

## 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	Doris Kasley
Nancy Burris	Jim Frerrote
Jandy Hanna	Herb Montgomery
Amy McClure	Bethany Ellard-Richmond

## AHH STAFF

Kathleen DeRouen, co-director  
Brian DeRouen, co-director

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

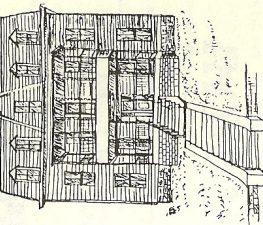


**Raleigh County Memorial**  
Beckley, WV  
www.flybeckley.com  
**Greenbrier Valley**  
Lewisburg, WV  
www.gvairport.com

## 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**



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

**Alderson Hospitality House**  
203 High Street  
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304.445.2980

Non-Profit Org.  
Permit No. 579  
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# ALDERSON HOSPITALITY HOUSE



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SPRING 2026

## HOUSE NOTES

By KATHLEEN

It's Spring! Flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, and the gardens are ready to be planted. Which means...it's time to mow and weed and till and plant and trim and mow again. Although spring comes with a lot of extra outside work, we welcome its arrival. This year we are especially excited after such a harsh winter. We had an ice storm in early January, and that ice stuck around for at least a month. The prison had to cancel visitation multiple weekends and guests held off on traveling for several weekends after. We are thrilled to be past all of that and doing all the work that spring brings about.

These past few weeks, I have been out preparing the gardens. There was an area of the garden that I have been ignoring for the last few years, and some trees decided to take root. Yesterday, I was out digging and pulling trees out of the soil. It was hard work and I have a big blister on my hand, but it was very satisfying once the last one came



out. I will be planting vegetables in that area this year, and I'm hoping after its rest, that it is ready to give us a great harvest. I plan to plant tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, squash and green beans, and most definitely herbs like basil, dill and parsley. I'm hoping to put some zinnias and other cutting flowers in there also as Micah has enjoyed collecting flowers and making bouquets for his girlfriend. In preparation

for his promposal, he and I walked around the property and found flowers and plants to fill out a beautiful bouquet. We had ferns for the backdrop, wild phlox and columbine for some purple and pink, a few cuts from the deciduous rhododendron for a pop of orange, and some sprigs of mint to add a wonderful smell.

Many of you will know that I love growing, serving, and eating nasturtium (so much

*(Continued on page 3)*

**DONATING A KIDNEY** By BRIAN



One of the challenges and joys of running the Hospitality House is the close proximity we have to other people's suffering. Every guest that walks through our doors is hurting as they are on the journey through incarceration. This can make some days at the House very difficult, but our joy is in seeing how the pain and circumstance of incarceration do not define our guests. Joy and laughter are as present in our House as tears and pain.

When a family is staying with us the day before a woman is surrendering to FPC Alderson, one of our jobs is to help them keep things in perspective. Nobody wants to go to prison, yes it is scary, but in almost every instance the trauma our guests are experiencing will pass.



Whether the sentence is for two months or a decade, it will come to an end and life will go on.

That is not always the case in hospitals. Several years ago we heard of the opportunity to extend the work that

we do at the House when we learned that a friend's life would be cut short if he did not receive a liver transplant. I began the process of getting tested to see if I could donate to him, and while my liver was not the one he needed, it turns out that I was a perfect match for a little boy in Virginia.



Becoming a living organ donor back in 2023 was one of the coolest things that I had ever been a part of. The opportunity to be the answer to another family's most desperate prayers and literally save another person's life is an honor difficult to put into words. While it was not the most comfortable thing that I have done, with the incredible support of my

family, friends and the Hospitality House community, I recovered quickly and knew that if I was able, I would want to do it again.

Happily for me the opportunity did present itself again and this newsletter is going out several weeks later than normal because on April 14th, Kathleen and I were back at the University of Virginia medical center where I donated my left kidney.

I did both my liver and kidney donations non-directed which means that I do not know the recipient. I do know that the left lobe of my liver is now inside a healthy fifteen year old boy and that my left kidney is now working hard in its new body somewhere in New Jersey. Before I was even off the operating table on the 14th, my kidney left the hospital and was on its way to the

*(Continued on page 7)*

**DONATING CONTINUED**

Garden State where by 6pm it had been transplanted into its new body.

When people ask Kathleen and I what we do and we tell them about the Hospitality House, the response is almost always about how amazing we are. The truth, though, is that we are totally normal people with the good fortune to have an incredible job. We are not special, and we are under no delusions that we are changing lives or making incarceration easy. At the House, our goal is to make it the slightest bit easier for families to be together during incarceration. While Kathleen makes delicious meals and we strive to keep our rooms comfortable and clean, the most important thing we do at the House is being present and available to others during their time of need.

