who lends a hand in many ways; from oversight of our bookwork to suggesting ways we can better serve our guests. We have enjoyed some really productive meetings lately, forming new committees and adding new members. Welcome to new board member,

Annette Carper, and welcome back to Stephen Jackendoff.

In the past few months we have been blessed with help from many different parts of our community. The newly formed girl scout troop

from Alderson, led by Renee Hemmelgarn and Tamar Wallace, began helping us with our landscaping by planting beautiful perennials in the front bed and adding many pumpkins...

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THE LOOM PROJECT

By MARIA
MADARIAGA

Every Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 pm a group of women get together in the basement of the activities building at the Alderson Federal Prison Camp to weave, knit, crochet, and visit. It is very similar to many knitting groups that get together all over the country, with the only difference being this group takes place in prison. The loom project began in the late 1990's through the volunteer service of Father Bonaventure Lussier who brought

the three looms in and began teaching women how to weave. Through the years other volunteers have continued his project. While only a few women can weave at one time, the other women knit, crochet, and help teach others these skills. A variety of beautiful items are made and donated out to the community by the women in the project. Christy Ford, volunteer coordinator at the camp, makes arrangement for a few of the women to visit local nursing homes to donate and personally distribute the lap blankets made by the women to residents of...

Cont. on pg 4

LOOM PROJECT CONTINUED

the nursing homes. This is always a very moving experience. The nursing home staff selects residents who could use a hand made blanket and the women get to meet and visit with the residents. Some of the other items made at the loom project include hats, scarves, socks, sweaters, shawls and much more. These items are donated to a women's shelter, to low income children at Christmas, to the Hospitality House, and to homeless shelters. The women have recently begun making hats for cancer patients.

Until recently the women were able to crochet or knit their own personal blankets for their beds using any colors of yarn available in the commissary; however rules changed and now they must be of a solid color. Some women sent their blankets home, but others asked to

donate them to the loom project. This was approved and blankets started piling up. Because there seemed to be more blankets than the nursing home could use, the women suggested sending them to a homeless shelter and to the Hospitality House. Now visitors to the house can keep warm with blankets made by women at the camp.

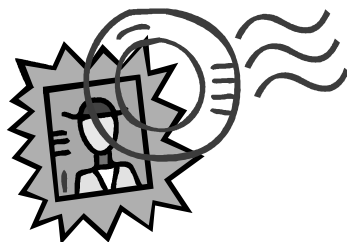
The loom project is not just a wonderful program for the donations that are made, but for atmosphere, the relationships that are developed, and the camaraderie that develops on these Friday evenings. Women often describe it as their "time away from prison while still in prison." The women are so appreciative of the time the volunteers give and often report a desire of doing some form of community service volunteering once they return home. 🌟



WISH LIST

Everyday Items

White Office Paper
Postage Stamps
Large (39+ gallon) Trash Bags
Laundry Detergent (for HE)
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Fresh Produce
Dry Beans
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix
5 Gallon Buckets
Mason Jars



Willing to spend a bit more?

Standard size pillows
Sheets (please call for details)
Two Drawer Filing Cabinet
New Microwave Oven
Small Toaster Oven
Large Food Processor
Good Quality dish rags, towels, and wash cloths

For the big spenders out there:

Windows for the Little House
Office desks with working drawers
Riding Lawn Mower
Dyson Vacuum (DC14 Telescope)
Power Washer
Economy Car

HELP US KEEP THE LIGHTS ON - THE ANNUAL FUND

By KATHLEEN

GOAL \$85,000



\$7,597

JANUARY 2011

I want to begin by thanking all of you who donated in the last few months of 2010. We surpassed our goal and are ready to begin a new year. Of course, a new year brings new needs; but the electric bill will always appear in the mailbox.

Our operating budget for the year is \$85,000.

We use that money to house over 2,700 people for 52 weekends, providing over 7,000 meals. Last year our guests visited 482 women at FPC Alderson.

We are doing what we can to add to the fund: grant proposals are being prepared, in-kind

donations solicited, and events are in the works.

Sometimes our guests arrive after dark, and we always leave the porch light on. We can keep this welcome light shining bright by reaching our 2011 annual fund goal. 🌟



A SPECIAL THANKS TO LAST YEAR'S \$500 AND UP DONORS:

Community Foundation of Western NC, Inc.: Sam Maren & Anne Maren-Hogan
Old Greenbrier Baptist Church
Old Stone Presbyterian Church
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Gregory & Margie Cheesebrough
James and Rosemary Fields
Richard & Sherry Boone
Inwood Center Inc.
Tom and Linda Dameron

Alan Zuccari
Catherine Harris
David & Nina Mills
Eric Donin
John & Joan Broughton
Letitia Principato
One Foundation
Clyde & Gloria Bunch
Doris Rushing
Gerry Burns
Goodrich Foundation
Neil Holiday

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!