

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
Eva Grumbine, summer staff

FLIGHT INFORMATION



Raleigh County Memorial

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

AMTRAK INFORMATION



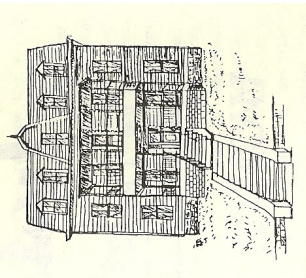
www.amtrak.com

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



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ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



VOLUME 42, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2019

HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

Spring has come and gone, but the rain is still falling. It has been a wet 2019 in West Virginia, and every time it rains enough to overflow the creek, I say a little thank you to all of our wonderful donors who helped to build us a home, far above the flood zone. It has been almost 3 years since our house was destroyed in the flood, but the memories of that night will not soon fade. We could not be more grateful to be living in a mold-free, flood-safe home. The generosity of so many allowed us to rebuild and continue our work at this Hospitality House, which we adore. The love shown to us makes it that much easier for us to love the women incarcerated at FPC Alderson, their family and friends.



You all have come through for us again by donating the funds needed to replace the kitchen range. After the igniter broke on the stove, we thought we'd have a few months, at least, to search up a grant or look for a range that could be donated, but just a few weeks after the first setback, the oven stopped heating. We had to turn, yet again, to our amazing supporters, and yet again, you came through for us. Thank you so much to all of you that donated to the range project. And oh my, did it become a project!!



Because of how much the oven is used, we decided to upgrade to a commercial range. That was very exciting to me, especially, because now it means I have 6 burners to cook on and a very large oven that fits a lot of food inside. There were a few obstacles to over-

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SUMMER IN ALDER-

By Eva

Hi! My name is Eva Grumbine, I'll be working at the Hospitality House the next few months! I am so excited to spend my summer here in Alderson with the DeRouens. I have just finished my second year at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA this past May. I am pursuing a dual degree in International Public Policy and Human Development. If all goes as planned, I'll graduate in May 2021. I grew up in Botetourt County, Virginia, just over the mountains from Alderson. Regionally, Alderson and my hometown are quite similar. They are both small, sleepy towns with a distinct rural Appalachia culture. So spending my summer in Alderson won't be a complete culture shock for me. Although, however similar Botetourt and Alderson are, the West Virginian people and lifestyle are a beautiful breed all their own.

My first encounter with the Alderson Hospitality House was back in March. I spent a few days here with my Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) spring break trip. After a long, winding drive from our last service site in Washington D.C., we arrived here late on a Wednesday night. I had been feeling worn down from the rigid structure and

narrowmindedness of the group and was dreading finishing out the week in a new location. But as soon as I walked through the front door of the AHH, my outlook did a complete 180. I was immediately filled with light, warmth, and love. Brian greeted us with a laundry basket in tow and a bright smile on his face. I knew right away AHH was a special place, a one of a kind establishment.

The next morning Brian enlightened us on the history of the house, the complexities of the prison industrial complex, and shared some of his and Kathleen's personal journeys. The rest of our week we helped Kathleen around the house, cleaning, cooking, organizing, etc, with a serene trip to the New River's Sandstone Falls with Brian. I left Alderson feeling refreshed and hopeful. Spending time with Kathleen and Brian proved to me there are still Catholics actively pursuing social justice and carrying out the social teachings of the Church.

About a month later, another girl on my spring break trip, Jordan, and I found ourselves with a rare free weekend and reached out to Kathleen to see if they would need any help during that time. Happily, it worked out, and Jordan and I spent a few nights

(Continued on page 7)



SUMMER CONTINUED

helping out around the house. It was such a special and fun weekend. While visiting, Kathleen expressed their search for summer help. My heart jumped, excited by the opportunity to live and learn in Alderson for an entire summer. After a few weeks of consideration, I joyfully accepted the DeRouens' offer.