We run the Alderson Hospitality House because doing so makes us happy and it has been an incredible environment to raise our boys. Similarly, being a living organ donor makes me happy, and I hope that it makes my family proud. It is such a joy when we

can share in the happiness of a family on the day their loved one is released from FPC Alderson and incarceration is finally behind them. Similarly, knowing that the fears and uncertainty of a life threatening illness are no longer felt by a family in Virginia and a family in New Jersey brings so many smiles to my face.



If you have even the slightest interest in becoming a living organ donor please don't hesitate to give us a call to chat about it. You could also take the first tiny step on this life saving journey by checking out [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov).

**HEALING APPALACHIA**

By SHEA HATCHER

Healing Appalachia is an annual music festival where music, community, and hope come together to combat the opioid crisis across the Appalachian region. Founded by Charlie Hatcher of Lewisburg, West Virginia, and managed by Hope in the Hills LLC, the festival raises funds to support outreach initiatives, increase awareness, provide vital resources, and fund programs focused on prevention, recovery, and support for individuals and families affected by substance use disorder.



More than just a festival, Healing Appalachia is a movement rooted in compassion, resilience, and community. Each year, people from across Appalachia come together to inspire change, share stories, and foster hope and unity. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and story shared helps build a healthier, brighter future for the region and beyond. Together, we can make a difference.

Find out more at [www.healingappalachia.org](http://www.healingappalachia.org)

## TESTIMONIALS

**It has been 6 years since our Amanda was released and we still think fondly of all the weekends we spent with you at the House. Thank you for being a beautiful bright light during a dark time for our family.**

**Gloria from Virginia**

**This was our fist stay at the Hospitality House and what a relief it was to be greeted with warm smiles and the smells of a delicious meal on the stove when we walked in the door. Everyone immediately felt like family but was even better as we actually liked everyone!**

**Sarah from Ohio**

**We came thinking all we wanted was a warm bed, and we found so much more. A community of love and acceptance that has made our trips to Alderson something that we all look forward to. We can't wait to come back in August!**

**D.S. from Michigan**

**We have never seen such a collection of stuffed animals. Our granddaughter was in heaven in your playroom!**

**Mike from North Carolina**

**Thank you for listening. I had no idea how much I needed to talk, and you guys clearly understood.**

**Jason from Florida**

**We won't miss the camp, but we will miss the dinners and friends at AHH. Thank you for all the laughs and for sharing the tears.**

**Donna from New Jersey**

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

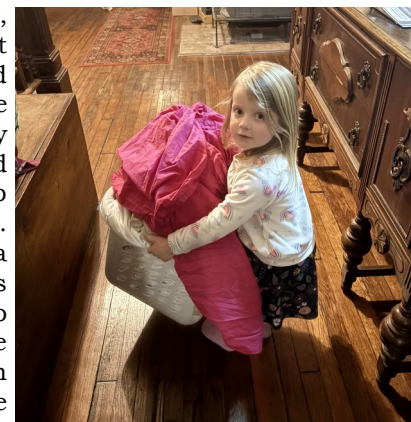
my arm). Well, those seeds went into the ground last week! I hope the couple frosty nights we had didn't disturb them too much. While we've had a couple nights reach down into the 30s and have kept the heat on well into May, the weather is now warming. With the threat of snow and ice gone, the flowers can grow, the veggies can take root, and our regular visitors are able to resume their normal visiting schedule.

There are less women incarcerated at FPC Alderson the past several months which has resulted in less visitors, but that has not stopped the prison staff from making some improvements and hosting several special events to try to bring more people in to visit their loved ones. They started in the visitation area itself. They have opened back up some of the outside area, allowing kids to play on the swings and giving people the opportunity to walk around a bit. While they would like to do more inside once funding becomes available, they have made some efforts to improve the atmosphere of the visitation room. The prison hosted a special Easter event and they have a Mother/Daughter banquet planned for later this month.



The Easter event was a big success. They worked with the group "God Behind Bars" to provide a lovely day filled with dancing, playing games, kite flying and more. You can watch the YouTube

so that I got a nasturtium tattoo wrapped around



video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1-fRRdT5LY> or just google "God Behind Bars Alderson". The guests that stayed with us that weekend returned to the House with huge smiles after such a lovely afternoon with their loved ones. I'm looking forward to hearing how the Mother/Daughter event goes at the end of the month.

Any time there is extra motivation to visit the women at the prison, we are thrilled. Having a connection with the outside world is really important for the women, and when the connection is with family, that is even better. Unfortunately, there are people who are incarcerated that do not have friends and family who are able to visit. If visiting someone who is incarcerated is something you would be interested in, we recommend checking out Prisoner Visitation and Support. Our board president is a member and she, along with some other great people, visit women at FPC, Alderson. PVS is a volunteer visitation program for people incarcerated in federal and military prisons throughout the United States, not just at Alderson. Their mission is to provide prisoners with regular, face to face contact from the world

**PVS** PRISONER VISITATION & SUPPORT

outside of prison to help them cope with prison life, encourage personal growth, and prepare for successful reentry into society. Please check them out <https://www.prisonervisitation.org/>. They are a great organization.

