

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	Bobbi Loos
Gloria Martin	Nancy Burris
William Strange	Judy Lucas
Sam Kasley	Evey Ellen Frerotte

AHH STAFF

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



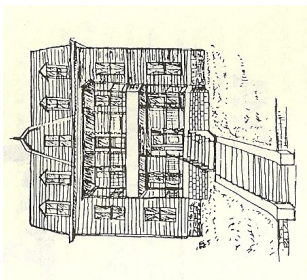
www.amtrak.com

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!

Alderson Hospitality House
203 High Street
PO Box 579
Alderson, WV 24910
304.445.2980



www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org
aldersonhospitalityhouse@gmail.com



VOLUME 42, ISSUE 3

FALL 2019

HOUSE NOTES By KATHLEEN

Since the last newsletter, we've had several wonderful volunteers live and work at the Hospitality House. Eva finished out the summer with us and headed back to school at Virginia Tech. During her time in Alderson, Eva met and got to know Adam who would be the next to spend time at the House. During his time in Alderson he helped us on the weekends and spent his weekdays working in the dirt at Sprouting Farms. We think he should have stuck around for much longer but life took him to Spain for a semester abroad. We are trying to think of a single thing that Barcelona has to offer that Alderson doesn't, and we are yet to come up with anything, but alas, off he went. Currently, we have a mother/daughter pair helping us out for a month. You can read more about Theresa and Rachel in their article, but here I'd just like to say that their help at the house has been amazing. They are quite the cleaners and organizers, and we appreciate all the work they have done.

We are also pleased to announce that we



have hired a new staff member. Angelica (Jeli) Mora! She is coming to us through the Brethren Volunteer Service and will be joining us for a full year. It's been a while since we had someone with

us for a full year, and we are looking forward to having her join our team. I'll make sure she introduces herself in the next newsletter.

Also since the last newsletter, there have been many rumors going around...that the prison is closing; the Hospitality House is closing; the DeRouens are leaving. At present, none of these are true. The BOP is in a time of transition with a new director in Washington, and changes in facilities are always possible. Having said that, at the last community relations meeting, Brian heard about long-term plans and programs at FPC Alderson, which would make the imminent closing of this camp unlikely.

(Continued on page 3)

VERMONT VOLUNTEERS SAY "THANKS!"

By THERESA AND RACHEL LEVER

Two things stand out among the many new experiences for us at Alderson Hospitality House. The first is how quickly spiderwebs form—you sweep them away and in a blink of an eye there's a new one! The second is how everyone counts their blessings. Not literally—like 1,2,3—but you can recognize it in people's conversations and stories. Despite family members being separated, causing great emotional and financial distress, the AHH guests express more gratitude than discouragement. Appreciating the homey feeling of the house and the kindness of the staff. Thankful that their family member is at this prison camp and not another. Grateful that it's possible to stay close through visits in person, by phone, and by video.

We are thankful, too! Not everyone can spend an entire month away from home having such a wonderful volunteer adventure. There is no family easier to be around than the DeRouens, who really mean it when they say, "Make yourselves at home." Meeting new people, having our eyes opened to others' experiences, gaining some insight



into the criminal justice system and how we might help effect change with our advocacy and our votes—all blessings! And the house-keeping routines and schedule that have become second-nature to us—we dream of adopting these in our own home (sigh, only a dream).

By the time you read this newsletter, we'll be back home in Montpelier, Vermont. Theresa will be preparing a Sunday sermon based on the parable about the righteous Pharisee congratulating himself on his upstanding behavior and the tax collector repenting his sins. Jesus concludes, "This man [the tax collector] went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted." During our time at AHH, we have been reminded of the need for humility, because every one of us imperfect human beings makes mistakes and needs acceptance and compassion. Thank you, Alderson Hospitality House, for being a place where such acceptance and compassion are overflowing! 🙏

Abolition Apostles

[501 N. Jefferson Davis Parkway](#)
[#791410](#)
[New Orleans, LA 70119](#)

You are welcome to contact Pastor David Brazil at dzbrazil@yahoo.com with any questions. We are a Christian ministry but you don't have to be Christian to participate! 🙏

ABOLITION APOSTLES

Abolition Apostles is a national prison ministry based in New Orleans, Louisiana -- the most incarcerated place in the world. We connect folks inside with volunteers outside for pen-pal letter writing and, when possible, visitation. If you'd like a letter, or know someone who would, please write to us at:

My WHOLE LIFE

DICTATED

By VITALE DE ROUEN

I've worked here my whole life, and it has been mostly fun. I even worked when I was one-year-old, and I didn't know how to speak yet. Right now, I am seven years old, and my job is to play with the kids and clean the playroom and I wipe the sinks and the kitchen counters and empty trash cans and help my mom cook. And my brother's job is to clean the toilets and help me play with the kids and help me clean the playroom.

