

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
Greenbrier Valley
Lewisburg, WV
www.gvairport.com

AMTRAK INFORMATION



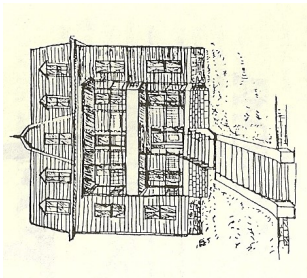
www.amtrak.com

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

ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2023

HOUSE NOTES

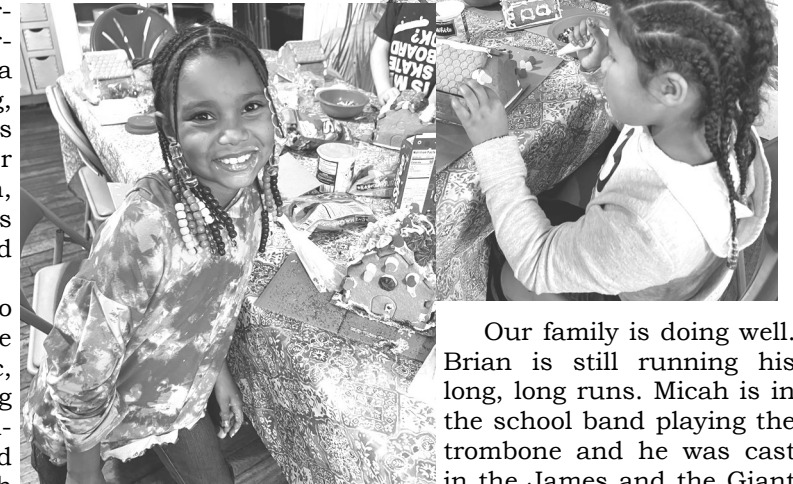
By KATHLEEN

The House is back in action as it was meant to be! Right before Christmas the prison opened its doors to visitors once again. We had a great Christmas gathering in the House. There were several kids who decorated gingerbread houses; and we had a great feast with turkey, stuffing, tasty vegan options, veggies and, most importantly, laughter around the table. Since then, the prison has allowed visitors every Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 8:15am-3:15pm.

We haven't gone straight to a full house every weekend like we had before the pandemic, but it feels like word is getting out about the Alderson Hospitality House because more and more guests are staying with us. As the weather gets warmer and more people get approved for visiting, I know we will be back to our normal waiting list again.

Anjelica Mora has joined us again as a staff member at the House. She was with us when the pandemic started, but moved back home when everything shut down. She is back now, and brings a bright and smiling

presence around the house that we and our guests appreciate so very much.



Our family is doing well. Brian is still running his long, long runs. Micah is in the school band playing the trombone and he was cast in the James and the Giant

Peach musical that will take place at the Greenbrier Valley Theater at the end of March. Vitale has joined the school archery team, and they have qualified for the state tournament. I am still painting and have recently finished the biggest mural I have painted so far. The outside room that, until

(Continued on page 7)

MUSINGS FROM A BOARD MEMBER

By JANDY HANNAH

I serve on the Board of the AHH, and a few meetings ago, I was asked if I could write something for The Trumpet. I agreed to serve on the Board because I know the co-Directors personally, and I love the things they do. Brian and Kathleen are devoted to serving others. I see them taking joy in giving to others, and even on a bad day, they are still at the AHH giving. They even gave to the AHH and the local community during the pandemic. Rest assured, the Board and co-directors kept in touch and there were some projects at the AHH that both Brian and Kathleen did while visitation was closed.

Now that visitation is back (yay!), they continue to give. I pondered a bit how they have the energy and desire to do so much giving, especially during the pandemic, which was often a soul suck for people even on the best days. Brian and Kathleen, even on bad days (we all have them!), were still doing things to give to the community. I think part of their secret is the self-care they provide to themselves, which ensures they get recharged to give to others. My friends, Brian and Kathleen, each have their own hobbies and make sure they take the time to engage in those hobbies (maybe you'll get to read about some of those hobbies sometime).

