

## 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

Gloria Martin	Amy McClure
Nancy Burris	Doris Kasley
Judy Lucas	Jim Frerrote
Jandy Hanna	

## AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director  
Brian DeRouen, co-director  
Anjelica Mora, 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



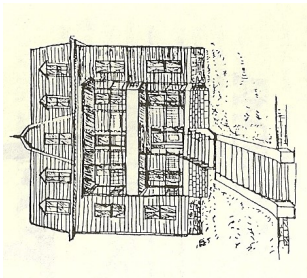
[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

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  
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[www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org](http://www.aldersonhospitalityhouse.org)  
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## ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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## HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

As the weather becomes warmer and more people get approved to visit at FPC Alderson, the Hospitality House gets busier and busier. We love having more people around after the quiet pandemic years. The House is once again coming alive. The pitter patter of little feet throughout the weekend and toys all over the playroom bring me so much joy. It means that the women at the camp are once again getting to see their children in person. We've heard too many heartbreaking stories lately about years passing since a little one has been held in their mother's arms. We feel honored and fortunate to be a part of the joy that these reunions create.

While we are happily saying hello and

meeting a plethora of new guests, we are sad to say that we are saying goodbye to our Anjelica. Jeli is leaving the Hospitality House after serving the House and its guests for over a year. She smiles without ceasing, has done hundreds of loads of laundry and I know the guests will miss her delicious cooking. Thank you, Jeli, for everything that you have given us! Good luck in your future endeavors and know that you will always have a home and family here at the Alderson Hospitality House. You will be missed.

Our park is going through changes as well. The Town of Alderson, in consultation with the Army Corp of Engineers, is working on flood mitigation throughout the town. One of the big steps in the process is to dredge the bottom and widen the creek that runs through our lit-

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## LAWRENCE E. HAWKING DE ROUEN Y PONDEROSA

By BRIAN

Lawrence “Larry” E. Hocking de Rouen y Ponderosa left his earthy body behind and hoped to sneak into hog heaven by the skin of his snout on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the age of 17. Larry was born outside of Dallas, TX and adopted by his adoring parents Kathleen and Brian DeRouen on their honeymoon.

Larry was passionate about eating, belly rubs, flopping onto his side to sunbathe, cuddling with his dad and intimidating anyone that would allow it. He adored breaking out of his yard in Alderson as often as possible on the hunt for extra food but would always return in time for his next regularly scheduled meal.

While Larry was a proud resident of Alderson for the past 14 years, he was not initially welcomed with open arms. One lovely day in 2009, Larry was contentedly rooting around in his yard when Alderson’s finest showed up to serve him with an eviction notice on account of his residing in Alderson being forbade by an ordinance against livestock. Larry quickly got to work on his defense and got his day in court at a town council meeting. Larry was represented by his father (a fortunate choice since he likely would have attempted to physically assault every member of



the city council that didn’t provide treats) who happily won the judgement that Larry was not in fact livestock but rather a beloved family pet.

Larry survived a tree falling on his piggy house during the derecho in June of 2012 and barely escaped the flood of 2016 by heroically swimming until he was rescued. While his family rebuilt in Alderson, Larry was a flood refugee at the Hinton home of his adoring auntie Ziggy and uncle Bill. He always remembered his time with them fondly and showed zero remorse for sending Bill to the emergency room for stitches on account of

Bill running out of carrots during snack time.

Left to cherish Larry’s memory are his loving parents Brian and Kathleen, devoted little brothers Micah and Vitale, his aunt Ziggy, uncle Bill, Alderson Hospitality House co-worker Anjelica Mora and countless friends both near and far.



## HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

the park. They’ve cut down some trees, cleaned up the debris, and continue to work in the park and beyond. All of this is helping to stop the lake that forms at the bottom of our driveway during every significant rain, which we greatly appreciate.