My favorite thing is to play with the kids on the Xbox 360. A couple weeks ago, it was hard, but we figured it out and we hooked up our old Xbox 360. And the kids, so far, really like it, and we really enjoy playing with them on it. We live right down by a park, which got a little bit destroyed by the flood, but it is still fun to play at. Even more fun because it made it easy to jump the creek, and we can play tag easier. The bridge that is left is very thin, so you have to figure out ways to get to across that aren't the bridge, otherwise you get tagged. Kids could easily guard the bridge with their arm span because I can and most of the kids that come here are older than me. There is a big mountain right behind the house that is fun to play on, and if kids are allowed to they can use the extra bikes and helmets to go on a bike ride.



I also like to cook with my mom most of the time. The night that I made bread, the people said that I did really good, and every time when I can, I help my mom cook the bread. I like helping my mom cook spaghetti, and I like helping my mom cut the

cucumbers, and the carrots and celery. And I like helping my mom spin the lettuce. I hope to be a chef one day when I grow up, but for now I just like to help my mom.

My least favorite job is cleaning the playroom because it takes a really long time.

We have a ton of board games, and it is very fun. And sometimes we give out gifts to the guests and sometimes we even make things for them. We also have art supplies if you want to play by yourself or have a drawing competition.

We really like to have kids. The Hospitality House is very fun, like I've been saying. I hope more kids come and from there on out have more fun visiting.

POETRY
CORNER

Missing

My left thumb moved across my palm
As it had done for years

Somehow this time I caught myself
Inside I shed some tears

My thumb touched then my ring finger
You know a ring's not there

A judge had it removed one day
Without a human care

That ring never defined our love
Jail rules took it away

It's one more thing I miss from you
Love does not miss a day

By William James Jonas

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 CONTINUED

mas dinners have been special, every week for the past 10 years, we have shared meals, celebrated birthdays and enjoyed the company of the amazingly diverse and wonderful community here at the House. Growing up I watched my mom, aunts and grandmas prep meals, dancing around small kitchens to get a giant spread of food on the table for our large and hungry family. Little did I know that the lessons I learned in those kitchens would come in handy as I managed the chaos of meal prep at AHH. I learned from some amazing women that sharing work in the kitchen can not only feed a lot of people, it can help those people to feel loved and at home. This is our primary goal at the Hospitality House. Despite the

laughter and fun of our kitchen, our guests are facing difficult times. My helpers in the kitchen peel carrots and slice potatoes as their daughters, wives, mothers and friends are incarcerated down the road. While nothing I do could ever make the incarceration of a loved one easy, it is my honor and sincere privilege to share my kitchen and welcome our courageous guests to share their talents...be that the making of extraordinary guacamole or the washing and drying of dish after dish after dish.

It has been 10 years since we started working at the Alderson Hospitality House and celebrated Micah's first birthday. I am excitedly looking to the future and wonder what the AHH kitchen will be like as guests help me prepare the meal for his 20th?

HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

As for the Alderson Hospitality House, as long as the prison is open, we will be here to support the women incarcerated and their friends and families. Fundraising is always a challenge, but as you can see from our Annual Fund report, we are doing well this year, and as long as we continue to have support from people like you, we will continue to provide our ministry and service to the people who need it as they come to visit Alderson.

We, the DeRouens, are not leaving. In fact, this year marks our 10 year anniversary at the Hospitality House, and we love the work we do as much as the day we started...maybe more. As I'm writing this, I'm thinking back through those 10 years, and they are filled with some wonderful memories. One of my first memories was celebrating Micah's 1st birthday under the pavilion at the AHH park on our first weekend at the House. Just last week, we celebrated Micah's 11th birthday and in those ten years there have been some changes. Thanks to the flood in 2016, the pavilion is gone and we live in a different house, but our joyful memories far outweigh the difficult ones. Yesterday, I sat across from Heather at Saturday night dinner. Heather was one of the first kids I remember meeting when I started working here. She used to come to the house with her Grandparents to visit her mom. She would help Brian and me by taking Micah to the park or playroom and entertain him while we worked at the House. She's still vis-

iting her mom at the FPC, but now she's all grown up, going to college, and staying at the House by herself.