We are honored to be part of so many people's journey through incarceration. Incarceration doesn't just affect the woman who is sentenced to prison, it changes the lives of her family and friends as well. We love helping people stay connected, providing them with a place to stay and food to eat, and more importantly, the love and support they need to stay strong while supporting their loved one in FPC Alderson. 📧

RECIPES FROM THE KITCHEN

Oatmeal Pancakes

Breakfast for dinner is one of my favorite meals to make both at home and at the Hospitality House. Pancakes are usually involved!!

- 3.25 Cups Milk
- 1 Cup Quick Cook or Rolled Oats
- 3 Cups Flour
- 2 Tablespoons+2 Teaspoons Baking Powder
- 2 Teaspoons Salt
- 2 Tablespoons Brown Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 6 Tablespoons Oil or Butter
- 1 Tablespoon Vanilla
- .5 Cups Mini Chocolate Chips (optional)

1. Before you do anything else, combine the Milk and Oats to soak until later.
2. In a large bowl, combine the Flour, Baking Powder, Salt, and Brown Sugar.
3. Beat the Egg, Oil, and Vanilla into the flour mixture. Then add the Milk and Oats.
4. Stir until everything is combined; then, add the Chocolate Chips.
5. Allow mixture to rest while you heat up a griddle.
6. After about 5-10 minutes, Stir the mixture one more time to make sure everything is combined and begin cooking.
7. To cook a pancake properly, I turn my electric griddle up as high as it can go, put batter on it in whatever size I want, wait for the batter to start bubbling. And when most of the bubbles are popped (5-10 minutes), I flip the pancakes. Then, I leave it to cook for about 5-10 minutes more on the second side.



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



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 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.

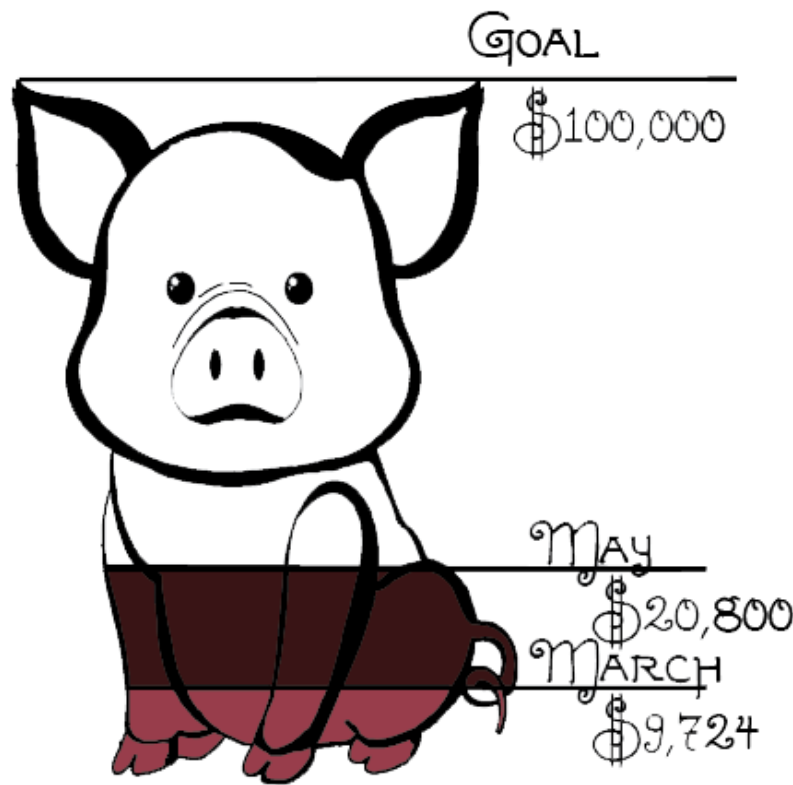


THE ANNUAL FUND

Spring is the time for planting seeds which months down the road will become the salads served on our Hospitality House tables. As Ecclesiastes 3 states and the Byrds sang there is a season for everything. While that is true, our need to fundraise continues through all of the seasons. Early in this year we were spending extra money on salt for the front stairs keeping the wood stove, gas stove and electric heaters burning to keep our guests warm. The House does not have AC so that is an expense that we are spared, but in the spring and summer the park needs to be mowed and the fans in every room are on to keep things cool.

If money grew on trees we would be planting them in our garden, but since it does not, we are looking to you our wonderful friends. The families that stay with us save up all year, sometimes to make one trip to Alderson. Without the free lodging and meals at the Hospitality House many of those trips would not be possible and without your financial support the work of the Hospitality House would not be possible either.

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!



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

We really need your help! We still have some money to raise in order to be able to paint the outside of the House. Please follow the QR code below and donate. It will really make a huge difference.