We also have to shout out our appreciation to the men who have donated time this past month to help improve the House. Tom Whitcomb has spent hours helping to smooth out the driveway and has worked with Brian and, board member, Jim Frerotte to cut and haul wood to keep us warm next winter. We have 2 riding lawn mowers, both of which have been broken for the last two years. Guest, John

Miller, and local lawn mower wizard, Carl Snedsgger, have each adopted one of the mowers, so now Brian can keep the grass in the park mowed and ready for the kids to run around and play.

Community and connection are two of the things we value the most about living and working at the Alderson Hospitality House. We are still a long way from having every room booked and a waiting list every weekend as we did for years before the pandemic arrived, but the House is feeling like itself again. We miss our long-time friends whose loved ones have been released, but we are thrilled to be here for the friends that we have not yet met.

## GROWING UP IN ALDERSON By BRIAN

Kathleen and I moved into the Hospitality House on our son Micah’s first birthday. We had made a two-year commitment to AHH and were excited to get started. Vitale was born three years later, and we were just hitting our stride. Now, come August, Micah will be a freshman in high school and Vitale a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. They have grown up in this amazing place.

When a family comes in the night before the wife/mom surrenders to FPC Alderson, all four of us have the honor of walking with them during a difficult time. For Kathleen and I, that consists of answering questions about the camp, visitation and maintaining a vibrant marriage despite incarceration.



tion. For Micah and Vitale that means playing Minecraft and foosball or tossing around the Frisbee behind the House... helping their new friends to

understand that they are going to be okay.

At the House, our boys have grown up seeing grown men cry. They recognize the fallacy in the belief that the “bad guys” are in prison and the “good guys” are not. They understand that things are not as black and white as society would like them to believe and that addiction is far more complex than “Just say No.”

As they begin high school and middle school, we are immensely proud of our sons. We owe a massive debt of gratitude to the AHH village which has helped to raise them from little babies into the young men they are today.

*My Dad*

Larger than life  
Is a cliché  
Always for me  
That's you each day

Others were coach  
You're my biggest fan  
Loving support  
The model man

Loss of control  
You did not teach  
I picked that up  
Beyond your reach

But you were there  
Stood in the breach  
Helped me heal up  
And never preached

Endured the drama  
That has been my path  
A safe place to cry  
The best place to laugh

Tested, Pestered, Disappointed  
Let down  
Without showing anger  
You still stuck around

To listen, Be helpful  
And provide a plan  
While showing the meaning  
Of father and man

One thing is certain  
I don't meet your best  
You gave me the goodness  
And forgave the rest

POETRY  
CORNER*My Mom*

Our world was big  
When I was small  
And you were with me  
Through it all

Moving was part  
Of Dad's assignment  
Change is life  
With boss man government

You gave so much  
I did not understand  
With precious lessons  
On my path to a man

We were friends you and me  
When I was with none  
I have no greater gift  
Than being your son

Heartbreaks I bring to you  
Yes even today  
The tears you have shed  
I cannot repay

You have never denied me  
And often paid a great price  
And forgave me each time I ignored  
Your loving advice

Bright days are ahead  
I know this is true  
A future that is  
All because of you

*By William James Jonas III*

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! 📧

BEING PRESENT *By ANJELICA*

Greetings from your resident Yankee and staff member extraordinaire, Anjelica. I am writing to you all with a heavy heart as this is my final week here at Alderson's finest non-profit bed and breakfast. While I was cleaning the house the other day, I found the article I wrote for the newsletter at the ripe age of 19, a few months after I had arrived. In it I spoke of the way this place had taught me the importance of listening; however, it was only within the last year that I was able to understand what exactly that entails.

I've come to the conclusion that listening is the first and most doable step, but being fully present in that act is something entirely different and more difficult in my experience. You see, each of our lives are complex and consume most of our thoughts on a daily basis making the act of paying attention to each other a low priority. However, the moment you abandon your to-do list and commit to sitting in community with another person, you understand why it's called being 'present'. It is an exchange of gifts that we can give to each other at no cost to ourselves. The proof lies in the many recipes I've received, a now basic understanding of car maintenance, new book recommendations, the mutual unburdening of stress, and the list goes on. As you can see, listening can only get you so far, but having presence of mind in these beautiful fleeting moments unlocks unfettered access to

both shared and new ideas.