I went through a big personal change in my life, and Brian and Kathleen were there and supportive of me through it all. In fact, part of the change involved going back to school, and I chose the school based on its connection to them. I wanted to be at a place that supported service and encouraged giving back to the community, because I respect what they do and their approach at the AHH.

I now volunteer my time on Mondays, inten-

tionally to start the week off in a way that let's me do some-



thing for others. Sometimes my volunteer work is tedious, sometimes I get to learn a bit, sometimes I just need to complete

a form. But every time I do it, I feel refreshed and positive. I think giving, in whatever form you can, is a way that people can get some more positivity in their lives. It may be as simple as making a casserole for people with health issues to take one thing off their mind or just smiling at them in the store. There is a lot going on in the world, but the ability to do something for others is such a restorative, happy activity that it pushes out some of the negativity you hear in the news or see on social media.

So, those are my musings and what the AHH, and the co-Directors, mean to me. This is really just a note from a Board member asking you to take a moment to think about if you have anything (time, food, smiles) to give to somebody who needs it and, more importantly, the things you are thankful for. Take some time to just be positive. It's infectious, and though we may be sick of hearing about the pandemic, giving and smiling and being joyous might be an infection we all could use more of. 🌟

HOUSE NOTES CONTINUED

now, has been called the Little House of Prayer is renamed the Malala Room.

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani female



education activist. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at the age of 17. Two years prior, Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen while riding a school bus in an attempt to silence her activism advocating education for girls and women. She survived and continues her activism today. Oftentimes, in her speeches, she talks about how you are never too young to speak up for what you believe, and it was one of these quotes that

inspired my mural: "Often, we think we are too young, or our ideas may not work, and we need to grow up to bring change. I just say no. Whatever you want to do now, you can do it now."

The room was built decades ago as a chapel, but then, previous House directors decided that a really big room for guests was what was most needed. Malala's room has a queen bed, a double, two twins, a pull-out couch and room for a couple mattresses on the floor. So, when we get a group with a whole bunch of kids, it is the perfect space for all of them. All the rooms at the Hospitality House are named after strong and influential women that inspire us, but we take inspiration from young people as well. We want our young guests to know how much their strength and courage inspires us, so

Malala felt like the perfect name for a room often full of children. 🌟

MEALS CONTINUED

ready to enjoy the view down on Alderson from heaven...but I miss my friends. I feel honored to have heard their stories about the loves of their lives and learn of the history of our little town from their perspective. I am so glad that Vitale became friends with Miss Madge and would chat with her a bit while riding his bike home from school. I also deeply feel the satisfaction of talking with Miss Hope about our dear friend Madge and how much we miss her.

Community and the sharing of meals are cornerstones of the Alderson Hospitality

For color pictures of the mural, go to our Facebook page. Please like and follow us while you are there!!

House experience. It is fabulous that visitation is open again at FPC Alderson so that we can make new friends from all over once again. It is crazy to think that it took a global pandemic for me to get out, meet, and share meals with some of our closest neighbors, but I am ever so grateful that it did. 🌟

POETRY
CORNER*If You Only Knew*

You said I wouldn't make it
if only you knew.
You said I was nobody
But to God I'm somebody
if only you knew.
If only you could see me now
I'm on top of the world
if only you knew
I'm glad y'all kept it clean and told me No.
I know how you feel
if only you knew.

By Enoch Connors

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! 📧

GWEN'S MEALS By BRIAN

At the Hospitality House we are used to making new friends. For our first decade at the House, we met new ones every weekend. Some of those were guests that we would see just once, but the vast majority became family. We celebrated birthdays and Thanksgiving dinners, as well as, shed tears and felt the frustrations as they navigated the incarceration of a loved one.

Then, in March of 2020 the pandemic arrived and the flow of new friends from all over the country slowed to a trickle. The empty



guest rooms and seats around the kitchen table at the Hospitality House did provide us with a unique opportunity, however. We were able to get to know some of our neighbors in Alderson through our Gwen's Meals program. We were thrilled to partner with the Shepherd's Center of the Greenbrier Valley to bring their weekly senior lunch program to Alderson.

By the time we arrived



her) and fondly remembers when she and her boyfriend would hop on his motorcycle to ride into town to see movies at the theater. Tickets cost 5 cents when the theater opened, and I don't think she has gotten over her anger from when they increased the price to 7 cents.