So many people have touched our lives and helped to shape our life and work at the House. I've always appreciated help in the kitchen while making or cleaning up from dinner, but there will be a very special place in my heart for the women who stepped up while I was pregnant with Vitale and continued to help while he was very young. Thanks to morning sickness, which was actually morning, noon and night sickness for me, I could not eat anything after I had spent time preparing it. After they would return from their visits at the camp, those ladies would come to the kitchen and encourage me to sit down while they finished up the meal and got it served. When they finished eating they would hop back up and someone would do the post-dinner cleaning while someone else cooked me something delicious.

Guests often talk about how staying at AHH is like coming home to Grandma's house...and honestly, I feel a little like grandma hosting family every time we have a big dinner at the house (so every weekend). I grew up in a big family, and I loved it. Naturally, much of our time together was centered around food...donuts at grandma's house every Saturday, coffee cake after church every Sunday at my great aunt's house, two (or more) huge meals every holiday. Large holiday meals are still a part of my life but now the majority of them are spent here, with our Hospitality House family. While the Thanksgiving and Christ-

(Continued on page 6)



RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Pumpkin Sage Risotto

This is a great Autumn recipe. It's warm and filling and you can use any winter squash to substitute for the pumpkin if you'd like.

- 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil
- 1 Large Onion, chopped
- 1 Garlic Clove, Minced
- 1-2 Tablespoons fresh Sage
- 1½ Cups Arborio Rice
- 2 Cups Pumpkin, diced
- 3½ Cups Boiling Vegetable Stock
- 1/3 Cup Pine Nuts
- 1/3 Cup Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- 4 Tablespoons Milk
- Pinch of Nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Heat the Oil in a large pan and sauté the onion, garlic, and sage about 5 minutes until golden. Add the rice and pumpkin and stir-fry for 1 minute until all the rice grains are well coated in oil.
2. Add ¼ pint of stock and simmer until absorbed. Continue to add the stock and simmer, stirring frequently, for about 25 minutes, until the rice is creamy and all the liquid is absorbed.
3. Meanwhile, process the pine nuts, cheese, milk, and nutmeg in a blender until smooth. Stir into the risotto, with the final addition of stock, and simmer for a further 5 minutes. Season to taste and serve immediately.

* You can make a dairy free option by using nutritional yeast in place of the cheese and dairy free milk such as Almond or Soy.

Raise money for AHH while you shop online. Go to smile.amazon.com, and search for Alderson Hospitality House as your charity. You get all the Amazon options, and they send us a portion of what you spend with no added cost to you.



Raise money for AHH without spending a dime. Every time you search the internet using goodsearch, you can raise money for the Hospitality House. Go to goodsearch.com to find out more.

Raise money for AHH while buying your groceries. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com and register your Kroger Plus card to automatically give a percentage of every sale to AHH. Our number is 85722. Use it when you sign up today!



Like Us on Facebook! You can follow us and keep up with what is going on at AHH throughout the year.

THE ANNUAL FUND

Autumn has arrived, and that means the chill of winter is just around the corner. Thanks to a few of our board members, our firewood supply is looking good this year. When a tree goes down on one of their properties, they give me a call, and we meet up early. A few of us run chainsaws, others are on the wood splitter and one or two throw the split wood into the waiting truck. By noon the temps get warm and our bodies are tired, but the wood is stacked and ready.

It takes a similar group effort to fund the Hospitality House. Every donation matters and is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your generosity which will keep our guests warm during the long and cold nights of winter.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

A SPECIAL REQUEST

In the spring, we plan to hold a few raffles to support the House. We are looking to you, your business, church or community group for themed baskets that would entice people to buy raffle tickets. If you would like, you can simply buy and send the individual items to us, and we can put them together once they arrive. Thanks!



GOAL
\$90,000

OCTOBER
\$62,937

JUNE
\$44,356

FEBRUARY
\$13,410

Wish List

Everyday Items

Coffee (Not decaf)
Postage Stamps
Ink Pens
Dish Soap
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels

Hand Soap Refills
Fresh Produce
Pasta
Pasta Sauce (Not Meat Flavored)
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix
Kroger Gift Cards