This simple truth is why I believe this place has had such a profound effect on me and so many of its guests throughout the years. It is a gathering place for strangers from all walks of life to come together, despite the grief they feel in the absence of a loved one, to then share the gift of their presence with each other. To all of the people I've had the pleasure of meeting or speaking with in my time here: please know that your stories, wis-



dom, and unmitigated kindness have changed my life forever. I count myself lucky to have had this experience at such a young age, and even luckier still to have had the opportunity to come back and expand upon it. As I move forward in my life, I will take these gifts with me as a testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit, as well as a reminder to share my own gifts every chance that I get. 📧

## RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

I asked Anjelica if she had a parting recipe she wanted to share with the community; and she said many guests have asked her for this salad dressing recipe, so here you all go!

## Balsamic Vinaigrette

½ c. olive oil  
¼ c. balsamic vinegar  
1 ½ tsp. Dijon mustard  
1-2 cloves garlic (or however many your spirit leads you to), grated or finely minced  
1 TBSP honey  
½ of a lemon, juiced  
Pinch of salt and pepper

You can just use the ingredients to the left, but I love adding herbs like fresh oregano and basil, or even red pepper flakes if you like a little spice. Extra points if you add the zest of the lemon!

You can simply whisk to combine, but blending in a food processor or blender leads to a more emulsified dressing. 🍷



You can now donate through PayPal or Venmo! Search for us under the give tab or follow these QR codes.



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](http://goodsearch.com) to find out more.

Raise money for AHH while buying your groceries. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) and register your Kroger Plus card to automatically give a percentage of every sale to



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

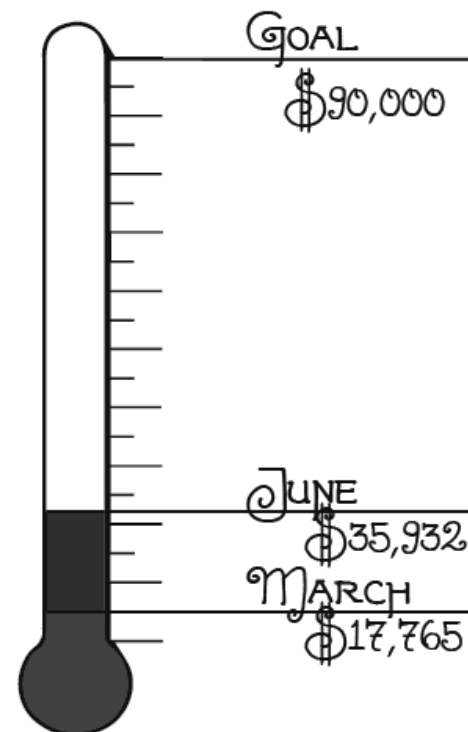
## THE ANNUAL FUND

Late in the Spring, the grass always grows. With temperatures rising and the rainfall plentiful it is always time to mow. Similar to the grass, our bills seem to be growing lately, as well. We are happy to have more mouths to feed each week-end, but are not super keen on the prices we are seeing at the grocery store. So, once again, we reach out to you, our beloved community. You have kept the House going through many tough times over the past four decades and we trust, pray and pinch pennies so that the same will be true this time.

We have new ways to donate if sending a check isn't for you. On the previous page, you will see our PayPal and Venmo QR codes. We will accept donations any way you feel called. 🍷

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!



## WISH LIST

Coffee (Not decaf)  
Postage Stamps  
Dish Soap  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Hand Soap Refills  
Pasta  
Pasta Sauce (Not Meat Flavored)  
Lemonade/Iced Tea Mix  
Kroger Gift Cards

## Willing to spend a bit more?

Solid colored Washcloths and Towels (not white)  
Small Working Lamps  
New Twin Beds  
Small Recliners  
Fire Wood  
Car