WORTH RISES REPORT

Today, more than half of the \$80 billion spent annually on incarceration by government agencies is used to pay the thousands of vendors that serve the criminal legal system. They are healthcare providers, food suppliers, and commissary merchants, among others. And many have devised strategies to extract billions more from the directly impacted communities supporting their incarcerated loved ones.

Companies like Securus and Keefe charge as much as \$25 for a simple 15-minute phone call and \$6 for mere \$20 deposit, respectively.

Focused on their bottom line, advantaged by an obscure environment, and often empowered by monopolistic contracts, these private, for-profit corporations that operate within the prison industrial complex exploit the 2.2 million people incarcerated in the U.S. and their support networks, both vulnerable to corporate abuse.

This report exposes roughly 4,000 corporations that profit from the devastating mass incarceration of our nation's

THE PRISON-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AT A GLANCE

2.3 million
people
are in confinement
in the United States.

SOURCE: PRISON POLICY INITIATIVE

3,100+
corporations
profit from mass
incarceration.

SOURCE: CORRECTIONS
ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

Bail is a
\$2 billion
per year industry.

SOURCE: THE ATLANTIC



\$5.1 million
The combined
total that
private prison
owners

CoreCivic and
the GEO Group
spent to lobby
local, state,
and federal
governments
in 2016

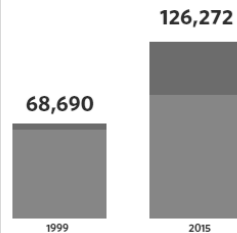
SOURCE: CORRECTIONS
ACCOUNTABILITY
PROJECT

\$15
The amount some prisoners
are forced to pay for a 15-minute
phone call



SOURCE: THE INTERCEPT

Number of prisoners held in
private prisons



SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH CENTER

marginalized communities. Growing by nearly 800 companies this year, it continues to serve as the largest lens into the prison industrial complex ever published. While this report still far from covers all the private sector companies in this space, it captures all its major players.

At Worth Rises, our hope is that advocates, liti-

gators, journalists, investors, and the public will use the report to further understand the expansive nature of the prison industrial complex and familiarize themselves with its players. This report should serve as a resource in the fight against the commercialization of our criminal legal system.

We look forward to seeing your action. Link to Worth Rises page and the report: <https://worthrises.org/picreport2019>

POETRY
CORNER

Daddy's Home

*Every day I wish to hold
Her in my loving arms
Comfort her while she sleeps
Protect her from all harm —*

*I kiss her pictures before
I head my way to bed —
Behind these walls —
How does a Father comfort his tortured
— heart —
Years to this pen ink
Reopens my past scars, my tainted wounds
Through a prayer of hope, I look to these
Stars. I feel deep down. Realize love isn't distant —
Faith is not lost.*

*Take each day to learn & grow
Please baby to my voice, thru sun or snow
Hold my hand—please don't let go. Let me protect
Your heart & strengthen your soul. You are my
Purpose and my fate is un-known.*

*Do not cry, you're not alone. If I knew
Heaven's address—I would grab my items & write a note
Just ask God—and he'll bring your Daddy to your new
Home.*

Contributing inmate, name illegible. If this is your work, please let us know and we will credit you in the next edition. Thank you for sharing the love you feel for your child with us.

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

come, however. The first was the cost of the range. When we put out the call to our donors, you stepped up, and went above and beyond. We raised more money than we needed for the range, which turned out to be a huge blessing because the range came with some unexpected costs. The next issue we had to deal with was hooking up the gas line. After having a friend, a plumber, and an appliance repairman attempt to connect the range, we had to call in the gas company. The gas line coming into the house was not big enough to support the range. After inspection, the gas company decided we needed a new tank to serve just the range. That's where a lot of the extra money went.