I visited with Miss Madge at her home just across the street from our son Vitale's elementary school. She and Miss Hope were classmates that met in kindergarten. Every Monday, Madge would invite me in to show me her fabulous arrowhead collection and play her favorite hymn for me on her little electric keyboard.

Usually, Miss Bernice would meet me on her front porch. I met Miss Bernice years ago at the food pantry, and I always looked forward to hearing "Heeey Baby, how are ya doin' today?" each time I saw her. It was also a sure thing that she would try to get me to buy her a pack of cigarettes (I never did; though, I will admit to getting her a few sodas to go with her Gwen's meals lunch now and then.)

As I am sitting here typing these words, I feel a bit of emotion as Miss Madge and Miss Bernice both passed in the last few months. They were not youngsters and were both



RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

This recipe was sent in by Enoch Conners, the same person who contributed the poem in this Newsletter.

Pork Ribs

7-8 lb Slab of Pork Ribs
1 Gallon water

Spice rub: 3 Tbs Cajoun Powder
1 tsp Curry Powder
1 tsp Garlic Powder
1 tsp Onion Powder

Memphis Rub Sauce:
1 bottle BBQ Sauce
1 Onion, Chopped
1 Red Pepper, Chopped
1/2 Cup Brown Sugar
1 Tbs Cajun Powder
1 tsp Curry Powder
2 Cloves Garlic, minced
1 Cup Orange Juice
1 Cup Red Wine

1. Divide Ribs into sections of 2-3 ribs per section. Place in a large stew pot with water. Bring to a boil. Lower temperature to simmer and cook for 4 hours to tenderize the meat.
2. Remove ribs and dry excess water. Mix spice rub. Gently work into meat. Refrigerate for 4 hours to marinate.
3. Place in oven and slow bake at 250 for 30 minutes.
4. To make sauce, sauté peppers, onion and garlic. Gently blend in the rest of the ingredients. Simmer for about 20 minutes.
5. Pour sauce over ribs and bake for another 20 minutes. 🍴

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.

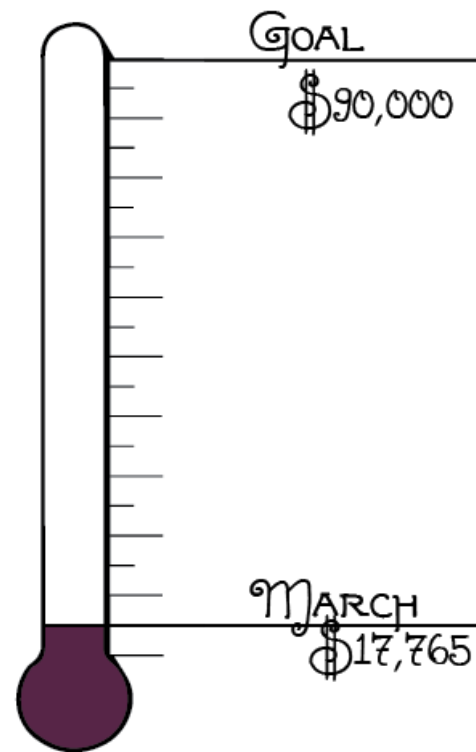
THE ANNUAL FUND

Hip hip hurray, visitation is finally open again! That was our immediate response when we made our first reservation for a visiting family a few months back. Close on it heels came the realization that we had a lot of work to do. Now that guests are back, we need to buy a new refrigerator and the driveway needs a couple loads of gravel. All of the projects and purchases that we put off in order to survive the pandemic now need to happen. Yikes! We could not be more grateful for the financial support from all of you that kept our doors open during the past two years, and our prayer is that we can continue to

count on you. Every penny of your tax-deductible donations will go directly into our efforts to serve our guests and in this instance, ensure that the milk, yogurt and orange juice served at breakfast will be cold. 🍴

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



WISH LIST

Coffee (Not decaf)
Postage Stamps
Dish Soap
Dryer Sheets
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)
White Pillowcases
Small Working Lamps
New Twin Beds
Small Recliners
Fire Wood