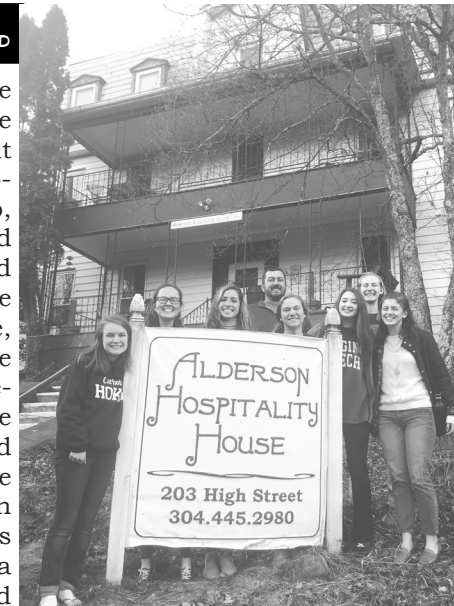
With the gas connected, it was time to level the range and get cooking. Upon reading the instructions for leveling, I realized we were going to need to do a lot more than level the stove before we could safely use it. Thankfully, we have a board member and guest who stepped in to keep the costs down. We had to level the range, raise the venting system and cabinet above, get a new countertop for the cabinets next to the range, and put up a backsplash. Almost 2 months after ordering the new range, we were finally able to use it! After cooking out of crockpots and walking back and forth between the two houses to get

stuff out of our oven, I was thrilled to have a properly working range. While it was a lot of work, it was totally worth it.

In the midst of all this stove drama, we hosted 2 groups of college volunteers. Students from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Virginia Tech (VT) took time out of their spring breaks to learn more about the Prison Industrial Complex and the challenges of loving someone incarcerated in prison. The students get to meet our

guests, learn from their experiences and have conversations with Brian about for profit prisons, mandatory minimums, and the complexities of the criminal justice system that most Americans are unaware of. While they were with us, the students helped to clean the house, top to bottom. They cleaned windows and porches, scrubbed toilets and showers, sorted toys and supplies, and much more. We enjoy getting to know

these college students, and they really help with the spring-cleaning. While we appreciate the scrubbing and sweeping, we hope that above all these students leave with a better sense of the work that needs to be done to improve our justice system and the rights of inmates, both current and former. 📧



RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Pizza Pasta Casserole

Board member, Evey Ferrotte, and her husband, Jim, often help me out in the kitchen when I need to miss a Saturday dinner. Here is one of her beloved recipes that she said I could share. I hope you enjoy it!

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3-1/2 cups spaghetti sauce
- 1 package (16 ounces) spiral or cavatappi pasta, cooked and drained
- 4 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 8 ounces sliced pepperoni

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in spaghetti sauce and pasta.
2. Transfer to 2 greased 13x9-in. baking dishes. Sprinkle with cheese. Arrange pepperoni over the top.
3. Bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes or until heated through. **Freeze option:** Cool unbaked casseroles; cover and freeze up to 3 months. To use, partially thaw in refrigerator overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake as directed, increasing time to 35-40 minutes or until heated through and a thermometer inserted in center reads 165°.

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

At AHH we stock up on firewood during the warm months because once October arrives it might be too late. We plan ahead so that our guests can stay warm all winter. The opposite is true when it comes to fund raising. The vast majority of our donations come in November and December of each year. This is wonderful as it helps us get off to a great start come New Year's Day; however, it can make for some leaner months right about now. For AHH families, their one summer trip is

often to Alderson to visit a loved one. Their one trip of the entire year may be to come this way, and we appreciate your generosity which allows us to provide them with a comfortable home away from home.

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 (Not decaf)
Postage Stamps
Ink Pens
Dish Soap
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Hand Soap Refills
AA or AAA Batteries
Fresh Produce
Pasta
Pasta Sauce
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix
Kroger Gift Cards

Willing to spend a bit more?

Bath Towels to match the rooms
Dehydrator
Small working lamps

For the big spenders:

New Twin Size Mattresses
Fire Wood

GOAL
\$90,000

JUNE
\$44,356

FEBRUARY
\$13,410

